



Diocese of New Westminster

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

The Right Reverend John R. Stephens
Bishop

The People of the Church of the Epiphany
10553 – 148th Street
Surrey, B.C. V3R 3X7

September 7, 2021

Dear People of the Church of the Epiphany,

I am writing to honour The Revd Stephen Rowe as he celebrates 20 years as your Rector. This is an amazing achievement, and there is much to celebrate.

Stephen brings many gifts to ordained ministry, but I am sure that I do not need to tell you this. He is a talented priest with a wealth of experience that brings clarity, consistency and competency to his calling and response to God's direction in his life. You the people of the Church of the Epiphany know Stephen's many talents: attention to detail, pastoral care, being "there" for people, strong leadership, preaching, humour, commitment to building up the Church, and discerning God's will.

It is his sense of humour and attention to good governance that many people of our Diocese recognize most about your Rector. He is often remembered as the one who notices when debates at Synod have gone on far too long and eagerly brings things to a conclusion by asking that we move to voting on the question at hand. It is this combination that Stephen carries so very well: an appreciation of important processes but also not taking ourselves too seriously so that we lose sight of the task at hand.

Stephen was an Archdeacon in this Diocese for many years. He was named an Archdeacon in recognition of his leadership and his ability to sort out many complicated situations. Stephen has an ability to find a way forward when none might seem visible at the time. His guidance and sensible approach is highly appreciated and respected by me and many others of our Diocese.

On this Sunday when you celebrate Stephen's ministry among you, may you acknowledge, too, Stephen's faith and trust in God. Stephen is a wonderful example of a priest who has heard God's call to him in a variety of times and places. He has responded with strength and courage when God has asked much of him. We are all very grateful for his example and dedication.

As you share in Communion this Sunday, may it be an ongoing sign of God's continuing call to Stephen but to all of you to be the Church of 2021. To live out the gospel in the place in which

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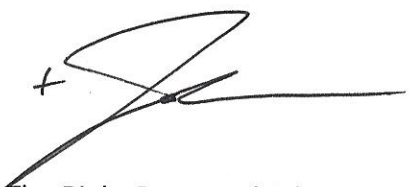


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God has placed you. To be salt and light in this world as an ongoing sign of Christ's presence in the world of our times.

As a parish, you the people of the Church of Epiphany have taught Stephen much about ministry, at the same time he has taught you much as well about what God now hopes of you. May God bless all of you but in particular on this day may God bless, hold and keep Stephen now and always as we celebrate his many gifts, talents, abilities, and time as your Rector.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line extending to the right. A small cross-like mark is visible at the beginning of the signature.

The Right Reverend John R. Stephens
Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of New Westminster

JRS:wls