

The Messenger

Advent 2011



Occasional Newsletter of the Three Anglican Churches of East-Central Oxford

Christ Church (Oxford Centre)

Wardens: Richard Garbutt, Geoff Innes, Lloyd Pellow, Dick Sumsion

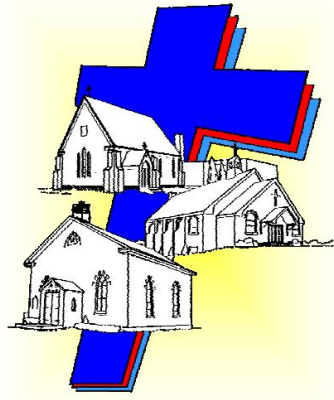
St. John's (Eastwood)

Wardens: Patricia Garland, Audrey Hillsdon, Bill Deeks, Frank Gordon

St. Paul's, (Princeton)

Wardens: Ron Gillespie, Eric Martin, Suzanne Hanchiruk, Keith Fishwick

www.oxfordanglican.ca eastoxfordanglican@gmail.com



Rev'd Father Bill White, Rector

Office: 519 458-4282

Services 2011 / 2012:

St. Paul's 8:45 a.m.

St. John's 10:15 a.m.

Christ Church 11:45 a.m.

You are not just welcome; you're *wanted!*

Come Emmanuel!

“And the angel said unto her, ‘Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.’” Luke 1:30-33

What a fabulous story! Only Matthew and Luke tell us about Christmas, and only Luke writes of the Annunciation but the story is one of the absolute perennial favourites.

Poor Mary! We think she was probably about fourteen years old, and confronted suddenly by Gabriel with news that would likely

panic any teenaged girl, even if it wasn't delivered by an archangel! Artists have often painted this seminal event. Writers have told and re-told it, but we still love the Luke's story in the King James version best of all.



Annunciation — Fra Angelico

It's the story of Emmanuel. The prophet Isaiah had already written: *“Therefore, the LORD himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a Virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.”* Is. 7:14 That name is pure Hebrew meaning “God with us.”

And God *is* with us. Every day of our lives. Every moment. Let's celebrate the birth of the holy child together this year. Come to church. You're wanted!


Father Bill White,
Rector

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- Nov 27 - Advent begins
 Dec 5 - 7:30 Christ Church Boys' & Girls' Club Christmas Pageant.
 Dec 6 - 6:30 Christ Church Ladies' Aid meets at the Keeping Room. Guest Speaker: Barb Dawson, Oxford Centre United Church
 Dec 8 - 7:00 pm Carol Sing at the Sacred Heart Catholic Community Centre, Princeton
 Dec 11 - 7:00 Parish Lessons & Carols Service at St. Paul's Princeton
 Dec 13 - 7:00 pm Pot Luck Supper - St. Paul's
 Dec 21 - 28 Chanukah 
 Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Eucharists:
 6:30 pm - St. Paul's - Choral
 8:30 pm - St. John's - Choral
 10:30 pm - Christ Church - Said
 Dec 25 - Christmas Day - One service only:
 Said Eucharist, Christ Church, 10:15 am.
 Jan 1, 2012 - Happy New Year! - One service only,
 Morning Prayer, 10:15, St. John's
 Jan 29 - Christ Church Vestry after Sunday Service (St. John's & St. Paul's vestries to be announced)
 Feb 8 - 7:30 Parochial Committee meets at St. John's
 Feb 14 - Feast of St. Valentine
 Feb 22 - Ash Wednesday
 March 10 - 18: School Break
 April 1 - Palm Sunday
 April 8 - Easter Day



Other events will certainly be added, but these are a few tentative dates for your calendar.

Christ Church Holds Successful Ham Supper

Congratulations to all involved with the wonderful Ham Supper held at the Oxford Centre Com-

munity Hall by the congregation of Christ Church. An annual event, it was one of the best attended ever with both eat-in and take-out meals. Baked ham, scalloped potatoes, beans, cole-slaw, vegetables and pie were washed down by tea, juice, and coffee.

Thanks go to both the organizers, workers, and all those who came to support Christ Church in this annual celebration and fund-raiser.

Progress in Princeton!

We're absolutely delighted at some of the developments at St. Paul's in Princeton!

First, the church took a giant "step" to-



wards being accessible to everyone this last Autumn, with the construction of a wheelchair ramp at the southeast door. A lot of time and planning went into this, but construction took only three days — just in time for a wedding on the Saturday! God loves all his people, so making sure that they can get into his church is important to our congregation.



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St. Paul's has also worked for many years in partnership with Princeton United Church, and the Roman Catholic Community at the former Sacred Heart Church (now a community centre). We are delighted to be moving ahead carefully with plans to open a youth drop in centre for Friday evenings. The centre would be operated by the three church communities and be free to all participants.

Well done, Princeton!

