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 Phil Colvin reports on trip to Taiwan.
YOUTH PAGE

 LEFT Sister Cecilia Hudek serving up hearty chili for lunch.
 RIGHT TOP Roslin going in for a first bite.
 RIGHT BOTTOM Looks good!

Homeless Connect and Beyond

RANDY MURRAY

Diocesan Communications Officer and Topic Editor

Richmond's Second Annual Homeless Connect took place at St. Alban's Church Hall on October 13th, 2010.

This offering to the community is a product of the hard work and commitment of a local ecumenical group called *Faith Communities Housing Group* (an adjunct of *Richmond Poverty Response Committee*). The co-Chair of this organization is Sister Cecilia Hudek, a former staff member of St. Joseph the Worker, Roman Catholic Church in Richmond. Sister Cecilia resigned from her position at the church a few years ago and since then has earned two degrees; one of them an MA in Earth Literacy. Her business card states that her calling is to work toward *Justice for People* and *Justice for the Planet*. She is certainly doing that.

The concept behind Homeless Connect is quite simple: create a day when people who are homeless or live on the margins of society can gather at a specific location. There they will find hearty home-cooked meals, clothing, foot care, medical care, a haircut, veterinary treatment for beloved companions, bicycle repairs, counseling information, nutrition counseling and lots of kindness. These services are all provided by local trained personnel (physicians, counseling professionals, a hairdressing school) in the various fields. Donations from local businesses and

individuals, cover any costs.

The Homeless Connect day is an important event in itself but its function is also to raise awareness of the other challenges that Faith Communities Housing Group and their constituency face: Richmond, a municipality of 200,000 residents does not currently offer any shelter housing.

There is a *Salvation Army* facility but it is not a shelter. It is a transition house that receives funding for six (6) extreme weather beds. The official homeless count in Richmond is between 50 and 60 but Faith Communities Housing Group members and others who work with the homeless community believe the number is probably much closer to 300.

In the fall of 2008 a number of advocacy groups working together, succeeded in acquiring funding to create some more extreme weather beds. St. Alban's Incumbent, the Reverend Margaret Cornish is actively involved in the Richmond ecumenical and multi-faith community and has an established presence within the Faith Communities Housing Group. With the permission of parish leadership, St. Alban's offered the use of their parish hall as a location for the newly funded extreme weather beds. *The Richmond Extreme Weather Shelter at St. Alban's* (this name is under

review, stay tuned) was born.

There is a board, a few staff and a number of volunteers who facilitate the functioning of the shelter. Extreme Weather Shelter Coordinator, Janet Sutherland is happy to report that the Shelter has obtained funding for 16 beds for 2010 and is ready to receive individuals who would otherwise be out in the cold. The extreme cold weather funding became available as of November 1st. Thanks to the funding and the generous support of businesses and individuals there is enough capital to hire a Shelter Manager. An HR expert from the Parish of St. Alban's has volunteered to draft a job description and that description has been widely available including the D of NW website and HR site.

The folks involved with extreme weather shelters watch the weather reports very closely as the season of fall deepens and the cold rains pound the communities of the lower mainland. Preparing for a night when an extreme weather shelter is pressed into action is no easy feat.

As of November 2010, the manager of the Richmond Salvation Army transition house (which offers 6 extreme weather beds) Lenny Cristobal makes the decision that Richmond beds will be needed. He contacts the City of

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

NEWS

Compass Rose Society

In late August and early September 2010, Executive Archdeacon, the Ven. Ronald Harrison traveled to London, England to take part in the Annual Meeting of the Compass Rose Society and to personally deliver the diocesan contribution supporting the ministry of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Anglican Communion. 270 Compass Rose Society members from 10 countries provide resources for Anglicans in different parts of the world.

In this photograph provided through the courtesy of the National Church Archives we see the *Canadian Contingent*. Standing to the left of the Archbishop of Canterbury is Archdeacon Ronald Harrison, the Bishop on



the extreme right is Diocese of Toronto Regional Bishop, the Right Rev. Philip Poole, President of the International Compass Rose Society. ✦

Partnership Extension Signed

On Sunday, October 31st, 2010 Bishop Michael Ingham and Bishop David Lai signed a 5 year diocesan partnership extension agreement at St. John's Cathedral in Taipei.

At the February 2010 Diocesan Council Meeting, Bishop Michael Ingham informed council that the Diocesan Council for the Episcopal Diocese of Taiwan under the leadership of The Right Reverend David Jung-Hsin Lai voted at their January 2010 meeting to extend the diocesan partnership with New Westminster for another 5 years.

After the agenda for that evening was accomplished Bishop Michael asked the council to make a motion in response to the Diocese of Taiwan's offer to extend the partnership.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously agreed that the Diocese of New Westminster extend its partnership with the Diocese of Taiwan for another 5 years. Bishop Michael's October-November trip to Hong Kong and Taipei provided an excellent opportunity to formalize this partnership in person. ✦

Bishop David points out to Bishop Michael where to sign.



Homeless Connect

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Richmond and they inform first responders. At approximately 9 am he contacts the St. Alban's Shelter and in quick succession the shelter volunteer supervisor. Then, staff are notified. The first day that the shelter is open is frantic. There are a thousand details to remember and a great deal of preparation is needed. Personnel required to staff the shelter are contacted and organized into shifts. Volunteers begin at 6 pm and paid staff at 7 pm. In preparation for opening, food has been stocked in St. Alban's kitchen's freezer, fridge and pantry. Hygiene products have been collected and stored over the previous months and bedding and clothing are unpacked and aired out in anticipation of the shelter's guests. There are always two volunteers in charge of food and they make sure that there are adequate supplies of fresh food to augment the food stored on the premises.

The story of the extreme weather shelter is a segment of a much larger story. Richmond needs shelter housing and there is a dedicated group of organizations and individuals working toward this goal including Richmond East MLA, Linda Reid. Linda is working diligently on behalf of these groups, assisting them as they apply for and receive - in a timely manner - necessary funding and a location or locations for shelter housing in Richmond. For Linda, this is not about politics or government, it is about filling a gaping hole in the social safety net.

