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# Homelessness & Housing Affordability Tops the List of Diocesan Priorities Chosen by Members of the 122nd Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster



The Procession in for Opening Eucharist at 8:55am, May 12, 2023, Day One of the 122nd Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster. ALL PHOTOS Wayne Chose



LEFT Vicki Potter, ODNW, principal presenter of the Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Affordability Report and Recommendations. She is the co-Chair of the Task Force. MIDDLE Deacon, the Rev. Helen Lingham was the principal facilitator for the two-day *Exploring Priorities* and *Identifying Priorities* segments of Synod. RIGHT Professor Irene Pang, Lay Member of Synod from Christ Church Cathedral was very active in the discussions around Property Development and the resolutions that arose from the recommendations included in the Task Force Report on Homelessness and Housing Affordability.

For more diocesan news and events visit [www.vancouver.anglican.ca](http://www.vancouver.anglican.ca)

# I Came That They May Have Life & Have It Abundantly

## Summary of the 122nd Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster | May 12 & 13, 2023

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Following the 9am Opening Eucharist which included Bishop John's sermon and the installation of 10 of 11 regional deans, the front 30% of the ballroom at the Italian Cultural Centre (ICC) in East Vancouver was reconfigured by ICC and Synod staff to make the space more conducive to a two-day meeting. The completion of the set change indicated that it was time to begin the Constitution of Synod. Prior to the business of the diocese getting underway, Bishop John Stephens greeted the Delegates to Synod (they wouldn't be Members of Synod until the *Quorum* was certified and that certification—Moved, Seconded and then voted on) and said:

*"First of all, I'd like to say that it is really great to see all of you in person. This is the first time we as Synod have gathered in-person since 2019... and that seems like a long time ago."*

This was met by enthusiastic applause.

Chancellor, George Cadman, KC, ODNW, AAM, affirmed that a *Quorum* of 88 Clergy and 136 Lay Delegates had been duly registered for a total of 224. A *Quorum* must be, not less than: the Bishop; ¼ of the clergy; and ¼ of the Registered Lay. And 224 was substantially more than the minimum. The Head Table for the 122nd Synod consisted of: Lay Secretary to Synod, Belinda Kishimoto; Clerical Secretary to Synod, the Rev. Justin Cheng; Vice Chancellor of the diocese, Kevin Smith, ODNW; Bishop John Stephens; Chancellor, George Cadman; Registrar, Donald Paul, ODNW; Legal Assessor, Jennifer Dezell, ODNW; and Executive Archdeacon of the diocese, the Ven. Philippa Pride. Archdeacon Pride had suffered some hip and leg injuries earlier in the month which although troublesome and painful did not prevent her from performing her many duties throughout the two days. The two secretaries were tasked with timing the speakers, ensuring that they would not exceed the time restrictions and for that they were equipped with a bell and gavel.

The 122nd Synod consisted of six liturgies, led by a variety of clergy and lay with special thanks to the Rev. Lorne Manweiler, Rector of St. Philip, Dunbar and Regional Dean of Point Grey for accompanying the hymn singing on an electric keyboard. The Rev. Manweiler, a skilled organist did a marvelous job with the hymns, complete with some very nice reharmonizations. There were a dozen program and ministry reports and presentations. Over the two days, the Treasurer, Bob Hardy, ODNW presented the 2023 Audited Financial Statements, the 2023 Diocesan Budget, the 2024 and 2025 Diocesan Vision Budgets. Treasurer Hardy's PowerPoint presentations assembled in collaboration with diocesan Director of Finance, Shailene Caparas were clear, concise and easy to read. The three financials were received by Synod with overwhelming majority votes. And of course, the Synod business meeting priorities, Elections and Resolutions.

Street Outreach Initiative (SOI) based at St. James and under the leadership of the Rev. Fr. Matthew Johnson was the recipient diocesan ministry of donations made by Members of Synod. Donations were received at all liturgies and were encouraged during break times. In the early afternoon of Day Two the tradition of auctioning off the plants that decorate the Synod Hall's presentation and

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Bishop John Stephens preaching during the Opening Eucharist, Day One of Synod, May 12, 2023. PHOTO Randy Murray



Signage directing folks to the Hall. ALL PHOTOS Wayne Chose (except where noted)



Bishop's eye-view of the Synod Hall (the Italian Cultural Centre Ballroom) at 6:45am on Day One. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Nisga'a Elder, parishioner at St. James' and former Synod staffer, Nii K'an Kwsdins (aka Jerry Adams) is in place to offer the Territorial Acknowledgement before the opening announcements and Procession in for worship. RIGHT Archdeacon for Deacons, the Ven. Peggy Trendell-Jensen proclaims the Gospel.



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**The diocese of New Westminster**

The Anglican Church in the Lower Mainland, the Fraser Valley and on the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia, located on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish First Nations, consisting of 62 parishes and 4 worshipping communities.



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Thank you!



10 of the 11 Regional Deans are installed.



The Sanctus during the Eucharistic Prayer.



The Eucharist.



The Ven. Philippa Pride with some announcements.



Lay Synod delegates chat prior to the Constitution of Synod.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

worship space continued. Chancellor, George Cadman was happy to auction off the six orchids. All six were sold at an average price of \$180. The proceeds from the sale also went to SOL. As of this writing a few days after Synod the total is approximately \$9,000.

For those who may want to dive more deeply into the 122nd Synod, the SYNODS section of the diocesan website is populated with content from Synod including the reports and presentations that were made available to diocesan communications. Also, the Synod was livestreamed and the links to the archived livestreams on the diocesan YouTube channel are as follows:

Day One  
<https://youtube.com/live/s2QrtRsmSgM>

Day Two  
<https://youtube.com/live/X5cFiX7kpnw>

Bishop John's sermons on YouTube are available at:

Opening Eucharist | 9am | May 12  
<https://youtu.be/v9Lz1Wx-oyI>

Morning Prayers | 9am | May 13  
<https://youtu.be/9aUPu5aMYc>

Earlier in the Synod planning process it was identified that the Homelessness and Housing Affordability Task Force Report and Recommendations; Exploring and Identifying Diocesan Priorities workshops and table discussions; and the Property Development Committee presentation would be the key events at the 122nd Synod. In order that Members of Synod had some access to background prior to May 12-13, two diocesan pre-Synod gatherings were held via Zoom in late March to discuss the first two agenda items mentioned.

Co-Chairs of the Task Force, the Rev. Simbarashe Basvi and Mrs. Vicki Potter, ODNW presented the Task Force Report and Recommendations at 2pm on Day One. The Report is comprehensive and covered lots of ground. Originally there was one Resolution with six subsections, however, they were broken out into six resolutions to be examined individually (see the links on this page).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *The Task Force Report and Recommendations can be found at the bottom of the webpage at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/news/i-came-that-they-may-have-life-and-have-it-abundantly-john-10-10b>  
 For details on the Resolutions please refer to the SYNODS webpage on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/pages/122nd-synod-resolutions>*

## SERVERS

### THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

PUTTING ON  
A ROBE  
SUCCESSFULLY

PROCESSING SYMMETRICALLY

400  
YEAR-OLD  
MARIGOLDS →

WASHING UP  
THE 400  
YEAR-OLD  
SILVERWARE

MERGING INTO  
THE BACKGROUND,  
AS NECESSARY

GUARDING THE  
COLLECTION

AVOIDING  
OBSTACLES

OH - AND A  
GARLIC BREAD

FETCHING AND CARRYING  
THINGS AS REQUIRED

ACTING IN A  
CONTROLLED  
AND DIGNIFIED  
FASHION IN ALL  
CIRCUMSTANCES

CartoonChurch.com



The Head Table.



George Cadman, KC, ODNW, AAM provides context for the Constitution of Synod.

## *I Came That They May Have Life & Have It Abundantly* **Summary of the 122nd Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster | May 12 & 13, 2023**

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The initial *Exploring Priorities* segment began on Day One at 11am and ran for just over an hour. Bishop John with Deacon, the Rev. Helen Lingham and the Ven. Philippa Pride supplied some context and then described the two-day process. Initially, Members of Synod were asked to confer in their table groups and identify priorities for the diocese for the next 1 – 2 years. The notes were collected, and the Rev. Lingham and the Ven. Pride met to go over the content submitted and identify the priorities that had been explored. They selected 13:

1. Asset Management
2. Children, Youth and Families
3. Community Building
4. Culture Change
5. Diocesan Engagement
6. Evangelism and Anglican Identity
7. Homelessness
8. Parish Collaboration
9. Parish Development
10. Reconciliation
11. Social Justice
12. Spiritual Development
13. Support to Clergy and Lay Leadership

Upon arrival on Day Two and prior to the 8am elections, Synod staff with volunteers created 13 stations around the ICC Ballroom each with a blank sheet of newsprint displaying the *Priority* title at the top, and beside that sheet another sheet with some descriptions of the priority culled from the table reports of the previous day. At the next session titled *Identifying Priorities*, Members of Synod were given three round stickers and asked to place one of the three on three preferred priorities. The top five of the 13 to be considered diocesan priorities and the work of Diocesan Council over the next 1 – 2 years. They were as follows:

1. Homelessness with 83 votes
2. Social Justice with 73 votes
3. Spiritual Development with 66 votes
4. Children, Youth and Families with 56 votes
5. Parish Development (52 votes) narrowly edged out Reconciliation (51 votes) for the final spot

Members of Synod were invited to come to the floor mics and offer observations and opinions on the Priorities chosen and that continued until the Resolutions segment of Synod which closed out the business portion.

Synod concluded with Closing Prayers and Bishop John's blessing on all those elected, acclaimed, and appointed to positions of responsibility in the diocese of New Westminster.

The territory that makes up the diocese of New Westminster and much of British Columbia found itself in the grip of an unseasonal heat wave which was fully underway by the afternoon of Day One of Synod, and Day Two was even hotter. However, the ICC environmental machinery did its jobs and the temperature in the Synod Hall remained pleasant.

The Members of Synod for the 122nd will continue in their roles until the next Synod, the 123rd which will convene the Friday and Saturday of the week in May 2025 either before or after the May long weekend.

And where would the diocese of New Westminster be without volunteers. Jane Dittrich, ODNW was happy to assemble an All-Star team of folks to work the Registration Tables and also fill in everywhere and anywhere needed,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



LEFT Bishop John and Deacon, the Rev. Helen Lingham presented the principal program segment of the morning, *Exploring Priorities*.



RIGHT *Exploring Priorities* table discussion Day One.



LEFT The Rev. Miranda Sutherland, Vicar of Holy Spirit, Whonnock and Interim Priest-in-Charge of St. Matthew, Abbotsford leads prayers.



RIGHT Lunch Buffet. The Chipotle Chicken sandwich was fab!



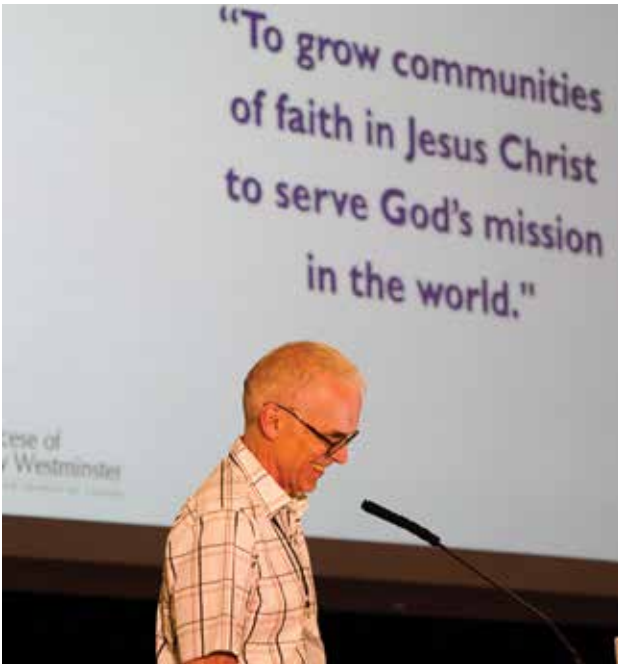
The Rev. Joyce Parry-Moore reporting in her role as Minister for Climate Justice on Synod staff. Mtr. Joyce was also elected as the Capilano Clergy representative to Diocesan Council for 2023 – 2025.



Legal Assessor of the diocese and Chair of Resolutions, Jennifer Dezell, ODNW.



Prince Camota's address to Synod was a major component of the Mission to Seafarer's Synod Ministry Report.



Treasurer, Bob Hardy presents the Audited Financial Statements for 2022.



A major focus of Day Two was *Identifying Diocese Priorities*. The newsprint sheets eventually displayed members of Synod's responses to the priorities that were explored on Day One. PHOTO Randy Murray



Early on Day Two, a Member of Synod checks out *Spiritual Development*, one of the 13 proposed diocesan priorities.



The Rev. Paul Woehrl, Chair of the Property Development Group leads Synod through the presentation.



Super Synod Staff members, Elias J. Neto and the Rev. Alecia Greenfield have the "priority" stations up and the ballot boxes ready by 7:30am on Day Two.



Bishop John preaching at Morning Prayers, the opening liturgy of Day Two of Synod. PHOTO Randy Murray

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

showing up both days at 7:15am. A few of these helpers were Synod Delegates... however... Along with Jane, many thanks to:

- Kate Walker, ODNW
- Vera Morgan, ODNW
- Anne Fletcher
- Linda Moore
- Elaine Renforth, ODNW
- Judith Pike
- Sharon Grove, ODNW
- (credentials registration and various help over the two days)
- Andrea Gailus
- Meg Stevens
- Margaret Briscall, ODNW
- Peter Roulston
- Richard Sulkers
- Deirdre Thornton

**SYNOD VIDEO LINKS**

Four parishes were featured in the Rev. Joyce Parry-Moore's two brief reports to Synod on Day One and Two. The Rev. Parry-Moore is the recently appointed Minister for Climate

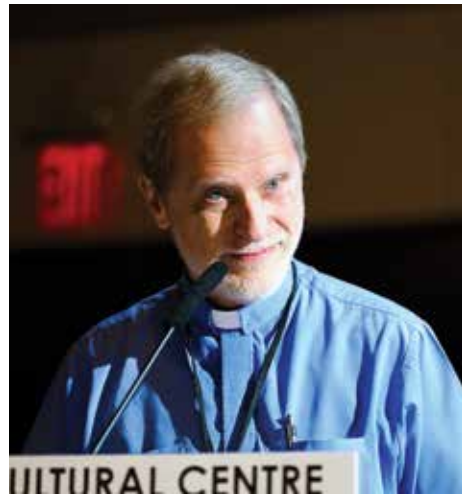
Justice on Synod staff, and she is also the new Vicar of the Parish of St. Aidan and Bartholomew (St. Bart's), Gibsons. The four featured are all parishes that had successfully applied for diocesan grants to move ahead with projects that address the Climate Crisis. The Rev. Parry-Moore encouraged parishes to consider similar projects (and similar aspirations) to those indicated in the films in order to achieve zero carbon footprints for diocesan churches by 2030.

Please go to the following links to view the videos on the diocesan YouTube channel.

Restoring Nature at the Parish of St. David's, Tsawwassen  
<https://youtu.be/Xo7WTKocVqM>

Relieving the Climate Crisis  
One Flush at a Time in Squamish  
[https://youtu.be/iDbGux\\_1m3c](https://youtu.be/iDbGux_1m3c)

Herbal Plant Boxes and Rain Barrels  
at St. Michael's, Multicultural  
<https://youtu.be/6zXYNT9sNaM>



LEFT Director for Mission and Ministry of the diocese of New Westminster, the Rev. Tellison Glover presents the resolution that will see the diocesan flow through giving initiative *care+share* continue to direct money to compassionate food service ministries of the diocese but with some collaborative process changes. RIGHT Vancouver General Hospital Chaplain, the Rev. Bryan Rivers reporting.

LEFT The Rev. Rob James, Associate Professor, Anglican Formation and Studies at VST reporting. RIGHT Steven Seegerts the leader of the Urban Aboriginal Ministry (UAM) located at the Parish of St. Mary Magdalene spoke about the ministry that his mother, the late the Rev. Vivian Seegers founded and his gratitude to be able to continue the ministry.

