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Ordinations to the Priesthood on the Confession of St. Peter the Apostle

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor



Following the Ordination and the Offertory, the newly priested gathered with Archbishop Skelton, Deacon, the Rev. Peggy Trendell-Jensen and Liturgical Assistant, Hugh Alley for the Eucharistic Prayer. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Archbishop Skelton presents the new priests to the congregation and invites their applause of welcome. RIGHT At the conclusion of worship a posed photograph of the newly priested with their Archbishop: the Rev. André Marc Stephany; the Rev. Jonathan David Pinkney; and the Rev. Alecia Danica Greenfield. PHOTOS Randy Murray



As the rain fell and the temperature rose on the morning of Saturday, January 18, 2020, following more than a week of *real* winter weather, the nave of Christ Church Cathedral was filled with worshippers attending the Eucharist on the Holy Day of the Confession of St. Peter the Apostle.

In addition, this Eucharist was also an Ordination liturgy. Three deacons of the diocese: the Rev. Alecia Danica Greenfield (Assistant Curate at St. Francis-in-the-Wood, Caulfeild) presented by the Rev. Angus Stuart and Penny Mitchell; the Rev. Jonathan David Pinkney (Assistant Curate at St. Helen's, Surrey) presented by the Rev. Stephen Laskey and Lauren Odile Pinkney; and the Rev. André Marc Stephany (Assistant Curate at Christ Church Cathedral) presented by the Ven. Douglas Fenton and Keith Landherr were consecrated priests by the laying on of hands and anointing.

Archbishop Melissa Skelton presided, and the Rev. Matthew Johnson of the Street Outreach Initiative located at St. James' was the preacher. Father Matthew was also the Chaplain to the Ordinands.

In his sermon which could be titled *At the Threshold* or perhaps *You Don't Entrust Your Keys to Just Anyone*, Fr. Matthew juxtaposed both the secular caricature of St. Peter with the St. Peter of the Gospels and our current views of how information is recorded; not the well-known *Book of Life* but *The Laptop of Life*. Fr. Matthew illustrated that the non-biblical view of judgement and waiting for the Gates to be opened to us points to a universal human theme.

"The theme of the Threshold. A point at which, we stand on the brink, in this case — of something momentous. For, if anything, in this gathering, at this Holy Ordination, we stand at the Threshold, the Inception — of three priestly ministries."

He went on to say:

"When it comes to ordained ministry there could be no more fitting emissary, than Peter, in embodying the truths — including the difficult truths, of priestly apostolate. Actually, his name was Simon. Cephas (Greek Petros; English Peter), is Jesus' nickname for Simon — that is, his 'callsign.' Cephas, means literally, 'the rock' or 'rocky.' A nickname which itself suggests, that with all his human failings, Peter had substantial character."

Jesus saw something solid at his core. And Jesus speaks elsewhere — doesn't he? — about building a house on a 'foundation of solid rock.' Here, as he speaks about the Church that will continue his mission, Jesus points out that Peter is just that sort of rock. Solid. Foundational."

What does that tell us about Jesus own opinion, even esteem, of Peter? After all — you don't entrust your 'Keys' to just anyone, do you?

Oh, and Jesus chose well..."

With the homily completed the Ordination Eucharist continued with the various components of the liturgy: the Creed, the Presentation to the Archbishop of the ordinands by their sponsors; the Examination of the ordinands by the Archbishop; the Archbishop calling the people to prayer, the Litany; the Consecration of Priests; the Peace, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



The newly ordained priests administer the Body of Christ. PHOTOS Randy Murray

Ordinations to the Priesthood on the Confession of St. Peter the Apostle

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

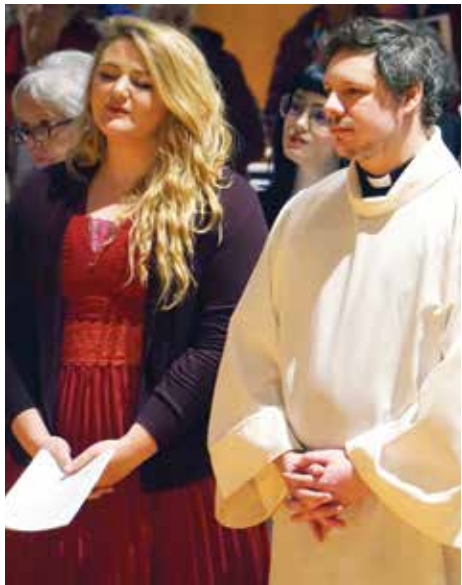
Offertory (the offering was directed to support students on the Anglican track at VST and totalled \$1,440) and the Eucharist. A Eucharist where and when the three ordinands administered the Body of Christ for the first time as priests in the Holy Church of God.

Despite the previous 7–10 days of inclement weather around the diocese of New Westminster there was a large cohort of diocesan clergy present (and some visiting clergy) and a large congregation. Members of Cathedral Choir under the Direction of

Christ Church Cathedral’s organist and music director, Rupert Lang led the music in worship. Please keep Alecia, Jonathan and André in your prayers as they continue in their journey of faith and their call to ministry. ✠



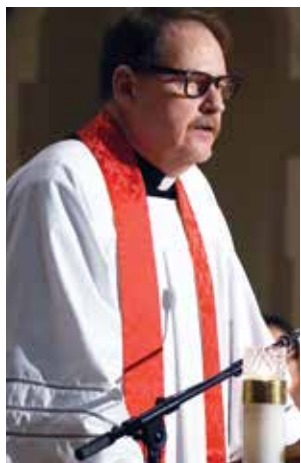
Cathedral Vicar, the Rev. Helen Dunn welcomes the congregation to Christ Church Cathedral. PHOTO Randy Murray



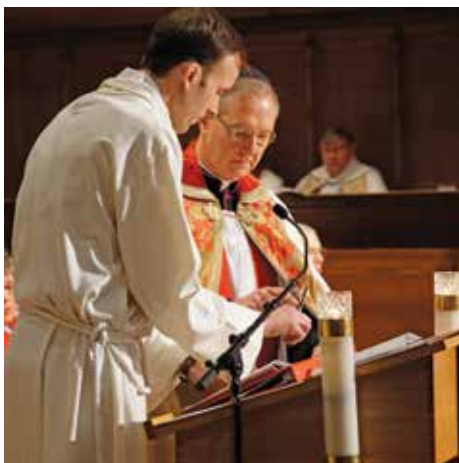
LEFT Lauren Odile Pinkney and the Rev. Jonathan Pinkney in place during the chanting of *Veni Sancte Spiritus*.



RIGHT Deacon of the Word, the Rev. Peggy Trendell-Jenson proclaiming the Gospel, *Matthew 16:13-19*. PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT The preacher, the Rev. Fr. Matthew Johnson. Fr. Matthew took the Gospel for his text and focussed on the appropriateness of this Holy Day for an Ordination Eucharist. RIGHT Alecia is presented to the Archbishop by her sponsors. PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT André signs the Declaration in the presence of the Executive Archdeacon of the diocese, the Ven. Douglas Fenton. RIGHT Jonathan is anointed. PHOTOS Randy Murray



Alecia receives the laying on of hands. PHOTO Randy Murray



Sponsors, Chaplain, Executive Archdeacon, Archbishop and newly ordained priests. PHOTO Randy Murray

Growing communities of faith in Jesus Christ to serve God’s mission in the world.



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The Anglican Church of Canada

A community of 640,000 members organized into four ecclesiastical provinces, including British Columbia and the Yukon.

The diocese of New Westminster

The Anglican Church in the Lower Mainland, the Fraser Valley and on the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia, located on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish First Nations, consisting of 69 worshipping communities.



The Archbishop of New Westminster

The Most Rev. Melissa M. Skelton

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Thank you!

Archbishop Melissa Skelton’s Statement Regarding the Tragedy of Flight 752

At St. Christopher’s, West Vancouver on the morning of January 12, we celebrated the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus. I was privileged to be a part of the baptism of four Iranian-born people and the confirmation of those same men and women along with a larger number of Iranian-born Christians who are thrilled to have found the Anglican Church of Canada and St. Christopher’s. Before the liturgy began, one of the women to be baptized and confirmed read the following message to everyone gathered in the church (I have edited in the most minimal way).

“First of all, we are really thankful to people and government of Canada for their sympathy about the recent plane crash in Iran. A special thanks to Mr. Trudeau for his great efforts to push the Iranian government to clarify the painful facts for us. We would like to ask him to continue his attempts to bring peace to our country and to our region in this critical situation.

As you know, today is a great and unforgettable day for all of us. On this day, let’s pray for all people around the world to avoid war. There is nothing more odious than war, and the Iranian



Archbishop Skelton lights a candle using the flame from the Paschal Candle to give to a newly baptized person at St. Christopher’s, West Vancouver on January 12, 2020. PHOTO Randy Murray

people hate it. Death and murder, demolition and ravage, bleeding, poverty, crying—all of these are the only results of it.

Let’s pray that all people live in a more peaceful world. And let’s pray that God and Christ bless the innocent people who were on that plane as well as the Canadian and Iranian people.”

I write to share these touching words with all of you and to join with the newly baptized and confirmed at St. Christopher’s in asking you to pray for all who died in the terrible tragedy of Flight 752, a plane shot down as it left Tehran. Please pray for their families and friends, for a cessation to the conflict in the Middle East and for a lasting peace both there and in other conflicted regions of the world.

In Christ,
+ Melissa

Consolidated Trust Fund Information Report for 2019

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor



At the session, left to right: Bob Hardy, ODNW, Paul Martin, Graeme Baker, and Shailene Caparas. PHOTO Randy Murray



Another view of the session. PHOTO Randy Murray

On Saturday, December 7, 2019, the annual Consolidated Trust Fund (CTF) information session convened in the parish hall of St. Christopher’s, West Vancouver. For much of the past decade, treasurers, wardens, priests-in-charge and others have gathered at St. Stephen’s, West Vancouver for the annual discussion of diocesan investments, but for 2019, that venue was not available. Since 1991, the CTF, which consists of both diocesan and parish funds, is managed by Phillips, Hagar and North (PH&N), an investment company founded in Vancouver in 1964. PH&N is currently the Canadian institutional asset management division of Royal Bank of Canada (RBC).

For the past four years, the two Institutional Portfolio Managers presenting the report to the diocese have been and continue to be Paul Martin and Graeme Baker. Diocesan Treasurer, Bob Hardy, ODNW and Interim Chief Financial Officer of the diocese, Shailene Caparas organized the event with the assistance of communications officer, Randy Murray. Both Bob and Shailene were present for the information session and participated with the two Managers as part of the presentation panel. Treasurers, wardens

and priests-in-charge of the parishes of the diocese are invited to attend. However, the presentation is open to all members of the diocese. The invitation to parish officers responsible for the finances of their communities is also an encouragement to invite others in their parish who may have an interest in hearing the annual report. For 2019, there were two folks in attendance who are currently part of their parish’s visioning committees.

It is important to keep in mind that this presentation is not an official report—it is for information only. The bulk of the report was a guided look-through a 43-page PowerPoint presentation printed in calendar-sized booklet format. There are extra copies at the Synod Office and an electronic version is also available for downloading by request. Please contact scaparas@vancouver.anglican.ca.

Graeme Baker was first to speak, and he took some time to recognize the contribution that recently retired diocesan Director of Finance and Property, Rob Dickson had made to the successful relationship enjoyed by the two organizations, PH&N and the diocese. Rob and Mary-Pat Dickson were present for the session as they had volunteered to host on behalf of the Parish of St. Christopher where they are members.

FOOTBALL AKA SOCCER | With the MLS 2020 season just underway as of February 29 and the Vancouver Whitecaps hoping for a more successful year than the disappointing campaign of 2019, we thought we’d bring you this classic Dave Walker cartoon.

FOOTBALL

LESSONS THE CHURCH COULD LEARN

NEXT WEEK'S SERVICE WON'T BE THAT INTERESTING

TRY TO AVOID OWN GOALS

THE OFFSIDE RULE

IT IS IMPORTANT TO EXPLAIN THE REGULATIONS

HARDLY TOUCHED HIM

IT IS ACCEPTABLE TO EXAGGERATE INJURIES

FIRST HALF

SECOND HALF*

(*+30 MINUTES EXTRA IF NO CONCLUSION REACHED)

CHANGING ENDS AT HALF TIME ADDS VARIETY

CHURCH EXPERT BLOG

PUNDITS DON'T ALWAYS KNOW WHAT THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT

CHANTING

WEARING THE KIT

STICKER ALBUMS

TRAVELLING GREAT DISTANCES

IT IS GOOD TO DEMONSTRATE ENTHUSIASM

CartoonChurch.com

To briefly encapsulate the report, it is safe to say that the return on diocesan investments for 2019 was positive. Volatility in the stock market was very low contributing to the good returns although Bond markets continue to decline steadily. The Managers reported that the Canadian Central Bank’s view is that the Canadian economy is performing well. Usually whatever is happening in the United States, Canada tends to follow, and it is hard to avoid the news reports of the growth in the American stock markets.

There are some concerns, for example, the Canadian consumer debt load continues to increase, eroding confidence in people’s ability to pay their bills, make substantial purchases or retire. And there are some international concerns such as: Brexit, slow global economic growth and the US/China trade disputes.

