

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian  
Church  
73 Queen St. E., Cambridge, ON  
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www.standrewshespeler.ca  
Lent / Easter Edition, 2024

## When the Bells are Tolling

Scott McAndless

In 1623, the English poet and clergyman John Donne was in a dire situation. A plague was raging through the city and Donne was sick. Every day he would lie in his bed in misery, unsure of whether he was going to live or die.

And all around him, he knew that many other people were dying as the sickness spread. And every time someone died, the church bells would toll to announce the death and summon people to mourn.

One day, when he was at one of his lowest points, he heard the bell ring. His first thought was to feel sorrow for the poor soul who had died, and he thought to ask his attendants for whom the bell was tolling.

But then he was struck by a dreadful thought. What if he was in such a bad state that he was actually dying but his caregivers didn't want to tell him? What if they were already planning his funeral and the bell he heard was tolling for him?

And in that state, Donne had a sudden realization that he put into words that have remained immortal ever since: "No man is an island."

He realized that it didn't matter that much whether the bell was ringing for him or someone else. The death of another would not save him. Death is not a zero-sum game.

He learned that any death, whether it be his or another's, was a loss because it was a loss to humanity. And so, he summed up his devotions by saying, "And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; It tolls for thee."

I often return to the writings of John Donne during this season of Lent. Though they are 400 years old, and the language is archaic, his writings have the power to speak to our human condition very clearly today.

But, as we make our way towards Easter this year, I read it a little bit differently.

There is a kind of plague spreading through many of the churches in the region, both the Presbyterians and our ecumenical neighbours. There is a crisis in leadership as many of our churches do not have clergy leadership and honestly many could not afford to pay them even if there were a lot available. Almost all have lost membership and attendance in the crises of the last few years. That, together

No man is an island,  
Entire of itself;  
Every man is a piece of the continent,  
A part of the main.  
If a clod be washed away by the sea,  
Europe is the less,  
As well as if a promontory were:  
As well as if a manor of thy friend's  
Or of thine own were.  
Any man's death diminishes me,  
Because I am involved in mankind.  
And therefore never send to know for  
whom the bell tolls;  
It tolls for thee.  
John Donne, *Devotions upon Emergent  
Occasions*, 1624



John Donne (1571 - 1631) was an English poet, scholar, soldier, secretary and Anglican cleric. His "Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions, and severall steps in my Sicknes" was published in 1624.

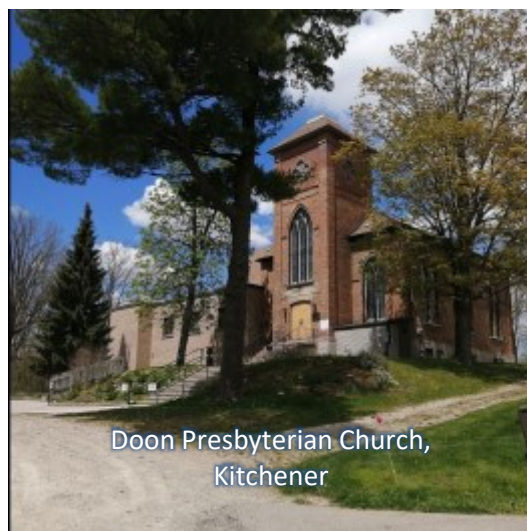
with inflationary pressures, is creating a financial crunch.

And when the Presbytery meets to deal with the affairs of our various churches, it's like you can hear the bell tolling. **Bong!** It looks like this congregation is not going to make it. **Bong!** Oops, there goes another one over there. It's kind of brutal out there.

And where are we? We're dealing with our own form of the same kind of crisis. We may be doing better than a number of others, but the plague is all around and we hardly can say that we're not affected.

So, what do we do when we hear the bells toll? Do we rejoice to know that they're tolling for someone else? Do we send to ask for whom they toll so that we might give them our sympathy and keep them in our prayers?

That is how we've always done it. Every congregation has been left to sink or to swim on its own. We are sad when the bell tolls for others, sure, but we seem to have decided that it doesn't affect us – that maybe we can even benefit from it.



