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Morgage burning
at St. George's,
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Beginning third from left to right: Gail Newell, Fred Tassinari, Mike Watkins and Bishop Michael all resplendent in historical dress. The historical role players from Victoria, BC, including two Royal Engineers and two explorers, flank them on either side.



Historical role players from Victoria take on the personas of a Royal Engineer and a Scots Explorer.



Bishop Michael Ingham.

Welcome to God's House

Doing God's Work for 150 Years

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer and Topic Editor

If you had suddenly been transported to the front steps of Christ Church, Hope at 10 am on Sunday, October 23rd, 2011 focusing only on the people and activity in your immediate view you would swear that you had traveled back in time.

One hundred and fifty years ago, Bishop George Hills, the Bishop of British Columbia, marked a historic occasion for the Anglican Church of Canada when he laid the cornerstone of Christ Church in Hope, BC. In order to get to Hope he had to travel from Victoria to New Westminster then up the Fraser River to Hope.

After completing the first leg of the trip from Victoria to New Westminster he met up with Rev. John Sheepshanks. Rev. Sheepshanks had arrived from England at the end of August 1859. He was the first "official" clergy person to minister in the area that would become known as the Diocese of New Westminster. The young cleric accompanied the Bishop as they completed the journey by canoe, horseback, portage and riverboat.

Upon their arrival, the Bishop was greeted by the citizens of the town and members of the Royal Engineers heading west from Princeton. The corps of engineers comprised the choir at the worship service in 1861.

There was a very good turnout on Sunday, October 23rd, 2011 for the celebration, including a group of people from Victoria, clothed in authentic period dress with accompanying accessories and personal grooming styles of the period (specifically facial hair) depicting characters from history. The people they represented may very well have been at the original event.

Many members of the parish, augmented by citizens of Hope including the Mayor, Laurie French (resplendent in spats and a top hat) attended the celebration in period dress.

Bishop Michael Ingham was the preacher and presider

at the service of Holy Communion commemorating the historic event. The language of the liturgy was from the mid-19th century adaptation of the Book of Common Prayer found in texts brought to the site by Rev. Pringle, the first rector.

Christ Church, Hope, Priest-in-Charge, Rev. Gail Newell welcomed the congregation to worship and briefly explained to the congregation the differences between worship according to the 1856 Book of Common Prayer and the more familiar revised BCP from the early 1960s. To honour the practice of the time, Bishop Michael presided from the north side of the Altar. Gail also explained that all of the hymns sung during the service were from the late 18th and early 19th century. Only one "contemporary" hymn was chosen and that was *All Things are Thine* written by John Greenleaf Whittier, a Quaker poet from Massachusetts some time in the mid-19th century. In a wry tone, Gail remarked that it was likely viewed with some suspicion as being "new" by worshippers in 1861.

The Service of Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer, 1856 is in many ways very similar to what we use today for BCP worship but there are some glaring differences. There was of course no participation by the laity and the priest or priests were responsible for all facets of the worship. Bishop Michael began by standing at the north side of the Altar and reciting the Lord's Prayer. Then he turned toward the congregation and in the words of the 1856 prayer book...

...rehearse distinctly all the Ten Commandments; and the people still kneeling shall, after every Commandment, ask God's mercy, for their transgression thereof for the time past, and grace to keep the same for time to come, as followeth.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

For more Diocesan news and events visit www.vancouver.anglican.ca



Home Sweet Home

JOHN STEPHENS

Archdeacon of Vancouver, Incumbent, St. Philip, Dunbar and Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. John's, Shaughnessy

About five years ago, a few people from three different west side Vancouver parishes wanted to respond to the homeless people living in the area. It started as an idea of offering small packets of food and other practical things like dry socks or toques to those in need. After going through training and conversations with police and medical personnel, groups of two or three from St. Anselm's, St. Helen's and St. Philip's would hit the streets and offer these care packets along with conversation and compassion. They were warmly received and strong relationships grew out of their work.

The three parishes worked together to: pack the bags, organize a schedule, meet together and discuss how things are working. As the connection with the homeless folk grew, a realization became very clear—more needs to be done. It is not enough to simply give socks or a granola bar supported with some warm conversation, what these folks need is shelter. Many of these homeless were older adults (homeless people are considered seniors at age 45) who had been cut off for far too long from any support networks. How could they be helped to find housing? What could our group do to get the system working for them? And so began several years worth of advocacy work.

Meetings were held with City of Vancouver officials and with BC Housing representatives. Interviews were held with the homeless folks to learn more about their stories and situations. With the information gathered, officials at different levels of government began to take this Point Grey neighbourhood group very seriously. When it became known that older men were dying on the streets of the west side due to lack of shelter, more people started to listen. When the names of the ones dying and their stories became known, more people started to care. When it was made clear that these folks on the streets did not want to move to shelters in another part of the city but wanted to remain in the neighbourhood in which they were living, more people started to imagine what could be done.

The constituency that *The Neighbourhood Ministry* had been serving moved from being simply nameless and unknown persons, to real human beings with difficult and convoluted lives. They were real people with real names and real family and personal difficulties. In fact *The Neighbourhood Ministry* had moved from just seeing them as people needing food and attention to knowing them as friends and companions. One member of *The Neighbourhood Ministry* team now brings several of them Communion each Thursday morning as a sign and connection to God and the Church community.