Vic Farmer, a parishioner at St. Alban's and co-Chair of *The Richmond Extreme Weather Shelter at St. Alban's Steering Committee* recently received on behalf of the compassionate services ministries of St. Alban's Richmond

a \$200,000 gift from his employer the well-known philanthropist Milan Ilich. Mr. Ilich, a long-time Richmond resident is the Principal Executive of the Progressive Group of Companies and an investor in the Vancouver Giants, Junior Hockey team. In acknowledgment of his many contribu-



A new hairstyle at St. Alban's.



Just a little off the top.

tions to the community he received the Order of British Columbia on October 21st, 2010. Mr. Ilich dedicated his most recent gift to the Tuesday Community Meal at St. Alban's, a core component of the goal of bringing some comfort and safety to the population in Richmond who find themselves without the basic means to live.

Moving forward in their good works, The Richmond Extreme Weather Shelter at St. Alban's Steering Committee is looking at some marketing ideas around branding the shelter at St. Alban's with a name that can be used as a word-mark or in combination with a visual image. Currently the phrase *Inn From the Cold* is being used on a trial basis.

Finally, here is the prayer that is offered at the beginning of each meeting and is also offered at meetings of *Faith Communities Housing Group*. ✦

Prayer for People who are Homeless

Gracious and loving God, hear our prayer today for all women and men, boys and girls who are homeless this day. For those sleeping under bridges, on park benches, in doorways or bus stations. For those who can find shelter for the night but must wander in the daytime. For families broken because they could not afford to pay the rent. For those who have no relatives or friends who can take them in. For those who have no place to keep possessions that remind them of who they are. For those who are afraid and hopeless. For those who have been betrayed by our social safety net. For all these people, we pray that you will provide shelter, security and hope. We pray for those of us with warm houses and comfortable beds that we may not be lulled into complacency and forgetfulness. Oh God, help us to see your face in the eyes of every homeless person we meet so that we may be empowered through word and deed, and through the political means we have, to bring justice and peace to those who are homeless. Amen



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The Bishop of New Westminster

The Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham.

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Thank you!

Emmanuel • God With Us

Bishop Michael's Christmas Message

What kind of God do you believe in?

The fact is, there are many different 'gods' in whom people around us believe.

Let me tell you what I don't believe.

I don't believe in an old man in the sky with a long white beard. I don't believe in someone who is simply a projection of myself writ large—a white middle class male with vaguely tolerant Canadian values. In fact, I don't believe God is male at all, nor female for that matter. These are limiting terms drawn from our human experience.

I don't believe in a divinity at the centre of the universe that simply wants what I want, or makes it conveniently possible for me to get it. I don't believe God cares about everything I care about.

I don't believe God is the same thing as the Earth, or Mother Nature. I do believe the Earth is sacred, and all its manifold forms of life are holy. But I find it hard to believe that Mother Nature is somehow the author of herself. Such beliefs collapse the distinction between the Creator and the created. I believe I am accountable for the Earth and its life precisely because there is a Creator whose gracious gift it is.

I don't believe God is the same thing as energy, or light, or dark matter, or the mysterious forces to be found in atomic and sub-atomic processes. I doubt if neurons and protons can hear our prayers. I don't believe God is impersonal, or abstract, or absent, or departed, or dead, or merely a figment of my imagination. I don't believe in a God who only loves Christians.

Sometimes we have to approach God by thinking first who God is not. This is an ancient practice in spirituality. It's called the Via Negativa, the way of negation. A bit like going to the doctor to find out what's wrong with you, and she first begins by ruling out what it cannot be. Thus you come closer bit by bit to what it is.

Some of the mediaeval mystics followed this path. Meister Eckhart, for example, felt all images of God were misleading and wrong, so he called God the Nameless Nothing, the Still Wilderness, the Immoveable Rest. Thomas Merton described God as a "circle whose centre is everywhere." These abstract phrases take us closer to the deep mystery that we cannot fully name or understand. They take us closer to who God is.

In spiritual practice the way of negation takes us only part of the way. We come eventually to the Via Positiva, to what can and should be said. But here the human imagination can run wild. We can create God in our own image so very easily. We can construct a God who always supports our nation in war, our personal opinions, even our taste in clothes. But the rich tradition which is Christian faith says something else. It teaches that God is Emmanuel. God is with us.

Once, long ago, God came down at Christmas. The void between humanity and divinity was closed for ever. God came among us. That doesn't mean God is like us, or simply one of us. It means God is inseparable from us, from our fears and joys, our triumphs and suffering. God makes a home among us. God is closer to us than the very breath we draw. God is not ashamed of us, or scornful of our efforts to live well. God is love. But the love of God is something quite beyond human experience. It's not romantic or sentimental love. It is a searing purifying love

that never lets us remain as we are, love that can often feel to us like judgment.

This is a God who says "Fear not. I bring you tidings of great joy." Meaning—let there be an end to fear. Fear makes cowards of us, moral and political cowards, who dare not risk doing what we know to be right. Let fear become joy. Joy inspires and makes brave. Joy leads us towards what is good. Joy is transforming, and converting. More lives have been changed by joy than by all the sermons in the world.

God says: *Unto you a child is born. And his name shall be called wonderful, counsellor, the mighty God, the Prince of Peace.* Notice how the movement is from fear, to joy, to peace. God is peace. When God is among us, there is peace.

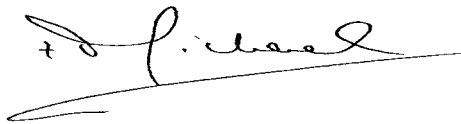
Peace means new relationships of power, an equal sharing of decisions, a mutual respect and forbearance, a granting of dignity, and the presence of justice. For God to declare peace with us at Christmas is to declare a completely new way of living, a world transformed with a different hope. It requires a radical shift in our self-understanding and our relationships with each other.

I believe in a God who created us to be more than consumers, or meaningless collections of atoms that happen to have collided in space and formed life. The God of Jesus Christ is a God of purpose and will, a God who listens to prayer,

who heals and loves, and forgives, and welcomes. This God knows us, knows our failings and our foibles, our darkness and our light. This God loves us so much that we cannot get away with our fantasies and projections, nor imagine divinity to be simply a larger version of ourselves.