The overall investment strategy for the CTF has not changed significantly even though the kinds of stocks that do well have changed. No longer are energy and health care stocks dominating the markets, they have declined. New technology stocks like Ottawa’s *Shopify* (currently opening an office in Vancouver) have proven to be the winners. The CTF remains strong in terms of diversity, with investments in Canadian and Global Equities.

Socially responsible investing has always been a priority of the diocese and of PH&N and that continues in earnest. RBC Global Asset Management has embarked on a program *Stewardship in Action* and the overview booklet was distributed at the information session. A downloadable copy is available online at <https://us.rbcgam.com/resources/docs/pdf/HTML-files/web/100819-stewardship-in-action.pdf>.

For 2020, diocesan leadership are putting together an investment committee in order to better track diocesan investments and to pursue new markets and new possibilities.

For more information about diocesan finances and the CTF in particular please contact Shailene Caparas at scaparas@vancouver.anglican.ca. ☙

Hands + Feet | Diocesan Mission Conference 2020

DAVID EDGERTON
Rector of St. George, Maple Ridge; Chair of Mission & Ministry Development Committee of the diocese of New Westminster

Teresa of Avila famously said:

“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.”

At this year’s Mission Conference, we are delighted to be welcoming Bishop Stephen Cottrell as our keynote speaker. He’s currently the Bishop of Chelmsford, which includes Essex and East London in England, and later this year will become the next Archbishop of York. Bishop Stephen has written many books and was on the creative team for the *Pilgrim* course, which has been a popular resource in many parishes of our diocese.

Mission is one of those words we like to use in the church that can be interpreted in many ways. Historically it’s been missionaries who are sent to “other” countries to do the work of the great commission in *Matthew 28*. As Anglicans through history we have had a difficult relationship with

mission. We have much work still to do around reconciliation because of this. As a result, this can lead to us not getting involved in mission work at all. Sometimes we are happy to send people to far-off places “on mission” and then are in danger of missing the people who live and work in the neighbourhood around us as a result. The evangelist J. John says, “A missionary is not someone who crosses the sea, a missionary is someone who sees the cross.” It is all of us who call ourselves Christians, or Followers of Jesus, who are called to do the work of missionaries. Yes, even Anglicans like me and you are called and sent to do the work of kingdom building, disciple-making and good-news sharing.

This conference will explore the practical ways that we can share our faith using the gifts that God has given us. We’ll learn from each other and leave more equipped to be the *hands and feet of Christ*.

The May 9, 2020 Mission Conference will be held at the Synod Offices and St. John’s, Shaughnessy (1410 Nanton Avenue,

Vancouver). The shape of the day will look something like this:

- Registration will be open from 8am, ready for a 9am start
- Start in the church for a welcome, opening worship and the keynote speaker
- There will be dedicated programming for Children and Youth through the day on site
- There will be a selection of workshops and breakout groups offering practical ideas and inspiration so that we are equipped for the task of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ (*Ephesians 4:12* is the aim of the day)
- We’ll enjoy a catered lunch followed by another plenary session and round of workshops before a final moment of worship and prayer to send us on our way

So, make a date for May 9, round up your parish and let’s make this third Mission Conference a day when we can be equipped afresh to be the *hands and feet of Christ* in our homes, our parishes and our lives.

Spaces are limited — yes, we mean that! The full details about the workshops and

seminars with links to register are located online on the diocesan website at www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/mission-conference-2020-hands-feet. ☛



Bishop Stephen Cottrell in action, September 2018. PHOTO Courtesy of Anglican Link

News & Information from the Diocesan School for Parish Development

TELLISON GLOVER
Director for Mission and Ministry Development, diocese of New Westminster

We have some exciting news for you. This year the School for Parish Development has made some significant changes.

For starters, the school will only offer one version this year, the *Weeklong Intensive*, and will not offer its weekend version. Our core team is aware that many of our participants found the weekend version convenient, but after a discernment process we realised that offering one version of the school was more sustainable than offering two. With changes come challenges and so we are going to do our best to make this year’s *Weeklong Intensive* as accessible as possible.

The *Weeklong Intensive* will be hosted from June 14–20, 2020, at the Synod Office (1410 Nanton Avenue) in Vancouver. In the past the *Weeklong Intensive* was a fully residential program at the Vancouver School of Theology (VST). This year all

participants are welcome to commute daily or if you would prefer to stay nearby, we will provide accommodations. Please contact our administrator, Rachel Taylor at rtaylor@vancouver.anglican.ca and she will assist you.

With a new venue and new model for the school, I am pleased to announce that we have a new director, Deacon, the Rev. Stephen Crippen. Stephen is a deacon in the Episcopal Church, in formation for the priesthood. He has worked as a couples and families therapist alongside his diaconal ministry, and since 2010, has been a trainer in the network of Colleges/Schools for Congregational/Parish Development. He has also worked alongside many congregations as an organization-development consultant.

And not to worry, the Rev. Andrew Haladay is still a member of the faculty. He has decided to return to his passion as a trainer

in the school and we are blessed to be the recipients of his energy, insight and wit.

If you are returning as a participant, welcome back. If you are a prospective student, we would be happy to receive you and your gifts. If you know of someone that would benefit from the training, bring them along. Please register at your earliest convenience. Even now you can do so online at <https://tinyurl.com/tbc7z5s>.

Once you are registered you will receive more information and receive updates concerning meal plans, assignments, readings and other items of interest.

For general inquiries email dnwschool@vancouver.anglican.ca.

Please contact the Rev. Tellison Glover with any questions or concerns at tglover@vancouver.anglican.ca or call 604.684.6306, ext. 219. ☛



Deacon, the Rev. Stephen Crippen. PHOTO Submitted



DIOCESAN SCHOOL FOR PARISH DEVELOPMENT

THE WEEKLONG
PROGRAM DATES ARE:
JUNE 14–20, 2020

at the Synod Office located at 1410 Nanton Avenue
(Only the Weeklong Program will be available for 2020)

Visit the school’s pages on the diocesan website at www.vancouver.anglican.ca/parish-development/school-for-parish-development for current program, registration and contact information.
General Inquiries at dnwschool@vancouver.anglican.ca
Director, the Reverend Stephen Crippen

The text in blue at the bottom of the page encourages readers to visit the electronic sites of the two Vancouver parishes. The project was completed in December 2019 and the ads have been running this past winter and will be renewed for the spring. ♣

The Two Kinds of Christian Formation

The other dimension of formation is *Micro* formation. This formation is made up of intentional bursts of focused and intensified faith formation. It's the weekend prayer retreat, the 40 day Lent challenge, a pilgrimage, or summer camp. Micro formation can create the conditions for deep insight and new growth. It takes organization and focus but this kind of formation can yield transfiguring experiences and fresh perspective on

All Christian formation is ultimately dependent upon the work of the Holy Spirit. Perhaps this model of macro and micro formation can help us take a look at our parishes and discover the times and places we are most open to this work and when and where we might prepare more ground for that work to happen. These two dimensions of formation, the macro and the micro, need each other, and as multidimensional people of faith maybe we need them too. ✠



Ira Evtushenko, iStock (ID: 1088741210)

港溫教友主內同心祈求
禱聲不絕

*Our prayers are with you: to our
God of Love, Peace & Reconciliation*

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IN MEMORIAM

Brenda Miriam Berck December 18, 1942 – December 28, 2019

Topic seldom shares obituaries of lay members of the diocese who have not been invested into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster, however there are exceptions, and Brenda Berck was exceptional.

Insightful (and occasionally inciting), with sparkling intelligence, a superb writer, a zealous grammarian and a committed, progressive member of the Anglican Church with a huge heart for social justice.

Not included in her many accomplishments listed in her obituary is the fact that Brenda was also an important member of the diocesan communications team as a reporter, columnist and proofreader for *Topic* from the 1990s through to 2016. As a contractor she did excellent work, receiving honoraria that was a fraction of her market value, but gladly done as part of her service to the Church.

As editor of *Topic* I began to notice that she was having increasing difficulty negotiating the “proof” pages of *Topic* and I realized that she was failing.

We never officially parted ways or called an end to her involvement, it just happened organically. She knew and I knew. One of our last times together was on her 74th birthday when we went to Lucky’s Donuts. I’d sung the praises of the East Vancouver gourmet donut shop and Brenda was keen to try it out. That last visit together is etched on my mind, it is one of those times in my life that I will always remember. And... she loved the donuts.

In a social media comment that appeared following the initial posting of this article online, former Anglican Archivist for the Diocese of New Westminster/Ecclesiastical Province of BC/Yukon, Melanie Delva, had this to say about Brenda:

“She (Brenda) was also a keen, insightful and enthusiastic user and supporter of the Archives, and we spent many hours in the archives together. Rest in Peace... though I cannot imagine her sitting serenely on the sidelines of anything—even the world to come!”

• Randy Murray, *Communications Officer & Topic Editor*

The following is Brenda’s obituary as it appeared in The Globe and Mail (January 11–15, 2020).

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Brenda Berck, in Vancouver, BC on Saturday, December 28, 2019. Eldest daughter of Ben and Jessie Berck of Winnipeg,



Brenda in her *Topic* days in the mid-2000s. PHOTO Neale Adams

she was sister of Dorothy (Roy) and Phyllis (Bruce), aunt to Jonathan, Stephan (Leanne) and Josh (Tiff), and friend, colleague and mentor to many. She is fondly remembered by her goddaughter Molly Wilson and her sister Jocelyn.

After receiving her BA from the University of Manitoba, Brenda hitchhiked around the world then returned to McMaster University to obtain an MA in English. In Toronto she worked for the Canadian Friends Service Committee and became involved in the cultural life of Toronto working at the Royal Ontario Museum. In British Columbia she taught at the Quaker Friends School in Argenta. Later, she worked as a consultant for museums throughout BC and the Yukon where she focused on repatriation of First Nations material culture. In 1991, having learned French, she worked with the Vancouver International Writers Festival programming their French program.

Brenda was a formidable reader with strong intellect and drive. So, it was a great loss when she developed Alzheimer’s and lost her ability to read and to express her thoughts. She received excellent care at Little Mountain Place. Her family is indebted to Brenda’s friends, including Nancy Hannum, Maureen Burke and Diana McHardy Schmidt who looked after Brenda throughout her illness and advocated for her needs.

A memorial celebration of Brenda’s life was held at St. Mary’s, Kerrisdale on Monday, January 27.

Brenda’s charitable preferences include the Vancouver Writer’s Festival, Doctors without Borders and Amnesty International. ✦

Ian Nestegaard Paul, Priest August 28, 1949 – January 5, 2020

On the 12th Day of Christmas, January 5, 2020, the Rev. Ian Nestegaard Paul died surrounded by love. Ordained on the same day as his spouse Brenda in July 1999, Ian served congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) in both the Saskatchewan and British Columbia Synods as well as Anglican congregations in the dioceses of Saskatoon, Qu’appelle, British Columbia and New Westminster. In 2013, Ian was installed as Vicar of Bartholomew, Gibsons. Ill health led to his retirement in the fall of 2016.

Ian is survived by his best friend, partner and soul mate, the Rev. Brenda Nestegaard Paul and their daughter Bronwyn of Port Alberni, BC; elder children Jordan (David) of Burnaby, BC, Ian (Haggar) of Tel Aviv, Israel, and Yvonne (Jimmy) of Taipei, Taiwan; 8 grandchildren, elder brother,

numerous nieces and nephews, friends and family.

The funeral service was held in Nanaimo on Tuesday, January 14 at St. Paul’s Anglican Church, with the BC Synod Bishop, the Rev. Gregory Mohr, presiding.

Should anyone wish to give a donation in Ian’s name please consider the Transforming Futures Fund, Trinity Anglican + Lutheran Church, Port Alberni, BC and/or the Grace Faculty Fund, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Ian was a big man with a bigger heart. He loved life. He was passionate about the gospel of God’s grace in Christ. He will be dearly missed.

Rest eternal grant him O Lord. And may light perpetual shine upon him. ✦



With Archbishop Skelton at the altar in 2014. PHOTO Jack Carlson

Information on Sponsorship & Opportunities to Participate

A message from the Chair of the Diocesan Refugee Unit

SHANNON MUIR, ODNW

Chair of the Diocesan Refugee Unit, St. Agnes, North Vancouver

The Diocesan Refugee Unit (DRU) receives pleas for sponsorship every day, from all over the world. Currently, our diocese receives approximately 40 spaces each year that we can use to apply for refugees to join us here. I am reaching out to any parishes that might be interested in sponsoring, now, or in the future. Here are some people that we would *love* to find sponsors for. If your parish, or a group of parishes might be interested in sponsoring, please get in touch. We will be happy to give you more information about the refugees and about the process of applying and sponsoring.