## *I Came That They May Have Life & Have It Abundantly* Summary of the 122nd Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster | May 12 & 13, 2023

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Awash in Rainwater —  
St. Hilda's, Sechelt's Climate Emergency Response  
(Apologies to St. Hilda's Christine Pawley who is incorrectly identified as "Christina" on the screen at the beginning of the video)  
[https://youtu.be/g-jdB\\_XyBRY](https://youtu.be/g-jdB_XyBRY)

There is a link to a YouTube video consisting of images summarizing the ministry of the Mission to Seafarer's and Senior Port Chaplain, the Rev. Peter Smyth and his team (see link below).<sup>2</sup> The program report took place mid-afternoon of Day One, and following some introductory

remarks, the Rev. Peter Smyth turned the mic over to Prince Camota, who came to Vancouver in December 2021, from the Philippines having worked as a seafarer for 5–6 years as an Ordinary Seaman (OS) and Able Bodied (AB) Seafarer on bulk ships. He has a brother in Vancouver and as is the case with some seafarers from the Philippines, he is looking for better opportunities. Prince is presently studying and hopes to work in the marine sector. His story of life at sea as a crewmember was compelling and many Members of Synod were moved by his words.

There is a link to the *care+share* promotional video which introduced the Rev. Tellison Glover's report and the

moving of the resolution to establish the *care+share* recipients for 2024–2025 (see link below).<sup>3</sup> This proved to be the fourth resolution of Synod and specifically directs the relevant Synod office staff in collaboration with diocesan ordained and lay leadership (archdeacons, regional deans) to determine where the donations will be directed based on regional needs. This is a process amendment to the 2021 model for *care+share* disbursements to several parish compassionate food service ministries that ultimately created the *Feed My Sheep* two-year initiative (see link below).<sup>4</sup> The Motion was CARRIED. ✠

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LEFT The Rev. Stephen Rowe with assistance from the Executive Archdeacon and volunteers from the floor stage the Lunch Table Lottery on both days in order to control the flow through the lunch buffet. RIGHT Youth and Youth Leaders have lunch with the bishop.



Cheers Wayne! Photographer, Wayne Chose, ODNW enjoys a cup of coffee during the lunch break on Day Two.

2 The link to the YouTube video consisting of images summarizing the ministry of the Mission to Seafarer's and Senior Port Chaplain, the Rev. Peter Smyth and his team is online at <https://youtu.be/wobKEa7nrM4>

3 This is the link to the *care+share* promotional video which introduced the Rev. Tellison Glover's report and the moving of the resolution to establish the *care+share* recipients for 2024–2025 <https://youtu.be/UKBUJpuFVNI>

4 The link to the *Feed My Sheep* two-year initiative can be found online at <https://youtu.be/UKBUJpuFVNI>



Time to raise a little dough. The Chancellor becomes the auctioneer with the goal of selling six decorative orchids for as much as possible. Proceeds to be directed to Street Outreach Ministry (SOM) at St. James.

## Thanks to Synod from the Street Outreach Initiative

Over the course of the two days, May 12–13, the Members of the 122nd Synod donated approximately \$9,000 to the ministry of the Street Outreach Initiative (SOI).

Street Outreach Priest, the Rev. Fr. Matthew Johnson made a request to diocesan communications that the following thank-you note be circulated to Members of Synod. We are only too happy to oblige and why not publish it broadly, the entire diocese and beyond will also benefit from reading Fr. Matthew’s note.

*“On behalf of Street Outreach Initiative, I write to thank Members of Synod who contributed, with such overwhelming generosity to our mission. Through your offerings at the Synod Mass, and your participation in an auction so memorable, that those present will not soon forget it. We draw particular inspiration from our multitalented Chancellor, and our steadfast, results-oriented Executive Archdeacon, among others, who led the charge!*

*As we enter our 19th year of operations in the Downtown Eastside (DTES), our hearts overflow with gratitude, for your solidarity and generosity. Everything we do is made possible by contributors like you. Each time we hit the sidewalks of this community you too go with us. Together we have fostered a unique and enduring Anglican Apostolate to our street involved brothers, sisters, and friends in the DTES. All of them—Our Relations.*

*Thanks to each of you, and to our Partners: St. James Church and the diocese of New Westminster. You share our vision of sacramental presence and pastoral care on the street. Step by step, one person at a time, together we are making a difference.*

*Glory to God, whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine!”* ✠



SOLD!



Treasurer, Bob Hardy leads Synod through the 2023 Budget and the 2024 and 2025 Vision Budgets.



Identifying Priorities table session Day Two.



•  
NEXT  
REGULAR  
SYNOD  
May 10 & 11  
or  
May 24 & 25  
in 2025  
•



LEFT The Rev. Mark Munn, Rector of St. Helen, Point Grey reporting back to Synod with information from the Identifying Priorities discussions at his table. RIGHT The Rev. Adam Yates, Rector of St. Faith, Vancouver gives the “Vote of Thanks.”



The newly elected, appointed and acclaimed stand for the Bishop’s Blessing at the Closing Worship.



The Episcopal Blessing. Adjournment followed.



LEFT At 7:30am on Saturday, May 13 the ballot boxes are ready PHOTO Randy Murray RIGHT The Rev. Monte Tugwete, Assistant Curate at Holy Trinity Cathedral and St. Alban the Martyr, Burnaby casts his ballots. PHOTO Wayne Chose

# Report of the Returning Officer 2023

## List of those elected at the 122nd Synod of the diocese of New Westminster

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Here are the results of the elections held at the 122nd Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster on May 13, 2023. Many thanks to Chair of the Nominations Committee, Kerry Baisley, ODNW for his diligence in sourcing a list of fine candidates and many thanks to Returning Officer, Susan Tufts who returned to take this essential role in diocesan governance, back for the first time since May of 2019. Many thanks to all who put their names forward and congratulations to those who were successful in their bids to become diocesan officers.

### ..... DIOCESAN TREASURER

Robert Hardy, ODNW

### ..... SECRETARIES OF SYNOD

The Reverend Andrew Halladay (*Clerical*)  
Belinda Kishimoto (*Lay*)



Returning Officer, Susan Tufts. PHOTO Wayne Chose

### ..... ARCHDEACONRY REPRESENTATIVES TO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

**Burrard**  
The Reverend Amanda Ruston (*Clergy*)  
Teofilo Bosaing (*Lay*)

**Capilano**  
The Reverend Joyce Parry-Moore (*Clergy*)  
Meg Stephens (*Lay*)

**Fraser**  
The Reverend Simbarashe Basvi (*Clergy*)  
Frances Fagan (*Lay*)

**Granville**  
The Reverend James Hwang (*Clergy*)  
Donald Thomson (*Lay*)

**Lougheed**  
The Reverend Laurel Dahill (*Clergy*)  
Ann Turner (*Lay*)

**Westminster**  
The Reverend Justin Cheng (*Clergy*)  
Deirdre Thornton (*Lay*)

### ..... YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES TO DIOCESAN COUNCIL (Two to be elected)

Currently both positions are Vacant.

### ..... ADDITIONAL DIOCESAN COUNCIL INFORMATION

Along with the four Legal Officers (a minimum of two attend Council meetings) who are appointed, the bishop also has the prerogative to appoint an additional two Council members. And two more members are chosen from amongst the six Regional Archdeacons, Diocesan Dean, Executive Archdeacon and Archdeacon for Deacons. The nine Archdeacons make the selection of the two who will serve on Diocesan Council for the next two-year term. The Archdeacons who will serve on Diocesan Council for 2023–2025 are the Ven. Stephanie Shepard and the Ven. Stephan Muir. The Chairs of the two principal Standing Committees—Finance and Property (F&P) and Mission and Ministry Development (MMD)—are also Members of Diocesan Council. Chair of F&P is the Treasurer, Bob Hardy and the Chair of MMD, the newly acclaimed Clerical Secretary, the Rev. Andrew Halladay.

### ..... COURT OF THE DIOCESE

**Clergy**  
1. The Reverend Katherine Hough  
2. The Reverend Robin Ruder-Celiz  
3. The Reverend David Taylor

**Lay**  
1. Jane Hope  
2. David Howard  
3. Erica Northcott

### ..... BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS (BACA)

**Clergy**  
1. The Reverend Liz Hamel  
2. The Reverend Liz Ruder-Celiz  
3. The Reverend David Taylor

**Lay**  
1. Irene Pang  
2. Peter Roulston  
3. Vacant

### ..... ANGLICAN INITIATIVES FUND

**Clergy**  
1. The Reverend Tasha Carrothers  
2. The Venerable Richard Leggett

**Lay**  
1. Shane Culver  
2. Vacant

### ..... DELEGATES TO GENERAL SYNOD 2023

Sarah Lehman (*Lay*)  
Stephen Bottomley, ODNW (*Lay Alternate*)  
Clarence Palome (*Youth*)

### ..... DELEGATES TO GENERAL SYNOD 2025

**Clergy**  
1. The Reverend Steve Black  
2. The Reverend Laurel Dahill  
3. The Venerable Stephanie Shepard

**Clergy Alternate**  
1. The Reverend Lindsay Hills  
2. The Reverend Robin Ruder-Celiz  
3. Vacant

**Lay**  
1. Deborah Amelia Foster  
2. Alison Minto  
3. Margaret Stevens

**Lay Alternate**  
All three positions are Vacant.

**Youth**  
Declan Parnell

**Youth Alternate**  
Clarence Palome

### ..... PROVINCIAL SYNOD

**Clergy**  
1. The Reverend Andrew Halladay  
2. The Reverend Sharon Salomons

**Clergy Alternate**  
1. The Reverend Justin Cheng  
2. The Reverend Liz Ruder-Celiz

**Lay**  
1. Rob Dickson  
2. Elizabeth Macdonald  
3. Lesley Macmillan

**Lay Alternate**  
All three positions are Vacant. ✠



Kerry Baisley, ODNW and the Ven. Philippa Pride take a look at where nominations are at halfway through the first morning of Synod. Kerry had his work cut out for him sourcing candidates for the 65 elected positions. PHOTO Wayne Chose



# Resolutions at the 122nd Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster

There were several votes over the two days of the 122nd Synod which included accepting: the Audited Financial Statements, the 2023 Budget, the 2024 and 2025 Vision Budgets, the program and ministry reports, and basic housekeeping like Adjournment.

There were a total of ten Resolutions. The first two were part of the Canons and Constitutions presentation and are available on the diocesan website (see link at the bottom of the page).<sup>1</sup> The third was a Resolution to add the *Resolutions Appendix* to the Minutes of the 121st Synod as the Resolutions section had inadvertently been left out of the Synod Circular that had gone to all delegates. Director for Mission and Ministry of the diocese of New Westminster, the Rev. Tellison Glover presented the resolution that will see the diocesan flow-through giving initiative *care+share* continue to direct money to compassionate food service ministries of the diocese. This proved to be the fourth resolution and specifically directs the appropriate Synod office staff in collaboration with diocesan ordained and lay leadership (archdeacons, regional deans) to determine where the donations will be directed, based on regional needs. This is a process amendment to the 2021 model for *care+share* disbursements that ultimately created the *Feed My Sheep* two-year initiative. These resolutions are also available on the diocesan website (see the link at the end of the article).<sup>1</sup>

The original six bullet points in the one Motion for consideration in the Homelessness and Housing Affordability Task Force Report all deeply engaged Members of Synod, however, they were broken out into six Resolutions in order that they be examined individually and a seventh was added in the early afternoon of Day Two which didn't make it to the floor during the time allotted.

Here is what Vice Chancellor, Kevin Smith, ODNW had to say about the referral of the two resolutions:

*“Due to time constraints, two resolutions were not able to be fully debated prior to the conclusion of Synod. The final resolution recommended by the Housing and Homelessness Task Force, which proposed establishing an Affordable Housing Implementation Committee, was the subject of a significant proposed amendment. Because that amendment had canonical/constitutional implications, the rules of order of the diocese required that it be referred to the Constitution and Canons Committee for further consideration. The resolution, and subject to that Committee’s recommendations, the amendment, will ultimately be considered by Diocesan Council, together with a further resolution received relating to the diocese’s response to the housing and homelessness crisis.”*

## Housing Affordability & Homelessness Task Force Resolutions

### RESOLUTION 1

**MOVED:** The Rev. Alex Wilson  
**SECONDED:** The Rev. Simbarashe Basvi  
 Synod declares that responding to the crises of Homelessness and Housing Affordability is a Diocesan Ministry Priority.

This Motion was **CARRIED**.

### RESOLUTION 2

**MOVED:** The Rev. Alex Wilson  
**SECONDED:** The Rev. Simbarashe Basvi  
 Synod receives and affirms in principle the Recommendations of the Report of the Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Affordability at the Diocesan, Regional, and Parish/Personal levels.

This Motion was **CARRIED**.



The Rev. Simbarashe Basvi, co-Chair of the Homelessness and Housing Affordability Task Force.



Vice-Chancellor, Kevin Smith, ODNW (left) briefs Synod on the rules around “Resolutions.” ALL PHOTOS Wayne Chose

### RESOLUTION 3

**MOVED:** The Rev. Alex Wilson  
**SECONDED:** The Rev. Simbarashe Basvi  
 Synod directs Diocesan Council to consider establishing a grant fund, subject to available funds, which can be accessed by parishes and worshipping communities to support crisis relief ministries that respond to immediate suffering and needs of the homeless and precariously housed through direct service as outlined in Recommendations 1 and 2 (up to \$5,000 per parish).

This Motion was **CARRIED**.

### RESOLUTION 4

**MOVED:** The Rev. Alex Wilson  
**SECONDED:** The Rev. Simbarashe Basvi  
 Synod approves and directs Diocesan Council to consider, subject to available funds and a review of the role description, to hire a Housing Animator as a staff term person to assist parishes, Archdeacon, and Regional Deans to implement the recommendations of the Task Force, namely:

- a) Develop and maintain regional maps of Homelessness and Affordable Housing service and programs offered through churches, non-profits, Indigenous groups, and government agencies to facilitate communication, collaboration and effective service delivery.
- b) Develop opportunities for partnerships in the community to deliver homeless and affordable housing services.
- c) Identify, develop and recruit regional representatives to support the work and delivery of services to those affected.
- d) Build effective teams, communication, and relationships to effect change in heart, mind, and policy, related to housing affordability and homelessness, across every political, professional, community, and personal level of our diocese.
- e) Facilitate exchange of information among parish Outreach leaders
- f) Support parishes by arranging the provision of training and skill building in community advocacy.
- g) Work with regional teams to respond, deploy, and advocate for homelessness and housing affordability.
- h) Develop and maintain awareness and understanding of regional and local opportunities for advocacy on affordable housing issues and keeping Regional Deaneries abreast of such opportunities.
- i) Arrange for the sharing of stories and experiences through *Topic* and other media.
- j) Review applications for Diocesan “crisis relief” grants (up to \$5,000) and monitor report-outs in annual vestry reports.

This Motion was **DEFEATED** (87–80).

### RESOLUTION 5

**MOVED:** The Rev. Alex Wilson  
**SECONDED:** The Rev. Simbarashe Basvi  
 Synod asks the Bishop to develop, through the standing committees of the diocese and in consultation with parishes and representatives of Indigenous communities, a Diocesan Housing Vision that articulates a theological perspective on land and outlines a governance framework for development projects, including the specification of principles and policies regarding using church assets and properties to create an Affordable Housing Fund and decommodify housing.

This Motion was **CARRIED**.

<sup>1</sup> The 122nd Synod Resolutions can be found online at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/synods/pages/122nd-synod-resolutions>

### RESOLUTION 6

**MOVED:** The Rev. Alex Wilson  
**SECONDED:** The Rev. Simbarashe Basvi  
 Synod directs the diocese to establish an Affordable Housing Implementation Committee to help bring these resolutions and recommendations to fruition.

This Motion was **AMENDED** by Irene Pang.

### AMENDMENT

**MOVED:** Irene Pang  
**SECONDED:** The Rev. Jeffrey Preiss.  
 Synod directs Diocesan Council to establish a Land Use Committee. The Land Use Committee shall comprise a variety of lay and ordained members, including:

- A Land Use Missioner with expertise in urban planning and development and real estate
- Representation of the standing committees of the diocese
- Representation of Indigenous communities

The Land Use Committee shall be tasked with:

1. Developing, in consultation with Parishes, Indigenous communities, municipal governments, and other local stakeholders such as, but not limited to, non-profit organizations or other community organizations, and according to the theological and governance framework articulated in the Diocesan Housing Vision, Diocesan Land Use Plans to be reviewed and updated every ten years.
2. Overseeing, coordinating, and providing expert and bureaucratic support for the execution of the Diocesan Land Use Plan at the parish level.
3. Delivering, at each Diocesan Synod, reports on the implementation of the Diocesan Land Use Plan.

Referred to Canons and Constitutions.



The Ven. Richard Leggett was the presenter for the Canons and Constitutions Committee report and led Members of Synod through the first two resolutions.