Christmas is not about us, it's about God. Emmanuel. With us. It's about the God who, as St Paul said, emptied himself and became a servant of all, that all may become servants of God. If we grasp this truth, we grasp the essence of our great and ancient tradition. And we might just find a way for all the peoples of the Earth, and the Earth itself, to be at peace.

I wish you a joyous and blessed Christmas. ✠



St. George's 100th Anniversary

LILLIAN PIMM
St. George, Vancouver

Due to some communications glitches we were unable to receive Mrs. Pimm's submission for inclusion in the articles about the various 100th Anniversary Parish celebrations taking place around the diocese last spring and summer. At least we made it before the end of their Centennial year. Editor

St. George's Anglican Church, Vancouver celebrated its 100th anniversary on April 25th 2010 with the Right Rev. Michael Ingham, and the Rev. John Marsh officiating.

Enjoying this happy occasion were many past parishioners, a former rector, (The Rev. Dr. David Hawkins), Ms. Cynthia Llewellyn, former leader of the 53rd Cubs, and all of the current congregation, including the two youngest, Charlie Coates, celebrating his first birthday and Sam Dezell (the first baby baptized at St. Georges in twenty-five

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Kingcome Inlet Relief

Torrential rains hit the tiny villages of Alert Bay and Kingcome Inlet September 24th and 25th turning the rural streets into an angry flood. A great deal of damage was done to the buildings including St. George's Anglican church, a Kingcome Inlet landmark since 1938.

The community is also in need of aid to replace clothing, furniture and assistance in the removal of debris.

PWRDF will be working with the Dioceses of British Columbia and New Westminster in these efforts.

Canadian Anglicans are urged to support the community rebuilding and relief efforts with donations through PWRDF. Those wishing to support the renovation of St. George's church should contact the Diocese of British Columbia Toll Free at 1.800.582.8627 or Local 250.386.7781

Donations to PWRDF can be made in the following ways:

On-line: Go to www.canadahelps.org and select PWRDF, BC (Kingcome Inlet) Flood Relief.

By Phone: For credit card donations contact Jennifer Brown at 416.924.9192 ext. 320 or 1.866.308.7973.

Please do not send your credit card number by email or fax.

By Mail: Please make cheques payable to PWRDF, BC (Kingcome Inlet) Flood Relief and send to:

The Primate's World Relief & Development Fund
The Anglican Church of Canada
80 Hayden Street Toronto, Ontario M4Y 3G2

You may also make donations through your parish church to PWRDF using your parish's usual donation vehicles; cash, cheque, direct debit or credit card. If donating through your church please print *Kingcome Inlet flood relief* on your envelope or cheque. ✠

Messy Church is a Winner for Families

MARNIE PETERSON
Priest Associate, All Saints, Ladner
MAP Resource Associate, Synod Staff

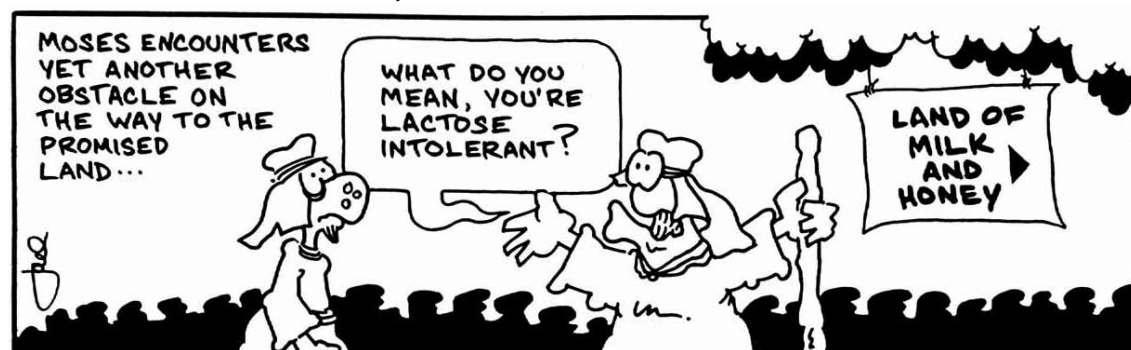
It might seem that as a priest in the diocese, I should have no problem coming up with ways of engaging my own children in church. But the truth is just the opposite.

Being a priest doesn't make my family any less busy and it can be difficult to encourage my own children to come to church when I am so busy on Sunday morning. It is even more difficult when you include the fact that Sunday morning seems to be the only morning that my family has any unscheduled time. Getting out of bed and getting dressed to rush off to church with Mom just doesn't happen.

But Messy Church at All Saints, Ladner has given us a place to come and engage the Holy in a church setting together. Messy church is a worship service that happens once a month on the last Saturday beginning at 5:30 pm.

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PONTIUS PUDDLE by Joel Kauffmann



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

compiled by Anglican Archivist Melanie Wallace

- 35 years • 1975 Bishop David Somerville elected Archbishop of New Westminster and Metropolitan of BC and Yukon.
- 25 years • 1985 Controversial theologian Hans Kung visits Vancouver.
- 20 years • 1990 Diocese moves forward with a 5 year partnership with the Diocese of Wellington, New Zealand.
- 10 years • 2000 Contingent from the Diocese of New Westminster joins thousands in Seattle to protest the World Trade Summit.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Animal Blessings for St. Francistide •

In 2010 the popularity of Animal (Pets, Teddy Bears, etc.) Blessing services around the Diocese of New Westminster continued to grow with record attendance reported at many of the worship offerings around the lower mainland. More than two dozen D of NW churches celebrated pet blessing services this year between October 2nd and 14th.

On October 2nd, the Rev. Georgina Harris of St. Mary the Virgin, Sapperton went out into the New Westminster neighbourhood of Quayside to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis with some on-site Animal Blessings. What better location for a St. Francis service than the Quayside Dog Park, a popular "off-leash" facility in that busy residential neighbourhood?