- A single man from Iran, who fled to Turkey in 2016 because he is gay. He is 40 years old, has a degree in architecture. He seems to have good English. He has been working as a labourer in Turkey, working 14 hour days and has been injured, once on the hand and once on the head. He has a friend in Vancouver who was sponsored through the government.
- A divorced 28 year old woman from Iran/Iraq who fled to Lebanon because she converted to Christianity and is now under threat of murder by her father. She has a degree in Arabic Literature and has worked as a Farsi and Arabic translator. She does not have great English but would likely learn quickly. She has no possibility of work in Lebanon and has suffered from depression there.
- A single young man from Syria who worked as an interpreter and translator for the United Nations in Turkey. He speaks Arabic, English, and Turkish. He says he has helped more than 3,000 Syrian and Iraqi refugees during their interviews and health assessments during processing to migrate to Canada. He was working on two degrees in Turkey; Engineering Physics and International Relations, but he is not able to complete them because of the need to work.
- A family consisting of a Mother in her 50s with two children (aged 28 and 17), from Iran/Iraq. They are Yarsani Kurds, which is a persecuted minority in the region. They have fled to Turkey. There is another son who is in Canada and would be able to do much of the settlement work. However, since he is a recent newcomer himself, he has no funds to bring his family.

For more information please visit the DRU webpage on the diocesan website or email refugee@vancouver.anglican.ca. ✦



The Rev. Ian Nestegaard Paul was a fine actor. Here he is at St. Bartholomew’s, Gibsons, reading Stave 2 of A Christmas Carol (November 29, 2014).

PHOTO Courtesy of Jan DeGrass, *Coast Reporter* newspaper

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2019 | AROUND THE DIOCESE

With the posting of the March issue of Topic online taking place between February 26 and 29 and the hard copies arriving in the mail in early March we are now three months plus away from the First Sunday of Advent 2019. However, there was lots going on this past Advent/Christmas season so we at Topic thought we would dedicate a couple of pages to a sampling of what was happening in December 2019.

• Pageant in Delta •

SUBMISSION Paul Woehrle

Here are some photos of the cast and the directors for the Christmas Pageant that took place in the “sermon slot” for the Advent II (December 8, 2019) main celebration of the Eucharist at St. Cuthbert’s, Delta.

The pageant was titled *The Greatest Christmas Card Ever* and boasted a cast of 37 children and youth.

These photos are from the dress rehearsal and rehearsal “after-party” at the church. The youth group gathered the night before to bake cupcakes for the feast.

Sapna Vimalendiran had her first experience directing, although she has been involved in choreography through dance, supported by Lisa Rajkumar, Barb Buxton, Sharon Grove, Valerie Reimer, and Laura Paulosky.

According to Rector of St. Cuthbert’s, the Rev. Paul Woehrle, “They all did a stellar job!”

Many thanks to Pastor Woehrle for sharing these photos and information about the pageant. ✚



• Four Deacons & a Wedding •

SUBMISSION Pamela McElheran

The sun peaked through the clouds on Sunday morning (December 8, 2019), just as the 10am Celebration of the Eucharist for Advent II commenced at St. David/St. Paul’s in beautiful Powell River. There was excitement in the air as the congregation gathered. This was a long awaited Sunday in this parish community. The pews were full to witness the celebration of marriage of the Rev. Taras Pakholchuk (deacon) and his bride, Halyna Ivatra who had arrived from the Ukraine just a few months before.

The couple had been introduced in 2016, through family connections in the Ukraine.

The story of their love required considerable patience during long periods of separation as Halyna completed the requirements to immigrate to Canada.

But on this very special day, they shared their Canadian wedding with all those who had not only diligently supported Taras’ journey to the diaconate (Ordination June 2019) but who had also warmly and openly welcomed his new bride to a new country, a new community and a new language. The wedding ceremony and Eucharist celebrated by the Rev. Faun Harriman, included assistance from three of Taras’ fellow deacons, Rev. Stuart Isto, Rev. Ron Berezan, and Rev. Steve Bailey. Deacon, the Rev. Steve Bailey offered the reflection and served as “Best Man.” Attending the bride was parishioner Jeanette Wiley who spoke of the parish community warmly welcoming Halyna into their parish and into their lives.

The day’s celebration concluded with a Christmas Wedding Feast in the church hall—and an incredible feast it was! The people of St. David/St. Paul know how to celebrate a joyous occasion built on the foundation of Christ’s love. ✚



The St. David/St. Paul’s congregation cheer the newlyweds.
PHOTO Infinity Multimedia of Powell River



Taras and Halyna exchange rings.
Presiding at the wedding is vicar, the Rev. Faun Harriman.
PHOTO Infinity Multimedia of Powell River

“I have found the one whom my soul loves.”

Song of Solomon 3:4



The Eucharistic prayer: a priest, three deacons and one lay administrator. PHOTO Infinity Multimedia of Powell River



The newlyweds on a Powell River beach. PHOTO Infinity Multimedia of Powell River

All are encouraged to submit letters, articles, reports on parish activities, opinion pieces, photos, and more for consideration as content for Topic

Deadline for *Topic* Submissions

March 20 for the May issue;
April 24 for the Summer issue

Please email Randy Murray at rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca
All contributions are appreciated • Editor

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2019 | AROUND THE DIOCESE

The 2019 version of the Retired Clergy and Spouses Advent/Christmas Luncheon held on Tuesday, December 10 at the Synod Office of the diocese of New Westminster was again an unqualified success. The current Chaplains to the Retired Clergy and Spouses, the Rev. Neil Gray and Deacon, the Rev. Karin Fulcher with the assistance of skilled caterers and diocesan hospitality volunteer Jane Dittrich put on a wonderful event.

More than 100 attended the luncheon that began at 11:30am with drinks and conversation in the reception area and main hallway of the Synod Office. The Rev. Keith Gilbert resplendent in his kilt reprised the role of bartender. As is traditional there were a number of Christmas cards on a table for everyone present to sign, and to be sent to those who were unable to attend the event.

Following a spirited reception time that continued until 12:30pm, the party moved to the Trendell Lounge where tables had been set and seasonally decorated for lunch.

Reverends Gray and Fulcher came up with a Quiz Show theme for 2019. Smart phones were required to be put away and NOT utilized. There were eight tables set up, the plenary were asked a “scramble” question and whomever came in with the correct answer, their table would line up for food. The questions were pretty tricky (e.g. “What’s the capital of Bulgaria?”*) and the things took a little bit longer than the organizers had hoped, (although this reporter noticed that the Rev. Gray seemed to be enjoying the process considerably).

Part two of the quiz show theme began with a group of volunteers led by Jane Dit-



The gathering in the Synod Office reception area prior to lunch. PHOTO Randy Murray



The chaplains plan the lunch process. PHOTO Randy Murray



Seasonal table decorations mixed with quiz sheets and pens. PHOTO Randy Murray



Jane Dittrich hands out the quiz sheets. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Christmas cards for absent colleagues and friends. PHOTO Randy Murray

trich distributing quiz sheets to everyone. There were two sets of ten questions:

- 1. How Well do You Know BC?
- 2. How Well do You Know Christmas?

The guests were encouraged to answer the questions, pens were provided.

The turkey dinner with all the trimmings was delicious and much enjoyed by the company.

As coffee, tea and seasonal pastries were served, Executive Archdeacon of the diocese of New Westminster, the Ven. Douglas Fenton brought greetings from Archbishop Skelton who at the time was well into the second month of her study leave. Amongst other items of interest, he shared information about the changes that had taken place on Synod staff during the fall and also urged the retired clergy and spouses to take full advantage of the opportunities for therapeutic care available through the Manulife benefits package. He thanked everyone for their continuing ministry, ongoing support of their parishes and their support of the ministry of the diocese.

During the dessert and coffee segment of the programme, Rev. Gray directed the plenary to focus their attention to the quiz sheets and mark their own as he provided the answers to the 20 questions. The high score was a modest 13 and the participant who had that score was presented with a wrapped gift.

All who had gathered were looking forward to the Spring 2020 version of the lunch and what new features the chaplains might have in store. ♦

.....
vjfoS.



There were a few laughs during the “instructions” segment. PHOTO Randy Murray



Participating in the seasonal buffet. PHOTO Randy Murray



Jane snaps a selfie with the Reverends Gray and Fulcher.

• Advent Music at St. Stephen’s, West Vancouver •

SUBMISSION Hilary Clark



Community Singers at the Red Lion Pub. PHOTO John Ruddick



St. Stephen’s rector in seasonal headgear. PHOTO John Ruddick

Music has always held an important place in the worship at St. Stephen’s Anglican Church in West Vancouver. Led by the example of rector, Canon Jonathan Lloyd, and inspired by the talents of Minister of Music, Dr. Annabelle Paetsch, the 2019 Advent season was lyrical with choral music resounding both inside the church and out in the community.

Jazz Vespers has held a fond place in the worship aimed at outreach to the greater community. Coordinated by Peter Vanderhorst for the last 11 years, the service on December 1, featuring the Mighty Fraser Big Band, was a dedicated celebration both of the church’s ministry, and of Peter’s leadership.

In 2018, Dr. Annabelle Paetsch founded a new parish group of choristers called *St. Stephen’s Community Singers*. A non-auditioned choir appealed to a large number of West and North Vancouver residents, and proceeded to create a new voice in the community culminating in several well-received concerts. The music varies from well-known pieces taken from the popular collection, to adventurous numbers in several languages and rhythms. There was even room for some unusual percussion, and a ukulele

added to a Hawaiian Christmas piece. The morning congregation was encouraged to get their tea or coffee and return to the sanctuary for the Community Singers’ performance.

This past Advent the Community Singers participated in a multi-choir Winter Concert at St. Clement’s in North Vancouver that closed with a rousing group performance conducted by Dr. Paetsch. Then on December 20, a combined group created a carol sing-along at the Seniors’ residence, Hollyburn House in West Vancouver. Previously, the Community Singers sang at a Dundarave Pub, *the Red Lion*, as well as presenting a concert at the Westerleigh retirement residence with guest vocalist Jason Cook.

Poems and Punch brightened the season on December 17 at St. Stephen’s as an evening of individually chosen and read poems of all genres that was as delightful as it was unusual. There is something about sharing a poem that you love with your friends that is warm and inclusive.

Christmas would not be complete without the cherished Carol Service on December 22 leading everyone to the joy of Christmas Day. ♦



The Community Singers performing in the Chancel of St. Stephen’s. PHOTO Ian Hedley



Dr. Annabelle Paetsch also in seasonal headwear leading the music at the Red Lion. PHOTO John Ruddick

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2019 | AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Christmas Carol Service Returns to Mission to Seafarers •

SUBMISSION Jane Dittrich

On Friday December 20, 2019, the Mission to Seafarers (MtS) on Waterfront Road in Vancouver held their second annual Christmas Carol Service and party. The chapel and the main public area of the Mission were beautifully decorated for the season. The heritage chapel was full, with approximately 60 people in attendance. The liturgy began with the carol *Once in Royal David's City*, followed by words of welcome and the bidding prayer by presider, the Mission's Senior Port Chaplain, Rev. Peter Smyth.

As with the inaugural liturgy in 2018, many of the Carol Service congregation were from St Michael's Multicultural in Vancouver, including rector, the Rev. Wilmer Toyoken. A large percentage of those who regularly volunteer throughout the year at the Mission are from the Parish of

St. Michael's.

Lessons were read by: Mission to Seafarers' Vancouver staff member Laura Cooney; long time MtS supporter and volunteer, Peter Goodwin, ODNW of St. James'; Teofilo Bosaing of St. Michael's; the Mission's chaplain from the Christian Reformed Church, Pastor Gary Roosma; Mission intern, Vincent Ng; long time Mission volunteer, Denis McMahon; and Senior Port Chaplain Rev. Peter Smyth.

Seafarers from three different ships anchored at the Port of Vancouver attended the service and festivities, which was an extra special addition to the evening. The three ships were *Iolocos Ambition*, *La Luna* and *Ecoan GO*. At the end of the evening, the Mission's chaplains presented the visiting seafarers with bags of Christmas gifts and various items to

take back to their colleagues working on their respective ships. It was wonderful that everyone was able to pose for a group photo during the reception that followed worship.

The festive reception in the main gathering space of the Mission included coffee, tea, hot apple cider, baking and sweets provided by the Mission and volunteers. Everyone enjoyed the refreshments and treats as Christmas music played in the background.

Friends old and new enjoyed kicking off the Christmas season together in "the blue house on the waterfront" more commonly known as the Flying Angel Club (www.flyingangel.ca), and together celebrating the invaluable work, hospitality and ministry which MtS provides to seafarers and their families. ✦



The group photo. PHOTO Courtesy of Jane Dittrich



The Rev. Peter Smyth welcomes the capacity congregation. PHOTO Courtesy of Jane Dittrich



LEFT Candlelight dismissal. MIDDLE The Rev. Peter Smyth and Laura set up the hot apple cider while others look on and snap some pics.

RIGHT The Rev. Wilmer Toyoken with Jane Dittrich and Tomoko Ito, both parishioners at Christ Church Cathedral. PHOTOS Courtesy of Jane Dittrich

• Christmas Homecoming in Maple Ridge •

SUBMISSION Lisann Gurney

During Advent IV (Sunday, December 22), St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge held a very special Christmas Homecoming service. 130 neighbourhood households received hand delivered postcard invitations to this fun event! The morning service featured favourite carols sung under handmade snowflakes, and the festive reception afterward included door prizes, delicious food, and a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and their elves, who had a small gift for everyone!

