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The Priesting of the Rev. Paul Richards. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray



Bishop and Priest.



Deacon and Bishop.

## Ordinations in the Holy Church of God on the Feast of the Birth of St. John the Baptist

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The *Book of Alternative Services* (BAS) gives the following information as background about ordination:

*“The Holy Scriptures and ancient Christian writers make it clear that from the apostle’s time, there have been different ministries within the Church. Since the time of the New Testament, three distinct orders of ordained ministers have been characteristic of Christ’s holy catholic church. First, there is the order of bishops who carry on the apostolic work of leading, supervising, and uniting the Church. Secondly, associated with them are presbyters, or ordained elders, in subsequent times generally known as priests. Together with the bishops, they take part in the governance of the Church, in the carrying out of its missionary and pastoral work, and in the preaching of the word of God, and the administration of the holy sacraments. Thirdly, there are deacons who, in addition to assisting bishops and priests in all this work, have a special responsibility to minister in Christ’s name to the poor, the sick, the suffering and the helpless.”*

This Celebration of Holy Eucharist with Ordinations took place at Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday, June 24 at 10:30am. Bishop John Stephens ordained Kevin de la Mare (now the Rev. Kevin de la Mare) to the diaconate and the Rev. Paul Richards was priested. Deacon, the Rev. de la Mare will assume a non-stipendiary position as Deacon for Diversity at Christ Church Cathedral and the Rev. Richards who has been Deacon of the Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock will continue to discern his ministry which will focus on interim ministry around the diocese. The Rev. de la Mare was presented by the Rev. Arvin Amayag and Dr. Camilla Jeffries-Chang. The Rev. Amayag is Rector of the Parish of St. Mary the Virgin, Sapperton, the church where Deacon Kevin had been posted during his internship. The Rev. Paul Richards was presented by the Rev. Joseph Dirbas, Rector of the Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock, and Mrs. Lenore Richards, who is the Rev. Richards’s spouse.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Bishop John gathers the community in prayer. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray

# Ordinations in the Holy Church of God on the Feast of the Birth of St. John the Baptist

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

The preacher was the Ven. Fr. Kevin Hunt. Fr. Kevin is the Archdeacon of Burrard and the Rector of St. James, Vancouver. He was Chaplain to the Ordinands.

In the early stages of his homily, Fr. Kevin focused on John the Baptist and the relevance of this feast day to the sacrament of ordination.

*“John the Baptist, (in a sense) the hinge between the old and new covenants is a strange and not immediately attractive figure. Living in the wilderness, and I guess, bathing infrequently, dressed in camel skins, preaching a challenging message — telling it as it is. Yet, if we look more closely at his role and ministry, we will discover that this Feast is an appropriate day for the church to ordain a new deacon and a new priest. John has something to show Kevin and Paul and indeed all of us gathered here this morning. At ordination the church sets apart through a particular ministry those who’s call has been recognized by God and by the church. The deacon as we shall soon hear is to follow the pattern of ‘Christ the servant’ within in the church and out in the wider world. The priest is to minister the sacraments, to lead and guide the community, to exercise Christ’s ministry of healing and reconciliation. Both are to preach and proclaim the Good News of the Gospel by the lives they lead, the words they speak, the love they show. It is important however, to remember that these things belong to all of us, the community*

*of the baptized, the priestly people of God.”<sup>1</sup>*

Joining the bishop and the archdeacon in leading the liturgy were: Dean of the diocese of New Westminster and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev. Christopher Pappas; Deacon of the Word, the Rev. Patricia Ratcliffe of St. Laurence, Coquitlam; Subdeacon, Rejoice Anthony of Christ Church Cathedral, Rejoice is also Chaplain of St. Jude’s Anglican Care Home; Bishop’s Chaplain, the Rev. Jeffrey Preiss, Deacon at Christ Church Cathedral; Megan Otton, MC; Andrea Gailus, Sarah Lehman, and Ron Bowles of Christ Church Cathedral, Servers; Jennifer Luis and Elisa Castro, Readers; and the Litanist was the diocesan Director for Mission and Ministry Development, the Rev. Tellison Glover. The music in worship was led by members of Cathedral Choir under the direction of Christ Church Cathedral’s organist and director of music, Rupert Lang.

Please keep the newly ordained in your prayers as they continue their journey in ministry.

The next scheduled diocesan ordination liturgy is scheduled for December 2, 2023. ✠

<sup>1</sup> Fr. Kevin’s sermon is available on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/medial/2023-06-24-ordinations-in-the-holy-church-of-god-feast-of-st-john-the-baptist>



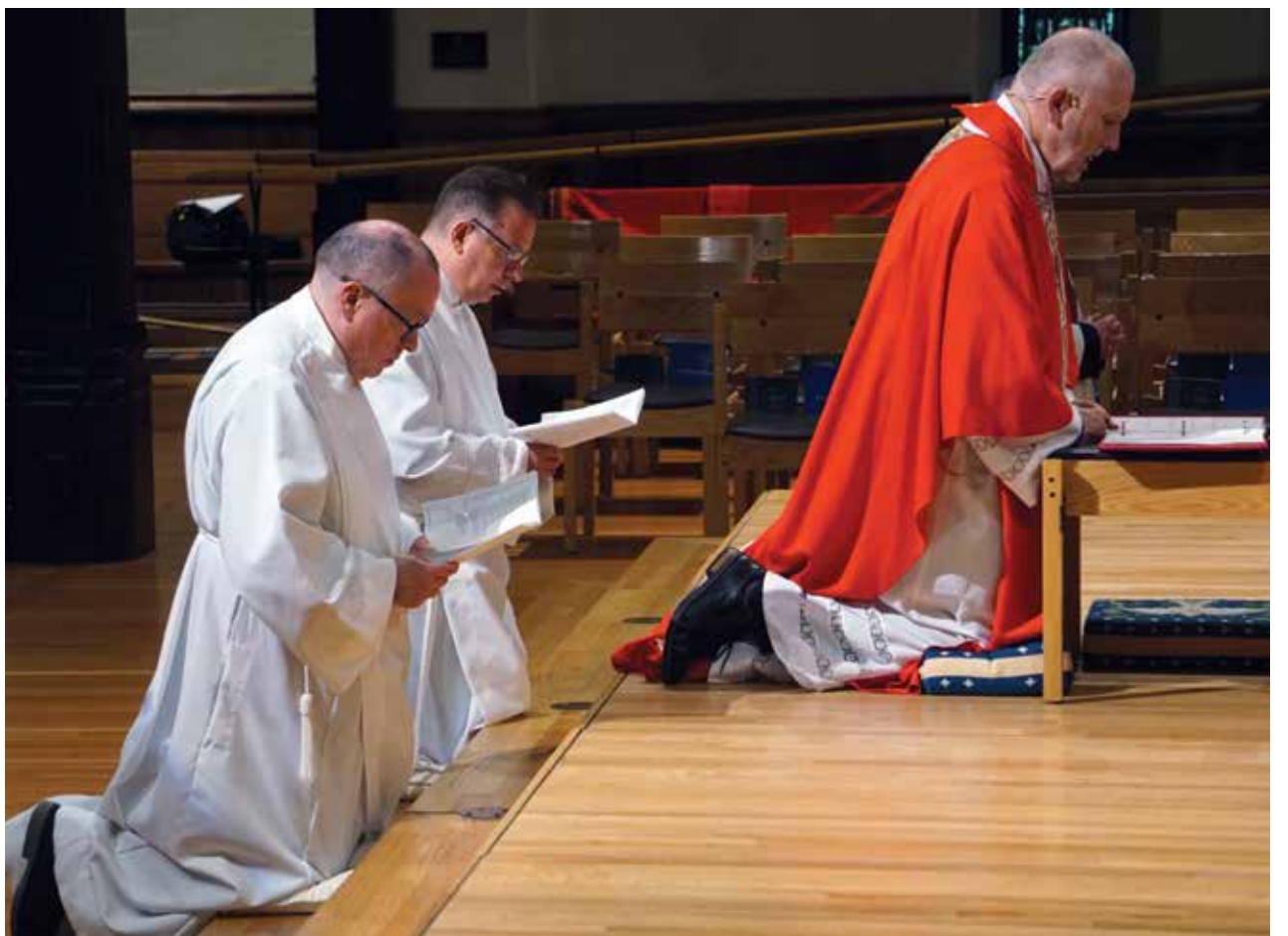
Jennifer Luis shares the First Reading, Isaiah 40:1-11.



The preacher, the Ven. Kevin Hunt.



Kevin de la Mare responds to the Bishop’s Examination.



Bishop and ordinands kneel during the Litany.

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rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca

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**The Bishop of New Westminster**

The Right Reverend John Stephens

**Address** Diocese of New Westminster

1410 Nanton Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6H 2E2

**Phone** 604.684.6306

**Contributors & Helpers for this issue**

Anne Anchor, Kerry Baisley, Judith Beale, Kelly Bowman, Wayne Chose, Hilary Clark, Michael Dirk, Jane Dittrich, Expedito Farinas, Felly Farinas, Anna Gebauer-Morden, Kingsley Genaille, Mary Horton, Donna Kennedy, Betha Kollin, Margaret Marquardt, Shannon Muir, Elizabeth Murray, Christine Pawley, Leah Postman, Ivan Puzikov, Paul Richards, John Ruddick, Robin Ruder-Celiz, Bayne Stanley, Bishop John Stephens, Meg Stevens, Michiko Tatchell, Rose Toyoken, Wilmer Toyoken, Peggy Trendell-Jensen, Dave Walker, Grace Wandag, Marion Wong, Jason Wood, and Robyn Woodward

**Thank you!**



Kevin de la Mare is ordained.



Kevin is anointed.



The Rev. Paul Richards is priested.



The new priest receives a prayer book, chalice, and paten.



The newly ordained are greeted with applause.



Ordinands, presenters, bishop, preacher, deacon, and dean.



The newly ordained deacon prepares the altar during the Offertory.



The newly ordained administer the Body of Christ.

# THE CHAIRS

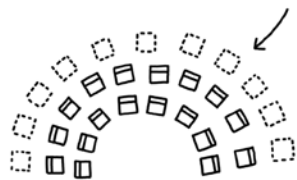
WAYS TO ARRANGE THEM

PERFECTLY NEAT ROWS



THE REGIMENTAL

EVERYONE SITS IN THE SECOND ROW, THEN ADDS CHAIRS BEHIND



THE SEMICIRCLE

FIRST FOUR ROWS RESERVED



THE BAPTISM

ONE ROW AT THE BACK FOR THE CONGREGATION

EVERYONE IN THE BACK TWO ROWS

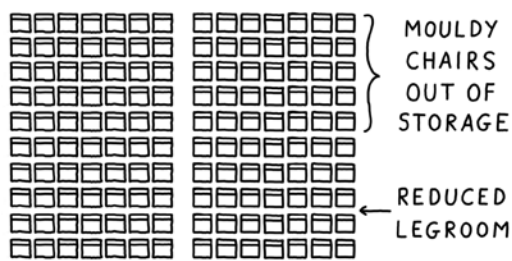


THE USUAL

A GOOD WAY TO MAKE THE PLACE LOOK A BIT BUSIER THAN IT IS



THE CAFE-STYLE



THE FESTIVAL

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

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All contributions are appreciated  
• EDITOR •

# In Gratitude to a Passionate Liturgist & Faithful Anglican

## The retirement of Brigid Coult as Music Director at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale

ANNA GEBAUER-MORDEN

St. Mary's, Kerrisdale

When Brigid Coult accepted the role of St. Mary's, Kerrisdale's (SMK) Music Director in 2002, it was with the hope that she would stay long-term. Indeed, with a music and choral career spanning over four decades, Brigid's devotion to her ministry is both abiding and apparent.

*"I moved to Vancouver in 1982, thinking I would eventually work my way back home (to England). Forty years later, I'm still here! I'm just about to start my 30th season conducting Richmond Chorus, so long term is obviously in the genes!"*

It is difficult to summarize 40 years of music ministry and, equally so, to fully convey the grace Brigid Coult has shown in searching for and finding that unique space where music, liturgy, and worship meet and meld. Perhaps most simply put, St. Mary's, Kerrisdale has been utterly blessed to have had Brigid Coult's leadership, guidance, and gifted inspiration for the past 21 years. Her passion, gifts, and love for her calling are undeniable. Her leadership has inspired numerous parishioners. In her own words, she has "composed and arranged, coached and coaxed, made endless lists and charts, involved children, and handbells."

Over the years, Brigid has also assembled and retained a highly devoted group of parish and professional choristers; welcoming talented voices and encouraging those who simply love to sing. She navigated COVID with a steady hand, creating virtual choirs for online services so that worshippers would not go without. Her music and choral selections have both honoured and upheld tradition, while finding a place for new music as well. The congregation's involvement has been encouraged. She has led us all in song, in all its many forms.

*"The main thing that really drew me (to St. Mary's) was being challenged to do both the contemporary worship my practical soul wanted, and the traditional music my musical soul craved. There weren't many places that I could have both. And this came over the years, working with a series of clergy who respected my skills, my knowledge of the materials, and let me be pretty free to plan as I thought best."*

When the pandemic struck, an even more nuanced approach was needed.

*"Our worship styles at St. Mary's 9:15am and 11:15am services were so different. Our 9:15am worship expressed an imminent theology, God here among us. At the 11:15am, the sense was of God out there, reaching beyond to beauty. It is a truism that music expresses things words can't, but at the same time, what works musically for one person doesn't always work for another."*

A cradle Anglican, from a family where her father's passion was choral music (although he was a scientist by training), Brigid fondly recalls her first childhood church, St. Nicholas in Liverpool, "affectionately known as St. Nick's."

There, she experienced:

*"The joys of High Anglican worship—bells and smells, solemn processions, and wonderful music. As a teenager, we moved to a rural village in Nottinghamshire, where church was low-church and the music less expert."*

However, it may be said that both styles of music and worship would have a lasting influence on Brigid's music ministry. Her focus while at Liverpool University was instrumental. She sang, but not seriously, until an unexpected turning point.

*"It was not until the summer after I completed my degree that singing became a passion. I became involved with a group of Oxford and Cambridge choral scholars, doing a two-week course of singing Matins and Evensong every day at Chester Cathedral. Discovering the incredible wealth of Anglican choral music, and that I was more than capable of holding my own in a group of people who read and sang at an incredibly high level, was a wonderful experience. The day we were scheduled to sing the Allegri Miserere, our soprano soloist developed laryngitis, and I discovered five top Cs I didn't know I had. After that, everything refocused."*

A teaching stint followed, then time with the School of Music in Leicestershire doing administrative work for the county network of bands and orchestras. Throughout that, choral singing remained a passion and yet, there were obstacles.

*"Sadly, the church music I loved was not open to women at the level I was seeking."*

Canada beckoned, and Brigid arrived in British Columbia in 1982. She set down roots within the community



Long-time SMK organist, Susan Ohannesian, and Brigid. PHOTO Submitted



Leading the diocesan choir at Archbishop Melissa Skelton's Consecration, Vancouver Convention Centre, March 1, 2014. PHOTO Bayne Stanley



LEFT Brigid receives a farewell blessing at the 10am service, Trinity Sunday, June 4, 2023.



