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Melanesian Brothers Visit the Diocese of New Westminster

Two Melanesian Brothers, Fr. Richard Nokia and Br. Nelson Bako visited the diocese of New Westminster from their home in the Solomon Islands for ten days in mid-March. They were here to attend the funeral liturgies for the Rev. John Carter Blyth, MBH at St. James, Vancouver on March 14 and 15 (more on pages 13 – 16) and return

home to the Solomon Islands with the Rev. Blyth's remains on March 23. While they were here, they were welcomed around the diocese and a particular highlight was a visit to the Sunshine Coast, Gibsons and Sechelt. Many thanks to Honorary Assistant at St. Bart's, Gibsons the Rev. Clarence Li for sharing these photos of the two visitors. ✚



A refreshing beverage at the Persephone Brewery.



Br. Nelson with a red rock crab.



Standing on a hill with a beautiful view of the Pacific Ocean.

Notes From the Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The month of May! As acclaimed naturalist, the late American photographer and writer, Edwin Way Teale famously said, "All things seem possible in May." Not to be confused with the herb and famous river in Manhattan, Fennel Hudson, the still very much alive British angler-naturalist said, "May, more than any other month of the year, wants us to feel most alive." I agree completely, it's my favourite month (although I do have a soft spot for October). One thing that would make my May 2023 happy, would be prompt and early in the month delivery of the *Anglican Journal* and *Topic* to all who subscribe and also to the parishes of the diocese of New Westminster.

Delivery of the two publications mailed as one from Southern Ontario is getting later and later. As of this writing in late March of 2023, nobody from any of the stake holder groups (*Anglican Journal*; Communications Department of the Anglican Church of Canada; Webnews the printing company) has an answer for the three to four weeks it takes the papers to make their way into the homes and parishes of the d of NW. A meeting is being planned with the stakeholders and with Canada Post, hopefully the delivery issue will be resolved. On a positive note, I've really enjoyed speaking to the folks who have called me over the past three months asking about the delivery, being worried that their subscriptions had lapsed. I'm so glad that folks enjoy receiving *Topic*.

marked in the Bible, "Shavuot marked the wheat harvest in the Land of Israel (*Exodus 34:22*).” In addition, Orthodox rabbinic traditions teach that the date also marks the revelation of the Torah to Moses and the Israelites at Mount Sinai, which, according to the tradition of Orthodox Judaism, occurred at this date in 1314 BCE.” *

The middle of May is also the time of the year when the Clematis in our back garden blooms magnificently for three to four weeks. So here are a couple of shots from last year to frame my note. ✚

* [wikipedia.org; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shavuot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shavuot)



Depending on when you are reading this front page note from me (if you are reading the May *Topic* online posted on the diocesan website it could be as early as May 1), the 122nd Synod of the diocese of New Westminster with the theme using Jesus's words from *John 10:10* "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" might be a couple of weeks away; or it could be currently taking place (May 12 – 13), or recently concluded. Coverage of Synod will be available on the diocesan website (www.vancouver.anglican.ca) soon after it takes place and, in the June, (Summer) issue of *Topic*. In order to adequately cover Synod in *Topic*, the June issue will go to print about three weeks later than usual so the next delivery may be in late June but hopefully mid-June. I am apologizing now for this expected tardy delivery.

May is also an important month in the church and of particular importance to our Roman Catholic partners in the Body of Christ. It is the "month which the piety of the faithful has especially dedicated to Our Blessed Lady." It is a time to praise Mary, the mother of Jesus. May 6 is also

Visitors from the Melanesian Brotherhood at the Synod Office

KERRY BAISLEY, ODNW
Missioner for Indigenous Justice

During the morning of Wednesday, March 15 two visiting members of the Melanesian Brotherhood, * an Anglican religious community of men in simple vows based primarily in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Papua New Guinea visited the Synod offices of the diocese of New Westminster. Father Richard Nokia (Chaplain) and Brother Nelson Bako were in the middle of a ten-day visit. The principal purpose of their visit was to attend and participate in the liturgies for the late, the Rev. John Blyth, a member of the Brotherhood. At the March 15 Requiem, Fr. Richard and Br. Nelson administered the chalice during Holy Communion. **

They shared many things about their life and work. We were told Br. John Blyth was a very good speaker of Solomon Islands pidgin. We learned about the work of the Brotherhood in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea. Did you know that over 800 languages are spoken within these islands?

We heard of the peace-making work of the Brotherhood during the 1999 to 2000 conflict where two military groups competed for land and jobs. The Brotherhood took a leading role in the disarmament process when they physically gathered up the guns of the opposing sides and disposed of them and their ammunition in the sea so they could

not be used again.

We learned of the 2003 killing of Brother Nathaniel Sado when he went to convince a rebel leader to surrender. Six other members of the Brotherhood went to ask for Brother Nathaniel's body and all of them were also killed by the rebels.

Their work is not easy and yet it also brought us smiles and surprises. We were told that if they are about to start a Eucharist and they "only have three priests, we go looking for two more." When we looked a little confused, we were told, "The priests will get a sore back administering Communion." We asked, "How many people would be at a service?" They smiled and responded, "Up to 20,000."

There is a lot we could learn from these, our visiting brothers in Christ about the life of community, prayer, singing and mission.

Synod staff were delighted to greet and welcome the two visitors and give them a tour of the office. ✠

* A short video about the Brotherhood is available online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5kIRIY5IYc>

** Full coverage of the Rev. John Blyth's Requiem Mass is available on pages 14-17 of this issue of Topic.



Ready to hike in Soames Hill Park while visiting the Sunshine Coast. PHOTO Clarence Li



In the photo (left to right): Missioner for Christian Formation, the Rev. Jessica Schaap; Missioner for Indigenous Justice, Kerry Baisley, ODNW; Father Richard; Brother Nelson; Executive Archdeacon and Archdeacon of Vancouver, the Ven. Philippa Pride; Director for Mission and Ministry, the Rev. Tellison Glover. PHOTO Randy Murray

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



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The Bishop of New Westminster

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Thank you!

Evensong for the Feast of Pentecost

Honouring the Ministry of Director of Music, Brigid Coult



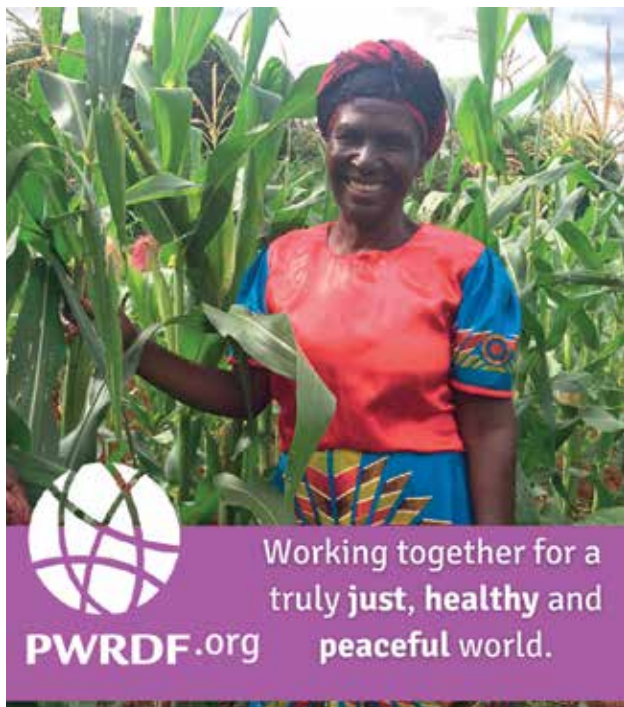
WHEN Sunday, May 28
TIME 4pm
WHERE St. Mary's, Kerrisdale
LOCATION 2490 West 37th Avenue Vancouver

All are invited to attend an Evensong to mark the Feast of Pentecost. This will also be an opportunity to celebrate St. Mary's, Kerrisdale's Director of Music, Brigid Coult, as she enters retirement after many years of dedicated ministry both at St. Mary's and within the diocese of New Westminster

The service will be available online and in-person. The liturgy will be followed by a reception. Brigid has been at St. Mary's for over 21 years, prior to that she served at St. Alban's, Richmond, and at St. Mark's, Kitsilano, as well as supporting the music ministry of the broader diocese. This will be a lovely service and an opportunity for folks from across the diocese to gather at St. Mary's in-person or online and offers prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving for Brigid.

Singers who would like to participate in the choir should contact Brigid by email at brigidcoult@stmaryskerrisdale.ca or phone 604.261.4228 ext. 227 before May 15.

Please visit the St. Mary's, Kerrisdale website for more information <https://www.stmaryskerrisdale.ca/>



Shailene Caparas, CPA, CGA
 Call 604.684.6306
 or email info@vancouver.anglican.ca

ULTIMATE STEWARDSHIP to Sustain the Church

The Director of Finance of the diocese of New Westminster and her team will be delighted to speak with you and answer your questions about Ultimate Stewardship and Planned Giving

Lord, my influence in this life is on many people in many ways. Help me to leave a lasting, positive legacy in all areas of my life.

The last few years (specifically the COVID-19 years) have been difficult for many people, and for many organizations and institutions. The Anglican Church is no exception. However, faith is resilient and enduring, and so is the Church. For Anglicans, leaving some form of legacy to their parish, the diocese, the national church or to a specific ministry that reflects their goals and values is a form of Ultimate Stewardship. Some tithe their estate, leaving 10% to the faith community to continue God's work. Others leave an amount as an endowment that will generate an annual gift, comparable to the gifts given during their lifetime.

The skilled staff of the Finance Department of the diocese of New Westminster have a wide knowledge of ways to give, ensuring that support continues. It is important that these decisions be made early in the legacy planning process, rather than wait until they *must* be made due to illness or death. Please consider a legacy gift of Ultimate Stewardship.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

THE MEETING ROOM

WHO IS IN THERE?

THE TODDLER GROUP

THE MUSIC TEAM

THE AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB

THE BISHOP, MEDIATING BETWEEN THE FLOWER ARRANGERS AND THE YOUTH GROUP

CartoonChurch.com

GOOD GROUND FOR SPIRITUAL SEEKERS

TRINITY TERM



DATES: JUNE 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 ONLINE ONLY
TIME: 6:30 PM – 8:45 PM

Facilitators: Tellison Glover, Andrew Halladay, Marnie Peterson

PURPOSE

Using organization development tools and spiritual reflective practice, Good Ground For Spiritual Seekers will explore your parish’s culture and identity. Your team will use this awareness to shift your parish’s attention toward building more meaningful relationships with Spiritual Seekers and Newcomers. Come expecting to develop a strategy for implementing new habits that form a more welcoming, engaging, and generous community.

SESSIONS

- Session 1 - June 1: Exploring Our Values, Identity, & Culture
- Session 2 - June 8: Digging deeper to focus more into attending to Spiritual Seekers.
- Session 3 - June 15: Digging deeper into Culture, Change, and Effectiveness with a continued focus on Spiritual Seekers: Encountering the Love of God.
- Session 4 June 22: Workshop 1 on developing a Spiritual Seeker’s Experience applying Atomic Habits and Invite, Greet, Orient.
- Session 5 - June 29: Workshop 2 on developing a Spiritual Seeker’s Experience using the Pro-Action Café model to refine projects.