Planning and preparation were led by our *GroundWork* team — Tonya Bayne,



Vicar, the Rev. Laurel Dahill and the Clauses. PHOTO Lisann Gurney

Rosemary Stasiuk, Janet Coughlin, Lisann Gurney, and Rev. Laurel Dahill — supported by the entire congregation. Because of the parish-wide participation, our neighbours, guests, and visitors were able to get to know our parish in both prayer and fellowship.

The goal of the *GroundWork* special project was to create something designed to increase membership. The sanctuary of St. John the Divine was filled to capacity, and overflow seating was needed to accommodate everyone. ✦

• An Unconventional Christmas Eve • in Tsawwassen

SUBMISSION Elizabeth Murray, ODNW

At St. David's, Tsawwassen, Christmas Eve traditions received a new look for 2019 as these photos will attest.

During the 4pm Christmas Eve service, the officiant, the Rev. Dr. Ron Barnes with Bev Barnes added Jesus' birthday cake to the Nativity story. A homemade chocolate sheet cake with one large candle.

The traditional pageant also had a makeover with parishioners offering a radio-show-themed presentation written and directed by parishioner Allen Denoyers (centre in the top photo). ✦



LEFT Folks in the nave under the snowflakes. RIGHT The chancel is beautifully decorated. PHOTOS Lisann Gurney



PHOTOS Loy Seng



LEFT New narthex prayer area. MIDDLE LEFT The nave is full on November 24. PHOTO Mike Roberts

MIDDLE RIGHT TOP The Welcome Home Cake on November 24. PHOTO Mike Roberts MIDDLE RIGHT BOTTOM The Rev. Michael Batten preaching. RIGHT Processing the Great Litany on Advent I.

The House of the Lord is a Place Where God's Work is Being Done

RANDY MURRAY (WITH FILES FROM SUSAN CHORTYK, ODNW)
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The phrase “some things are worth waiting for” might be given short shrift because it is a cliché that is often used to gloss over an interminable delay or a substantial inconvenience. However, in the case of the renovations now completed at St. Thomas', East Vancouver, “truer words were never spoken” as the result of nearly two years of planning, construction, negotiations, fundraising, setbacks, and drastic mid-course corrections have resulted in rejuvenated buildings with modern, practical appointments that will serve to support and inspire the 108 year old parish's ministry for decades to come.

The parish returned to their renovated and refreshed facilities on the Reign of Christ (November 24, 2019), having been out of the building since April 1, 2018. I visited the parish on Advent I (December 1, 2019) and was truly impressed. The St. Thomas' building is one of those churches that has a “feel.” The feel comes from the structure, architecture, and appointments but more than that it comes from the people of God who have chosen that location as the place where they seek and encounter the divine. I will never forget the words of an American Episcopal priest speaking at an international stewardship conference many years ago, describing *those* churches that have that something extra, as possessing the “sweet smell of sanctity.” I've always thought that St. Thomas' was one of those churches. And, good news, those effusive qualities have not only been retained by the renovations, they have been enhanced.

Here are some words shared by St. Thomas' rector, the Rev. Michael Batten during his Advent I (December 1, 2019) homily, in reference to the Old Testament reading, *Isaiah 2:1-5*, and focusing on the parish's homecoming:

“The temple is an important sign... it is a physical sign, a reminder of the presence of God. Now over the last year and a half the people of St. Thomas' have learned a thing or two about the importance of religious buildings... I expect that all of us would agree with the prophet Isaiah, that a building really helps. You can worship God anywhere and yes you can survive and even thrive without a building, but having that building, that physical presence, something you can come back to, week by week and day by day is an important reminder that God isn't out there somewhere, God is here in our midst, with us, all the time. And having a building helps us remember that. Place matters. The Temple matters. The church building matters because home matters. Home matters not because it's comfortable but because it provides us with a place from which we can work.”

In Isaiah's vision, the Temple, the House of the Lord, is a place where God's work is being done, it is a base for God's work. The work done in the Temple of Jerusalem was 'instruction and judgement'... teaching and settling disputes... building a community, and holding a community together, that is God's work that is done in the Temple. That's the work that will lead to lasting peace between people and nations.”

The Parish of St. Thomas' is a relatively small congregation, active and vital with a great love for; the Gospel, worship, their community and the world. They are a parish that prioritizes social justice, that strives to work to make things fairer. Those priorities are significantly at the core of their desire to improve their buildings in order to welcome those with a wide range of physical abilities and to be a place that welcomes and engages their South East Vancouver neighbourhood.



The exterior view facing toward the southeast, simple, but effective and attractive landscaping.

Originally labeled, *The St. Thomas' Accessibility Project* it was coordinated by the Accessibility Committee, led by Susan Chortyk, ODNW, Arlene Henry and Colin Ensworth. Other committee members were: Pat Wickens, Lorie Chortyk, John Green, ODNW and Rev. Michael Batten. Mike Roberts, ODNW and others were also involved in the project in a number of ways.

Susan Chortyk has been a member of the parish for most of her life and has been very much involved in the life of the parish. Many thanks to Susan who agreed to answer some questions and share this story with the diocese and beyond.

Q. Twenty months is a long time to be out of the home worship space. Where did the parish worship during this time of exile?

A. For the first ten months, we worshipped on Sundays with our good friends and neighbours at First Lutheran. We were welcomed and we alternated between using the Lutheran and Anglican rites each week. On Sundays when the Anglican priest presided, the Lutheran pastor preached, and vice versa. This arrangement was supposed to last for four to five months, the original timeframe given for our renovations. In early 2019, nine months into our stay, it was decided that St. Thomas should seek alternate worship space to allow the new pastor at First Lutheran, who had started her ministry there in August 2018, to get to know her own flock and begin her ministry in earnest with her parish. We continued to rent office space from First Lutheran during the duration of our “exile,” as well as use their facilities for our Wednesday morning worship, funerals, parish council meetings and our ESL conversation circle program. We began worshipping on Sundays in the activity room of Southview Terrace, a seniors' residence where many of our parishioners reside. We stored our “pop-up church” in five plastic containers in the closet of one of the parishioners who lives at Southview Terrace and took it out and set up church each Sunday, complete with what we needed for our coffee fellowship after worship, then put it all away again after the service. We did that until we moved back to our building on November 24.

Q. How would you describe the morale and mood of the parish now that you've returned?

A. We are so excited to be back in our newly renovated building and anxious to continue to move forward with our plans to explore opportunities for ministry with our community partners. There is an almost universal feeling, as well, that the experiences of worshipping at First Lutheran and Southview Terrace were very positive. We learned so many lessons, such as what it feels like to be a newcomer in a church where you don't know where anything is!

Q. Can you share some examples of the reactions of parishioners who might not have been close to the project when they returned for worship November 24?

A. We made an effort to offer tours of the space during the renovation project so that parishioners understood the extent of the renovations and the reasons for the delays, so many people saw the changes develop as construction proceeded. However, everyone was amazed at the transformation of the space and to a person the reaction has been “this is much nicer than we ever imagined!”

Q. Without going into too much detail please describe the changes to the buildings and grounds?

A. The major changes were installation of a lift that accesses all three levels of our church and hall. We completely renovated the lower hall area and added an accessible washroom (complete with shower), new and larger men's and women's washrooms, and a new industrial kitchen that is much bigger than our old kitchen. We also replaced all the plumbing.

Q. There were a number of surprises that complicated the project and increased the cost, which were the most significant?

A. In the course of construction we discovered that there was a huge boulder where the new plumbing lines needed to go. The HVAC people were surprised to find the brick chimney from the original coal-burning furnace behind the walls where they needed to put the new duct work. Cracks in the foundation were uncovered. Dry rot had developed in the walls. It was discovered that when the

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The Eucharistic Prayer on Advent I, Rev. Michael Batten and Rev. Ron Wickens, Honorary Assistant.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

church hall was built in 1955, the original footings of the church were used and did not meet code and would not support the additional weight of the elevator. We also had to work with BC Hydro to have a new transformer installed to meet the power requirements of the new lift. The ceilings in the lower floor were not level and when they were levelled, it caused the walls in the sanctuary upstairs to shift and it dislodged the ceiling tiles over the altar, and they came crashing down. This just scratches the surface of the problems we encountered!

Q. What has been the biggest challenge?

A. I think the biggest challenge was the constantly shifting completion date and the ballooning costs. The need to find large amounts of money to complete the project was very stressful.

Q. What component of the work surprised you the most (happy surprise) once it was completed and why?

A. Surprisingly, for me it had nothing to do with the original project. For me it was the repair to the ceiling in the sanctuary. When the ceiling tiles fell down due to the structural shift, it was the straw that broke the camel's back for me. It was just one more complication that was going to push out the completion date yet again and add to the costs of the project and it broke my spirit and reduced me to tears. And originals of the tiles that had broken were no longer available, so it seemed as if the repair to the ceiling was going to be a major and costly project. However, a relatively low-cost solution to the problem was found and in the end the ceiling looks much better than it did and really adds to the beauty of the sanctuary. I love it!

Q. The original budget was in the area of \$650,000 and the parish did an incredible job of internal fundraising to meet that goal. So far, how much has the work cost and how did you source the funds?

A. At the end of the day the project will end up costing us close to \$2.4 million dollars. Of that amount, we received \$60,000 in grants from the diocese of New Westminster, the Anglican Foundation and the BC Government. The parishioners donated about \$1.1 million dollars. We received loans from the diocese totaling \$700,000 and a loan from a parishioner of \$600,000.

Q. Were partnerships involved or considered?

A. Other than the support we received in the form of grants and interest-free loans as noted above, we did not partner with anyone.

Q. What changes do you think you will see in the life of the parish now that the work is completed?

A. I think we will see the parish further energized as we have more opportunities to work with and interact with others in our community.

Q. How will the new and rejuvenated facilities serve the ministry of the parish as it continues its long-standing commitment to engage the world around it?

A. We anticipate that our building will see much more use now that it is fully accessible. We look forward to working even more closely with our community partners to serve our neighbourhood. There are already plans in the works for hosting a regular community dinner and our recent community open house on January 11 provided lots of ideas from community groups in our neighbourhood of how we can work together.

Q. Yes, on January 11 the parish invited the neighbourhood and beyond to visit the renewed spaces and learn about ministry and compassionate service opportunities. Please share some more information about the day?

A. The open house was a resounding success. In addition to welcoming neighbours and former parishioners and clergy and our friends from First Lutheran, we invited local

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



Leading the music in worship at the conclusion of Advent I worship.



LEFT Susan Chortyk at the new elevator door on December 1, 2019. MIDDLE The hallway to the accessible washrooms. RIGHT The shower.



Completely updated and upgraded commercial kitchen.



Coffee hour in the refurbished lower level.



Tours of the church on January 11.



LEFT Prayer areas west side of the nave. RIGHT Susan Chortyk shares information about the reno with former St. Thomas' rector, the Rev. Christine Rowe.

The House of the Lord is a Place Where God’s Work is Being Done

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11



LEFT Maria from Mosaic in front of her information display. RIGHT Community policing table.



Folks are gathered in the parish hall to hear from the speakers.



Vancouver-Kingsway MP, Don Davies.



LEFT MLA for Vancouver-Kensington Mabel Elmore with Michael Batten. RIGHT Michael Batten passes the mic to Ping the representative of South Vancouver Neighbourhood House, an organization that is already an active user of the new space.



Visitors enjoying the “trade show” aspect of the January 11 Open House.



Susan Chortyk, ODNW with George Chow, MLA for Vancouver-Fraserview.



The Reverends Christine and Stephen Rowe with Lorie Chortyk of St. Thomas' who also happens to be a former *Topic* Editor.

community groups to the event and encouraged them to have an information table at the event to make those in the neighbourhood aware of available services. We also had several local politicians take part in the event. We had representatives from South Vancouver Neighbourhood House, the South Vancouver Community Policing Centre, Mosaic, the Boy Scouts, the Victoria Drive Business Improvement Association, Waverley Elementary School, the Metro Vancouver Alliance and of course, St. Thomas had several tables outlining programs and community outreach initiatives. We were also honoured to have George Chow, MLA for Vancouver-Fraserview, Mable Elmore, MLA for Vancouver-Kensington, MP Don Davies, NDP health critic, representing the Vancouver-Kingsway riding, and representatives from the office of the Honourable Harjit Sajjan, Minister of National Defense and member of parliament for Vancouver South, who was unable to attend at the last minute because of the US/Iranian crisis. In addition to the information tables, we offered tours of our newly renovated church and hall and provided refreshments for our guests.

Q. What advice do you have for parishes looking at a renovation of this type.
A. Assume that it is going to cost a lot more than you ever anticipated and take at least twice as long as the contractor tells you! But don't let that deter you if you have a vision that you are passionate about.
Q. What's next for St. Thomas', Collingwood?
A. In practical terms, our next step is selling

our vacant lot (currently used for parking) to pay for the cost overruns. We don't want to have to do it, but we have no practical way to pay back the money we owe. Plus, the City of Vancouver is charging us the Empty Homes Tax on the property and we simply cannot afford to continue to pay that tax on an annual basis. From a ministry perspective, at our open house we gathered information from groups interested in renting the facilities so we will need to pursue these and determine if they fit with our vision for the ministry of the parish. We also gathered some wonderful ideas from those in attendance about how they would like to see the building used. There are some great opportunities for ministry and connecting with the community that would not have been possible prior to our renovations and we are excited to pursue these.