RIGHT Brigid and choristers gathered for a group photo. PHOTOS Kingsley Genaille except where noted



LEFT Left to right: The Rev. Roberta Fraser (Associate Priest), the Rev. Lindsay Hills (Rector), and Brigid Coult (Music Director), enjoy their lunch at the head table.



RIGHT Brigid holding up the Teddy Bear that parishioner Christine Mitchell made for her. The presentation of a handmade Teddy Bear to all who are leaving is a tradition at SMK.



LEFT Rector, the Rev. Lindsay Hills shares a touching speech and presents Brigid with flowers and the parish gift.



RIGHT The choir sings a goodbye song for Brigid written by choir member Dawn Ross. It was both joyful and sad.

at Christ Church Cathedral, finding a "second family... and wonderful service music such as I'd enjoyed with my Oxbridge friends."

Her first Christmas services at Christ Church Cathedral marked a sense of homecoming in this new community into which she would be woven over the years to follow.

*"I learned an immense amount from Patrick Wedd—both the practicalities of dealing with a choir and all the preparation that goes with it, but also the bigger picture of what was happening with church music. Patrick had actually come to the Cathedral from St. Mary's, Kerrisdale, and was a serious mover-and-shaker in the place of music within liturgy. I was hungry for the beauty of the serious classical repertoire we sang, but I was also excited by the music that he was creating for what became The Book of Alternative Services—music with a contemporary language and a very different sound. This was all very new to me, as were the theological concepts that went with it. Working with clergy like Jim Cruickshank,*

*Dirk Rinehart, Lynne McNaughton... opened my eyes to enormous possibilities."*

This new understanding Brigid brought to her first position as music director at St. Alban's in Richmond.

*"I pushed the bounds of what was a pretty basic parish church choir to turn them into a group that sang a wide variety of music—both the contemporary style... and the more demanding repertoire I found for them."*

Brigid credits the late Patrick Wedd for her involvement with the national group tasked with bringing together the *Common Praise* hymnal. In Vancouver, she coordinated the Service Music Task Force, collaborated with Steve Morgan, who was then music director at SMK, and travelled to and from Vancouver, Montreal, and Toronto twice a year for meetings. "This was pre-Zoom!"

Throughout her ministry, Brigid has served on several

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

# Evensong for Pentecost | Gift of the Spirit

## Celebrating the Ministry of St. Mary's, Kerrisdale's Music Director, Brigid Coult



Brigid conducting the choir. ALL PHOTOS Wayne Chose, ODNW



A view of the choir processing in.

On Sunday, May 28, 2023, at 4pm, Evensong for the Feast of Pentecost was celebrated at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale (SMK). Over the years some of the Oakridge and Point Grey Deanery's parishes have gathered together to celebrate Evensong, but in 2023, the liturgy had another purpose and that was to honour the parish's Music Director, Brigid Coult, and her over 21 years of ministry at SMK.

The preacher was former Associate Priest at SMK and outgoing Rector of the Parish of St. Dunstan's, Aldergrove and soon-to-be Rector of St. Mark's, Ocean Park, the Rev. David Taylor. The choir consisted of members of the Choir of SMK, but was augmented by choristers from around the diocese, many of those singers having some history of singing with and for Brigid. Following Evensong there was a celebratory reception in the parish hall. ✠



LEFT The rector, the Rev. Lindsay Hills welcomes the congregation. MIDDLE LEFT The guest preacher, the Rev. David Taylor. MIDDLE RIGHT Brigid listens to the words being spoken. RIGHT The choir and Brigid leading a hymn.



Leading and conducting a hymn.



The rector and director of music.



LEFT Brigid chatting at the reception. RIGHT Members of the choir and congregation at the reception's refreshment table.



## In Gratitude to a Passionate Liturgist & Faithful Anglican

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

diocesan groups, helped coordinate a variety of workshops, and has been instrumental in presenting guests such as John Bell and Marty Haugen, who spent Holy Week in 2015, at SMK. She was involved in the music for the World Council of Churches in 1983, has led music at Synod events, as well as for Bishop Melissa Skelton's Consecration.

*"I feel very blessed that I've been recognized as a music leader and trusted by so many of the clergy with whom I've worked to select hymnody and other music that defines our worship. And there have been many special services at St. Mary's where the choir team has moved me by singing their hearts out."*

Of course, no tribute to Brigid would be complete without hearing from some those who worked most closely with her.

*"One of things about Brigid that always impresses me is that each chorister has their own numbered cubby hole. Mine is 23. All the music that Brigid hands out has our number on it. It appears magically in our boxes at the appropriate time to begin practicing for us to learn it. When we are done presenting it, we hand it in, Brigid gets it filed and then when we sing it again, my numbered music comes back to me and has all my markings. I think that this is pretty standard practice for choirs, BUT Brigid is so organized."* • Lea Starr

*"One of the greatest gifts Brigid has brought to St. Mary's is her ability to embrace with enthusiasm a wide range of church music spanning more than four centuries from late Renaissance composers like Palestrina and William Byrd, to contemporary composers like Patrick Wedd, Marty Haugen, and David Taylor. She has far exceeded all our expectations."*

• Margaret Briscall, ODNW

*"As a performer, you notice the subtleties of the weird things happening. A violin player had broken a string. A string in a bag was being shuffled along the floor by the players feet. Brigid stopped the concert and the player got up and left. After another movement in the concert, Brigid stopped, and the player returned. It was seamless. Brigid can see the whole thing and knows what to do."* • Jim Hilton

*"Brigid calls us to lift up our voices in prayer and praise, her ministry being not just beautiful music but also to nurture our souls as we make the very best music that each one of us can, our own best, in community and communion."* • Susanna Egan

*"Brigid's gift to St. Mary's and the wider church is that while she is indeed a gifted musician, she is also a passionate liturgist and a faithful Anglican. Her ability to balance the three of those is what allows her gifts to truly shine, and I am so grateful for her willingness to share them with St. Mary's for so many years, she will truly be missed."* • Lindsay Hills, St. Mary's Rector

*"After this? I'm not quite sure. I will miss the parish family at SMK. I hope to be able to return to a connection with the national church. I still have my work with Richmond Chorus, the BC Choral Federation, as well as my volunteer work with the RAPS Cat Sanctuary in Richmond. I don't think I'll be spending my retirement twiddling my thumbs!"*

As we mark Brigid Coult's retirement, we give thanks for Brigid's ever-devoted music ministry which she has so generously shared with us at St. Mary's, and with the wider diocese. Thank you, Brigid. May your gifts of music continue nourish to you, as you have nourished us through music and song. ✠



LEFT After several tributes and presentations, Brigid shares her gratitude and thanks the community.



RIGHT Paul Ohannesian holding the collage that he made that was presented to Brigid.



July 2 | Fifth Sunday After Pentecost | 40th Anniversary of Ordination | The Rev. Fr. Neil Gray censes the Altar. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray

## July at St. James'

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

As July is the month that contains the Feast of St. James (July 25) Holy Day, it is only fitting that Vancouver's oldest parish would celebrate some significant liturgies, not just their patronal festival (which was transferred to Sunday, July 23, 2023) during that month.

The two liturgies covered by diocesan communications in July of 2023, were the Fifth Sunday After Pentecost (July 2), which also honoured the 40th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood of the Rev. Fr. Neil Gray, who presided at the liturgy, and the parish's patronal festival (naming day) celebrated as previously mentioned on July 23.

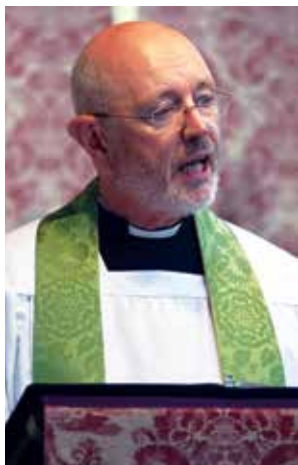
Fr. Neil Gray served congregations in the diocese of New Westminster for 30+ years, most notably St. Paul's in Vancouver's West End (where he was also Anglican Chaplain at St. Paul's Hospital) and Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock. In retirement, which began in April of 2018, Fr. Neil served for three years as Co-Chaplain to the Retired Clergy and Spouses of the diocese and currently serves as an honorary assistant at the Parish of St. James. His contribution to the diocese through his vocation is substantial, however there is more to the story, as was shared by guest preacher, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott, retired Dean of the diocese of New Westminster and rector of Christ Church Cathedral. As skilled preachers do, the Very Rev. Elliott engaged the Gospel for the day, *Matthew 10:40-42* in the opening paragraph of his homily:



Liturgical Assistant, Cameron Neat shares the Epistle, *Romans 6:12-23*.



LEFT Deacon of the Word and Table for the liturgy, the Rev. Jeffrey Preiss prepares to proclaim the Gospel, *Matthew 10:40-42*. MIDDLE The Very Rev. Peter Elliott preaching. RIGHT St. James's assistant organist, PJ Janson.



*"If we were searching for a text today as we celebrate Fr. Neil's anniversary of 40 years in ordained ministry, we need look no further than our reading from Matthew's gospel where Jesus says, 'Whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.' The only thing that might be more appropriate is if it were a wee bit of gin rather than a cup of cold water, but let's go with cold water for today."*

With the bon mots out of the way (the above words did receive a hearty laugh by the way), the Very Rev. Elliott went on to say:

*"Fr. Neil's ministry of 40 years has had many highlights, but at heart he is a pastor. He connects with people with good humour, kindness, and compassion. And in his first years in Vancouver this became a powerful witness to the love of God we know in Jesus Christ."*

*Neil arrived in Vancouver from England and was appointed to serve as assistant priest at St. Paul's parish in the West End, and as the Anglican chaplain at St. Paul's hospital. The year was 1989, and he soon discovered that the palliative care ward was filled with gay men with AIDS. The pastoral care imperative was clear: even a cup of cool water was welcome respite against stubborn fevers that so often accompanied HIV infection in those days. Untreatable at the time and pandemic in nature, Neil's parish and hospital work intersected as he was called upon to conduct memorial services for many of those who did not survive this gay men's health crisis.*

*But Neil's ministry at the hospital plunged him deeper into the ugly homophobia that was so very widespread in those days. Too many families either disowned their gay sons or denied their sons' partners from visiting in the hospital, often denying them a place at funerals or memorial services. Into those awkward and uncomfortable situations came Fr. Neil with his characteristic cheeriness, accepting, without any hesitation the men who were suffering with AIDS and quite often being a bridge between them and their families in very difficult circumstances. His unconditional support was like a glass of cold water in the midst of a feverish conflictual situation."*<sup>1</sup>

The music in worship led by assistant organist, PJ Janson and a skilled SATB quartet was prayerful and beautiful and got off to a fine start with Janson's rendition of *Prelude on Rhosymedre*, one of three Ralph Vaughan Williams's 1920 preludes based on Welsh hymn tunes. In PJ Janson's accompanying notes in the pew bulletin, he wrote:

*"The tune Rhosymedre was composed by the Welsh Anglican parish priest John David Edwards (1805–1885), who named it after the town where he lived and included this hymn in a collection published in 1836. The word Rhosymedre means 'beautiful,' and the tune appears in a number of hymnals and is sung to a variety of hymn texts, including My Song is Love Unknown."*

*The Welsh typically associate the hymn tune with celebration. As such, this lyrical, lovely, and aethereal organ prelude seems especially fitting for today's 40th anniversary of Fr. Gray's ordination."*

Congratulations to you, Fr. Neil, on this milestone anniversary and many thanks for your years of service in our diocese, your positive energy, your welcoming smile, and your ready wit.

Sunday, July 23 was a positively glorious day in the Lower Mainland, the high temperatures of the previous weeks had subsided somewhat, and the region was expecting some cooler and much needed rain which would arrive the next day. The nave at St. James was far from full but there was a good-sized summer congregation gathered in the church at 303 East Cordova Street on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside for the patronal celebration Eucharist on the Feast of St. James the Apostle.

In the opening paragraph of his clergy notes published in the pew bulletin, rector, the Ven. Fr. Kevin Hunt supplied some context for the Feast Day:

*"This weekend we give thanks for our patron, St. James the Apostle, brother of John, and with him and with Peter, one of the trio of Apostles seemingly in the Gospels closest to Jesus. His relics are reputed to lie in Compostela in Northwestern Spain, where they became the goal of one of the most significant pilgrimages in medieval Europe. The Camino, the Way, as it is called, has in recent years experienced a major revival: many thousands each year still walk one of several traditional routes, often some hundreds of kilometres, to Compostela, to pray at the shrine of St. James, Santiago."*



Fr. Neil chants: "The peace of the Lord be always with you."



As the Liturgy of the Eucharist begins, the deacon censes the celebrant.



Holy Communion.



The Rev. Jeffrey Preiss, the Rev. Fr. Neil Gray, and the Very Rev. Peter Elliott



Following worship a cake was served.



July 23 | Feast of St. James the Apostle | The Rev. Mtr. Amanda Ruston and the Ven. Fr. Kevin Hunt at prayer during the Opening Rite.



The Sanctuary Party facing the altar gathers for the Solemn Procession.



The Procession begins with the singing of *For All the Saints*.



The Procession.



Station Collect before the Icon of St. James.



Warden, Peggy Smyth reads Acts 11:27-12:2.



The Rev. Mtr. Amanda Ruston proclaims the Gospel, *Matthew 20:20-28*.



The preacher, the Rev. Stephen Rowe.



The Liturgy of the Eucharist.