After much hard work, dedication and love of neighbour, the advocacy work produced results. Ultimately, 51 people are being housed in this project. The first twelve will have housing in late November at the new development at 16th and Dunbar. Thanks to tireless and loving support (especially from Vicki Potter and Don Lamb) they will soon have a place to call home. In fact the churches have once again banded together to knit blankets of welcome to the folks moving into this new supportive housing project. Others are also creating gifts that will be placed in each suite as a sign of welcome and new beginning. In addition, the work for *The Neighbourhood Ministry* will

began to support the gentlemen moving into the Dunbar facility due to a generous grant from *care + share* which is funded by direct donations flowing through the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster. With this funding, *The Neighbourhood Ministry* was able to hire an aide to help support the homeless gentlemen who will be transitioning into the housing units.

Jessica Bean, a second year masters student at Regent College, will begin to develop programs along with Coast Mental Health (the non-profit in charge of the housing units) with the hopes of helping these newly-housed individuals flourish in their new homes. In addition, she will be meeting with members of the congregations in order to expand the Ministry's volunteer base and utilize the gifts and talents of those in the congregation to help facilitate this compassionate service offering. She will also be developing a training kit based on the work of *The Neighbourhood Ministry* in order that other churches might begin their own *homeless ministry* in their community.

The support and advocacy work will continue long past the move-in date as the work does not end here, but it is an amazing story of faith, love and action. God works in mysterious ways, as do God's people! *Home Sweet Home* has a great ring to it for *The Neighbourhood Ministry* of West Point Grey! ✠

More About the Blankets

People who like to knit who are parishioners at, or friends of, the three churches directly involved in *The Neighbourhood Ministry* had a deadline to meet. Their goal was to create 51 blankets (one for each bed), for the new residents in the new housing facilities. Given the size of the project, other parishes, including St. Mary's, Kerrisdale and Christ Church Cathedral, accepted the invitation to contribute 9" x 9" knitted squares that would be sewn into blankets. Before long, friends and neighbours of parish knitters added their knitted contributions as well.

Knitted squares are brought to St. Philip's (or knitted at the church) and then the squares are distributed and sewn together to create the beautiful blankets seen in the photographs accompanying this article.

The Rev. Dr. Marilyn Hames, Honorary Assistant at St. Philip's is one of the organizers of the adjunct blanket ministry. Marilyn told diocesan communications that she gave permission to knitters to work on the blankets in the church during her sermons.

People outside of faith communities are also involved. Marilyn happily reported that one of her neighbours who had been an unrepentant NIMBY (not in my back yard) when it came to shelter housing in her neighbourhood is now happily knitting blankets. She confided to Marilyn that "you can't hate people you knit for." Amen.

At the time of this writing, the end of October, the goal is well within sight so it is safe to assume that by the time this issue of *Topic* is in homes, each resident of the 16th and Dunbar facility will be warm and cozy. But if not, then help is on its way, as Ryerson United Church is doing a similar project for the new 7th and Yew shelter, a housing facility with 58 beds.

The discovery of two nearly identical projects in the same region of the city came about purely by chance. Once the two groups met it was discovered that the Ryerson group was considerably ahead of the Point Grey group, so the Ryerson group has pledged to keep going even after they have completed their goal and if the Point Grey group falls short the Ryerson group will make up the deficit. ✠

TOP A table of knitted squares ready to be made into blankets.
MIDDLE A big pile of completed blankets ready to go.
BOTTOM Marilyn Hames holds up one of the beautiful new blankets.



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Thank you!

Spirituality, Science, and Christmas • Intersecting Realms

Bishop Michael's Christmas Message

Modern science gives us unprecedented knowledge of the universe. More than any generation before us, we now have information and (some) understanding of the forces that shape stars and planets, and our own lives. The complexities of biodiversity, the micro-world of atoms and their particles, the mathematical projections that lead into mystery—these things are taught now in our schools to our children as never before.

Science has become its own paradigm, a lens that shapes our self-understanding and our vision of the world.

It can be difficult, therefore, for those immersed in a scientific worldview to grasp the subtlety and depth of the spiritual world. The temptation is to dismiss what cannot be verified by empirical proof. Although many great scientists are devoted religious believers, some of their followers never grasp the limits of what their mentors know.

Spirituality is a parallel universe. It exists in the same time and space as the measurable, verifiable one, but it has its own reality and its own vibrant life. Wise people seek truth in both places. But they require a virtue not easily found in the rationalisms of science. That is, submission to paradox.

Take Christmas, for example.

The birth of Jesus presents us with a deep and beautiful mystery. God lies before us in the form of a vulnerable child. The baby in the manger—subject to human care and dangers, fragile, powerless, and the object of immeasurable love—is the greatest power of all. The irrationality of it draws our attention and wonder. Born in poverty, surrounded by animals, the tiny child enters the river of history. A brief life and a bitter death lead to the birth of a vast hope. At Christmas, for thousands of years, the Church has cried, "Behold the Saviour of the world!"

Here is a paradox of weakness and power. God the Creator, the unimaginable force that propels the stars and planets and galaxies in their courses, now lies in frail

dependence in a Bethlehem stable. The child who rests in Mary's arms inspires the devotion and faith of billions. Armies and empires rise in his name, but crumble again under his judgment and weakness. Great churches are built, and an entire religion launched, only to discover that he cannot be contained or domesticated there. This is a wonderful mystery.

When you contemplate the infancy of Christ, you are drawn to the paradox of innocence and strength. In the face of this child, imagined and painted in thousands of icons, there is a depth of love so great that destinies are altered and lives uprooted. Unpredictable things happen to hearts that are open to this love. From his innocence emanates a unique and subtle power that defies the strength of nations, and even of reason itself.