Q. Anything you'd like to add?
A. When we started our capital campaign I quoted a plaque in our church that is dedicated to the founder of St. Thomas', William Clark. The plaque says simply, "He kept the faith." I like to think that the current parishioners of St. Thomas' can say that we, too, kept the faith and have provided a place that can be used for at least another 100 years for worship and ministry. There is a wonderful sense of being part of a continuum that started over 100 years ago with people who had a vision to be an Anglican presence in South East Vancouver. It is an honour for all of us to carry the vision of the original parishioners forward in the 21st century. ✠

"There is a wonderful sense of being part of a continuum that started over 100 years ago with people who had a vision to be an Anglican presence in South East Vancouver. It is an honour for all of us to carry the vision of the original parishioners forward in the 21st century."

St. John's, Burnaby, Stained Glass Windows

When St. John's, Burnaby located near Central Park was deconsecrated the stained-glass windows were salvaged. The Parish of St. Thomas wanted to have two of them, the two larger ones, *St. Francis* and *Christ the Sower*, however the priests-in-charge that arrived after the initial decision was made wanted others as well. So, although not installed, the remaining windows are the *Good Shepard* and *Nativity* panels that are lancet windows.

These windows were stored at Holy Trinity Cathedral until they were installed, the *St. Francis* window in the

St. Thomas' narthex/columbarium area a few years ago and the *Christ the Sower* window in the chancel on the wall behind where the organ used to be was installed after the building re-opened in December 2019. St. Thomas' parishioner Colin Emsworth did a lot of the work in building the new frames for each area and then contracted with lighting companies to design and install the instruments to get the effect that we see today.

The other windows from St. John's are located in the sanctuary of St. Stephen the Martyr, Burnaby in the Burquitlam neighbourhood. ✠



St. Francis stained glass window.



Christ the Sower window.



El Medhi Berra delivers the Call to Prayer. PHOTO Donna Wong-Juliani



President of the Bridging Gaps Foundation, Adnan Akiel at the ambo prior to the 10:30am Celebration of the Eucharist on January 5. He is extending an invitation (during announcements at the beginning of the service) to everyone there to attend the exhibition after worship. PHOTO Anwer Qadir



View of the parish hall during the event. PHOTO Azma Mazir



LEFT More conversations taking place in the parish hall. RIGHT Watching and listening to a program about the Quran. The large book beside the person in the foreground is a hand-written edition of the Quran. PHOTOS Azma Mazir



LEFT Folks experiencing the audio/visual presentation. RIGHT The notebooks and pens seen in this photo were set there for commentaries to be written by those attending. Many people gave very positive feedback. Three examples are available in the article. PHOTOS Azma Mazir

To Respect One Another & to Learn from One Another

SUSAN MCCUTCHEON

Christ Church Cathedral; Member of the Ecumenical Multifaith Unit of the diocese of New Westminster

Hardly a day goes by that we are not bombarded in our news cycles by coverage of political events emanating from the Middle East and affecting our world. Many of these touch on or seem rooted in religious strife and longstanding conflicts. We have all experienced that global events effect our local scene, our impressions of others and their traditions. This has been the case in recent memory as regards to Islam. Amid the mis-information and stereotypes presented in the media the need for interfaith understanding and tolerance has never been more important.

As a parishioner at Christ Church Cathedral and a member of the diocese Ecumenical Multi-Faith Unit (EMU) I am passionate about doing what I can to improve interfaith understanding and constructive engagement. The diocese of New Westminster, through EMU and the Cathedral has long been engaged in a range of projects to help those of us who attend Anglican churches have a better understanding of those from other faith traditions. It was with excitement that we had the opportunity to host an exhibition entitled *Jesus In Islam*, in collaboration with Masjid Al Salaam and Bridging Gaps Foundation, on Epiphany Sunday (January 5, 2020), during our post-service coffee hour. Comprised of a series of banners describing how Islam views Jesus—and his mother Mary—including text from Quran. It comes as a surprise to many non-Muslims that Jesus and Mary figure at all in the theology of Islam.

Jesus—Man Messenger Messiah has been seen in many countries around the world this past year and now, some 300 people have experienced this exhibition—for the very first time in Western Canada. Intended to be informative

and engaging, Muslims were present throughout the room to answer questions and engage with those in attendance. Included in the exhibition was a beautiful copy of the Quran with handwritten calligraphy, and in contrast, laptop computers with presentations that folks could listen to and watch.

In my view, one of the strengths of this format was the opportunity for informal dialogue and there were many lively conversations. Writing implements and a book for comments provided an opportunity for those gathered (particularly the Christians present) to offer feedback and impressions.

Here is a report that the organizers wrote about the event:

We live in a world where the love and respect for Jesus transcends cultures, religions and denominations. The Muslim community of BC joined with Christ Church Cathedral to commemorate the life and teachings of Jesus from an Islamic perspective, who is considered one of the Mightiest Messengers of God in Islam. This event and outreach were a symbol of inter-faith brotherhood—using education and knowledge to strengthen our community. Though Muslims and Christians both claim to follow Jesus, certain fundamental differences accompany the many similarities between the two faiths.

An open exhibition on Jesus from an Islamic perspective was set up in the Cathedral's parish hall, where members of the Muslim community engaged with the congregation and shared their belief and love for Jesus. Imams from Vancouver Mosque were also available for any detailed questions.

The Exhibition comprised of 20 large scale posters—visitors experienced an unforgettable journey through the entire life of Jesus as illustrated within the Quran, starting with his miraculous birth and ending with his second coming.

In addition, the *Experience Quran* booth provided firsthand experience to the audience about the Holy Qur'an—the word of God. Many of the audience listened to *Chapter Mary*—a chapter in Qur'an about Mary the mother of Jesus (Peace Be Upon Him) along with English Translation.

Islamic *Call to Prayer* was made from the Cathedral pulpit at 12:30pm with an English explanation. This call to prayer is similar to the Christian church tradition of ringing bells before important services. The attendees also witnessed the Noon Prayer at 1:15pm followed by an explanation about the concept and purpose of prayer in Islam.

The audience also enjoyed the snacks and coffee while they mingled with members of the Muslim Community in constructive discourse.

Overall, the event strengthened the bond of brotherhood, respect and harmony. The attendees also documented their experience at the "Comments Desk" and here are three samples:

"I read all the story boards with great interest. I was totally taken by surprise to learn that Mary, Jesus and God were all common to the Muslim Faith. I learned a Lot! Keep up the good work, it could make a big difference. I leave with a totally different concept of how, in effect, the two religions run in parallel, not opposition."

"It is very timely and is very important, especially with the turmoil in our world. It is so important that we understand what we share and have in common, and respect and learn from one another. Thank you very much for being here today."

"Thanks for coming. Conflict arises only when people don't know and understand each other. Your reaching out is a great gift to all of us. I look forward to reading Clear Quran—the translation of Quran."

As indicated in the preceding Report we were offered the opportunity to observe Noon Prayers. In order to enhance understanding a short presentation on the prayer traditions in Islam was made prior to the Call to Prayer. Following graduation, I worked and lived in Malaysia, teaching in a Muslim school, and sometimes attending prayers with my students. It has been painful for me to watch the deterioration of relations between our communities. It was for me personally a deeply moving moment when the call to prayer was made in the Christian church where I worship.

The Masjid and Bridging Gaps Foundation would be pleased to engage with other churches in the diocese to discuss bringing this exhibit to their parishes.

For further information please contact Anwer Qadir at quadir.anwer@gmail.com. ☎

Be the Church

Farewell to Craig & Holly Tanksley

BRIAN WALKS, ODNW RANDY MURRAY
St. Mark's, Ocean Park Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On Saturday, January 18, an overflow crowd welcomed Rev. Craig and Holly Tanksley into the parish hall of St. Mark's, Ocean Park for a farewell party and to wish them "Happy Retirement" before they begin the next transition of life with a couple of months' vacation in Africa.

The MC for the afternoon was past People's Warden, Roger Hussen who did an outstanding job keeping the program flowing. Roger welcomed four members of Craig's family from the Seattle-Tacoma area who drove north not only for the party but worshipped with the parish on Sunday morning. There was time for everyone to have a few minutes with the nearly retired couple. Past Rector's Warden, Lynne Hurd, ODNW opened the festivities with prayer. A few brave people made their way to the microphone to share anecdotes, short stories about Craig and Holly's ministry.

Early in December of 2019, four lists requesting volunteers to perform various duties were posted on prominently visible walls. Within a week, all 32 positions were filled, so there was lots of help to prepare the food, serve food, set-up/take down and dishwashing. This advance sign-up helped with the planning of the event, which was organized by a committee chaired by Rector's Warden, Barb Walks. The finger food was delicious and included: rolled cold cuts, pickles, crackers, cheese, wraps, sausage rolls, cheese bread and platters of fresh fruit and vegetables. There was lots of food to go around.

Musical numbers were performed by *The Marksmen* with piano accompanist Kerry O'Donovan. The music chosen included two of Craig's gospel favourites, *Just a Little Walk with Jesus* and *May the Lord Bless and Keep You*. Craig joined *The Marksmen* on stage part way through the first number to sing along. Holly joined them for the final gospel number. The St. Mark's Choir led by Cecilia Wong sang two short parodies of *I Will Survive*, and *Jesus Loves Me*. Roger Hussen composed the lyrics, which included "Yes, Craig is retiring" instead of "Yes, Jesus loves me."

A letter of congratulations was read by Barb Walks from Archbishop Melissa Skelton. This letter was also read at both of the Sunday services and the text appears later in this article. Other letters were read from Honorary Assistant, Rev. Sue Foley-Currie and Past Assistant, Rev. Jonathan Blanchard.

Craig and Holly were given an opportunity to respond and they did by giving thanks for everyone's hard work in planning and putting on the farewell party. The Tanksley's were overwhelmed with the response and the love shown to them. Roger thanked everyone for everyone's help which made the party run very smoothly.

Michael Klaver led all of us in a final prayer before Craig asked all of us to join him and say, "The Grace."

On Sunday, January 19, the 10am Sung Holy Communion for the Second Sunday after Epiphany at St. Mark's, Ocean Park would mark the final Sunday worship of Craig's incumbency. Following a brief greeting offered by Craig and a request that the congregation prepare for worship the opening strains of the Processional Hymn, *Be Thou My Vision* were played on the organ by Cecilia Wong and the service began. At the conclusion of the hymn, Craig commented that *Be Thou My Vision* was a hymn sung at his wedding, his marriage to Holly.

Although the Eucharist is central to worship in the Anglican tradition everyone was poised to experience the sermon, billed in the pew bulletin as MESSAGE. Craig began his homily by asking the question, "Wasn't that a great party last night?" And then he added "We should've just stayed here, made it a pajama party... a sleepover."

He reflected on his experiences as the ordained leader of the parish for 12 years and how he and Holly have come to love the parish. He said a little bit about retirement and hoped that it wouldn't be about an end or a slow down but more a change, an opportunity to refocus and recharge.

He directed his attention to the Epistle read that day, *1 Corinthians 1:1-9* and the messages it contains that bring comfort to a community about to go into new territory. It affirms God's faithfulness. He spoke about his days at the Vancouver School of Theology (VST) and the change that came for him in how he approached ministry and faith emerging from an evangelical background and the Pentecostal denomination. He made a number of references to his ordination and advice that he'd received. Toward the end of his homily he said:

"Today at the end of my journey, I offer these words that were offered to me at the beginning of my journey, 'Be the Church.'"



Holly and Craig cut the cake at the post Sunday worship reception, January 19. PHOTO Randy Murray



Throngs of well-wishers gathered in the hall decorated by travel backdrops, and a slideshow. PHOTO Barb Walks



Craig joining the Marksmen chorus singing *Just a Little Walk With Jesus*. PHOTO Barb Walks



The Women's Guild presenting Craig and Holly with the "Necessities of Retirement." PHOTO Barb Walks



Presentation of an embroidered picture from China, with the character for "Love," from Jonathan Yao on behalf of the ESL group. PHOTO Barb Walks



Craig's brother, Chris and wife, Sherry Tanksley from Mukilteo, Washington; Holly's parents Bob and Betty Bear; Holly and Craig; Craig's brother-in-law Jim Heugel; and Craig's sister Cherie from Bothel, Washington. PHOTO Barb Walks

Be the Church—you are the Church. God has chosen you. God has given you many gifts. God has promised to care for you and walk with you to the very end... stand firm in your faith, Be the Church. Here is the promise that Paul concludes with in the passage in verse 9 (1 Corinthians). He said, 'God is faithful and has called you into fellowship with Jesus.' God cares for you.

I wanted this message to be about you this morning. Because we love you. And even though Holly and I are journeying on, we are going to be with you here, in spirit, we are going to be praying for you, we are going to be rooting for you... that cloud of witnesses... we will be rooting and praying for St. Mark's, we love you... thank you, thank you so much. God bless you."