St. Thomas, Chilliwack also transferred The Feast of St. Francis to Saturday, October 2nd. At 3 pm that day the St. Thomas Parish hall welcomed: 20 dogs, half a dozen cats, a hedgehog, an assortment of Teddy Bears and about 50 human types. The guest speaker was Marion Hewko from *Dogs Deserve Better* and *Safe-at-Last Dog Rescue*. She spoke to the congregation about puppy mills and pet stores and provided valuable information about the work done by people

who rescue dogs from inhumane situations. St. Thomas' Incumbent, the Rev. John Sovereign had himself acquired six weeks previous a rescued black lab named Kaeli. Apparently Kaeli was a little too enthusiastic about the Pet Blessing and had to wait for her master in the Rector's Office until the crowds of people and furry folk had somewhat lessened. ✠



• The Best Carpool Ever •

By all reports this year's Clergy Conference at Painter's Lodge in Campbell River (October 4th-6th) was a memorable event. This group of Fraser Archdeaconry clergy are obviously enjoying the journey.

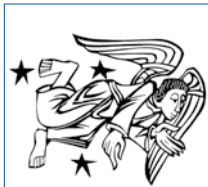
Clergy of the D of NW who attended this event enjoyed their time together and

their facilitated sessions with Missional Church expert, Dr. Alan Roxburgh. ✠

The Reverends (left to right) Craig Tanksley, Holly Tanksley, Arthur Nash, Janice Lowell, Helen Tervo, Jonathan Blanchard, Neil Gray, Paul Woehle and Dale Yardy outside on the deck enjoying the early fall sea air.



• Prayer for the Safe Delivery of the Miners •



On October 12th and 13th of 2010 after 69 days the world heaved a sigh of relief as all 33 miners, victims of the August 5th, 2010 San Jose Copper-Gold

Mine accident at Copiapo, Chile were rescued and all appeared to be in reasonably good health. To give thanks to God for this miracle a clergy representative of the Diocese of New Westminster offered the following prayer:

Loving God, we give most grateful thanks for the rescue of the 33 miners in Chile.

We remember and rejoice in their courage, and that of their families.

We celebrate the work of all those engaged in the many aspects of this rescue.

We continue to pray for those who face danger and death at work.

We pray especially for these men and their families as they seek to rebuild their lives.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, the One who brings new life and new hope to us all. Amen. ✠

• In Our Prayers •

✠ The Rev. Dr. Hugh F. 'Eric' Woodhouse, former Principal at the Anglican Theological College of British Columbia died peacefully in his sleep in Vancouver this past October. Dr. Woodhouse served as Principal, Chaplain and Professor of Church History from 1954 to 1961. He served also in Toronto and Halifax, and returned to Dublin in 1963 to become the Regius Professor of Divinity at Trinity College. On retirement, Professor Woodhouse and his wife Kitty returned to Vancouver.

The Memorial Service was at his parish church, St. Anselm's, on October 23rd. Donations appreciated to PWRDF in his memory. His survivors include, his spouse Kathleen 'Kitty', children Hugh (England), Charles (Tasmania), Dorothy (Vancouver) and grandchildren and great grandchildren on several continents. ✠

✠ Mrs. Patricia 'Pat' Bishop died on October 27th and the Memorial Service to celebrate her life was held at St. Mark's Ocean Park, Surrey on Saturday, November 6th at 2 pm.

Pat's husband the late Canon Charles Bishop had served at St. John's and St. Catherine's in North Vancouver, at Church House in Toronto, in the Dioceses of Edmonton and BC, and in retirement here in the D of NW he assisted at St. George, Fort Langley and St. Andrew the Apostle, Langley. ✠

✠ The Rev. Randolph Bruce who traveled to Winnipeg recently for his Mother's funeral. Randolph is half-time at All Saints, Burnaby and half-time for St. Michael's Centre. ✠

• Appointments •

The Bishop is pleased to announce the following appointments:

✠ The Rev. Carla McGhie, formerly of St. Clare-in-the-Cove, North Vancouver, and now on the Bishop's List, as Priest-in-Charge for Church of the Holy Spirit, Maple Ridge, as of October 24th.

The Rev. Ted Celiz has been providing Sunday supply recently. ✠

The Rev. Carla McGhie receives her new appointment at the Church of the Holy Spirit, Maple Ridge from Bishop Michael.

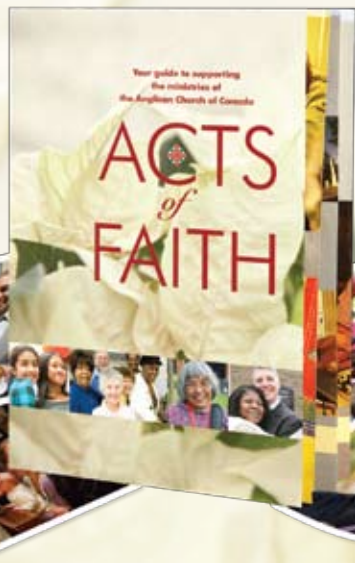
✠ The Rev. Andrew Kunihiro Shirota to the Parish of Holy Cross, Japanese Canadian Anglican Church, Vancouver effective January 1st, 2011. Andrew, bilingual in English and Japanese, comes to us from the Diocese of Olympia. ✠

✠ The Bishop was also pleased to extend the term appointment of the Rev. David Price, Priest-in-Charge of All Saints, Agassiz to June 30th, 2011. ✠



This Christmas, share a vision of new life and peace.

Your gifts to the Anglican Church of Canada will make a world of difference.



As the season of Advent approaches, it is a wonderful time for Canadian Anglicans to reflect on the needs of people at home and around the world and the impact that faithful gifts can have in growing hope and compassion in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. This year we are inviting Canadian Anglicans to support our beloved Church, and its work in the service of the Gospel, through our new gift guide, Acts of Faith.

With each passing year, more and more people are opting out of the Christmas shopping rush and are making the choice to put their faith into practice by giving gifts that improve the lives of people in developing countries, promote justice and equality, advocate for Indigenous peoples and nurture the work of the Church in the world.

Acts of Faith provides a multitude of giving opportunities that can help Canadian Anglicans to support the vital ministries of the Anglican Church of Canada and its partners, and explains how every gift can make a difference by changing lives and communities for the better.