PARTICIPANTS WILL

Design a model for welcoming newcomers

Develop new habits for creating a more welcoming environment for newcomers

Gain deeper appreciation of parish values and identity

Gain deeper insight on the spiritual approach to parish growth

ASSUMES THAT PARTICIPANTS

Are creative resourceful and whole

Bring wisdom, resourcefulness, creativity, values to each session

Are present and attentive at every session

Are prepared to complete weekly assignments

Are prepared to meet independently as teams to work on assignments and projects

MORE INFORMATION

Tellison Glover | tglover@vancouver.anglican.ca | 604-684-6306 x219



Diocese of New Westminster
 ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA





The Rev. Miranda Sutherland and Bishop John Stephens just prior to processing in for worship. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray



The Rev. Sutherland receives a blessing during the Gradual Hymn prior to proclaiming the Gospel.

A Parish Worthy of Recognition Episcopal Visit to St. Oswald, Port Kells for Lent II

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

There is always a lot going on at a parish where the Rev. Miranda Sutherland is Priest-in-Charge. And even on Sunday, March 5, Lent II, her penultimate Sunday as Vicar of the parish, a day when she was welcoming Bishop John Stephens on the first visit of his episcopacy to his venerable parish in Surrey's northerly Port Kells district, the Rev. Sutherland and the folks at St. Oswald's had lots planned. It was a beautiful early spring day, sunshine, blue skies and a good-sized congregation.

With the bishop preaching and presiding and no deacon or bishop's chaplain available, the Rev. Sutherland took on those roles as well as her default ministry as Priest-in-Charge. There was of course the Celebration of the Eucharist for the Second Sunday in Lent, but there would also be: the Investiture of the parish's 2022 nominee to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW), Sheila Snell, (who had not been able to attend the diocesan liturgy and investiture held in New Westminster's Massey Theatre on November 5, 2022); the installation by Bishop Stephens of the parish's wardens; the distribution of Certificates of Recognition (that Bishop John signed upon arrival at the parish) to every member of the parish; and a celebratory luncheon in the hall.

For his text, Bishop John examined the Gospel for the day, *John 3:1-17*, one of the most famous passages of Scripture in the New Testament. Before he began his message, he had this to say about the Rev. Sutherland:

"I am grateful for the work that Miranda has done here and in other parts of the diocese. She brings with her an infectious energy and an enthusiasm for faith. She will soon be moving from St. Oswald's, and I thank her for the work she has done in this place."

As alluded to in the first paragraph, the next Sunday, March 12, Lent III would be the Rev. Sutherland's final Sunday as Vicar of St. Oswald's. She had been appointed Interim Priest-in-Charge of St. Matthew's, Abbotsford and also continues her ongoing ministry as Vicar of Holy Spirit, Whonnock. Both are 1/2-time positions.

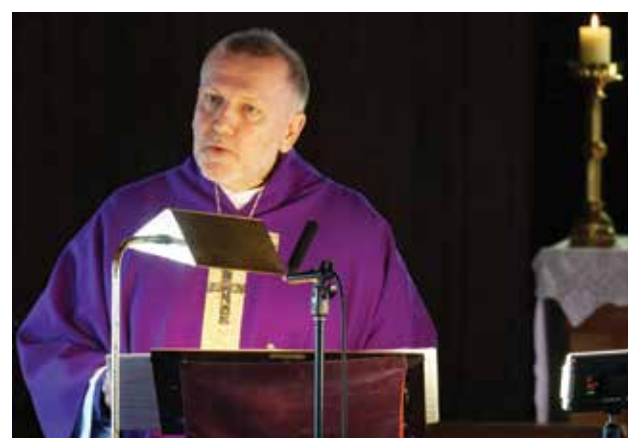
To put his sermon on *John 3:1-17* the story of Nicodemus's questioning of Jesus into context he quoted Richard Rohr, "There are commonly two kinds of human beings: there are people who want certitude and there are people who want understanding; and these two people often cannot understand one another." *

Following the sermon (the link to the sermon can be found below **), it was time to invest Sheila Snell into

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Vicar's warden, Stephen Stowe prepares to read the Epistle, *Romans 4:1-5; 13-17*.



Bishop John preaching.



Receiving a smile (the eyes say it all) from parish musician Jaimane Joaquin (who also received a Certificate of Recognition).

*"There are commonly two kinds of human beings: there are people who want certitude and there are people who want understanding; and these two people often cannot understand one another."**

Richard Rohr



The Rev. Sutherland reads Sheila Snell's full Citation prior to her investiture.

* Richard Rohr's Center for Action and Contemplation Daily Meditations from Wednesday, July 19, 2017

** Bishop John Stephens's sermon is available online at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/medial/2023-03-05-from-certainty-to-understanding>



LEFT Bishop John poses with Surrey's latest member of the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster, Sheila Snell, ODNW. RIGHT Bishop John installs the wardens for 2023.

A Parish Worthy of Recognition Episcopal Visit to St. Oswald, Port Kells for Lent II

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster. As Sheila and Bishop John stood together at the chancel entrance, the Rev. Sutherland read the full Citation. Bishop John invested Sheila but did not have the ribbon, medal, or printed Citation summary at hand, but that didn't really matter to anyone. The Citation prepared for the investiture is as follows:

Sheila is a dedicated member of St. Oswald's Church where she is instrumental in many activities such as the yearly Surrey Food Bank drive. She has involved St. Oswald's parishioners and her daughter Laura in assisting with a centre where vulnerable young mothers can shop for free. Sheila is someone who is "on speed dial" if a question needs to be answered. She is a conscientious caretaker of church finances and a "go-to" hard worker who is looked up to by everyone in the parish.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Following the installation, the wardens: Sandra Cattermole, Sheila Snell and Stephen Stow pose for a photograph.



Gerry Hodgins was the intercessor leading the Prayers of the People.



A nave and chancel view of the Eucharistic Prayer.



"The Gifts of God for the People of God."



Administering the Body of Christ.

The Welcoming Doors of St. Alban's, Burnaby

SEBASTIAN THOMAS

St. Alban the Martyr, Burnaby

St. Alban the Martyr, Burnaby is a little church with a big heart—a big heart for people. Having sponsored a Syrian refugee family in 2014 (and providing emotional support over the four years—2014 to 2018—that it took for that application to be submitted and approved before the family finally landed in Canada), the congregation has valuable experience when it comes to sponsorships. It was not a surprise that the parish readily agreed to once again sponsor an Afghan refugee family who walked through the church doors on a cold December 2021 Sunday morning and support that family through the often long and difficult process of sponsoring and bringing a family to Canada.

The people who walked into the church that December Sunday morning were Keranna and Ishaq. Both were active in women's rights issues, working with Oxfam in Afghanistan. For that and other reasons they were extremely

vulnerable in Afghanistan. Following arrival in Vancouver as a refugee in 2017, Keranna was simultaneously working three jobs, including retail sales jobs and English language training for refugee settlement organizations in BC. Ishaq arrived in Canada as a refugee in October 2021, after being repatriated from Afghanistan by the Canadian Government. Since Ishaq's family had also provided settlement services to the UN and western organizations in Afghanistan, the family were in extreme danger with the three siblings of Ishaq fleeing to Tajikistan as refugees in May 2021. The members of the parish readily agreed to sponsor the application in January 2022, and thanks to the outstanding support of Dr. Shakuntala Soden, Diocesan Refugee Coordinator and Shannon Muir, ODNW, Chair of the Diocesan Refugee Unit of the diocese of New Westminster, they were able to

submit applications very quickly to Immigration Refugee Citizenship Canada (IRCC) in April 2022, as soon as Afghan refugee sponsorship allocations became available. The applications moved quickly through the complex process and the family were overjoyed to be rescued and reunited as permanent residents in Canada on March 10, 2023, just over a year after walking through St. Alban's welcoming doors. Ishaq, after working for Home Depot soon after arrival, now works for Immigration Settlement Services of BC (ISS of BC) and helps other refugees to settle in BC. Ishaq and Keranna also have their first born, Ibrahim, a bouncy, happy 7-month-old baby. So, it's a wonderful, happy, joyful story—and the members of the Parish of St. Alban's looks forward to helping the family settle in and establish a home and a new life in BC. ✠



PHOTO Submitted

A Parish Worthy of Recognition Episcopal Visit to St. Oswald, Port Kells for Lent II

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Bishop John also installed the 2023 parish officers: Stephen Stow, Vicar's Warden; Sandra Cattermole, People's Warden; and Sheila Snell, ODNW, Alternate Warden. Following the Eucharist and prior to the Episcopal Blessing, Closing Hymn and Dismissal, Bishop John, assisted by the Rev. Sutherland handed out personalized Certificates of Recognition to every member of the parish. Following worship about 70% of the congregation gathered for a posed group shot (the other 30% went to the hall to prepare and/or wait for the luncheon to be served).

And when the bishop went back into the vestry to change and to pack up his vestments he found the medal, ribbon and Citation for Sheila.

We hope you enjoy this selection of photos from this very busy morning at the Parish of St. Oswald, Port Kells. ✠



LEFT Jerry Mancinelli receives a Certificate. Jerry's late wife Joyce died in January 2023. Joyce had been in lay leadership in the parish for many years. RIGHT Relative newcomer to the parish, Rumlialie receives a Certificate.



Aileen, who is originally from Ireland, poses with Bishop John who is also from the Emerald Isle.



LEFT The vicar and bishop are outside as the photographer tries to gather the congregation in an area conducive to a posed group shot. RIGHT The posed group shot.

Will You Come & Follow Me?

The Induction of the Reverend Mark Munn as Rector of the Parish of St. Helen, West Point Grey

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic editor

At a Celebration of a New Ministry Eucharist, March 7, 2023, Bishop John Stephens inducted the Rev. Mark Munn as Rector of the Parish of St. Helen, West Point Grey.

In the fall of 2020, the Parish of St. Helen, West Point Grey was in some distress. The once thriving west-side parish was faced with the conclusion of the ordained leadership of then-rector, the Rev. Scott Gould, and some of the *numbers*, particularly membership and finance were not looking particularly hopeful. However, the members of the parish maintained their commitment to the continuation of Anglican worship in West Point Grey (WPG) and in early 2021, the Rev. Liz Hamel was appointed Priest-in-Charge at 50% time. Over the next two years the parish maintained its ability to offer public worship of God and the decision (with the approval of Diocesan Council) to sell the rectory located in this very desirable neighbourhood supplied the parish with the resources to engage a full-time rector. The parish leadership asked that Bishop John appoint a rector without going through the full canonical process and the Rev. Mark Munn was selected.

The Parish of St. Helen, WPG offers these words of description on their parish page on the diocesan website:

We invite children, youth, adults, and elders to come grow your spirit, worship God, (great music!), reach out to homeless friends, in warm community. St. Helen's mission is to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to all people. We are ordinary men and women who have become extraordinary through God's love of us in Christ.

Our aim is to testify and witness to the presence and leading of God's Spirit in our midst and in the life of the community in which we live. St. Helen's seeks to be a loving, nurturing, and supporting fellowship of faith for all people. We exist to serve the building of God's Kingdom in this time and place through worship, education, fellowship and service.