### RESOLUTION

**MOVED:** The Rev. Matthew Johnson  
**SECONDED:** The Rev. Alex Wilson  
 That Synod requests that the Bishop, together with a delegation for the diocese, including an Indigenous Elder from this diocese, request a meeting with the Premier of BC, David Eby, and the Housing Minister, Ravi Kahlon, seeking:

- a) To express the diocese’s profound concern about homelessness and housing for the vulnerable, in particular:
  - i. those with significant mental illness;
  - ii. those seeking residential addiction treatment programs, and transitional housing;
  - iii. Indigenous persons in urban settings; including at risk Indigenous youth, women, and those with profiles similar to murdered and missing indigenous women;
  - iv. street-involved persons with complex needs (e.g., mental illness and addiction);
  - v. and other at-risk populations.
- b) To urge commitment and follow through in the timely expansion of significant housing stock and related supports for these vulnerable populations.

Referred to Diocesan Council ☩

# We Did It (& Are STILL Doing It!)

## Boulevard Garden Report

KATHERINE HOUGH  
Vicar, St. Augustine, Marpole



The Parish of St. Augustine, Marpole's planters display the new Boulevard Garden. ALL PHOTOS Submitted



Planting Milkweed seeds in April 2023.



Planting Chocolate Lilies in April 2023.



Kitchen crew with the lunch ready for the hungry planters.



The Boulevard before; suffering from the drought.



The boulevard in early spring 2023.

The Parish of St. Augustine's, Marpole has thoroughly embraced the shared baptismal ministry of safeguarding the integrity of God's creation, respecting, sustaining, and renewing the life of the Earth. Prior to the arrival of current vicar, the Rev. Katherine Hough in 2020, the parish hosted a community herb garden, a memorial garden, composters for garden waste and a small native bee aviary. After the Rev. Hough's arrival, the parish expanded its environmental ministry including feeding our feathered friends (conforming to the guidelines provided by the BCSPCA for safe feeding), joining the David Suzuki Foundation's *Butterflyway Project* and the Rev. Hough has become a Butterfly Seeker (walking a predetermined route weekly to record and photograph any butterflies encountered) both in her own neighbourhood and in Marpole as part of the project. An inventory of the gardens revealed that about 30% of the gardens already had native plants, including mostly nectar plants for both butterflies and bees as well as a couple targeted for hummingbirds. In 2021, the parish planted some native host plants, salal and kinnikinnick (also known as bearberry), and in 2022, decided it was TIME!

With grants from Salal + Cedar and the *Diocesan Climate Emergency Working Group* the parish purchased a rain barrel to catch water for the gardens, switched to LED lighting in the church and in the daycare (realizing immediate cost savings and getting rid of some very environmentally dangerous mercury vapour lamps) and constructed a Boulevard Garden. The City of Vancouver encourages boulevard gardens and provides guidelines. Following those guidelines and with the assistance of Coast Salish Nursery which provided a consultant who came to the church, reviewed the plans, and then plotted a garden and the plants to go in it, we did it! September 24, 2022, parishioners and community members gathered to dig, hoe, weed, add soil and plant. What started as a dried-out section of boulevard (we were in the midst of a drought, so were faced with dead plants and dog dirt) resulted in a vibrant new garden. It took much longer than anticipated due to the dryness and compaction of the soil, but perseverance paid off and after hours in the hot sun the happy planters retired to the hall for a wonderful lunch made by other parishioners.

What is unique about this garden is that it contains ONLY native plants both host and nectar. It is hoped that some of those plants will be eaten as host plants are there to provide food for the caterpillars which will turn into butterflies. The garden was enclosed for security purposes (annually we lose plants to thieves) and to keep dogs off the plants settling in.

Spring efforts have begun with the planting of a native licorice fern in the memorial garden, native chocolate lilies and snowy milkweed in the boulevard garden. Snowy milkweed is the only plant monarch butterfly caterpillars will eat so it is hoped to attract monarch adults to the patch and, if successful, increase the population of these magnificent, at risk, butterflies. Our host plants will, hopefully, also attract other, at risk, butterfly species.

Unfortunately, the two grants were not enough to complete the garden so the parish will be applying for another grant from the diocese to complete the planting

this spring along with the purchase of more rain barrels and doing more light swapping. If this garden is successful, we have our eye on the boulevard currently containing huge flowering plum trees as the shade and damp would make a great garden of ferns, bleeding hearts and other native shade plants.

The parish is deeply grateful for the support and encouragement from the Rev. Laurel Dykstra along with a grant from Salal + Cedar and the workshop they provided before getting started. We are also deeply grateful for the

encouragement and enthusiasm received from the Rev. Alecia Greenfield and the Climate Emergency Working Group which has now finished its ministry, but members will continue to support the now ongoing ministry of the newly appointed Minister for Climate Justice on Synod Staff, the Rev. Joyce Parry-Moore.

All are invited to stop by 8680 Hudson Street in South Vancouver's Marpole neighbourhood and see how a little enthusiasm, vision and funding can transform a neighbourhood. ♣

## St. Bart's Food Bank Thanks the Community of Gibsons!

PAMELA MCELHERAN  
St. Bart's, Gibsons

Times are difficult for many people in our communities, including on the Sunshine Coast. Grocery and rent prices are rising; it's hard to make "ends meet" and many are turning to local food banks to help fill the gap. On April 1, the four Coastal Food Banks (St. Bart's Food Bank, Salvation Army, Pender Harbour Food Bank Society, and the Sechelt Sunshine Coast Food Bank) commenced the *Spring Coast Wide Food Bank Drive* to help those facing food insecurity. Community organizations, businesses and many individuals responded! The St. Bart's Food Bank is exceedingly grateful!

On April 1, the St. Bart's Food Bank volunteers received \$4,600 in donations from patrons who visited our table at the Sunnycrest Mall. On April 18, the Hopkins Branch of the Sunshine Coast Healthcare Auxiliary donated \$1,000 and on April 20, the Rotary Club of Gibsons donated a further \$1,000 at the St. Bart's *FUNdraiser*. The *FUNdraiser* took place at a local brewhouse where over 100 food bank supporters enjoyed an evening of live music and festivities.

The ongoing generosity of individuals and organizations in our community is what enables all four Coastal Food Banks to help throughout the year! Donations continue to be gratefully received at [stbartsfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:stbartsfoodbank@gmail.com). ♣



Rotary Club of Gibsons, President, Bill Longman presents a \$1,000 cheque to St. Bart's Food Bank co-ordinator Pamela McElheran and the new Vicar of St. Bart's, the Rev. Joyce Parry-Moore. Incoming Rotary Club president Dave Code joins in. ALL PHOTOS Submitted



Gibsons' Mayor Silas White and St. Bart's Food Bank volunteers (including the author dressed as a pirate) at Sunnycrest Mall.



Margaret Matthews, Chair, Hopkins Branch of the Sunshine Coast Healthcare Auxiliary presents a \$1,000 cheque to the St. Barts Food Bank.

# Yours are the Hands with which He Blesses All the World

## Celebrating the ministry of Deacon, the Reverend Chris Magrega

DIANE NEWTON  
St. Augustine's, Marpole

On Sunday, April 9, 2023, Easter Day, the Parish of St. Augustine's, Marpole, celebrated and gave thanks for the joyful ministry of much-loved deacon, the Rev. Chris Magrega, who now moves into retirement and the next stage of her journey. The Rev. Chris has been deacon at St. A's since 2017, during which time she generously shared her many gifts and modelled servant leadership. Whether preaching or proclaiming the Gospel in worship, caring for our elders and those in hospital, leading the contemplative prayer group, connecting with neighbours at the Marpole Food Hub—and doing it all through a pandemic!—the Rev. Chris has embraced her diaconal calling as the visible sign of Christ in the world and in the church.

Chris felt the call to serve God very early in life; as a young woman she explored a call to the religious life in the Roman Catholic church, and then experienced a time of stepping away from organized religion to pursue her career as a speech language pathologist. Later, she found herself drawn to the Episcopal church in Auburn, Alabama, where she was Clinical Director of the Speech and Language Clinic, Department of Communications Disorders, at Auburn University. The church's progressive theology, the inclusion of women as clergy and the welcoming of all peoples combined with the beauty of the liturgy and music made her feel like she had come home. It was also during her time at Auburn that Chris met her husband of over 30 years, Dr. Dennis Magrega, who has been her greatest support and champion cheerleader throughout her ministry.

After a move to Vancouver, Chris and Dennis found a warm welcome and home at St. Mark's, Kitsilano, where they were married. When work took Dennis to New Westminster, they were welcomed into the community of the Parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral, where Chris, with guidance and support from the Rev. Helen Patterson, began to explore her faith in depth. It was on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in 1999, that Chris experienced an upwelling, transformational passion for Christ. In the years that followed, Chris completed the Education for Ministry (EfM) program, and, under the mentorship of the Rev. Anne Anchor, Deacon, and the Rev. Wally Shea, himself ordained to diaconal ministry in 2009, she discerned a call to the diaconate. The Holy Trinity Cathedral community affirmed her call and Chris was ordained to the diaconate in 2010.

The Parish of St. Augustine's has been blessed to have

a deacon in our midst; the Rev. Chris' call to be the face of Christ to others and to see the face of Christ in all has enriched our worship and inspired spiritual growth and ministry to our neighbours. She has educated us on the unique and valuable role of the diaconate in the church and has embodied the servant leadership to which we are all called. In the preparation of the table for the Eucharist, proclamation of the Gospel and sending forth of the community, she has reminded us of our collective ministry to share the love and compassion of Jesus, strengthened by our shared communion. Chris' gift for connecting with others and her ministry of presence, care and attention has brought the love of Jesus and the heart of the church to our neighbours with the assurance that they are both worthy and loved.

In retiring from active ministry, Chris has expressed her gratitude for the collaborative partnerships that she has experienced at St. A's, first with the Rev. Andrew Halladay, then the Rev. Sharon Salomons, and most recently with

the current vicar, the Rev. Katherine Hough, and she hopes that awareness and understanding of the role of deacons as representatives of the church and the hands of Christ continues to grow. She also has a word of encouragement to those who may be experiencing that nudge towards diaconal ministry—dive deep and explore what God may be calling you to do and be. In her ordained ministry and beyond, the Rev. Chris Magrega has a special love of the words attributed to St. Teresa of Avila:

*“Christ has no body now but yours  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which He looks  
Compassion on the world.  
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good.  
Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world.”*

Thank you, Chris and Dennis! You have been a blessing to the parish of St. Augustine's. May God be with you on the next part of your journey! ✠



LEFT Norman Stanley, Mike Zarowny, the Rev. Chris and the Rev. Katherine processing out on Easter Day to Lord of the Dance. PHOTO Dee Alspach  
RIGHT The Rev. Chris' retirement celebration. The Celtic Cross was made by parishioners David and Petra Ormsby. PHOTO Diane Newton



## What a Little Lose Change Can Do

### Drive to aid SARA for Women

ART TURNBULL  
Honorary Assistant Priest, St. Matthew, Abbotsford

*Small change = BIG LOVE from St. Matthew, Abbotsford*

Support for SARA for Women was given by the Parish of St. Matthew, Abbotsford. The members of the parish were asked to donate their loose change weekly during March and April of 2023. This collection of coins ended up weighing nearly 25 pounds! When counted the offering came to \$519.05. SARA was presented with a cheque.

The work of SARA for Women in Abbotsford and Mission is based on the acronym:

- S=Support
- A=Acceptance
- R=Resources
- A=Action

These four words are the guidelines of the services provided by the organization. The work is for the safety and security, the support and guidance, needed by women and children who are victims of domestic violence. Emergency shelter is available every day and night. Counsellors and advocates are ready to work with women in need of psychological and legal care. This part of the Fraser Valley has this safety net in place because people do care.

The Anglican Church Women (ACW) of the parish were given a presentation by Kathy Moodie on the work of SARA for Women at the February meeting. This led to the congregation being asked to bring in their coins during Lent (five weeks in March and April). On Sunday, May 7, 2023 during the principal Celebration of the Eucharist, Moodie

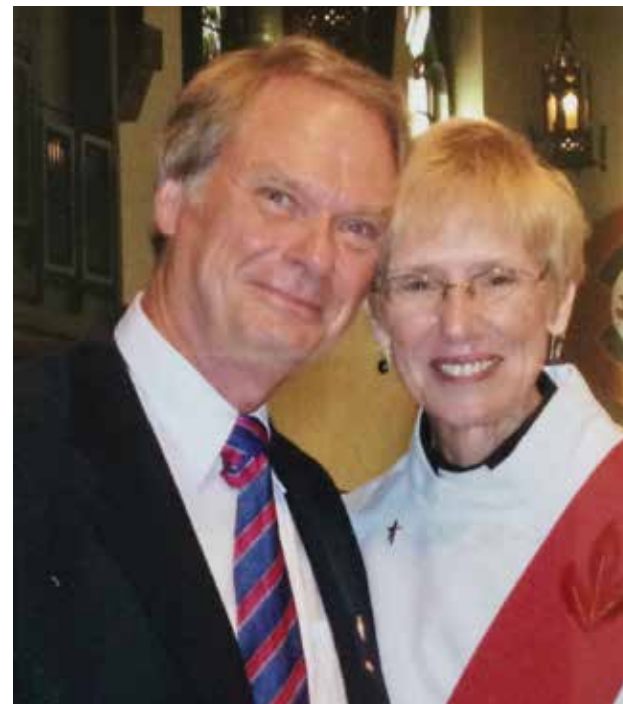


was presented with the cheque for the work of SARA for Women. Parishioners are grateful that the organization exists and that they could make a small gift of appreciation to the need for women in crisis. Even coins help. ✠

.....  
For more information contact the Social Justice Spokesperson for St. Matthew Parish, the Rev. Art Turnbull at 604.850.8782



The Reverends Magrega and Hough at the diocesan Chrism Mass, April 4, 2023 at Christ Church Cathedral. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Rev. Chris and Dennis on Ordination Day. PHOTO Submitted

# Happy 100th Birthday Frank!

CREATED WITH FILES FROM HILARY CLARK



The Cake. ALL PHOTOS Submitted

On Sunday, April 16, the Rev. Kenneth Vinal, Rector of St. Stephen's, West Vancouver welcomed Frank Patterson to the morning Eucharist. He is a long-time parishioner who arrived with many of his friends and family to celebrate his 100th birthday. At the close of the service the congregation moved into the Lounge for lunch and a piece of Frank's huge birthday cake. Minister of Music, Dr. Annabelle Paetsch, led the group in singing *Happy Birthday* to Frank.

Present to support Frank Patterson were his son, Myron and Myron's wife, Robin from Utah, his grandson, Brett from Charlotte, North Carolina, plus many friends. Both Myron and Brett are accomplished organists and music directors with outstanding careers in sacred music in the United States. Frank's visiting family were delighted that the Rev. Vinal combined the 8am and 10am liturgies so that a good number of parishioners could celebrate with Frank. The Rev. Keith Gilbert was the rector during the years when Frank was a parish officer and the parish's verger, and Frank was delighted to have the Rev. Gilbert present for worship and the festivities. Frank still lives in the house that he built in North Vancouver's Lynn Valley many years ago, although now he does have live-in caregivers.

When asked, he acknowledged that he had been born in England, confirmed in England and came to Canada after World War II. During the War he served in the Royal Navy on a Torpedo Boat and saw action in the Atlantic, the Mediterranean, and the Red Sea. When asked what his key to longevity was, he replied, "Be yourself and be happy, and don't complain!" ✦



A sparkler is lit prior to Frank cutting the cake.



Fred enjoys a sandwich and a cup of tea.



Frank, Brett, Myron and Robin.



The Rev. Keith Gilbert chats with St. Stephen's parishioner David Petitpierre.



Brett and the Rev. Gilbert chat over a slice of cake.

## A Letter to the Diocese from the Minister for Climate Justice

### Who are you & what do you think you're doing?

JOYCE PARRY-MOORE

Minister for Climate Justice

*Who are you & what do you think you're doing?*

Great questions! I'll answer them one at a time.

By now, you may have heard about me. I'm the singing vicar in Gibsons, at St. Aidan and St. Bartholomew (aka St. Bart's), working part time as Minister for Climate Justice (or Missioner for Climate Response, depending on what you're reading) for our diocese. So, what qualifies me to take on this important role?

For years, in addition to my career as an artist, educator and now a clergy person, I've also trained and engaged in public advocacy. Whether in Washington DC (did I mention that I'm from the US?) advocating for the Affordable Care Act, or in California and Washington state advocating for housing rights, I've gained the skills to see, hear, and focus social justice issues from a faith-based perspective and to help mobilize communities for action. I also love the outdoors, having lived in the rainforests of Southeast Alaska, and now on the amazing Sunshine Coast. Enough about me, how about *what I'm doing*?