To browse the ministries supported by Acts of Faith or to order copies for your own family or your parish family, please visit

www.anglican.ca/giftguide
phone: 1-888-439.GIFT (4438)
email: philanthropy@national.anglican.ca

The Magi honoured the Christ-child with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh

Through PWRDF, you can honour the Christ-child with gifts of development, relief, and support for refugees



The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
80 Hayden St., Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2

Visit our website at www.pwrdf.org



AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Social Justice Film Festival •

Films on the universal language of music, AIDS in Africa, living with war, poverty, the residential school experience, clean water for the world, internment camps and restorative justice were screened October 15th and 16th at Agassiz United Church and All Saints, Anglican in Agassiz. The two day festival ran Friday evening and all day Saturday featuring 8 films and a number of guest speakers. ✦

• VST Archives Grant Realized •

On October 21st, Diocesan Business Administrator, Rob Dickson and Executive Archdeacon for the Diocese, the Ven. Ronald Harrison presented a cheque in the amount of \$300,000, to the Vancouver School of Theology on behalf of the Anglican entities; the Diocese of New Westminster and the Ecclesiastical Province of BC and the Yukon. This cheque is the payment of a grant pledged a number of years ago to VST for the building of the Archives now completed and located in the basement of the VST library. This facility houses the diocesan archives, provincial synod archives, the United Church archives (the United Church of Canada had previously paid their \$300,000 grant) and the VST archives. ✦



TOP
Rob Dickson and the Ven. Ronald Harrison in Anglican Archivist Melanie Wallace's office.



BOTTOM
The Ven. Ronald Harrison presents the cheque to the Rev. Dr. Wendy Fletcher, Principal and Dean of VST.

• Congratulations! •

The Rev. Angus Stuart, Incumbent of St. Francis-in-the-Wood and Regional Dean of Capilano-Kingcome, writes, "October 29th, 2010 Christine and I and our two children Aaron (20) and Anna (17) became Canadian citizens (though our true citizenship remains in heaven of course). We went to the government building on Expo Boulevard and swore allegiance to the Queen of Canada. I don't think this makes any material difference to the diocese or my standing in it, but at least you know there's no getting rid of us now!" ✦

• Journey of Christmas Returns •

St. Mark's, Ocean Park is pleased to present for the 12th year, its outdoor walk-around Christmas display *The Journey of Christmas*. Beginning December 16th the "journey"

will open each night until December 27th from 6 pm–9 pm. *The Journey* is open from 3:30 pm–9 pm on Christmas Eve and closed on Christmas Day. Set in the woods behind the church, this unique display describes the Christmas story with a mural, mannequins, props, theatre lighting and a sophisticated soundtrack in each of the 9 theatres. After your 22-minute walk-around, come inside for hot chocolate, cookies and sing some Christmas carols. Brian Walks, the committee chairman, would like you to pick an evening and carpool from your parish and make this special event part of your Christmas "journey." Donations are gratefully received and go towards keeping *The Journey of Christmas* a long-time Christmas tradition. ✦

SUBMISSION Brian Walks, Chair, Journey of Christmas.



• Community Organizing •

The *Road to 2018* Diocesan workshop and information sharing initiative in partnership with *Diocesan Eco-Justice Unit*, *St. James' Social Justice Group* and *Metro Vancouver Alliance* presents *Community Organizing*, a one day, day-long event, Saturday, January 29th at St. Mary's Kerrisdale, 2490 W. 37th Street in Vancouver.

Registration and coffee are at 9:30 am followed by the program offerings from 10 am–3 pm. Please bring your lunch.

This day is for **teams of parish leaders** who want to be part of bringing God's reign of justice from the world as it is to the world as it should be. The workshop leaders will share specific information about commu-

nity organizing using the Industrial Area Foundation (IAF) model. We will explore the theological and biblical basis for community organizing and together find out how a mission for community organizing deepens parish life, strengthens leadership within a parish and builds relationships with other organizations working for the common good.

The cost for this event will be \$10 per parish group.

Registration information is available on the diocesan Eco-Justice Unit website page <http://bit.ly/aRkRsX> and by contacting the program department at the diocesan offices at 604.684.6306 ext 226. ✦

Great Moments in Christianity and a Medieval Feast

JOHN BRADDOCK

St. Mark's Ocean Park, Surrey

On Saturday, October 30th, the congregation of St. Mark's, Ocean Park took a trip through the history of Christianity under the leadership of Dr. Jim Heugel, PhD and lecturer in medieval and church history, and Provost of Northwest University, Kirkland, Washington.

Over 150 people registered for the full day conference, *Great Moments in Christianity*. Prof. Heugel held the participants attention with his enthusiasm and humour as he expounded on four major changes in Christianity, their causes and responses in faith, and the impact of social and cultural changes from the early Roman Period to late Renaissance.

• Courage Under Fire

The Church Under Roman Persecution

• The Conversion of Constantine

The Church is Transformed from Persecuted to Powerful

• Monks on a Mission

Augustine of Canterbury & the Beginning of the English Church

• Conflict and Conscience

How the Reformation Changed the Christian World.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

The head table in period dress ready for a Medieval feast.

Monday, October 25th, the North Shore Palliative Care Hospice Blessing ceremony took place. This was the fruition of a long journey, and much hard work and prayers. The wonderful facility will serve the whole of the North Shore. Many of the local churches have been involved over the years. North Shore representatives of the Anglican Church joined in a deeply moving interfaith blessing ceremony. A number of North Shore Deanery clergy and laity attended. The Rev. Dr. Lynne McNaughton prayed as one of the Christian representatives, and as a member of the North Shore Deanery Team. As one enters the building, the sacred space is close to the main door. It is wood paneled and oval in shape. Every faith is represented there and all are welcome in a place of peace and hope. ✦



The Rev. Dr. Lynne McNaughton blessing the hospice. PHOTO Clive Camm SUBMISSION Christine Rowe.

• D of NW on Facebook •

facebook

For those of you on Facebook please go to the top of your personal Facebook homepage, type *Anglican Conversation* in the Facebook search browser and click "like." You will then receive updates and information from Diocesan Communications plus you are invited to contribute to the conversation. ✦

• Diocesan Website Up and Running •

The Diocese of New Westminster's adjunct website www.holidayservices.ca is up and running for the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany seasons. The purpose of the website is to offer information about worship and event offerings at churches around the diocese listed regionally. The website is advertised on-line through google-adwords where an ad pops up on google pages with a link to the [holidayservices.ca](http://www.holidayservices.ca) site. Once there, people can look around the site and develop their Christmas worship plans. It is the modern method of inviting people to church. ✦



AROUND THE DIOCESE

Canadian Mother's Union Biennial Conference

Mother's Union is an international organization that promotes *Christian care for families worldwide*. It is ostensibly a worldwide Anglican organization and the vast majority of members are Anglican women but membership in the Mother's Union is open to any baptized Christian.