Peggy presents the "birthday orchid" to Elizabeth Davies.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Worship began with a cappella voices offering a Prelude and Introit as an Opening Rite. That was followed by a Solemn Procession around the nave to the singing of *For All the Saints*, and when the sanctuary party arrived at the chancel entrance, Fr. Kevin Hunt led the *Station Collect Before the Icon of St. James*. Fr. Hunt said, "Pray for us, St. James" to which the people responded, "That we may walk faithfully in the way of Christ." He then prayed the Collect:

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, whose servant James the Apostle was obedient to the calling of your Son, and also drank his cup of suffering: keep us faithful to you until our lives' end, and grant us grace as those who have been baptized into Christ's death, to walk with him the path of service of sacrifice: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.*

The guest preacher was the Rev. Stephen Rowe, Regional Dean of Peace Arch and Rector of the Anglican Parish of the Church of the Epiphany, Surrey (Epiphany). Near the beginning of his homily, the Rev. Rowe explained his connection to the parish:

*"My association with your parish goes back almost 40 years, and through my wife's family, 80 years, as her parents were married here in 1943. My sister-in-law, Mary Hamilton, a long-time parishioner of St. James, heard I was to preach today and accordingly took a vacation in Eastern Canada."*

In his sermon, the Rev. Rowe examined the two readings from Scripture heard that day that refer to James (the Greater): *Acts 11:27-12:2* and *Matthew 20:20-28*. He said:

*"So, we have two readings related to James that hardly seem to point to the title James the Greater, who died in Jerusalem only ten or so years after Jesus' crucifixion, as the first of the apostles to be put to death.*

*Perhaps more note-worthy was that James was chosen by Jesus to accompany him (with Peter and John) at his transfiguration and at the Garden of Gethsemane, on the night before his passion. These accounts give James a certain precedence amongst the twelve."*

Fr. Stephen concluded his homily with a message of appreciation and hope to and for the parish:

*"The last few years have been challenging for the church, not least because of COVID. It seems to me that St. James is doing well as it emerges from the last three years and is building a stronger, more active congregation fit for the times we live in today. Like our parish (Epiphany, Surrey), you are seeing Zoom as a long-term gain for parish life rather than something to use because we cannot meet in person. It is marvelous to keep people connected and involved in our mission and ministry when they cannot be present at church. So, it gives me joy to join with the congregation today first online and then in-person to enable you to celebrate the years of faithful service this parish has offered to the community, the diocese, and beyond, since the earliest days of the city of Vancouver's existence.*

*St. James is, and remains, a faithful beacon for those who live, work in this area or who drive or walk past this church daily.*

*It is a vision of something that brings us together and provides us with validation and inspiration as we live our lives. But it also offers support and encourages those who never enter the building. For as people struggle, we need hope, we need role models and St. James is that for so many people in this area and beyond.*

*The collect for today (from The Book of Alternate Services) speaks of James as the first apostle to give his life for Christ. As those who come after James, and especially as those who are part of this congregation, we too seek to offer our lives in service and sacrifice as James (and others did) before his martyrdom. May we all receive from God that spirit of self-denying service which marks out those you seek to be true leaders in the community of faith."*<sup>2</sup>

After Holy Communion and during the rector's announcements, Warden Peggy Smyth went into the south transept to present a beautiful orchid to long-time parishioner Elizabeth Davies on the occasion of her birthday (July 23). Following the liturgy, the parish gathered in the crypt for a catered lunch and some time together in community. ✠

<sup>1</sup> The Very Rev. Elliott's sermon is available on the diocesan website in video, audio, and text at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/medial/2023-07-02-marking-the-40th-anniversary-of-ordination-to-the-priesthood-of-fr-neil-gray>

<sup>2</sup> The Rev. Stephen Rowe's sermon is available on the diocesan website in video, audio, and text at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/medial/2023-07-23-sermon-for-the-feast-of-st-james>



LEFT Back Row: Beth Fortin, Kelly Bowman, the Rev. Miranda Sutherland; Middle Row: Alberta Rudolf, ODNW, Bishop John, Mary McIntyre, ODNW, Amelia Foster, ODNW; Front Row: Sylvia Enga, ODNW, Judith Carling, Vera Morgan, ODNW, Brigitte Laweng, Gail Revitt, ODNW, Judy Nicholson, ODNW, Ann Blue, ODNW, Dinali Fernando. RIGHT A front view of the meeting, Mary McIntyre presenting important information prior to the voting. PHOTOS Randy Murray except where noted

## Coverage of the 56th Anglican Church Women AGM

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The Parish of St. Thomas, Vancouver, rector, the Rev. Michael Batten and the congregation were delighted to welcome the diocesan Anglican Church Women (ACW) as they held their 56th AGM with the theme *Walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:7)* in the hall and sanctuary of the Collingwood parish on Saturday, May 27, 2023.

The guest speaker scheduled to address the plenary during the luncheon was Dr. Scott Brubacher, the Executive Director of the Anglican Foundation. Dr. Brubacher travelled to Vancouver from Toronto to share news of the Anglican Foundation's ministry and to thank the diocese of New Westminster ACW for their generous and ongoing support. Dr. Brubacher's presentation was well-received by the membership.

Bishop John Stephens was present for the business meeting (from 9:30am – 1pm) which was followed by a Celebration of the Eucharist (*Commemoration of Roberta Elizabeth Tilton, Founder of the Women's Auxiliary of the Canadian Church*). The bishop presided and preached and installed the ACW Diocesan Executive Officers.

Resolutions leading to decisions about the current issue the diocesan ACW was facing regarding finding a new location were a principal component of the business meeting. The lease on the current ACW Place location in a Burnaby light industrial area was up May 31, 2023, and the rent was raised significantly. Here is what ACW president, Kelly Bowman had to say in early June of 2023:

*“Our business meeting was difficult this year. We were thrown into an awkward situation that divided many of us. We heard heartfelt comments and financial logic in discussion of our ACW Place lease increase and the resolutions being put forward. Board members could see by the close vote and comments that more information and discussion was necessary. The decision to table resolution #1 until more information and discussion could be done was made.*

RESOLUTION #1: Authorization to purchase a facility with all costs at a maximum of \$1 million and being less than 2,000 sq. ft. in size. • YES 26/48 • NO 22/48

RESOLUTION #2: Authorization to enter into a lease agreement for the next several years with a \$75,000 annual gross cost. • YES 31/51 • NO 20/51

*The business meeting was reconvened later in the day. A motion was put forward to vote on staying in the current location. This motion was also defeated by a narrow margin.*

*The decision not to sign the three-year lease was made. We have a 60-day notice to move agreement with the landlord. Currently, neither party has given notice. Our rent is paid to the end of July. The board is actively looking for a suitable warehouse to rent/lease.*

*All in all, I believe the membership enjoyed a lovely day of fellowship with the Celebration of Holy Eucharist and a lovely lunch provided by members of the Parish of St. Thomas.’’*

Since receiving the above information from Kelly in June, she was able to send more news during the third week of July. A new location for ACW Place has been acquired (#3 – 6678 152nd Street) in Surrey in Hyland Square with an entrance off 66A avenue. A grand opening is being planned for early in the fall which will feature a Building Blessing by ACW chaplain, the Rev. Miranda Sutherland and Smudging Ceremony by Beth Fortin. Cake and other refreshments will be served. The new ACW Place will be

operational to host the group's principal ministry of assembling and shipping bales of clothing and other items to Canada's north. According to Kelly this move from Burnaby to Surrey just over the Fraser will hopefully increase the number of volunteers and may even allow for an additional day to sort donations. “We envision a bright future for our ACW stewardship,” said Kelly.

With Bishop John's endorsement a project is being put together that will see Kelly and others from the ACW

offering to visit diocesan parishes to communicate as exciting new initiatives that the ACW is planning as well as sharing information about current ministry. Diocesan communications vehicles including *Topic* will be helping to get the news out. Please visit and bookmark the ACW pages on the diocesan website for more information. <sup>1</sup> ✚

<sup>1</sup> The ACW pages are located at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/anglican-church-women>



Bishop John Stephens installs the 2023 ACW officers during worship.



ACW Chaplain, the Rev. Miranda Sutherland.



President Kelly leads the Prayers of the People during worship.



Bishop John takes a selfie with Scott Brubacher. PHOTO Bishop Stephens



President Kelly with Scott Brubacher and past-president, Gail.



Inside view (top) and parking lot facing view (bottom) of #3 – 6676 152nd Street. PHOTOS Courtesy of Kelly Bowman



# Early Summer Music in West Vancouver

HILARY CLARK  
*St. Stephen, West Vancouver*

The Parish of St. Stephen's, West Vancouver, under the encouragement of the rector, the Rev. Kenneth Vinal, initiated the beginning of the summer early on June 10 with the sounds of music in many forms. This involved people of the North Shore gathering to share their talents. The first of three concerts was held at Kiwanis Garden Village for residents and their friends. The program entitled *Singing the Seasons: Spring into Summer* did just that on a warm summer's afternoon with a varied program ranging from British folk songs to several medleys from musical theatre. Under the baton of director and accompanist, Dr. Annabelle Paetsch, *St. Stephen's Community Singers* led off with such well-known favourites as the *Skye Boat Song*, *Loch Lomond*, and a particular favorite of the men's section, *The Rose of Tralee*. The musical theatre component featured composers, Richard Rogers, Andrew Lloyd Webber, and Sir Arthur Sullivan. Flutist, Nancy Riecken, and percussionist Hilary Clark added depth to the keyboard/piano accompaniment of Dr. Paetsch.

The following week, the parish hosted the *West Vancouver Youth Band's* (WVYB) *Symphonic, Concert and Debut Strings*. The age range of this group begins with elementary

students and finishes with graduating students, some of whom had been with the *Strings* for eight years. Several years ago, WVYB's director, Doug Macaulay initiated this string ensemble to fulfill a perceived need for violinists in the Lower Mainland. The *Debut Strings* were led by director, Genevieve MacKay who lent a supportive line when the *Debut Strings* group joined the entire ensemble for the finale. The next age group was the *Concert Strings*, conducted by director, Nicholas Urquhart. They performed four pieces of varying difficulty ending with a challenging Bach *Sinfonia*. Building on the level of music just heard, two students performed a *Passacaglia* by Johan Halvorsen for violin (John Lang) and cello (Alex Co) setting the stage for the *Symphonic Strings*. Twenty-two enthusiastic teenagers joined forces to energetically perform six symphonic selections including Mykola Lysenko's *Prayer for Ukraine* (the proceeds from the evening's concert were destined for Ukrainian refugees living locally).

Three students from Annabelle Paetsch's *Piano Studio*: Grace Ciprick, Christina Xia and Bonnie Li performed keyboard parts with the *Symphonic Strings*. The finale using every string student was the ever-popular *William Tell Overture* by Rossini conducted by Nicholas Urquhart. A very satisfied audience departed looking forward to the next concert.

The final concert of the season, on the afternoon of June 18, featured two choral ensembles: the 30-voice *St. Stephen's Community Singers* (directed by Annabelle Paetsch) and the 16 girls of the *Cadenza Academy of Music and Arts Ensemble* (directed by Mahtab Haghighi). The theme of this delightful multi-generational concert was *Songs from the Stage* and included repertoire by each of the choirs as well as a combined performance piece to close. In addition, Paetsch shared an entrancing piano solo, and Haghighi was spotlighted as soprano soloist alongside her student Kiana Parsa. Flute obligato was by Nancy Riecken with Hilary Clark on percussion. As demonstrated by a full house for this concert as well as the previous two, St. Stephen's is becoming widely known not only as a source of religious inspiration but also of musical enjoyment and community engagement through music.

Enjoy the variety of photos taken by John Ruddick at the June 17 and 18 concerts. ✦



# Episcopal Visit to Holy Trinity, Vancouver on Trinity Sunday

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On Trinity Sunday, June 4, 2023, Bishop Stephens made an episcopal visit to his parish of Holy Trinity, Vancouver (HTV). As is the custom, the bishop was preacher and presider, and during this episcopal visit he had some other additional happy tasks to perform. This was also the celebration of the parish's patronal festival along with the two other parishes in our diocese, the Church of the Holy Trinity in White Rock, and Holy Trinity Cathedral in New Westminster.

Long-time HTV parishioner, Jean Quinton, who was unable to attend the November 5, 2022 investiture ceremony was invested into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster by the bishop prior to the Closing Hymn and Dismissal. Chimes dedicated to Ted Quinton (the late husband of Jean) were blessed and dedicated by Bishop Stephens. Ted Quinton had a long career as an organist and choirmaster in the diocese of New Westminster and one of the parishes where he served was HTV. The new chimes are part of the original chimes from Holy Trinity's roth Avenue and Pine location and were saved at Ted Quinton's insistence. They were installed during the days of the COVID lockdown.

The Trinity is for many a complex and confusing concept, and over the decades it is often said that rectors will have their curates preach on that Sunday, saving the senior cleric the hassle of the Trinity sermon. However, Bishop John was up to the task. The Readings for the day were: *Genesis 1:1-2, 4a; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; and Matthew 28:16-20*. Bishop John explored the readings and two other sources to support his homily. Early in the sermon he shared a poem and the reasons why the message of the poem stood out to him:

*shape much of the thinking, theology, and prayers. It seems to expand the notion of God to extend further than the limitations of our language and philosophy, touching on a deeper sense of relationship with the Holy One rather than clinging to rigid definitions.*

*This prayer poem from the Western Highlands points to this very thing:*

*The Three who are over my head,  
The Three who are under my tread,  
The Three who are over me here,  
The Three who are over me there,  
The Three who are in the earth near,  
The Three who are up in the air,  
The Three who in heaven do dwell,  
The Three in the great ocean swell,  
Pervading Three, O be with me.*

*I really love the beauty and the gentle guidance of this idea of the Trinity. It is not based in theological complications of tight formulations but experience of holiness flowing and breathing through three different angles on God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier; God who was, is and will be. It has greater room and depth for a grander concept of God. This playful thinking about God's presence with us is delightful for me."<sup>1</sup>*

Following the Eucharist, the celebrations continued with lunch in the parish hall. The luncheon featured South Asian Cuisine.

Bishop John received a warm welcome from the parish: Priest-in-Charge, the Rev. Craig Tanksley; Liturgical Assistant, Holly Tanksley; Parish Musician, Michael Park; and Administrator, Sharon Grove, ODNW. The Rev. Juanita Clark, Deacon to the Vancouver General Hospital Chaplain, the Rev. Bryan Rivers was Deacon of the Word and Table. During Communion, Gayle Higginson sang Malotte's composition using the text of *The Beatitudes*. Gayle was accompanied by Michael Park on the piano.

The Rev. Craig Tanksley concluded his interim ministry post at HTV in July of 2023. He was succeeded by the Ven. Stephanie Shepard who also serves in the diocesan role as Archdeacon of Granville. ✠



The traditional, archival episcopal visit photo of clergy. Then-Priest-in-Charge of Holy Trinity, Vancouver, the Rev. Craig Tanksley with Bishop John Stephens.



The Rev. Juanita Clark, Deacon of the Word and Table for the Eucharist, about to proclaim the Gospel, *Matthew 28:16-20*. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray

<sup>1</sup> Bishop John's sermon is available on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/medial/2023-06-04-the-trinity-creator-redeemer-and-sanctifier>



LEFT Bishop John preaching. RIGHT Nancy Ferris (centre) with her mother Jean Quinton, ODNW (left) greets Ida Tonks, ODNW (right) during the exchange of the peace.



Preparing the Communion Elements during the Offertory.



Holy Communion.



Placing the medal and ribbon around the neck and shoulders of Jean Quinton, ODNW.



Holy Trinity, Vancouver always has the most beautiful windowsill decorations.



Bishop John dedicates the chimes in loving memory of Ted Quinton.



LEFT & RIGHT During Communion, Malotte's composition *The Beatitudes* sung by Gayle Higginson and accompanied by Michael Park.



The plaque.

# Food, Folk, & Fiesta

JASON WOOD  
Youth Minister, St. Laurence, Coquitlam

On Friday, June 16, the Anglican Parish of St. Laurence partnered with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church to host the *Folk Fiesta*, an evening of Latin American food, folk music, and fundraising to support our shared youth ministry in a trip to *Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth* (CLAY) this August. It was a wonderful evening and a beautiful weaving-together of several threads from the last year.

The first thread has been the blessing of some recent immigrants from El Salvador who connected to St. Laurence. Since last spring, they have become an important part of our community, worshipping with us, practicing their English, and occasionally sharing their cuisine. For the *Folk Fiesta*, we partnered with them and a Mexican family at our church to serve a dinner of chips, guacamole, refried beans, and ceviche. Together with the salads, rice dishes, and desserts the members of Good Shepherd brought, we truly enjoyed a feast.