The parish does have a fine tradition of music in worship and of children's and young people's ministry. As founding members of the *Westside Anglican's Neighbourhood Ministry*, the parish is devoted to offering care, companionship and practical help to their most vulnerable neighbours. The parish has also been very involved in refugee ministry, responding quickly to the Syrian refugee crisis that came to a head with the September 2, 2015 drowning death of two-year-old Alan Kurdi.

Raised up for ordination by the Parish of Christ Church Cathedral, the Rev. Munn was ordained to the priesthood June 24, 2017. He continued the curacy that he had begun at St. Anne's, Steveston following his ordination to the diaconate, June 18, 2016. The rector of St. Anne's was the Rev. Brian Vickers who prior to his incumbency at St. Anne's had been the long time Rector of the Parish of St. Helen, Point Grey. The Rev. Vickers who was also the Regional Dean of Richmond/Delta resigned his ministry in the spring of 2019, with his last Sunday as rector on April 28 of that year. The Rev. Vickers accepted the position as rector of a parish in the diocese of Calgary. Following his curacy, the Rev. Munn continued his career and ministry as a chaplain at Covenant House, a compassionate service organization that strives to offer support and sanctuary to marginalized young people. Prior to ordination, the Rev. Munn worked in development at Covenant House and for a time he was the Director of Communications and Development at Christ Church Cathedral. In the fall of 2021, the Rev. Munn indicated to Bishop John that he was interested in resuming his vocation in parish ministry. January 1, 2022, Bishop John appointed him Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of St. Martin, North Vancouver, a parish that was considering closing. The Rev. Munn helped shepherd the parish through that process and the subsequent merger with the nearby Parish of St. John the Evangelist. The Rev. Philippa Pride was in ministry as Interim Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of St. Helen, Surrey when she was appointed Executive Archdeacon of the diocese of New Westminster which began on October 17, 2022, with the title Special Assistant to the Bishop until she succeeded the Ven. Douglas Fenton who retired on January 4, 2023. With the departure of Archdeacon Pride from the Surrey parish, Bishop John appointed the Rev. Munn Interim Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of St. Helen, Surrey, October 24, 2022, a ministry that he continued up until February of 2023 and his March 1 appointment as Rector of St. Helen, WPG.

The liturgy celebrated on March 7 was attended by members of the parish, a substantial contingent of clergy from the deanery and archdeaconry, a contingent of the Rev. Munn's supporters from the parish he attended prior



LEFT The posed, archival, vested shot of bishop and new rector. RIGHT The Ven. Stephanie Shepard, Archdeacon of Granville and Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of St. Francis-in-the-Wood, West Vancouver reads the Epistle, *Romans 12:1-18*. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray



to ordination, Christ Church Cathedral, and folks from the two parishes where he had recently been Priest-in-Charge. For obvious reasons this is a good sign for the members of the new rector's parish. The Ven. Philippa Pride led the second Covenant in Ministry of her young incumbency as Executive Archdeacon. The regional archdeacon, the Ven. Stephanie Shepard and the regional dean, the Rev. Lorne Manweiler were both present to welcome their new colleague. The Crucifer and Deacon of the Word and Table was the Rev. Jeffrey Preiss from Christ Church Cathedral. The music in worship was led by an SATB quartet accompanied by a pianist/organist. The singers maintained COVID-19 protocols, masked, separated and individually mic'd for the Zoom livestream. Very early in the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Helen's became skilled at livestreaming worship using the Zoom platform.

The Rev. Munn's father, the Rev. Canon Harold Munn was the preacher. His sermon is available on the diocesan website using the link at the end of this article. * At the conclusion of the sermon, Canon Munn asked that the hymn, *Will You Come and Follow Me* (*Common Praise*, 430) be sung as a prayer and invited the congregation to kneel. The hymn was sung followed by a brief period of silence which led into the Covenant in Ministry.

Following worship there was a celebratory reception which included an appreciation farewell to the Rev. Liz Hamel.

Congratulations to all, and please hold the Parish of St. Helen, West Point Grey, the new rector and his family in prayer as they move into this new phase of ministry. ✠

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 9

* To access the Rev. Canon Harold Munn's sermon, please go to the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/medial/2023-03-07-induction-of-the-reverend-mark-munn>



Deacon of the Word and Table, the Rev. Jeffrey Preiss proclaims the Gospel, *John 15:9-16*.



The preacher, the Rev. Canon Harold Munn.



Canon Munn kneels on the chancel steps during the singing of the Summons Hymn, *Will You Come and Follow Me?*



The Symbols of Ministry waiting to be presented.



The Ven. Philippa Pride begins the Covenant in Ministry, the rector and wardens standing on the right (Matthew Powell, Irene Vavasour, Liz Hodgson).



The Rev. Munn reads the Oaths and Subscriptions.



The Rev. Munn smiles as he is welcomed with applause.



The tenor and bass members of the solo quartet.



Bishop John asks, "Do you, in the presence of this congregation, commit yourself to the responsibility entrusted to you?"



Receiving holy oil from warden, Irene Vavasour during the Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry.



The Prayers of the People.



The Rev. Jeffrey Preiss prepares the altar during the singing of the Offertory Hymn, *Here in this Place New Light is Streaming.*



Holy Communion.



The Eucharistic Prayer.



The posed group shot: The Ven. Philippa Pride, Executive Archdeacon of the diocese of New Westminster; the Ven. Bruce Morris, retired Archdeacon for Deacons of the diocese of New Westminster; the Rt. Rev. John Stephens; the Rev. Joyce Parry-Moore, newly installed Vicar of St. Bart's and Minister for Climate Response, diocese of New Westminster; Patrick Moore, the Rev. Parry-Moore's spouse; the Rev. Dr. Paula Sampson, preacher for the Eucharist; the Rev. Ian MacKenzie; the Ven. Stephen Muir, Archdeacon of Capilano, Rector of St. Agnes, North Vancouver. Archdeacon Muir had been Priest-in-Charge of the parish for 28 months. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray

The Shaping, Naming & Empowerment of New Connections

Installation of the Reverend Joyce Parry-Moore as Vicar of the Parish of St. Aidan & St. Bartholomew, Gibsons

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The Rev. Joyce Parry-Moore began her new double-edged ministry in the diocese of New Westminster on February 1, 2023, with two new appointments — as Vicar of St. Bart's, Gibsons (formally St. Aidan and St. Bartholomew) and as a member of the Synod staff team. Mo Jo (Mother Joyce) as she is often called, was welcomed by clergy at a meeting of the diocesan ordained leadership (bishop, archdeacons, senior Synod office staff) at the Synod offices on February 16, when and where she received her license as the Minister for Climate Response from Bishop John Stephens. On Monday, February 27, Bishop John Stephens, Archdeacon Philippa Pride, Archdeacon Stephen Muir, and Archdeacon Stephanie Shepard met at Horseshoe Bay and boarded the BC Ferry at 11 am for the trip to Langdale on the Sunshine Coast and a 2pm Celebration of a New Ministry Eucharist at St. Bart's. The Rev. Laurel Dykstra, Gathering Priest of Salal + Cedar Watershed Discipleship was also vested and present for the Eucharist as she presented a plant to Mo Jo (symbolic of her diocesan role) during the Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry.

Although, it did begin snowing in Gibsons in the early afternoon of February 27, it was not enough to cause much anxiety or traffic congestion. There was a good turnout of parishioners and clergy for this joy-filled occasion. The Eucharist commemorated the Feast Day of Welsh poet and priest, George Herbert (April 3, 1593 – March 1, 1633). His well-known hymn text *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life* was the Gradual Hymn. Music is a very important part of the worship life of this parish and prior to the priesthood, Mother Joyce enjoyed a career in classical music and education, having sung opera and oratorio on the East Coast, and then forming a travelling, teaching opera company in Alaska. During the Offertory, the Rev. Parry-Moore sang *Love Bade Me Welcome* from Ralph Vaughn Williams's *Five Mystical Songs* which uses George Herbert's text. The Rev. Parry-Moore was accompanied by pianist Tom Kellough. For the most part, music in worship was led by St. Bart's Director of Music, Jon Eriksson, and as a special feature, members of the *Sunshine Coast Girls'* with the addition of some members of the women's choir, *Wild Voices* under the direction of Varya Rubin sang *Morning Has Broken* as an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



The Symbols of Ministry ready to be presented.



Before worship, clergy meet with parish lay leader, Elliott Trueman.



The Rev. Fr. Clarence Li was MC, and a major reason that the parish has maintained its mission and ministry during the long period between vicars.



Lay leaders meet before worship to rehearse the Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry.



Members of the Sunshine Coast Girls and Wild Voices offer the introit, *Morning has Broken*.



Bishop John prays the Collect.



Crucifer and warden, Susan Kimm-Jones leads the Procession.



The MC, new vicar and deacon process in.

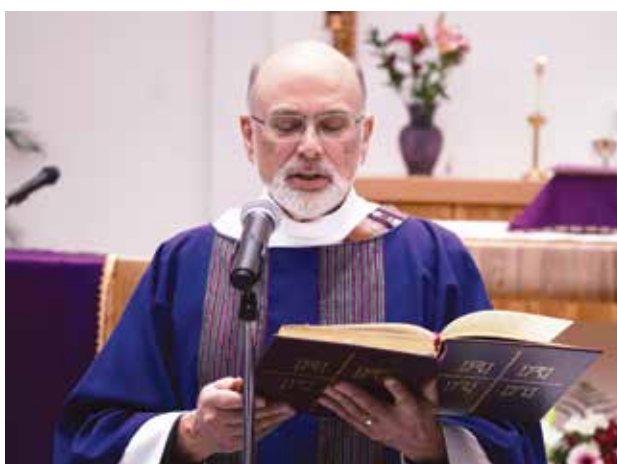
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

introit prior to the Procession. They also sang the anthem, *Last Night I Had the Strangest Dream* during Holy Communion. Both choirs rehearse at St. Bart's. Flautist, guitarist and vocalist Karen Weatherington who often shares her talent at St. Hilda's, Sechelt was also part of the music in worship leadership.

The preacher for the Eucharist was the Rev. Dr. Paula Sampson who travelled with her spouse, the Rev. Ian MacKenzie from their home in Powell River. The Rev. Sampson had this to say about her connection to Mother Joyce:

"I am so pleased to provide the sermon for this celebration. Not only is it an honour to share parish, deanery and diocesan happiness but it also adds another link to a chain of personal connection. Joyce and I met 18 years ago at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Juneau, Alaska. Ian and I shared an interim position there. Joyce was beginning her discernment process. Holy Trinity was where my discernment and ordination process had taken place, so already we had a connection which soon deepened. Eventually Ian and I returned to BC and our work in the Nass Valley. As Joyce's process continued, she and I kept in touch as she wended her way through the ups and downs of postulancy, among other significant challenges. By the time I began teaching at the Vancouver School of Theology (VST) in 2009, the two of us had another connection: educations from the same seminary in Berkeley. But then our active connection sort of "hibernated" as we each went about our own lives. Hibernated, that is, UNTIL in December of 2022 the diocese reported that Gibsons was receiving a new vicar and the diocese a Minister for Climate Justice. Could this be the same Joyce? With a distinctive name, an operatic background and mention of Alaska, it had to be. It was!

