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“I Have One More Sermon to Preach”

Celebration of the Ministry of the Reverend Angus Stuart

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On Sunday, September 12, 2021, the 16th Sunday after Pentecost, the Rev. Dr. Angus Stuart celebrated the Eucharist as he has been doing for over 16 years. This, however, would be the final time as rector of the picturesque parish situated on waterfront in the Caulfeild neighbourhood of West Vancouver. Rev. Stuart began his ministry as rector there, March 1, 2005.

During his more than 16 years in the diocese, all as rector of St. Francis-in-the-Wood, and also for a few years Regional Dean of Sea to Sky deanery, Rev. Stuart has regularly encouraged his parish to help other parishes with fundraising, renovations and social justice activities. Over the past decade he has performed dramatic presentations of the Gospel of Mark, *Testament of a Naked Man*, and the Gospel of John, *Word of Light*, for the benefit of the hosting organization, parish or venue.

On that sunny mid-September morning the church was as full as could be, given that some COVID protocols are still in place, with approximately 55 folks (and one canine companion) in the nave and a dozen in the chancel which included the sanctuary party and choir. Rev. Stuart began his farewell sermon with a hint of a smile and a somewhat ironic tone saying:

“Well, this is a bit surreal, isn’t it? Feels a bit like I’m preaching at my own funeral. In which case, you’ll probably know what I’m going to say. ‘Not many of you should become teachers my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness,’ or, as Bob Dylan famously sang, ‘I’d become my enemy in the instant that I preach.’ Nevertheless... for a little while longer at least I’m a preacher man and I have one more sermon to preach. Famous last words. And so once more, I become my own enemy and run the gauntlet of stricter judgement.”

And then he went on to summarize and solidify what he has “been Saying for the past 16 years or so...”

*“Firstly: What we mean by ‘God is love.’
Secondly: Nothing is ever what it seems.
Thirdly: Faith as imagination
in the construction of reality.
Fourthly: The energy of prayer
and the peace of the world.”*

Sounds like four sermons rather than one, but I’ll do my best to keep it concise. For me, it all connects, and I hope it will for you too.

‘God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.’ As anyone who has ever attended a wedding or a funeral or



The retiring rector (right) and the interim priest-in-charge (left) process out to the strains of *All You Need is Love*.

“God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.”

1 John 4:16

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

“I Have One More Sermon to Preach”

Celebration of the Ministry of the Reverend Angus Stuart



The Rev. Stuart enters the main door into the narthex to prepare to process in for worship. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

memorial that I have taken will know, this verse from the First Letter of John is probably my favourite Bible verse. God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. It seems to sidestep theology, such that no matter what you happen to think about God, whatever you believe about God, if you know love in your life, human love, then you have been touched by the divine. Simple really. It reduces everything to love. All you need is love.

But what do we mean by this? What do we mean by ‘love,’ and what do we mean by ‘God is love?’ Obviously (I hope), we

are not just talking about warm feelings of mutual attraction, it’s more than emotion and self-interest, more than friendship or common interest, it’s more active than passive. It’s about wanting the best not just for those whom we naturally love (though they are a good place to start), but wanting the best for others, for the stranger, for all; and what we want has to do with our will. And the will determines how we direct our energy. It is about action.”

Following the Eucharist, the *Glory to God* prayer, the Closing Hymn, *The Trumpets Sound*, the *Angels Sing*, Director



The Rev. Stuart raises his right hand during the proclamation of the Gospel, Mark 8:27-38.



Preparing the altar during the Offertory.



Administration of the Body of Christ.

of Music, Tom Arntzen launched into the opening bars of The Beatles’ *All You Need is Love* and the retiring rector processed out to appreciative applause.

Following worship there was a farewell party, with music provided by a jazz trio led by Tom Arntzen, a salmon barbecue, speeches and gifts. The event was organized and presented by the parish. And there was a special guest speaker, the rector of the parish from 1980–1989, the Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham, the 8th Bishop of the diocese of

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



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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.



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Thank you!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

New Westminster.

Gifts given to the departing rector included a framed copy of the music and lyrics of a song, especially composed and sung by Music Director, Tom Arntzen; a hotel voucher to spend a few days in Tofino; a *purse* (cheque); and a photo memory book. For those parishioners who were unable to write memories and/or good wishes for Angus prior to September 12, the book remained in the church office on Sunday mornings until September 30.

Rev. Stuart officially retired from this ministry on October 1, 2021.

The Ven. Stephanie Shepard, Archdeacon of Granville and recently priest-in-charge at St. Martin, North Vancouver is interim priest-in-charge. There will be a Canonical Committee formed to search for the parish's next rector. ✠

To watch the service and Rev. Stuart's sermon in full please go to St. Francis-in-the-Wood's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1m2WDiFBtXo&t=4s>



An "elbow bump" of greeting for the retiring rector.



Greeting members of the parish outside the main door after worship.



Going over the program for the retirement party with the wardens.



The party.



Long-time parishioners Don Millerd (left) and Valerie Casselton (right). Don is toasting with another former rector of the parish, the Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham, Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster (1994 – 2013) and also Rector of St. Francis-in-the-Wood (1980 – 1989). The fourth person in the photo is the Ven. Douglas Fenton. Bishop Michael delivered a much appreciated address prior to lunch being served.

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

DEADLINE FOR TOPIC SUBMISSIONS
November 19 for the January 2022 issue

Please email Randy Murray at rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca

All contributions are appreciated
• EDITOR •

THE CLERGY CONFERENCE

① IS IT COFFEE BREAK SOON?

② I COULD HAVE BEEN AN ASTRONAUT

③ IT IS SO COLD IN HERE

④ HOPE THE CATS ARE OK

⑤ WISH HE'D SNORE QUIETLY

⑥ HOW RUDE!

⑦ OH NO - HE'S MY ROOM MATE

⑧ OOH - FACEBOOK MESSAGE!

⑨ IT IS SO HOT IN HERE

⑩ WHAT TIME SHALL I PHONE?

⑪ SO MUCH TO DO WHEN I RETURN

⑫ WHICH PUB SHALL WE GO TO?

⑬ I'M TWEETING THIS

⑭ Z Z Z Z

⑮ HE MIGHT MISS SOMETHING

⑯ HOW VERY EMBARRASSING

⑰ WHY AM I HERE AGAIN?

⑱ LOOK AT THOSE FIELDS

⑲ CAN WE GET BACK TO THE TEXT?

⑳ WONDER WHAT'S FOR DINNER

㉑ ISN'T ⑮ LOVELY?

㉒ SERMON ILLUSTRATION!

㉓ OH DEAR - DRIBBLE

㉔ WHEN I'M BISHOP ALL THIS WILL BE MINE

㉕ WOULDN'T MIND HIS PARISH

㉖

CartoonChurch.com

Being Rector of a “Strong & Caring Community”

Interview with the Reverend Angus Stuart

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On Sunday, September 12, 2021, the 16th Sunday after Pentecost, the Rev. Dr. Angus Stuart celebrated the Eucharist at St. Francis-in-the-Wood as he has been doing for more than 16 years. Rev. Stuart officially retired as rector of the parish on October 1, 2021.

He was kind enough to take some time to answer some questions for diocesan communications.

Q. Although not totally unheard of, an incumbency of more than 15 years is fairly unusual in this day and age. In your opinion what are the key components of an enduring relationship between rector and parish?

A. Probably forbearance and trust. The former necessary in any long-term relationship; the latter hopefully the product. Also, for me certainly, a willingness to change things up fairly frequently so that things don't get stale or stuck in a rut—like any relationship! Aside from that, time is an illusion and people are people!

Q. What would you consider to be the major accomplishments of the parish during your time as ordained leader of shared ministry?

A. I think we have a strong and caring community, and it has been good to see this develop and grow over our time together. Sometimes it has not been easy, as is the case everywhere, but I believe we have emerged from the challenging times stronger and healthier.

Q. Did you always find yourself on the “same page” as the laity when it came to liturgy or was there some negotiation needed?

A. Liturgically, there has been very little disagreement or conflict. I have tried to put liturgies together in a way that balances the familiar with the new, and that reflect something of the culture and character of our parish community which I see as “non-partisan” liturgically speaking—an absence of axes to grind—and open to new forms of expression whilst rooted in worship that is still “recognizably Anglican.”

Q. And... following that similar thread, did you always find yourself on the same page when it came to compassionate service, outreach to the greater community?

A. Yes, generally. I can't think of an example where there was any sense of disconnect in this area. We know that we are very privileged to live the life we live in the place we live it and are conscious that much is expected of those to whom much is given, and therefore the impetus to reach out to others less fortunate than ourselves. Social outreach and social justice have always been very important at St. Francis-in-the-Wood and tend to generate a lot of energy and activity.

Q. What would you consider to be the greatest challenge or challenges during the 16½ years?

A. Finance. Not lack of it, but rather anxiety surrounding finance: despite having so much (or perhaps because of having so much), there seems to have been a perennial anxiety over whether we'd be able to meet the budget, and somewhat frantic appeals for money sometimes—which always (always!) came for whatever cause needed it. Social Outreach and other direct appeals were always the easiest to raise funds for; second were clearly defined projects—for example, the new roof we put on last year; most difficult were the funds needed for the ongoing expenses of the church. And as in any relationship, finance is often a fertile ground for conflict!

Q. Is there anything that you wanted to accomplish that didn't get done?

A. Not really. There's always more that could be done. But one advantage of being here so long is that there has been plenty of time to see many projects and programs through to completion. I had intended to lead a third pilgrimage to Assisi in 2020 but it got nixed by the pandemic, but Assisi is still there, and I hope that perhaps there will be future pilgrimages from the parish to connect with the heart of their namesake saint, but that will be up to the future Rector and leadership of the parish. I certainly hope to be in Assisi again myself.

Q. The world has changed a great deal in 17 years, particularly around information sharing and technology, how did this affect parish ministry and your role as rector.

A. Email of course has become the primary means of communication within the parish, and this has meant that communications have become much easier—easier to send and receive a response, and easier to keep a record of what has been said. For many years, I have had the practice of emailing everyone in the parish each week not only with



The Rev. Angus Stuart proclaims the Gospel Mark 8:27-38 from memory, September 12, 2021. PHOTO Randy Murray

*“God is love,
and those who abide in love
abide in God, and God abides in them.”*
1 John 4:16

announcements but with also a pastoral word, some brief commentary on the Sunday readings, and prayer requests. During the pandemic this increased to twice per week. It has become the main means of communication along with our website, which has also come to function as the repository of the church's story, effectively replacing the paper-archives of parish newsletters/magazines—not that these don't still have their place. Most recently, of course, and prompted by the pandemic, we have made the leap into offering worship online—initially recorded services on YouTube and then since June livestreaming (with recordings archived on YouTube)—and the now ubiquitous Zoom which has become very popular and convenient for

many meetings including parish council (which seems to be much quicker/efficient when it's online!).

Q. You are well-known in our diocese and beyond for your dramatic performances of the Gospel of Mark, *Testimony of a Naked Man*, and the Gospel of John, *Word of Light*, how did this part of your ministry inform or affect your role as a parish priest and are you planning to do more of these performances in retirement?

A. Yes, I hope to do more performances once things really do open up again and we can have live in-person performances with some degree of confidence. Things are still too precarious really to make any concrete plans such as performance tours. How it informs my role as a parish priest? It certainly informed my preaching with a much greater facility and fluidity in my use of scripture—not just the Gospels of Mark and John, but knowing those two also gave me greater insight into Matthew and Luke (because they weren't Mark or John!) and with the rest of the New Testament—for example, seeing where St. Paul connects with the themes and message of the Gospels (which were for the most part written after Paul). I also became acutely aware of Jesus' own standing in relation to official or organized religion, which has perhaps fed into my somewhat anarchic ecclesiology!

Q. Is there a piece of Scripture that you have gone back to over the years for inspiration?

A. “God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.” 1 John 4:16

Q. As you look back on your career in ministry is there anything that you wished that your seminary training or curacy had prepared you for?

A. I sometimes wonder if my seminary training prepared me for anything, but that would be too harsh, and I certainly do not have anything particular in mind to suggest. I guess I wonder whether *any* seminary training (or curacy for that matter) really does prepare us for what comes next, other than by just being *before* what comes next. Everything is a preparation for what follows. I most value the theology and biblical studies that I did at seminary.

Q. What advice would you give to the next rector of St. Francis?

A. No, honestly, I think that would be presumptuous (and a bit pompous) of me to offer any advice. Maybe, remember to *breathe*.✠

Stained Glass Windows at St. Hilda's

The St. John and St. James stained glass are two lancet windows crafted by the firm of Clayton & Bell in 1885. These Victorian examples of stained glass are “The Greeters” welcoming the faithful on their arrival at the church. John Richard Clayton is Archdeacon Bruce Morris' great-great grandfather. The Ven. Bruce Morris is Archdeacon for Deacons in the diocese of New Westminster and serves his vocational calling as Deacon of St. Hilda-by-the-Sea, Sechelt.

According to Bruce:

“Clayton & Bell windows are found all over the place in Britain—when my wife Marg and I moved to London in the early 1980s we'd travel around looking for them as they were common in many parish churches and cathedrals. The most famous of their windows is the great west window in Bath Abbey. The windows at St. Hilda's were found by a family member who was keen to have pieces of the family heritage here in Sechelt. Another family member made the wooden lightboxes in which they are displayed. The ultimate intention is to have them built into one of the family's homes.” ✠

PHOTOS Randy Murray



The Most Reverend Lynne McNaughton Installed as Metropolitan

September 17–19, 2021, the 40th Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC/Yukon, one of the four Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Anglican Church of Canada gathered online via Zoom. The Zoom meeting originated in the Trendell Lounge, the meeting space shared by the diocese of New Westminster's Synod Offices and the Parish of St. John's, Shaughnessy (1410 Nanton Avenue) in Vancouver. The 2021 Provincial Synod theme was "For we walk by faith, not by sight," *Corinthians 5:7*

A number of Synod members were present at Nanton Avenue, amongst them, the Metropolitan, the Most Rev.

Lynne McNaughton and the Ven. Clara Plamondon, Prolocuter of the Ecclesiastical Province.