Another thread has been a personal project. Over the last year, I have been writing and recording music as *The*

*Forest Archive* for a new album called *Night Prayers*. These seven songs, “for the night of creation and the night of the soul—which are sometimes the same thing,” emerge from a season of intense anxiety and insomnia I suffered amid COVID, after moving, starting a new job, and celebrating the birth of our daughter. They have become an important part of my healing, and I’ve worked hard in the cracks of my busy life to bring them a place where I can share them. Finally, at the *Folk Fiesta*, I was delighted to be able to play these songs, collaborating with an incredible violinist and several members of the St. Laurence choir for their first live performance. If you’re interested in hearing the music, you can find the link at the end of this article. Some other friends from around the diocese—Lauren Pinkney, the Reverends Jonathan Pinkney and Cameron Gutjahr—joined me for a couple of the songs. Maybe you’ll recognize their voices!

The final thread that came together is the trip to Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth gathering itself. Three years

ago, St. Laurence began to merge its youth ministry with Good Shepherd to create *ignYte*. But since that happened in the midst of COVID, and CLAY has been postponed and online since then, we haven’t yet been able to bring our shared youth ministry to an in-person national youth gathering. Thanks be to God! We’re excited to finally be able to do that this year. We’ll be bringing our team of five youth and three leaders to Waterloo, Ontario, for an amazing time of worship, learning, and community with hundreds of kids from across the country.

It’s been so encouraging to see how supportive members of both our congregations have been so far. We couldn’t take a trip like this without a whole community (in our case, two!) behind us. Thanks to everyone who’s supported us, and we’re looking forward to having stories to share when we return! ✠

<sup>1</sup> The link to the album *Night Prayers* is at <http://theforestarchive.bandcamp.com/>



A view of the performance in the sanctuary. ALL PHOTOS Submitted



Album cover.



Jason and bandmates enjoy some Mexican cuisine.

# Sharing the Good News Anglican Style

## The Reverend Scott Gunn’s June visit to diocesan cathedral

PEGGY TRENDELL JENSEN  
Archdeacon for Deacons, diocese of New Westminster; Deacon, St. Clement’s, Lynn Valley

It’s no secret that Anglicans are often reluctant to engage in evangelizing. The reasons are many: worry about imposing one’s religious views on others, feeling ill-equipped, fear of being associated with the heavy-handed tactics and views of stereotypical “evangelicals,” or simple shyness. According to the Rev. Scott Gunn, even inviting a friend to church is out of the comfort zone of most Anglicans.

Scott is the executive director of *Forward Movement*. It is an Episcopal Church ministry that has been teaching discipleship since 1934. He was at Christ Church Cathedral on the weekend of June 9–11 to preach at the Sunday services and offer a workshop, *Anglican Evangelism for Ordinary People*. Workshop participants included Bishop John and parishioners from the Cathedral and other churches. Scott began by acknowledging Anglicans’ typical discomfort with the prospect of evangelizing. But he urged them to reclaim the practice of sharing the good news.

“If we don’t go into the public square and add our voice to the chaos, people are left with the judgmental voices that pervert the Gospel,” he said. They are also left at the mercy of marketers who try to convince people salvation lies in buying more stuff or being more beautiful. “No one needs to be more beautiful,” said Scott. “We are all made in the image of God.”

Scott emphasized that the goal of evangelism isn’t to save the Anglican Church by boosting its membership. “Our job is to form Christians, not Anglicans,” he said. Bishop John reflected on the spiritual landscape the surrounds us. He wondered how different that landscape could look if different churches remembered we are all on the same team.

Scott noted our task isn’t to focus on creating new Christians at all. Our job is simply to share the good news of Jesus in our own lives, and then let the Holy Spirit do the rest. But he cautioned that “we can’t give what we don’t have.” Mainline Protestant churches can be a comfortable roost for many of what Scott calls “habitual Christians”—members who attend every Sunday. But those who attend every Sunday aren’t necessarily spiritually alive.

He readily admits to having been a habitual Christian for many years himself in his earlier life. “Everything was fine,” he recalls, “but it was like the electricity wasn’t

plugged in.” We must see to our spiritual health “so we can speak out of a place of transformation, rather than inviting people to be another habitual Christian,” he said.

One practice Scott found transformative was reading the Bible, cover to cover. One of the churches he was serving decided to read the whole Bible, together, over the course of ten months. He had spent years studying the Bible and zooming in to analyze the text in fine detail. Yet—like

*“The Church is the body of Christ  
and it’s not complete  
unless we’re welcoming people  
representing all the types of diversity  
you can image.”*

The Reverend Scott Gunn



The Rev. Scott Gunn speaks to an SRO Park Room at Christ Church Cathedral. PHOTO Submitted

many Anglicans who hear only the lectionary readings without a surrounding context—this can mean one loses sight of, or never experiences, the overall narrative of God’s liberating love. Reading the whole Bible with other people, he said, was a game changer.

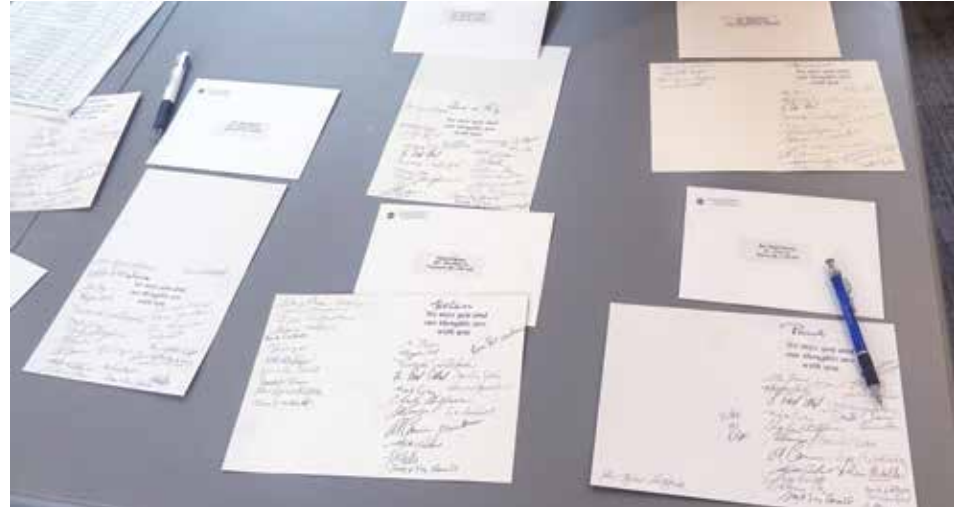
Scott pointed to the vast research and data gathering undertaken by *Forward Movement* while developing its *RenewalWorks* program. It found that healthy and thriving churches are those that prioritized spiritual growth over membership numbers.

Like everything else, he said, sharing the good news gets easier with practice. We need to spend more time talking about the things that matter and less time about the things that don’t. What are the things that matter? The fact of God’s universal love. We know some prayers don’t get answered, he said, but we shouldn’t let that stop us from talking about the miracles that do occur.

The world is waiting for us, it appears. Scott said research on “Gen Z” shows about half of 11 to 27-year-olds pray daily or weekly. That is regardless of whether they belong to any community of faith. He urged workshop participants to consider their “elevator pitch” if a non-religious person asked them: “So, why do you go to church?”

Don’t worry about living up to some imagined level of “holiness” or spiritual certainty before feeling qualified to share your story, he said. He finds reassurance in the verses of Matthew in which the 11 disciples met the resurrected Jesus in Galilee. “They worshipped him, but they doubted.” Jesus turns around and tells them to go make disciples in all the nations, teaching people to obey all his commandments. Jesus commissioned all, Scott points out—even the doubters.

The questions and discussion among the workshop participants indicated that the Rev. Gunn’s challenge had struck a chord. People were left musing on the possibilities we have as individuals and church communities to be more effective bearers of glad tidings and good news. They wondered how to offer a spiritual home to those who are not already part of a community of faith. “Many people in our society are giving up on Jesus without ever having been introduced,” rued Scott. “I personally believe the best gift we can give someone is to help them know Jesus.” ✠



LEFT Cocktail time. RIGHT A longstanding tradition of this event is the “card table.” Cards to be sent to members of the retired clergy and spouses’ community who for a variety of reasons are unable to attend are made available for the guests to sign, and with the option to include messages to absent colleagues. PHOTOS Randy Murray except where noted

PHOTO FEATURE

## Retired Clergy & Spouses Luncheon for Spring 2023

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor



Jane is at the ready to hand out name tags on lanyards to guests.

The diocese of New Westminster presents two Retired Clergy and Spouses Luncheons each year (during non-COVID years, of course), one at the Synod Office on a Tuesday, usually following the first or second Sunday in Advent and the second, late in the spring on a weekday at a different location. The 2023 iteration took place in the hall at St. Mary’s, Kerrisdale on Wednesday, June 7. The event was organized by the Chaplains to the Retired Clergy, the Ven. Andrew Pike and Deacon, the Rev. Karin Fulcher in concert with members of Synod staff, most notably, Bill Siksay and Elias Neto. As she has done for several years, Jane Dittrich, ODNW took a day off work to staff the registration/welcome table and to help with the event. For 2023, she was joined by Judith Peake of St. Mary’s, Kerrisdale who assisted with the set-up and décor and was on site to help wherever needed.

The 2023 luncheon was well-attended with approximately 70 guests. The meal was catered by Bette Geddes, ODNW and *Sharing Abundance*. The meal of wrapped

chicken breasts with asparagus, salads and bread was a huge hit, particularly the asparagus dish! Dessert was individual glasses containing mango trifle. As he has done for the past few years, the Rev. Keith Gilbert staffed the bar.

This luncheon is informal, which allows opportunities for the guests to visit, connect and catch up. The rector of St. Mary’s, Kerrisdale, the Rev. Lindsay Hills was present and spoke to the plenary before the food was served, offering a brief address of welcome with the addition of an overview of the current life at the parish, news, and upcoming events. Over dessert, Bishop John Stephens addressed the group, offering his sincere gratitude for their past, present, and future commitments to their ministry and to the ministry of the diocese of New Westminster and the Anglican Church of Canada. He also took questions from the floor about current issues facing the church.

We hope you enjoy these photographs from the Spring 2023 Retired Clergy and Spouses Luncheon. ✠



More cocktail time.



The Rev. Hills welcomes the guests.



Listening to the rector’s message.



LEFT Co-Chaplain to the Retired Clergy, the Ven. Andrew Pike. RIGHT The Reverends Charles Balfour, Michel Deck and Paul Illicial line up for lunch.





Bette Geddes and team (with co-Chaplain, the Rev. Karin Fulcher) serve the food.



Salads and bread.



Serving up.



Bette's asparagus dish was delicious and a big hit.



The asparagus tray 15 minutes later.



More serving up.



And more serving up.



Enjoying the food and conversation.



Jane and Liz chat.



Dessert.



The chaplains and the parish volunteer, Judith Peake. PHOTO Jane Dittrich



Bishop John addresses some younger members of the congregation. PHOTOS Randy Murray except where noted

# God Invites Us to & a More Compass

## The return of the Surrey Parishes Deanery E

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The quote that comprises the title of this piece comes from the penultimate paragraph of the sermon preached by Bishop John Stephens at the Four Surrey Parishes Eucharist and Picnic that took place for the first time since 2019, on June 25, 2023. Bishop Stephens had taken the Hebrew Bible reading for the day, *Genesis 21:8-21* for his text. For the bishop “this passage from the Hebrew Bible is not really about family relations or jealousy or resentments or harsh punishment. It is not a story about power struggle or one person’s hatred of another. Those aspects to the story exist but the real essence to the passage is that it is a story of grace: that no matter what, God will not give up on us... God’s love for humanity goes much farther than the limitations we put upon it.” A timely message on a day when four churches gathered to worship and break bread together, and three Christians affirmed their commitment to faith through the Sacrament of Confirmation, the bishop’s laying on of hands.<sup>1</sup>

For several years, three Surrey parishes, St. Michael’s, St. Helen’s, and the Church of the Epiphany (Epiphany) would gather on a Sunday in mid or late June at Surrey’s Bear Creek Park with the diocesan bishop presiding and preaching to worship together and enjoy a meal. The last time this happened was June of 2019, and on that day the three parishes were joined for the first time in the history of the event by the Cloverdale parish of Christ the Redeemer. The three-year hiatus was due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The fact that Bear Creek Park was not available was not an issue as the parish grounds of St. Helen’s located in Surrey’s Gateway (aka Whalley) neighbourhood more than sufficed. The hall and grounds around the hall were a perfect location for a picnic and the green space on the church building’s north side is an albeit small but natural amphitheatre.

For 2023, liturgy leaders were: Bishop John, presider and preacher; the Ven. Luisito Engnan, Archdeacon of Fraser and Vicar of St. Michael’s and Christ the Redeemer; the



The worship space (chancel).



Prior to worship, the space is filling up.



Crucifer/Psalmist/Server, Maureen Thompson leads the Procession in, to the singing of *Be Thou My Vision*.



The rector of the host parish and MC, the Rev. Robin Ruder-Celiz prepares to welcome the congregation with pre-worship announcements.



Younger members of the congregation listening to the bishop’s address.



Sara Batt of St. Michael’s shares the OT, *Genesis 21:8-21*.



Maureen Thompson leads *Psalms 86:1-10, 16-17*.



Shawkat Shammam of Epiphany reads the Epistle, *Romans 6:1b-11* in Arabic.



Bishop John preaching.



Intercessor, Susan Foulds of Christ the Redeemer.

# Make a Bigger Table, Passionate Faith, & a More Loving World

Eucharist | June 25, 2023

Rev. Stephen Rowe, Regional Dean of Peace Arch and Rector of the Anglican Parish of the Church of the Epiphany (Epiphany); the Rev. Robin Ruder-Celiz, Rector of the Parish of St. Helen's also served as MC; the Rev. Stephen Thompson, Deacon of the Word; the Rev. Maggie Cole, Deacon of the Table; Mark Whitmore, parish musician at Christ the Redeemer led the music in worship; Intercessor was Susan Foulds of Christ the Redeemer; the Read-

ers were Sara Batt of St. Michael's; Shawkat Shammass of Epiphany; Psalmist/Crucifer/Server, Maureen Thompson of St. Helen's; and the Bishop's Chaplain was Kelly Foulds of St. Helen's.

The three confirmands were Katrina Dharmaraja of Epiphany and siblings Ronit Aaron and Nikita Hannah Venkatachellum of St. Helen's.

The weather was beautiful, and everything went very

smoothly. There was lots of food served buffet style in the parish hall with the participants taking their plates and going out into the St. Helen's grounds to enjoy the meal outdoors. ✠

<sup>1</sup> Bishop John's homily is available on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/medial/2023-06-25-surrey-four-parish-eucharist-with-confirmations-and-picnic>



Ronit Aaron Venkatachellum is confirmed.



The Eucharistic Prayer.



LEFT The deacons prepare the altar during the Offertory, *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*. RIGHT Holy Communion.



Archdeacon Engnan administers the Body of Christ.



Bishop John administers the Body of Christ to the Communion Administrators.



Two confirmands, Ronit Aaron and Nikita Hannah Venkatachellum of St. Helen's.



Baby Daniel with Granddad and Bishop John. PHOTO Submitted



Enjoying the lunch outdoors.

# 2003 to 2023 | 20 Years at St. Michael's Multicultural

## From failing church to thriving church

THE ST. MICHAEL'S MULTICULTURAL SERVANT LEADERSHIP TEAM

In 2023, St. Michael's, Vancouver aka St. Michael's Multicultural (SMM) will celebrate the parish's 134th anniversary with Bishop John's episcopal visit on St. Michael's Day, this coming September 24. In anticipation of this visit, the parish has been reflecting on its evolution over the last 20 years, and on the miracle of the journey from failing church to thriving church.