We quickly reawakened our friendship, marvelling that we found ourselves once more not only in the same country, but in the same diocese, living almost next door to each other (It's only one ferry between here and Powell River!). We're ready to expand our connections now around shared concerns for climate and Indigenous justice.



The Ven. Bruce Morris proclaims the Gospel, *John 15:9-16*.



The preacher, the Rev. Dr. Paula Sampson.



The Covenant in Ministry begins with the Executive Archdeacon, the Ven. Philippa Pride standing with the vicar and wardens, describing the process by which the new priest has been chosen.

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Reading the Oaths and Subscriptions.



Displaying the License.



Receiving the keys from warden, Wendy Francis.

The Shaping, Naming & Empowerment of New Connections Installation of the Reverend Joyce Parry-Moore as Vicar of the Parish of St. Aidan & St. Bartholomew, Gibsons

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Which just goes to show that a hibernating connection is not broken. It is waiting. Waiting to be shaped, as described in Jeremiah. ‘...before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations... I have put my words in your mouth.’

During the liturgy, Bishop John installed the Rev. Parry-Moore as vicar of the parish, and for the first time in her incumbency as Executive Archdeacon, the Ven. Philippa Pride officiated at the Covenant in Ministry. The Ven. Stephen Muir who had been Priest-in-Charge of the parish for 28 months was delighted to welcome Mother Joyce to the Capilano Archdeaconry and her new ministry. The Ven. Stephanie Shepard, Priest-in-Charge of the parish’s closest mainland neighbour (and also the closest physically) St. Francis-in-the-Wood in West Vancouver’s Caulfeild neighbourhood was there to welcome her new clergy colleague. Since the retirement of the parish’s vicar, the Rev. Brian Heinrich nearly two years earlier, the parish’s honorary assistant priest, the Rev. Clarence Li, with the deacon, the Rev. Steve Bailey and the parish’s lay leaders have been keeping worship, mission and ministry going at the Gibsons’ parish. Deacon Bailey was not present for the liturgy, but retired Archdeacon for Deacons for the diocese, the Ven. Bruce Morris was ready and willing to make the trip down from his home in Sechelt to fill the roles of Deacon of the Word and Table. Fr. Clarence Li, who for more than ten years was Rector of the Parish of St. Hilda-by-the-Sea, Sechelt just up the road to the east of St. Bart’s has been the go-to priest for the parish and he continued his service at the Celebration of a New Ministry taking on the role of MC and working with all the participants organizing and presenting the liturgy.

The Covenant in Ministry consisted of the administering

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LEFT The Rev. Laurel Dykstra presents a plant, symbolic of the climate emergency and the ministry that Mtr. Joyce has undertaken as diocesan Minister for Climate Response. RIGHT Jon Eriksson and Tom Kellough present music books.



LEFT Bishop John introduces the new vicar and invites the congregation’s welcome.



RIGHT The Ven. Stephen Muir welcomes Mtr. Joyce to the Capilano Archdeaconry and to his former role as Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of St. Bart’s.



Reacting with joy to the sustained applause of welcome.



Elliott Trueman leads the Prayers of the People.



The sharing of the Peace.

Holy Trinity, White Rock | Labyrinth Sessions in March

CAROL DE BOECK

The Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock

Seventeen years ago, the Sunday School at the Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock began preparations to create and paint a labyrinth representing the church year.

It came about as a Sunday School project in the first half of 2006, essentially as a teaching device for the Sunday School—to help explain the shape of the Church year and its seasonal colours. Formally, it reflects the annual Christian cycle of worship rooted in the birth, crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. In practice, it echoes the journeys that all of us make, from birth to death, childhood to adulthood, innocence to understanding, doubt to faith. (Peter Johnson, Annual Report for 2008 Vestry)

The completed labyrinth was received and blessed on June 18, 2006. It was used for a Lenten program in 2007, beginning with a sermon by Peter Johnson and followed by a series of five sessions, three of which included labyrinth walks (music, scripture, and silence). The labyrinth has since been lent to other churches from time to time.

After a long hiatus, it was time to get the labyrinth out again at Holy Trinity. It was set up for three sessions:

- Friday, March 17 to walk the labyrinth with music.
- Saturday, March 18 to walk the labyrinth with prayers of hope and giving—supporting the lost, homeless, those who are hurting. If they wished, people could donate in support of the Sources Peer Support Group, who use the parish's hall space, or the Sources Food Bank.
- Sunday, March 19 to walk the labyrinth in memory of loved ones (those who have died or those in need of our prayers).



PHOTO Carol De Boeck

A highlight of the Sunday walk was the return of one of the children who was involved in making the labyrinth in 2005–2006, now a young woman engaged to be married! She was able to tell the present-day children of *Children's Chapel* about the work she and the other children did all

those years ago.

Representatives of the parish are planning to set up the labyrinth more often in future and will use a variety of options to advertise its availability—the power and scope of social media is one change from 2006. ✠

The Shaping, Naming & Empowerment of New Connections Installation of the Reverend Joyce Parry-Moore as Vicar of the Parish of St. Aidan & St. Bartholomew, Gibsons

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of the Oaths and Subscriptions and their being read aloud by the new vicar, followed by the signing of the documents. The Executive Archdeacon read the License of Institution and then it was time for the Bishop's Examination, the Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry (Bible, water of baptism, holy oils, communion elements of bread and wine, the Diocesan Handbook containing Canons, Constitution, Regulations, and various policy and procedures manuals; keys to the buildings; a plant representing response to the climate emergency, hymn and praise music books) followed

by the bishop's words, "Mother Joyce let all these be signs of the ministry which is mine and yours, and is shared by all the people of God." To which she answered, "May we find joy together in the service of Christ." And then Bishop John offered the words that parishes love to hear, "I present Mother Joyce as the leader of your ministry, and I invite your welcome."

The liturgy then flowed into the Eucharist and the Prayer After Communion, the Episcopal Blessing, the Closing Hymn, the Dismissal and then sandwiches, sherry and sheet cake in the parish hall.

From Mo Jo's Biography

The Rev. Parry-Moore received her Doctor of Ministry (DMin) in Pastoral Counseling from the San Francisco Theological Seminary and her Master of Divinity (MDiv) from the Pacific School of Religion, both a part of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. She arrives on the Sunshine Coast most recently from the Seattle area, where she served as rector of a parish, and before that rector of a parish in the Bay Area. Joyce was raised up for ordination by her church in Juneau, Alaska, where

she and her husband, Patrick were married, and their youngest daughter was baptized. So, she's used to the rain.

Her passion for the beauty of the outdoors, for the arts, and for social justice led her to St. Bart's, Gibsons and will enliven her service as Missioner for Climate Response. She and Patrick raised five adult children, now with families of their own, one of which is located in Vancouver. Mo Jo loves running, hiking, reading, movies and laughing. Especially laughing. ✠



The Eucharistic Prayer.



The Procession out to the Closing Hymn, *Sing a New Creation*.



The posed, archival new vicar and bishop shot.



Holy Communion.



Dismissal.



The celebratory sheet cake.



Members of Br. Blyth's Nisga'a' family at the casket bedecked with Br. Blyth's stoles and his Nisga'a' blanket and vest. ALL PHOTOS Wayne Chose



Crucifer, Claude St. Denis leads the procession in.



LEFT Deacon, the Rev. Joyce Loch and Bishop John Stephens in place in the chancel during the conclusion of the Opening Hymn, *Let All the Islands Rise and Sing*. RIGHT Leading the music in worship.

Requiem Mass for the Reverend John Carter Blyth, MBH

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On Wednesday, March 15 at 1pm, a Requiem Mass was held for the late, the Rev. John Carter Blyth, MBH (November 19, 1935 – February 27, 2023). Br. Blyth's obituary chronicles an extraordinary life in ordained ministry including his adoption into the Nisga'a First Nation (Nisga'a name: *Hlgut K'eexkw – Little Runaway*) and his membership in the Melanesian Brotherhood (MBH). The liturgy took place at St. James', Vancouver. (Please refer to the obituary published on page 11 in the April 2023 issue of *Topic* or online via the URL that follows *)

The Celebrant for the Eucharist was the Rt. Rev. John Hannen, 8th Bishop of the diocese of Caledonia. Br. John Blyth celebrated Mass at Bishop Hannen's and Alana

Hannen's wedding more than 40 years ago. Alana Hannen was one of the readers, sharing the Epistle, *1 John 4:7-18a*.

Present at the liturgy were Melanesian Brothers from the Solomon Islands, Brother Nelson Bako and Father Richard Nokia (Chaplain). They administered the chalice during Holy Communion. The brothers visited for ten days and during their stay they were hosted by several clergy and parishes around the diocese of New Westminster including a trip to the Sunshine Coast. They transported Br. Blyth's remains to the Solomon Islands, arriving on March 23. Also participating were the parish's rector, the Ven. Fr. Kevin Hunt as MC and liturgical assistant; the Rev. Matthew Johnson, Street Priest for the Street Outreach Initiative

and Priest Associate at St. James'; Deacon of the Word and Bishop's Chaplain was the Rev. Joyce Loch of St. James'; crucifer and thurifer, Claude St. Denis; reader and psalmist, Lynn Wilson who shared *Job 19:23-27* and led *Psalm 121*. The preacher was Br. Blyth's long-time friend and colleague, the Rev. Clarence Li, who was an Assistant Curate at St.

CONTINUED ON PAGES 16 & 17

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* *The Rev. John Carter Blyth, MBH obituary is available online at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/news/the-reverend-john-carter-blyth-priest>*
.....



Bishop Hannen, Archdeacon Hunt and Br. Nelson Bako during the Collect.



Lynn Wilson reads the OT, *Job 19:23-27*.



Alana Hannen shares the Epistle, *1 John 4:7-18a*.



Claude St. Denis censes the chancel entrance during the Gospel Procession.



The Rev. Clarence Li, preacher, prepares to address the congregation.



The Rev. Joyce Locht proclaims the Gospel, *John 21:15-19*.



Bishop Hannen censes the altar during the Liturgy of the Eucharist.



Fr. Neil Gray leads the Prayers of the People.



Bishop Hannen assisted by Archdeacon Hunt during the Liturgy of the Eucharist.



The Rev. Matthew Johnson administers the Body of Christ, and behind we see Fr. Richard Nokia and Br. Nelson Bako administer the Blood of Christ.



The Commendation.



Nisga'a Farewell.

Requiem Mass for the Reverend John Carter Blyth, MBH

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James' and is currently Honorary Assistant at the Parish of St. Aidan and St. Bartholomew (St. Bart's), Gibsons. The intercessor was Br. Blyth's long-time friend and colleague, the Rev. Fr. Neil Gray. Music in worship was led by an SATB quartet. (Fr. Clarence's homily is available on the diocesan website, the URL follows **)

Bishop John Stephens officiated at the Commendation which was followed by the Nisga'a Farewell from Herb Morven, the Chief from the house and family that Br. Blyth was adopted into. Earl Monroe and Sherry Small took the blanket from the coffin. Andrea Burwell, the President of the Tsamiks office for the local Nisga'as in greater Vancouver area was present and the pallbearers were Sherry Small, Charles Morven, Linda Adams, ODNW, Jerry Adams and Br. Blyth's nephew Johnathan.