On the Friday evening, September 17, Archbishop McNaughton was officially installed as the 13th Metropolitan

of the Province in a brief liturgy.

Archbishop McNaughton, who is diocesan bishop of the diocese of Kootenay was elected Metropolitan on March 6, 2021 by Provincial Synod, replacing Archbishop Melissa Skelton who had retired on February 28. Upon her election, the Most Rev. Lynne McNaughton became Metropolitan with the honorific Archbishop, however due to COVID-19 and the many restrictions on gathering it was difficult to bring a quorum together for the official transferring of the metropolitan cross.

Many thanks to Elias Neto for the photos. ✠



Diocesan Priest Receives Appreciation Award

Statistics Canada honours the Reverend Dave Price

The Rev. Dave Price retired as Vicar of All Saints, Agassiz at the end of 2020, but in his own words he is "retired, but not retired from life."

Last May, Rev. Dave began working as an enumerator for this year's census. He was motivated to contact a former colleague from *Stats Can*, Ms. Lauren Cornish when he'd heard from an Indigenous friend that the census process on reserves "was in difficulty and the leaders needed support." As Dave had worked with Lauren in the past serving in the Yukon, he offered to assist her staff in learning about strategies to resist burnout. Dave was hired for the term of the census which concluded on July 31, 2021.

Here is the email to Dave which also contains the text of the nomination:

Hi Dave,

A belated thank you to you for working with our Census reserves group to help us through some very challenging times. I remember the time you had spent with our interviewer group prior to them going north to conduct a survey containing sensitive subject matter and I knew that you would be a good fit with our group. As you were an existing employee at the time of the workshop, I'd nominated you for an Employee Appreciation Award. I have also included the text of the nomination here for you to read. We were very fortunate that you were available to speak with us, and I am hoping that everyone in the group was able to take away ideas to help them in dealing with employee situations and more importantly help them with self-care. I have also attached the appreciation certificate!—normally presented in person, but alas, it is not to be in these times. In the next few days, you should also receive a Costco gift card in the mail.

Much thanks to you Dave.

Hope the rest of your summer is lovely (now that you no longer have census duties!)

Lauren

Here is the nomination:

The BC reserve group has been struggling to conduct the census on the BC reserves during the pandemic. Many of the reserves were closed to the outside world and were not willing to have outsiders come into their communities to



Rev. Dave with Appreciation Award Certificate. PHOTO Submitted

conduct enumeration. The reserves were then struck by a series of events, foremost among them being the disclosure of the finding of the 215 human remains at the Kamloops Residential School. Almost all of our team of Stat Act employees are Indigenous, living in the reserve communities and this had a devastating effect on many of them, if not all. They were traumatized, many of them spiraling into depression and apathy. Collection was shut down in many areas for most of June.

Our Field Operations Supervisors and the Field Operations Managers (FOM) have been struggling under the weight of this myriad of extraordinary challenges to our employee team and our target communities, while at the same time trying to resolve the tension between being sensitive to the needs of the employees while still meeting the requirements of the census collection. They have been forced to play a much greater emotionally supportive role with their individual employees and with

the teams as a whole. This is far outside of their normally prescribed duties, and events have been taking a toll on everyone's mental and emotional health.

Dave has been working as a part time Stat Act general population Enumerator in the Abbotsford area. However, he is also a retired Anglican Church minister and a certified trauma therapist, with extensive experience with the National Residential School Survivors groups and with Truth and Reconciliation initiatives. In conversations with one of the reserve FOMs, he heard of the struggles we were experiencing, and he volunteered to lead a workshop with reserve supervisory team.

Dave met with the group on June 30 and led us through an enlightening and healing workshop. With his background, he was well placed to understand the struggles of the individuals within the group. We discussed empathy and healing and ways to support our employee group. He was able to draw on both his professional background and his enumerator experiences to illustrate ways of calming situations, so they don't spiral out of control. He created a safe space where everyone felt free to share their experiences and gain a better understanding of their role during this very challenging time. We started with a discussion on some questions he had posed to us in advance of the workshop, and he then encouraged ongoing participation through his engaging empathetic manner. His exercises and examples on self-care and triggering REM in the brain were welcomed by everyone.

This was a very valuable experience for our group. It gave us all a new lease on the census, but at the same time reminding us of the importance of maintaining boundaries and taking time for ourselves and our families. He also helped us more clearly recognize our limits in supporting employees who are needing help.

I would like to recommend Dave for this employee Appreciation Award. He was uniquely placed with his skills and his background to be able to lead us through this workshop and help us reenergize for the collection work ahead.

Lauren Cornish ✠



The plenary holding up their core values newsprint. ALL PHOTOS Tellison Glover

Groundwork Returns for 2021

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On Saturday, September 18, 2021, at St. Oswald’s, Port Kells representatives of six parishes: Holy Spirit (Whonnock), St. Oswald’s (Port Kells), St. Faith (Vancouver), Christ Church (Hope), Christ the Redeemer (Cloverdale), and All Saints (Agassiz) gathered with Mission and Ministry staffers; Parish Development Consultant and Vicar of St. Mary Magdalene, the Rev. Tasha Carrothers, and Director of Mission and Ministry, the Rev. Tellison Glover. The purpose was the reanimation of the diocese of New Westminster’s *Groundwork* program, a parish growth and development *hands on* series of workshops developed by Tasha and Tellison in the spring of 2018 and launched in the fall of 2018. The group meets during the first months of fall up until Advent and during that time identifies goals and outcomes and works towards them in collaboration at these workshops and also in their parish groups outside of the sessions.

The *Groundwork* workshop series did return for 2019, but the pandemic prevented the program from its third season in 2020.

When asked if the program had changed over the years, Tellison had this to say:

“The program has changed only slightly. It remains firmly rooted in ‘Gather, Transform, Send’ Model but offers greater insight on ‘Gather.’ In earlier iterations we discovered a common struggle for many parishes is a culture of ‘navel gazing.’ Parishes tend to be more inward looking than outward. Groundwork now puts more focus into creating a healthier balance. Changing parish culture where they focus more on newcomers is what Groundwork is all about.”



St. Faith’s, Vancouver.

The pandemic changed our world significantly and that includes the world of Anglican parishes, Tellison describes the goals and outcomes that the 2021 parishes are hoping to achieve and how they are different from pre-pandemic days:

“The pandemic has taught us that there is still a place for parish ministry in the world. People still need hope, love and belonging—our parishes can offer that. This is ‘good news’ to share.

This year Groundwork aims to assist parishes in cultivating two habits:

- 1. Habits that effectively articulate their identity and values.
- 2. Habits that create memorable and warm experiences for newcomers.

We do this by exploring effective story sharing and telling, ways parishes can improve their skills in connecting with others and resources that build strong and lasting relationships.”

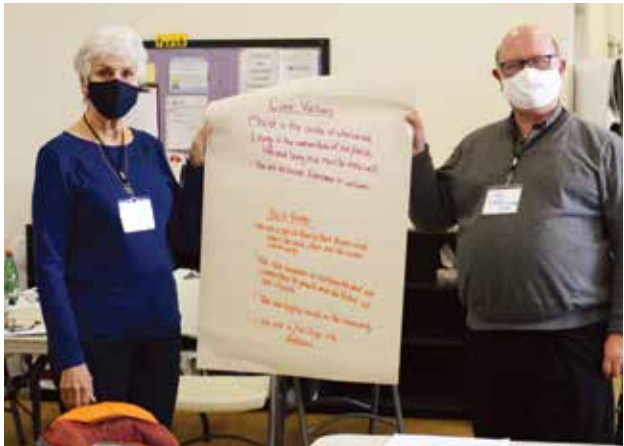
If you would like more information about *Groundwork*, please visit the *Groundwork* pages on the diocesan website or contact the Rev. Glover by email at tglover@vancouver.anglican.ca. ☙



St. Oswald’s, Port Kells (North Surrey).



All Saints, Agassiz.



Christ Church, Hope.



Holy Spirit, Whonnock.



Christ the Redeemer, Cloverdale.

IN MEMORIAM



The Rev. Virginia Briant at her induction as Rector of St. Richard's, Northgate. On the left is the Most Rev. Godfrey Gower, 5th Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster and on her right, the president, the Most Rev. Douglas Hambidge, 7th Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster. PHOTO Diocese of New Westminster Communications

The Reverend Virginia Woods Briant

June 4, 1926 – August 16, 2021

We commend our sister, Virginia Woods Briant, Priest, to God and give thanks for her historic ministry in our diocese and in the Anglican Church of Canada.

Virginia died on Monday, August 16, 2021 in Penticton, BC.

Virginia was born in Portland, Oregon in 1926, where she was raised in the Baptist Church.

She attended the University of Oregon, graduating with a BA in 1950, a Teachers' Certificate in 1953, and a Secondary Teachers' Certificate in 1959.

Virginia taught school in Alaska from 1953 to 1959, including a period with her husband, Bob, when they taught elementary students in a two-room schoolhouse on an Aleutian Island. She also had a successful business career in Alaska. She was confirmed at St. John's Episcopal Church in Ketchikan, Alaska in 1963. She transferred from the Episcopal diocese of Alaska to the diocese of New Westminster in 1973.

In 1973, she graduated from the Anglican Theological College and Vancouver School of Theology with a Master of Divinity, receiving the Chown Gold Medal and Cora F. McFarland Scholarship for the highest standing in the graduating class.

Virginia was ordained to the diaconate on June 24,

1973 and was then appointed Deacon at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver.

Virginia, one of the first six women ordained to the priesthood in the Anglican Church of Canada, she was ordained by the Most Rev. David Somerville at Christ Church Cathedral on November 30, 1976. Recalling her ordination, Virginia noted the media frenzy that surrounded it. One reporter apparently asked her: "How did you know it was the will of God for you to be a priest?" And she answered: "How else could it have happened?"

She continued to serve as Assistant Priest at Christ Church Cathedral after her ordination.

Virginia was Rector of St. Richard, Norgate beginning in 1981, until she retired after a serious car accident.

Healing ministry was one of her key commitments, and she was a member of the Order of St. Luke the Physician starting in 1969.

Upon retirement she moved to Penticton where she was active at St. Saviour's Anglican Church.

Virginia is survived by her son Douglas and her two grandchildren, Anna and Paul. She was predeceased by her husband Robert and son Michael.

A memorial service was celebrated on September 17, 2021 at St. Saviour, Penticton. ✠

Lawrence Siuyung Cheung, Priest

October 8, 1937 – August 3, 2021

We commend, the Rev. Lawrence Siuyung Cheung to God and give thanks for his diverse ministry in so many parts of the church and the world.

Lawrence was born in Hong Kong and died in Burnaby, BC.

He is survived by his wife Yvonne, and daughters Cheryl (Gordon) Kao and Jeanette (Jason) Leigh, and three grandchildren. Yvonne and Lawrence married in the Philippines where they met in 1966. Lawrence did his field education in Yvonne's parish.

Lawrence attended the Diocesan Boys' School, an Anglican boarding school in Hong Kong. He completed a degree in Civil Engineering from the National Taiwan University in Taipei, graduating in 1961. His theological training took place between 1963 and 1967, at the Tainan

Theological Graduate College in Taiwan and at St. Andrew's Theological Seminary in Manila, Philippines. He obtained a Master of Social Work from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 1978.

He was ordained to the diaconate at Tainan Theological College in May 1967, and to the priesthood at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Kaohsiung, Taiwan in November 1967, by Bishop James Wong of the Missionary diocese of Taiwan of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States.

In the diocese of Taiwan, Lawrence served as Vicar of St. James' Episcopal Church, Taichung from 1967–1969. In the diocese of Central Philippines, he was the Pastoral Assistant at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Manila, Philippines from 1964–1966, and the Assistant Chaplain at St. Stephen's High School, Manila, from 1964–1965.

Lawrence did his Clinical Pastoral Education at St. Luke's Hospital, Quezon City, Philippines.

Lawrence was a Lecturer in Social Work at Hong Kong Baptist College from 1983–1988. In the diocese of Hong Kong, he served as Chaplain and Counsellor at St. John's Cathedral from 1982–1983, and as Vicar of Holy Nativity Church from 1978–1982.

Lawrence's canonical residence was transferred to the diocese of New Westminster from the diocese of Hong Kong and Macao in March 1993.

In this diocese Lawrence served as Honorary Assistant at Christ Church Cathedral from 1993–1998, as Vicar of St. Chad, Kitsilano from 1998–2002 (part of the Jubilee Cluster ministry from 2001–2002), and Chaplain at Vancouver General Hospital and Health Sciences Centre, from 2000–2003. He was a counsellor with the North Shore Counselling Centre, Family Services of Greater Vancouver, and SUCCESS.

Lawrence and Yvonne were active with the St. Peter's, Manila, Members Abroad Group, attending many reunions and planning the Vancouver reunion of this group in 2003. He also assisted with a group of visiting youth from Taiwan in 2004.

At the time of his death, he was a member of Christ Church Cathedral. A memorial service was held at Christ Church Cathedral. ✠

Roberta Irene Foxall, ODNW

July 4, 1938–April 10, 2021



Roberta Foxall on the day of her investiture into the ODNW, November 2, 2014. PHOTO Wayne Chose

Roberta Irene Foxall was born in Kimberley, BC in 1938. She was baptized there and later confirmed at St. Aidan's in Rutland. She trained to be a teacher at Victoria College and the University of British Columbia (UBC) and taught for about seven years during which time she married Garry. They moved to Sechelt in 1966, and soon joined the parish of St. Hilda's-by-the-Sea. After some years staying at home with her three children, she spent 24 years as owner of a fabric store, called *Sew Easy*. She was a creative and talented seamstress and quilter who inspired many people to become involved in fabric arts.

Roberta taught Sunday School for eight years, including time as chair. She was also an important part of the choir for many years. She worked hard at the church's annual *Whale of a Sale* and was an active participant in many fundraisers, contributing countless beautiful hangings, blankets, and smaller items to church craft sales along with her famous brown bread. Her work raised thousands of dollars to extend the mission of the church and bring joy to those who bought the items she made. She also made the exquisite banner of St. Hilda which hangs in the parish's sanctuary.