The primary proxy for this reflection was James Baldo, ODNW, who came to Canada in 2003. As has been the case with many Filipino-Canadian families, James followed his wife Sandra and daughter Christine, who led the way six years earlier. This is an example that mirrors the continuing lived experience of many others, including Bishop Alex Wandag, the parish's Honorary Associate, who came to Canada following his retirement in the Philippines, to join his wife Grace, a member of SMM since 2006.

James is a proxy for the many new Canadians at SMM who have transformed it from the failing church it was at the turn of the millennium, to the thriving church that it is today. In James's case, he was People's Warden for over 15 years. James was there when the idea for St. Michael's Multicultural identity flashed into being when driving past the signage of the Multicultural United Church on Grandview. As People's Warden, James has been a leading champion of the multicultural focus within the Filipino-Canadian community at SMM. In that vein, he recently organized a 20-year celebration on June 10. Also on that day, building on that theme, James made the following presentation regarding the second of three 20-year reflections:

*"Michiko and Greg's 20 years, from 2003 to 2023, closely tracks with St. Michael's Multicultural over the last 20 years. The best example of this has been their 20-year involvement with the Meal Ministry program.*



Left to right: Bishop Alex and Grace Wandag, Greg and Michiko Tatchell, Terry and Marg Cutforth, James and Sandra Baldo, and the Rev. Wilmer Toyoken. PHOTO Betha Kollin (Betha was also MC for the June 10 event)

*A 40-line prayer prophesied the partnership of Michiko and Greg, and how the 20 years would be as servant leaders at St. Mike's:*

*'Hito is a perfect sign  
It's all we need to know our place  
Together, yes, but, more, for Him  
Only for Him, to grow in Him.'*

*The Hito sign is like two praying hands. Michiko and Greg designed their wedding rings to be a circle of Hito's. Ask them to see it. And how have they fulfilled that servanthood prophecy? Can you think of the ways you have seen them fulfil this prophecy?*

*Could I suggest three ways that I have discerned?*

1. MEAL MINISTRY | *How many of you have seen the Tatchell's involvement with Meal Ministry over the last 20 years?*

2. MULTICULTURALISM | *Being married in Jerusalem by a Palestinian Priest and Bishop, and then renewing their vows with a Filipino-Canadian Priest and Bishop, is a*

*most appropriate symbol of their multicultural foundation, grounded in their faith. 'Teaming together for his great works Out of ourselves, one for his Grace.'*

3. FAMILY | *In the 40-line Hito Prayer, Michiko and Greg used the language of 'This Great Gift,' referring to their love and life together as servant leaders. 20 years later, 'This Great Gift' could now equally refer to their love and life together with their other family, their greater family, their SMM family. How many times have you heard them express that love for their SMM family? How many times have you felt that same love?*

*Is this last point, this love of church family, the most important point of all?*

*All we have achieved over the last 20 years at St. Michael's, all we have achieved in becoming recognized as the Resurrection Multicultural church, is it not because of the trinity of our love that we have for our church and families, for one another, and for the love that we have for Him?*

*Do these words from the Hito Prayer of 20 years ago capture this?*

*'Teaming together for his great works Out of ourselves, one for his Grace.'*

For the third 20-year reflection, James wanted to ensure acknowledgement of the contribution of another couple, who returned to the church 20 years ago. This couple was married in the church 62 years ago (and will celebrate their 63rd Anniversary the day before Bishop John makes his episcopal visit). They have been instrumental in the physical resurrection of the church building. Terry and Marg Cutforth (both members of the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster) originally built the Day Care facility in the basement of the church hall, 50 years ago. In this third 20-year story, the condition of the SMM complex 20 years ago reflected the failing church of 2003. Eleanor Jones (SMM's first ODNW recipient in 2009) invited the Cutforth's back, and through Terry's organization and hard work, anyone looking at SMM today could quickly tell from the building that it is now a loved church, a thriving church. To Terry, and his supportive wife Marg, goes the glory.

As authors, in preparing for Bishop John's visit, the trustees were aware of the downside of highlighting just three stories from the 20-year resurrection history of St. Michael's, and the injustice of leaving out so much that was just as important. But it is hoped that these three 20-year focused SMM proxy reflections, about the Baldo's, the Cutforth's, and the Tatchell's, will give the greater church, and the congregation, a small sense for how the miracle at SMM has been wrought over the last 20 years. And the discernment that if we do our part, then the Good Lord will do his. To the last 20 years, and the next, *Soli Deo Gloria!* ✠

## But First, Coffee!

LEAH POSTMAN  
St. James, Vancouver

I am not a morning person. I was on retreat in March with the Canons of the Order of St. Benedict, at the beautiful Bethlehem Centre in Nanaimo, and was concerned not so much with being godly as with staying awake. Vigils (the first prayer time, or office, of the morning) wasn't even especially early, 7:30am, but I was long out of practice. As a postulant (meaning one seeking admission to a religious order), I was afraid my character would be found wanting, and I would be sent packing. Fortunately, the Canons are not so ruthless, or petty. One of our members, Sister Jayne, sent a message around that she had brought her coffee maker for those of us who needed a little boost before breakfast. My people! My monastic path was assured, at least for the duration of the retreat.

As Canons, we structure our lives around the Rule of St. Benedict. The Rule was written over 1,500 years ago and is a guide to praying and living in monastic community. The Canon Communities of St. Benedict (OSBCn) is relatively new, providing a contemporary Anglican framework for the living out of Benedictine Christianity. The OSBCn is a dispersed order, that is, rather than living together, members maintain their own homes and livelihoods. Members come from various walks of life, men and women, married and single. The Benedictine values of prayer, work, study, and vows are emphasized, and we seek to live simply and modestly, a balanced life



Left to right: Sr. Jeannie Lynne Fontaine; Deacon Juanita Clark; Mtr. Amanda Ruston; Sr. Jayne Postuk; Fr. Martin Brokenleg; Sr. Leah Postman; Fr. Jack Rose; Br. Gene Sederstrom; and Mtr. Susan Hermanson. PHOTO Submitted

of hospitality and love of neighbour. We are required to be active members of a local parish.

The OSBCn has groups active in Canada and the US. The Canon community in BC is the Community of St. Aidan, centred in Victoria, BC in the diocese of Islands and Inlets under Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee. The Prior of St. Aidan is Fr. Martin Brokenleg. A number of our members live in Vancouver, BC. We meet on Zoom twice a week for community discussion and prayer, and once a month in a larger conference

of members and other interested persons. Twice a year we meet in-person on retreat. And we are committed to praying the daily offices as completely as our daily lives allow.

On this retreat, another postulant and I were being clothed, making us novices. The clothing is literal: in the ceremony at St. Paul's, Nanaimo, other members assisted in dressing the new novices in the habit of the community, a black tunic and hooded scapular. Another member took vows for her second year in the novitiate, and one other member took life vows. As

Benedictines, we are called to make vows of obedience, stability, and conversion of life. The process can take years. Always, there is much time for discernment, to experience God's leading in this life of prayer.

Over the three days of the retreat, we sat long over delicious meals and shared details of our lives, stories of the myriad journeys that had brought us to this place, to be among these people. We prayed the offices together and reflected on topics our members brought for discussion. Many people have expressed to me how arduous such a life must be, as if monastics are some sort of ascetic mountain climbers or marathon runners. But St. Benedict tells us that the monastic life he lays out in his rule is "nothing harsh, nothing burdensome." The spiritual life is, in reality, just ordinary people living ordinary lives in a way that reveals the living God in every moment. It is not about being a morning person or doing without coffee, let alone scaling mountains. It is about being available for an ongoing, deepening relationship with God and with others. ✠

For further information about the OSBCn go online to <https://osbcn.org> or email [martinbrokenleg@gmail.com](mailto:martinbrokenleg@gmail.com).

Leah Postman is a spiritual director in private practice and a Warden at the Anglican Parish of St. James' in Vancouver. Find out more at [www.leahpostman.com](http://www.leahpostman.com).



# A Focus on the Action Gospel | Mark

JESSICA SCHAAP

Missioner for Christian Formation, diocese of New Westminster

The gospel of Mark, with its repeated use of the word “immediately,” is known for its fast and urgent action as Jesus bursts in fully adult, gets baptized, preaches, and calls followers within the first few verses. It offers a great opportunity for a Bible study series that *time-crunched* people could do. Here’s a roundup of resources for a study. People can do some of these on their own or in a small group. If you want more people to engage in a focus on Mark (and why wouldn’t you if it’s Year A!) offer people choices so they can decide *how* they’re going to participate



rather than *whether* they will. That one in-person study on Tuesday afternoon (although great) is going to be a miss for the majority of folks.

**GOT AN HOUR**

Watch the *Bible Project* animated video overview of the Gospel and reflect on the questions below it. (<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/mark>)

**GOT AN EVENING OR TWO**

Use the guide from the Bible Society UK. The whole gospel can be read in an hour and a half. A small group could read the intro material, read the whole thing aloud, and then take breaks using the discussion questions. (<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/resources/bible-book-club/mark>)

**NEED AN ADVENT SERIES**

The Gospel of Mark has no baby Jesus but it sure is rife with Advent themes. Pastor Tracy Daub from PCUSA has published an Advent study called *Holy Disruption: Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark*. It’s a five-week book study with a free accompanying video series on YouTube. (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLszf6YoVdFLg6sxFnf7C5BRThg1wcj4Hj>).

**LOOKING FOR MORE**

These three books are especially designed for small group study and a deeper dive. They come from a variety of perspectives and could be used over 6–8 weeks.

1. **THE GOSPEL OF MARK: A BEGINNER’S GUIDE TO THE GOOD NEWS** | The popular Jewish scholar of the New Testament, Amy Jill-Levine, has written a brand-new introduction to Mark.

2. **BOOKS OF FAITH: MARK** | This eight-session book study comes from Augsburg Press and has a fascinating Lutheran perspective. (<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/9780806697789/Mark-Learner-Guide-Books-of-Faith>)

3. **CONVERSATIONS WITH SCRIPTURE: GOSPEL OF MARK** | This book’s a bit older (2009), but by a well-known name in the Anglican church, Marcus Borg. Borg focuses on the “Way” of Jesus and an interpretation that is historical and metaphorical. This book also comes with a free study guide, which could almost be used on its own. (<https://www.churchpublishing.org/gospelofmark>)

**COLLEGE LEVEL COURSE (FREE, ONLINE, SELF-PACED)**

Yale Bible Studies are great for the motivated, self-starter learners who are needing something they can do on their own time. This course offers a mix of video, articles, discussion questions, and further reading recommendations. (<https://yalebiblestudy.org/courses/the-gospel-of-mark>)

## St. Michael’s Multicultural Anglican Church Women 2023 Retreat #1 at Camp Artaban

MICHIKO TATCHELL, ODNW; ROSE TOYOKEN & GRACE WANDAG

St. Michael’s Multicultural ACW Camp Artaban Retreat Committee

Just prior to the beginning of the Canada Day weekend, Friday, June 30, 2023, under a warm summer sky in West Vancouver, a water taxi took 19 Anglican Church Women (ACW) members from St. Michael’s Multicultural (SMM), plus Bishop Alex Wandag, a retired Filipino bishop, to Camp Artaban.

After receiving a warm welcome from all the staff at the dock, the 19 settled down in assigned cabins, and proceeded to the first activity which was going to the dining room for dinner. After sharing expectations about the retreat and attending Compline at 9pm, all retired to their cabins for the night.

On Day Two, most woke early to enjoy the nature on Gambier Island: tall trees, crowded ferns, a nice breeze, water, a drop of golden sun, and big oysters! A topic for discussion that morning was the unfamiliar quietness and the pitch-dark night.

A rich and deep spiritual session led by Bishop Alex in the morning was all about *God’s World and Life’s Journey*. He started the session with:

*“Life on earth is a continued journey that keeps going on until we fall and go back to the dust and join the great retreat to our creator and maker.”*

He explained how human beings are deeply connected to nature and offered examples. The seven pages of material the bishop distributed were comprehensive, prompting the suggestion that it be used as a year(s)-long study. Even a squirrel came into the meeting room to listen. Bishop Alex emphasized how important it is to have Retreats, because a “Retreat is like a ‘Viewpoint’ on a road. You stop to look back, rest and refresh yourself before moving forward.” It’s so true. It is often more difficult for the women of SMM’s busy ACW to find the time and space to do this. Continuing to attend annual Retreats was a strong recommendation from the 19 at Camp Artaban.

After the tasty pasta and garlic bread dinner, Camp Artaban kitchen staff served a big cake with a red maple leaf on it to celebrate Canada Day.



LEFT Canada Day flag. RIGHT Camp Artaban’s Nancy Ferris with Michiko Tatchell, ODNW and the Canada cake. ALL PHOTOS Betha Kollin



*“It’s the beauty that thrills me with wonder,  
It’s the stillness that fills me with peace.”*  
Robert Service



The plenary gathered around Bishop Alex at “The Cathedral.”

Following Compline, reflections, and evaluations on the ACW’s very first retreat since its formation at SMM over ten years ago were shared. One of the First Nation traditions, the *Sacred Circle* was respectfully adopted by the group. This tradition ensures that everyone gets to speak without interruption, at their own pace, for as long as they need. During the planning of this retreat there were concerns about how the event would unfold. Worries proved to be unfounded. The reflections were nothing but positive. It felt as Spirit-filled as the Feast of Pentecost. The response was so positive that all agreed to come back again next summer!

The third day was Sunday, with Eucharist celebrated at the outdoor chapel which the group dubbed “The Cathedral.” Another animal guest, a deer, showed up during worship.

Being filled with the Spirit by the Word of God and *God’s World* the 19 said goodbye to the staff who had accommodated all requests on the spot and gathered on the wharf to wave goodbye—thanks to all of you. In parting, Nancy Ferris expressed the wish that the group could have stayed longer. All heartily agreed, and pledged to see her again, next summer, at SMM ACW Retreat #2. ✦

# All My Relations | Opportunities for Connection, Learning & Healing

KERRY BAISLEY, ODNW

Missioner for Indigenous Justice, diocese of New Westminster

*All My Relations* is a statement of Relationship and an acknowledgement of our responsibilities in the wider world. *All My Relations* contains the belief that all creation is interconnected, the plants, the animals, insects, fish and birds, earth, sun, and the two-legged ones, us humans.

This teaching of interconnectedness does not put humans at “the top” of creation but sees us as the youngest children in the family of plants, animals, and humans. The plants and animals are our older siblings and our teachers. We don’t have “dominion over” the rest of the natural world, we have to opportunity to learn and live harmoniously with them.

Reconciliation is about establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships, relationships between Non-Indigenous and Indigenous persons and relationships between humans and the more than human world. Given the past few summers and a changing climate, we can engage

in a new relationship with ourselves and the earth that supplies us with all we need.

Humans have many gifts and skills and one of those is the ability to change course, to shift our perspective. Seeing conservation in a new way is a skill we need to practice now.