Printed on the fifth page of the Order of Service under the title *A Reflection* was the following prayer from the *Melanesian Brotherhood Prayer Book*. This is a traditional prayer of the Church of Melanesia written about consolation and separation:

LADY MARTIN'S PRAYER

*Lord our God,
you are in every place
and no space of land or sea can ever separate us from you,
we know that those who are far from each other
are still with you
and we pray you to keep in your holy care
those dear ones from whom we now are separated,
that both they and we coming nearer to you
may come nearer to each other,
held together by the unseen chain of your love
in the holy union of your Saints,
so that whether or not, as seems best to you,
king of heaven,
we meet together again here on earth,
we may surely meet again at the rising again of the just
and we go in together to that house of many rooms
which you have prepared for them that truly love you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen. ☩*

** Fr. Clarence's homily is available on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/medial/2023-03-15-tasiu-john-a-true-brother-a-man-of-deep-humility>



Folding the blanket.



Presenting the blanket.



Procession out.



The Pallbearers process out.

GOOD SEEDS FOR SPIRITUAL SEEKERS

MICHAELMAS TERM



GROUND WORK

SEPTEMBER 27, OCTOBER 5, 12, 19, 26
 TIME: 6:30 PM – 8:45 PM ONLINE ONLY

Facilitators: Tellison Glover, Andrew Halladay, Marnie Peterson, Ross Lockhart

PURPOSE

Good Seeds for Spiritual Seekers is about equipping parishes to 'spread the good news'. There is good news to share and yet many Anglicans struggle in this area. In this series we will explore what 'Evangelism for everyday Anglicans' looks like and address the anxiety and other barriers that discourage us from doing evangelism with intention. In using tools of storytelling and story-sharing participants will feel better equipped in effectively inviting newcomers into deeper engagement in parish life – by sharing who you are, what you value and what the Spirit is doing in your parish.

SESSIONS

Part 1: Evangelism for folks like us

- Session 1 - Sept 27: The "E" Word: not such a bad word after all: debunking myths about evangelism.
- Session 2 - Oct 5: From Tongue-tied to testimony: personal and corporate evangelism.

Part 2: Stories that move

- Session 3 - Oct 12: The purpose and ways of story-telling and story-sharing
- Session 4 - Oct 19: Workshop 1 on developing a story-telling or story-sharing project
- Session 5 - Oct 26: Workshop 2 using Pro-Action Café model to refine projects

PARTICIPANTS WILL

Gain deeper appreciation for intentional evangelism in parish life

Develop short videos of stories that depict the core values and identity of the parish

Develop models for story-telling and story-sharing

Create an action plan for story-telling or story-sharing

ASSUMES THAT PARTICIPANTS

Are creative resourceful and whole

Bring wisdom, resourcefulness, creativity, values to each session

Are present and attentive at every session

Are prepared to complete weekly assignments

Are prepared to meet independently as teams to work on assignments and projects

MORE INFORMATION

Tellison Glover | tglover@vancouver.anglican.ca | 604-684-6306 x219



Diocese of New Westminster
 ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA



Christ Church Cemetery | Spring Clean-Up

STEPHEN ROWE

Rector of Church of the Epiphany, Surrey; Regional Dean of Peace Arch & Chair of the Christ Church Cemetery Board



Board vice-chair, Alan Clegg. ALL PHOTOS Catherine Kennedy

The Cemetery at Christ Church, Surrey is set in the grounds of the historic parish, the first community in Surrey to be settled in the 1880s.

The original church was constructed at a cost of just under \$2,000 with the materials brought down the Serpentine River by boat and then by horse-drawn transport to the site.

The setting of the cemetery is on a well-treed hillside. It sits across the road from Christ the Redeemer, built in 1990. The Ven. Louie Engnan (Archdeacon of Fraser) is the Vicar of the Parish of Christ the Redeemer. He also serves as vicar at the nearby St. Michael's, Surrey.

The historic cemetery provides work for the parishioners, volunteers and Cemetery Board members twice a year. On Saturday, March 18, the team saw some of the best weather for the spring and fall clean-ups in several years. The parish does have contractors who cut the grass and do other clean-up at other times during the year.

Board member, Catherine Kennedy drives the team by allowing participants to choose their gardening chore... raking, weeding, and cleaning the Memorial Garden plaques and pathway.

Coffee is served, with *Timbits* and fresh scones.

This year's clean-up crew gathered for a couple of hours and enjoyed the company, the treats and the garden work.

Thanks so much to everyone who participated this year and especially to Catherine who guides the tasks. That's it 'til the fall.

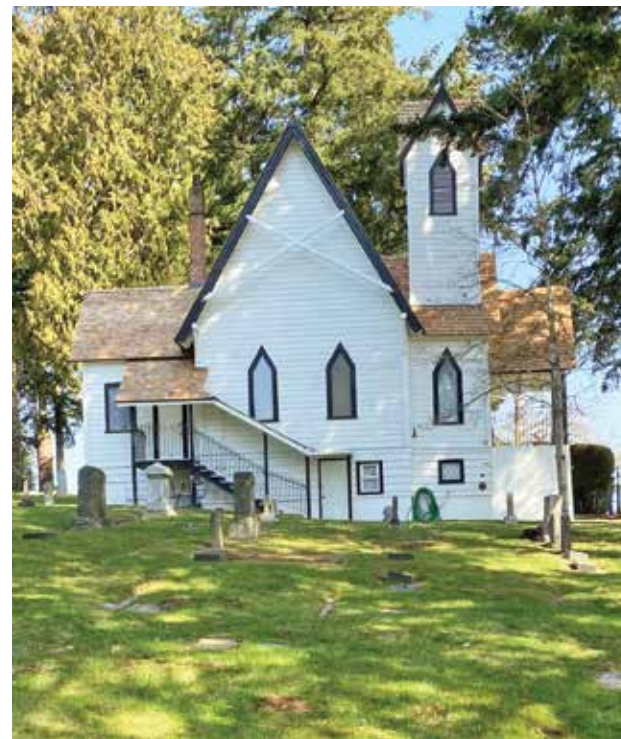
As board chair, I turned up enthusiastically with tools, but with two left gloves... what can you say! ♣



Jill rakes.



Jane with John.



Christ Church, Surrey looking great in the early spring afternoon.



TOP & BOTTOM The stone with Cross marking the Memorial Garden.



Terry with Laura Gill, the sexton.

ACW Place in Need of a New Location

Current lease expires May 31, 2023

KELLY BOWMAN

President, Anglican Church Women, diocese of New Westminster

The Board of the diocesan Anglican Church Women (ACW) are thankful to the many people who've worked diligently over the years to help the ACW thrive in God's service. With the smart initiatives of those before us, and the sale of the W.A. Memorial House in Vancouver, we have the means to flourish for generations to come. Sadly, we've hit a snag. Our currently leased warehouse in Burnaby will have a significant increase in rent at the end of the lease on May 31. The board executives are concerned that the Bales to the North and other outreach we support will be jeopardized with continued cost increases over the coming years. We need to find a new home, perhaps in a church that welcomes our commitment to God's service.

Our warehouse is 1750 sq. ft. It provides us with a boardroom, warehouse area with a washer/dryer hookup, washroom, and small kitchen area. We can downsize to a smaller area, no less than 1000 sq. ft. We are prepared to pay between \$38,000 to \$42,000 yearly, depending on the space. Ideally, we'd like to relocate to an area that is accessible to the majority of our members such as South Burnaby, New Westminster, Coquitlam, North Delta or Surrey. If you believe your parish might have room, please contact Kelly Bowman at: acw.kelly@gmail.com. We appreciate your consideration to our request and ask for your prayers that we may find a good home to continue our work for many more generations of Anglican Church Women. ✝



PHOTO Neale Adams, ODNW

Many Ways to Pray

Coverage of the Workshop at Holy Trinity, Vancouver

NEALE ADAMS

Former Diocesan Communications Officer & Editor of Topic; parishioner at Christ Church Cathedral

There are many ways to pray, the Rev. Jessica Schaap, Diocesan Missioner for Christian Formation emphasized in a session at Holy Trinity Vancouver, Saturday, March 18.

The all-day workshop attended by members of the parish and others was not a lot of theory but rather a lot of practice in praying in different ways. "There is nothing we can't pray for," the Rev. Schaap insisted.

A traditional form of prayer might be a non-Eucharistic service authorized by the Church for daily use that includes a psalm, collects, and lessons. Morning Prayer can be one example. The group went through an example of what is sometimes called a Daily Office.

And then, illustrating a very different form of prayer, the Rev. Schaap sent the group out, two-by-two, to make a circuit around Holy Trinity's neighbourhood at Granville Street and 12th Avenue, to silently observe the activity of people on the streets, and—if so moved—to pray silently for them.

Back at the hall at Holy Trinity, members of the group very slowly ate a small piece of bread and a grape as a prayer exercise, savouring the taste of each. Another

exercise focused on slowly going through the Lord's Prayer and allowing images from each phrase to arise in the mind.

Using gestures that included raising hands high above the head and sinking down to the floor, the group "prayed" the Apostle's Creed. The Rev. Schaap said this physical form of prayer originated in her work with children. Her workshop plenary, consisting of all adults (plus one well behaved child) enjoyed the exercise.

Finally, the group spent time, again in pairs, praying for each other's concerns. A guide was given on how to go about this: first address God and describe one of God's attributes (e.g., "holy God," "loving God," etc.), then make a request, give thanks, and finish up with closing words and "Amen."

The Rev. Schaap closed the workshop reminding people that it is the Holy Spirit that gives Christians the power to pray, and that—in all its forms—prayer can be an integral part of life.

The Rev. Jessica Schaap is available for parish workshops. You are invited to call her at the Synod offices, 604.684.6306, ext. 225. ✝



Beth Fortin poses with some Bundles for the North in the current location of ACW Place. This photo was taken October 28, 2016. PHOTO Randy Murray

IN MEMORIAM

William Ireland (Bill)

March 24, 1934 – March 7, 2023

Bill passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving wife Heather of 60 years and their three children David (Graeme), Signy and Erik (Anna). Survived by his brother Richard (Gail) and their children Kathy, Bruce and Susie. Bill practiced law at Pitblado Hoskins, Winnipeg and then at Owen Bird, Vancouver over 58 years at the Bar, appointed Queen's Counsel in 1984.

A generous contributor to West Vancouver and to the Greater Vancouver community, Bill was Hon. Colonel of the BC Regiment, Chair of the BC Cancer Agency, Registrar of the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster and Commodore of the Burrard Yacht Club. He read voraciously, had a great sense of humour, loved skiing, cycling and to be at sea aboard *Serena*.

Bill's memorial service was held at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver on March 16.

Donations in his memory are welcome to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Bill was appointed Registrar of the diocese of New Westminster by Archbishop David Somerville October 10, 1975 and was in that position consistently until November 1, 1987. For 12 years he held this vital role which is related to the licensing of clergy and lay people as well as being in leadership on Diocesan Council and at the then-annual Synods. In an email to Bill's son David, Bishop John wrote:

"We are very grateful for your father's service to the diocese. We cannot function as a diocese without the generous gift of



time and ability by people such as your father. His expertise was appreciated and valuable to the life of the diocese of New Westminster."