*First and last: thank you.* Thank you. My position springs from the passion in the diocese of New Westminster to respond to the climate emergency, and I'm humbly aware of this responsibility. It's a new position, and we're all living into what it will look like. So far, I've met with more than nine organizations already doing great work around climate



PHOTO KatwijkseNieuwe (iStock ID#480776202)

in this region and the nation. I've listened to church leaders and heard their stories about what they're doing and what they want to do about the crisis. And I've been educated about processes and resources by colleagues at the Synod Office, chief among them our devoted Bishop John.

*So, now what?*

It's clear to me—after reading the resolutions and recommendations—that my job is not to re-invent the wheel. For one thing: it's an emergency! We don't have time.

*The time is now to mobilize ourselves and to move from a feeling of overwhelmed to one of action!*

An image that came to mind as I read Naomi Klein's book, *On Fire: The (Burning) Case for a Green New Deal*—an old-fashioned bucket brigade, where we all fill our buckets and mobilize side by side to put the fire out! So, that's how we're organizing the Climate Response section of the diocesan website, and my position.

For example, I'll do what I can to fill our buckets with *Information, Inspiration and Integration*.

Here's how...

**THE INFORMATION SECTION** | Will connect you with scientific facts, legislation and resolutions, books, articles (see links at the end of the article)<sup>1</sup>, blogs, etc. It will also provide an opportunity for you to comment or suggest other information.

**FIRST UP:** Share with me your church's current method of heating (gas, oil, hydro) and sign up to do an energy analysis for our Net Zero Churches initiative!

**THE INSPIRATION SECTION** | Will fill you with ideas and examples of projects, prayers, and stories that inspire you when times are tough. And they do get tough. This

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

# A Weeklong Milestone Birthday Celebration

## Percy Smith turns 100

BARB WALKS  
St. Mark, Ocean Park



Percy prepares to blow out the candles at the Parish Dinner party.  
ALL PHOTOS Courtesy of Barb Walks

On Sunday, May 7, at St. Mark's, Ocean Park, *Happy Birthday* was sung by the 8am congregation with a vanilla cake to share following worship. At the principal celebration of the Eucharist at 10am, a birthday blessing was sung, with *Happy Birthday* and a large chocolate cake at coffee time.

Tuesday, May 9, St. Mark's Men's Club celebrated Percy's birthday with singing and cake.

Wednesday, May 10, the parish organized a catered dinner of roast beef or chicken for over 100 invited guests including Percy's three children: Peter, Wendy, and Baden, their spouses and some of Percy's grandchildren. Grace was said by Deacon, the Rev. Steve Bailey.

Special birthday greetings were received from the Governor General, the Rt. Honourable Mary Simon; and Member of Parliament for Surrey-White Rock, Kerri-Lyn Finlay. Percy received video messages from his one remaining sister, in Australia, along with several other family members in Australia and Sri Lanka. Unfortunately, greetings from King Charles III had not yet been received as the king has been very busy lately.

Percy presented his story of a long and active life, born one of nine children in Sri Lanka (called Ceylon at the time). The family lived near the sea, so he swam and snorkeled daily. The current was strong, so they would put their clothes on top of a bright umbrella on a stick in the beach so when they were finished swimming they would know where to find them.

In 1939, when Percy was 16, war was declared. The British sent troops to protect Ceylon, which dramatically changed the lives of the people of Ceylon. Those drafted from Ceylon were mostly shipped overseas to Africa. Percy's mother forbade him from going to war before getting his education, so the day he matriculated he enlisted in the navy, and then went home and informed his parents. He served 4½ years in the navy in the Persian Gulf. Later, Percy served in Burma, Malaya, and Singapore until the atomic bombs were dropped on Japan.

Percy's mother sent him a ticket home and the day after arriving in Ceylon he was married.

With his family he came to Canada in 1956, where there

were plenty of jobs and opportunities. First Montreal, then Ottawa, Calgary, finally arriving in BC in 1971.

Percy stated that his spiritual life was important to him. It was engrained as a little boy—as a chorister and server. He said he “became a soldier of Christ—without Christ things are not possible.”

Percy was actively involved with *Probus* (Professional Business) men's club, the Canadian Legion, *Burma Star Group*, his strata council, and of course, the Parish of St. Mark, Ocean Park.

### Secrets to living to 100:

1. Do not smoke.
2. Maintain a healthy weight.
3. Maintain regular physical exercise.
4. Maintain a healthy diet.
5. Get enough sleep.
6. Good genetics.
7. Good social support.
8. Be yourself.
9. Use your living constructively.
10. Have an active Spiritual life.

There was an open mic which included a member of the strata council where Percy lives. Percy's neighbour disclosed that Percy is also a colleague as the new centenarian currently serves on their strata council. Other speakers: his family doctor who noted his punctuality and spectacular looking shoes; his dental office technician who mentioned Percy was always on time and well-dressed. Percy said his “mom told him to never leave the house without being well-dressed.” Jim Statton flew in from Newfoundland, who with Percy's help created a space for veterans and first responders to be treated for work-related injuries. A *Probus* member stated that Percy always got the first parking spot, and as treasurer always made sure they were on budget. Percy's daughter and a granddaughter spoke about his love for his family.

All celebrated with a rendition of *Happy Birthday* and a huge chocolate cake. ✦



Bernie Toews, Percy and the Rev. Steve Bailey.



Percy's three children and daughter-in-law.



The Smith Family.

## A Letter to the Diocese from the Minister for Climate Justice

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

inspiration can come from other dioceses like the diocese of Niagara<sup>2</sup> and even the Worldwide Anglican Communion.<sup>3</sup>

**FIRST UP:** Diocesan communications collected video footage of some church stories of climate action to share at this year's Synod.

**THE INTEGRATION SECTION |** Will link you with all the groups and initiatives that I learn about, in our region, our Province, and our country.

**FOR EXAMPLE:** Net Zero Churches<sup>4</sup> and the Climate Emergency Unit<sup>5</sup> of the David Suzuki Foundation. Stay tuned for more!

Obviously, this is a *lot!* And, as a process person I understand that it all can't happen at once, and no one person

or group can do everything. My goal—and that of our diocese—is to create a platform to *Inform, Inspire and Integrate* our efforts as much as possible. To do that, I need your voice and your help! Please reach out to me: share your church's energy strategies, and the name and contact info of your Environmental Steward (more on convening a training session to come).

Email me at [jparrymoore@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto:jparrymoore@vancouver.anglican.ca) or call me at my Synod office number of 604.684.6306, ext. 232. I'm generally at St. Bart's from Sunday through Tuesday; Wednesdays and Thursdays are my “climate days.”

For now, be of good Spirit. Don't give up. Stay awake, stay active, stay connected. This is important and, together, we can do it!

Yours in the everlasting love of our Creator. ✦



1 An article from the United Nations on Climate Change can be found online at <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal13>

2 To see what the diocese of Niagara is doing, go to <https://niagaraanglican.ca/climatejustice/partners-and-resources>

3 To see what the Anglican Communion is doing, go to <https://acen.anglicancommunion.org/resources/season-of-creation.aspx>

4 For information about Net Zero Churches please go to this link <https://zeroemissionchurches.ca/>

5 To learn more about the Climate Emergency Unit please go to this link <https://www.climateemergencyunit.ca/>



The first to be confirmed, Francis from Christ Church Cathedral. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray

# Celebration of the Eucharist with Confirmation, Reception & Reaffirmation AND... on Coronation Day

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

May 6, 2023 was a special day for Anglican liturgies. People from all over the world watched the Coronation of Charles III, an Anglican liturgy in many ways akin to a Celebration of the Eucharist with Confirmation, Ordination or a Eucharist with the Consecration and Ordination of a Bishop. For many Anglicans this liturgy that hadn't been celebrated for 70 years and has only happened 40 times at Westminster Abbey since 1666, had a familiar feel. For 30 Anglican Christians gathered at Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Vancouver, May 6, 2023 will be remembered as their Confirmation Day. Do you remember the day that you were confirmed?

In the space of a few sentences with a prayer, the text on the inside cover of the Order of Service bulletin for this Service of Confirmation on the Feast of the St. John the Evangelist provides some background:

*“For many years it has been the tradition of the diocese of New Westminster to gather at Christ Church, the Cathedral Church of the diocese of New Westminster (since 1929) to celebrate and renew our commitment to Jesus Christ through the Apostolic Rite of the Laying on of Hands, commonly called Confirmation and both to receive those from other closely related ecclesial traditions and support those reaffirming their baptismal vows.*

*This is a time for prayer and renewal for all of us in our journeys of faith who attend this worship. All are invited to take the time to reflect and rejoice with all those gathered here today and to draw closer to God who draws us together as the*

*Church— Christ’s Body.”*

A prayer for those being confirmed, received or reaffirming their baptismal vows:

*“God of mercy and love, grant that your servants may grow into the fullness of the stature of Christ. Fill them with the joy of your presence. Increase in them the fruit of your Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of love, patience and gentleness, the spirit of wonder and true holiness. Amen.”*

For 2023, 30 confirmands, one candidate for Reception and one candidate for Reaffirmation came from 12 parishes of the diocese’s 62 parishes and four worshipping communities. The annual diocesan Confirmation Service traditionally takes place towards the end of the Season of Easter with Pentecost on the horizon and is an opportunity for folks from around the diocese to experience worship at the diocesan cathedral, not only for those being confirmed, received and reaffirmed but for families, friends and supporters from their parishes. The excitement of gathering in community, the beauty of the Cathedral’s fir floors and cedar beams and ceiling boards, the dozens of stained-glass windows, the experience of hearing Cathedral Choir lead the music in worship and the opportunity to sing well-loved

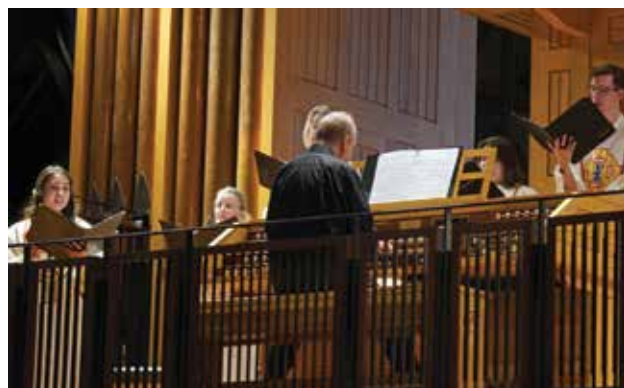
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LEFT Crucifer, Andrea Gailus leads the procession into the Cathedral prior to the singing of the Opening Hymn, *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*. RIGHT The sanctuary party is in place as the Opening Hymn concludes.



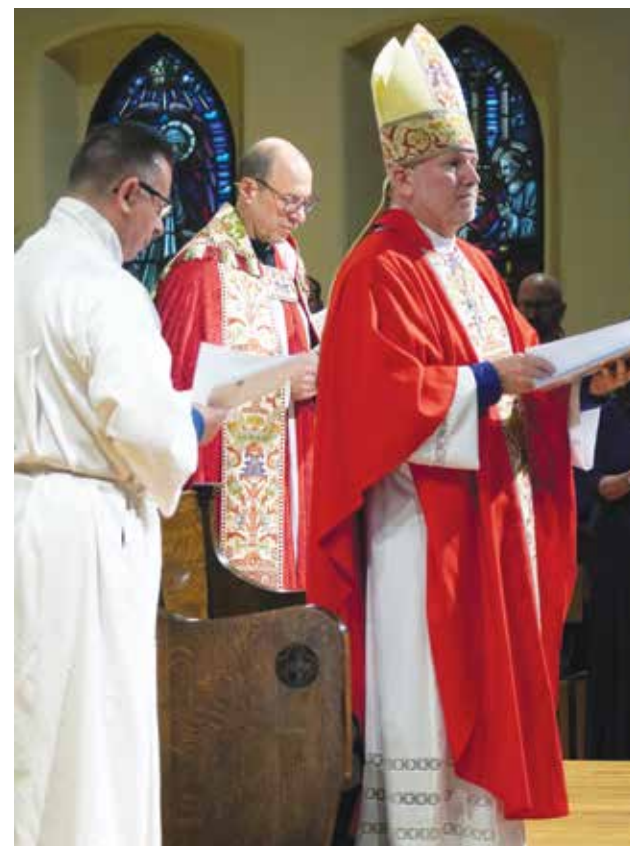
Confirmand, Christine Joy of St. Michael’s Multicultural Church, Vancouver shares the First Reading, *1 John 1:1-9*.



Cathedral Choir under the leadership of Organist, Rupert Lang lead *Psalm 92:1-2, 11-14*.



LEFT The confirmands (standing) from St. Cuthbert, Delta are presented to Bishop John by their sponsors (standing and speaking). RIGHT Bishop John leads the congregation in the Baptismal Covenant.



# Collation of Archdeacons

The Holy Eucharist with Reaffirmation of Baptismal and Ordination Vows & Blessing of Holy Oils aka “Chrism Mass” that is celebrated on the Tuesday of Holy Week (April 4, 2023) has been a regular part of the diocesan Holy Week schedule since 2015. During the COVID-19 years of 2020 and 2021, it did not take place, however, the liturgy was celebrated in 2022, with reasonable attendance, and for 2023, it was pretty much back to its pre-COVID numbers and with another component to the worship: *Collation of Archdeacons*.

With the retirement of the Executive Archdeacon of the Diocese and Archdeacon of Vancouver, the Ven. Douglas Fenton on January 4, 2023, and the retirement of the Archdeacon of Westminster, the Ven. Richard Leggett on April 1, 2023, the two successors, the Ven. Philippa Pride and the Ven. Ruth Monette were collated at the diocesan



The Ven. Ruth Monette (left) and the Ven. Philippa Pride (right) being presented by the Dean, the Very Rev. Christopher Pappas. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray

Cathedral, Christ Church. Collations have taken place during worship in different venues, but being in the Cathedral enables the Dean, the Very Rev. Christopher Pappas the opportunity to “seat” the new archdeacons in their stalls in the Cathedral quire as members of Cathedral Chapter.

Congratulations to the Ven. Philippa Pride, Executive Archdeacon of the Diocese and Archdeacon of Vancouver and to the Ven. Ruth Monette, Archdeacon of Westminster. Archdeacon Monette continues in her primary ministry role as Rector of the Parish of St. Stephen the Martyr, Burnaby.

Regional Archdeacons exercise the bishop’s ministry of oversight in a local region. In this ministry, therefore, they advise and support the bishop’s office as well as represent the concerns and perspectives of the bishop’s office in the archdeaconry. ✠



Archdeacon Monette responds to the bishop’s questions with, “I will, with God’s help.”



Archdeacon Monette is seated by Dean Pappas in the stall reserved for the Archdeacon of Westminster in the Cathedral quire. On her right (our left) is the Ven. Stephanie Shepard, Archdeacon of Granville.



Archdeacon Pride is presented to the bishop. The bishop asks, “Phillipa, will you promise to perform loyally and faithfully all such duties of ministry as you may be called upon to perform in our diocese?”

# Celebration of the Eucharist with Confirmation, Reception & Reaffirmation AND... on Coronation Day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

hymns accompanied by Rupert Lang at the Kenneth Jones Tracker organ are in themselves memorable experiences.

Confirmation is an “Episcopal Office.” Episcopal Offices are liturgies that require a bishop of the Church to preside and to engage in the liturgical action. For our bishop, episcopal parish visits are a focus of these still early years of his episcopacy and quite often those visits for Sunday worship include a confirmation or confirmations, receptions, and reaffirmations. And when Bishop John Stephens is at his Cathedral he often preaches and presides at the Eucharist and the May 6 liturgy was no exception.

In his homily the bishop drew our attention to “race pacer” Erik Sowinski as an example of someone who “sets a pace for others to follow.”<sup>1</sup> Bishop John explored the meaning of the commitments made by the 32 confirmed, received and reaffirmed by him that day. Their decisions to “stretch their experience” and “expand their goals,” “to live out their lives as true believers” and “to live in God’s grace.” He continued his homily, examining the Gospel story of Mary Magdalene and the discovery of the empty tomb and brought these two main points of focus together in the sermon’s conclusion.<sup>2</sup>

A Confirmation Service requires a great deal of preparation and presentation. Along with the bishop and Cathedral Choir under the direction of Rupert Lang there were many others involved. The Rev. Jessica Schaap, Missioner for Christian Formation and Bill Siksay, Executive Assistant to the Bishop’s and Executive Archdeacon’s Offices are the Synod staffers who shoulder much of the responsibility for these liturgies. The Ven. Philippa Pride, Executive Archdeacon, organizes many of the liturgical elements from personnel to Order of Service bulletin preparation and publication. Also, many thanks go out to all the participants including: the Cathedral’s greeting/liturgical assistance/hospitality teams; candidate’s sponsors, parish clergy, mentors, families, friends all gathered to make this annual liturgy one of the principal worship events in the diocesan calendar. ✠



LEFT Kirsten Starr of St. Cuthbert was the intercessor and led the Prayers. Here we see her approach the bishop for the laying on of hands. RIGHT Emily Grace of St. Mary’s, Kerrisdale is confirmed.