This is what brings us back again and again to Christmas. We discover in this wonderful birth a secret to our life and future. The beauty of Christ illumines our minds with fresh understanding, not available through verifications and proofs.

We live in both universes—the visible and the invisible realms. There is no contradiction here—but a deep paradox. In the scientific realm, truth is binary—right or wrong. In the spiritual realm, truth is multiform, accessed by faith, revealed not calculated. Each world gives life to the other. We exist in both dimensions, but require different sight to see them.

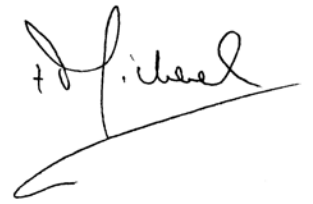
And therefore it is wise to cultivate humility before these mysteries, and to learn from the sages and prophets who have handed down to us the knowledge of God.

The spiritual and the material are intersecting truths. And therefore the spiritual disciplines of prayer and devotion, worship and study, can bring about great changes in the material world of economics and politics, history and social science. Prayer and rigorous investigation are not opposites. Each demands disciplined attention.

Jesus entered this material world and shone a divine light on it that allows us to see our way through. He is both the light and the path. We say he is the Way—to truth and life. To grasp this, we must allow our rationalism to be nurtured by a sense of wonder. Let the angels sing. Open your mind to the divine. Let Christ be born once more in you. ✠



I wish you a blessed and joyous Christmas.



Welcome to God's House

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Then the commandments were recited.

There was no Old Testament reading. The Epistle, 1st Corinthians 1 beginning at the 4th verse was read by Rev. Mike Watkins and the Gospel, Matthew 22, beginning at the 34th verse was read by Christ Church's Honorary Assistant, Rev. Fred Tassinari.

Bishop Michael began his sermon by asking the congregation, "Which century would you like to live in?"

Bishop Michael went on to discuss the differences in the liturgy but he juxtaposed the somewhat jarring and penitential words of the 1856 Communion service with the enduring message of God's love from Matthew 22: 34–40. God's love is not earned, it is given to us. God's love is "not merely human love magnified but something greater."

Whether we were listening to the words in 1861 or 2011 "Jesus presents love without limits, without seasons, unconditional, nothing can be done to move us away from God's love. Whenever we put conditions on love we corrupt our spiritual lives. The truth is, God loves us before we are aware of it."

Bishop Michael's message to the 2011 congregation of Christ Church brought the two eras together and united those in the sanctuary that morning with those who were there 150 years ago listening to Jesus' response to the Lawyer when he says, "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*"



Peter Bailey assembles the Time Capsule.



Bishop Michael blesses the Time Capsule as it is planted.

Following the worship, the community gathered for the planting of a time capsule, which included among a number of future artifacts: the words of Bishop George Hills, that morning's Order of Service and a complete list of all those in attendance at the 150th Anniversary celebrations.

Bishop's Warden, Peter Bailey was in charge of the *Time Capsule* and he admitted that he purchased the capsule in the same aisle at Canadian Tire where the thermoses are displayed.

Following the planting of the time capsule and many photo opportunities, the community adjourned to the Parish Hall for lunch.

Next time a trip through the Fraser Valley takes you to, through, or near Hope I recommend that you schedule your journey to include a visit to Christ Church. Seasonal tours run from mid-June through to mid-September. Tours are also available throughout the year by appointment. For more information call 604.869.5402. Admission is by donation.

It will be well worth the slight detour to experience that little bit of BC and Diocesan history that lives on in Hope. ✠

PONTIUS PUDDLE by Joel Kauffmann



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

compiled by Anglican Archivist Melanie Wallace

- 45 years • 1966 A French version of the BCP to meet the needs of French speaking Canadians is published.
- 25 years • 1986 Jubilee House celebrates its grand opening in the Downtown South at 508 Helmcken Street.
- 20 years • 1991 Jim Cruickshank is elected bishop of the Diocese of Cariboo.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

HOLIDAY WORSHIP & EVENTS AROUND THE DIOCESE

The Diocese of New Westminster's adjunct website is up and running with listings by region of worship and events around the diocese this Advent • Christmas • Epiphany season.

Doing our best to make festival worship information available to our neighbours is a great way to let everyone know that

ALL ARE WELCOME!

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO...

www.holidayservices.ca

• A New Nisga'a Dancer in Victoria •

The first item mentioned by Bishop Michael during his opening address at the October meeting of Diocesan Council was his visit to Victoria September 16th–18th and his participation in the fundraising activities in aid of Kingcome Inlet and the village church, St. George's. St. George's is connected to the Diocese of New Westminster and to the Diocese of BC. The village and the church were badly damaged by flooding September 25th, 2010.

The main event took place, Saturday, September 17th at Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria and featured Nisga'a dancers,

including a priest of the Diocese of New Westminster, the incumbent of St. David of Wales, the Rev. Michael Batten.