The announcement of Bill's death was made by Bishop John at the March 15 meeting of Diocesan Council, and he will be remembered at the 122nd Synod of the diocese of New Westminster, May 12, 2023. ✝

Prepared with text from the Obituary sections of the Vancouver Sun and Province.



Awaken Love | An Ecumenical Conference

Praying with Our Neighbours

DAVID TAYLOR

Rector of St. Dunstan, Aldergrove; Director of the St. Dunstan's Centre for Spiritual Renewal

On the first weekend of March, 75 people from different denominations gathered at the Parish of St. Dunstan for the *Awaken Love* weekend conference.

With speakers from the United Church, the Orthodox Church, the Anglican Church, and other non-denominational churches, it was truly an ecumenical experience for many.

Bishop John Stephens sent this letter of welcome to the attendees:

Welcome to this conference Awaken Love. It is a brilliant title as it speaks to what all of us as Christians are called to do: awaken to love. To awaken ourselves to God's deep and resounding love for us, a love that surrounds us, blesses us, holds us, binds us, and encourages us. It is a love that invites us to fully live into it and to be transformed by it.

Faith in God is a journey. It was referred to as The Way by early Christians and this speaks to a path, a pilgrimage, a time to grow, a time to renew. The Way is filled with moments of deepening our hope and trust in God: moments to allow ourselves to grow more fully into who God is calling us to be. Jesus invited us to enter this path and come to know more about the kingdom of heaven, that is, a deeper understanding of God's relationship with us. He used parables of mustard seeds and yeast and a pearl of great value. But in our own lives we may awaken to it through a sense that something is missing for us: a greater depth, a greater meaning, a greater purpose to life.

Welcome to this opportunity to come to know more about this greater depth, meaning and purpose to life. Welcome to this conference of Awaken Love where you will have opportunity to examine more carefully your relationship with God who calls us beloved. May you be guided on The Way by the Holy Spirit as you do.

Blessings and Peace

+John Stephens

Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster

The speakers, which included Jason Byassee, formerly of the Vancouver School of Theology, Cathy AJ Hardy, local retreat leader and musician, and Bradley Jersak, local theologian, and author, reflected throughout the weekend on the Transfiguration of Christ from the Gospel according to Matthew. Their messages of faith in transition resonated with the attendees and gave new insight into their spiritual journeys.

With workshop leaders and spiritual directors on hand, attendees were surrounded by prayerful support during the conference and were treated to classic St. Dunstan hospitality with delicious food and a lively Sunday morning Eucharist.

For many, this was an opportunity to hear from other Christian traditions to wrestle with the important issues of faith in Christ. The cross-denominational attendees shared their own experiences of faith from their own traditions in small groups and during the many opportunities for coffee and food.

For some, it was their first experience of the Anglican tradition, and were enriched by the Anglican liturgy on Sunday morning.

Ecumenism is alive and well in the valley and we look forward to another conference in the future.

Many thanks to Diocesan Mission and Ministry for their support of this project. ✦



A photo of a plenary session in the nave of St. Dunstan's taken from the vantage point of the piano in the chancel area. PHOTO David Taylor

Congratulations to George Cadman, KC, ODNW & AAM

Diocesan Chancellor is one of four Anglican Award of Merit recipients for 2023

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On Saturday, March 4, 2023, the penultimate day of the most recent Council of General Synod (CoGS—the governance council of the Anglican Church of Canada between General Synod meetings), the report of the Anglican Award of Merit Committee was announced by General Secretary, Alan Perry. Although a resolution to establish the Anglican Award of Merit (AAM) was approved by General Synod in 1967, it was not established until 1986. The AAM recognizes and celebrates lay people for their service at the national or international level. The Anglican Award of Merit Committee has named the following individuals as this year's recipients.

- Canon (Lay) Donna R. Bomberry
- George E.H. Cadman, KC
- Elizabeth Hutchinson
- Dion C. Lewis

The second name on the 2023 list is the Chancellor (the chief legal officer) of the diocese of New Westminster. George is only the fourth person from our diocese to receive this honour, and the first since Rob Dickson, AAM received the medal and ribbon from then-primate, the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz at his parish church, St. Christopher, West Vancouver in September of 2010. The other two recipients are the late Garth Walker, AAM, ODNW (October 7, 1914–September 19, 2012), and the late Cynthia Llewellyn, AAM, ODNW (August 28, 1920–December 4, 2016). The AAM is the highest honour awarded to an Anglican lay person in Canada.

George Cadman was appointed King's Council (KC) in 1990 and was invested into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW) in its inaugural year of 2009.

According to the coverage of the announcement on the Anglican Church of Canada website's news pages:

"CoGS members reacted with audible enthusiasm and approval as the winners were announced, followed by applause. The primate said it was a 'joy to hear the ways in which lay people across the church have contributed to our life nationally and internationally.'"

George was appointed Chancellor of the diocese in 1988, and has now served in that capacity for 35 years. At the March 15, 2023 meeting of Diocesan Council (the diocesan governance body, and in George's words "the Synod between Synods") Bishop John Stephens made the announcement about George's receipt of the AAM. The bishop was quick to point out that George is being honoured for his service to all levels in the Anglican Church. George's response was that he had only two words to describe his reaction to the announcement: "unexpected"

and "humbled." George will receive the Award from the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada at his parish at a future date to be confirmed.

George will receive the ribbon and medallion from the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, Archbishop Linda Nicholls at his Parish of St. Agnes, North Vancouver on Sunday, September 24. All of us in the diocese and particularly George's home parish are delighted that he has received this recognition. ✦



George E.H. Cadman KC, ODNW, AAM during the March 15 meeting of Diocesan Council. PHOTO Randy Murray

Farewell to the Two Als

SUBMISSION Lorie Martin

In January 2023, the Yale clericus (ordained leaders with appointments in the parishes of the Yale deanery) met for their monthly meeting. Many thanks to the Rev. Lorie Martin, now Priest-in-Charge of St. Thomas, Chilliwack for sending into diocesan communications these two photos.

The Rev. Al Doerksen and the Ven. Al Carson are seen here at their last clericus meeting as ordained leaders of St. Matthew, Abbotsford/St. Thomas, Chilliwack and St. John the Baptist, Sardis. Many thanks to the Rev. Paul Bowie, Rector of All Saints, Mission who brought two farewell cards for the departing priests. In the second photo for this post, we see the two priests signing the farewell cards to each other.

Archdeacon Carson retired from full time ministry on January 31, 2023, and the Rev. Doerksen began his next ministry appointment March 15, 2023 as Rector of St. Philip, Oak Bay in the diocese of British Columbia.

They will be missed by their parishes and by all in the diocese of New Westminster. ✝



The two Als.



Signing farewell cards to each other.

Sechelt Parish Re-Opens Shelter | February 22, 2023

The Parish of St. Hilda's-by-the-Sea makes beds available for those displaced by water damage

SUBMISSION Christine Pawley

Thirty-four people were staying at the *Upper Deck* shelter on Wharf Avenue in Sechelt when, in the early hours of February 7, a fire broke out. Extensive water damage from the sprinklers forced the immediate closure of the building, which also housed an overdose prevention site and Angelo's Pizza restaurant. The Upper Deck is managed by *RainCity Housing*.

Responding to the urgent need to find housing for the evacuated residents, in collaboration with BC Housing, the District of Sechelt and the Town of Gibsons as well as RainCity Housing, the Parish of St. Hilda's opened its annex for at least the next three months, while the work to renovate the Upper Deck goes on. The newly restored shelter will again house 35 people, and in the meantime, St Hilda's annex provides housing for 20 people displaced by the fire. The annex is open 24 hours a day and is staffed by at least two RainCity employees and a security detail round the clock, explained Mandy, a RainCity representative at a recent discussion among members of the St. Hilda's congregation. Ten two-tier bunks provide beds for the 20 inhabitants, who will also have access to laundry facilities onsite.

The parish has experience with shelter provision. In 2012, when Sechelt had no other facilities for the unhoused, the church opened the Sunshine Coast Emergency Homelessness Shelter during winter months, again using the annex. When the District of Sechelt and RainCity Housing established a new year-round shelter at the former site of the Upper Deck Hostel in December 2017, the St. Hilda's shelter closed, and the annex reverted to daytime use, especially as a meeting place for 12-Step programs. The parish has found other meeting space for these groups while the shelter is in operation, so that their programs can continue without interruption, and is very grateful to them for their willingness to be flexible about accommodation in the new circumstances. ✝



Late Winter Bird Watching

SUBMISSION Alecia Greenfield

On Sunday, March 12, members of the Parish of Holy Cross explored the *Spirituality of Birdwatching* with the Rev. Jessica Schaap.

The group watched several of the parish's feathered neighbours, observed a bushtit

building a nest (which was very cool) and walked up to Queen Elizabeth Park to see the ducks.

They then talked about images of birds in scripture. ✝



Members of the parish begin bird watching. ALL PHOTOS Alecia Greenfield

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Jason is looking for an American widgeon at Queen's Park.



A bushtit building a nest.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Vigil for the Late Brother John Maingag

Members of the diocesan chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew gather

Prepared with files from Arvin Amayag

On March 17, members of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew gathered for a Vigil Service at Avalon Surrey Memorial Home for the late Brother John Maingag. The Vigil was attended by 19 brethren and led by the local chapter president, Brother Pablo Wigwigan, Brother Cesar Castro and the chaplain, Brother Bart Alatan. It is customary for

the Vigil to take place during the last night prior to burial or cremation. The focus of the worship is to give thanks to God for the life of the departed brother, and to pray that the deceased is welcomed into God's kingdom. The service is also held in order to share the grief and bring some comfort to the family.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is a ministry for men and boys in the Anglican Communion with chapters worldwide. With a focus on prayer, study, and service, the goal is to equip men and boys for faithful discipleship, to promote their spiritual development, and to encourage fellowship and participation within the church and community.

The principal chapter of the Brotherhood in the diocese of New Westminster is based at St. Mary the Virgin, Sapperton. In May of 2017, former Archbishop of the diocese, the Most Rev. Melissa Skelton presiding as the Installing Officer admitted the members and officers to the Brotherhood of St. Andrew at St. Mary's. ✠



Members of the Brotherhood pose with the coffin. ALL PHOTOS Submitted by Brother Cesar Castro



Padi Arvin speaks.



Members of the Brotherhood follow the liturgy.



Words of prayer are offered for Brother John.

SNOW! For the First Time

The Melanesian Brothers from the Solomon Islands, Brother Nelson Bako and Father Richard Nokia (Chaplain) who visited the

diocese of New Westminster for ten days in mid-March were here in the diocese to attend the liturgies at St. James' for the late the Rev. John Carter Blyth. While in the diocese they did some visiting including a trip to Cypress Mountain Resort in West Vancouver with the Rev. Alecia Greenfield where they experienced snow in-person for the first time ever. Brother Nelson and Alecia even made snow angels. ✠



ALL PHOTOS Alecia Greenfield

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

DEADLINE FOR TOPIC SUBMISSIONS
April 28 for the Summer issue & July 21 for the September/October issue

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

AROUND THE DIOCESE

The Church of the Epiphany, Surrey Appoints Children's & Youth Worker

SUBMISSION Stephen Rowe

The Anglican Parish of the Church of the Epiphany, Surrey (aka 'Epiphany') is pleased to have appointed a Children's and Youth Worker, Madhavi Senarathna.