There is a small but energetic and active chapter of Mother's Union in Canada and November 4th to 6th, 2010 marked the Canadian Mother's Union Biennial Conference held at *Rosemary Heights Retreat Centre* in Surrey.

The conference included: worship, social time, entertainment, business meetings and guest speaker, Jean Price, *Unit Coordinator for Finance and Central Services of the Worldwide Mother's Union*. Jean is also a member of the Lichfield, Cathedral Chapter of Mother's Union.

Jean's husband, the Rev. Laurence Price, Prebendary of Lichfield Cathedral, accompanied her to the conference.

Our Diocesan Chapter of Canadian Mother's Union has two Parish Branches, St. James in the Downtown Eastside and St. Cuthbert in Delta. The Executive of the national chapter is largely made up of D of NW members: Celia Dodds of St. James is the National President, Shirin Theophilus of St. Anslem, is Vice President, Linda Adams of St. James is the Corresponding & Recording Secretary, Cynthia Green of St. James is the Treasurer and the Rev. Christine Rowe, Incumbent of St. Catherine's Capilano is the National Chaplain. Father Mark Greenaway-Robbins is the Chaplain for the D of NW Chapter.

The mission of Mother's Union is to share Christ's love as they encourage, strengthen and support marriage and family life through the organization's many ministries and program offerings. Worldwide membership is estimated at between 3.5 and 4 million in 81 countries. In Canada where Mother's Union membership hovers between 600-800 nationwide the primary focus of

the group is to support in tangible ways those who minister in the remote areas of Canada through the *Northern Clergy Families Fund*. Canadian Mother's Union also offers financial support to the *Overseas and Outreach Fund* which is handled through the offices of Mother's Union in London, UK. Canadian Mother's Union members also participate in *Waves of Prayer*, dedicated concentrated prayer meetings in designated locations and at designated times of the year. Waves of Prayer are in support of the many Mother's Union initiatives taking place around the Globe.

2010 Guest Speaker, Jean Price's Diocese of Lichfield Chapter of Mother's Union has a total of 2,500 members in 100 branches. There are an estimated 93,000 Mother's Union members within the United Kingdom.

In the UK, the branch chapters hold monthly meetings and are extremely active in a variety of ministries in the region: knitting garments for premature babies, sending Christmas Cards to inmates of the nine prisons contained within the diocese, helping at prison visiting centres and

chaplains areas, advocating for prisoners who wish to increase their ability to experience "family time" with their children and spouses and supporting a large variety of projects that are developed in individual parishes and branches. The Mother's Union in Lichfield is an active and involved instrument of compassionate service in that part of the UK.

But it is India and Africa where the Mother's Union has its largest membership. The organization founded in London in 1876 now boasts nearly 2 million members in India and 1.5 million members in Africa. In these two continents the offerings are much more grass roots oriented: literacy programs, parenting courses and family life training. In Africa 95 percent of married women who are members of the Anglican Church are also Mother's Union members.

In her brief address following the November 5th Banquet, Jean Price encouraged the Canadian Conference attendees (by invoking the energy and the visibility of British activist Guy Fawkes as it was *Guy Fawkes Day*) to make 2011 a "Crackerjack Year" for the Mother's Union in Canada. She urged the group to get out and sell Mother's Union by letting their communities know about the good work done by Mother's Union locally, regionally, nationally and around the globe and encouraging the growth and development of new branches across Canada.

After Jean spoke and before the evening's musical entertainment began it was time to cut and serve a cake custom-made for the event by Margaret Vickers of St. James. To find out more about the **Canadian Mother's Union** please visit their website at www.mothersunioncanada.ca or email Celia Dodds at cmdodds@shaw.ca.

Head Table at the November 5th Banquet (left to right) The Rev. Leonard Price, The Rev. Christine Rowe, Archdeacon Stephen Rowe, Celia Dodds, Jean Price, The Rev. Mark Greenaway-Robbins and Shirin Theophilus (missing).



CLINICAL COUNSELLING AND SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

When seeking professional help, it is helpful to know that our spirituality and our thoughts about God and faith are recognized, respected and encouraged as a part of our healing and growth.

As counsellors, rooted in Christian tradition, and trained in spiritual direction, we offer a safe place to explore all of your questions.

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- Depression
- Anxiety and/or stress
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- Chronic illness
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- Addictions including substance misuse, overspending, sex addiction and compulsive theft
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St. George's

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

years), celebrating his fourth.

While listening to the strings of the harp, played by musician Ann Moir everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch and later participated in a sing-a-long accompanied by Pete Campbell on the guitar.

The original church building saw many changes to the surrounding area, and with an aging congregation, the upkeep proved too great to continue its use. In the late 1990s, following many meetings, the decision was made to construct a new all-purpose building with suites upstairs and space for St. Georges church on the main floor.



This meant that the lovely old building that hosted: Sunday Strawberry Teas in the garden, gigantic rummage sales (drawing crowds from across the city because of the high quality of our merchandise), the 53rd Cubs and Scouts as well as a lively group of teens who held dances every Saturday night in the church hall would no longer exist.

However, the new building *St. George's Place*, featuring Oak woodwork, large windows and attractive light fixtures opened on September 16th, 1999 has proved to be quite lovely and very successful.

The current building is located at 2950 Laurel Street in East Vancouver.

LEFT The original St. George's Mission circa 1908.
RIGHT St. George's today.

OPINION

Tamil Refugees & Christian Compassion

JOHN CONWAY

St. James, Vancouver

Former Chair Diocesan Refugee Unit

The unexpected arrival in Canadian waters last month of a boatload of Tamils from Sri Lanka aboard the *MV Sun Sea* has resulted in considerable dilemmas for refugee advocates in Vancouver. How should the Tamils be regarded and how can they be helped?

Vancouver churches have a long history of giving aid to refugees. Forty years ago, during the Vietnamese Boat People crisis, when over fifty thousand refugees were assisted to come to the Vancouver area, the churches played a considerable role in providing the resources necessary to take care of this large influx.