Bishop Michael was happy to report that in the past year approximately \$100,000 has been raised in cash and pledges (particularly through PWRDF) to aid the Kingcome Inlet residents and help rebuild the village and the church. ✦

(Left to right) Rev. Michael Batten, Emily Tait, Zachary Tait and Marcia Gonu.
PHOTO Bishop Michael Ingham



• Horn of Africa Relief •

PWRDF has raised approximately \$700,000 for Horn of Africa Relief. Canadian Anglicans generously donated these funds in time to meet the CIDA matching funds cut-off date of September 16th. PWRDF is responding to the famine through partners ACT Alliance and the Canadian

Foodgrains Bank (CFGB). Many thanks go out to people around the Diocese of New Westminster for their participation in this vital humanitarian initiative. For more information on this response and to donate, please visit the PWRDF website at www.pwrdf.org. ✦

• Our 2nd Voyageur Adventure • A Very Special 'Pioneer Challenge' •

SUBMISSION Joy Cox & Margaret Peake

Paddling for All Saints II, took place on Saturday, September 24th, 2011. What an incredible day! Thirty-seven participants took part in this year's *Pioneer Challenge*, raising in excess of \$4,500. Four Canada World Youth folks presently in Mission joined our group, one each from Nova Scotia, Quebec, Nunavut and the Ukraine.

Our teams, *Mighty Saints* and *Slippery Saints* paddled in two majestic 35 foot

Voyageur canoes; we enjoyed the beauty of Alouette Lake, the fog lifting off the water, the sunny weather, the fellowship, working as a team, and afterwards the wonderful lunch that was prepared for us on our return to All Saints parish hall to celebrate the efforts of all the paddlers.

If you think your parish organization might benefit from a similar experience, visit www.voyageuradventures.com. ✦

LEFT Mighty Saints canoe in the mist. RIGHT Paddling for All Saints 2 the Slippery Saints and Might Saints on Alouette Lake 2011.



• St. Michael's, Broadway •

Bishop Michael visited St. Michael's, Broadway and was warmly greeted by that community on Sunday, October 2nd.

Bishop Michael reports that the parish has been truly rejuvenated primarily by the neighbourhood Filipino community who have embraced St. Michael's as a place to gather for worship and community. It is a very encouraging development in ministry that the ethnic make-up of the Anglican

Church in the Diocese of New Westminster is moving toward reflecting the make-up of our neighbourhoods.

In the photo we see the worship leadership team and others gathered on the steps of the church. On the left is the Rev. Expedito Farinas, a priest of the Philippine Independent Church living in Vancouver who often presides at the Eucharist at St. Michael's. ✦



• PEWSCRIPT •

SUBMISSION & PHOTOS Paul Woehrle

Calvin Smith, the Webmaster of St. David's, Delta is constantly thinking about ways of getting our message out to as many people as possible. As a business owner, he knows that to do this successfully is of primary importance. So "Pewscript" is his idea. It is self-explanatory.

In the images we see a trial pew that the parish will have for some time before deciding on whether to expand the proj-

ect. We welcome this creative idea and its implementation, believing that God's Word brings life and to be wrapped in it is a good thing. We anticipate children asking parents why there are words on the pew, and we feel that seekers and long time parishioners alike will immediately see the Scriptures in a way that a closed Bible in a pew rack cannot convey. ✦



AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Confirmations for 2012 •

Confirmation services will take place, Sunday, April 22nd and Sunday, April 29th, 2012 at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver at 4 pm. As last year, the Cathedral will host a gathering of all candidates on a Saturday in advance of the services for an informal preparation session. The information about the "prep day" will be available in early 2012. ✠

• Clergy News •

✠ The Rev. Jonathan Blanchard announced on October 16th to his fellow congregants at St. Mark, Ocean Park in South Surrey that he would be completing his ministry with them on Sunday, January 15th, 2012. Jonathan has been appointed Rector of St. Aidan's Church, Winnipeg in the Diocese of Rupert's Land. Jonathan was the Assistant Priest under the previous incumbent of St. Mark's, and cared for the parish until the present incumbent, the Rev. Craig Tanksley, was appointed. Soon after, he was made Associate Priest for the parish. Congratulations, Jonathan and Deanna, on this new phase of ministry! ✠

PHOTO Drew Gauntley

The Rev. Jonathan Blanchard.



The Rev. April Stanley.

✠ At the request of the Parish, Bishop Michael has extended the term of the Rev. April Stanley to December 31st, 2012 as Priest-in-Charge for St. Augustine's, Marpole. April will have completed a three-year term December 31st, 2011. St. Augustine's continues in the MAP and discernment process. ✠

• Adopt-a-Shingle •

The Parish of St. Aidan's & St. Bartholomew's is pleased to announce that it is getting into the adoption business!

On November 1st, 2011 the parish officially began the Adopt-a-Shingle campaign, which will run until February 1st, 2012.

St. Bart's community has had to replace the roof to the tune of \$10,000. The goal in the Adopt-a-Shingle campaign is to recoup at least these costs and perhaps gather a little extra for ongoing programs and ministries.

After doing a diligent headcount, they concluded that precisely 1000 shingles went into the new roof. That is 1000 shingles that need adopting. Their goal is to find a home for each and every one. No Tile Left Behind!

The shingles you adopt will never need to be fed, clothed or sent to college. You can adopt these shingles for the low, low price of \$10 each! Adopt early and adopt often!

You can begin the adoption process in a

For more information contact:
The Anglican Parish of
St. Aidan's & St. Bartholomew's
by phone or fax at 604.886.7410.



The Rev. Jason Pollick and parish leaders Rosemary Faye-Johnson (left) and Sheila Carlson (right) with a graph board broadly displaying the 1000 squares as it looked at the beginning of the project. Each square represents a shingle. They will be coloured in as they are adopted.

number of ways. You can address a cheque to St. Bartholomew's specifying Adopt-a-Shingle in the memo line for the amount corresponding to the number of shingles you would like to adopt. Tax receipts will be issued for any donations over \$10. ✠

Mail donations to:
The Anglican Parish of
St. Aidan's & St. Bartholomew's
659 North Road, Gibsons, BC V0N 1V9.