Roberta was invested into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster in 2014. Here is the Citation:

Roberta and her husband Garry have faithfully served St. Hilda's in many capacities for the past 48 years. But her greatest gift to us is the example of her quiet and steadfast faith and courage through years of medical challenge and experimental treatments. Her presence is a continual example of new life in Christ.

Roberta said she could feel the power of prayers for her and calmly faced surgical treatments in the full assurance of God's care. Her courage and faith continued to the end, an example of new life in Christ. ✠



The Rev. Lawrence Siuyung Cheung in 2002. PHOTO Courtesy of Cheryl Kao

Celebration of a Milestone Anniversary on the Feast of Holy Cross (transferred)

Epiphany celebrates the Reverend Stephen Rowe's 20 Years of Ministry at Surrey parish

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On Sunday, September 12, 2021, at the Anglican Parish of the Church of the Epiphany, Surrey celebrating the Feast of Holy Cross (transferred) the Very Rev. Peter Elliott, retired Rector of Christ Church Cathedral and retired Dean of the Diocese of New Westminster was the guest preacher. This was also the Sunday celebrating the 20-year incumbency of the parish's rector, the Rev. Stephen Rowe.

Over those 20 years the two priests have been good friends and close colleagues and in the words of Rev. Rowe have "attended many many church meetings together." The main Sunday morning 10am Eucharist welcomed approximately 60 in-person worshippers and dozens more joined via Zoom.

Following some introductory words of thanks regarding the invitation to preach at Holy Cross Eucharist and also on a day to honour his friend, the Very Rev. Elliott shared the words offered by the three bishops with whom Rev. Rowe has shared ministry:

"I want to share greetings from our Bishop John, who asked that I convey these words, 'I am grateful for Stephen's ministry over the past 20 years. He brings a wonderful combination to his ministry: pastoral care, humour, attention to detail, hard work and a deep faith. He is appreciated for his ministry at Epiphany but also throughout the diocese over many years.'

About Stephen, Archbishop Melissa Skelton offered these words, 'Stephen Rowe, first and foremost, is himself—thoughtful, careful, honest, lovably ironic, and dedicated to his family and friends. He is also, for me, a model of what a faithful rector looks like. He has shown us all what it looks like to love the people of the parish; he has shown us all what fidelity and perseverance look like; he has shown us all what responsiveness to change

looks like, especially when that change comes speaking a different language and bringing a different culture.'

And Bishop Michael Ingham sends his greetings today remembering this about Stephen, 'I admire many of Stephen's qualities and talents, but perhaps the one I have most enjoyed is his sense of humour. Stephen always manages to cheer people up and make them smile. I

remember one time at Diocesan Synod he dressed up as a hockey referee—complete with striped shirt and whistle—and blew fouls and goals, even sending people to the penalty box. It lightened some pretty serious moments. Stephen and Christine could always be relied upon to write a poem or a song for some amusing occasion. Amazing talent!'

Clearly the three bishops in this diocese with

whom he has worked admire and respect Stephen."

Following the Eucharist, a self-catered celebratory luncheon in the hall took place with all in attendance following COVID protocols. Tributes were paid to the rector by the wardens, Dianne Stebbing, ODNW and Shelley Prendergast, ODNW. Gift bags containing cards of congratulations, wine, a restaurant gift card, red and black licorice, and chocolate were bestowed.

Stephen's son Tom, daughter Lucy Walsh and one of three granddaughters, Emily Walsh were present.

Apart from the accolades and the rector's address to the community during the lunch a notable feature was a 20-question quiz about the guest of honour. Questions included: What is his middle name? Who is his favourite hockey player? Where was he born? Where's his favourite vacation spot? etc. Stephen won the quiz contest with a score of 18/20.

Congratulations to the Parish of the Church of the Epiphany and to their rector for this milestone anniversary that bears witness to their ministry, the building up of God's Kingdom in the Guildford neighbourhood and beyond.

To quote Stephen, "The first 20 years are the hardest." ✚

"The first 20 years are the hardest."
The Reverend Stephen Rowe



The Very Rev. Peter Elliott and the Rev. Stephen Rowe. ALL PHOTOS Cliff Caprani

Stephen Rowe's reflection on his 20-year incumbency is located on page 21 of this issue of Topic

Video, audio, and text of the sermon, which is predominantly focused on the Feast of Holy Cross being celebrated that day, are available on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2021-09-12-undaunted-by-difficulty-able-to-deal-with-difficult-circumstances>



Dianne Stebbing, ODNW and Ann Ainsworth prepare the tea and coffee for the luncheon.



Folks observing COVID protocols enjoyed self-catered lunches.



Tom Rowe, the rector, Emily Walsh and Lucy Walsh.



Warden, Shelley Prendergast, ODNW pays tribute.



LEFT 2. Prior of Mainland British Columbia, HE Bailiff Prior Anne Kathleen Rowland, GCSJ, MMSJ; Presiding Officer, HE Conventual Bailiff Grand Marshal Richard D. Earchy, GCSJ, MMSJ; Grand Commander, HE Conventual Bailiff Grand Commander Ian Reid, GCSJ, MMSJ and Bar. These officials were the principals involved in investing the new members. RIGHT The Ven. Douglas Fenton, the Rev. Marilyn Hames; the Rev. Christine Magrega, the Very Rev. Christopher Pappas, and the Rev. David Leon Gustafson.

Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller Investiture Service

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

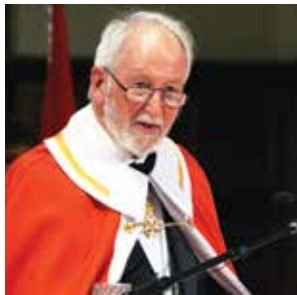
Four of the 16 Knights and Dames invested with the Rank of Knight or Dame of Honour during the 2021 Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, Vancouver Commandery Investiture Service September 11, 2021 at Christ Church Cathedral are clergy of the diocese of New Westminster: The Ven. Douglas Fenton; the Rev. Marilyn Hames; Deacon, the Rev. Christine Magrega; and the Very Rev. Christopher Pappas.

The officiating clergy for the service were also from the diocese of New Westminster and Prelates of the Order: The Ven. John Bailey (who also preached) and the Very Rev. Peter Elliott. The member of the Order who proclaimed the Gospel (*Matthew 5:1-10*) was Chevalier Douglas MacAdams, QC (Queen's Counsel) KGSJ (Knight of Grace, Sovereign Order of St. John), ODNW who is not only a member of the Parish of All Saints', Agassiz but has for many years been the Chancellor of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC/Yukon. Members of Cathedral Choir under the director of organist and director of music, Rupert Lang led the music in worship. A rousing rendition of the pipe organ and bagpipes favourite *Highland Cathedral* was offered during the investiture service.

A brief explanation of the Order was



Members of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Pipes and Drums and Rupert Lang perform *Highland Cathedral*.



LEFT Chevalier Douglas MacAdams, OC, KGSJ, ODNW proclaims the Gospel, *The Beatitudes*. MIDDLE Prelate the Ven. John Bailey, KCSJ (Knight Commander of Grace) Chaplain preaching. RIGHT Prelate the Very Rev. Peter Elliott, KJSJ (Knight of Justice) leads the prayers.

included on the inside pages of the Order of Service, and it is as follows:

"The Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller is a Christian, Chivalric, Ecumenical International community that began with the founding of the hospital in Jerusalem in the mid-11th Century.

The original Hospitaller Brothers served the poor of all origins and faiths at no cost. Pope Innocent IV later sanctioned a military role for the Brothers, in addition to their Hospitaller mission. And they became known as the Knights Hospitaller with bases across Europe and around the Mediterranean.

Today the Sovereign Order continues to serve the sick and the poor of all faiths and origins, through its Commanderies, operating as Registered Charities. The Vancouver Commandery provides significant financial support and leadership for hospice and palliative care initiatives as well as programs to support the sick, poor and marginalized throughout the province of BC.

Persons invited to enter the Sovereign Order are recognized for their achievements and contributions to their community, as well as their desire to contribute to the goals of the Sovereign Order." ✠



The Ven. Douglas Fenton is invested.



The Rev. Marilyn Hames is invested.



The Very Rev. Christopher Pappas is invested.



LEFT Dame Tracy Lynn Wade, DSJ (Dame of Honour) reads *1 John 4:7-16*. RIGHT Deacon, the Rev. Christine Magrega is invested.



Dean of the Cathedral, who is now Chevalier the Very Rev. Christopher A. Pappas, KJSJ offers the Blessing to conclude the liturgy.

Celebrations of New Ministry 2021



Bishop John led the applause of welcome a number of times during the months of August and September 2021.
PHOTO Randy Murray

On this and the next few *Topic* pages you will find coverage (photos, text and links) of the Celebrations of New Ministry that took place around the diocese of New Westminster from August 3 – September 1, 2021. For a variety of reasons, Celebrations of New Ministry (induction of a rector or installation of a vicar) would not lend themselves to Zoom or to a livestream of a liturgy where the numbers are restricted. We needed to wait until folks could gather again, with fewer COVID-19 restrictions, allowing for the principals — wardens, bishop, executive archdeacon, regional archdeacon, regional dean, deacon(s) and of course members of the parish — to be present onsite to officially welcome the newly appointed ordained leaders of their shared ministry together.

The levels of coverage for each liturgy are different, however, diocesan communications did its best to at the minimum have at least a couple of good photos with cutlines from all of these liturgies.

The Celebrations of New Ministry that saw the inductions of new rectors, the Rev. Marnie Peterson, at St. Anne, Steveston on September 21; the Rev. Ken Vinal, at St. Stephen, West Vancouver on September 28; and the Rev. Lorne Manweiler, at St. Philip, Dunbar, on October 18 will be covered and the coverage will be available on the diocesan website and Facebook pages. There will be coverage of these celebrations in the December issue of *Topic*.

The first here, although not the first chronologically is the installation of the Rev. Armand Mercier on August 16, 2021, as Vicar of St. Alban's, Richmond. He was installed by regional archdeacon, the Ven. Luisito Engnan and the preacher was his colleague from the diocese of Edmonton, now Rector of St. Mark, Ocean Park, the Rev. Billy Isenor. Armand has also been appointed Pastoral Assistant at Christ Church Cathedral. ♦



The group shot taken outside the main doors to the St. Alban's Sanctuary. PHOTOS Submitted by Larry Scherben



The new vicar with the wardens and the regional archdeacon, the Venerable Luisito Engnan begin the Covenant in Ministry.

To Bring People to Christ is Our Communal Vocation

The induction of the Reverend Simbarashe Basvi as Rector of St. David's, Delta (Tsawwassen)

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On Tuesday, August 3, the Feast of Stephen, (the other one, not the *Good King Wenceslaus* December 26 version) approximately 100 gathered at St. David's, Delta in Tsawwassen for a Celebration of a New Ministry Eucharist, the induction of the Rev. Simbarashe Basvi as rector of the parish.

This was an historic occasion as it was the first induction of Bishop John Stephens' episcopacy and the first Celebration of a New Ministry in a parish since July of 2020, when with limited attendance the Ven. Luisito Engnan was installed as Vicar of Christ the Redeemer, Cloverdale. On September 12, 2020, the Very Rev. Chris Pappas was installed as Dean of the diocese of New Westminster and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral by Archbishop Melissa Skelton with approximately 50 present, however, that is in part a diocesan liturgy and different than a parish celebration.

The Rev. Simbarashe Basvi, his wife Mebbo and their children have been in Canada since the end of 2020, and Rev. Basvi in his new ministry since January 1, 2021. His appointment was announced April 15, 2020, and here we were almost 16 months later celebrating the induction. And it was a wonderful celebration.

In the months since his arrival, Rev. Basvi has quickly got up to speed on the mission and ministry of the parish and despite some setbacks (like the hacking of the parish's website and email server in May), the parish with Rev. Basvi as rector are now able to develop long range plans and goals following many years of interim ministry that dates back to the departure of their last rector, the Rev. Paul Woehrle in 2015. Pastor Woehrle is the Rector of St. Cuthbert, Delta and was present as part of the sanctuary party as he is the Regional Dean of Richmond/Delta Deanery in the Archdeaconry of Fraser and was there in his official diocesan capacity to welcome the new rector to the deanery.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



Bishop Stephens and Rev. Basvi pose for a photo for the archives. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray

To Bring People to Christ is Our Communal Vocation

The induction of the Reverend Simbarashe Basvi as Rector of St. David's, Delta (Tsawwassen)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

The preacher was the Ven. Luisito Engnan, Vicar of both St. Michael, Surrey and Christ the Redeemer, Cloverdale and Archdeacon of Fraser. The message of his sermon can be summed up quite simply that the community shares



Mebbo Basvi reads *Numbers 11:16-17, 24-25a* in the *Shona* language.



The Ven. Luisito (Fr. Louie) Engnan was the preacher.



Holy Communion.



The reception.

ministry together and in Fr. Louie's words, "Bringing people to Christ is our communal vocation."

Rev. Basvi was presented to the bishop for induction by wardens, Gayle McMynn and Anthony Hanna. Director of Music, Sara Ciantar led the music in worship with a varied repertoire which included the Offertory Hymn, *Stand Up, Stand Up, for Jesus*, led by Rev. Basvi and his spouse, Mebbo and sung in the *Shona* language of Zimbabwe. Allen des Noyers accompanied the singing of that hymn on guitar and Ms. Ciantar vacated the piano and organ bench in favour of conga drums. The parish, now able to sing together, enthusiastically joined in on all the sung parts of the liturgy. St. David's is one of the parishes in the diocese that uses a projector screen for the worship content.