Samantha of St. Philip, Dunbar is confirmed.



The final confirmand of the day, Jude from St. George, Maple Ridge.



LEFT Deacon, the Rev. Patricia Ratcliffe prepares the altar during the Offertory.



RIGHT Following the Dismissal and Closing Hymn at a Confirmation Service all are invited to pose with Bishop John for photos. Lots of activity!

1 To read the New York Times article (February 25, 2023) about Erik Sowinski please go to <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/25/sports/erik-sowinski-pacer.html>

2 Bishop Stephen’s sermon is available on the diocesan website in video, audio and text at the following link <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2023-05-06-setting-a-pace-for-others-to-follow>

## PHOTO FEATURE

# *Holy Week & Easter*



Pastor Paul getting help from the children to "let the balloons go" to reach their full height. This is the community's commitment to them — to "grow into the full stature of Christ."



LEFT Due to high winds, Easter Cross tucked into the trees by Matthew.  
RIGHT Easter Cross close-up. The Easter Cross was on display outside the church to welcome all for worship and then brought into the church for the liturgy.



### *St. Cuthbert, Delta*

Many thanks to the folks who sent in photo coverage of their parish's Holy Week and Easter worship. First off, we have three photos sent in by the Rev. Paul Woehrle, Rector of St. Cuthbert, Delta and Regional Dean of Delta and Richmond. ✠





*St. Thomas', Chilliwack*

Many thanks to the Rev. Lorie Martin, Interim Priest-in-Charge at St. Thomas', Chilliwack for sending in photos featuring the younger members of the parish. Easter Day 2023 was the Rev. Martin's first Easter following her ordination to the priesthood late last year. The parish is celebrating its sesquicentennial this year and there is a lot of excitement about Anglican ministry in Chilliwack.

The Rev. Martin sent in the following paragraph to go with the images.

*"The children led the procession on Easter Sunday morning after ringing the church bells at St. Thomas', Chilliwack. Carrying the cross up front is one of the happy baptismal candidates. Carrying the Pascal Candle is Eucharistic Assistant Nancy den Boesterd. We enjoyed a beautiful Cupcake Cross and Easter treats for all at coffee time. The congregation welcomed this child and her father into the household of God. Splashes of blessed water reached almost everyone! Alleluia! Alleluia!"* ✠

*More Holy Week & Easter photos on the following pages...*

PHOTO FEATURE

# Holy Week & Easter

## Christ Church Cathedral

And... many thanks to diocesan photographers; Jane Dittrich, ODNW and Wayne Chose, ODNW for these photos from Holy Week 2023.

On Good Friday, April 7, 2023, Bishop John Stephens attended Christ Church Cathedral's Maundy Cafe lunch for the neighbourhood and took part in serving the meal and visiting the guests. Unofficially official diocesan photographer Wayne Chose was onsite to take some pictures of the event which ran from 11:30am to 12:30pm.

That morning, Jane Dittrich took some photos of the Cathedral's Family Service which involved the creation of Easter Gardens.

Although busy with the Greeting Teams, Jane did double duty as photographer in-house, covering the Saturday, April 8, Great Vigil of Easter and Easter Day's Festal Eucharist at 10:30am on Sunday, April 9. ✠



Bishop John Stephens popped by to say hello, and to observe the various Easter crafts and activities.



Jane Dittrich and her godson Ellis painting Easter story wooden figurines.



The Rev. Clare Morgan discussing the Easter gardens.



Volunteer, Dr. Tom Ferry helps with picking out some food bank items.



Hot drinks.



Bishop John visits with the guests.



The piano player's view of the parish hall during the lunch while performing *Let it Be*.



Megan Otton lights the new fire outside of the Cathedral's main doors. Left to right: Rejoice Anthony; the Rev. Stuart Mennigke; Megan Otton; Bishop John Stephens; the Rev. Canon Rob James; the Very Rev. Chris Pappas; and the Rev. Clare Morgan.



LEFT Bishop John Stephens blesses the new fire.



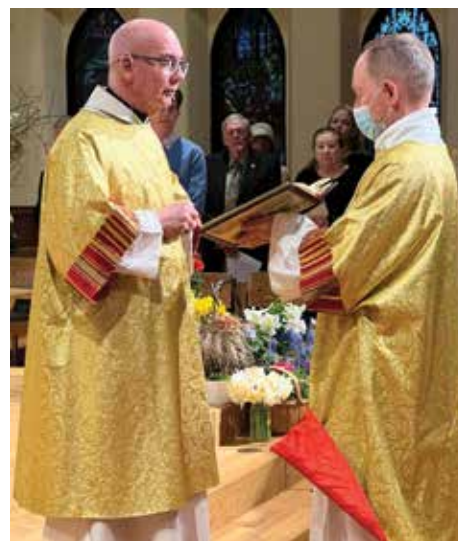
RIGHT Bishop John Stephens prays over the paschal candle being held by Cathedral Deacon, the Rev. Alisdair Smith.



The Cathedral's children, youth and families minister Lauren Odile Pinkney presents an Easter Sunday story/talk to the children.



Bishop John Stephens baptizes Pascal Ji See Ng-Demers.



Deacon, the Rev. Alisdair Smith reads the Gospel.



The bishop prays before preaching the Easter Sunday homily.



LEFT The Very Rev. Chris Pappas presides over the Great Thanksgiving. Left to right: Rev. Matthew Senf; the Rev. Alisdair Smith; the Rev. Clare Morgan; Dean Chris Pappas; and liturgical assistant, Terry Love. RIGHT Bishop John Stephens offering the Episcopal Blessing



Bishop John Stephens praying with the liturgical team following the Easter Sunday liturgy.



Dean Chris Pappas and Bishop John Stephens wishing Happy Easter to exiting members of the Cathedral's congregation.

# Service of Lamentation

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On the Friday of Easter Week, April 14, 2023, a group of clergy and lay from Christ Church Cathedral working with folks from the regional healthcare organizations — Providence and Vancouver Coastal Health — under the oversight of the diocese of New Westminster presented the second annual Service of Lamentation, a liturgy “for all living through the Opioid Crisis.” The liturgy took place at 2pm in the chancel of the diocesan Cathedral with approximately 50 people in attendance, about double the attendance of the 2022 inaugural.

The speaker was Philip Murray, Spiritual Care Practitioner, Vancouver Coastal Health. He began his address by reminding all those present of the facts:

*“It was seven years ago today on April 14, 2016, when the provincial health officer Dr. Perry Kendall declared a public health emergency ‘due to the significant rise in opioid-related overdose deaths reported in BC.’ At the time, the rate of deaths caused by illicit opioid use had been rising from 369 in 2014 (7.8 people per 100,000), to 993 in 2016 (20.4 people per 100,000).*

*Fentanyl entered the illicit drug supply in 2017, and the number of deaths increased to almost 1,500 (30.3 people per 100,000). Harm reduction strategies were implemented across BC with tentative explorations into providing access to a safe supply began, decreasing the number of deaths by 37% in 2019. It seemed that things were improving until another public health emergency arrived in 2020 resulting in fear, isolation, and orders to stay at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 1,767 people died in 2020 (34.3 people per 100,000), 2,310 people died in 2021 (44.3 people per 100,000), and 2,293 people died in 2022 (43.1 people per 100,000). In March 2023, the BC Coroner’s Service published a report identifying that more than 11,000 British Columbians have died since the declaration of the public health emergency. And in January of this year, the last month for which we have data, 211 people died. That is almost seven lives lost, each day, from using opioids. These are the numbers, the statistics.”*

Participants in the service included the Cathedral’s organizing team of: Deacon, the Rev. Alisdair Smith, who read a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

*“How long, Oh Lord?  
How long must I bear pain in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all day long?”*

Psalm 13:1a, 2



Philip Murray speaking. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray



The Rev. Clare Morgan plays a prelude prior to worship.



Elder Glida Morgan.

# Experiencing Awe in the North

ALECIA GREENFIELD  
Vicar of the Parish of Holy Cross, Vancouver; Special Projects Facilitator, diocese of New Westminster

Members of the Parish of Holy Cross, Vancouver and some friends and family travelled to Whitehorse this past March. Eight of us flew from Vancouver, including Katsumi, a guest from Japan, and Trine, the Rev. Alecia Greenfield’s mother. We were looking for the northern lights and practicing appreciating awe. We knew that we needed to pay attention to awe everywhere. Not everyone who goes north gets to see the aurora borealis. We made a lot of plans.

Together we explored the Yukon Wildlife Preserve,

where we discovered how heavy moose antlers are and were awed by the majesty of mountain sheep. We split up to explore more of the region. Some of us went to Skagway, Alaska, and some saw the first trumpeter swans migrating north. Some of us went snowshoeing and tried out kick sleds. We paid our respects at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. We brought a small gift to Rev. Vincent Fenga at Christ Church Cathedral, Whitehorse. We appreciated the Ted Harrison designed windows at the Cathedral and met

the Bishop of the diocese of Yukon, the Rt. Rev. Lesley Wheeler-Dame. Every day we took time to rest and reflect at the *onsen* (Japanese for natural hot springs). We were awed by the generosity of the group and amazed by the beauty of the landscape.

And then we did see the lights. Every night the northern lights danced in the sky. We were blessed. And we were awed. ✦



LEFT Northern Lights. RIGHT Trying on moose antlers: the Rev. Alecia Greenfield, Keiko and Ryan. ALL PHOTOS Wendy Matsubuchi-Bremner



LEFT Meeting the clergy in Whitehorse — Bishop Lesley, the Rev. Vincent Fenga, Rev. Alecia and Wendy. MIDDLE Wendy follows the Gold Rush in Skagway. RIGHT Kick sleds and snowshoes, Keiko, Ryan and Katsumi.



# Service of Lamentation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

letter from Brenda Bailey<sup>1</sup>, Vancouver-False Creek MLA; Chaplain at St. Jude's Anglican Home, Rejoice Anthony who read the Epistle, *Romans 8:22-23, 26-27, 31-39* and led the Prayers of Intercession; Susan Cruickshank, ODNW who welcomed the members of the congregation as they arrived. A sextet consisting of members of Cathedral Choir directed by the Cathedral's Organist and Director of Music, Rupert Lang led the music in worship; the Rev. Clare Morgan, an associate priest on staff played a prelude on the harp; members of the Cathedral's Healing Touch and Healing Prayer ministries were available for those people present in need of prayers and comfort. Executive Archdeacon for the diocese of New Westminster, the Ven. Philippa Pride representing Bishop John Stephens welcomed the congregation and offered a blessing prior to the procession out. Elder Glida Morgan of the Tla'amin Nation gave the

Territorial Acknowledgement and joined the speaker, Philip Murray<sup>2</sup> at the conclusion of his address to sing a version of *Amazing Grace*.

A significant part of the ceremony was the *Lamentation Tree*. Branches drawn on presentation board with accompanying paper leaves. People attending the service were asked to write names of victims of the opioid crisis memorial messages on the leaves and then affix them to the tree. The *Lamentation Tree* was available in the narthex until it was processed through the nave and into to the chancel by two Providence Health Care students, who placed it by the Paschal Candle during the chanting of *Psalm 13*, led by members of Cathedral Choir. Following the order of service established in 2022, the students later read Jan Richardson's poem, *Blessing When the World is Ending* (© Jan Richardson. janrichardson.com).

## Blessing When the World is Ending

*Look, the world  
is always ending  
somewhere.*

*Somewhere  
the sun has come  
crashing down.*

*Somewhere  
it has gone  
completely dark.*

*Somewhere  
it has ended  
with the gun  
the knife  
the fist.*

*Somewhere  
it has ended  
with the slammed door  
the shattered hope.*

*Somewhere  
it has ended  
with the utter quiet  
that follows the news  
from the phone  
the television  
the hospital room.*

*Somewhere  
it has ended  
with a tenderness  
that will break  
your heart.*

*But, listen,  
this blessing means  
to be anything  
but morose.*

*It has not come  
to cause despair.  
It is simply here  
because there is nothing  
a blessing  
is better suited for  
than an ending,  
nothing that cries out more  
for a blessing  
than when a world  
is falling apart.*

*This blessing  
will not fix you  
will not mend you  
will not give you  
false comfort;  
it will not talk to you  
about one door opening  
when another one closes.*

*It will simply  
sit itself beside you  
among the shards  
and gently turn your face  
toward the direction  
from which the light  
will come,  
gathering itself  
about you  
as the world begins  
again.*

Following the reading of the poem, Cathedral Choir members led the singing of the five verses of *Amazing Grace*, Archdeacon Pride offered the Blessing, and Pipe Major Andrew Hayes led the presenters out of the chancel and through the nave to the sound of the pipes. ✠



In the narthex with the *Lamentation Tree*.



Archdeacon Pride's welcome on behalf of Bishop John Stephens and the diocese.



Members of Cathedral Choir and Rupert Lang in the organ/choir loft.



LEFT The Rev. Alisdair Smith reads the letter from MLA, Brenda Bailey. RIGHT The *Lamentation Tree* is processed in by Providence Health students.



Reader, intercessor and event organizer, Rejoice Anthony.



Pipe Major Andrew Hayes.

1 The Honourable Brenda Bailey's letter is available online at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/news/service-of-lamentation>

2 Philip Murray's address is available on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2023-04-14-service-of-lamentation-reflection>

# Palm Sunday Episcopal Visit to North Vancouver

## The Parish of St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On Sunday, April 2, 2023, Bishop John Stephens visited his Parish of St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver for Palm Sunday, the first liturgy of Holy Week, 2023. As has been the custom during the last 15 years, diocesan communications goes on the road to attend at least two liturgies during Holy Week and shares that coverage through *Topic* and the diocesan website news pages. For 2023, diocesan photographer, Wayne Chose, ODNW was available, and we were able to cover the liturgy with a variety of photographs. We hope that you enjoy his images in this photo feature.

As the weather around the Lower Mainland was very unsettled (from bright sunshine to hail to sleet to snow) the Liturgy of the Palms was celebrated in the narthex prior to the Procession, which does reduce a bit of the drama and atmosphere of this once-a-year liturgy.

The Archdeacon for Deacons of the diocese of New Westminster, the Ven. Peggy Trendell-Jensen was Deacon of the Word and Table, leaving her home parish of St. Clement, Lynn Valley for this Sunday's worship. The Palm Sunday liturgy can be quite an undertaking for deacons, what with proclaiming the Gospel during the Liturgy of the Palms (*Matthew 21:1-11*) and the reading of the Passion of Christ according to Matthew's Gospel (*Matthew 27:11-54*). Archdeacon Trendell-Jensen was certainly up to the task.

The music led by a sextet of women's voices under the leadership of Choir Director, Christie Smith and accompanied by organist/pianist Galina Martyniuk was excellent as usual. This very fine choral ensemble is well worth the trip

to St. John's, North Vancouver. There was a guest musician, a skilled violinist, Roxana Whethem.

Rector of the parish, the Rev. Patrick Blaney, the congregation and the lay leadership always create a warm, welcoming environment for worship.

As is customary, Bishop John preached and presided at the Eucharist. His sermon is posted on the diocesan website: video, audio and text (see the link at the end of the article).<sup>1</sup>

As the bishop approached the conclusion of his Palm Sunday sermon he said:

*"The story of Palm Sunday is the journey from joy to sadness, from health to sickness, from calm to confusion, from celebration to anger, from cheering to violence, from trust to blame. It is the journey that takes place every day in this world and many times in our lives. But it is also the ultimate story that reminds us that God is with us no matter what. We will never be forgotten or ignored or disconnected from God's grace, love and hope. Never. I don't know if Barabbas or Pilate ever heard this message, but I do know that there was a soldier, a centurion, who suddenly knew the depth of God's connection to his own soul as he said, 'Truly this man was God's son.' A creed we continue to uphold and God-willing live out as the Church of today."* ✠

More photos on page 23...