The rest of the service included a lengthy sharing of the Peace of the Lord and a prayerful sung Celebration of the Eucharist. The choir sang an anthem, *Go Now in Peace* which was followed by the Announcements. The "announcement" this week was a letter to the Parish of St. Mark from Archbishop Skelton read by People's Warden, Mari Anne Hussen. It is as follows:

Dear People of St. Mark's, Ocean Park,

I write to join with you as you celebrate the Reverend Craig Tankley and his ministry at St. Mark's and as you express your thanks to both Craig and his wife Holly for their almost 12 years with you.

Craig is one-of-a-kind. Gentle, pastoral, present to others in all that he is and does, Craig brings the presence of Christ to those who are fortunate enough to find their way into his orbit. This quality has served Craig well both in the parish and in the broader diocese. This combined with his leadership ability has led to the vibrant and growing community of faith that St. Mark's is.

But there is more. In a time of polarization, Craig has been someone who can both hold a firm position on an issue and, at the same time, warmly extend himself to others who may not agree with him. This rare quality has built up the Body of Christ in the diocese of New Westminster.

Though I know that you are sad to say good-bye to Craig and Holly, I know that you will join with me in wishing them the very best as they approach this next stage of their life and ministry.

With love for you all.

In Christ,
The Most Reverend Melissa M. Skelton
Archbishop, Diocese of New Westminster
Metropolitan, Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia & Yukon

There was applause and tears and smiles and voices raised,

singing *Shine Jesus Shine* as worship concluded and the community processed from the sanctuary into the hall for cake and fond farewells.

In the month of February, St. Mark's was served by a number of priests who have a history with the parish and

an interim priest-in-charge will likely be in place by the time this issue of *Topic* is published. Please keep Craig and Holly and the Parish of St. Mark's in your prayers as they experience this time of transition. ✠



The choir and rector in place in the chancel during the Opening Hymn, *Be Thou My Vision*. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Gathering prayers. RIGHT TOP Intercessor and reader of the Epistle, Leslie Ann Hebb. RIGHT BOTTOM Chris Hebb proclaims the Gospel. PHOTO Randy Murray



"The Peace of the Lord be always with you." PHOTO Randy Murray



Eucharistic Prayer. PHOTO Randy Murray



Conversations and goodbyes at the reception. PHOTO Randy Murray

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Feast of the Epiphany at Christ Church Cathedral •

SUBMISSION Jane Dittrich

With the Feast of the Epiphany transferred to Sunday, January 5, 2020, it was the day that Christ Church Cathedral presented their annual Epiphany Pageant. The pag-

eanant takes place at the beginning of the 10:30am Eucharist on Epiphany Sunday. Many thanks to Jane Dittrich for these photos. ✦



Canon Richard LeSueur, Darcy of the building staff and Rev. Alisdair Smith set up the stage for the Epiphany Pageant.



Long-time Cathedral parishioner and lay leader, Dr. Heather Jessup and her son Francis ready for their roles as sheep.



LEFT Interim priest-in-charge, the Rev. Canon Dr. Richard LeSueur and Deacon, the Rev. Alisdair Smith (dressed as Herod) having some fun during the pageant rehearsal. Is that straw or draperies? RIGHT Clergy, servers and pageant participants getting ready to process and begin the pageant.



• A Significant Birthday •

The first Synod Office staff meeting of 2020 took place in the Trendell Lounge (1410 Nanton Avenue) on Wednesday, January 8 at 10am.

Not only would the team be gathering for the first time since the Christmas/New Year hiatus, but they were also welcoming back Archbishop Skelton who had been on Study Leave since November 1, 2019.

The staff celebrated the recent January birthday of Executive Archdeacon, the Ven. Douglas Fenton with the traditional song, a card and a Red Velvet Cake from Le Gateau Bake Shop. Because this was a milestone birthday some custom decorating was in order and as you can see from the photos, the first version needed to be corrected. A good rule of thumb is, "if you order a cus-

tom cake over the phone, follow-up with an email highlighting the correct spelling of names etc." ✦



Archdeacon Fenton cuts the cake with Archbishop Skelton looking on. PHOTO Randy Murray



The original wording. PHOTO Randy Murray



The final version. PHOTO Randy Murray

• Archdeaconry Elections •

On Saturday, January 11, 2020, Archdeaconry Elections were held in the diocesan archdeaconries of Fraser and Capilano. The elections were called to elect clergy representatives to the current 2019–2021 Diocesan Council as a retirement and a move to a new ministry position had created two vacancies. The January 2020 retirement of the Rev. Craig Tanksley as Rector of the Parish of St. Mark, Ocean Park and the November 2019 appointment of the Rev. Robin Ruder-Celiz as Rector of the Parish of All Saints', Ladner necessitated the change.

Rev. Ruder-Celiz formerly Rector of St. Martin's, North Vancouver, is no longer resident in the Archdeaconry of Capilano leaving that Diocesan Council position open. His successor, elected on January 11 at St. Agnes, North Vancouver is the Rev. Canon Jonathan LLOYD, Rector of St. Stephen's, West Vancouver and Regional Dean of Sea to Sky Deanery.

Rev. Ruder-Celiz was happy to let his name stand for election in his new archdeaconry, the Archdeaconry of Fraser and he was also elected on January 11 at St. Cuthbert's, Delta.

The regional archdeacons, the Ven. Stephen Muir of Capilano and the Ven. Louis Engnan of Fraser organized and supervised the elections.

Diocesan Council members, the Reverends LLOYD and Ruder-Celiz were to be welcomed into their new positions at the January 15 Diocesan Council meeting, however due to the inclement weather and road closures throughout the Greater Vancouver Area and Fraser Valley that day the meeting was postponed.

The next scheduled meeting of Diocesan Council is March 11, 2020. ✦



The Rev. Robin Ruder-Celiz. PHOTO Cliff Caprani



The Rev. Canon Jonathan LLOYD. PHOTO Wayne Chose

All are encouraged to submit letters, articles, reports on parish activities, opinion pieces, photos, and more for consideration as content for Topic

Deadline for *Topic* Submissions

March 20 for the May issue;
April 24 for the Summer issue

Please email Randy Murray at rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca
All contributions are appreciated • Editor



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2020 Request for Proposals
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20 grants up to \$2,500 each available.
Submission deadline is April 1, 2020.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Viral Snow Bishop •

Here we see a photo submitted by Michael Dirk of St. John's, Shaughnessy (SJS) of the Rt. Rev. F. Rosty created by members of the SJS Sunday School on January 12. This was posted to the diocesan Face-

book page *Anglican Conversation* and was tweeted on Twitter. It is one of the most viewed posts in the 9+ years that *Anglican Conversation* has been in existence with over 9,000 views. ✦

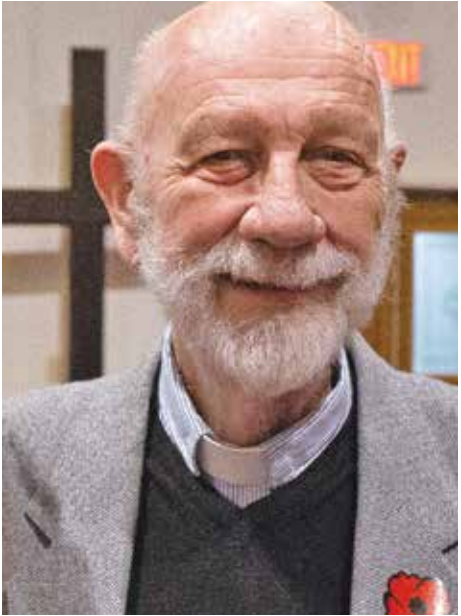


• New Vicar for Holy Cross, Vancouver •

The Rev. Lucy Price has been appointed by Archbishop Skelton as Vicar of Holy Cross, Vancouver effective February 1, 2020. Mother Lucy completed five years as student, curate and assistant priest at St. James', Vancouver. Holy Cross has been faithfully served during the prolonged interim by the Rev. Graham Witcher as Sunday Supply priest. ✦



The Rev. Lucy Price. PHOTO Wayne Chose



The Rev. Graham Witcher. PHOTO Cliff Caprani

What is the Purpose of the Order?
The purpose of the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (the first Investiture took place November 3, 2009) is to honour and give special recognition to lay members of the diocese who have given outstanding service over a significant period of time in their volunteer ministry. The Investiture Service takes place every other year.

What are the eligibility criteria?

- 1. Member of the laity.
- 2. Service in a volunteer capacity in the parish, and/or a number of parishes (on committees, parish councils, in special outreach, parish activities), and/or at the diocesan level.
- 3. Service over a significant period of time.
- 4. Each parish is permitted to nominate **one person** in each and every even numbered calendar year (Parish Nominee).
- 5. Posthumous nominations are not accepted.
- 6. Nominees must accept their nomination, be willing to have their names recorded in the Register of the Order, and consent to publicity of their investiture including publication of their photograph.
- 7. The bishop may also nominate up to ten people to the Order (Bishop's Nominee) in recognition of particular service to the bishop and to the diocese.

What is the Process in the Parish?

- Step 1: Nominations may be made by any member in good standing of a parish to the rector or priest-in-charge.
- Step 2: All nominations are reviewed and approved by the rector or priest-in-charge who, in consultation with the Wardens, will choose not more than one nominee, and forward that name to the Bishop.
- Step 3: The nomination form must be completed in full and must be accompanied by the \$35 processing fee and a photograph of the nominee.

• Blessings & Best Wishes for the Reverend Paulina Lee •

On January 14, the clergy of the Archdeaconry of Granville gathered to wish the Rev. Paulina Lee, outgoing priest-in-charge of St. Chad's the very best on her retirement. Grateful thanks were given for her 20 years of service as a priest and servant of God. The celebration, held at St. Anselm's on the UBC Endowment Lands was marked with stories, laughter, great food and a delicious cake created by St. Anselm's rector, the Rev. Alex Wilson who is the son of one of the diocese of New Westminster's best known bakers, John Wilson, ODNW.

According to the Rev. Christine Wilson, Deacon at St. Faith's "the cake was wickedly awesome, four-layer apple spice with icing and drizzled caramel. It was so incredible it took several people to slice it."

Paulina was ordained in the diocese of New Westminster in 2000 and began her ministry at the Church of the Good Shepherd. In 2002, Paulina was appointed to ordained leadership in the group of four parishes called the Jubilee Cluster. St. Chad's was one of the parishes and the first to become independent after the Cluster's five-year (2002–2005) covenant expired (the three other Vancouver parishes were: St. Mark's, Kitsilano; St. George's in the Vancouver General Hospital neighbourhood; and St. Michael's near Broadway and Kingsway). She has been rector of St.



PHOTO Christine Wilson

Chad's ever since.

Paulina's general retirement plan is to spend quality time with her mother who is 96 and enjoy some R&R. ✦

• ODNW Nominations for 2020 •

Deadline April 30!

The completed form, fee and photo must be received in the Archbishop's Office not later than April 30, 2020.

Please contact Bill Siksay, Administrative Assistant to the Archbishop's Office, at bsiksay@vancouver.anglican.ca or call 604.684.6306, ext. 228 with questions or for more information.

All of the printed materials necessary for nominations have been made available

to parishes as of December 2019, however the Nomination Form and Nomination Information Sheet are available on the diocesan website at www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/the-odnw.

The 2020 Investiture Service will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2020 at 10:30am at the Massey Theatre (735 Eighth Avenue, New Westminster). ✦

OPINION

INTERVIEW
Peter Goodwin, ODNW
Reflects on 15 Years as PWRDF Unit Chair

Peter Goodwin, ODNW, resigned as Chair of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) Unit of the diocese of New Westminster in the summer of 2019, concluding 15 years leadership of this enduring and important diocesan ministry. His extraordinary lay ministry is an inspiration to many, as Peter has modeled (and still models) the commitment that faithful Christians make through their baptism. Peter was kind enough to answer the following questions and share stories of his experience in this leadership role, what motivates him to serve, and what God has in store for him in the future.

Q. Without going into too many details, how did you come to faith?

A. I have been a lifelong Anglican with my baptism as an infant at St. James' being the beginning of my faith journey. My faith has only grown over the years with opportunities to experience and express it through organizations such as PWRDF.

Q. Please describe for readers your work life and career outside of your service to your parish and the greater church?

A. I obtained a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree from the University of Toronto in 1973 and worked in Child Welfare and Community Living Services in metro Vancouver and the Sea to Sky region. For me, my career and my faith went hand in hand, each inspired by the other.

Q. How did you come to be appointed Chair of the Diocesan PWRDF Unit?

A. My passion for PWRDF came initially through Fr. Lloyd Wright, assistant priest at St. James'. Fr Wright was a founding mem-

ber of the diocesan unit and established a PWRDF committee at the church giving weekly coffee hour updates on the latest from PWRDF. Prior to his retirement he asked me to take his place on the diocesan unit. In 2005, the Rev. Neville Crichlow, then Chair of the unit, put my name forth to Bishop Michael Ingham to assume the role of Chair.