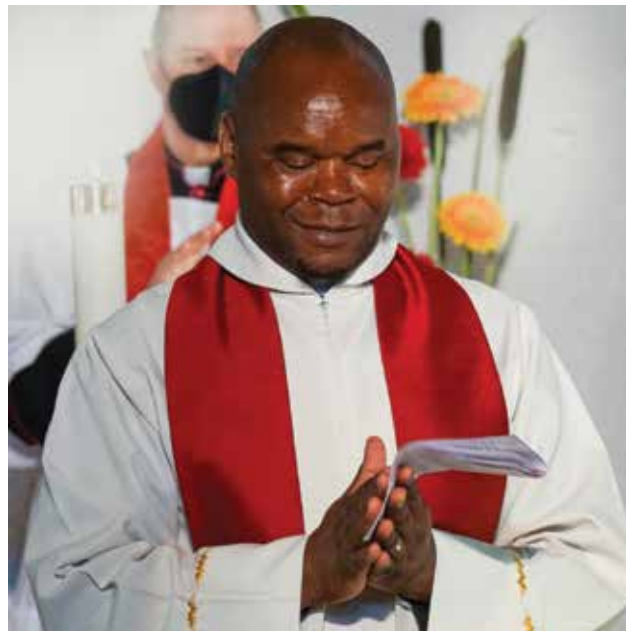
Executive Archdeacon of the diocese, the Ven. Douglas Fenton led the initial components of the Covenant in Ministry which included: the explanation of how Rev. Basvi was selected by the canonical committee and appointed by the bishop, the declaration of the Oath of Loyalty and signature, and the reading of the bishop's licence. The Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry of the Whole People of God took place with several members of the parish participating.

All were invited to participate in the Eucharist of one kind only, the Body of Christ, as the Common Cup is not currently being used in order to protect the health and safety of worshippers.

There was a reception in the church hall following the dismissal with a large congratulatory sheet cake, wine, coffee, tea, and a large assortment of treats available.

This was the first of 12 Celebrations of New Ministry that will take place up until October 18.

Suffice it to say, that it was wonderful to experience a parish gathering, although with some COVID-19 restric-



Rev. Simbarashe Basvi acknowledges the enthusiastic applause of welcome from the congregation.

tions in place, for example, no physical contact during "the peace," however, there was congregational singing, and the opportunity to worship together without having to reserve a space in the nave or fill out contact tracing forms. ✠



Norman Wong reads the Epistle, *Ephesians 4:7, 11-16* in Chinese (Cantonese).



Rev. Basvi receives the keys from Warden, Anthony Hana.



Sara Ciantar leads the singing of the Communion Hymn.



A posed shot of three rectors and a deacon, the past and present of the parish represented by the Reverends Basvi, Arthur Nash, Paul Woehrle and Deacon, the Rev. Karin Fulcher. Rev. Fulcher who has a long association at St. David's was Deacon of the Word and Table for the Eucharist.

Celebrations of New Ministry 2021

Celebrations of New Ministry 2021



Archdeacon Engnan and the new vicar, the Rev. Miranda Sutherland at St. Oswald's.



Clergy vesting before the St. Oswald's service.



Miranda and her granddaughter, Hailey at St. Oswald's.

Celebrations of a New Ministry at Holy Spirit, Whonnock & St. Oswald's, Port Kells

On the Feast of St. Mary the Virgin, Sunday, August 15, 2021 at 5pm, the Rev. Miranda Sutherland was installed as Vicar of Holy Spirit, Whonnock. Archdeacon Alan Carson was the officiant and presider, and the Rev. Alex Wilson was the preacher. The Rev. Sutherland was appointed to this ministry by Archbishop Melissa Skelton on November 1, 2019, to serve 40%, within a few months COVID-19 took hold, so this celebration was delayed almost two years.

Two days later on August 17, the Rev. Sutherland was also installed as Vicar of St. Oswald's, Port Kells by regional archdeacon, the Ven. Luisito Engnan. The preacher was the Rev. Helen Dunn. At the June 17, 2021 meeting of Diocesan Council, Council endorsed Bishop John Stephens' appointment (made following consultation with the lay leaders of both parishes) that the Rev. Sutherland's ministry at Holy Spirit be increased to 2/3rds time and that she become St. Oswald's vicar at 1/3rd time.

Many thanks to the Rev. Sutherland's daughter, Rhonda Sutherland for these photos. ✚



The Rev. Helen Dunn preaching at St. Oswald's.



All the vested clergy gathered for the Eucharist pose for a photo outside Holy Spirit.



The Holy Spirit Cake.



Holy Spirit: LEFT Signing the Oaths and Subscriptions during the Covenant in Ministry. MIDDLE Reply by Miranda at the font after the presentation of the water for baptism. RIGHT Miranda's daughter, Rhonda, the Ven. Douglas Fenton and the Ven. Alan Carson.

What a Wonderful, Long Journey it Has Been

The Induction of the Reverend Steve Black as Rector of the Parish of St. Hilda's, Sechelt

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The Very Rev. Peter Elliott, retired Dean of the diocese of New Westminster and retired Rector of Christ Church Cathedral was the preacher for the Celebration of a New Ministry Eucharist that featured the Induction of the Rev. Stephen Black as Rector of St. Hilda's, Sechelt on the Feast of St. Barnabas, August 24, 2021, by the Rt. Rev. John Stephens. He began his homily by thanking Rev. Black for inviting him to preach and ended his introductory remarks by commenting on Rev. Black's arrival as rector saying, "What a wonderful long journey it has been." For those of us that know Rev. Black's fondness for iconic Sna Francisco rock band, The Grateful Dead, the Very Rev. Elliott's remarks could be interpreted as a bit of a paraphrase of the well-known title of The Dead's 1977 compilation album, *What a Long Strange Trip It's Been*.

The Very Rev. Peter Elliott has known the Rev. Steve Black for decades and has had a ringside seat watching his development over time that eventually led to his ordination to the transitional diaconate on June 20, 2020, his priesting on December 12 of that same year, and the announcement of his appointment as Rector of St. Hilda's, Sechelt effective January 1, 2021. Once the die was cast, Steve's progress was quick, however the truth is it took him well over 20 years to get there.

At the service there was a good-sized congregation present and a few more participating online via Zoom. Following 18 months of interim ministry the Sunshine Coast parish were delighted to have an incumbent, and now eight months in, both priest and congregation agree that this new ministry is a good fit for all involved.

Music Director, Katherine Hume with the able assistance of Karen Weatherington and others led the music in worship. Archdeacon for Deacons in the diocese of New Westminster, the Ven. Bruce Morris is the parish' deacon,

so of course he was Deacon of the Word and Table. Other clergy in attendance included: the Regional Archdeacon of Capilano, the Ven. Stephen Muir; the Regional Dean of Sea to Sky, the Rev. Cameron Gutjahr; Deacon of the neighbouring parish, St. Bart's, Gibsons, the Rev. Stephen Bailey; the Rev. Stephen Rowe, Rector of the Church of the Epiphany, Surrey, Rev. Black's mentor and advisor during these early months of his first appointment; the Rev. Richard (Hergie) Hergeshiemer, Pastor of Living Faith Lutheran, Sechelt; and the Rev. Clarence Li, former Rector of St. Hilda's (January 1, 2010–August 31, 2019).

Bishop John Stephens made the first trip of his episcopacy to St. Hilda's for the induction. This was the second induction of a new rector for Bishop John, although Rev. Black was appointed by his predecessor, Archbishop Melissa Skelton. Executive Archdeacon, the Ven. Douglas Fenton was also present to facilitate the Covenant in Ministry, officially witnessing the signing of the Declarations, Oaths and Subscriptions and read the bishop's license.

A highlight of the liturgy took place prior to the Closing Hymn and Dismissal when Rev. Black's spouse Rhonda joined him on the chancel platform as he was presented with a beautiful, handcrafted stole using many shades of green. Rhonda helped Steve don the stole so he could model the new vestment for the congregation.

Members of the Anglican Church Women of the parish prepared plates of sandwiches and sweets in advance in order to reduce the number of people having direct contact with the refreshments and keeping COVID-19 prevention protocols a priority. ✦

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The Very Rev. Elliott's sermon is available on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2021-08-26-bringing-imagination-to-ministry>



Bishop John leads the applause of welcome.



All those arriving for worship had the opportunity to be brushed with cedar boughs.



LEFT Director of Music Katherine Hume with Karen Weatherington prepare to rehearse prior to worship. RIGHT The preacher, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott.



Archdeacon Morris dismisses the congregation.



Janet McIntosh reads
Deuteronomy 18:15-18.



Meg Stephens shares the Epistle,
1 Corinthians 4:9-15.



The Rev. Black displays the new stole, a gift from the parish.



A rare opportunity to photograph five of the diocese's seven ordained "Stephens."

Celebrations of New Ministry 2021

Celebrations of New Ministry 2021



Bishop John Stephens gathers the vested clergy and wardens for the Vestry Prayer.



Warden Barb Walks presents the keys to the buildings.



The preacher, the Rev. Armand Mercier. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray

An Ordained Leader Who Will Encourage Us to Live the Good News of Jesus Christ

The Induction of the Reverend Billy Isenor, OSF as Rector of the Parish of St. Mark, Ocean Park

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On August 25, 2021, the Feast of St. Bartholomew (transferred) there was a Celebration of a New Ministry Eucharist at St. Mark, Ocean Park. The Rev. Billy Isenor, OSF was inducted Rector of the Parish. Presiding at the induction and the Eucharist was the Rt. Rev. John Stephens, Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster.

Rev. Isenor succeeded the Rev. Craig Tanksley whose last service as rector of the parish was January 18, 2020.

Brother Billy, his wife Dana and their four children including a new baby arrived by car in Ocean Park from Spruce Grove, Alberta on July 2. The Rev. Isenor is one of several priests from the diocese of Edmonton now in ministry in the diocese of New Westminster.

A large congregation was on hand including a number of vested clergy and a contingent of members from St.



The Rev. Billy Isenor smiles as the congregation greets him with applause.

Mark's neighbouring parish, Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock. The liturgy was also available online.

There was lots of music in worship led by Music Director, Elizabeth Gilchrist and her team and the Bishop's Chaplain was Brian Walks, ODNW.

Returning to the parish where he was deacon for several years was the Rev. Steve Bailey, now deacon at St. Aidan and St. Bartholomew (St. Bart's), Gibsons.

Archdeacon of Fraser, the Ven. Luisito (Fr. Louie) Engnan, Vicar of St. Michael's and Christ the Redeemer, Surrey was on hand to welcome the new priest to the archdeaconry. Regional Dean of Peace Arch and Rector of St. Helen's, Surrey, the Rev. Stephen Laskey welcomed Rev. Isenor to the deanery. Ironically, Rev. Laskey had resigned his ministry posts in the diocese and retired October 15, his last service as rector of St. Helen's was September 26, so their time as deanery colleagues was very brief.

Preacher, the Rev. Armand Mercier, recently installed as Vicar of St. Alban's, Richmond and also in ministry as Pastoral Assistant at Christ Church Cathedral has been a colleague of Rev. Isenor for many years in their former diocese, the diocese of Edmonton.

Rev. Mercier in the opening remarks of his homily shared that August 25, 2021 was the one-year anniversary of the death of the new rector's father, Bill Isenor, Senior.

Rev. Mercier then explained that he has been friends with St. Mark's new rector for the 15 years that he had been resident in the diocese of Edmonton and "that after all this time that he has spent in Alberta's beautiful capitol city, he still cheers for the Canuck's and the BC Lions. Talk about misguided faith!"

During a conversation with the Very Rev. Chris Pappas, Dean of the diocese of New Westminster and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver, he remarked that his diocese of Edmonton colleague, the Rev. Isenor is an accomplished chef. Further research revealed that he has stellar track record as a chef since his early 20s working at many restaurants in BC and won the Grand Gold award for cuisine in the Western Canadian Culinary Arts Festival in Kelowna in May 2002. Bon Appetit! ☙



Sanctus during the Eucharistic Prayer.



The unmasked, posed archival shot of rector and bishop.



The Reverends Chris Magrega and Steve Bailey execute the rarely seen and heard Double Deacon Dismissal.

Celebration of a New Ministry at Holy Cross



The Covenant in Ministry. The wardens stand and present the new priest to Archdeacon Hunt. ALL PHOTOS Mido Seori, ODNW



Deacon, the Rev. Elizabeth Mathers, Alecia's colleague from her time at St. Clement's, Lynn Valley at the rehearsal prior to worship.

On Sunday, August 15, 2021 at 2pm, a joyful Celebration of a New Ministry Eucharist took place at Holy Cross in East Vancouver's Main Street neighbourhood. The Rev. Alecia Greenfield was installed as vicar of the parish by the Archdeacon of Burrard and Rector of St. James', the Ven. Fr. Kevin Hunt. United Church Minister, Rev. Andria Irwin was the preacher. A highlight of the liturgy was a letter to the parish written by Bishop John Stephens, congratulating them on the new ministry and sending best wishes for the future.

On February 10, 2020, the parish celebrated the new ministry of the Rev. Lucy Price who was appointed and installed by Archbishop Melissa Skelton. The parish had been without an incumbent since the departure of the Rev. Daebin Im in the spring of 2018. The Rev. Price resigned effective April 30, 2021, in order to relocate with her family to Powell River. The Rev. Greenfield was completing a

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Induction of the Reverend Helen Dunn as Rector of St. Clement's

PREPARED WITH FILES FROM PEGGY TRENDSELL-JENSEN

Despite the many moving parts and people, everything went beautifully at the Celebration of a new Ministry Eucharist that saw the Rev. Helen Dunn inducted as Rector of St. Clement's, Lynn Valley on Tuesday, August 31. Bishop John Stephens presided, while Archdeacon of Capilano, Stephen Muir and Regional Dean, Patrick Blaney welcomed their new ministry colleague to the Capilano Archdeaconry and the North Vancouver Region Deanery. Archdeacon Muir and Rev. Blaney were among the many vested clergy in attendance.

Also in attendance was a sizeable contingent from the Parish of Christ Church Cathedral where Helen had served as Cathedral Vicar for the past five years. Several members of the Mt. Olivet Lutheran community, and the Rev. Franklyn James, St. Clement's new neighbour in ministry at Lynn Valley United Church were also present. The Rev. Miranda Sutherland, Vicar of Holy Spirit, Whonnock and St. Oswald's, Port Kells was a companion of Helen's in a diocesan vocational program, and she offered a spirited sermon.

Many took part in presenting Helen with the traditional symbols of her ministry during the Covenant in Ministry, such as the prayer book, the church canons, bread and wine for the Eucharist, and the keys to the building. Newly added at this service was a presentation of a pot of soil from the parish ground, with the intent that Helen work with the parish in stewarding this corner of God's creation. Youth group leader Mark Trendell-Jensen gave a special welcome on behalf of the youth.

