



## St George's Anglican Church – Ottawa, ON

Websites: [www.stgeorgesottawa.ca](http://www.stgeorgesottawa.ca) Youth website: [gi3.stgeorgesottawa.ca](http://gi3.stgeorgesottawa.ca)

### Church membership

- Anticipated attendance at vestry meeting (based on past experience) – about 100 -110
- Average Sunday attendance – about 250

### Clergy and leadership

Rector – Rev David S Crawley

Associate Rector – Rev Jennifer R Wickham,

Retired Assistant Rectors – Rev Archie Hunter & Rev Frere Kennedy

St George's Scholar – Rev Professor Dr L Gregory Bloomquist

Wardens – Dr Emmanuel Benhin & Dr Edward Gregorich

### History

The congregation first met on **Easter Sunday 1885** in the then unused Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church at the corner of Metcalfe and Gloucester Streets in downtown Ottawa. The congregation has met in the same building to this day. Later in 1885 a group of four men personally and privately acquired the Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church building and provided it to the St George's Parish. In 1891, these four men settled a trust called the St George's Trustees to hold the building in perpetuity for the St George's congregation. Over time the church building has been expanded and a large parish hall building was built attached to the church building.

The congregation has had ups and downs over the years including a fire in the parish hall during World War II when it was being used for activities for people in the Armed Forces. By the early 1960's, like many downtown churches, the congregation had dwindled to a small remnant. A young clergyman, the Rev Patrick Playfair was appointed and given six months either to start a turn around or have the parish closed. By God's providential grace and mercy the parish started to grow. It later was influenced significantly by the Charismatic Renewal movement. The congregation has grown over the years and is now one of the largest Anglican congregations in the Ottawa region.

Since part of the building is over 120 years old and even the newest part dates to 1905, the parish has been looking at various ways to renew its facilities to make them a wonderful platform for expanded ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### Ministries in the community and beyond

- *Place to Go* – a Friday evening drop-in centre.
- Refugee sponsorship - currently sponsoring Rwandans living in a refugee camp in Congo
- Low income housing – Provide facilities for a house run by Daybreak, a charity providing low income accommodation
- Christmas dinner – Since the 1960s, St George's has provided a free Christmas dinner and shelter for anyone on Christmas Day. (Unfortunately, the venue had to be moved this year due to safety issues with the kitchen facilities in the church building.)
- *Centretown Churches Social Action Committee* - Active participant
- Youth Ministry – an engaging program of activities for junior and senior high students
- *Wednesday on Metcalfe* – a program for young adult program offered in partnership with the Laurentian Leadership Centre of Trinity Western University
- Adult ministries which include *Alpha* – for those exploring the faith and a much appreciated program of home groups which focus on Bible study, prayer and fellowship