<sup>1</sup> Bishop John's sermon is posted on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2023-04-02-seeking-spring-even-in-the-midst-of-winter-palm-sunday>



A weird weather day. Bright sunlight on St. Mary's school in North Vancouver with the Vancouver skyline shadowed by dark and stormy clouds. PHOTO Randy Murray



A view of the church on Palm Sunday, facing to the northeast. PHOTO Randy Murray



LEFT Choir Director, Christie Smith leads the before worship rehearsal. Violinist, guest musician Roxana Whethem is visible right rear. PHOTO Randy Murray MIDDLE LEFT Rector of the Parish, the Rev. Patrick Blaney welcomes the congregation. MIDDLE RIGHT The Liturgy of the Palms took place in the narthex, led by Bishop Stephens and Archdeacon Trendell-Jensen. RIGHT The Treasurer of the diocese of New Westminster, Bob Hardy, ODNW is also the treasurer of his parish, St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver. He shares the Old Testament reading, *Isaiah 50:4-9a*. PHOTOS Wayne Chose (except where noted)



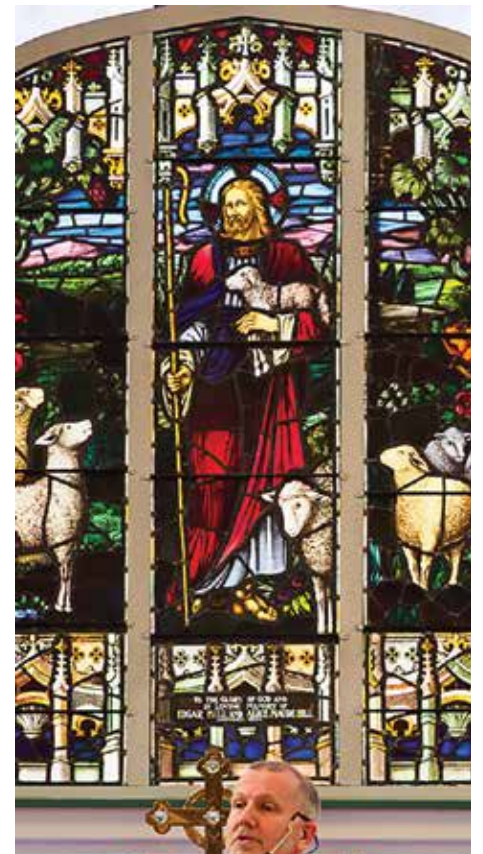
Three of the six choristers leading *Psalm 31:9-16*.



Ann Burch reads the Epistle, *Philippians 2:5-11*.



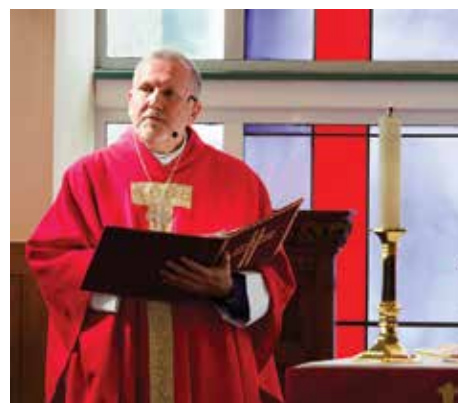
The Gospel Procession during the Gradual Hymn, *You Have Passed By*.



LEFT Parish Musician, Galina Martyniuk at the organ. PHOTO Randy Murray



RIGHT Intercessor, Tracey MacLennan.



LEFT Bishop John leads the prayers prior to the Offertory. RIGHT In order to optimize the sight lines for the parish's online broadcast of the liturgy, Bishop John preached from the altar.



## Palm Sunday Episcopal Visit to North Vancouver

### The Parish of St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22



The Eucharistic Prayer.



Bishop John administers the Body of Christ.



Bob Hardy administers the Blood of Christ.



The Episcopal Blessing.



Maurice Beasant and Jill Parsons processing out.



Cousins! Christie Smith and the Ven. Peggy Trendell-Jensen.



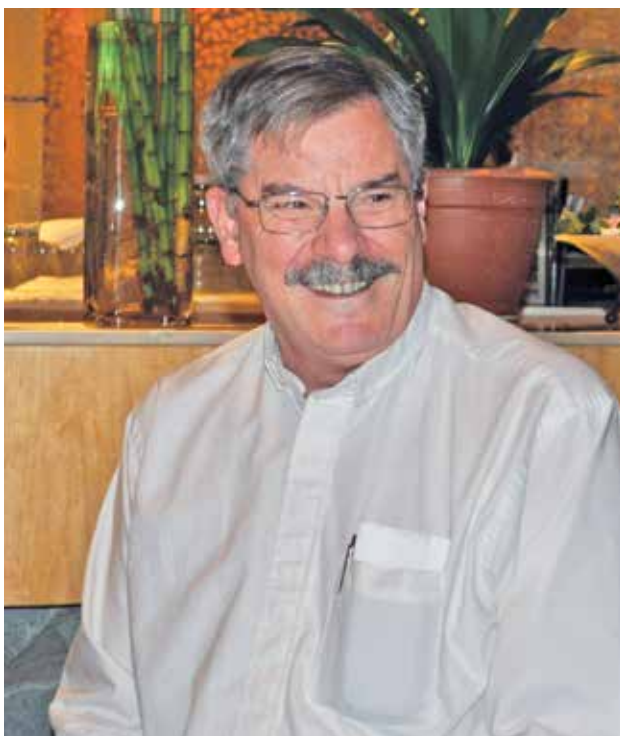
The vested, posed, archival Episcopal Visit photo for April 2, 2023. The clergy with Bishop's Chaplain, Kingsley Agyeman.

## IN MEMORIAM

### The Reverend Leonard Ernest Dyer, Deacon

April 18, 1944 – May 2, 2023

We give thanks for the life of Leonard Ernest Dyer, Deacon, and are grateful for his ministry in our diocese and in the broader Anglican Church of Canada.



The Rev. Len Dyer in 2011. PHOTO Randy Murray

Len died on Tuesday, May 2.

Len is survived by his spouse, Nora, and Len's children: Andrea (Roger), David (Leah), Angela (Sheldon); Nora's children: Chris (Deanna), Amanda (Al), and their respective grandchildren: Joseph, Ian, Evan, John, Kyla, Abby, Kira and Paige.

Len was born in Montréal, April 18, 1944, baptized at the Church of St. John, Verdun, Québec, and confirmed at St. Andrew's, Strathmore, Québec in 1958. As a teenager he taught Sunday School, assisting his father who was a lay reader.

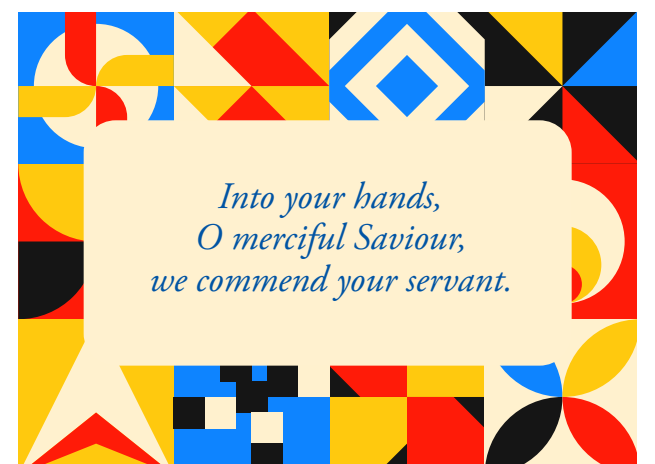
Len studied at Concordia University, graduating with a BA in Philosophy in 1966. He also did academic work in education and theology.

As a lay person in the diocese of New Westminster, Len attended St. Margaret of Scotland, Burnaby; St. James, Vancouver; and the Anglican Parish of the Church of the Epiphany (Epiphany), Surrey where he served on various parish committees, led different educational programmes, and was a pastoral visitor.

Len had a long career with BC Transit and Coast Mountain Bus Company where he was a Community Relations Officer and educator. He also worked in Customer Service for SkyTrain, was a commercial insurance underwriter, and a secondary school teacher.

Len was ordained to the diaconate June 26, 2005, at Christ Church Cathedral by Bishop Michael Ingham. He served as Deacon at Epiphany, Surrey from his ordination through 2011 when he retired.

His ministry at Epiphany was greatly appreciated. He was known for social outreach, pastoral care and teaching. He led educational programmes including the Journey programme and programmes on Anglican identity. He also networked with local agencies and charities in the Whalley area, often organizing the distribution of toques, socks, and care kits for the homeless, and low-income people. He also organized, trained and assisted lay ministers in the parish, in addition to preaching and participating in the liturgy. Len was a valued colleague to his rector, the Rev. Stephen Rowe, covering emergency pastoral visits and supporting the rector's ministry. Len was appointed Chaplain at Laurel Place in Surrey in 2008. ✦



## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### Visit from Bishop Sabu

SUBMISSION Jeddy James, ODNW

On Saturday, April 1, 2023, a delegation representing the Madhya Kerala Diocese of the Church of South India (CSI) visited the Synod Office of the diocese of New Westminster. This was a great opportunity for Bishop John Stephens to meet Bishop Sabu Koshy Cherian, his wife Dr. Jessie Koshy and other representatives of that diocese. The bishops exchanged gifts and there was lots of conversation.

One of the topics discussed was a potential collaboration between the two dioceses regarding a new Malayalam-speaking Anglican parish in the Vancouver region, associated with the diocese of New Westminster.

Many thanks to Jeddy James, ODNW of the diocesan Mission and Ministry Development Committee and of the Parish of St. Michael's, Surrey for these photos and cutlines and for helping to facilitate the meeting. ✠



Bishop John displays the Diocesan Crest that was given to Bishop Sabu and Bishop Sabu displays the pectoral cross given to Bishop John.



Left to right: Mr. Jacob Thomas, Warden; Thomas Cherian, Member at Large; the Rev. Tellison Glover; Bishop John Stephens; Bishop Sabu Koshy Cherian. Dr. Jessie Koshy; the Rev. Liz Ruder-Celiz; the Rev. Binu Philip, CSI Vicar; and Allan John, Warden.

### Children's Circle in Chilliwack for Palm Sunday

SUBMISSION Lorie Martin

On Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023, at St. Thomas', Chilliwack Laura Rosengren shared the triumphal entry story with the children. The congregation were invited to wonder about the story anew.

We wonder why we read and listen to the same stories year after year and enter into the same rituals every Lent and Holy Week. Perhaps in the rhythms of the "ordinary" we are created to long for something more—for what is new or next, along with what is ancient and true—where we once again discover what is extraordinary and touches our lives again and again. May it be so. ✠



Laura Rosengren facilitates the Children's Circle.



The St. Thomas' sanctuary on Palm Sunday, April 2.

### St. Stephen's, West Vancouver | Holy Week 2023

SUBMISSION Hilary Clark

Easter week has a reassuring similarity for Anglicans who attend worship all over the world. They know what to expect, how to behave, and look forward to the feelings of warmth, joy and satisfaction that come from repeating the rituals. As they age, there is a feeling of coming home at Easter, to a group of parishioners who are like family. The losses over the past year are counted and grieved, and the younger newcomers are happily welcomed to fill those spaces. The unity in the belief in Jesus Christ brings everyone together. Easter is a time to give thanks, to reflect on life's blessings and to go forward to continue to do God's work.

At St. Stephen's, West Vancouver, Holy Week began with Palm Sunday Eucharist. Minister of Music, Dr. Annabelle Paetsch set the scene for the entire week with her organ performance of Brahms's *O Welt ich muss dich lassen* (*O World, I must leave you*). The choir processed into the sanctuary holding palms and leading the singing of *All Glory, Laud and Honour*. Responsive readings were led by the Rector of St. Stephen's, the Rev. Kenneth Vinal who at the conclusion of the service announced the events for the remainder of the week and invited everyone for refreshments in the lounge.

Maundy Thursday's celebration of the Last Supper is always one of mixed feelings: joy in the fellowship that the disciples had with Jesus that resulted in the first Eucharist, and anxiety in the knowledge that the outcome for Jesus in only one day was to be his crucifixion. The solemnity of the stripping of the altar laid bare to the congregation the future dishonouring of Christ before his execution on the cross. From the festive garments of Palm Sunday to the loin cloth, crown of thorns, and nails in hands and feet, the humiliation of the *King of the Jews* was complete. The worshippers left the sanctuary in mourning silence.

Good Friday has always begun with a sense that the title of the day does not depict the reality of what had taken place. The scene at the base of the cross with Jesus' mother, disciples and friends huddled, grieving, aghast at what has happened, in despair for the future, has always conflicted with the word "good." The behaviour of the guards in their disrespect for the execution of an innocent man after Pontius Pilate's washing his hands has always seemed crass and inhumane, and we as onlookers are moved to share that guilt. The final prayer asks for pardon, comfort, and "may their faith grow stronger, and their eternal salvation be assured."

In West Vancouver, the joy of Easter Sunday has always been celebrated at the

sunrise service on the rocks at Caulfeild Cove sponsored by the Parish of St. Francis-in-the-Wood. This beautiful outcropping of granite jutting into English Bay has been the location of this service for many years. In good weather, when the Sun moves its way directly east of this small peninsula and initiates the beginning of the service, it is truly a transcendent moment.

At St. Stephen's, the congregation had been asked to bring small flowers to decorate the cross in the sanctuary. This waist-high cross had been prepared by the Altar Guild under the direction of Margaret Rolfe. It was wrapped in wire ready to receive the gifts of flowers that people placed on their way up to the altar for communion. Another innovative idea initiated by the Rev. Vinal following the custom of several churches was to bring a small bell to ring at the singing of the *Gloria*. It was fun to look around at all the happy faces enjoying the bells. The musical offerings during the service were enhanced by the trumpet playing of Paul Dubnik and the singing of soprano Mahtab Haghghi to the accompaniment of Annabelle Paetsch on organ, piano and harpsichord. This trio added to the celebratory atmosphere. Following Easter Day worship, lunch was served in the Pavilion. ✠



Margaret Rolfe decorates the cross.



The trio of musicians: Mahtab Haghghi, Anabelle Paetsch, and Paul Dubnik.



A view of the cross in the foreground with Annabelle Paetsch and Paul Dubnik leading the music in worship.



## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### Synod Office Receives a Surprise Visit During Holy Week

On April 6, Maundy Thursday, the Synod offices of the diocese of New Westminster received a visitor, the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls. Archbishop Linda dropped by for a visit on her way to YVR and a trip to Prince Rupert and Terrace/Nass Valley in the diocese of Caledonia where she presided and preached at Easter liturgies.

Bishop John Stephens welcomed Her Grace and brought her around to the offices,

introducing the staff. Missioner for Indigenous Justice, Kerry Baisley, ODNW gathered Archbishop Linda, Bishop John and staff under the *Raising Hearts to Remember* Medicine Wheel that is hanging from the rafters of the covered walkway between the Synod offices and St. John's, Shaughnessy. Kerry gave a bit of the history of the project and communications officer, Randy Murray snapped a couple of photos. ✚

### Tulips Cross the Border

SUBMISSION Karin Fulcher

Many thanks to Deacon, the Rev. Karin Fulcher for sending in this photo taken April 19. Karin writes:

*ing, and I am amazed that having lived in the lower mainland for 57 years I had never done that trip before. If you have never done it, it is a perfect way to spend an afternoon with lunch in Mt. Vernon and/or dinner in La Conner."* ✚

*"I was down by Mount Vernon yesterday with my two daughters who live in Washington state, and we spent the afternoon at one of the Tulip Farms—the sight is overwhelm-*



Left to right: Receptionist and Administrative Assistant to the Synod Office, Elias J. Neto; Accounting Clerk, Prashanti Yadavalli; Bishop John Stephens; Executive Archdeacon, the Ven. Philippa Pride; Executive Assistant to the Bishop and Executive Archdeacon, Bill Siksay; the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls; Missioner for Indigenous Justice, Kerry Baisley, ODNW; Special Projects Coordinator for Diocesan Mission and Ministry, the Rev. Alecia Greenfield.