**The Conservation through Reconciliation Partnership** Conservation Through Reconciliation Partnership is an organization that can guide us in this new direction. Their introduction shares that vision:

*“The Conservation through Reconciliation Partnership’s main message is one of hope. We are supporting Indigenous governments, organizations, and communities who are leading the bold, transformative change needed to heal relationships between humans and our planet. We strive to model this change by centring Indigenous leadership, mutual respect, reciprocity, healthy relationships, and*



*a shared concern for our current condition. We hold a deep conviction that bringing about reconciliation in the conservation world will result in the transformation necessary to heal the planet.”*

This is good news—we encourage you to explore the work being done to transform our thoughts and actions. In a follow up article, we will share the work being done to

create Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA), a growing movement where Indigenous People have the primary role in protecting and conserving ecosystems through Indigenous laws, governance, and knowledge systems. †

.....  
If you would like to know more about IPCA go to <https://conservation-reconciliation.ca/about-ipcas>

## Welcoming Newcomers

### Shiba's Family

The Rev. Margaret Marquardt, Chair of the Diocesan Justice and Peace Unit is a parishioner at Christ Church Cathedral and a member of the parish's *Support Shiba's Family* committee. Members of the Committee, Bill and Lorna Orr, and Margaret joined by Shannon Muir, ODNW, the

Chair of the Diocesan Refugee Unit met the newly arrived family and their friends at YVR on Thursday, June 15. According to Margaret, there is still one family member yet to arrive and they will be living in Maple Ridge. Welcome! †



Shiba's family. PHOTO Margaret Marquardt

### The Kandeel Family

SUBMISSION Robyn Woodward, ODNW

On June 27, 2023, after five long years of waiting, planning, and fundraising, members of the Parish of St. John's, Shaughnessy and their partner, members of the Parish of St. Philip's, welcomed the arrival of the Kandeel family from Lebanon. This Palestinian-Syrian family fled Syria during the ongoing civil war (which began in March of 2011) when their daughter Tala was four and spent the last nine years in a camp, where their two sons, Mohammad and Ghaith, were born. Several members of their extended family have already settled in the Greater Vancouver area having been sponsored by other parishes in the diocese. In fact, the small greeting committee from the parish was joined by no fewer than a dozen relatives including grandparents who had not seen their daughter and grandchildren for five years. It was a privilege to witness such a joyous reunion. The first few weeks have been busy indeed with volunteers from the parish helping to move them into their new apartment, finding furniture appropriate to their needs, and shuttling them to appointments with Services Canada, signing them up for telephone and bank accounts, Vancouver School Board to register the children, and meeting with settlement services people at MOSAIC. We look forward to getting to know the family over the next year and helping them settle into their new lives in Canada. †



Mary Lynburner, Debbie Matheson from St. Philip's, the Rev. Terry Dirbas, Jennifer Clarke, and Robyn Woodward from St. John's welcome the Kandeels (Hadeel, Bassel, Tala, Mohammad, and Ghaith) at YVR. PHOTO Submitted

### Riding the Mountains for Newcomers

SUBMISSION Shannon Muir, ODNW

Jacob Muir and John Soden teamed up to raise money for a Palestinian couple, Ahmad and Mirna, who have been sponsored by St. Mary's, Kerrisdale.

John and Jacob rode up and down the three North Shore mountains on July 22, 2023. The legs were sore, but it was well worth the effort. A big thank you to everyone who donated. †



Before, During (helmets on) and After (with beers)

.....  
A Canadahelps page was up through last summer but for anyone who would like to donate to support these newcomers as they settle in Vancouver, please visit the Bishop's Fund for Refugee Resettlement located on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/bishop/refugee-resettlement>

IN MEMORIAM

# The Reverend Paul Rex McMullan, Priest

August 24, 1937 – June 10, 2023

We give thanks for the life of Paul Rex McMullan, Priest, and are grateful for his ministry in our diocese and in the Anglican Church of Canada.

Paul died on Saturday, June 10.

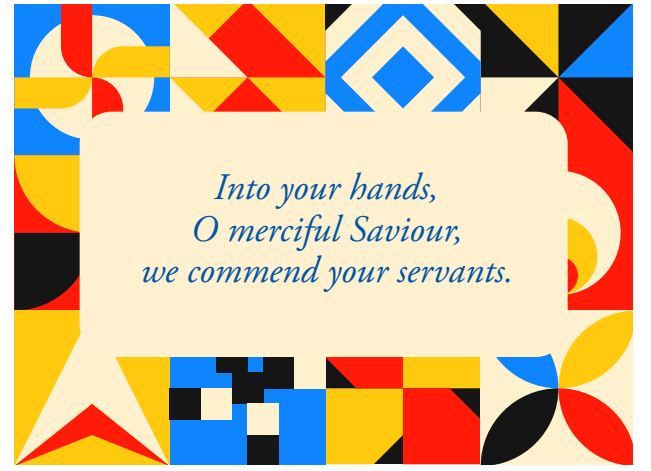
Paul is survived by his daughter Andrea and son Matthew and their families.

He was born in Toronto, August 24, 1937. He attended Upper Canada College. In 1961, he graduated from Trinity College at the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Arts (English), then in 1964, with a Bachelor of Sacred Theology. Paul also studied music, including piano, organ, and voice. He was a member of several choirs and also served as a choir director.

Paul was ordained to the diaconate May 10, 1964, at St. Clement, Eglinton, Toronto by the Rt. Rev. GB Snell,

Coadjutor Bishop of Toronto for the Rt. Rev. Godfrey Gower. He was curate at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale. Bishop Gower ordained him to the priesthood on June 13, 1965, at Christ Church Cathedral. He continued to serve at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale as Assistant Priest. In 1967, Paul was appointed incumbent of All Saints, Agassiz and St. Peter, Rosedale. In 1971, he became a member of the clergy team of the Fraser-Cheam parish (Sardis, Chilliwack, Rosedale, Agassiz, Hope and Yale), residing in Hope. Later he would also be part of a shared ministry arrangement with Hope United Church. He resigned as Rector of Christ Church, Hope, in August 1987, but continued to serve as Pastor Emeritus until 2006.

As of this issue of *Topic* going to print in early August, funeral details were yet to be confirmed. ✠

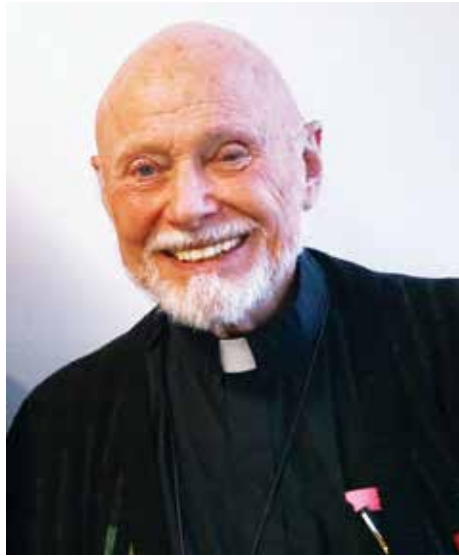


# The Reverend Ronald Leslie Barnes, Priest

September 30, 1934 – June 10, 2023

We give thanks for the life of Ronald Leslie Barnes, Priest, and are grateful for his ministry in our diocese and in the Anglican Church of Canada.

Ron died on Saturday, June 10 in



The Rev. Fr. Ron Barnes, December 2019. PHOTO Randy Murray

Kelowna following a long illness.

Ron is survived by his wife Beverley, four children, fifteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; Catherine (Michael Seaman), Amy, Graeme, Paul, Beth; Heather (William Morel), Peter (Shae), Nicholas, Emma; Bonnie (Glen Tracey), Shannon (Marc Edgett) children: Jack and Finnick, Brandon (Sara), Caitlin; and Charles (Becky), Devon, Hailey, Steven, Sarah, Kassie, and fostered Pablo Sharpe.

Ron was born in Toronto, September 30, 1934. Graduating from the University of Toronto (UofT) in 1956 with a BA (Hons), he then attended Trinity College at UofT where he obtained a Licentiate in Theology (LTh) and Sacrae Theologiae Baccalaureatus (STB). Prior to ordination he worked in the Engineering Department of Bell Telephone. From 1995 to 1997 Ron attended United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio where his Doctor of Ministry (DMin) thesis was on *Computer Communication in the Church*.

Ron was ordained to the diaconate May 8, 1960, and to the priesthood February 22,

1961, in the diocese of Algoma in Ontario.

He served in Algoma as deacon at Sturgeon Falls, and as priest at St. John, North Bay and St. Saviour, Blind River in the early 1960s. Ron came to the diocese of New Westminster from the diocese of Algoma in 1969. He was inducted as Rector of St. Barnabas, New Westminster in November 1969, and served there until 1975, when he was appointed Incumbent of St. Clement, Lynn Valley. In 1988, he was appointed Rector, St. John the Apostle, Port Moody. In 2000, he undertook a brief appointment as Priest-in-Charge of All Saints, Agassiz. Ron also served as interim Senior Port Chaplain at the Mission to Seafarers. In 2005, after retiring, Ron moved to Kelowna. He spent three years in the Episcopal diocese of San Diego (TEC, USA) as Priest-in-Charge of the parish of El Centro. His last appointment was as Interim Priest at St. George, Maple Ridge (2013). Despite living in Kelowna Ron was always available for Sunday Supply in this diocese, often parking his RV in the church lot.

Ron had a diverse ministry beyond the

parish. He did media work at CKNW and was actively involved in the production of *Topic*. He had a special interest in marriage preparation programmes and prepared a marriage preparation manual for the diocese. He was active in the Cursillo Movement. Camp Artaban and teaching sailing were other interests, and he was Chaplain to the West Vancouver Yacht Club. Ron was a computer communication pioneer in the diocese of New Westminster, establishing the *NWnet* system in late 1990s. He went on to assist 14 dioceses with communications systems, and taught computer communication to bishops at Lambeth. He was Chair of the diocesan Evangelism Committee from 1984 to 1987, and Clerical Secretary of Diocesan Synod from 1990 to 1999. Ron was also a member of the Order of St. Luke and an associate of the Order of Holy Cross. He also volunteered at the Kelowna Gospel Mission.

Ron's Memorial Service was at St. Andrew, Kelowna on June 28. His ashes will be placed at St. Clement, Lynn Valley at a later date. ✠

# Robert James (Jim) Wilson, ODNW

August 9, 1939 – June 19, 2023

Robert James (Jim) Wilson was born August 9, 1939, at home in Swalwell, Alberta to Arthur and Matilda Wilson. In 1947, at the age of eight, his family moved to Mexico as missionaries where he started school and soon became bilingual. Due to his mother's poor health they returned to Canada in 1949, and settled in Alberta. His education was a mix of public school, correspondence, and in a First Nations school. In 1952, they moved to British Columbia where his father was ordained.

Jim met and married Marcella Riemer on June 2, 1960. During the next 12 years as their family grew, Jim worked in retail building supplies and as a general contractor. In 1971, they moved their family to Québec, and it was at this time that Jim became involved with youth work and as a sounding board for the Anglican School Chaplain. While there, he and an Anglican priest staged a big youth event.

They moved back to British Columbia in 1979, settled in the Fraser Valley and began attending St. Matthew's, Abbotsford. In January 1980, he began working with *Mentoring Towards Wholeness Together (M2/W2)* as a volunteer coordinator working with all Christian denominations. He had far-ranging responsibilities in Matsqui, Mission, Ferndale, Kwilwexwelhp/Elbow Lake, Sumas, Fraser Regional Correctional

Centre (FRCC), Burnaby, Maple Ridge, and Abbotsford.

He often escorted prisoners who wanted to reconnect with their Anglican roots to Sunday worship at St. Matthew's. He also found the time to participate in Restorative Justice activities. Jim received a Certificate of Merit from the Solicitor General of Canada in recognition of his work in crime prevention.

Jim and Marci decided to retire to Mission and built a house just a few blocks from the Parish of All Saints, Mission. During his life in Mission, he served in the community on the District of Mission Community Justice Council, Mission Social Development committees, and the Board of the John Howard Society. With his volunteer work in the community, he brought insight and connections to the All Saints Outreach Committee of which he'd been a member since its inception. At All Saints he completed the four-year program in Education for Ministry (EFM), attended all Bible studies and workshops, was a greeter, Lay Administrator, and official bell ringer on Sundays. Jim served on Church Council as Associate Warden for two years during a time of transition, was a Synod Delegate for three years and a member of Parish Council for nearly ten years. As his wife Marci says, "Call it a committee and he will be there."

In 2016, Jim was invested into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster honouring him for his work in the church and the community.

Jim and Marci are the proud parents of

three daughters, two sons, eleven grandchildren and three great grandchildren. ✠

Submitted by Judith Beale, ODNW, the Parish of All Saints, Mission



Jim being congratulated by Archbishop Melissa Skelton, November 2016. PHOTO Wayne Chose

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### St. David's, Tsawwassen News

SUBMISSION Elizabeth Murray, ODNW & Mary Horton

#### Big Lunch

St. David's Coronation event May 7 was a royally good *Big Lunch!* It brought together more than 100 parishioners, friends and neighbours who joined thousands of others around the world in celebrating the new reign of King Charles III and his Consort Queen Camilla.

Invited guests, Mr. Ian Paton (MLA for Delta South) and Mr. Dylan Kruger (City of Delta Councillor), had an opportunity to meet and greet members of the community, including the new-to-Canada families from the Ukraine. The youngest among them were a joy to behold. With faces painted, food to their liking, and take-home balloons, their first *Big Lunch* was clearly a happy day.

Barbecue, salads, desserts, and cutting of a celebratory Coronation cake (by long-time parishioner Peggy de Lange) preceded a program that included the sounds of the Pipes, *The Royal Tribute* by the Rev. Simbarashe Basvi, salutations, and singalong ballads of the British Isles. ✦



LEFT What fun! MIDDLE Kitchen convener Claire Forester takes time-out to string decorations. RIGHT Piped to the platform; Peggy de Lange listens to her introduction.



Left to right: chairperson, Elizabeth Murray; soloist, Rosemary Gahr; the Rev. Basvi; Jocelyne Walter; Ian and Pam Paton; and Dylan Kruger.



Nick Robinson, Mo Attalla and Peter Forester keep the BBQ sizzling.



Servers Elinor Attalla, Phil Severy, and Anne Lyon.

#### Baptism

On the evening of Wednesday, July 12, Bishop John Stephens travelled to his parish of St. David's, Delta (Tsawwassen) to preside at a Celebration of Holy Eucharist with Baptism. The baptismal candidate was Nayasha Janelle Basvi, youngest child of the parish's rector, the Rev. Simbarashe Basvi and wife Mebbe. Nayasha is sister to older siblings, Nokutenda Nicole and

Kupakwashe Ivan.

Nayasha was born September 30, 2022, 21 months after her family arrived in Canada, and the Rev. Basvi began his new ministry at St. David's.

Also participating in the liturgy was the Rev. Monte Tugwete (himself a father of a new baby) who took on the role of Bishop's Chaplain. The Rev. Tugwete is Assistant

Curate at Holy Trinity Cathedral and St. Alban the Martyr, Burnaby.