• ODNW Investiture Coverage •

January 2012 Topic

The third annual Investiture of New Members to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster took place at Christ Church Cathedral, November 6th, 2011. Full coverage of the event including photos and the publication of all Citations read at the liturgy will be available in the January issue of *Topic*. ✠



• All Saints, Mission Celebrates 110 Years of Anglican Ministry •

To celebrate 110 years of All Saints Anglican Church in Mission City, there was a dinner on the evening of Saturday, November 5th, with a skit, singing over the century and historical snippets. The skit, written by a parishioner, involved 5 members of the ACW in heaven with Gabriel, Michael

and mincemeat tarts... need we say more?

On November 6th Bishop Michael was the celebrant at a special anniversary service featuring a Celtic mass arranged by guest harpist, Clare Morgan. Two of the youth performed a liturgical dance as part of the processional. The cake shared at coffee time featured a photo of the Bell Tower, highlighting the fact that All Saint's Bell has been tolling in Mission since 1912 at both the original and present churches.

Research shows that the Diocese has participated in the life of the Parish since 1901. Archdeacon G. Pentreath made frequent trips by train to Mission City to assist the vestry and parishioners during their first decade.

These are examples of the ministry of diocesan

clergy in those days, and so we were pleased to have Bishop Michael share in our Anniversary.

Archbishop A. U. De Pencier

- Spoke at the 6th annual meeting of women of the Deanery of Yale in 1929.
- On December 3rd, 1933 he celebrated the Eucharist at All Saints at 8:30 am.
- Presided at a Confirmation Service at All Saints, Mission at 9:45 am.
- Celebrated Eucharist at Hatzic at 11 am.
- Went to Cedar Valley at 3 pm after dedicating the St. Barnabas Chapel.
- And preached at Choral Evensong at All Saints at 7:30 pm.

Here is an item from the Local and Personal column found on page 6 of the January 22nd, 1925 issue of the Fraser Valley Record.

"Rev. A. U. De Pencier preached in All Saints Church last Sunday evening. Mrs. Norman Jacques was soloist. During the service a small fire was prevented by the quick actions of one of the congregation when a register caught fire and began to blaze." ✠

TOP (left to right) Ellie, Julia, Sophia and Eva are some of All Saints' younger generation celebrating the 110 year anniversary.

BOTTOM LEFT Anniversary Committee member, Donna Kennedy.

BOTTOM MIDDLE Bishop Michael.

BOTTOM RIGHT The Rev. Sharon Salomons.

Submitted by Polly Betterton



• The Primate at SMK •

The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz was the distinguished speaker the weekend of October 28th at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale as part of the 100 Years of Grace Centennial Celebrations.

Archbishop Fred led the parish retreat, October 29th at Westminster Abbey where the theme was SMK's patron Saint, Mary. The Primate also preached at all three services at St. Mary's on Sunday, speaking about leadership in the church and the call to action in mission and ministry for all Anglicans when they say they believe. Sunday was also the annual kickoff Stewardship Brunch as part of the autumn campaign. The accompanying

photo shows Primate Fred enjoying the meal with The Rev. Paul Borthistle and Ms. Anne Kessler (the daughter of the Ven. Lynne McNaughton). ✠



Upcoming Events

Journey of Christmas

St. Mark's, Ocean Park

December 15th - 23rd • 6 pm - 9 pm

December 24th • 3:30 pm - 9 pm

December 26th - 27th • 6 pm - 9 pm

St. Mark's, Ocean Park is presenting its multi-media outdoor presentation of the *Journey of Christmas* for its 13th year beginning December 15th at 6 pm.

Come and see the Christmas story unfold in this guided walk through the woods behind the church. New lighting, a beautifully decorated hall, and a cup of hot chocolate and nightly entertainment including a performance of a *Christmas Cantata* performed by the St. Mark's Choir on December 21st at 7:30 pm highlight this year's display.

For more information call 604.535.8841 or email office@stmarkbc.org or go to www.stmarkbc.org.

St. Mark's, Ocean Park is located at 12953 20th Avenue, Surrey, BC V4A 1Z1



St. Oswald's, Port Kells • A Hive of Activity

JOY MANCINELLI
St. Oswald's, Port Kells

At a time when most parishes around the Diocese of New Westminster are still getting autumn offerings organized the parish of St. Oswald's has already completed their 2011 Mission to Seafarers Christmas initiative. The St. Oswald's participants prepared 66 gift bags surpassing their goal of 50. Parishioners sewed the cloth shoe bags containing the gifts.

In September, the parish held an event titled *Quilts in the Graveyard*. It was fortunate that the weather cooperated, enabling the quilts to be spread outside as well as in the hall and church. Members of the *Abbotsford Quilt Guild*, provided the quilts. Many of the quilts were hung from the cross ties in the church. Of particular interest was a quilt covered with bible quotes. A guild member who was pleased with the idea that it would be displayed in a Christian context rescued this quilt, on loan to the event from a thrift shop. The quilt has been labelled and will travel to other churches. The churches that display the quilt are asked to add the name of their church to the label. Light lunches and cream teas were served and together with the sale of some smaller donated quilts the event raised over \$400.

Art in the Churchyard was held October 15th and featured several local artists — many of whom were trained by Barbara Boldt. Offerings included oils, pastels and photographs. Sandra Cattermole, one of St. Oswald's wardens, exhibited her work — surprising many fellow parishioners who had no idea she was such a very talented artist. Many who attended were interested in a tour, as the historic church and graveyard were recently featured prominently in an article in the local Langley paper. As always, a favourite activity was ringing the church bell.