### More from St. Stephen's | St. Stephen's Community Choir Concert | April 23

SUBMISSION Hilary Clark

*Music of the British Isles* was a popular theme to attract a full house at St. Stephen's, West Vancouver on a rainy Sunday. The concert was well-balanced between the St. Stephen's Community Singers and the guest artists: harpist Bess Lu, and flutist Nancy Rieken. Minister of Music, Dr. Annabelle Paetsch, programmed British works that expressed a range of emotions from dancing a jig to mourning a loss and gave the men's section an opportunity to be showcased in their authentic kilts! The program included such well-known numbers as *The Skye Boat Song*, *Loch Lomond*, *Scarborough Fair* and *Danny Boy*. The undisputed hit of the afternoon was a medley of pieces by Gilbert and Sullivan from *HMS Pinafore* featuring the bass section.

the community as entrance-by-donation concerts. ✚

*Please contact Annabelle Paetsch by email for more information at [annabelle.paetsch@gmail.com](mailto:annabelle.paetsch@gmail.com)*



St. Stephen's Minister of Music and Director of the Community Choir, Annabelle Paetsch. ALL PHOTOS John Ruddick



The men of the choir in their authentic kilts.



The choir performs.



Flautist Nancy Rieken and harpist, Bess Lu.

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### Retired Archdeacon Cuts the Cake

The Ven. Richard Leggett, Vicar of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Vancouver has retired as Archdeacon of Westminster.

He will maintain the honorific and retire as the Venerable Dr. Richard Geoffrey Leggett

Richard's service to the diocese of New Westminster over the past decades has been skillful, generous, informed, pastoral, incredibly helpful, supportive and much more.

On Thursday, April 13 at the regularly scheduled meeting of the senior leadership of the diocese (Bishop, Archdeacons, Diocesan Dean and senior Synod office staff), Richard's colleagues helped celebrate this milestone with a cake.

Behind Richard, the new Archdeacon of Westminster, the Ven. Ruth Monette is visible. Archdeacon Ruth was collated at the April 4, Chrism Mass, presented by Dean Chris Pappas and collated by Bishop Stephens.

Richard will retire from his current ministry position as Vicar of Holy Trinity at the end of 2023.

Thanks to the Ven. Stephen Muir, Archdeacon of Capilano for the photo. ✠



### Diocese of New Westminster Folks Attend Metro Vancouver Alliance Re-Boot

Metro Vancouver Alliance's first open meeting since COVID-19

SUBMISSION Margaret Marquardt

The Metro Vancouver Alliance (MVA), a community organizing grassroots coalition, part of the 85-year-old worldwide Industrial Areas Foundation, composed of organizations across faith, labour and community met on Sunday afternoon April 23 at the Jewish Community Centre.

This was the first large gathering since the pandemic as MVA seeks to rebuild and look at the future work in areas of affordability issues and income insecurity within the framework of an environmental and indigenous lens.

Diocese of New Westminster folks in attendance included: members of the diocesan Justice and Peace Unit (a member organization of MVA); Urban Aboriginal Ministry (member organization); St. Mary's, South Hill; St. Laurence, Coquitlam and St. Thomas, Collingwood (both member organizations of MVA); St. Catherine's and St. Clement's, North Shore; and diocesan staff member, Minister for Climate Justice, the Rev. Joyce Parry-Moore.

The diocese of New Westminster is an

MVA sponsoring organization.

MVA will be holding a *Listening Campaign* (a process of table groups to hear what really matters within organizations). Over the years, the Rev. Margaret Marquardt, has led these sessions. If there is any parish who would like her to lead such a process in their parish, or have her share this model of community organizing, please send an email.

It is quite possible that this Summer Issue of *Topic* will not be in homes until the third week of June or later; however, there will be a *Leadership Institute Foundations of Organizing Training*, on Friday, June 16, from 5:30pm-8:30pm (on Zoom) and Saturday, June 17, from 9am-5pm (in-person) at CUPE Metrotown (6222 Willingdon at Beresford) in Burnaby (close to Metrotown Skytrain). If anyone in any parish would like to come to this, there will not be a cost if they come through the Justice and Peace Unit (as a member organization of MVA which pays dues, there isn't a cost for training). ✠

For more information, please contact the Chairperson of the diocesan Justice and Peace Unit, the Rev. Margaret Marquardt by email at [mmarquardt@telus.net](mailto:mmarquardt@telus.net)



PHOTO Submitted



The Anglican Parish of St. Laurence Coquitlam and Good Shepherd Lutheran are partnering to lead Vacation Bible School (VSB) this year!

For information about fees and registration, contact Jason Wood, St. Laurence's Youth and Family Minister, at [stlyouthandfam@gmail.com](mailto:stlyouthandfam@gmail.com)

Kids ages 4-11 are invited to journey with Daniel in ancient Babylon as we learn what it means to be courageous and have integrity in the face of difficulty...

DATES July 10-14  
TIME 9am-12pm  
AGES Kids 4-11 years old  
LOCATION Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
1504 Spruce Avenue Coquitlam.

AND HAVE A WHOLE LOT OF FUN!

VBS will be five mornings at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

### Sardis Parish Celebrates Artaban Centennial with Benefit Concert

SUBMISSION Pete Williams

Camp Artaban on Gambier Island is celebrating its 100th birthday!

A music group, *Fall Rising*, performed a benefit concert at St. John's, Sardis at the end of April.

The evening was filled with original music performed by its members: Andy Fast, Kevin Biegel, Andrew Hall and Jonathan Ferris. Artaban staff were also present to sell some Artaban merchandise aka "swag."

The concert was "by donation" and well-attended by parishioners and the public. Although Camp Artaban has been independent of the diocese of New Westminster for more than a decade many diocesan members and parishes support the camp and contribute to its ongoing ministry.

Thanks to all who made donations that will enable sponsorship for some campers this summer. ✠



The *Fall Rising* band members (left to right): Andy Fast, Kevin Biegel, Andrew Hall and Jonathan Ferris. ALL PHOTOS Pete Williams



Camp Artaban staff helping at the concert included Nancy Ferris, Molly Niblock, Stephanie Elder and Talia Ferris.

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

**17-21  
JULY**



# Aspire

## Bible Camp

**\$75**  
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**BIBLE CAMP FOR  
KIDS AGE 5-12**  
STORIES | NATURE | ART

1410 Nanton Ave, Vancouver  
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 Diocese of New Westminster  
ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA [tinyurl.com/AspireBibleCamp2023](https://tinyurl.com/AspireBibleCamp2023)

### Christ Church Cathedral | Sorrento Summit

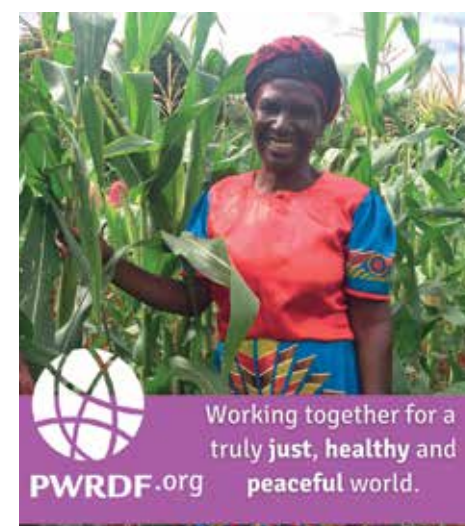
SUBMISSION Jane Dittrich

On May 18, Christ Church Cathedral Vancouver's Rector and Dean, the Very Rev. Chris Pappas, Jane Dittrich ODNW (the Cathedral's representative to Sorrento Centre) and Lauren Odile-Pinkney (the Cathedral's children, youth and families minister) met at the Cathedral to discuss the July 9-15 Sorrento Centre Summer Week. ✠

For more information check out Sorrento Centre's website at <https://sorrentocentre.ca>



PHOTO Submitted



Working together for a truly just, healthy and peaceful world.  
PWRDF.org

### 40th Anniversary of Ordination Eucharist

On Sunday, July 2, 2023, at 10:30am, the Rev. Fr. Neil Gray former Rector of the Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock and St. Paul's, Vancouver (amongst other ministry appointments in the diocese of New Westminster) will celebrate Mass on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Retired Dean of the diocese of New Westminster, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott will preach.

As this issue of *Topic* is going to print three weeks later than the usual deadline for the summer issue due to coverage of Synod, it's possible that this has already taken place, however, coverage of the liturgy will be available on the diocesan website's news pages and in a future issue of *Topic*.

Congratulations to Father Neil! ✠



The Rev. Fr. Neil Gray, April 2018. PHOTO Randy Murray



 Diocese of New Westminster  
ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

**Shailene Caparas, CPA, CGA**  
Call 604.684.6306  
or email [info@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto: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.

## Warblers & Backyard Pilgrimage

HANNAH MAIN-VAN DER KAMP  
St. David & St. Paul, Powell River

Warblers were a brief presence in early spring. Busy flecks, greeny yellow, black striped, flew in streaks of light. From the slough through willows whipping around the shed and trees and back. Some in migratory transit, some here to breed. Yellow-rumped warblers begin to nest in coastal BC at the end of April. They can double brood (*double brooding* is the initiation of a second clutch of eggs after successfully raising young from the first clutch). But the weather was so discouraging, none stayed. There are 21 varieties of warblers in BC; not even experts can distinguish all of them. The average backyard birder is happy just to notice them.

Heard their wispy songs standing in the slough in boots with binoculars in hand, spying for tell-tale wing bars. Staying in one place, just looking, relaxed and yet alert.

Where is Holy? Somewhere else, to where I could laboriously travel, climb many steps, endure bad accommodation for a glimpse of something called sacred?

Travel opens you up. You notice new and different aspects of your own identity. You become more curious and engaged. Travel will trouble you, challenge you and leave you changed. A traveler inevitably asks the big questions about life/death, goodness/brokenness. On a true journey, one can discover how to pay very close attention to the smallest details. What you notice changes the assessment of your own culture and life choices. You return, a refreshed version of your old self because you have been temporarily outside of that old self.

When I was young, I hitchhiked to Istanbul. What crazy impulsive, dangerous things youth do. My parents had no idea. Would I allow any young person to do that now? Of course not. And, yes, in my day was it less dangerous? You could walk around in the Topkapi Palace all day, no security, no gates, no tickets. The famous Hagia Sophia, once a Christian cathedral now a mosque, was empty (the outside wall was a public urinal). Looking back, I see I was under the protection of angels because I was not very alert to dangers: long blond hair, long-legged hitchhiker!

I am not referring to tourism, which is a totally different experience. Tourism is a "quick hit, no commit." Tourists don't really have to "get it." Just take the selfies and cross it off your bucket list. The great temple sites in Cambodia, built on boggy land, are sinking because of the weight of



A Yellow-Rumped Warbler. PHOTO Gerald DeBoer (iStock ID#1481915833)



Hagia Sophia in Istanbul. PHOTO Darkdiamond67 (iStock ID#1186387804)

the tourist buses. The ruins of the great Library at Ephesus are so crowded there's no place to sit or be still. When the cruise ships unload their day trippers, the wide streets of central Florence are packed like sardine cans.

The backyard birder can also be a traveler, even a pilgrim. The BC artist, Cathie Falk, who made paintings of puddles and concrete and many wonderful and weird objects, once said, "What's the point of seeing the Pyramids if you don't know how to see the beauty of your own rainy sidewalk?" The Amazon Basin can offer many exotic parrots to the Global Lister birder, but my own neighbourhood has exotics: a Calliope

hummingbird was recently identified at a feeder on the street! Skip the passport inspection, security, unhealthy airports, unpredictable flights and you'll have more gazing time and a bigger savings account.

Does this sound enviously priggish? I confess, of course I have a travel craving. What diocesan senior does not crave some sunny clime in February? Somewhere nice if you're too old to sleep in bus stations. How about Costa Rica? Instead, explore *Coastal BC-ica*. Aaaaah! But there are great documentaries about Central America if you are old-fashioned enough to watch them on Knowledge Network

A pilgrim travels ancient routes, follows

the paths of saints, seeks out the history of her/his own religious traditions. Bless them. Pilgrims on a way to experience the sacred, honestly seeking, will find it. But airplanes pollute the skies. Indigenous people become servants, earn, take pride until the local resources become too strained to accommodate the now economically necessary visitors. The locals become displaced in their own towns and villages. Their kids are influenced by western secular values. Fragile cultures fray.

Each year many *Topic* readers will travel away from the diocese to see family and friends, to explore, to be entertained, to seek out new stimulation or to learn new ways. All of those can also be pilgrimages. What is sacred is not necessarily exotic. The pilgrim path can also be found in your own backyard or local park. When we make time and pay attention, the ordinary and local are suffused with the sacred.

There are many who have never been interested in birds and those who were, may no longer be able to do so. These pieces that I write often mention birds, either literally or metaphorically, sometimes both. The best kinds of truths are those which can be read both ways, simultaneously. Backyard birding is not for everyone. There are also wildflowers, native trees, local geology, stream-keeping, permaculture, and many more local options. For those who no longer get out much, balcony bird-feeding. Consider supporting local wildlife groups. Wean a great-grandchild temporarily off devices to share an absorbing activity. Get out a magnifier; slip in a prayer.

Recent confirmed sightings near my home include American kestrels and mountain bluebirds. During my summer holidays/holy days, I hope to do some slow searching for them. Is that the distinctive song of an orange-crowned warbler I hear? Amble back to the slough with slow caution. What's the rush? The sighting might be missed now but, hopefully, it will return next year.

Come the end of June, the hermit thrush is due to return. Their silvery fluting is a summer evening treasure. It never fails to thrill, calm and refresh me. Wonder and delight. No lost luggage. ✦

Hannah Main-van der Kamp enjoys travel in a ten-kilometre radius from her home south of Powell River.

## Wounded Healer

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

Retired Priest of the diocese of Calgary, Honorary Assistant Priest in the diocese of BC, former Deacon of the diocese of New Westminster & Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver

It's in the nature of things that some illnesses and accidents come. For two weeks we tasted the pleasure of a lakeside cottage. Then the accident. It was minor, but I was grateful for the insights I received as I moved through it.

What happened was that I'd slipped on a dock one wet stormy afternoon, and I'd broken my wrist. There followed a day and a half in hospital. I assume this was because of the patient's age!

In hospital or at any time of sickness we are more (than usual) sensitive to the attitudes of others towards us. More than anyone else one person comes to mind. My first impression as she walked into the lounge and called my name was one of kindness and friendliness and, for some reason, weariness. She is I would guess in her early sixties, her hair greyish, short,



PHOTO Cinefootage Visuals (iStock ID#1438877349)

neat. When she asked me to follow her, I noticed she moved slowly with a tentative slightly lurching walk. And as she asked me to prepare for the X-ray, she chatted gently and reassuringly. Her voice was quiet, her accent north of England. Then as she placed my arm in the correct position on the machine, I saw her fingers, delicate, spotlessly clean, already twisted in the unmistakable contours of arthritis.

I suppose it was the way she tended to me and, I assume, others. She not only witnessed pain but obviously experienced it with grinding persistence, I could not help but see her as a kind of wounded hearer. And precisely because she was wounded it gave her a sympathy and gentleness that communicated itself in every word and touch. I was very moved. ✦

## OPINION

**A Reflection on the Coronation of Charles III | An Anglican perspective**

STEPHEN ROWE

Rector, Church of the Epiphany, Surrey; Regional Dean of Peace Arch

Like some of you, I imagine, we watched at least a percentage of the Coronation of King Charles on Saturday, May 6, 2023. As expected, the weather wasn't good, rather wet, the thing no one can control. When the Queen died last September, we knew this occasion would come, the 40th time Westminster Abbey has been used for the crowning of the British monarch since 1066.

Much has been made about what this all means to us in 2023, but it strikes me that for those who follow Christ, (and others), it means quite a bit. The first prayer in the service (after the greeting), spoke of the celebration of the life of the nations (of the Commonwealth). It also recognized the life of service, Charles (as Prince of Wales) has given over 50 years as he waited to ascend the throne. It spoke of his crowning and anointing, as he was set apart and consecrated for the service of his people. We, at the same time, were called on, to dedicate ourselves in body, mind and spirit, to a renewed faith, a joyful hope and a commitment to serve one another in love.

This prayer gave the tone for the occasion, which was a mix of tradition, secular and religious, all set in the context of an Anglican Eucharist. For as King, Charles is not only Head of State (in Canada and elsewhere), but also Supreme Governor of the Church of England, from which the Anglican Church of Canada came into being.

Someone said it was like a summer wedding, with an array of costumes, from members of the royal family, foreign leaders, to the well-known and ordinary people invited to attend. It was interesting to see so many world leaders on this occasion were not the centre of attention, or sitting in seats

*“Loving God,  
give us grace to love one another  
and walk in the way of your commandments.  
Amen.”*

of prominence, as would normally occur at home. The Governor General of Canada and the Prime Minister both attended. There was curiosity about what Prince Harry would wear and where he would sit. But there were faith leaders, community leaders all mixed in with Katie Perry and others from theatre, music and sports.

The music garnered much attention, much of which was well known, such as *Zadok the priest*, written by Handel for the coronation of King George II in 1727, as well as Parry's *I was Glad*. Also newly composed music as well as well-known hymns.