Clergy Trip to Italy

Father Bill and Liesel were delighted to be part of a group of clergy, spouses and friends from the Diocese of Huron travelling to Italy as part of a continuing education programme. Almost thirty participants travelled to Rome, Assisi, Perugia, Si-



At the Vatican

enna, Orvieto, Florence, and Pisa to visit some of the holy sites, and learn more church history.



Liesel & Bill at the Trevi Fountain

In Rome, we visited the Vatican whose history is almost as important to us as Anglicans as it is to our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters. We were fascinated with the incredible art, as with other churches and historical sites in the area.

The visit to Assisi and Perugia was a real favourite with the group. A timeless medieval city, it was impossible not to feel a sense of holiness that can be traced to Francis, the saint who lived his life in this area.

Francis, one of the most revered saints, was born in Assisi but did most of his work in the town of Perugia in the valley below. With permission and his own hands, he rebuilt the little church in the valley and it was there that he did his life's work, eventually returning to die on the floor of the infirmary where he and his friars had served so many people.

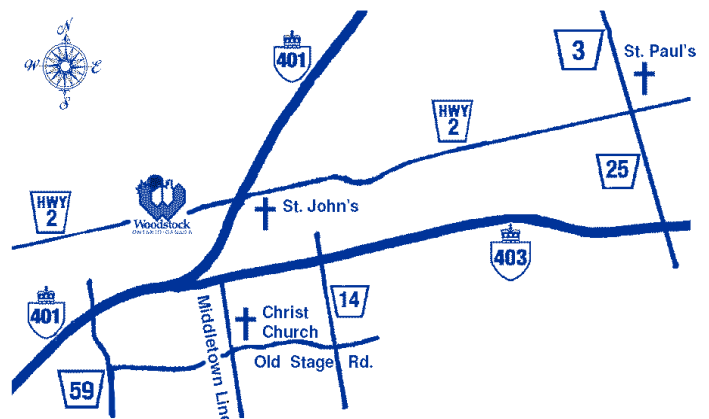
The Church of St. Mary of the Angels was built right over and around Francis's tiny Porziuncola, to preserve it. Although its exterior has since

HOW TO FIND US

† **Christ Church** (Oxford Centre) Hwy 59 S. from Woodstock, then E to 505395 Old Stage Rd

† **St. Paul's** (Princeton) 4 Elgin St., E., at Main St., off Oxford Hwy. # 2

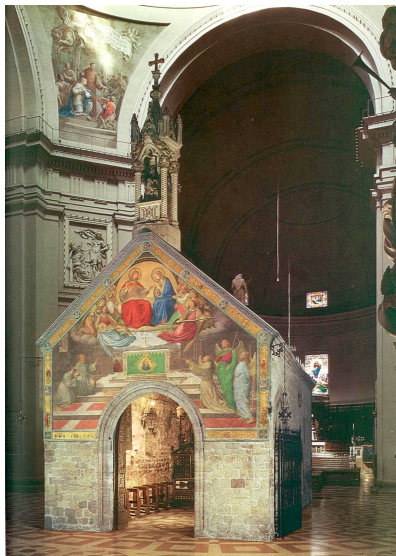
† **St. John's** (Eastwood) 685860 Oxford Hwy # 2, just E of Woodstock.





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been adorned with a Gothic façade and 19th century fresco, the interior is as humble and impoverished as in St. Francis's own time. As we visited, it was crowded right out of its doors by a Mass being celebrated in that tiny Porziuncola.



An emotional highlight for all of us was our own mass at night, outdoors in front of the Basilica San Francesco in Assisi. Our celebration was lit by the reflection of huge floodlights bathing the Basilica, and on that open, windy hilltop, we saw the lights of villages in the valleys around and below us as we prayed and sang.

The Porziuncola inside St. Mary of the Angels



Blessing of the Animals — Christ Church, October, 2011

Thanks to our lay-readers who carried on in our absence, and to the organizers whose efforts and leadership made this fabulous educational trip possible.

Praise and Thanksgiving Caps Anniversary at St. John's

St. John's in Eastwood has now completed a whirlwind year of celebrations for their 175th Anniversary. The final event was an evening service of Praise and Thanksgiving at which Rev'd Canon Marian Haggerty, the former rector was invited to preach.

Marian visited with many of those who remember her so fondly for her eight years of pastoral care in this parish. She preached on a theme of thanksgiving, and spoke lovingly and supportively of the work done by our parishioners in God's service.

Thanks go to Marian, to the year's coordinator Marion Sheridan, to convenors of the many events, and to all who supported us in many ways.

Please Keep us Up-to-Date

If you have changes to your personal information, addresses, phone numbers, E-addresses, etc., please let the church know. We can't be in touch if we don't know where to find you!

Thanks once again to our Printers!

Sincere thanks to JMS Printworks who print these newsletters at no cost to our parish. Please support them as you may be able.



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