The Thanksgiving dinner on October 22nd was a get together with prayer partners from St. Cuthbert's, Delta and St. Michael's, Surrey. It was called *St. Oswald's Got Talent*, MC duties were performed by former radio producer, Ian MacDonald. Among the performers were professional soprano, Jennifer Driscoll Holmes, and kindergartener Andrew McDonald who wowed us with "There were ten in the bed..." His dad said we should have started with five in the bed, as he can't really count backwards from ten yet!

TOP On display in the Nave for *Quilts in the Graveyard* event.
MIDDLE Artwork for the *Art in the Churchyard* event.
BOTTOM Father Paul and Joan Best serve up dinner. PHOTOS Joy Mancinelli

We shared a huge selection of food from curry to perogies, cabbage rolls and turkey. About 60 parish friends and family attended. As part of *MAP (Ministry Assessment Process)* St. Oswald's focus is hospitality and this event was a great way to reach across parish boundaries. ✦

Peace Officers Appreciation Day in Agassiz

MONICA GIBSON-PUGSLEY
All Saints, Agassiz

All Saints Anglican Church, Agassiz welcomed First Responders and a pipe band to their *3rd Annual Peace Officers Appreciation Day* held on a beautiful, sunny Sunday, October 16th, 2011. Mounties, dressed in red serge, other officers in duty attire, Commercial Vehicle & Safety Enforcement Peace officers (CVSE), the CPR Police, Corrections Officers, and Harrison Hot Springs Fire Department were all represented. Several officers brought family and friends. The church was bursting at the seams with the capacity congregation.

The Harrison Highlanders Pipe Band welcomed the community as they came to lunch, and played during the early part of the meal. The main course of the meal was BBQ, (courtesy of Correctional Officer, Kevin Phenix) accompanied by potluck dishes provided by members of the congregation.

Eleven Mounties representing the Agassiz detachment were introduced by their new Sergeant, Kevin Gibson. Sgt. Gibson has recently arrived from the Chilliwack detachment. Of the eleven there are some newer arrivals, members who are recent transfers from Ucluelet, Maple Ridge and Cranbrook.

Constable Brad Rendall could be referred to as a *long-term* member of the Agassiz detachment. Brad has been here for four of his nine years as an RCMP officer. Brad came to his vocation late, having joined in his mid-40s, bringing managerial experience and life skills to the Force. He offers a training camp for teenagers every spring near Chilliwack Lake, following the criteria required to enter the RCMP.

There was one female *Mountie*, Constable Briana Roschker who is expecting a baby at Christmas. She laughingly said she was unable to fit into her uniform and is currently assigned office duty.

The local plain-clothes division was also represented at the event, as well as a Staff Sergeant and a Corporal from Hope. The Hope detachment works very closely with our local detachment. Agassiz is considered to be a great training ground for the RCMP. From here, they often move on to more specialized areas of the Force.

Dale Sanford was in attendance in his capacity with the CPR Police. He and five other officers are based in Port Moody where they oversee the area from Vancouver through to Boston Bar. Their main concerns are public safety and crime against the railway. The CPR Police is approaching their 100th Anniversary.

It was also interesting to talk with Cindi Hogg who is in charge of the CVSE. She was accompanied by five of her staff. They are located near Hope at the Weigh Station on Highway #1 and this was the first time they have attended 'Appreciation Day.' Event organizer Leroy Burden met Cindi when she'd detained a commercial truck outside his house. Leroy engaged Cindi in conversation and invited her to attend.

Leroy Burden has done an exemplary job stirring up an interest in our Community and extended area. We look forward to next year's event! ✦

Dale Sanford (CPR Police), Sgt. Kevin Gibson (RCMP) and Cindi Hogg (CVSE).
PHOTO Leroy Burden



Provincial Council Meets at North Vancouver Church

The Provincial Council of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC and Yukon met October 21st to 23rd, 2011 at St. Catherine's, Capilano in North Vancouver.

The Metropolitan of the *Province*, the Most Rev. John Privett chaired the meeting.

Fifteen Officers of Synod and members of the Executive Council gathered at St. Catherine's to discuss a busy agenda which included a report from the Diocese of New Westminster's Youth Ministry Coordinator Phil Colvin on the *BCYAYM*, the province's youth ministry organization.

In Phil's report, he gave a summary of the very successful, *British Columbia and Yukon Anglican Youth Movement Fall Conference* held in Penticton, October 8th to 10th. Close to a hundred youth and youth leaders gathered. A highlight of the weekend was the teaching and sharing of Father Bill Cliff from Huron College in Ontario.

Phil spoke eloquently about youth ministry and how there needs to be a radical change in how it is perceived. We know we are a church that is experiencing a shift in demographics and that many of the traditions of the church are being challenged.

Youth ministry is not here to try and save those old ways and increase the number of congregants. Passionate, committed youth and youth ministry coordinators and volunteers should not work in isolation. They should be supported by their churches so that the entire community is changed by their experience of seeking God through Jesus, and walking alongside the young people in their communities. This is beginning to happen. Phil spoke on Friday, and on Saturday during his Ministry Committee Report, Rev. Stephen Bailey referred to Phil's presentation and pointed out that BC and Yukon is the only Ecclesiastical Province in Canada with a healthy, working provincial youth ministry network.