Worship was followed by a garden reception, beautifully presented by the hospitality team at St. Clement's and bedecked with strings of twinkly lights. ✠

An archive recording of the livestream of the liturgy is available on St. Clement's website at <https://www.stclementschurch.ca/livestreams/71>.



The Rev. Helen Dunn at the lectern. ALL PHOTOS Kath Bierbach



The preacher, the Rev. Miranda Sutherland.



St. Clement's Youth Leader, Mark Trendell-Jensen welcomes Helen on behalf of the youth of the parish.



Helen receives the Canons from Ken Hanney, ODNW during the Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry.

Celebration of a New Ministry at Holy Cross

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

curacy at St. Francis-in-the-Wood, Caulfeild and had also been appointed to Synod staff part time as Special Projects Facilitator in the Mission and Ministry department with a focus on the diocesan response to the climate crisis. All parties involved recognized the mutual benefits of Alecia's appointment as vicar and a new ministry was born. ✠



The preacher, Rev. Andria Irwin.



All stand and applaud as Helen is welcomed as the ordained leader of the shared ministry of St. Clement, Lynn Valley.



Archdeacon Hunt and the new vicar smile as a letter to the parish from Bishop John Stephens is read.



Cutting the cake at the outdoor reception.



The Cake!

Celebrations of New Ministry 2021

Celebrations of New Ministry 2021



Jean Senior of UAM presents a ceremonial drum during the presentations of the symbols of ministry.



Members of the congregation applaud the new vicar. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray



The Rev. Carrothers gestures her appreciation as she is welcomed with applause.



Jessica Seegerts, niece of the late Rev. Vivian Seegers performs a ritual smudging.



Singer/Drummer and UAM member Jesse Bear poses for a photo with a drum emblazoned with the UAM logo.

For Healing, Celebration & Right Relationship The installation of the Reverend Tasha Carrothers as Vicar of St. Mary Magdalene

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On Wednesday, September 1, 2021, there was a Celebration of a New Ministry Eucharist at the Parish of St. Mary Magdalene in Vancouver's VGH (Vancouver General Hospital) neighbourhood. The Rev. Tasha Carrothers who was appointed vicar of the parish effective March 1, 2021, was officially installed by regional archdeacon, the Ven. Stephanie Shepard.

Just moments before the 6pm rehearsal of the liturgy was to begin, thousands of people marched west in the north lane of 12th Avenue, two blocks north of the sanctuary protesting vaccination passports etc. The joy-filled, prayerful celebration that began at 7pm was an emotional counterpoint to that negative event.

Every member of the parish present had a role to play in the liturgy. The parish is also home base for Urban Aboriginal Ministry (UAM), the compassionate service ministry founded and established by the late priest, the Rev. Vivian Seegers who died of complications due to COVID-19, June 2, 2021.

Rev. Carrothers' appointment was a direct appointment succeeding the Rev. John Marsh who had served the parish as vicar for many years and retired at the beginning of 2021.

There was substantial turnout of clergy, many from the Oakridge deanery but also many from outside the region as Rev. Carrothers' ministry is well known and highly regarded around the diocese and around the Anglican Church of Canada. For 12 years prior to ordination and for two years following ordination Rev. Carrothers was Missioner for Parish Development in the diocese of New Westminster where she was an effective and skilled voice in parish development, church growth and church vitality programs and practice. However, ordained ministry was always her

goal, and it was a great pleasure for all of us present at this Celebration of a New Ministry to see that goal fulfilled.

Although not unique, the parish has a particular worship style, seated in the round, all who are present are part of the worship and there is a connection to the liturgy that one does not usually find at a more conventional Anglican church. Sound is an important part of the spiritual practice of the parish not only the human voice but singing bowls, and bells are used as calls to prayer and mark different sections of the Eucharist. Liturgist Pam Martin, ODNW with musicians Marianne Huestis and Pat Mullins facilitate a worship experience that creates an harmonious environment for prayer and contemplation.



The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The preacher for the Celebration of a New Ministry Eucharist was the Rev. Sharon Smith, Vicar of St. Catherine, Capilano who was a member of the parish prior to her ordination to the transitional diaconate in 2018 and her priesting in 2019. Rev. Smith made references to her connection to the parish in her homily.

During the Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry of the Whole People of God which is a significant component of the Covenant in Ministry section of a Celebration of a New Ministry Eucharist there has been increasing emphasis on symbols which highlight the Anglican Church's priority to journey toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, First Nations, Métis and Inuit. St. Mary Magdalene shares its space and resources with Urban Aboriginal Ministry so the commitment of the parish to support reconciliation is even more profound. On September 1, during the presentations, Jean Senior of UAM presented Rev. Carrothers with a ceremonial drum and said these words:

"Tasha, we look to you to work with the Urban Aboriginal Ministry and the Indigenous peoples of this land, that we may be faithful allies, sharing the path of healing and agents of reconciliation."

To which the Rev. Carrothers addressing all those gathered, replied:

"I invite all of you to join with me in working for healing, celebration and right relationship."✠

The Rev. Sharon Smith's homily is available on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2021-09-01-the-installation-of-the-reverend-tasha-carrothers>



LEFT Tasha's spouse, Mary Ann Saunders shares the first reading, Colossians 1:1-8. RIGHT The preacher, the Rev. Sharon Smith, Vicar of St. Catherine, Capilano. Prior to ordination Rev. Smith was a member of the Parish of St. Mary Magdalene.



LEFT Sean leads the Prayers of the People. RIGHT Not only was the Ven. Shepard the presider and officiant for the Celebration of a New Ministry, but she is also the Archdeacon of Granville and welcomes the new priest to the archdeaconry with gifts.



Honorary Recipient of the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster for 2020 Invested

Congratulations to Captain Oscar Pinto, ODNW

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor



Bishop John Stephens and Captain Oscar Pinto, ODNW pose for a photo following the worship and investiture.



Captain Pinto and the Rev. Peter Smyth, Senior Port Chaplain, Mission to Seafarers.

In June 2020, Captain Oscar Pinto agreed to accept investiture into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW) as an honorary inductee for his outstanding service to the ministry of caring for those who work in the shipping industry, and for his support of the Mission to Seafarers's.

With the cancellation of the diocese's annual Investiture Event scheduled for November 2020 and the ongoing restrictions on gathering, the official investiture had to wait until September 25, 2021. On the morning of September 25, during the Eucharist that began the annual Diocesan Council Working Retreat Day, Captain Pinto was invested into the ODNW. Diocesan Dean, the Very Rev. Chris Pappas placed the medal and ribbon around his neck; in lieu of a Citation, the Ven. Douglas Fenton read a brief biography of Captain Pinto's service and Bishop John Stephens led the prayers and officiated the investiture.

Here is the bio that Archdeacon Douglas Fenton read prior to the investing:

Captain Oscar Pinto began his sea career with the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) in 1973, and worked his way up, getting his Masters and Command in 1982. Oscar joined Valles Steamship Company Ltd. of Hong Kong in 1986, and then sailed onboard their various oil tankers as Master until 1992 before becoming Superintendent of the shore management team, responsible for Health, Safety and Environment, and Human Resources. He came to Vancouver in 1995, relocating with Valles from Hong Kong, and has been an active member of the local marine community ever since. Oscar sits on numerous boards, including as Chairman of the International Ship-Owners Alliance of Canada Inc. (ISAC; 2005–present); Chairman of the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO)

North American Panel (NAP; 2014–present); Director of the Board of Valles Steamship (Canada) Ltd. (2002–present); and also holds an executive role as Treasurer on the Board of the Chamber of Shipping of BC (March 2019–present). He has been a Director of the Board of the Chamber of Shipping since 2018. Additionally, Oscar sits on the Programme Advisory Committee of the British Columbia Institute of Technology (2013–present). Oscar has always exhibited a great concern for the welfare of the crew with whom he sailed, and provided mentorship and support for all seafarers, especially those from his native India. This background served him well as a Director of the Board of the Mission to Seafarers of Vancouver from 2000–2007 and 2010–2019 for a total of 16 years of service. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Roberts Bank Seafarers Centre, acted as interim Chair through times of transition, and brought his experience to the work of caring for the seafarers. Oscar and his family are active members of the parish of Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in South Delta, supporting parish outreach such as that to temporary migrant workers and the homeless and marginalized around Ladner. He has been a long-time member and Chair of the Rotary Club's North Shore Chapter. Oscar has demonstrated effective leadership which has gained the respect and admiration of others. He has also demonstrated a deep concern for the marginalized and actively responded to their needs.

Captain Pinto joins the other five honorary members of the ODNW:

- Terry Aleck, ODNW | Invested 2019
- Bette Geddes, ODNW | Invested 2019
- George Macintosh QC, ODNW | Invested 2011
- Ludmilla Herbst, ODNW | Invested 2011
- Tim Dickson, ODNW | Invested 2011 ✠

Parish Celebration Marks 10th Anniversary

The Rev. Allen Doerksen at St. Matthew, Abbotsford

ART TURNBULL

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

The Parish of St. Matthew, Abbotsford marked the tenth anniversary of the Rev. Allen Doerksen's incumbency on Sunday, September 5, 2021.

After several years of imposed inactive presence in Abbotsford, the encouragement of Bishop Ingham brought a

few Anglicans together for worship at St. Matthew's. The hall was used for the service in 2010, under the watchfulness of competitive Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC) members. This was a lay-led beginning.

In early 2011, Rev. Doerksen was appointed as "Mis-

sioner" to give leadership to the small group. The timing of this new ministry came as the diocese regained authority over the facilities of the St. Matthew's buildings and belongings in July of 2011. Worship moved into the sanctuary. There were a number of new worshippers beginning to attend church.

The small beginning, under sometime hostile activities, has created a thriving congregation. This still growing and ever-changing parish serves a wide variety of people of many backgrounds and all ages. Fr. Allen's leadership continues to guide the mission of the parish, witnessing to the needs of Abbotsford and beyond.

Allen is now not only the Vicar of St. Matthew's, but also of St. Thomas, Chilliwack. He has led the mission in Abbotsford out of dependence and into a sustainable parish, connected to the history of over 100 years of presence in this part of the Fraser Valley. Now, onwards!

Here are some comments from former warden Linda Burton:

"Cookies, Cromwell, cards and conversation marked the after-service celebration of the Rev. Allen Doerksen's ten years at St. Matthew's, Abbotsford. The cookies were homemade by parishioner Mary Lee and distributed according to COVID protocols. Cromwell was in biography form—a thick book on a topic of interest to Allen. Enclosed in cards of congratulations and appreciation were restaurant gift cards for Allen and Denise, while other cards and one-to-one conversations expressed various parishioners' thanks for Allen's continuing ministry as vicar of the parish. Later, personal wishes arrived from Bishop John Stephens; retired archbishop, the Most Rev. Melissa Skelton; and the appointing bishop of ten years ago, the Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham. As a symbol of all the challenges over these ten years—moving from diocesan full support to now self-sustaining (½-time position at St. Matthew's, ½-time at St. Thomas, Chilliwack)—Allen found himself with a 'Labyrinth' wooden puzzle that requires a marble manipulated via two tilting trays past many drop holes to reach its destination. The parishioners of St. Matthew's enthusiastically agreed that it was good to have this joyful and good-humoured occasion to mark Allen's decade of ministry in Abbotsford." ✠



Allen displaying the wooden "Labyrinth" puzzle present, representing the twists and turns his last ten years have taken in re-establishing St. Matthew's presence (two handles = his appointment at two parishes now).



Linda Burton, former warden, reading a summary of happenings over the last ten years, in building, liturgy, and social interactions.

PHOTOS Courtesy of Dick Lee

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Cycle for Seafarers 2021



LEFT Jane Dittrich (Christ Church Cathedral), Senior Port Chaplain Rev. Peter Smyth on the Hornby Street bike path. RIGHT Riders line up outside of the Mission on Waterfront Road, all set to go.

Many thanks to Jane Dittrich of Christ Church Cathedral for sending in these photos chronicling the August 28, 40km and 60km rides to raise money for the Mission to Seafarers.

Jane was the only “church” rider this year but did Christ Church Cathedral and the diocese of New Westminster proud by raising \$2,435 which was \$435 over her

\$2,000 goal.

In a post on the Mission to Seafarer’s website, Senior Port Chaplain, the Rev. Peter Smyth had this to say about the day:

“As another summer draws to a close so does the Cycle for Seafarers 2021, an opportunity to get outside and cycle and while doing it raise some funds for the Mission’s work of supporting the seafarers who have never needed it so much.

As Chaplain I want to take the opportunity to say how much I appreciate everyone who took part in the event, be it on the planning committee, cycling or making a donation.

The planning committee did an excellent job in spite of the changing circumstances and have laid a good foundation for Cycle for Seafarers 2022, with plans underway already.

Thanks to Yvette Myers, James Lawson, Gordon Yahn, Lori King, Jane McIvor, Bonnie Gee, Doug Towill (Hon) and the driving force behind it all, Don MacInnes.

Those who came out on Saturday, August 28 to cycle the 40km and 60km on a perfect day enjoyed themselves.

To the individual and corporate sponsors thank you for thinking of the well-being of the seafarers. I assure you that the money raised does make a difference (no matter how small) to the lives of the seafarers who come to the Port of Vancouver.” ♦



Team Swire Vancouver, riding to raise money for Mission to Seafarers.



Riders heading through downtown Vancouver towards the Burrard Street Bridge.

Monthly Community Meal Under New Management at All Saints’ Ladner

Many thanks to All Saints’ rector, the Rev. Robin Ruder-Celiz for these photos of the re-launch of the community meal at the

Ladner parish. With some recent changes to the parish’s lay leadership the meal is now “under new management” but remains

under the culinary control of Chef Derek Bothwell. The meal takes place monthly on Tuesdays from 6pm – 7pm. ♦



The All Saints’ Ladner Community Meal is back with a monthly take-out service.



LEFT Chef Derek Bothwell who prepped and cooked an amazing meal including chicken, rice, roasted carrots, Caesar Salad, and zucchini cake. RIGHT Volunteers prepare take-out containers.