Q. Why PWRDF?

A. While not having worked in the area of International Development and Relations, it is of real interest to me. PWRDF through its community partner-based organizations in approximately 30 countries provided a lens into that domain. Being faith-based with its vision for a truly just, healthy and peaceful world reaching out to the most needy and vulnerable on the margins of society was important to me.

Its spectrum of services is truly amazing, ranging from emergency response dating

INTERVIEW

Peter Goodwin, ODNW Reflects on 15 Years as PWRDF Unit Chair

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

back to the 1958 Springhill Nova Scotia mining disaster, to support for refugees, to diverse sustainable development programs with underlying themes of social and eco-justice including the empowerment of women. Its partnering with other organizations in the delivery of services magnifies its overall impact.

I'm excited by the increasing recognition and respect PWRDF has gained within the secular world especially in relation to its Maternal, Newborn, and Child Healthcare programs. Global Affairs Canada has provided increasing amounts of matching program funding and the World Health Organization has invited PWRDF to present at their forums. In April 2018, PWRDF and its Indigenous partner organizations presented at the United Nations Permanent Forum of the Indigenous Peoples regarding Indigenous midwifery programs. *Maclean's Magazine* recently recognized PWRDF as one of Canada's top 100 charitable organizations.

Q. What would you say would be PWRDF's greatest accomplishments during your tenure? And please include national, international and local PWRDF initiatives.

A. PWRDF was at the forefront of responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic with its *Partnership for Life* program beginning in 2004. With its funding for the *Points of Light* program for AIDS orphans and their families at the John Wesley Centre in Johannesburg, PWRDF was the first NGO to provide funding to help initiate services. It has now become a multi-program facility supported by the municipality and several service organizations and is internationally recognized for its marimba and athletic programs. I was privileged to have visited the centre in 2010.

In Canada as part of a commemorative and awareness creating HIV/AIDS initiative the 40 foot *Ribbon of Hope* with its 600 squares of silk screen denim patches marked with prayers and memorials from the 2004 General Synod delegates travelled across the country. This was followed in 2006, with the *Facing AIDS, Facing Reality* photo exhibit. The photos were displayed in the chancel of Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver.

PWRDF deserves full marks for its imaginative 'Fred Says' Food Security program (2013–2016). The catchy slogans and resources such as *Super Friends* were a means of creating awareness around the serious issues of food security. As part of learning and sharing information Food Exchange weeks were held in the summer at Sorrento Centre bringing together participants with partners from Bangladesh, Cuba, Tanzania, and across Canada. A *Sharing Bread* booklet was produced for ongoing learning and reflection at the end of each session. Delegations from Canada visited partners and their programs in Cuba and Tanzania. I was blessed to visit Cuba in March 2015, and upon return lead a diocesan fundraising initiative to build a greenhouse at the church where we stayed and where there was a compelling need for a greenhouse to provide for taking the next step toward greater food production and security.

Emergence of the Youth Council and the *Just Generation* program is most notable for engaging younger people in the work of PWRDF and providing inspiration to everyone with the initiatives they undertake. As diocesan representative it has been a pleasure to work alongside members of the Youth Council and their support has been

much appreciated.

In 2013, PWRDF was accredited by *Imagine Canada*, an agency responsible for accrediting charitable organizations who demonstrate high standards in programming, governance, and accountability. Strategic planning had been introduced to assist with setting program objectives a year earlier. The current five-year plan extends until 2024. In 2018, PWRDF underwent a further comprehensive evaluation resulting in an update in its governance structure and policies with a view to providing for ongoing sustainability.

PWRDF celebrated its 50th and 60th anniversaries during my tenure. The 50th saw the sponsorship of 50 new refugee families come to Canada, several to our diocese, and the 60th the production of the resource *60 Stories for 60 Years* including one story that I wrote.

Ride for Refuge which PWRDF joined in 2014 is not to be overlooked, engaging teams of Anglicans and others as it has across the country in a fun and healthy activity to support great causes. I have the good fortune to have established, then captain and ride for Team PWRDF Vancouver each year since.

Q. What was your greatest challenge as PWRDF Chair?

A. Creating awareness of the diverse aspects of PWRDF's ministry and garnering support for it, given the many needs and organizations in society worthy of support along with countless outreach initiatives with which parishes are engaged. Linked with this is the ongoing challenge of recruiting parish representatives as they are frontline ambassadors for PWRDF.

Q. Where do you think PWRDF is headed in terms of its ministry here in the diocese of New Westminster?

A. With the support of Archbishop Melissa Skelton, a dedicated planning group, and PWRDF staff, I am most optimistic for the future. Hopefully a new diocesan representative (Unit Chair) will be forthcoming shortly to help guide and coordinate the diocesan unit in its efforts at setting goals to increase awareness in our diocese and to speak on behalf of our diocese with PWRDF staff, Board members and other diocesan representatives.

Q. What advice would you give your successor? And is there a succession plan in place?

A. More use of social media and the diocesan PWRDF portal for sharing of information within the diocese of PWRDF related parish activity to increase awareness and decrease the sense of isolation often felt by parish representatives. Use of digital meeting platforms (Skype, Zoom etc.) may also be a possibility.

Q. Is there anything from Scripture that has guided your commitment to service?

A. Christ's commandment to his disciples following the Last Supper "to love one another as I have loved you." (*John 13:33-35*) has always been a compelling piece of scripture calling me to action in my daily life. *The Beatitudes* from the Sermon on the Mount are also a source of inspiration for me.

For me, PWRDF through its ministry is a manifestation of this commandment in today's world.

Q. Do you have a favourite hymn, if so which one?

A. *Be Thou My Vision* and *Take My Life and let it Be* are favourite hymns inspiring me in my daily life.



Peter in the banana grove at St. Mary the Virgin Church in Itabo, Cuba (March 2015), where the food delegation was billeted.

"This was one of the most amusing moments in my tenure as diocesan rep. I was attending a diocesan rep gathering in Peterborough (October 2014), and Adele Finney invited us to her home for dinner on Halloween with the stipulation we were to present ourselves appropriately attired. I went to Party City looking for a costume with a Food Security theme in mind. I saw this banana outfit. A food delegation was being planned for Cuba, but I had no thought of going, but figured the costume was appropriate given that our Cuban partners were involved in food production such as bananas. My costume got a few chuckles and was deemed most appropriate with me being featured in a story on the PWRDF website. Upon returning to Vancouver I received an email from Suzanne Rumsey asking if 'Top Banana' was going to Cuba?" PHOTO Courtesy of Peter Goodwin



Peter Goodwin and his wife, Joyce Goodwin pose with Jane Dittrich at the December 20, 2019 Mission to Seafarers Christmas Carol Service. Peter is also a long time and continuing volunteer at the Mission to Seafarers. PHOTO Courtesy of Jane Dittrich

Q. What's next for Peter Goodwin, ODNW?

A. While remaining a member of the new planning group/diocesan unit for PWRDF and perhaps captain of Team Vancouver for *Ride for Refuge*, I continue with my volunteer service to the Mission to Seafarers and as chair of the outreach committee for St. James'.

It's been a great honour to have served as diocesan representative for many years. This would not have been possible without support from dedicated members of the diocesan unit and inspiration from the amazing efforts of parish representatives, many who have many years of service. The support from Archbishop Melissa Skelton and the

clergy is also much appreciated. A special word of gratitude goes to Randy Murray, diocesan communications officer, for being so obliging upon request in placing articles and notices related to PWRDF in *Topic* and on the diocesan website. It has also been a true pleasure to work along with the wonderful and competent staff at PWRDF, who with PWRDF Board members and our global partners are responsible for the outstanding organization that PWRDF is today and for the reputation it has gained in society. Being nominated for and made an Honorary Associate of PWRDF was a great honour for me. ✦

OPINION

The Last Anglican

SIMON JOHNSTON, ODNW
Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock

Jimmy O'Brian stared at the Volkswagen SUV sticking out the roof of the church, its rear-end pointing skyward. One of the wheels was rotating as though the crash had just happened. But it hadn't. It was wind that made the wheel spin. Jimmy scratched his head. He plucked a tiny notebook from his breast pocket, pulled out a BIC and made a note to check the insurance policy to see if the church was covered.

"Act of God?" he wrote.

He slipped the notebook and BIC back into his pocket and headed towards the ramp at the rear of the building, his rubber Wellingtons sloshing through ankle-high water. He stopped when he reached the dryer side of the street—the north side—turned and looked down over an expanse of water.

Before the "Big One" happened, there was a village there. Houses, restaurants and public amenities hugged the slopes that led down to a boardwalk by the sea. A long picturesque pier jutted out into Boundary Bay on the US/Canada border. Today, he could hardly tell where the floodwaters stopped, and the Pacific started. When the tectonic plates shifted, it took a few hours for California, Oregon and Washington to drown. Water rushed north, across the border into White Rock, swallowing the low-lying areas before climbing uphill and stopping, miraculously Jimmy thought, on Roper Avenue where the church stood.

A singsong voice shot out of the sky: "Wakey-wakey!"

Jimmy opened his eyes and sat up with a start. Where am I he wondered? He looked left and right and found himself nestled in a Lay-Z-Boy beside the picture window of his home. Tuxedo, sitting on the sill with crossed paws, stared at him. And Dot was standing in front of him holding a steaming mug of coffee.

"Here," she said, "Get something hot in you."

Jimmy took the cup. He wiped the back of his hand over his chin and dried the drool on his pant leg. Dang! That dream—with the car, the punctured roof and the flooded town—always felt so real. Jimmy shuddered and blew on the surface of his coffee. "What time is it?" he asked.

"Time to get going," Dot said, checking her watch. Jimmy ventured a slurp. "Good," he said nodding his head.

Originally from Abbotsford, he and Dot, both 25 and newly married, had moved west in the early 1980s. He took a job at White Rock's municipal works division and rose from truck driver to fleet manager. Dot—who gave him three children: James Junior, Jenny and Jocelynn (with a double "n") taught at White Rock Elementary. When the kids were growing up there were family camping trips into the interior. But Jimmy could never understand what people thought was so special about sleeping in a stuffy tent and peeing in the woods. He sighed with relief when the kids became teenagers and followed their own interests. Eventually they graduated from high school, attended university and left home. Well, two of them did.

Jimmy Junior (call me James or Jim but not Jimmy and for God's sake never, not ever, Junior) became a psychiatrist in Vancouver, married a UBC professor and had two kids. Daughter Jenny went to Studio 58 at Langara Polytechnic University and became an actor (daddy don't say actress, we're gender neutral). They went to see her acting once—Dot and him—at a theatre in the artsy district on Granville Island and after the matinee performance they went

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The word was 'Common,'
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elevating it from
mere description to
an invitation of welcome
to people like himself."*

to dinner where they met Jenny's friend, Marissa. Dot spent the evening averting her eyes from the young woman's tattoos.

On the long drive home, Jimmy said: "They seem happy though."

"Yes," Dot said. Then after a deep silence, she sighed and said, "yes" again.

With their nest emptied, Jimmy and Dot travelled—a bit. Once, they went to Victoria to see the Christmas lights at the Empress Hotel, which they enjoyed. But the ferry-ride had made Dot nauseous and so they never did it again nor did they risk going on a cruise that their neighbours talked about endlessly.

"What now?" Jimmy wondered aloud one day. "Guess it's the home next."

"No," Dot said. "We'll age in place."

By her understated tone and the way she swept invisible crumbs off the tablecloth with the palm of her hand, he knew that the matter was not up for discussion or for a dissenting opinion. So, they aged in place and, in a wink, it was 2040. They were well into their eighties and had grown old and

round in the same split-level home they had purchased six decades ago.

Jimmy heaved himself out of his Lay-Z-Boy. He stretched his upper body with one hand pressed against his lower back. Tuxedo leapt onto the warm seat, walked in a tight circle and lay down, folding his paws under his body. After sitting in the same position for more than ten minutes Jimmy's spine and left shoulder made popping sounds whenever he moved. He tolerated the clackity-clack of his percussive bones and walked past the photomontage on the wall festooned with snapshots of graduations, proms, track meets, birthdays, weddings and grandchildren. He touched one of the frames—a picture of Jocelynn, aged twelve—kissed his fingertips and crossed himself. Then he put on a tweed jacket, fished a nametag out of his pocket and pinned it to his lapel. "Jimmy," read the top line and below it: "Bishop's Warden." Dot handed him a scarf—which he wound around his neck—pecked him on the cheek and saw him out the door.

"Don't slip," she said folding her arms and watching him. "They'll be here before noon," she called. "So, come right back!" Without breaking stride, he twiddled his fingers in mid-air to acknowledge the command. "Any moment now," she thought. And sure enough, he sauntered a little ways along the tree-lined street before coming to a halt. He ran his hands up and down the front of his body looking for something and eventually located it in his back pocket—a baseball cap. Dot rolled her eyes and returned indoors.

Earlier that year, he had failed his ERA. His short sightedness, wobbly depth perception and confusion over whether he had the right of way at an intersection, had defeated him. His Volkswagen SUV—20 years old and with 400 thousand kilometres on the odometer—remained in the garage surrounded by junk. No matter, the church was just a few blocks away and besides, he loved the crisp morning air.