Doon Presbyterian Church,  
Kitchener



Kitchener East Presbyterian  
Church

But I believe it is time for us to realize what Donne saw centuries ago – that no congregation is an island. Every congregation is a part of the ministry that Christ has given to all of us. And any diminishment in that ministry is a diminishment to us all. When we hear the bell toll, we don't need to ask. Whoever it is tolling for, it is for us.

That is why I believe that the future of Christian ministry in our region is going to be found in adopting a new attitude. We are going to have to find ways to work together and support one

another. We need to find efficiencies in sharing resources and allow everyone to contribute according to their ability. We will be able to thrive by working together.

And we are not going to wait until it is too late to start doing that. We begin right now – during the season of Lent. We have planned to host a Ukrainian Easter Egg event for youth from all over the presbytery led by Rev. Sokolowsky.

We have also decided that we will share in Holy Week services. On Maundy Thursday, we will welcome the people of Doon Presbyterian Church and their minister, Jen Sokolowsky, to our evening communion service. We will then all join together with the people and ministers of Doon and Kitchener East church on Good Friday at Doon. You will find the details of these events in the coming pages of this newsletter.

These events are just first introductions though – a way of starting to get to know one another. We will continue to experiment with new ways of sharing ministry in months to come.

There are plans being made for coming together in our summer worship services this year. Summer is always a good time to experiment. All of the dates and details are still being worked out and we will be careful to keep all channels of communication open to everyone, but I am excited about the possibilities and can't wait to see where God leads us through all of this.

We are not going to wait to hear the bell toll a few more times before making changes. We're going to step out in faith and partnership and create a new future for the church. I think John Donne would be proud of us.

5 local Presbyterian Churches growing together in faith, hope & love!  
Doon, Duffs, Kitchener East, Knox Preston & St. Andrew's Hespeler

# WORSHIP DURING

## *Holy Week*

THURSDAY

28

MARCH

### MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP

St. Andrew's Hespeler & Kitchener East Presbyterian Churches invite you to share in a special service on this holy night.

- Kitchener East: Worship with Communion @ 7pm
- St. Andrew's Hespeler: An intimate service gathered around the communion table beginning @ 7:30pm

FRIDAY

29

MARCH

### GOOD FRIDAY @ 10AM

All are welcome to a joint service between Duffs, Kitchener East, Knox Preston, St. Andrew's Hespeler & Doon - To be held @ Doon Presbyterian Church - 35 Roos Street Kitchener.

SUNDAY

31

MARCH

### EASTER SUNDAY!

**Easter Morning Worship:** Each church will host Easter morning in their own church @ their regular worship time.

5 local Presbyterian Churches growing together in faith, hope & love!  
Doon, Duffs, Kitchener East, Knox Preston & St. Andrew's Hespeler

Don't forget that Fundscrip is an easy and fun way to support the work of the church. Card orders should be submitted outside the office by the last Sunday of each month and look out for monthly specials that give back super high percentages to the church.

Looking for a Easter gift or a reason to eat out? The March high percentage cards include the following: Ultimate Dining Card — good for East Side Mario's, Harvey's, Kelsey's, Montana's, New York Fries, State and Main and Swiss Chalet

Did you know that each card you order you get the full value of it and St. Andrew's receives a percentage of the value. It really doesn't cost anyone anything!





# Spring Fling 2024

By: Joni Smith

Spring Fling 2024 is starting on April 2nd!



## Spring Fling Watercolour Workshops



*Sat April 13*  
Poppies by the Sea



*Sat April 20*  
Island in the Sun

Take part in this year's  
Spring Fling at  
St Andrew's Hespeler  
Presbyterian Church.

Choose class time:  
9:00 - 11:30 or  
1:00 - 3:30

Cost \$35/per person (inc hst)

- no experience necessary
- no drawing skills required
- all materials provided
- refreshments supplied

For more info & to register:  
[www.DebbieEllisWatercolours.ca](http://www.DebbieEllisWatercolours.ca)

Sign up for 1 workshop  
or sign up for all!