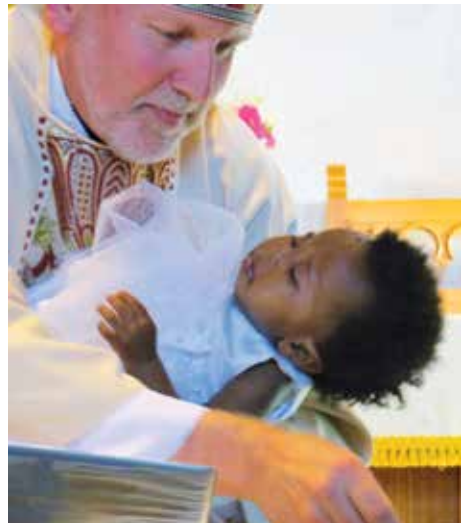
The name Nyasha translated from the Shona language means "Grace of God."

Following the liturgy, Bishop John began a well-deserved vacation.

Many thanks to Mary Horton of the parish for these photos. ✦

#### Pentecost

At St. David's Church on the Feast of Pentecost, Readings in Cantonese, French and English exemplified the significance of the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit, which enabled them to "speak in tongues." Participants were the Rev. Simbarashe Basvi, Norman Wong and Jocelyne Walter. ✦



## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### Long Long Night of Hope Proceeds Presented

The annual fundraising initiative at St. John's, North Vancouver had a good year in 2023

Photos & Article prepared with files from the St. John the Evangelist Facebook Page

On Sunday, June 4, Trinity Sunday, the Parish of St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver welcomed Megan Bowers, North Shore Community Liaison Coordinator, and Jana Sasaki, Director of Operations, from the *Lookout Housing + Health Society* to present them with a cheque for \$13,458.56 from the *Long, Long Night of Hope* fundraiser which took place at the end of February 2023.

Since Donna Lawrence created this fundraiser in 2017, the parish has raised awareness of homelessness in our community and over \$100,000 for the North Shore Shelter. Thanks, Donna, for inspiring the team and the entire diocese. On May 13, 2023, the Members of the 122nd Synod of the diocese of New Westminster identified Homelessness and Housing Affordability as the number one priority for the ministry of the diocese for the next 1-2 years. ✦



Megan and Jana from Lookout Housing and Health Society with the cheque.



Long Long Night of Hope founder, Donna Lawrence speaks.



Long Long Night of Hope parish participants.

### June 2023 Synod Staff Meeting Three Birthdays

On Wednesday morning, June 7, the staff of the diocese of New Westminster met for their final meeting before the July and August summer hiatus. All staff members who work from the Synod office were present in-person (including Minister for Climate Justice, the Rev. Joyce Parry-Moore who travelled in from the Sunshine Coast) except for Executive Archdeacon, the Ven. Philippa Pride who joined via Zoom.

Bishop John reported to staff about his current ministry, and all agreed that he is (and will remain) very busy. The bishop shared information about his current list of episcopal visits both recently passed and imminent and information about General Synod which took place in Calgary, June 27 to July 2 (see the *Anglican Journal* for coverage). There was an informal debrief of the 122nd Synod held May 12 and 13 and each staff member reported in about their current work. Building Administrator, Regan Gorman was chair.

For many years, March was the busy birthday month for Synod staff but now

it is June: Bishop John; Accountant, Lito Manalo; and Director of Finance, Shailene Caparas all celebrating June birthdays. Michelle Van Teunenbroek had sourced a delicious chocolate cake, everyone sang *Happy Birthday*, and the three posed for the ceremonial cake cutting with Bishop John making the incision and Lito cutting up slices to serve.

The next Synod office staff meeting is scheduled for September 6, 2023. ✦



PHOTOS Randy Murray



### Mabuhay Philippines!

SUBMISSION Felly Farinas

Many thanks to Felly Farinas for sending in photos highlighting the celebration of Philippine Independence Day at the Parish of St. Mary's, South Hill in southeast Vancouver on Sunday, June 11. A substantial portion of the congregation are Filipino, and even though they are far from their country of origin they enjoy celebrating, remembering, and sharing with others Philippines' history, culture, heritage, and the story of independence gained by the courage and

dedication of their forefathers.

The Philippine Declaration of Independence was proclaimed by Filipino revolutionary forces led by Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo on June 12, 1898. It asserted the sovereignty and independence of the Philippine Islands from over 300 years of colonial rule from Spain.

The event also marks the celebration of the month of June, which is now known as Filipino Heritage Month in Canada. ✦



The Filipino congregation. PHOTOS Courtesy of Expedito Farinas



LEFT Members of the parish in traditional dress. RIGHT Felly and friends showing off their Philippine flag inspired jackets.

### Ordination Anniversary in White Rock

On Sunday, June 11, the Parish of the Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock welcomed the Rev. Arthur Nash who presided at the 8am Celebration of Holy Communion and vested and participated in the principal Celebration of the Eucharist at 10am. Like many priests around the world, the Rev. Nash was ordained on St. Barnabas Day, June 11. The particular June 11 for Arthur was in 1969, so in 2023, he celebrated 54 years of ordained ministry.

The Rev. Nash is well-known around the diocese as his ministry over much of the past two decades has involved Interim Priest-in-Charge positions at several diocesan parishes. To those of a certain vintage, the Rev. Nash is best known for his long incumbency at St. Margaret's of Scotland. A White Rock resident, Arthur's last interim post was at Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock, which concluded happily with the appointment of the Rev. Joseph Dirbas as Rector in June of 2022.

Many thanks to the Rev. Paul Richards for sending in these photos and for letting diocesan communications know about this notable anniversary. ✦



The Rev. Arthur Nash processing.



LEFT The Rev. Nash leads the prayers standing between the two other clergy, the Reverends Joe Dirbas and Paul Richards. RIGHT The Rev. Nash administers the Body of Christ.

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### Lessons Learned Can Become Gifts Offered Making salve & felt hearts in Port Moody

SUBMISSION Kerry Baisley, ODNW; Missioner for Indigenous Justice

Opportunities occasionally come along where lessons learned can become gifts offered. Making salves and felt heart pins at the Noone's Creek Hatchery in Port Moody was such an opportunity.

Deacon, the Rev. Anne Anchor of St. John the Apostle, Port Moody introduced me to Tasha Faye Evans and the project *In the Presence of Ancestors*, creating and installing five Salish House Posts along Port Moody's Shoreline Trail.<sup>1</sup>

A ceremony to prepare the posts was scheduled for June 21, Indigenous People's Day.

At the conclusion of the event, gifts are distributed. This gift giving was one of the reasons historically given for implementing the Potlatch Ban from 1884–1951.

Making felted hearts and Poplar based salves provided some of the gifts for the event. Salve making was a skill learned through Métis herbalist and educator Lori

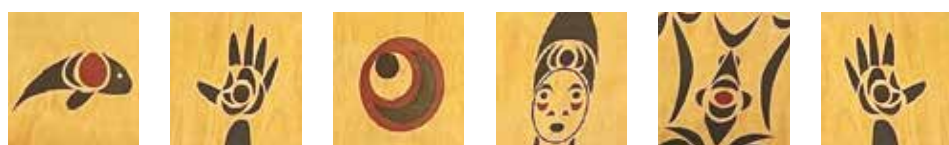
Snyder. The buds were gathered at different places in the traditional territory of the Coast Salish people after consultation with a Squamish Elder.

Gathering the materials for the salves

connected us with the Earth, learning to make the salves and felted hearts provided engagement with others, and gifting them enabled us to participate in a small way in the work of Reconciliation. ✦

<sup>1</sup> For more information about *In the Presence of Ancestors* please go to <https://www.portmoody.ca/en/arts-culture-and-heritage/in-the-presence-of-ancestors.aspx>

PHOTOS Anne Anchor



### Dance the Minuet

SUBMISSION Marion Wong

*The Titus Chamber Orchestra*, resident liturgical ensemble of St. Titus in Vancouver, held their debut concert on Sunday, June 25.

Led by Director of Music, Kevin Zakresky, this group of musicians has become invaluable to worship at St. Titus, playing together for key feasts and as individual players for Sunday worship.

*Dance the Minuet* was a concert of French Baroque music. Mainly works by Marc-Antoine Charpentier and Jean-Baptiste Lully. The concert culminated in a dance lesson for the audience. Historical

choreographer, Ariana Barer showed everyone the steps to the *Gavotte* and *Minuet*, favourites at the court of Versailles.

"I am so humbled to be able to make music with these talented players," remarks Zakresky. "We have only been together since January, but already we are developing great chemistry."

*The Titus Chamber Orchestra* has been made possible through a Parish Development grant. We are very thankful for the support of the diocese of New Westminster. ✦



*The Titus Chamber Orchestra* led by Director of Music, Kevin Zakresky. PHOTOS Ivan Puzikov



Members of the audience getting ready to dance.



LEFT Kevin Zakresky and Cellist, Hyemin Cho enjoy watching people dancing. RIGHT Oboist, Zofia Stefanicki.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Strawberry Teas

### At All Saints Mission

SUBMISSION Donna Kennedy

All Saints, Mission hosted a Strawberry Tea fundraiser on Saturday, June 24. There was a great turn-out and fun was had by all. The entertainment was organized by Terry Kennedy. He opened the entertainment with

a performance on guitar and vocals. The talents of Rose Bennett, Polly Betterton, Ryan Bowie, Fred Truman, Caroline Robertson, Rob Booth, and a performance by the All Saints Choir summed up the rest of

the entertainment.

Coordinator of the tea was Jan Young with the help of decorators, servers, and clean-up crew. Thanks to all who participated. ✦

### At St. Helen's, Surrey

The weekend of June 24 and 25 was a busy one at St. Helen's, Surrey. Not only was the parish preparing to host the first Four Surrey Parish Eucharist and Picnic since June of 2019 on June 25, but also on June 24, the parish held a Strawberry Tea.

The tea was combined with a jewellery and bake sale. Many thanks to *Save On Foods* for donating 100% of the strawberries. All 16 cases worth, to satisfy the berry cravings of a capacity crowd! All proceeds are for the continuing ministry of St. Helen's. ✦



The craft sale area. PHOTOS Robin Ruder-Celiz



The bake table.



A full house enjoys the strawberries and more.

## St. Hilda's Renews its Labyrinth in Collaboration with Neighbours

SUBMISSION Christine Pawley



The Notice. PHOTO Meg Stevens

Early in July 2023, the Parish of St. Hilda's, Sechelt worked to renew its labyrinth, with help from guests currently residing in the church annex while *RainCity's* Sechelt facility is being renovated following a fire. The labyrinth, which can help walkers find deep spiritual meaning or simply a few moments of peace in a busy day, was first constructed in 2002, and follows the pattern of the famous labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral, in France. The labyrinth at St. Hilda's is used by neighbours, yoga groups, girl guides, and community visitors, as well as parishioners.

The labyrinth has been repainted several times, the last time in 2015. Its refurbishment is long overdue, and St. Hilda's leadership were already making plans to organize this work when annex residents

came forward with the offer to repaint it as a *thank-you* to the church. The re-painting took place during the week of July 10 to

14, as a collaborative project involving parishioners, annex guests, and the wider Sechelt community. ✦



Painting on July 10. PHOTO Bruce Pond



The re-painted St. Hilda's Labyrinth. PHOTO Bruce Pond

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### Clergy News Around the Diocese

The Rev. David Taylor has resigned as Rector of St. Dunstan, Aldergrove and will begin a new ministry as Rector of St. Mark, Ocean Park, September 16. The Celebration of a new ministry is scheduled for September 25 at 7pm.

The Rev. Andrew Halladay is now the Ven. Andrew Halladay as he succeeds the Rev. Kelly Duncan who resigned her diocesan role as Archdeacon of Loughheed and her ordained leadership of the Parish of St. George, Fort Langley for a new ministry post in the diocese of Islands and Inlets (aka the diocese of British Columbia). The Rev. Duncan's last liturgy as rector of the Fort Langley parish was July 16. Archdeacon Halladay will be collated at a diocesan liturgy, date to be confirmed.

The Rev. Liz Hamel concluded her ministry as Interim Priest-in-Charge at St. John the Baptist, Sardis in August. The Rev. Hamel has been appointed Priest-in-Charge of All Saints, Ladner beginning September 15. Following the resignation of former rector of All Saints, Ladner the Rev. Robin Ruder-Celiz in the winter of 2023, the Rev.

Sharon Salomons served as Interim Priest-in-Charge until July 31, 2023.

The Rev. Greg Jenkins resigned his diocesan roles as Regional Dean of Royal City & South Burnaby and Chair of the diocesan Primates World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) Unit and resigned his parish ministry as Rector of St. Alban the Martyr, Burnaby effective July 31, 2023, to begin his new ministry as Rector of Church of the Holy Saviour, Waterloo in the diocese of Huron. His last liturgy at St. Alban's was July 9 and his appointment in Waterloo began August 1, 2023. The parish's assistant curate, the Rev. Monte Tugwete is presiding at Sunday services. As of this issue of *Topic* going to publication in early August, an Interim Priest-in-Charge had not yet been appointed. The parish will continue to be supported by Honorary Assistant and Vancouver General Hospital Chaplain, the Rev. Bryan Rivers.

The Ven. Stephanie Shepard, Archdeacon of Granville, completed her interim appointment at St. Francis, Caulfeild (West Vancouver) at the end of July and

she began her next ministry as Interim Priest-in-Charge of Holy Trinity, Vancouver succeeding the previous interim, the Rev. Craig Tanksley, August 1.

Vancouver School of Theology (VST) student Dara Crandall has been approved as postulant for ordination to the priesthood in the Anglican Church of Canada.

The Rev. Alex Wilson who began his new ministry as Rector of St. Francis-in-the-Wood, Caulfeild on August 1 will be inducted at a Celebration of a New Ministry, September 11.

For those of you who are members of diocesan parishes and readers of diocesan communications material you are likely aware that the Ven. Philippa Pride, Executive Archdeacon, and Archdeacon of Vancouver was diagnosed with cancer late spring of 2023, and is currently undergoing treatment. As of this writing in late July, Archdeacon Pride is continuing in her work and ministry primarily from her home, available by email and Zoom. Please keep Philippa, her daughter Caitlin, her family and friends in your prayers. ✚



The Rev. David Taylor. PHOTO Wayne Chose



The Ven. Andrew Halladay. PHOTO Wayne Chose



The Rev. Liz Hamel. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Rev. Greg Jenkins. PHOTO Submitted



The Ven. Stephanie Shepard. PHOTO Wayne Chose



The Rev. Alex Wilson at Diocesan Council, 2022. 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)

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

## ULTIMATE STEWARDSHIP to Sustain the Church

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

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

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

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



OPINION

**Downsizing | Part 1**  
**The Pain of Stuff & the Grace to Relinquish It**

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

Old legal documents, still reparable boots, lumpy 1970's pottery we bought as newlyweds, the sewing machine, the textile collection that will never now be used.

The average age of diocesan seniors (about 75?) means that many of us will have downsized or are considering it. Some have the possibility of aging-in-place but most of us see what is ahead. Stairs, isolation, maintenance, health, access to services, finances, transportation, and lifestyle changes are some of the issues. Why do we resist it? Our Stuff!

We think of dust to dust as a Lenten theme, but it applies to the stuff that seniors must relinquish and who wants to do that? All that work, all those decisions. You know your children, grandchildren, neighbours, and friends don't want your stuff. The Thrift stores will take some of it, overloaded as they are with the belongings that seniors are trying to donate. Along the highway out of town there are acres of storage units. But renting storage is not the answer. It is expensive and not a permanent solution. You know you will never live in a largish home again. You must dispose of that stuff.