Since 1983, Canadian churches have gladly taken part in the government-approved scheme for sponsorships of individuals or families stranded in refugee camps overseas. This scheme has worked very well, and many families have been rescued or reunited through this process. But this is essentially for refugees approved for resettlement by the *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees* in whatever country they found asylum, who then contacts the Canadian Immigration officials, who pass on the information to private sponsors such as local parishes. The disadvantage is that this all takes time. So the result is that good-hearted parishioners willing to give funds to support such a refugee family have to be very patient for many months before

the paper work is completed and the family or individual refugee actually arrives.

In the present case, these Tamil refugees have shortcut this lengthy process by arriving unannounced on Canada's coast. The reception given by the Canadian Government, and its officials in the Immigration Department, can hardly be described as welcoming. In fact, all 496 persons on board this ship have been placed in detention. The men are held in a Corrections Centre near Alouette Lake, while the women and children are in Burnaby's Youth Detention Centre. No access to any of these persons has been allowed, and a publication ban has prevented the media from identifying the refugees by name.

Canadian regulations provide that any such spontaneous arrivals on Canadian soil must be allowed to make a refugee claim. They are commonly referred to as "inland refugee claimants." In fact, they have to proceed through two different *hoops*, the first: the *Canadian Border Service Agency*, and second the *Refugee Determination Board*. The Canadian Border Service Agency's responsibility is to discover whether or not any of these 'incomers' are inadmissible on the grounds that they are or were terrorists and hence a potential threat to Canadian security. Whether any of those aboard belonged to the *Tamil Tigers*—an organization explicitly banned in Canada—is unknown, and will probably never be known.

The agency's first task is to hold hearings for each individual to establish their true identity. This is also necessarily a time-consuming procedure, since many refugees

may well have destroyed any evidence of their former lives, or be unwilling to declare past records. Their sympathizers in Canada, including many members of the Tamil community who have arrived here legally in earlier days, are thus handicapped, since the CBSA refuses to allow any access to these detainees until their identity is fully established. When this happens, it may be possible to allow them bail for a time, and require them to appear at a later date before the *Refugee Determination Board*. At the moment however, no such steps have been taken and their detention may be of considerable duration.

The dilemma of the authorities here is only enhanced by the fact that Canada has signed an international undertaking, which prohibits the *refoulement* or expulsion of individuals if the country from which they came is known to practice torture. Recent reports from Sri Lanka depict this state as being under a dictatorial regime, which certainly would inflict punishment on known opponents in the Tamil Tiger movement.

Clearly the Canadian government's response is dominated by two considerations: first by the possible danger that any generous or open welcome of these refugee claimants would encourage the arrival of more such unannounced and/or illegal transports. Secondly the government's own refugee sponsorship procedures, though slow, are generous, and no one would want to see them endangered by this kind of back-door or possibly illegal queue-jumping, which clearly seeks to circumvent the normal procedures for immigration.

What should the churches' response be?

At the moment, until these refugees can be met face to face by friends, relatives or refugee agencies such as the *Immigrant Services Society*, little can be done. When this happens, we may hope to discover why they have taken the perilous and often traumatic choice of sailing in an unseaworthy ship halfway around the world to reach Canada. Then we may find out whether they risked their lives to escape a well-founded fear of persecution in their homeland. If so, then they would clearly fall into the category of genuine refugees, and deserve to be helped. Many of them will undoubtedly have suffered considerable traumatic shocks both before and during this long and difficult voyage. How many of them will have relatives already here who can help is not known, but for those who have no one, the need for such assistance is obvious. It is at this point that the churches, through their parish sponsorship committees, can help.

At the same time, church people should take care not to be influenced by some of the more hostile anti-immigrant or anti-refugee sentiments, which attribute dangerous or even terrorist characteristics to many such risk-takers trying to evade their persecutors or political opponents. As Vancouver's Catholic Archbishop Miller said, "The Tamils must not become scapegoats." Rather, as and when they are released on bail and can join the rest of Canadian society, let us hope they will find a warm and receptive welcome delivered with the best of Christian compassion and sincerity. ✠

Medieval Feast

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Professor Heugel highlighted each era with historical references, and he encouraged the group to go out and do their own research as there are many private letters and reports available that help bring the history of Christianity to life.

He began the chronology by describing the martyrdom of **Perpetua**, a young married woman, who was arrested in 202 AD for being a Christian.

"She fell on her back. She sat up, and being more concerned with her sense of modesty than with her pain, covered her thighs with her gown which had been torn to one side. Then finding her hair clip had fallen out, she pinned back her loose hair thinking it not for a martyr to suffer with disheveled hair; it might seem that she was mourning her hour of triumph." In conclusion we read that Perpetua "took the gladiator's trembling hand and guided it to her throat."

From that historic tableau Professor Heugel guided the audience through the early English church quoting extracts from Bede's ancient book *The History of the English Church and People* and continued on through to Martin Luther and the roots of the Reformation.

After the conference it was time to party! What an historical cultural shock it must have been to enter the Hall of St. Mark's on that Saturday evening!

A crowd of 135 people were present, many dressed in Medieval clothing, flamboyantly colorful, yet some more dignified, and others sinister in chain-mail helmets, brandishing an axe or dagger.

The banqueters sat at two long refectory tables with a smaller head table running parallel at the end of the hall.

Some, including guest speaker Dr. Jim Heugel, and St. Mark's Associate Priest, Rev. Jonathan Blanchard huddled within brown Monk's robes. St Mark's Incumbent, the Rev.



TOP The pig, good enough to eat.

LEFT Mike the Jester juggling pins.

RIGHT The Rev. Craig Tanksley, Denny O'Donovan and Brian Maxwell dressed in their Medieval best.

Craig Tanksley, sported a fine Baron's coat.

All the walls were decorated in heraldic tapestries, and in the corner a recorder ensemble provided haunting accompaniment to table chatter. A juggler, Mike Balsler, in jester costume, dominated centre space.

Soon came the appearance of the featured performer... the pig. It had been roasted all day on an outside spit. The roast, complete with apple in mouth, was carried shoulder high by four bearers who

processed around the Hall, then returned it to the kitchen to be carved for the seated diners.