Delta Lifeboat Rescues Lone Yachtsman

SUBMISSION Elizabeth Murray ODNW

St. David, Delta’s parishioner, John Horton, captain of the Canadian Lifeboat Institute’s *Delta Lifeboat*, hardly expected a recent Saturday morning training session to become a real-life rescue experience for his trainees. It began when crew sighted a stricken 33-foot sailing yacht aground on the rocks that form the Albion Jetty, one of two manmade structures built to control the water-flow at the Fraser River Estuary.

From late the previous night, the lone yachtman’s vessel had been stranded on the Delta side of the Fraser River, south of Steveston and close to Westham Island. This area has trapped many vessels over the years and is one of the dangers that lurk in the Fraser River Estuary.

Captain John Horton made a quick check with the Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre (JRCC) in Victoria and, as the incident had not been reported, the Lifeboat was tasked to investigate.

On approaching the yacht, the lone sailor advised the Lifeboat crew that he had been sailing from Victoria, but had no experience on the Fraser and no radio to call for assistance. Unfortunately, running hard aground at the height of the evening tide made it impossible to refloat the vessel until a full tide cycle of 24 hours.

Responding to an alert from Pacific Region’s JRCC, the Sea Island-based Canadian Coast Guard hovercraft *Moytel*, made swift passage to join *Delta Lifeboat* still standing by at the rescue location. The yacht was then boarded and inspected for damage. As it was not taking on water, and with a falling tide, plans were made to attempt to refloat the yacht on the next high tide at 10 o’clock that night. It was agreed the *Delta Lifeboat* would return to the Albion Jetty location to tow the yacht free as the tide rose. Finally, with only two inches of high tide left, the vessel slid off the rocks with no further apparent damage.

The yacht was then towed to Steveston and safely secured at 11:45pm, to the relief of a grateful yachtman. The *Delta Lifeboat* returned to its Ladner station securing at 12:30am.

John is a celebrated marine artist and a recipient of the Order of British Columbia. ♦



PHOTO Submitted

DEADLINE FOR TOPIC SUBMISSIONS

November 19 for the January 2022 issue

AROUND THE DIOCESE

The Feast of Holy Cross at Holy Cross

Many thanks to Holy Cross' photographer in residence, Midori Seo, ODNW for this photo of the community from the bishop's episcopal visit, September 12, the Feast of Holy Cross (transferred).
This was Bishop Stephens' first official visit of his episcopacy to the parish and the calendar cooperated with his availability for

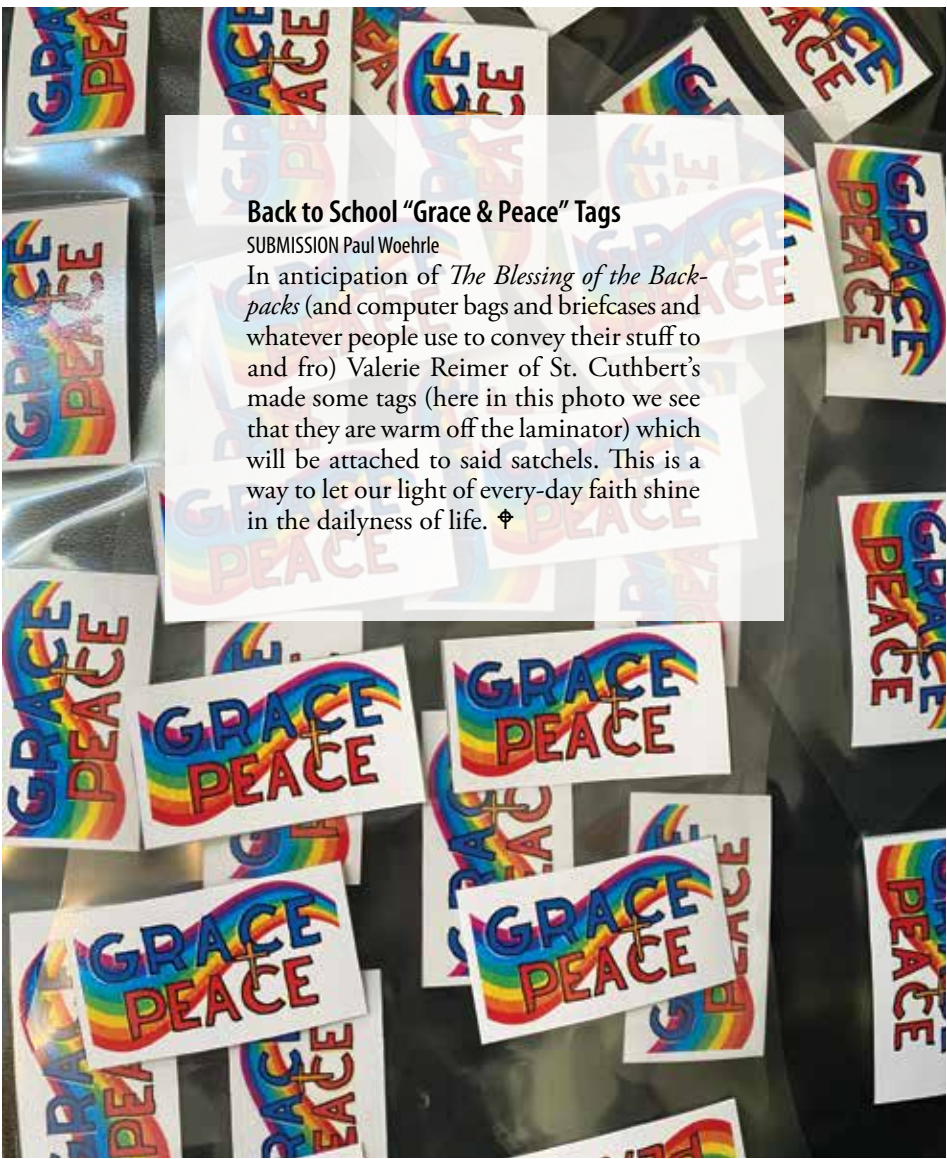
the parish's patronal festival.
Vicar, the Rev. Alecia Greenfield, Deacon, the Rev. Katherine Yeo and the entire community were delighted with his visit and the well-known Holy Cross hospitality was on display, with a celebratory luncheon after worship. ✠



West Van Parish Pledges to Aid the Village of Lytton

SUBMISSION Hilary Clark
Parishioners at St. Stephen's, West Vancouver listened with dismay to the plight of the people of Lytton since the devastating fire that destroyed most of the village on June 30, 2021. Inspired by a sermon preached by rector, Rev. Ken Vinal concerning love and charity, two ideas to help came forward. The first involved repurposing items no longer needed by some members of the aging congregation, many who are down-sizing, and the second involved the already planned *Lavender Tea* that was so successful last year.
Members of the parish consulted with the Rev. Angus Muir of St. Barnabas' Anglican Church in Lytton, and also with Margaret Mitchell, the secretary of the diocese of the Territory of the People. They learned that many of the people of Lytton are homeless, spread out all over the province as guests in friends' homes, and desperately need financial help. Members of St. Stephen's agreed that they should fundraise in order to help. Rev. Vinal suggested a Thanksgiving auction of home-baked desserts prepared by members of the parish, with the proceeds going to Lytton. The thinking was that desserts will

be very welcome offered the Sunday before Thanksgiving, and the money could be sent to Lytton as a Thanksgiving gift to be shared as needed either through the Parish of St. Barnabas, or through an aid organization like the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) or the Red Cross. In an interesting aside it was learned that neither the church nor the parish hall were destroyed by the fire: the fires curved right around them!
St. Stephen's *Lavender Tea* features the use of the lavender found growing on the parish grounds and in members' gardens. The organizing committee harvests the lavender and makes sachets to sell as lavender tea is served in the church hall. This event is carefully set out to abide by the recent health restrictions. The proceeds from the 2021 version will go to Lytton.
The Thanksgiving dessert auction took place on Sunday, October 3, and the *Lavender Tea* is scheduled for November 21 after worship. ✠
.....
St. Stephen's West Vancouver is located at 885-22nd Street, West Vancouver.



Back to School "Grace & Peace" Tags

SUBMISSION Paul Woehrlé
In anticipation of *The Blessing of the Backpacks* (and computer bags and briefcases and whatever people use to convey their stuff to and fro) Valerie Reimer of St. Cuthbert's made some tags (here in this photo we see that they are warm off the laminator) which will be attached to said satchels. This is a way to let our light of every-day faith shine in the dailyness of life. ✠

Greeting at Christ Church Cathedral, a Family Affair

On September 19, the Halyk family (Mark, Jennifer, Greyson and Ainsley) enjoyed their first week greeting and ushering at Christ Church Cathedral at the 10:30am Sunday Eucharist. They were trained and guided by longtime greeting and hospitality leader, Jane Dittrich. So wonderful to have a family team as part of this vital ministry, and Greyson and Ainsley did a fabulous job of cheerfully welcoming people at the Cathedral's main doors. Parish greeting is a wonderful way to meet new people, and how lovely to have children joining this ministry! ✠



PHOTO Jane Dittrich

Blessing of the Electronic Vehicle Charging Station at 1410 Nanton Avenue



The technician completes the basic install on September 22.



Rev. Alecia Greenfield and a canine friend listen as Bishop Stephens leads the prayers.



The ceremonial "first charging" of a staff member's hybrid vehicle. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray

The installation for the first of the two charging stations proposed for the Synod Office was completed on September 23. With the addition of a second charging cable, this first unit will ultimately be able to charge two vehicles. The electrical for a second station is available and the stanchions may be "daisy-chained" to create more stations as the need increases.
On September 23, 2021 at 11am, Bishop John Stephens led prayers from the *Seasons of Creation* resource and blessed the new station. There was also the ceremonial "first charging" of a staff member's hybrid vehicle. ✠



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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Clergy News Around the Diocese

The bishop has appointed the Rev. David Taylor as Co-Chair of the Ecumenical/Multi-faith Unit effective August 24. David brings a fresh perspective to this work especially in our relations to the evangelical and free church expressions of the Christian faith.

The Rev. Dixie Black has retired as an active deacon at Christ Church Cathedral effective August 31, 2021. Directly following her ordination to the diaconate in 2009, Dixie has served at the Cathedral.

The Ven. Stephanie Shepard was appointed Assistant Priest-in-Charge of St. Francis-in-the-Wood effective September 1 and on the retirement of the Rev. Angus Stuart on October 1, Archdeacon Shepard became the interim priest-in-charge.

The bishop appointed the Rev. Clare Morgan as ½-time Assistant to the Rector at Christ Church Cathedral effective October 1. In addition to pastoral duties, Rev. Morgan will be primarily responsible for the St. Brigid congregation. Clare will conclude her time as Chaplain to St. Jude Anglican Home to begin her appointment at the Cathedral.

The Rev. Lorne Manweiler has been appointed Rector of St. Philip, Dunbar effective October 1. Rev. Manweiler comes to our diocese from the diocese of Edmonton. Lorne will succeed the Rev. Stuart Hallam as rector. The Celebration of a New Ministry Eucharist took place on October 18. Coverage is available on the diocesan website news pages and in the December issue



The Rev. Lorne Manweiler. PHOTO Submitted

of *Topic*. Many thanks to Rev. Manweiler for submitting the follow biographical information:

Prior to his assuming his new ministry role at St. Philip's, Rev. Lorne Manweiler was Rector of St. Timothy's Anglican Church, Edmonton, and Diocesan Canon for Worship and Liturgy for the Diocese of Edmonton. Hailing from Vernon, BC and an alumnus of the University of British Columbia and Concordia Lutheran Seminary, he has served Lutheran and Anglican parishes in Medicine Hat, Calgary, Vulcan, Wetaskiwin, and Edmonton. He has most recently served as instructor of organ and sessional professor of theology at Concordia University of Edmonton and Concordia Lutheran Seminary. Rev. Manweiler is a sought-after international



The Rev. Terry Dibas. PHOTO Submitted

recitalist, clinician, facilitator, and lecturer in church music, liturgy, doctrine, and Christian identity.

Lorne is an avid spin class addict, coffee lover, bookworm, potluck casserole aficionado, and Trekkie.

Bishop Stephens appointed the Rev. Philippa Segrave-Pride as Interim Priest-in-Charge of St. Helen, Surrey effective October 16. Philippa concluded her appointment as Priest-in-Charge of St. Philip, Dunbar on September 30. The former Rector of St. Helen's, the Rev. Stephen Laskey celebrated his final Eucharist as rector on September 16 and officially retired October 15.

It was announced on September 26, 2021, that the Rev. Terry Shields Dirbas

has been appointed Rector of St. John's, Shaughnessy. The appointment begins December 1. Many thanks to Rev. Dilbas for submitting the follow biographical information:

The Rev. Terry Shields Dirbas grew up in the southeastern United States. She holds a BA in Religion from Duke University in Durham, North Carolina; a Master of Divinity from General Theological Seminary in New York City; and she is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree through Virginia Theological Seminary. Terry was ordained to the priesthood in San Diego, California, in 2010. Her first call was as Associate Rector and Chaplain to the Day School at Christ Church, Coronado, and later she served as Associate Rector at All Souls', Point Loma.

In addition to parish work, she has also served on the board of directors of the nonprofit Episcopal Community Services and as the chair of the Commission on Ministry of the diocese of San Diego. She is married to the Rev. Joseph Dirbas, who is also an Episcopal priest, and together they have five young children: George, Jeannie, Chatham, James, and Mary.

The Rev. Michael Forshaw died on Friday, August 27 while in hospice care. Rev. Forshaw, sometime priest of the Anglican Church of Canada and having assisted in several parishes in the diocese, had returned to the Roman Catholic Church as a priest. On Wednesday, October 20, the Rev. Fr. Neil Gray offered the Noon Hour Mass at St. James' as a Requiem for Fr. Michael. ✠

OPINION

Talking to Athenians

LESLIE BUCK
St. Paul's, Vancouver

exhort (verb)

ex-hort | \ ɪg-ˈzɔrt

transitive verb

: to incite by argument or advice : urge strongly
// exhorting voters to do the right thing

intransitive verb

: to give warnings or advice : make urgent appeals

Some 20 years ago, a fellow parishioner told me that we needed to hire a curate to go around the neighbourhood high-rises exhorting people to come to church. Without increased attendance, leading to increased revenues, the parish, he thought, would not survive. His concern was well-founded, although parish survival was ultimately secured by an unforeseen providential source of revenue.