*Sat April 21*  
Lilacs on the Fence

**Mother's Day** is coming up soon. Would your mom or other parent figure like the experience of painting their own watercolour? Why not bring your mom with you? Would you like to paint a watercolour for your mom? This might be the perfect workshop for you! Of if you just want to learn to paint a beautiful spring watercolour, then this workshop is for you, too. (minimum age requirement is 13 yrs)



**St Andrew's Spring Fling**  
**SIGN-MAKING WORKSHOPS**  
Sat April 13 & Sat April 20 from 9-11:30 or 1-3:30  
at St Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church 73 Queen St E, Cambridge



Cost: \$45/person  
Pre-registration required by  
sending DM to Sandi  
with the following information

**Workshop Date & Time**  
**Pattern #**  
**contact phone #**

Payment by e-transfer to  
[sandi@mysistersidea.com](mailto:sandi@mysistersidea.com)  
to book your spot.  
Class size limited



Each workshop has its own registration fees and process. Please see each class advertisement to register. Last year many classes filled up quickly. To avoid disappointment register soon!

## Personal Empowerment Session

At this time of uncertainty, many people are looking for answers, a way of understanding what's truly going on within the world and within themselves, not necessarily trying to 'fix' it but find a way through it.

Could this be you? If so, I invite you to join me in a journey into a new kind of community fellowship. I am a ThetaHealing practitioner, intuitive and spiritual coach looking to guide and support a small gathering of individuals willing to help co-create a group of like minded souls.

We will begin our journey together with a morning or evening gathering based on what best suits your schedule, to check in and take our 'temperature' if you will. In ancient times, men and women were raised by a community of other men and women, and made all the richer for it. That is my goal.

**When:** We will meet on the morning of Tuesday, April 2 from 9:30-11:00 – OR the evening of Tuesday, April 2 from 7:00-8:30 pm and ask ourselves: How are we doing? Are we existing or thriving? and What can we bring to the table to ease the journey for ourselves and others?

**Where:** For this session we will meet in the foyer at St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church, 73 Queen St. E. Cambridge

If this interests you, please RSVP by sending an email to: [contact@journeywithjane.ca](mailto:contact@journeywithjane.ca) along with an etransfer of the registration fee of \$25.00. If there is enough interest, this could be a group that gathers weekly for 4 consecutive weeks.



## Choral & Singing Workshop with Corey Linforth

**SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024  
10:00 AM - NOON**

Registration Fee: \$35.00  
RSVP to Joni  
([jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca](mailto:jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca))

**At St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church  
73 Queen St. E., Cambridge ON N3C 2A9**



RSVP TO JONI @ [JSMITH@STANDREWSHESPELER.CA](mailto:JSMITH@STANDREWSHESPELER.CA)

GRADE 7-12 YOUTH OF  
KW & CAMBRIDGE, YOU ARE  
INVITED TO AN EVENING OF:

# Pizza & Ukrainian style Easter Egg Decorating

**\$25pp**  
*(All proceed will go toward  
PWS&D's support of Ukraine  
in these difficult times  
(Space is limited to 25 youth)*

MARCH 22ND, 2024  
6PM-8:30PM  
ST. ANDREW'S HESPELER  
CAMBRIDGE, ON

## See you there!

RSVP TO JONI @ [JSMITH@STANDREWSHESPELER.CA](mailto:JSMITH@STANDREWSHESPELER.CA)



## Family & Youth News

By: Joni Smith

By now you may have noticed our new Family Space in the sanctuary. Your Christian Education Committee (Lori Marsh, Nancy English, myself, Laura Einwechter and Carol Johnston) decided that we wanted to show families and children that they are welcome in worship and at St. Andrew's. We realize that children make noise and need room to wiggle and move. There are quiet toys in this space, soft seating and a space for parents to sit as well. We decided to locate this space near the back doors so that Sunday School and the washroom facilities are easily accessed during worship time. We hope families will continue to use this space and feel welcome at St. Andrew's.

After months of planning and slow beginnings we are now experiencing the gift of a wonderful Sunday School program. We are grateful for such a dedicated team: Dean Davidson, Lori Marsh, Donald Paddock, Alexis Smith and Sarah English who have committed to leading Sunday School for the year. We are also thankful for those who volunteer weekly to help out in Sunday School. The children are really having fun, learning some Bible stories, contributing to our prayers and prayer journal weekly and participating in the Great Feast. We are delighted to be able to welcome in some new families as well.