At the church, he walked up the ramp leading to the sacristy door. He fished out a ring of keys, chose one, unlocked the double glass doors and entered. He punched his code into the security keypad, flipped all the light switches to "on" and heard the fluorescents buzz to life. He took off his cap, folded it and stuffed it into his hip pocket.

The sanctuary felt as cold as a meat locker. Light streamed through stained glass windows and dust hovered in mid-air, too

light to fly up, not dense enough to settle on the floor. He bowed towards the altar, turned and walked down the centre aisle to the back of the church. A giant, cut glass portrait of Jesus in resurrected glory—that made up most of the back wall—filled him with joy. He turned up the thermostat on the back wall, unlocked the entrance doors and returned to the narthex feeling a little tucked out.

He sat heavily in the back pew and checked his watch: 9:40am. Still 20 minutes to go. Surely, they would arrive today of all days, the last Sunday of the Pascal Season and the final day before Holy Trinity was to be deconsecrated, closed and relegated to the wrecker's ball. And yet he remained hopeful that someone would walk through the doors. On the other hand, even Dot had stopped attending. She had lapsed after Jocelynn's automobile accident.

He closed his eyes to say a little prayer and saw his daughter in his memory-bank movie: 12, chasing a basketball bouncing down the driveway. A car. A squeal of tires. A sickening thud. When he looked up, Jimmy saw the scrunched-up front of the Volkswagen SUV resting on a wreckage of wooden pews. Splintered wood scattered on the floor like spilled matchsticks.

Suddenly a voice boomed: "The Lord be with you."

"What?" Jimmy said opening his eyes with a start.

He found himself seated on the back pew. There was no wrecked car. He scanned left and right, looking around the church. He was alone. He must have dozed off. The voice and the car were just parts of another vivid dream. He looked at his watch: 10:01am.

Jimmy kneaded his eyes with his knuckles, stood and processed to the front of the centre aisle. He sidled into a pew and plucked the *Book of Common Prayer* out of the shelf. It fit snugly in his palm as he flipped the dry, crispy pages to Morning Prayers.

Aside from its comforting nostalgia and endurance through historical upheavals dating back almost 500 years, Jimmy could point to one thing—one word—which connected him to all those who had ever loved the liturgy. The word was "Common," an adjective that modified the title elevating it from mere description to an invitation of welcome to people like himself. Archbishop Cranmer, in 1549, got it right. The book's

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Of Smells, Not Bells

PETER NIBLOCK

Retired Priest of the diocese of New Westminster with Permission to Officiate

Many years ago, at a Sunday morning service in Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver before the pews were removed and the cushioned chairs appeared, I witnessed a situation that was disconcerting. While standing for the first hymn my nose detected an unwelcome odour and I slowly began to move away from its source. Before the hymn had ended a dozen others had done the same and a lone woman was left with a six-foot empty gap surrounding her. I mention this because I have since learned that incense was introduced into the church centuries ago simply to mask the body odours of a congregation who had not access to water that could have dealt with their personal hygiene.

I realize that my remarks will not sit well with some in our Anglican family but since incense has now appeared in our Cathedral



IMAGE Doro T Schenk, Pixabay

worship it becomes a diocesan matter on which I venture to express an opinion. I am really disturbed to see the Sunday gospel incensed because it implies, in terms of its original function, that the gospel smells. For me, and others, the gospel itself conveys a fragrance which is more than sufficient for the needs of our worship together, especially when the altar itself, which is also incensed, wafts too with the same fragrance in the words we hear and the elements we share in the bread and wine.

In this view then, incense is an intruder that has no place in our worship, given too that we have inherited, from a day when the Saturday family bath was a given, our collective need for personal hygiene. It is to be noted also that incense, as a verb, conveys a type of anger which does not sit well with the gospel we embrace. ✠

We All Can Do So Much More

ART TURNBULL
Retired Priest of the diocese of Ontario; Priest with Permission to Officiate, diocese of New Westminster

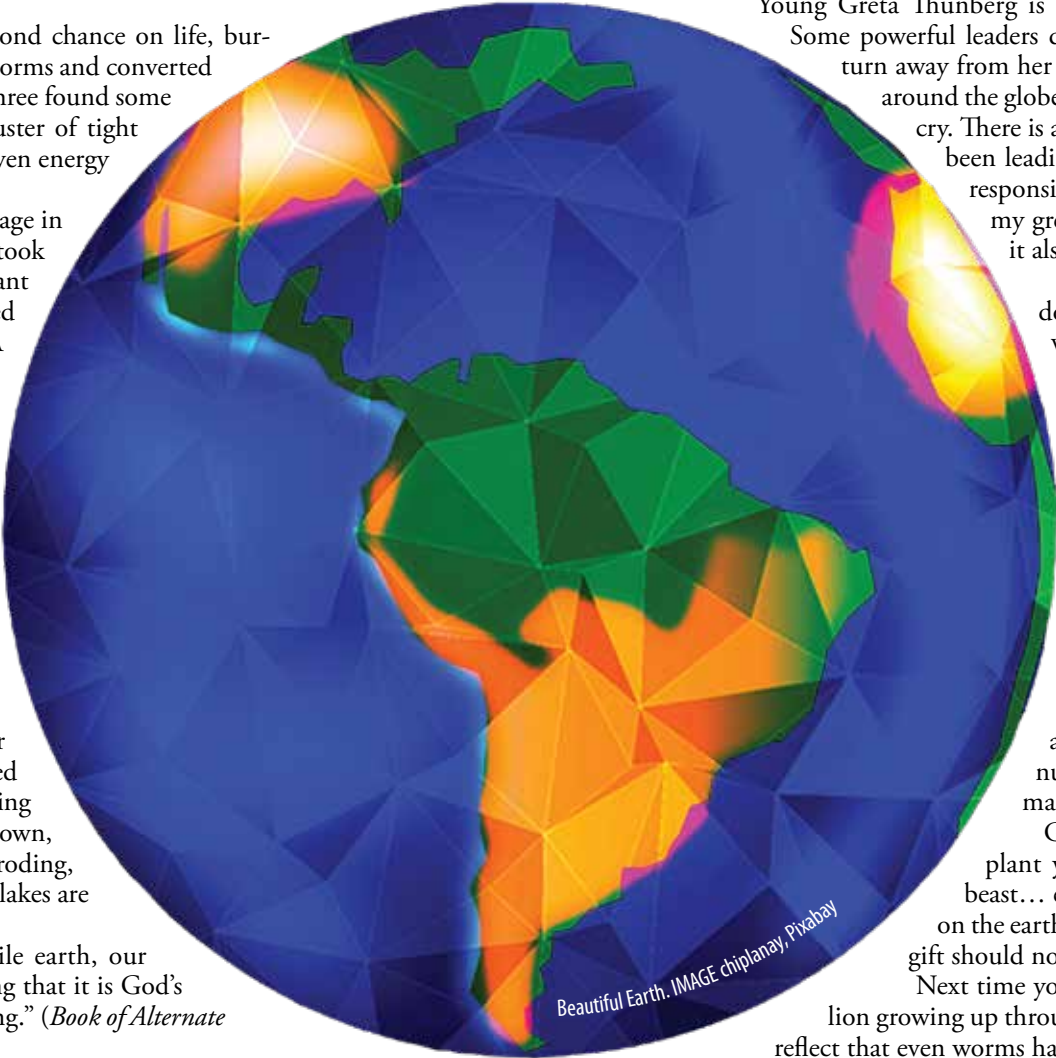
On my daily walks in the morning I see worms on the wet sidewalks. If the Sun comes out and dries the space, the worms die. So, I often try to pick up a few and put them back on the grass and soil.

One worm was grateful for this second chance on life, burrowed into the earth, found two other worms and converted them to do some good. Together these three found some soil in need of attention, close to a cluster of tight roots. The soil was refreshed, aerated, given energy to feed the roots.

The bound-up roots took full advantage in the loosened soil. The various strands took on healthy nutrients. The stem of the plant grew strong, putting out leaves that gained strength from the warmth of the Sun. A blossom formed and developed a beautiful flower of pleasing colour that during its time of blooming could be seen gently swaying in the breeze. A toddler, just a wee person, saw the flower. Child picked that blossom and rushed home, handing the flower to mother, and said, "I lubs you!" She accepted the gift with a tear in her eye, a smile on her face, responding, "Darling, I love you too!" And she thought, "What a pretty dandelion" as she placed it in a vase.

Planet Earth has been, and is, under attack. The atmosphere is being polluted with carbon deposits. The oceans are being clogged with plastics. Forests are cut down, burned and not always replaced. Soil is eroding, wrongly used, or paved over. Rivers and lakes are poisoned.

Human interaction with this "fragile earth, our island home" has forgotten or is ignoring that it is God's "will they were created and have their being." (*Book of Alternate Services*, page 201)



There is a growing awareness of the urgent need to pay attention, to call for change, to do whatever it takes so that the World may go on living.

Young Greta Thunberg is a witness to the plight of humankind. Some powerful leaders disparage her, they scoff at her message, turn away from her efforts, but multitudes of young people around the globe, and so many elders as well, do heed the cry. There is a movement to reverse the trend that has been leading to destruction. I realize that it is my responsibility to do my bit to save the Earth for my great-grandchildren and their offspring. Is it also your responsibility?

It is my opinion that the Church can do so much more, can be a voice in the wilderness, can respond to God's prompting, and walk with all who care and dare to make a difference. The Church has a sacred obligation to promote that humans must live as stewards of Creation.

The Marks of Mission for Anglicans around the world call us to action: "To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth." This is our responsibility.

Somehow and by every means we must get the message out that Creation is sustainable, that it is to be lived into and upon and within, to be shared and nurtured. For nature will return to the human masses what they put out.

God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed... and every tree... every beast... every bird... and every thing that creeps on the earth... And it was so." (*Genesis 1:29-30*) This gift should not be ruined.

Next time you are out walking, and you see a dandelion growing up through the crack in the cement, take time to reflect that even worms have a right to live. They, we, all count! ✠

The Last Anglican

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title is stuffed with deliberate double meanings each one a call of welcome and an invitation for unity. Furthermore, he, Cranmer, had the foresight to print it in English not Latin, so that everyone could read it. And for those who couldn't, they could learn the beautiful words by hearing them repeated each week. But there was something different about saying the prayers that day. The gorgeous language seemed to settle more easily on his tongue and more luxuriously on his ears, giving him, at once, a prolonged sensation of solemnity and pleasure. And when he ended the ritual with the dismissal: "May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore," he heard a clear voice behind him say: "Amen."

Jimmy turned and saw a man standing in the rear pew.

"Good morning," Jimmy said and walked towards the stranger offering an outstretched hand. As he approached, he could see that the young man had long matted hair falling over his ears, and his swarthy coloured skin could have been a result of years of exposure to the sun or his

natural hue. Jimmy couldn't tell. But it was clear from the stranger's long, filthy overcoat that he had been sleeping rough. Up close, the man was tall and had soft eyes. And even though dirty fingernails poked out of a torn glove Jimmy felt compelled to take the man's hand. When their palms touched, a great sense of calm rippled through Jimmy's body as though a lifetime of tension had suddenly evaporated. Strangely, despite the stranger's soiled clothing, there was no reek. Instead, a pleasant whiff of lavender surrounded him.

"I didn't see you come in," Jimmy said, "Welcome!"

The man picked up a bulging shopping bag from the floor. "This is for you," he said, handing the sack to Jimmy who had to use both hands to hold the weighty gift.

"Thank you," Jimmy said then quickly added: "Can I make you a cup of tea?"

The man smiled and Jimmy felt a current of warmth pour into his body. It surprised him how comfortable and happy the man's smile made him feel.

"I must be going."
"Well, thank you again," Jimmy said. He

turned away searching for somewhere to set down the gift so that he might shake the gentleman's hand again. Putting it on the floor would be rude and the shelf was too small. After dithering about, he finally left it on the bench seat. But when he turned back, the man was gone. Jimmy went to the entrance doors, stuck his head out but saw no one on the street. Had he just imagined the encounter he wondered? Moving as quickly as he could, he returned to the narthex and found the plastic bag was where he had left it. He untied the knot and opened it. Light shining through the stained glass windows hit the contents and made them glow.

Jimmy placed the windfall in the office safe, did his lock-up routine and headed home. As usual, he stopped a few yards into the journey, patted his hands up and down the front of his body looking for something and eventually located it in his hip pocket. He put on the cap and walked with purpose,

his heart beating a little faster with every step. Checking his watch, he calculated that he could squeeze in a call to the bishop before his family arrived. But as he neared his house, he saw Jimmy Junior's Honda in the driveway and beside it, Jenny's Chevy Volt. They're early, he thought.

Tomorrow, tomorrow he would call the bishop, first thing. He would report that church attendance had increased by 100% and that there had been a generous donation. Surely that was a sign of hope perhaps even a turnaround for the parish. But... dang! Jimmy suddenly realized he didn't get the benefactor's name. No matter, he felt confident that when the man returned, he would recognize him.

And just then, the grandkidlettes burst out the front door and ran towards him, their arms outstretched like airplane wings. ✠

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Simon Johnston, ODNW is an accomplished playwright, novelist, director and artistic director. For more information about Simon and his work please visit his website at <https://simonjohnston.ca>.



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