My friend expressed his point rather crudely, as if the parish were a commercial enterprise looking for customers, but many others make the same point in more measured terms, citing many handy scriptural texts to support their claim that preaching the Gospel implies exhorting people to convert.

The continual anxiety around the need, and duty, to make new converts is long-standing. My own memory goes back to the immediate post-war years in England when the Christian Commandos were given the task of shaking people out of their indifference to the Church. They did not succeed, so the Mission to London took up where they left off, with no more success. Shortly after that, Billy Graham came to England to call us to Christ and to warn us of the dangers of godless communism.

Over the years one campaign succeeded another while church affiliation in England fell relentlessly. We can observe the same trend in Canada, with perhaps a generation lapse, and even in the United States, but with a longer lapse. It is common to all Western nations (but not, it seems, to China and nations in Africa and Latin America).

The main reaction to campaign failures over the years has been to question where we have been going wrong. According to this view, if we could only find the right approach all would be well, and we would be able, to put it in current jargon, "To grow the church."

But there is an alternative explanation: we are victims of



The St. Paul Window at St. Paul's, Vancouver. PHOTO Submitted

our circumstances, the circumstances being that in Canada we live in a society which is pervasively secular, with no God-spot, and most of our neighbours regard religion, of whatever kind, with indifference.

Living in a secular society is not without its advantages. The churches do not have an incestuous, mutually depen-

dent relationship with the state and do not have to take a prurient interest in the sex lives of others. We can set our own agenda, which includes criticizing the state on behalf of the disenfranchised. Even so, secularism inevitably affects how we preach the Gospel.

The reason why secularism is dominant is a matter of debate, but failure on the part of local churches is not one of them. On the other hand, acting as if a major reversal were about to happen can lead only to disappointment and disenchantment, so we need to adopt a new strategy. Developing a complete strategy is not something to be done in the space of a short article, and I will limit myself to one point: our new strategy should be characterized by attraction not exhortation.

In the recent past we have exhorted others, trying to persuade them to accept the Faith. Exhorting implies fighting against the prevailing culture of secularism and indifference. Attraction, by contrast, avoids that stumbling block. We can allow events to take their course.

A person attracted by the beauty or mystery or consolation of our liturgy, or by our work in helping each other and in seeking a more just economic system, does not first have to surrender their currently held beliefs and attitudes. They can respond to what we offer without first worrying about their reasons (or our arguments) for doing so. We, and they, can then deal with the theology in due course.

This was the strategy adopted by St. Paul in his missionary journeys. In each city, he first addressed the Jews, and then he addressed the "God-fearers," those Greeks and Romans who had been attracted to Judaism but who felt unable to accept its more demanding requirements (like circumcision) and so remained unconverted. Among them, St. Paul found eager new followers for Christ. By contrast, when he went to the marketplace seeking to persuade the uninterested, as he did in Athens, the outcome was less to his wishes.

We have concerned ourselves too much with the Athenians of our day. Let us instead turn our attention to the many people who are attracted by and interested in what we do, those who see our light shine and give glory to our Father in heaven. When, as will inevitably be the case, the culture of our society becomes more sympathetic to our cause, we can go back to exhortation. ✠

OPINION

Harry Potter, Gandalf & the Baptism of One's Own Greatgrandchild

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

Retired Priest of the diocese of Calgary; former Dean of the diocese of New Westminster & Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver

One of the joys of ordained ministry is that you can find yourself baptizing your own great grandchildren. For me those joyful occasions were a few years apart, but on each occasion, when someone gingerly lifted a great grandchild into my arms, I was struck by an intriguing thought.

As I held these children — remember, not at the same time! — I realized that in each case I was in the presence of a time-traveller newly arrived from the future! After all, why not? Just as there stretches a long road behind me into the past, before both of them the future stretches away into the 22nd century.

At one point in the service, I said a prayer that asks God for four gifts for a newly baptized child.

*An enquiring and discerning heart.
The courage to will and to persevere.
A spirit to know and to love God,
And the gift of Joy and Wonder
in all God's works.*

While saying the prayer, I found myself thinking about the meaning of this ancient rite of Baptism.

First, I recalled a small book I had read many years before for our son Niall. The title was *Johnny and the 6 Dreadful Giants*. Johnny gets a letter from the King inviting him to visit the King's castle. The journey is long and dangerous, so the King sends Johnny a sword. Johnny does indeed have many struggles before he reaches the King's castle.

There are many such stories where the young traveller is given something for the journey. In Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* the wizard Gandalf gives Frodo a ring of great power. In the Harry Potter saga, the giant Hagrid takes Harry down a perfectly ordinary street. Suddenly they walk through a wall into another world, where Harry receives a wand for his coming journey.

So, I thought, we now have a sword for Jimmy, a ring for Frodo and a wand for Harry. What do we have for James and Emma on their baptismal day, the first day of their Christian journey?

I think we give James and Emma something powerful, beautiful and eternal. We give them a *story*. This is significant because James and Emma have set out on the journey of their lives. We know that at some point they will ask the biggest question we can ask as human beings. They will ask, "What is the meaning of my life." It may come in teen years or in young adulthood. When it does come, those who love them have a sacred duty to tell them the story

as they themselves understand it and have tried to live it. Here is my effort to tell such a story when the right time in life comes.

Dear James and Emma, a long time before you started the journey of your life, someone did the journey before you. His name was Jesus of Nazareth. He lived a life that was fully human but of extraordinary spiritual power. Even when he died at the hands of his enemies, he remained alive in the hearts and experience of his friends. This has continued down through time to this moment in which you and I are thinking about him.

Thanks to four short books written about him, we know much about Jesus. For instance, we

know that he had wonderfully honed gifts for healing human suffering. He had a dream of a just and fair world that drew people to him. That dream or vision he called the Kingdom of God. He gave us one command — devastatingly simple but deeply challenging — that we love one another.

Because many followed him, Jesus also had enemies, and because of them he died on a cross. However, after he died his friends knew him to be alive in their hearts. It seemed that Jesus' life was a kind of light that nobody could put out.

One important thing you need to know. Just before he was tortured and executed, Jesus invited his friends to a meal. At that meal he said many things, but he especially said three things. He said that anyone who followed him would always be his friend. He said that whenever his friends would share the simple meal of that evening, he would be there among them, and he asked them to tell others about his dream for a world of justice and love. You and I can share that meal every time we share Bread and Wine in Church.

By the way, don't forget those four spiritual gifts.

*An enquiring heart.
Courage to persevere.
Love for God.
Joy and Wonder.*

Check them because there may come a time in your life when you will long for those things more than anything else in the world.

I hope someday you may find yourself telling this to someone you love very much, as I love you.

As you know, a story can be told many ways. The story I have imagined my telling an older James and Emma is the way that one great-grandfather would tell it. You tell it your way. The really important thing is that the story never be forgotten. ✠

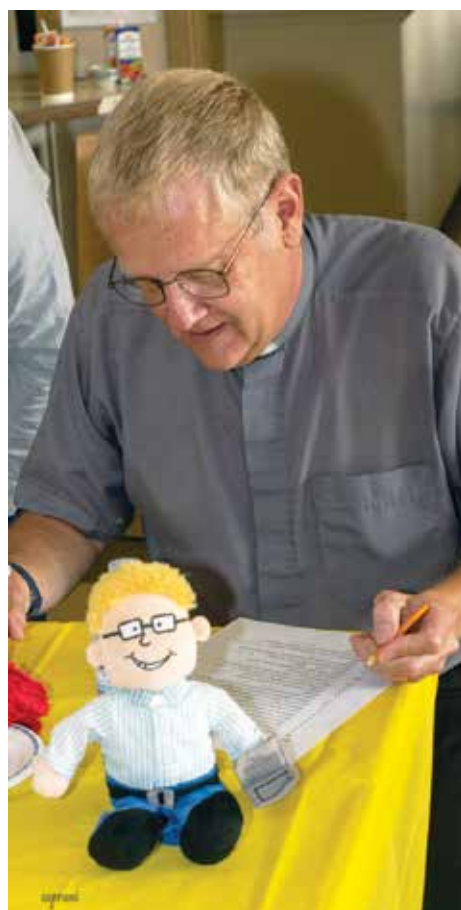


A Lego® toy of Gandalf, the Wizard from *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* with him is Frodo Baggins, the Ring Bearer in *The Lord of the Rings*. (iStock ID#470440511). PHOTO Brendan Hunter

To Serve God in a Realistic & Meaningful Way Reflection on 20 years as a rector

STEPHEN ROWE

Rector of The Anglican Parish of the Church of the Epiphany, Surrey



Stephen with "Little Stephen" during the September 12 post-worship reception. PHOTO Cliff Caprani

When I was ordained in 1986, there was a priest in our deanery already in his 80s. This was in the Church of England, and he had freehold. This meant the priest could remain in post whilst he was still living! The fact that he had been appointed rector of the parish in 1945, didn't seem to be encouraging him to retire.

This man came to mind as I'd recently passed a milestone of my own, 20 years as priest of the Anglican Parish of the Church of the Epiphany, Surrey (Epiphany). In 2001, I was appointed to a part-time, temporary posting, until I found a new job, or the parish filled the vacancy. That did happen the following year and the rector has remained in place ever since.

My dad, also an Anglican priest, served one parish for 24 years and it hadn't crossed my mind that I might one day get close to that number, but I seem to be *en route*.

Over the years the role has changed several times as I became full-time, was appointed rector, and as other opportunities emerged for me within the diocesan fold. There are a number of reasons why I've stayed.

First and foremost was (and still is) the vitality and dedication of the community at Epiphany. So many people have taken informal and formal roles of leadership and always there has been a desire to move

forward, to constantly hold before us a sense of vocation for the parish to serve God in a realistic and meaningful way. Secondly has been a willingness to work together without factions or pulling in different directions. Although there have been times when it seemed that perhaps, I should move on, there always seemed to be a pull back to continue with the ministry where I had been given responsibility.

Two other factors played a profound role in enabling me to stay. First, it seemed to me that the building was beyond repair and needed to be replaced. That was in 2005, and although no new church has appeared to date, this vision remains at the heart of our vocation as a parish. To undertake mission and ministry in a worn out, decaying facility, is just not good enough for God or for God's people.

The second has been the advent of a second language group finding their home at Epiphany. For over seven years Arabic-speaking (Chaldean) people have attended Epiphany. At present as we livestream services, the English and Arabic-speaking members of the congregation are often 50/50 in proportions. The impact has been profound and has encouraged the entire community to prioritize hospitality; it has made the parish stronger, more focused on our neighbourhood, and more vibrant. We

would be a shadow of ourselves without this significant and faithful part of our congregation.

The last 18 months have been a challenge for all our parishes, and without Zoom, ministry would have been extremely difficult to achieve in any shape or form. What has humbled me more than anything has been the sacrificial giving of the congregation throughout these months, especially from those who could not make the transition to Zoom. My respect and encouragement have grown beyond measure as offerings arrived week after week during the time the physical building was closed.

On Sunday, September 12, 2021, there was a celebration to mark the milestone and I was delighted to have the Very Rev. Peter Elliott preach. We have shared many diocesan occasions and meetings over the years and his presence made the occasion very special.

I am quite surprised to find myself still at Epiphany after all these years, but I would not exchange the experience for anything else I have been part of in the 35 years since I took holy orders. When I began, it never occurred to me that after two decades in one place, I'd still be there, but one should always be open to God's prompting for how your vocation may unfold. ✠

Compassion Means to Suffer with Those Who Suffer

GILLI MCLAREN

All Saint's, Mission

Lambeth Palace

One summer day whilst wandering around London with my camera, photographing historic landmarks, I thought I would go to Lambeth Palace and take a photo, maybe even a “selfie,” or if a passerby would oblige, maybe a photo of me with the Palace as a backdrop. But upon arrival, I was dismayed to find the entrance barred by a huge gate, not only denying access to the uninvited, but totally obscuring the view to streetside onlookers, such as me. Ever an optimist, I thought I would patiently wait, and surely an attendant would open the gate for an outgoing vehicle or a qualified visitor, allowing for a glimpse or a shot of the Palace. No such luck. I waited for a long time and eventually gave up.

The Man Who Lives There

Our niece, Gauri (my sister's daughter) grew up in Cardiff. She faced tragedy in her life. Her young husband succumbed to cancer, and she struggled to survive and care for her baby girl. It is a poignant story of fortitude and courage, faith and hope—never giving up. The BBC, Wales invited her to an interview which was broadcast nation-wide. It caught the attention of Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. The archbishop referenced her story in one of his writings and invited her to tea at Lambeth Palace.

Gauri later regaled us with her experience of this gracious man, of quail eggs and cucumber sandwiches for tea, and how with great compassion, he reached out to her. While I was thrilled with her wonderful experience, I could not forget the day I stood outside the palace gates hoping, just hoping to get a glimpse and maybe a selfie, and here was my niece invited to tea by the man who lived there. I was happy for her but a part of me couldn't help but thinking, “Life is not fair!”

A Crime

It was a Sunday, April 13, 1919, and people had gathered together at Jallianwala Bagh (a park), to enjoy the spring sun and celebrate *Baisakhi*, the spring festival. These seven acres of greenery, a small oasis amid a bustling city, belonged to the wealthy Jallianwala family, and was situated close to the Golden Temple, the holiest shrine of the Sikh faith, located in the city of Amritsar. Families and friends who came to worship, often went there to relax, and share a meal in the outdoors. The Park was totally enclosed with high walls on all four sides with just one narrow gate.