The Great Feast



Response Time





## The Back Page

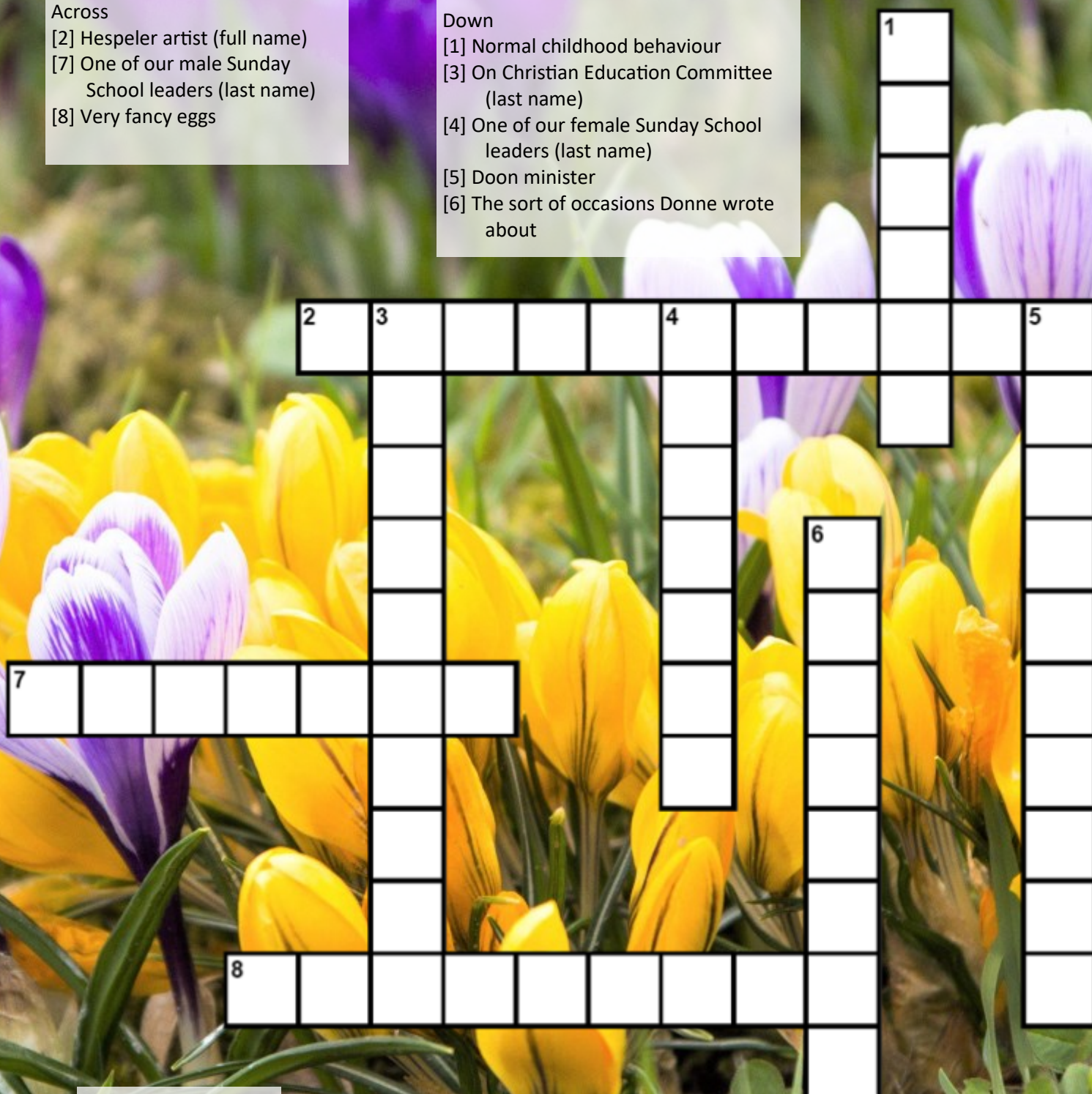
Well, you have now read through this entire newsletter. Now let's see how much of it you remember. Can you fill out this whole crossword puzzle without looking back?

### Across

- [2] Hespeler artist (full name)
- [7] One of our male Sunday School leaders (last name)
- [8] Very fancy eggs

### Down

- [1] Normal childhood behaviour
- [3] On Christian Education Committee (last name)
- [4] One of our female Sunday School leaders (last name)
- [5] Doon minister
- [6] The sort of occasions Donne wrote about



An answer key to this puzzle will be placed in the bulletin on March 24