Craig Tanksley in his welcome referred to the importance of fun, an opportunity for parishioners to enjoy the evening and entertainment in friendship.

The evening continued with music, juggling, stories, more fascinating information from Professor Heugel and a group sing. A wonderful time was had by all! ✠

Messy Church

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

It is a service that anticipates the movement and noise of children with crafts, songs, a story and even Eucharist. We parents don't have to look at our watches, wondering about dinner, because after the service we gather in the hall and eat together.

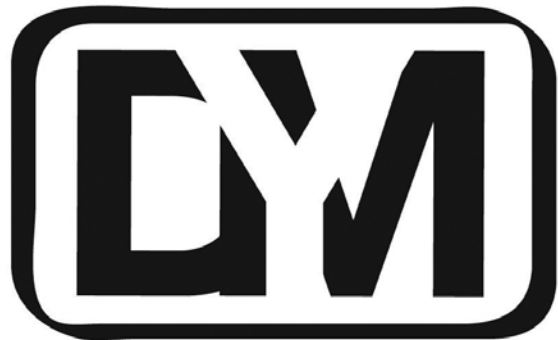
This past Sunday we celebrated a Baptism, which was fun and exciting for the children and also for the priests! The service was simple and easy for the children to understand but still contained the deep and meaningful mystery of being born anew into Christ's mission for the world through the waters of Baptism.

Messy Church has given my family a place to gather as members of the Anglican community; to experience church in a way that is inclusive and welcoming and respectful of the need for kids to be kids.

As a priest I feel honored to be involved in the ministry of families in a way that takes both children and liturgy seriously, and as a mother I love having a place to come with my children that anticipates who they are and invites them into the mystery of God through the stories of Jesus and crafts and a shared community meal. ✠

The Messy Church Baptism of Owen Camp.





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)

Apocalypse, Wow!

The next great retreat is happening on the weekend of February 25th–27th at Camp Artaban!

GET READY FOR THE END OF THE WORLD...

and have a lot of fun at the same time!

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!

Visit the youth homepage on the diocesan website, or the youth Facebook page, or get in touch with Phil Colvin at pcolvin@vancouver.anglican.ca

Phil and Rev. Leonard Chang, Chaplain of St. John's University



At the beginning of November, I travelled with Bishop Michael to Taiwan. This trip, marking the second decade of the partnership agreement between our dioceses, was designed to look ahead and to plan a new series of joint projects together. In 2009, Bishop David Lai invited youth delegates at Diocesan Synod to visit Taiwan and one of the purposes of this trip was to start bringing that vision to reality!

We began our visit at St. John's Cathedral, Taipei for the signing of the new partnership agreement. I had been warned that Taiwanese services are a little longer than their Canadian counterparts. I soon discovered why. After the sermon a crowd quickly formed up at the altar. It appeared they were waiting for a blessing, but it transpired that they were actually there to be baptized. And then, just when that excitement died down, another crowd formed around the bishops. These were candidates for confirmation. It was a great lead-in to the signing ceremony itself, which Bishop Michael remarked has a weekly significance in both dioceses as we pray for each other's parishes in our regular prayer cycles.

After church we went to lunch with Tina, the daughter of Dean Samuel Lin. Tina spoke about how many of her friends found conversing in English a challenge, as there are few fluent English-speakers in Taiwanese schools. She had an advantage, having spent a summer in Vancouver at a language school a few years before. We also compared notes about the typical lifestyles of Taiwanese and Canadian high-schoolers. There were a lot of points of crossover, from the importance of achievement being felt right throughout the system, to the multitude of extracurricular activities all vying for time and attention. And, yes, Taiwanese choirs don't just sing Taiwanese songs. They also sing *Mamma Mia*.

The next stage of our journey was to join clergy at their retreat in the southern city of Kaoishung. We joined fourteen clergy from around Taiwan for a series of very lively sessions, discussions and question and answer periods. Some of the sessions were conducted solely in Mandarin (which gave the English-speaking contingent the chance to explore some of the local sights) but many were carefully translated by some of the bilingual speakers at the retreat. What was interesting to me was how familiar a lot of the questions and discussions were. *How do we engage congregations in worship? How can we adapt liturgy to speak to those who have never connected with it?*

This was also true when I led a discussion about youth ministry. I asked the Taiwanese clergy to tell me what life is like for young people in Taiwan. There were some good observations, but also a lot of trepidation and silence. I let them know that's often the same response I get in Canada! It's okay to admit we may not know certain groups of people in our congregations very well—our challenge is to go and spend time with them and begin to understand the world as they see it. It was an encouraging discussion. It created an atmosphere where we were able to swap ideas for a youth visit in 2011. This exchange of ideas was from the perspective of youth ministry rather than just what we, the adults, might want to see happen.

After the clergy conference and a return to Taipei by High Speed Rail (having never been to Japan, this was my first experience of the legendary bullet trains) I visited St. John's University to meet with the faculty and the Episcopal church chaplaincy to continue to develop a project for 2011. We talked about how we could build upon the last visit of Canadian youth to Taiwan back in 2002, and how we could take advantage of developments in the university since that time. We came up with the exciting idea of partnering with existing students in the English language department at the university, helping them to improve their confidence in English through a week of activities and conversation with visiting Canadians. Then, we would stay with them and help them to lead a week of activities for prospective students - a chance not just to visit and share our

Seven Days in Taiwan

PHIL COLVIN

Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator, Youth Ministry Coordinator, St. Francis-in-the-Wood, West Vancouver

experiences, but also to help each other to lead others!

It was a fascinating, exciting visit - a beginning for even more exciting work with the Diocese of Taiwan in the future! ✦

TOP The Shilin Night Market in Taipei. All night every night.

BOTTOM Lanterns on the ceiling of a Buddhist temple in downtown Taipei.



Taiwan 2011

Would you, or young people you know (aged 17–25) like to be part of a Diocese of New Westminster team to visit Taiwan in late July and early August 2011?

We're looking to build a team of youth who want to:

- Experience a new culture, language and whole way of life
- Work with young people and children in Taiwan as both friends and leaders
- Share stories, develop leadership skills and go deeper on each other's spiritual journeys.

If you're interested, get in touch with Phil Colvin at pcolvin@vancouver.anglican.ca to find out how to apply for the Taiwan 2011 team! ✦