Another highlight of the meeting of specific interest to

Diocese of New Westminster members was the Vancouver School of Theology (VST) report from the Rev. Dr. Canon Harold Munn, currently at VST as Anglican Mentor in Residence. He began his report by announcing that he had made a "radical proposal" to the Anglican seminary students that (there are currently 39 Anglican students) "we pray for each other, everyday." He went on to say that part of their course work for him will be to write a paper on their holistic understanding of their faith and how it fits in the context of the contemporary world.

He informed the council that there will be another round of staff cuts. In a sincere and deliberate gesture of support for VST and its funding challenges some students are tithing from their bursaries and scholarships.

There were a number of questions from council members for Canon Munn. One of the questions referring to students seeking ordination for parish ministry in this modern economic climate raised the subject of the high cost of post secondary education. Theology students who are being called to parish ministry are often saddled with massive student debt. The likelihood is that it could take a very long time to pay that debt down, relying on the amount of clergy stipends that are paid to clerics early in their ministries. There are growing numbers of cases of clergy in the early (and not-so-early) stages of ministry forced into bankruptcy.

Throughout the weekend, the Provincial Council enjoyed the warm hospitality extended to them by Incumbent, Rev. Christine Rowe and the St. Catherine's community.

Archbishop John was able to repay a portion of that hospitality by preaching at both morning services celebrated at St. Catherine's, October 23rd. ✦

Burning the Mortgage at St. George's, Fort Langley

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer and Topic Editor

There was a festival atmosphere in the Parish Hall, Sunday evening, October 23rd at St. George's, Fort Langley. The community gathered to celebrate the fact that they had recently paid off the last of their loans to the Diocese of New Westminster, obtained seven years ago to assist in the funding of an ambitious \$1,050,000 renovation and renewal project of the 110 year-old property.

Bishop Michael Ingham, the Ven. Stephen Rowe (Archdeacon of Fraser) and Rob Dickson (Business Administrator for the Diocese) were present (having accepted the gracious invitation to attend this auspicious occasion) and enjoyed participating in the celebration.

The church and the land were originally purchased in 1901 for the sum of \$747.70. The young parish paid off that debt in seven years. Over the years the community grew and in 1948, a parish hall was added. This hall featured, among other architectural marvels, a subterranean kitchen. Apparently, if any liquid was spilled in the kitchen it would quickly form a rivulet and flow out the door.

By the 1990s the aging church and the aforementioned hall needed to either be replaced or have some serious improvements done. In the early planning it looked like there was a chance that the church could be moved but the community wanted to stay and the greater Ft. Langley community wanted St. George's to remain at that location.

Plans to build a brand new lower level (basement), parish hall, addition to the

original church building, and a memorial garden had to be done very carefully. The dimensions of the lot and the legal restrictions on the land, due to the existence of a graveyard dating back to the first half of the 19th century, made for additional and sometimes unforeseen challenges.

The community was undaunted and moved forward with the work. The new basement, a proper foundation for the original church building, a 30% expansion of the sanctuary space, Parish Hall, kitchen and landscaping were all achieved by 2003.

The parish had \$225,000 available from the sale of the rectory. It received a forgivable loan from the diocese in the amount of \$200,000, but even with fundraising and capital campaigns progressing nicely there was still a need for some bridge financing and the Diocese of New Westminster was able to provide that capital.

In total, the parish has raised \$900,000



to fund this project. The St. George's community has every right to be extremely proud of the work they have done, helping to continue this Christian presence in Fort Langley where ministry can flow from beautiful buildings that bridge the old and the new.

In his address to the community, Warden Rick Pallen announced that the main event, the burning of the mortgage is a tribute to "what we have achieved and what we will continue to achieve." He also pointed out that this level of achievement should serve as a template; it defines how St. George's, Fort Langley will participate in current and future initiatives both at the parish level and beyond.

Prior to dinner being served, everyone exited the church and gathered around the main church building entrance for the actual burning of the mortgage. (The mortgage that was burned was actually a

printed copy from a file as the original one with the signatures had been misplaced at the Synod office.) Sheila Puls, the current president of the Diocesan ACW was St. George's administrator at the time of the loans being granted and is now the Parish Treasurer. It was fitting that she was given the honour of lighting each page of the document on fire (see photos below).

Then it was time for dinner. Before the gathered throng tucked into a delicious potluck meal, Incumbent, Rev. Pam Worthington offered a prayer of thanksgiving and in that prayer were these words:

"A dream your people dreamed over a century ago made more life affirming by your continuing Grace."

*Congratulations to
St. George's, Fort Langley
and all the best
for the next 110 years. ✠*



OPINION

Agape Examination

ALLEN KERR

Retired Priest of the Diocese of New Westminster, St. Helen, Point Grey

There are two kinds of church congregations: the *institution* and the *organic*. The *institution* model defines church by money, real estate, structure, power, dominance, "meeting-itis," political correctness and authoritarianism. The *organic* model focuses on the Church as the living Body of Christ: personal prayer, Eucharistic worship, evangelistic mission, charitable outreach and loyalty to the Holy Tradition.

We are often taught that a missionary church should elevate those greatest amongst them to be its ministers from within. The institutional model of Christian organization imports from without.

By contracting and paying salaries to apparent professionals, it creates the advantage of maintaining a standardized administration protocol determined by legalism, money and numbers. When these subside, they close shop and amalgamate parishes and congregations whereas the Body of Christ is obliged to grow and sub-divide from within. The organic corporate church daily faces extinction if it fails its mission served by interdependency. That is to say, sufficient clergy are not attracted from the pool of outside denominations. It is very difficult to retain committed pastors who are obliged to have an exterior livelihood, but the church survived this situation in earlier centuries.