As of this writing in late March, the parish is looking forward to its first youth event in preparation for Palm Sunday when it is planned that some young people will take an active role in the service.

Sunday morning gatherings for younger children will begin after Easter.

This role came into being following a very successful fundraising campaign with the Anglican Foundation during 2022. In total, parishioners and diocesan supporters including major support from the diocese of New Westminster's Anglican Church Women (ACW) raised \$10,000 for the parish, as well as additional funding for the Diocesan Youth and Anglican Church of Canada Youth programs.

The generous giving of parishioners, on top of their regular support for the parish's mission and ministry has led to this planned initiative becoming a reality.

Since the beginning of 2023, Doni Koskela (warden) and the Rev. Christine

Rowe have worked very hard to prepare a job description, seek the appointment of the worker and are currently support-

ing Madhavi as the program begins. The whole venture has been very important for the parish and is providing a good deal

of energy as we seek to rebuild this vital ministry. ✝



PHOTO Carol Williams

Good News from St. Francis-in-the-Wood

SUBMISSION Elizabeth Ferguson

If you cast your memory back to March of 2020, when most of the world was in lockdown, can you remember what many people were doing with their spare time? Well, a question came to mind, where are all these people going to put their excess goods, treasures, books, pictures, crafts, etc.? At the former Parish of St. Monica's, Horseshoe Bay we had operated a *Nifty Thrifty* shop for quite a few years. The 'shop' was supported and frequented by the local community. The idea of reviving the shop was brought to Parish Council at St. Francis-in-the-Wood, who agreed to give it a try.

Over the next five months, a wide variety of goods were collected with the first sale taking place in September 2020. The idea at inception was that all monies raised would be sent to charities supported by the parish and not used for church operations. Since that date there have been 13 sales, about four per year. If possible, the sales are scheduled for the first Saturday of the month from 10am to 2pm. The total amount raised since September 2020 is \$22,390.

So far \$19,427 has been contributed to charities such as: The Street Outreach Initiative at St. James', Vancouver; Foundry BC North Shore; SPCA; Backpack Buddies; PWRDF-Ukraine; North Shore Safe House and more.

These sale days bring the community together with a fun event that is staged with class! It is not a jumble sale.

The next sales at St. Francis-in-the-



Christine O'Byrne and Karin Dunlop prepare the costume jewelry display for sale at *Nifty Thrifty*. PHOTO Chris Stringer

Wood are scheduled for May 5, September 16 and November 4. The sales are advertised through *The Beacon* (westvanbeacon.ca), a local paper produced by a St. Francis pa-

rishioner, Chris Stringer. Do come and visit the beautiful little church in the Caulfeild district of West Vancouver (4773 South Piccadilly Road). ✝

Clergy & Staff News Around the Diocese

The Ven. Richard Leggett retired as Archdeacon of Westminster at the end of March 2023. He will continue as Vicar of Holy Trinity Cathedral until the end of the year. The Rev. Ruth Monette, Rector of St. Stephen the Martyr, Burnaby was appointed Archdeacon of Westminster effective April 1. Both Ruth and the Executive Archdeacon and Archdeacon of Vancouver, the Ven. Philippa Pride were collated at the Chrism Mass during Holy Week, April 4 at Christ Church Cathedral.

Lauren Pinkney has been appointed diocesan Missioner for Youth. She began this part-time role to equip and engage leaders and youth in March. She is the key support person to the Diocesan Youth Movement (DYM). Lauren has taken on many of the responsibilities for supporting youth ministry that the Missioner for Christian Formation had as that role changes to include the development of a new Learning Centre for Mission and Formation. Lauren brings advanced education, years of experience, and tremendous passion and ambition for youth ministry in this time and place. The new contact address for youth ministry in the diocese is youth@vancouver.anglican.ca ✝



Lauren Pinkney.



Diocese of New Westminster
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Lord, my influence in this life is on many people in many ways.
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Shailene Caparas, CPA, CGA
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or email info@vancouver.anglican.ca

The Director of Finance of the diocese of New Westminster and her team will be delighted to speak with you and answer your questions about Ultimate Stewardship and Planned Giving

OPINION

Changes in Perspective

BETH FORTIN

Coordinator for Social Action, diocesan ACW; Staff Member and Parishioner, St. Cuthbert, Delta

Everyone always says trials make the person.

I have had more than enough trials, to know God is with me.

My mom and dad and I were driving to a family funeral through Stevens Pass, to Wenatchee, Washington, when I lost control of the car and spun circles into oncoming traffic.

My father, Petar, died instantly, in my arms, pinning me to the driver's seat. Everything was white and I couldn't understand why I could see shapes and genders of people, but not in colour.

My mother, Maria (*Imexosem Tleqtameth*—Walks Tall) and I shared the ambulance together to the hospital in West Wenatchee. She later died in surgery.

My surgeon kept saying over and over again, "Why isn't her (me) back broken?" as he read the x-ray with disbelief.

As a child I had an early diagnosis of Idiopathic Scoliosis, and later had surgery at 13, when I had two Harrington rods placed to try and straighten my back some. The surgery did not make my back straight but keeps it from getting worse. I had lived my whole childhood, wondering why God

Beth's late parents, Petar and Maria (*Imexosem Tleqtameth*).

hated me so much to give me this disease, and the arthritis I now suffer from.

I lived every day with the curse of Scoliosis.

Until February 8, 2023.

Those rods saved my life. God saved me, from dying in that car accident. My WHOLE LIFE had led up to that day, place and time.

My rods are no longer a curse, they are a blessing.

God was truly with me that day!

Mom and dad's dog, Augi, was in the car with us, and he survived without a scratch. A passerby took Augi home with them, fed him, and took care of him until I was able to collect him the next day.

I was discharged from the hospital, like Lazarus coming out of the tomb, naked. I was wearing paper clothes since mine had been cut off me because of the accident. My cousins were having the funeral for their father, and they took care of me, fed me, dressed me, and found me a way home.

Every day I live now is a blessing, that God has given to me, to be a beacon of light to others! ✠

Hope is the Thing with Feathers | Part II

HANNAH MAIN-VAN DER KAMP

St. David & St. Paul, Powell River

Cold morning in early Spring after a freezing night. On the bare branches of an alder, two dozen robins, perfectly still and silent, all face in the same direction, southeast. The tree is adorned with puffed up rusty-gold feathered things, soaking up the morning sun.

It is not possible to hope in an abstract way, we need particular images.

What is the opposite of despair? Not happiness but vitality. Hildegard of Bingen, the medieval abbess, teacher, doctor, poet-mystic called it *veriditas*: a theological/ecological connotation; the greening power of the divine. Commentators on cultural malaise bemoan the lethargy and low commitment evident in the present culture especially among youth. Consider this: the cause may be eco-sorrow. As in, there is no hope, only an absence of the particulars that will restore *veriditas*.

American poet Emily Dickenson, who suffered many disappointments, wrote:

*Hope is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -*

Gales and storms do not abash it. The robins emerged from under frozen undergrowth at morning light and knew where to focus. In Holy Week we made the tenebrous crossing into a new creation but often we cross back and forth over that border. We need images, specific orientation to move further from dark night to morning.

For prosperous Westerners, the Age of Acquisition is over. It used to be an approved and valued habit: consumer as responsible citizen, all that collecting of stuff, renting storage space, getting more. Now it is an outmoded behaviour, rightly frowned upon like cigarette smoking. The wealth of the super-rich is so ridiculous you want to laugh. It won't buy *veriditas*. It does buy power, how often for good?Remember those oft-quoted lines from *Micah 4*: "Beat swords into ploughs, spears into pruning hooks." Those are some repairs! Biblical theologian, Walter Brueggemann describes Micah's poem as an act of

IMAGE Losicar (iStock ID#187315181)

imaginative hope. Things will not stay as they are. It's a gift and also a summons, a task for the faithful to undertake. "Don't absolutize the present tense, don't freeze the moments of fear." Brueggemann points out how Micah's community lived under grinding conditions (kings and empires came and went, wars and conquests) but "God's future will endlessly put the present tense at risk."

We were amused by that old photo, a man carrying a placard: *REPENT, the End is near!* Our world is so focused on its crisis, no need to name them. Digital culture puts every disaster on our screens. Who is left to listen into God's future? Us. We, the Church, profess to be confident that there will be a future different from the now. That, as Micah (referring as all prophets do to their historical present concurrently

with the future) says, "In the time to come," each of us will be content with peace and smallness. Our expectations of expanded wealth, continued technological progress, entitlement to excessive consumption of fossil fuels, and more of everything will have abated. If we really believe that (do we?), we cannot be doom-sayers. Awake and aware of what is happening in our present, we also see already the signs of the Kingdom of Christ, expectant of its full revelation.

How to restore vitality? What "feathered things" are in our Hope toolbox? We already know what to do. No more lectures required, no abstractions and clichés.

Permit me to endorse a specific tool. Repair something; a useful object, a broken heirloom, a ruptured relationship. Sharpen a shovel. Not recycling but a good fix. If not possible, then use it up and do without.

Throw out the junk that cannot be recycled and repent. Yes, that placard. The fear of the "End" is in proportion to the amount of doom saying you ingest. Surprising how an increase in simplicity can enlarge *veriditas*.In a poem titled *Draftsman*, the Polish poet Czeslaw Milosz asserts the labour of the ones who make good things vanquishes despair. The poem ends, "Praising, renewing, healing. Grateful because the sun rose for you and will rise for others." For robins too. ✠

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*Hannah Main-van der Kamp, birder and poet,
 darns her good old woolen socks in Powell River.*

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 The Language of Lament | Part I was published in
 the April issue of Topic on page 15.

Serenity

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

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



PHOTO Akarawut Lochacharoenvanich (iStock ID#1396106407)

Up above my study door there is a text. It's not from the Bible. It's from the writings of Reinhold Niebuhr, a magnificent scholar to whom I owe a great deal. There is a particular statement of his that I have had above my study for many years. When someone does this it means not only that that statement has spoken to his or her life, but that it continues to do so year after year. The other reason that I wryly mention is that in senior years you don't dare mount a ladder to take it down! However, it remains above the door because it speaks to me, and I have found it true.

The quote is from a piece of political reflection that Reinhold wrote about the late 1930s or early 1940s. He was speaking about wisdom as being, not solving all the contradictions and problems we come across in life, but rather the achievement of serenity while still inescapably caught in them.

Here are Niebuhr's words:

Nothing that is ever worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore, we must be saved by HOPE.

Nothing which is beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore, we must be saved by FAITH.

Nothing we do, however virtuous can be accomplished alone; therefore, we must be saved by LOVE.

No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as it is from our standpoint; therefore, we must be saved by the final form of love which is FORGIVENESS.