The king was given a Bible as deacons (and those to be priested) are given at their ordination. He promised to govern the people of the United Kingdom and other realms and territories, according to their respective laws and customs.

Perhaps most notable was the so-called King's Prayer...

*“God of compassion and mercy, whose son was sent not to be served but to serve, give grace that I may find in thy service perfect freedom, and in that freedom knowledge of thy truth. Grant that I may be a blessing to all thy children, of every faith and belief, that together we may discover the ways of gentleness and*

*be led into the paths of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”*

The service was significant because of the many women who had roles: the Bishop of London who read the gospel, and the sword bearer, the Lord President of the Council, who carried out her task with great poise and dignity. It was also notable that the multi-racial and multi-cultural nature of Britain was reflected in those taking part but also attending the service. The Anglican leaders of Scotland and Wales were present and the blessing included ecumenical leaders as well as the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

One of the moving moments came as the Prince of Wales kissed his father on the cheek when he offered his loyalty to the king.

The liturgy itself was a mix of modern and traditional language which reflects the king's choices and also reaches back to the language of the first *Book of Common Prayer* in 1549. At the end of the service the King greeted the faith leaders and also the Governors-General including our own.

This occasion was memorable and reminded us all of our call to serve one another. Like the King, we are set apart for

service to one another in love. Whoever we are, whatever our responsibility in life, as we follow Christ, we are to dedicate ourselves to the care of others.

The Archbishop of Canterbury (in his sermon) spoke of being at the Abbey to crown a king to serve. He reminded us that Jesus announced a kingdom where the poor and oppressed are freed from the chains of injustice, the blind see, and the bruised and broken-hearted are healed.

As Jesus was anointed to serve, so was the king. Service, Archbishop Welby said, was *love in action*, in caring for the most vulnerable, to nurture and encourage the young and conserve the natural world. Priorities, which Welby said, were found in the life of duty lived by the king. He remarked on those gathered for the service who build community. He said that the unity we show, the example we give, is what binds us together and offers societies that are strong, joyful, happy and glorious. The task is bearable by the Spirit of God, to give us strength to give our lives to others. This is promised by Jesus who put aside all privilege.

Welby said that Jesus' throne was a cross, his crown was made of thorns, and his regalia were the wounds that pierced his body.

The Archbishop said we are all called by God to serve, whatever that looks like in our own lives, each of us can choose God's way today. He said that in the prayer “give grace that in [God's] service I may find perfect freedom.” In this prayer there is promise beyond measure, joy beyond dreams, hope that endures. By this prayer all of us are opened to the transforming love of God.

Amen. ✠

**Being Neighbourly**

LESLIE BUCK

Topic Contributor &amp; Essayist

Of all our Lord's parables recorded in the gospels, the story of the Good Samaritan is one of the best known, so much so that the expression “good Samaritan” is part of our everyday speech. The story epitomizes the compassion we are called upon to show to one another, and especially to those in distress. But we do not live in those times and Jerusalem and Jericho are far away. We often find it difficult to respond to those around us who are in distress, for situations overwhelm us. Even so, we do see people show mercy. I sat on the bus recently and watched the driver stop the bus to help a person who had stumbled on the sidewalk. Compassion remains among us.

If that is the lesson we receive from the parable then that is enough, but I suggest that the story shows us even more. I see two other points to be made.

The question posed by the lawyer was: “And who is my neighbour?” The answer we take from the parable is “the one who fell among thieves,” but this is not quite what Jesus asked the lawyer. He offered three possible answers—the priest, the Levite and the Samaritan, and did not include the person in distress. The lawyer, reasonably enough, chose the Samaritan. From this perspective it is the Samaritan whom the lawyer is here recognizing as his neighbour rather than the person in distress.

But Jews had no dealings with Samaritans. The enmity arose, among other differences, from disputes about where God could be properly worshipped and about who could marry whom, disputes that now seem inconsequential to us, although we still watch our friends in the Church of



PHOTO Marian Vejčík (iStock ID#1388718552)

England tear each other apart over these same questions.

There was, however, more to it than that, for the dispute was political in nature, going back as far as King Solomon and the division of the Kingdom following the death of his son Rehoboam. For the lawyer (and all Jews) the Samaritans represented the defunct Northern Kingdom while the Jews were the re-constituted and true Southern Kingdom. In contemporary terms we talk of nation states rather than kingdoms. The parable, then, is challenging us to ask, as Canadians, “the Jews”, which other nation states do we treat as Samaritans? Several nations may be mentioned by way of answer, and I have no need to name them.

Can we, as a nation, treat some other nations as our neighbours, while being less than neighbourly to those others? With which nations should our nation have close relationships, and which should we hold at

arm's length? Can we really treat the latter as our neighbours. I have no answer to that question but can only pose it for that is what the parable is asking of us.

With that unsatisfactory comment I go on to suggest that the parable of the Good Samaritan has a second lesson for us, which lies in the statement, “When I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.” Here the Samaritan acknowledges that his first spontaneous response to the person in distress was not sufficient alone. He had to follow through and complete the process he had begun. For us, this is why we often find the situation overwhelming, for what can we do in the long-term? Fortunately, we have an answer.

I saw the answer implemented when I was young and living in Britain just after World War II. The newly-elected Government set about eliminating poverty, malnutrition, poor housing, and poor edu-

cation, among other societal disgraces, by introducing state-operated services in those areas—social security, that is. Preparations for these reforms were being prepared even while the war was being fought.

The changes found favour with most people, but not all. One leading cleric complained that the state was assuming responsibilities best left to the churches, it being the task of the prosperous to care for the poor and those in distress. He had a point in that the prosperous were exercising compassion, but so also were they sometimes patronizing the so-called deserving poor, as well as maintaining the system that left them poor in the first place. The state schemes made no such judgement. In any case, each of us, deserving or not, may sometimes fall into distress and discover that we all need help at times.

In due course, during the 1980s, reactionary forces dismantled much that had been achieved, but the example remained and was followed by many other nations, including Canada.

I have, of course, made the situation sound much simpler than it really is. Government directed programs are not necessarily sufficient, and at the very least need modifying in the light of experience. In this respect, churches and other not-for-profit agencies have much to do by way of identifying shortcomings and proposing, and even implementing, solutions to those shortcomings. Nevertheless, the general point remains, spontaneous generosity is not enough, and the Good Samaritan recognised that. It remains for us to do the same. ✠

## Celebration

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

We gathered to celebrate a birthday. There were some cards of course, some with small presents, small because there comes a time when you no longer really want things. You want familiar voices and faces and all that comes with them, laughter, memories, hugs, stories, a slice of a favourite cake, in this case a good sherry.

We had gathered to celebrate 90 years of someone's life. Once upon a time he had been my church warden — a very good one.

We made some jokes, the good-natured easy ones of such an occasion. Elderly friends sat on chairs around the walls of the room. Various members of the family moved in and out of the kitchen producing a wealth of good things. Two small grandchildren and even a great-grandchild moved in and out between peoples' legs.

At the centre of it all he sat, standing now and again to greet an old friend, sitting when he needed to. He was obviously

deeply happy. He made a speech, responding to my toast. Some memories, some faraway places, some things shared in parish affairs, it moved along roads of quiet recollection, simply done, not too long mentioning love experienced, and things accomplished, a few might-have-beens, roads not taken. I noticed that during that long life there had been a contribution made at every level — to the country, the province, to a loving family who now returned it.

It linked past and present. It spoke of a fulfilled and whole person. I watched him as he responded to the toast, his hand shaped by a long-ago war wound as he held a glass. I thought of Padraic Colum's lovely lines...

*Like a white candle  
In a holy place,  
So is the beauty  
Of an aged face. ♣*



PHOTO robynmac (iStock ID#105487776)

## Odette

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

I met her some years ago when she was in the city for a Conference at the University of British Columbia (UBC). She had attended the 11am service at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver. She told me that wherever she was in the world she tried to find what she called "my dear old C of E."

However, before I tell you more about her, I want to talk about a type. There is a certain kind of person I think of as peculiarly English, though for all I know she has her equivalent in other lands and societies, and I think — but I could be wrong — that she was created by a certain period and society. For some reason I imagine her as rather small but tough as nails. Not tough in language — quite gentle and charming. But the impression you get is that she could be extremely tough and didn't know fear.

Wherever in the world and in whatever climate you meet people like these, they always wear a tweed suit and good strong shoes. There was an actress named Margaret Rutherford who was very funny, and who looked very much like her. Dame Margaret Rutherford appeared in many films including the four Miss Marple movies.

Now that I've given you a quick portrait, lo and behold if she didn't emerge from the congregation during the Cathedral coffee hour! She had travelled over much of the world, especially in the northern hemisphere — not travelling on gleaming liners to sunny ports with westernized hotels, rather to places where tourists are unknown.

Because of those travels she is a world authority on the strange elusive creature that appears to frequent the high mountainous regions of the northern hemisphere and that we in the northwest of north America refer to as the Sasquatch.

By this time as I listened, I was silently having thoughts of having encountered a particularly imaginative Anglican and signaling across that I needed to be rescued, when she quietly informed me, she had four books to her credit by reputable publishers, and that she had shared a platform with Lord Hunt, the conqueror of Everest. It would appear that she corresponds with serious scientists around the world and was in the city to attend a conference in UBC. I found her a fascinating person to meet, yet to meet her in the church coffee hour that long ago morning you would have thought she would have been nervous crossing Denman Street. Yet she spoke with affection of such places as the Hindu Kush, and her sparkling eyes twinkled as she remembered places I shall never be. Meeting her was a most special experience.

Somebody once said that being the Dean of a downtown Anglican Cathedral was one of the most fascinating jobs in the world. If she was for real, her presence bears this out. If she was not for real, then I am the most gullible of Anglican Deans...

Come to think of it, maybe it was really Margaret Rutherford after all...! ♣

## They That Go Down to the Sea in Ships

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

Here we are back in those long ago revolutionary and now romantic 1970s. It's morning in the city, the silence of early Sunday morning hours. It's about 8:45am and I have just come away from Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver altar after the early morning Eucharist. I take off the vestments, pick up a Bible and a prayer book and stole and get into the car. Down towards the harbour, east along dockside streets, left across the railway tracks, and I arrived.

They are waiting for me, about 30 of them. They are all considerably younger than I. Because of the tide the deck of the ship is below the level of the dock. She's a 20-year-old former North Sea trawler. The captain, Paul, introduces me around, then leads down the gangway. Arriving at the rear deck we form a circle.

In the next few minutes, we will express some simple things. I ask Paul as Captain to read some verses of the first chapter of *Genesis*, the great and majestic song of Creation, with its magnificent — even more, its majestic and timeless — cadences. I had deliberately brought with me the King James Version, a translation into the glorious language of 1611. Putting it mildly, it suited the drama of this moment.

*"In the Beginning  
God Created the Heaven and the Earth,  
And the earth was without form and void,  
and darkness was on the face of the deep,  
And the spirit of God  
moved upon the face of the waters.*

*And God said, Let there be light:  
and there was light.*

*And God saw the light, and it was good."*

Here Paul paused and I realized with a thrill that in choosing him as a reader I had found a magnificent one, sensitive to the glorious prose he was reading. He paused, creating a sense of anticipation, then declared:

*"And God saw the light, that it was good:  
And God divided the light from the darkness.*

*And God called the light Day,  
And the darkness God called Night."*

In our small human circle, all eyes were on Paul, all still and focused, many I assumed hearing the timeless words for the first time.

In the silence imposed by his reading I became aware of the sounds of the waking harbour. Then the voice of Paul...

*"And the Evening and the Morning  
were the First Day."*

Whenever I hear the opening verses of the Bible being read, I am taken back to that morning in Burrard Inlet. Remembering from primary school in Ireland I recall that the only creature that is actually named in that passage from the morning of the world is that of the Great Whale. I mention this to you because I was aware that these young men and women had made an absolute commitment to protect that splendid creature from the international fleets that pursued it remorselessly. They knew that such a commitment could demand their lives. That was why I had deliberately brought with me a pocket-sized version of the Authorized Version of the Bible.

We say two prayers that express thanks and ask God that humanity may develop a greater sense of responsibility for the created order. Then the young men and women exchange a handshake or an embrace of Peace. I give a simple blessing, one that includes a Biblical image of a Great Whale moving through the waters, surrounded by ships.

Paul told me they would be leaving that evening, giving me an approximate time. I made a point of being there, this time joining a supportive crowd that had gathered to say farewell. We waved as she headed out underneath the Lions Gate Bridge, the sunset, and the open ocean. I silently said the words of *Psalms 104*, verses 25+.

*"O Lord, how manifold are thy works!  
In wisdom Thou hast made them all;  
the earth is full of Thy creatures.*

*So is the great and wide sea also,  
wherein are things creeping innumerable,  
both small and great beasts.*

*There go the ships:  
and there is that Leviathan,  
who Thou hast formed  
to take his pastime therein."*

They had captured my imagination as a choirboy of eight. They retain their magic to this day. ♣



Captain Paul Watson's boat, *Farley Mowat*, the boat of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, against whaling and illegal fisheries activities. PHOTO bennymarty (iStock ID#1224342161)



Captain Paul Watson (Circa: mid-1970).

# 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

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Diocese of New Westminster  
 ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA





The parish gathers for a group shot *Status for All*. ALL PHOTOS Submitted

## A Sunday Service Full of Compassion & Love

LUI QUEANO

First Time Visitor to the Parish of St. Mary the Virgin, South Hill

Temperatures in Richmond, British Columbia this morning (March 21) were mild but brisk. When compared to Toronto, it's not too bad. Even though the temperature was only 3° Celsius, I felt perfectly comfortable in my normal workout clothes. The weather was perfect for a Sunday service.

Richmond is such a beautiful and caring city. This is something I will never forget because this is where my son and his family entered with their approved International Student visas. After ten long years apart, I finally reunited with my son, his family, and my three beautiful grandchildren, aged 16, 12 and 6. When I left the Philippines, my son was a single, carefree adolescent trying to find himself. My son and I reconnected in Richmond where he is now an adult but still has the look of a child seeking his father's embrace. He hugged me so tightly I thought I was going to pass out. Maybe it was the desire for a father. I returned his embrace and assured him that I miss him dearly as well.

The plan was for everyone to meet up at church on Sunday and then head into downtown Vancouver for the *Status for All* rally. The flight from the Philippines to kumustahan (a Tagalog word with depth of meaning i.e., to greet or to welcome or to be welcomed) was long and tiring, so they spent the entire day sleeping. That made perfect sense to me. I told him over text that we could spend time together at a friend's place and even spend the night.

Everyone at St. Mary the Virgin Church's Sunday service welcomed me with open arms. The parish's pastor, the Rev. Expedito Farinas—affectionately known as "Apo"—came to greet me and assured me that I would feel right at home in his congregation. Grefa Pinera, the Rector's Warden, and Aiko, the church pianist, also introduced themselves and expressed a genuine desire for me to join the congregation. Chris Sorio and Tita Erie, two of my British Columbia-based friends, invited me to attend Mass for Migrant BC as part of its *Status for All* campaign. The First Reading was supposed to be done by Tita Erie, but I wound up reading it instead. Tita Erie just instructed me on how to conduct the First Reading correctly. I never decline an invitation and always accept with enthusiasm. After reviewing the Sunday service reading schedule, I realized that Migrant would be responsible for most of the readings. Chris, a long-time friend of mine, is the People's Warden at St. Mary's.

Before the end of the Sunday service, Apo urged the



The author, Lui Queano with friend and church warden, Chris Sorio.

congregation to support the plight of migrant workers by advocating their demand for permanent status for all migrants. Apo contended that a devout Christian would take such measures to protect the rights and well-being of the helpless. Christians who truly follow Christ are concerned about the plight of the poor and powerless. The image of the congregation holding up *Status for All* signs or posters was inspiring. Apo even ordered the congregation to raise their hands in unqualified demand for permanent residency as a show of solidarity with the migrants. I was also moved by the mother and child holding a *Status for All* flyer.

Following worship, the congregation sat down to a meal together, where they likely discussed their struggles as immigrants and as members of the extended Christian family helping one another.

What I witnessed was a beautiful Sunday service that adhered to Christ's teachings and focused on assisting the weak and vulnerable. This Sunday service was filled with compassion and love, much like my two lifelong best friends. ✠



Chris Sorio, the Rev. Laurel Dykstra, Grefa Pinera and Tita Erie.

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  
July 21 for the September/October issue

Please email Randy Murray at [rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto:rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca)  
All contributions are appreciated  
• EDITOR •