At that time the word genocide was not part of our vocabulary—it was coined in 1945; but the Armenian massacre (1915–1916) was still fresh in the psyche of a world that had decided to look the other way. Brigadier General Dyer, the station commander, suspecting insurrection, marched with 80 riflemen, including two armoured cars with machine guns, positioning them at the narrow entrance. He ordered them to fire, without warning, on a group of defenceless and peaceful people, that included elderly women and children. The gunfire only stopped when they ran out of ammunition—1650 bullets were fired, and the bullet marks remain preserved on the walls to this day. There was nowhere to run or hide. Some desperately tried to climb the high walls, clawing in desperation only to lose their fingernails. There was a well in the park and many tried to escape by jumping into it—120 bodies were later removed. Those of you, who have seen Richard Attenborough's *Gandhi* will recall the horror of the massacre at Jallianwala



The Shrine at Jallianwala Bagh. ALL PHOTOS Submitted

Bagh portrayed so realistically in the film.

Justice, on that day did not roll like a river, but rather wept torrents of grief. It was a pivotal moment in India's struggle for independence. Rabindranath Tagore, Poet laureate, Nobel Prize for literature 1913, renounced his knighthood and honours that the British Government had bestowed on him. Many other luminaries also gave up their honours. Gandhi who had rather modest goals of seeking dominion status for India on similar lines as, Australia, Canada etc., now decided to seek full freedom.

Seeking Forgiveness

In 1980, on a family holiday trip to Kash-

mir, we stopped over at Amritsar to visit Jallianwala Bagh. I wanted our children to know about the brutal man, Brigadier General Dyer, now known in history as “the butcher of Amritsar,” who forgot his humanity, with the results being 1,050 defenceless souls losing their lives. There is an eerie silence there that compels you to listen, to hear the haunting cry of the dead on their dying lips, “Why?”

Dignitaries on state visits to India, often go to this shrine to lay those obligatory wreaths and stand in mournful silence—it is always a moving experience. Amongst the many distinguished visitors from all over the world have been HM Queen Elizabeth

with HRH Prince Philip and British Prime Ministers, David Cameron and Theresa May. However, the British Government has been unable to ask forgiveness for this dastardly act, because temporal justice is retributive justice, and an official apology may involve unacceptable monetary compensations.

Justin Portal Welby enthroned as Archbishop at Canterbury Cathedral on March 21, 2013, is 105th in a line that goes back more than 1400 years to Augustine of Canterbury, the “Apostle to England” sent by Rome in 597 BCA. He is the Primate of all England, and *primus inter pares* (*first among equals*) of the world-wide Anglican communion of 80 million—the third largest Christian body, after the Roman Catholic and the Orthodox Churches.

In September 2019, Archbishop Welby visited India and made a stop at Jallianwala Bagh. As he walked the garden, he saw the bullet holes in the wall, and knelt and prayed. As he approached the newly built shrine, he surprised and startled his retinue, by prostrating himself on the ground, a picture of abject contrition, asking God for forgiveness. “In your mercy remember me, Lord because of your goodness.” (*Psalm 25:6-7*)—a picture that had an indelible impact on the hearts and minds as it was headlined in Indian newspapers and witnessed on national TV. He said:

“The souls of those who were killed or wounded, of the bereaved, cry out to us from these stones and warn us about power and misuse of power. I cannot speak for the British Government... but I can speak in the name of Christ and say this is a place of both sin and redemption, because you have remembered what they have done and their names will live, their memory will live before God. And I am so ashamed and sorry for the impact of this crime committed here.”

To ask forgiveness is quite easy, when it is mere words. But forgiveness has an element of atonement, of contrition, of weeping with those who weep, and to feel the pain of those who suffer. Justin Welby by assuming that posture for prayer was asking for justice, not the retributive justice that the world demands but restorative justice which God requires; a justice that is available in the Kingdom of God. It was through Jesus that God's justice was announced, that everyone may have abundant life.

This is the gospel of Christ. ✠



Archbishop Welby prostrate at the Shrine as media and onlooker take photographs.



Our niece Gauri with the man who lives at Lambeth Palace.

OPINION

Dust to Dust, Ashes to Ashes! Is This How It All Ends?

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

The great dust bowl of the 1930s devastated the life of farm families on the Canadian prairies. The depression years were innovative times, for survival, for example, frocks were made from the cloth of flour bags. The Eaton's catalogue served as ersatz shin pads for prospective hockey stars. The farms and the farm family way of life changed, forever. Corporate farming replaced the old ways. Dust and ashes! Is that good or bad?

Today, swaths of wild forests burn uncontrolled. Ashes are what's left of ranches, farms and homes. There are smaller rural communities which are no more. Community life may be changed forever. What arises from the ashes?

Although it wasn't too glamorous, a farm boy of the depression days had a good life. He did chores. He looked after the old horse. He attended the one room school. He found time to play ball in the summer and hockey in the winter. He also eventually became educated with a degree in theology, was ordained a priest, and in time was consecrated a bishop in the Anglican Church of Canada. In his book, *How We Got Here From There: a true story of dumb luck and love*, Bishop Ken Genge reminds us of past times and the changing future.

Times and conditions, social and community shapes, and economic ups and downs, create distinct periods of time and life. From the dust and ashes comes the newness of today. Good or bad!

Currently in India, farmers by the thousands are facing disastrous conditions. In the midst of a world-wide pandemic, these farmers are also facing a political stand-off. The government has passed laws that change the way the price of farm products will be decided. The government's old system of setting a minimum price is gone. Farmers had been able to make a living, feed and care for their families, and feed the nation. The new regulations threaten that way of life. More dust and ashes?

Peaceful protesters, thousands of farmers, are sitting on the highway, bringing attention to the destruction of a way of life. Corporate big businesses have been given the authority to control production and the economy of farming in India. Farmers fear being turned into modern day serfs. "Dust to dust, ashes to ashes!"

Around the world, people are standing in solidarity with the Indian farmers. Their rallying cry is "No Farms, No Food, No Future." In Abbotsford, BC, a city located on the fertile lands of the Fraser Valley, these men and women gather to keep the watch, and walk the way, particularly on Friday and Saturday evenings. I often join them, a person of Northern European ancestry who is an ordained Christian leader.

It is my opinion that lessons from the past that have shaped the outcome of human conditions for the future need our attention today. Ways of life do matter. Causes of justice and peace do count. Ordinary people do make a difference.

Whether it is climate change on a global scale, reconciliation much needed in our nation, or the right to sustain a family, we all need to be aware today.

"Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom." (*James 3:13b*)

Out of the dust and ashes comes the energy, the goodness, the wealth of the good life for all people. In God's Creation we are to live into the Good News of Jesus Christ. Let's do that! ✠

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If you are interested in acquiring a copy of the self-published book How We Got Here From There: a true story of dumb luck and love by Bishop Ken Genge, please send an email request through the Topic editor, Randy Murray at rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca.

Dry River Sand Explosion (iStock ID# 1045483504). PHOTO Pattadis Walarpur

On the Death of Bishop John Shelby "Jack" Spong
June 16, 1931 – September 12, 2021

PETER ELLIOTT
Sessional Instructor at Vancouver School of Theology; Retired Dean of the diocese of New Westminster & Retired Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver


In the 1990s Bishop John Spong often came to Vancouver School of Theology and the Sorrento Centre in BC to lead summer courses—they were the most popular offerings of the School and the Centre at the time, attracting huge numbers of participants.

Those visits brought John and Christine to Vancouver where he preached in local churches including Christ Church Cathedral. One year Thomas Roach and I hosted a dinner party for the Spongs at our home and invited parishioners who had been influenced by his writing. Our Cathedral friends arrived looking forward to learning from him, but Jack turned the tables on us all. Sitting in our living room he said, "I want to know about you," and asked each guest in turn this question, "Where were you born and what have you been doing

since?" Of course, it turned out to be an extraordinary evening; we all learned more about each other.


John and Christine spoke about their lives as well—but what could have been an occasion where he could simply have held forth about his own views became an evening where relationships were built, and conversations were deep and genuine. From that evening on I was convinced that this gracious, thoughtful man—an iconoclast for the way of love was a person not only to be admired but emulated. Words of Cynthia Bourgeault, in commenting on the death of a friend, come to mind, "...I feel that the cosmos has just gotten that much more tender, gentle and courageous in direct measure to receiving his beautiful heart."

May flights of angels wing him to his rest. ✠

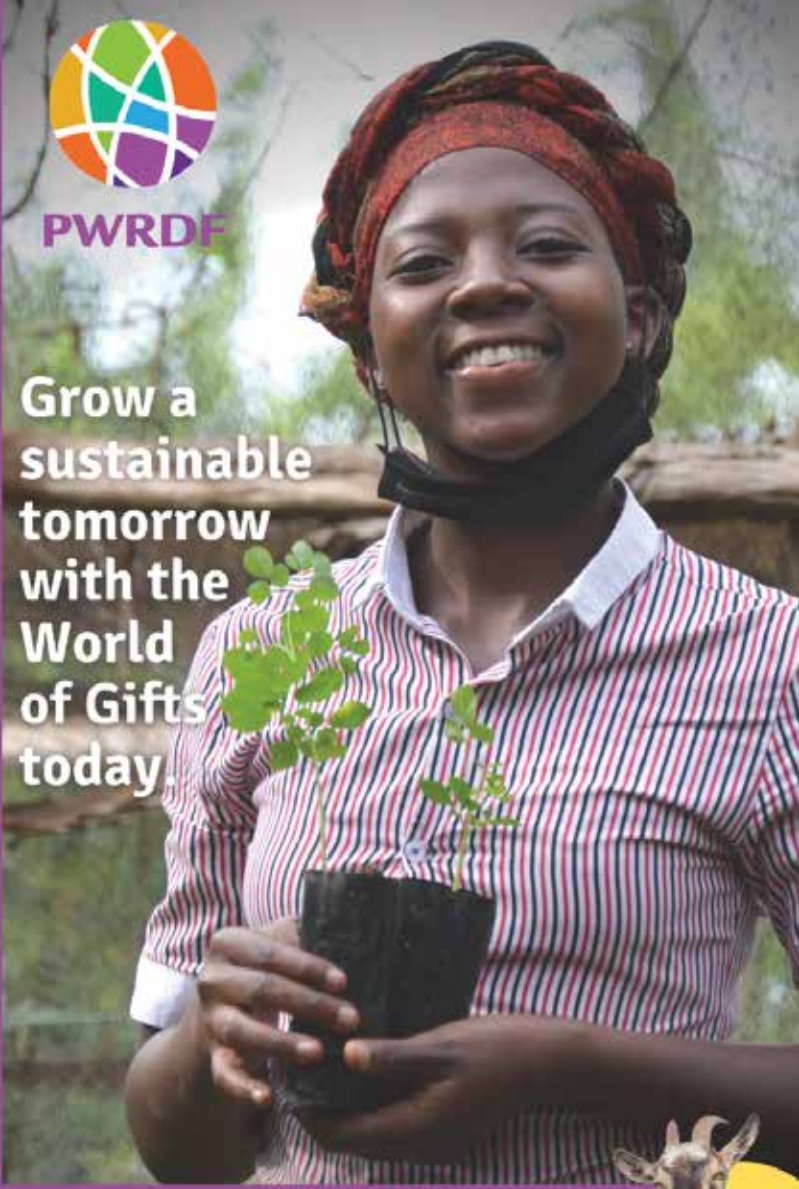


True religion is not about possessing the truth. No religion does that. It is rather an invitation into a journey that leads one toward the mystery of God. Idolatry is religion pretending that it has all the answers.

— John Shelby Spong —




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Blessing of the Land

L'Arche Redevelopment Project to be complete by 2023

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

With the official launch of the *We All Belong* capital campaign in April of 2019, L'Arche Greater Vancouver embarked on the journey to raise over \$6 million of the \$30 million redevelopment project. The redevelopment project will include:

- The replacement of three of the current homes for people with developmental disabilities with three fully accessible homes.
- The addition of ten units of housing for individuals with disabilities who can live more independently.
- Expanded community inclusion programs, which provide volunteer, social and recreational opportunities.
- The provision of 29 units of rental housing for individuals, couples and families who wish to live in an intentional community setting and to ease the challenge of rent affordability.

On Thursday, September 9, 2021, there was an Ecumenical Blessing of the building site and the unveiling of the foundation stone led by Honorary Campaign Committee Chair, L'Arche *We All Belong* campaign, Archbishop Michael Miller, CSB of the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Vancouver; the regional archdeacon of the Anglican diocese of New Westminster, the Ven. Richard Leggett representing Bishop John Stephens, who is a Member of the Honorary



Archbishop Miller blesses the site with water.



Long-time L'Arche resident and artist, Patrick stands for acknowledgement on his birthday.



LEFT Deacon Rennie (Skaghakin) Nahanee who was First Nations Ministry Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Vancouver until he retired last May, leads the Lord's Prayer in the S7ulth Man Skw'enmaylh language. MIDDLE Denise Haskett. RIGHT Lawrence Ho.



Deacon, the Rev. Trudi Shaw who has been profoundly involved with L'Arche for over 12 years is seen here with the Rev. Graham Brownmiller.



LEFT A backhoe on the rubble of the former buildings. RIGHT Archdeacon Leggett offers the Declaration, "In the name of Jesus Christ we declare this to be a place where we share our lives with one another in mutual affection to learn and to grow and to dedicate our lives to the service of God and to the world."



The Foundation Stone. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray

Campaign Committee; the Rev. Graham Brownmiller of Jubilee United Church, on behalf of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council.

The event also included a number of speakers giving context to the campaign and specific information about the progress of the campaign leading up to the *Blessing of the Land*. Included in that group was Denise Haskett the former Executive Director of L'Arche, Greater Vancouver who is a parishioner of St. Margaret's, Cedar Cottage in East Vancouver. In semi-retirement, Denise is now the Senior Director of the L'Arche Foundation and continues to be a major participant in the campaign which has currently raised \$4.36 million of the \$6 million goal. Also present at the event was the Anglican Chaplain for L'Arche, Greater Vancouver, Deacon, the Rev. Trudi Shaw.

The sincere and moving speech by Ted Kuntz, Past Board President and Campaign Chair, and the announcement by Lawrence Ho, Senior Fellow, M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust of the Trusts' significant grant towards the project were amongst the highlights of the presentations.

The *We All Belong* campaign and the ongoing support of L'Arche by the Anglican diocese of New Westminster was affirmed by Diocesan Synod in 2019 and by Diocesan Council.

The former building on the site was demolished in August 2021, and the project is scheduled to be complete in 2023. ✠