Inadequate theological education has always been a hazard hanging over churches.

Vocation (answering God's Call) has its challenges: costs of education, earning a living wage, and old age stability for clergy and their families are uneasily resolved. But it is

important to have a committed, educated priest at the rudder and if that is not possible, then we can initiate and encourage the house church, worship in the catacombs, retreat centers, para-monastic communes, faith-farms, social work habitats, and other more organic venues.

My heart beats when I visit some massive Gothic basilica but by reality check, most are not saved at the core of ecclesiastical grandeur. I also realize that some outside the traditional church may come to Christ in a tent or hall packed by thousands, but it is in the stable, the upper room, at a well, Eucharist on the grass or in somebody's kitchen... that most meet Christ! These places of meeting may easily be the future in our current world.

Formality lends dignity and declares intent but I remind myself each time that we enter sanctuary, I am only an agent at the fulcrum of heaven and earth and the vestments hide my meanness. I am also reminded that what we celebrate in our Altar Eucharist is the same oblation as that offered by a priest in the jungle, a cardinal in the Vatican or St. Basil of NeoCaesaria in the fourth century. We are all in it actively together! It must never be crude, rushed, mechanical, cold triumphant or commonplace. A guest must always go away thinking that we experience the dimension beyond ourselves, which God provides. Nothing of our ego, our pride in self for recognition, dare enter this holy environment and no bitterness against any other should insult God in His Holy Communion with us. ✠



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The Bible Said... What?!

BETHANY WALLIS
St. Laurence, Coquitlam





TOP LEFT The whole conference, including the Diocese of New Westminster delegates, strengthening old friendships and building new ones.

BOTTOM LEFT The Diocese of New Westminster delegates.

RIGHT Youth and youth leaders at the BCYAYM conference participating in an Amazing Race style scavenger hunt around the streets of Penticton.

This year's British Columbia and Yukon Anglican Youth Movement Fall Conference (BCYAYM) was held in Penticton over the Thanksgiving Weekend, October 8th–10th. Almost a hundred youth and youth leaders from all over the province gathered to be "astounded by scripture" through the teaching and sharing of Fr. Bill Cliff from Huron College in Ontario. They also took part in an Amazing Race around the streets of Penticton, and took part in service projects on behalf of the host parish of St. Saviour's. One of those from the Diocese of New Westminster who attended was Bethany Wallis from St. Laurence Anglican Church in Coquitlam and here she writes about her experiences over the weekend. Phil Colvin






Diocesan Youth Movement

YOUTH CONNECTIONS

News & Events for Youth in the Diocese of New Westminster

youth groups
For Parish Youth Groups go to <http://tinyurl.com/DNW-Youth>

contact
Diocesan Youth Coordinator Phil Colvin
pcolvin@vancouver.anglican.ca
604.684.6306 ext. 225 (Wednesdays and Fridays)



BCYAYM conference 2011, what to say...? It started in a total whirlwind of nerves and me trying to ignore everyone on the bus because I was terrified of spending an entire long weekend with people that I didn't know or barely knew.

We had our opening worship with Rev. David Taylor (from St. Mary's, Kerrisdale) and I knew that I was in for an amazing weekend. Bill Cliff had his opening session and gave us all homework. He asked us to find those passages in the bible that truly bothered us or that we didn't understand. Worship and the sessions throughout the weekend continued to be incredible experience and blew me away.

David Taylor led us in songs that moved me so deeply that I cried for hours letting things go that had been pent-up for months. The healing service on Saturday night was so amazing; I stayed in the chapel in near darkness for hours. I talked with Father Bill and was prayed over. I talked with so many wonderful people from Council, people that didn't even know my name but wanted to help me. I realized how dear some of my friendships are with people that I had only met at a Diocesan Youth Movement weekend in March or at Sorrento in July.

The service on Sunday morning with the parish of St. Saviour's, Penticton was truly special. We were able to worship with another congregation, sharing the things we had learned and skills we could offer through musical accompaniment and reading the lessons. After the service we served a BBQ lunch to the congregation in their hall. I met the Archbishop John Privett, who happens to be a good friend of one of my uncles. It was really special meeting someone who had known my uncle and family for such a long time.

Dinner on Sunday was a terrific traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Following that we had an empowerment service where David Taylor and Father Bill blessed us with oil and sent us out into the world to be God's messengers. We headed back to the hall to dance the night away.

Over the weekend I strengthened old friendships and built strong new ones. I had never even heard of BCYAYM until last fall when I joined my new church. I can't believe that I had missed out on three conferences. A conference like this changes your life in ways that you can't imagine and at least from my experience you see church and the meaning behind everything in a totally new way. I was starting to not care about my relationship with God anymore. I just left that door closed. BCYAYM not only opened the door but for now, has knocked it off its hinges. God wants 100% of you; all the parts that you want to hide from everyone including yourself are what God really wants to see.

As Father Bill Cliff taught us at the empowerment service, "be at rest once more oh my soul, be at rest once more once more oh my soul, for the Lord has been good, for the Lord has been good, yes the Lord has been good to me." ✠

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• For more information on the ministry of BCYAYM, including future retreats, visit their website at www.bcyaym.bc.ca. •

• The next diocesan youth retreat takes place on the weekend of March 23rd – 25th at Camp Artaban. More information, including how to register, will be coming in the New Year! •

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