The oak table that belonged to your aunt, the rug from your childhood home, photo albums, children's art and science projects, out of fashion, still-good clothing, guest room linens, wheelbarrows, heirloom clock, books and bookcases.

"The art of losing is not hard to master," begins a poem by Elizabeth Bishop, who experienced many losses. Her poem goes on to list some of those losses in a brave voice. The poem ends, "The art of losing may look like (Write it!) like disaster!"

The piles of our stuff to go to the dump took two truckloads. The boxes to go to the Thrift stores filled hallways and rooms. Yes, we relented and put some large art pieces and heavy furniture in a storage locker "to dispose of later." A mistake.

The skiing and golf equipment were jettisoned some decades ago but now we had to admit we will not go camping again. Sigh. Out went all the beautiful Coleman camping gear.

We alternated between moods of "must keep" and "relinquish, relinquish!" Shocked to see how identified we have been with our stuff, we repented. On what is our identity truly founded? Have we sought status in our possessions? How did we fall into that secular trap of acquisition? Did we not have mentors who counselled against this or were we blindly following models of acquisition?

Many years ago, when we cleaned out my mother-in-law's house where she had

lived for decades with her two sisters (it took us six months to do), we vowed, "Never will we gather so much stuff and never will we leave this task to others!" Hah.

The stuff is not us. Our value, dignity is not invested in what we gathered. One day, we will be transformed into our essence. It will not involve our possessions, not even gold and silver. Once again, we will be dust

into which new, eternal life will be breathed.

A warning: when downsizing, don't look at old photos! That distraction will seriously delay the sort/pack process.

What was hardest? The mementoes, not for their value, (often they have no dollar worth) but laden with memories. That's not a disaster; memories can be stored in the heart. ✚

*This is part 1 of a 3-piece series on Downsizing. Part 2 will focus on the criteria for mementoes: keep/toss. Readers are invited to comment on their experience.*

*Please email Hannah care of Topic editor, Randy Murray at RMurray@vancouver.anglican with subject line downsizing.*

*Hannah Main-van der Kamp recently moved with husband and dog from an old spacious, semi-rural house to a house half the size in town.*



ILLUSTRATIONS Aleutie (TOP iStock ID#499695854 | BOTTOM iStock ID#926846482)

**Remembering**

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

Do you keep memorabilia? I do, and now that I have seven boxes of it—and still going—I'm so glad I started collecting this and that and goodness knows what about 35 years ago. At some time or other you may have benefitted by this habit of mine because now and again I rummage around in it all and find something that is not only still a treasure to me but might be to you when you read it after all the years.

I am not sure what this piece is. It's a kind of promise on someone's part to themselves and it's got to do with the task in our lives in life that is probably more important than anything else we ever try to do to—bringing up our children.

*"Bringing up children is one of life's most wonderful and most daunting tasks. It takes every virtue known, like patience, resilience, an infinite capacity for forgiveness and a thousand others."*

*call it a parent's resolution... To reserve time and fresh energy for my children, so that I can be their close and interested friend. To fit my children to meet*

*life and people bravely, honestly and independently. To give my children freedom but to teach them how to use that freedom, so that they will not confuse liberty with license. To show my warm love to my children as well as conscientiously care for them. To manage them with intelligence and affection, and not by punishment, condemnation, fear, fault-finding and nagging. To direct their energy rather than repressing it. To try to understand my children rather than sitting in judgment on them, and through all misdemeanours both trivial and serious to love them steadfastly."*

As I look at the yellowing sheet of paper I rescued from oblivion long ago—and even then, it was about half a century old—I realize that the world it came from has become a great deal more challenging and more complex. However, as I look at the four now middle-aged adults that were once our children, I think that's what we tried our best to do. ✚

*"Bringing up children is one of life's most wonderful and most daunting tasks. It takes every virtue known, like patience, resilience, an infinite capacity for forgiveness and a thousand others. While you could say that what follows sounds very idealistic. I think it expresses some worth-while things. Let's*

## The Executive

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

Over the last few years, we have got to know one another and to respect one another. I think, and certainly hope, that this has become mutual. He lives in a world very different to mine. His skills are very different. All his adult life he has had a real gift for the intricacies of business and finance. I suppose he would admit ruefully to possessing most of the attributes of that world. There tends to be an air of being a little impatient with small talk, perhaps a hesitation to suffer fools gladly. There's the neat dark suit, the brisk walk, the briefcase with its ever-bulging papers, those white sacramental signs of his being a creature of the marketplace, its corridors and offices, its taxicabs, airport lounges and boards rooms, a world where I happen to know he is regarded as honourable and generous.

Once I listened to him at an occasion to which he had invited me. From time to time, he meets with others in his business world who share his Christian faith. They meet occasionally to share, to discuss what they regard as their journey of faith. On this occasion it was his turn to give the short



PHOTO opolja (iStock ID #1194305500)

address that was always part of the lunch meeting. I realized as I listened that he had invited me so that I would overhear him say to others what he wished me to hear.

The language he used was very simple and clear. He spoke of being taught, and of never forgetting, the words of two hymns he learned by heart in his growing years. One was learned in childhood:

*"Jesus loves me this I know,  
For the Bible tells me so."*

The other hymn that he still recalled from older boyhood years was:

*"Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,  
When the clouds unfold their winds of strife?"*

They are, as I said, simple things. You might even say, if you were in the mood, that they are childish things. And yet we know that to possess such roots can be beyond price. I suspect that's what someone else meant when he said many centuries ago, "Except ye become as little children, ye cannot see the kingdom of Heaven." ✠

## Tusitala | Teller of Tales

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

Not that many years ago (says he defensively), I was assembling some material for a pilgrimage I had been asked to lead. I had decided that one thing I would do would be to share some beautiful prayers other than those that people knew from church worship. Among them I decided to share a prayer composed by Robert Louis Stevenson.

Now in my venerable years, the very mention of that name sends a thrill through this now exceedingly venerable memory. Stevenson has always been a figure of high romance to me ever since the moment at a large church parade of youth in our parish church the preacher looked down at us small boys in our Wolf Cub uniforms and said in a hearty and conspiratorial voice, "Boys, have you ever read *Treasure Island*?"

I hadn't but I proceeded to pester my parents until a copy appeared and I would sail away on the schooner *Hispaniola* and the vivid imagination of Robert Louis Stevenson, and in the glorious company of Captain Smollett, Squire Trelawney, Mr. Livesey, and the immortal and villainous ships cook, Long John Silver.

By the way, in those days a church parade was a serious and exciting affair for small boys, not for any spiritual reason but chiefly because of the reception held afterwards when there would be a generous table of lemonade and cake for us boys.

So, it was that many years passed until one day about ten years ago I read of Stevenson's life on Samoa in a column of the *Church Times* by Ronald Blythe. Stevenson lived there for many years, sent there by his doctor for health reasons, becoming a well-known and revered figure in the islands. Because of his constant writing, his name among the Samoans was "Tusitala" which means *Teller of Tales*.

On one occasion, a group of friends came to him and asked him if he would write a prayer for the community. I treasure it because of its beauty, its simplicity, and its gentle humanity. Here it is:

*"Lord, behold our family here assembled. We thank Thee for this place wherein we dwell. For the love that unites us, the peace accorded to this day, the hope with which we expect the morrow, for the health, the work, the*

*"Let peace abound in our company. Purge out of every heart the lurking grudge. Give us grace and strength to persevere. Give us courage and gaiety and the quiet mind."*



Commemorative statue to the author Robert Louis Stevenson as a young boy, in front of Colinton parish church on the outskirts of Edinburgh. PHOTO Bob Douglas (iStock ID#860182842)

*food, and the bright skies that make our lives delightful.*

*Let peace abound in our company. Purge out of every heart the lurking grudge. Give us grace and strength to persevere. Give us courage and gaiety and the quiet mind. Spare to us our friends, soften us to our enemies. Bless us, if it may be, in all our endeavours. If it*

*may not, give us the strength to encounter that which is to come, that we may be brave in peril, constant in tribulation, temperate in wrath, and in all changes of fortune and down to the gates of death, loyal and loving to one another.*

*As the clay to the potter, as the windmill to the wind, children of their creator, we beseech*

*Thee this help and mercy for Christ's sake."*

I wish I had written that. I wish too that I had written *Treasure Island*. But what I envy most about Robert Louis Stevenson is that glorious name they gave him on his Pacific Island. *Tusitala*—*Teller of Tales*. Wouldn't you like to be called that? I would. ✠

## OPINION

## The Perils of Preaching

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

Have you noticed that the very word preaching has developed a kind of off-putting sound about it in recent years? I'm sure you've noticed how someone in, let's say, our Parliament will announce something like, "I wish the honourable member for Wherever would stop preaching to the House!" Much the same thing has happened to the word sermon. We hear things like, "We have all heard enough sermons from the Prime Minister about this or that."

Come to think of it, as I write this, I suddenly recall a long-ago put-down of someone in the British House of Commons who in the days of Queen Victoria was given to preaching in high moral tones to the House and was remarkably admired by his monarch for so doing.

William Gladstone, Prime Minister of England, earnest, ponderous and a paragon of virtue, was one. The other was the brilliant and witty Benjamin Disraeli, leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition. Disraeli was the irrepressible rascal and wit and thought by many "too clever for his own good," as people would say then. The two were always trying to score off one another.

On one occasion, Disraeli got in what today we would call a "zinger" in their eternal sparring. It was a moment when there had been a long debate about some social

policy which Gladstone has at last succeeded in getting the House to pass. Disraeli was appalled but helpless in the face of the overwhelming vote for Gladstone's policy.

Something that particularly annoyed Disraeli about Gladstone was his incessant self-righteousness. However, not to be outdone, Disraeli rose and in a tone dripping with sarcasm, was heard to opine—for effect I am using the elevated language of Parliamentary debate in those days—"Members of the House, what I find singularly annoying is not that the honourable Member for Liverpool always assumes he has a card up his sleeve but rather his assumption that it was personally placed there by the Almighty." *Touché.*

Oh dear, I must admit that as I watch things Parliamentary on the National, I do so wish that just now and again, as the leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister flail away at one another about this and that, one or other of them might get in a verbal thrust that for one wonderful moment compares with that long ago consummate wit. I suspect I am being very unfair. Both are caught in a very different age and must obey its cultural rules.

Meanwhile there is much more to reflect on about things amusing in the preaching of the past. We will duly reflect on them. ♣



Benjamin Disraeli, 1st Earl of Beaconsfield (1804–1881) engraving from 1873. British Prime Minister, parliamentarian, Conservative statesman and literary figure. Engraved by unknown artist. PHOTO GeorgiosArt (iStock ID#528741495)



PHOTO Hana-Photo (iStock ID #1084483148)

## A Near Yet Distant Music

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

I am sitting in this aisle seat, settling down for an early morning flight east. As I pick up the headset and finger the dial around to the classical band a voice announces the program items. There is a mention of Beethoven and Mozart, their names and music so familiar yet so distant in time they have become their music, no longer persons to us.

Then suddenly I hear the name of an old friend whom my wife and I met when we first arrived in Ottawa in those long-ago 1950s. We were all young. Many times, we shared their family table and they ours in those Ottawa years. Sadly, we lost contact after we left for the west coast. Now after a fair number of years I hear the name of our old friend, and I am aware of how much beautiful music he gave to Canadian church life. The piece I am listening to now is *Divertimento for Organ and Two Oboes*, it's composer our long-ago friend, Robert Fleming.

As I listen, the announcer reminds me that my friend recently died. I become aware of the brush of the artist we call *Memory* bringing back a face and voice. As the piece begins I receive his gift from him across the gulf of life and death, a gulf in

one sense so immeasurable and yet sometimes so achingly narrow.

The fact that I was receiving a gift from a friend now in that state we call death made me think of the mysterious line between those of us who live and those of us who—what shall we say—have crossed that mysterious line?

The music to which I am listening is as much of Robert now as it was when it came to him from beyond him on to his keyboard, then to his manuscript, then to countless performances by others until one reaches into my life.

Therein lies the most mysterious aspect of all this. What is it that links us across the gulf and is the source of this music? Robert of course is a channel for that source, as am I in this act of listening, but can it be that we are all channels of that same *Source* we gropingly and haltingly call God, and that this is the mystery by which alone a glorious melody can take a vast gathering of individuals and make them one.

TS Eliot once wrote, "Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything." ♣

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It gives soul to the universe,  
wings to the mind,  
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and to everything."*

TS Eliot



TOP Marianne Heustis tuning the gallery pipes. ALL PHOTOS Courtesy of Michael Dirk  
BELOW Before (left) and after (right) backside of the main console.

# The Royal Canadian College of Organists Halloween Organ Spooktacular

MICHAEL DIRK  
*Organist & Director of Music, St. John's, Shaughnessy*

The Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO) *Halloween Organ Spooktacular* returns to St. John's, Shaughnessy to celebrate the Hallman Pipe Organ's 55th Anniversary of Dedication on Friday, October 27, 2023.

The original organ for St. John's, Shaughnessy (SJS) was an "organ transplant" from Canton, Ohio's Crossroads United Church containing 1,478 pipes crafted in 1920 by the Estey Organ Company for their opus 1869. By the early 1960s this instrument was due for a significant overhaul, and it was determined more cost effective to replace with new, which also enticed the prospective organist Fred Carter to immigrate from Armagh Ireland to SJS. The \$85,000 (equivalent to three Shaughnessy homes at the time) contract was awarded to the Hallman Organ Company of Kitchener, Ontario.

What was salvageable of the redundant Estey organ was incorporated into a hybrid house theatre style organ in Victoria. When the 3,600 pipes of the Hallman arrived in 1968, it enjoyed the title of being Greater Vancouver Regional District's largest pipe organ until 2001. In addition to its grand size, it has several novel features: two sets of pipes which sound below audible range (16Hz);

nine sets of pipes sounding antiphonally from the gallery; a horizontal copper state trumpet; a gallery console and movable master console on the chancel. Though having had exceptional care for decades by local technician Marianne Huestis, by its 50th year, it too needed a significant overhaul. Headed up by SJS, Director of Music, Michael Dirk and the exceptional talents of Steve Miller of Calgary, the electronics were updated from analog to digital, and several other enhancements including a few more ranks (oboe, clarinet, flute, and string), chimes, new silent blowers, and swell expression motors.

Dedicated October 28, 1968, by Archbishop Godfrey Gower, the 55th anniversary will be celebrated the night prior on Friday, October 27, at 7:30pm by local members of the Royal Canadian College of Organists Vancouver Centre (for whom Michael Dirk serves as co-president). This *freelby-donation* recital features local organists dressing up in costume and offering the spookiest and scariest music written for the "king of instruments" (Bach's *Tocatta and Fugue in d minor*, *Phantom of the Opera*, Böellmann's *Suite Gothique*, etc.). Costumes are encouraged, and there are Halloween treats for the kids and the young at heart! ♣



## RCCO Halloween Organ Spooktacular

at St. John's, Shaughnessy to Celebrate the Hallman Pipe Organ's 55th Anniversary of Dedication

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2023  
7:30PM – 9PM  
1490 NANTON AVENUE, VANCOUVER



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

September 22 for the November issue & October 20 for the December issue

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