Much has passed in my life, but those words have remained. I think they are magnificent. ✦

Two Faces

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

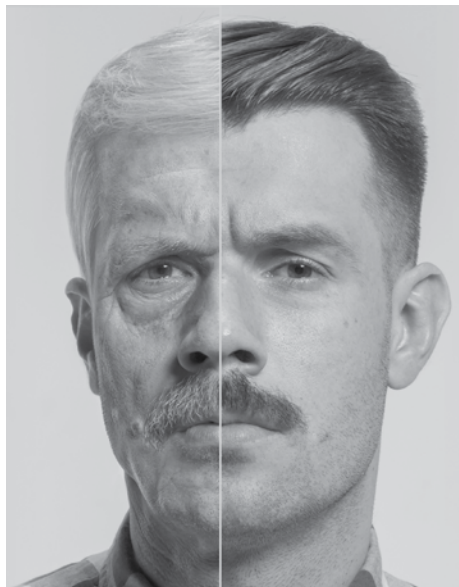


IMAGE master 1305 (iStock ID#925657186)

The human face is a wonderful thing. I sometimes think of it, or see it, as a kind of country, or rather the map of a country. Sometimes it indicates beauty and peace, at other times terror and pain, with endless refinements and variations between.

I am sitting on the side of his bed in a private ward. We are facing each other, he in a chair, his legs supported on a footstool. I wait for him to conquer a sentence that refuses to be completed, a word that refuses to come. As he struggles, the pain and frustration can be seen in his eyes.

He is among the people I suspect I shall always remember. In medical terms he has been through a great deal. In terms of his interior life, he possesses resources that are deep and immense. Without them the medical resources would long have been of little avail.

As I sit here, I am suddenly aware that immediately beside him is his own photograph. He gazes out from it, handsome and smiling in the officer's uniform of a now long-ago war. The face has all the smoothness and firmness and line of youth. Beside it he now sits. The living face, the face I now see, is ravaged by a hard-fought struggle for life more magnificent than any military battle. It is a life lived with courage and tenacity and even moments of laughter over the last decade. It is a life that will continue to look out of those eyes as he struggles to gain strength and coherence.

Two faces, one handsome and untested, the other lined and ravaged but both, totally extraordinary. ✦

Wind & Fire | A Pentecost Reflection

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

Some things can be told only as a story. Someone offers a story, we listen, we know it is pointless to ask questions because the narrator—in this case a young Syrian professional who has identified with the Christian movement in its infancy—knows nothing we do not know.

As Luke tries to tell us of the event, he is sure of only one thing. Something of immense significance and power happened. How it happened and what exactly happened can only be expressed by metaphor. A wind? Yes... but something more, something *like a wind*. Fire? Yes, but something more, something *as of fire*. Uttering involuntary words, but more, far more. Sounds utterly incomprehensible to oneself but significant for others around one. No neat explaining here, no slick analysis. Whatever has happened is as far beyond analysis as a wild sexual encounter or a soul shattering experience of some great work of art.

Even Peter, sanest and most solid of men, when he collects his wits and gets his breath back, stands shaken to the core and reaches desperately for a remembered piece of poetry of the prophet Joel he learned when a teenager in school.

*Signs on the earth...
blood and fire and smoky mist...
and the moon to blood...*

We are most certainly not in the realm of answers. Twenty years after the shattering event Luke tells his story for one purpose, that we receive it and wait for it to become true in our own experience.

What meaning is Luke determined to give to what happened in that crowded room? Above all he sees what happened—and there is no doubt the early

Christian church saw this—as an indication that whatever this birth, life, death, and resurrection means it is of universal significance. In the language of today Luke was quite sure that Jesus of Nazareth is a figure of planetary dimensions. Somehow his life among us opened a way—and will always open a way—for a new quality of human living for those who chose to take his way.

From April 1953, until his death in an air accident over the Congo in September 1961, Dag Hammarskjöld was Secretary General of the United Nations. Only after his death was it realized that a very private man, he was one of profound spirituality. In one of his diaries published after his death—and we now know his death to have been a political assassination—the following passage appeared:

*I don't know who or what
put the question.*

I don't know when it was put.

I don't even remember answering.

*But at some moment I did answer
Yes to Someone—or Something,*

*and from that hour I was certain
that existence is meaningful,*

*and that therefore my life,
in self-surrender, had a goal.*

I suspect that if many of those who were in that room in Jerusalem were asked in their later years what the event meant for them, they would have expressed their experience in similar language. As indeed would many others in history.

The Pentecostal experience is not merely a past event. ✦

IMAGE Inarik (iStock ID#525031832)

OPINION

Old Amsterdam, New Ministry | Spring 2023 Report

HOWIE AIDAN

Priest on leave, Canonically Resident in the diocese of New Westminster

The delivery truck has arrived, and the driver is opening the back to reveal a day's worth of grocery store supplies. It's still dark out, and snowing, and I know that the other two members of my team—young men born and raised in Morocco and Suriname respectively—really don't like this North Sea weather. There's a brief silence between us and then, pulling on my gloves, I volunteer to be the outside guy, pushing the heavy carts off the truck lift gate, onto the street and then into the store's small loading bay.

I'm in the heart of Amsterdam's old Jewish quarter, the store itself situated on the *Jodenbreestraat* (Jewish Broad Street), the main street of the neighbourhood. The Portuguese synagogue is a proverbial stone's throw away, as is the birthplace of its most (in)famous son (depending on your reading of history) the great philosopher Spinoza. Not a hundred metres in the other direction is the former home of Rembrandt, a contemporary of Spinoza's at the beginning of Holland's golden age.

So, how did I end up here, a "worker priest" stocking grocery store shelves, a mere six years after having left the Lower Mainland for a stint as Head of Multi-Faith Chaplaincy at Heathrow Airport in London, England in the UK?

The five-year project at Heathrow was nearing completion when COVID arrived and brought abrupt and massive changes to the airline industry. The last unfinished business of my project, a total refit of Heathrow's 13 Multi-Faith Prayer Rooms, had been approved and budgeted by the airport authority, and had architectural plans drawn up. COVID—and airport revenues heading deeply into the red—put the kibosh on all development projects, mine included.

My wife Renata, who trained as an educator in the Netherlands, wanted to be teaching at "home" again, so I bowed out of Heathrow on good terms, and we moved to Amsterdam. At first, we rented



Howie in Amsterdam.



Howie with the Rev. Mpho Tutu van Furth.



Howie with grocery store coworkers.



The view around the corner from Howie and Renata's apartment.

our daughter's apartment. She had just left for the UK for her ordination training with the Church of England (she will be "priested" in July 2023). But a year ago we moved to the centre of Amsterdam, renting a flat from a community organization that buys up historic buildings in disrepair, renovates them and rents out the new apartments to members. Our house, now consisting of four apartments, was first built in 1660, but is better known for being the home of the Allegro family, Sephardic Jews who ran a pickling company, who—all but one—were murdered in Auschwitz in 1943. If our walls could speak.

I applied for several positions with the Church of England's diocese in Europe only to discover that the English patronage

society who have rights of appointment in almost all their local parishes are rather conservative and take a dim view of my "liberal" position on LGBTQ+ issues. After three tries I came to see this was never going to work, for them or for me.

So, what to do? Why not try an experiment to see if an inclusive and affirming Anglican service has any tread on it? Surely, in Amsterdam, one of the world's most liberal and progressive cities, filling up with many thousands of young English-speaking professionals, there might be a niche that the established Church of England parish could not fill?

I took the idea to the Rev. Mpho Tutu van Furth, daughter of the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who lives locally and is also

excluded from Church of England ministry because she is same sex married. Together we have started All Saints Amsterdam (allsaintsamsterdam.com) which meets once a month in the parish church of the Old Catholic Church of the Netherlands, a Church which is in full communion with the Anglican Communion.

But how to pay for it, without an established congregation? There is rent for the use of the church and hall, plus costs for musicians and clergy, printing, etc. The grocery store! Two days a week I am stocking shelves in the *Jodenbreestraat*, the proceeds going to cover the financial needs of this fledgling worship community.

Last month two young women showed up and at the after-worship *borrel* (a Dutch word for drinks and appies) I asked if they were a couple. "Yes, we are," they replied, "and we cannot tell you how wonderful it is to finally find a place where we can just be ourselves and worship God. What you are doing here is totally unique in Amsterdam; please keep it going!"

Rev. Mpho and I are beginning talks with the Episcopal Church, their Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, with their bishop and cathedral in Paris, to see if we might join them as a mission initiative. It's early days, but signs are hopeful.

And I remain proudly canonically resident in the diocese of New Westminster. Bishop John has been kept up to date throughout and has been tremendously helpful and supportive. I also ran into Archbishop Melissa Skelton while visiting Paris on a Sunday when she was preaching there, and our brief encounter greatly smoothed the introductions to the Convocation's bishop, the Rt. Rev. Mark Edington.

Please pray for us. And if you have any encouragement for us, be in touch! ✠

.....
The Rev. Howie Aidan can be contacted
by email at howie.aidan@gmail.com
.....

Long Beach

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

The road running along behind the beach is glistening with light rain. On either side the vegetation has the wild and ragged look it develops when it has weathered years of

howling wind and blown salt sea spray.

Out of the car, on with a padded jacket, down the soft pathway, over the last mound. One's eyes leap forward to a misted horizon.

Behind the white tumble of logs across more glistening sand, out to the first line of foam, then across the endless heaving desert that rolls across the next quarter of the

planet. Immensity, calm but alive. A poet once spoke of the ocean as the mingling of "endless peace with endless agitation."

Strange how it never loses its fascination. William Wordsworth has immortalized the mysterious way in which a shell, picked from the earth far from the coast and placed to the ear, can bring to us the sound of this infinitely distant ocean (Poem: *The Sea Shell*):

*I have seen
A curious child,
 who dwelt upon a tract
Of inland ground,
 applying to his ear
The convolutions
 of a smooth-lipped shell;
To which in silence hushed,
 his very soul
Listened intensely;
 and his countenance soon
Brightened with joy;
 for from within were heard
Murmurings,
 whereby the monitor expressed
Mysterious union with its native sea.*

So, Wordsworth wrote, probably seeing in his mind's eye the wild and cold North Sea coast. Where I stand beside this other ocean, the mist continues to drift warmly past my face as we head back for Wickaninnish and the distant windblown trees. ✠



Aerial photo of Chesterman Beach and The Wickaninnish Inn, Tofino, BC. PHOTO Dave Hutchinson Photography (iStock ID#1437120496)



GROUND WORK

GROWING SMALL TO MID-SIZED CHURCHES

TRINITY TERM

**GOOD GROUND FOR
SPIRITUAL SEEKERS**

JUNE 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

6:30PM – 8:45PM

VENUE: ONLINE

FACILITATORS: TELLISON GLOVER,
ANDREW HALLADAY,
MARNIE PETERSON

MICHAELMAS TERM

**GOOD SEED FOR
SPIRITUAL SEEKERS**

SEPT 27, OCT 5, 12, 19, 26

6:30PM – 8:45PM

VENUE: ONLINE

FACILITATORS: TELLISON GLOVER,
ANDREW HALLADAY, MARNIE
PETERSON, ROSS LOCKHART

MORE INFORMATION

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Diocese of New Westminster
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

