

St Hilda's Timeline

1923-1941

First burial in the cemetery - Regheld Evelyn Davidson and Toshiko Oki Konishi

1936 - First St Hilda's church completed.

My memory is that anyone who was not Roman Catholic came to St Hilda's until the other churches were opened. We all worshiped together.

Florrie Clayton played the pump organ.

Albert Thain 1936 - 1937

Harry Watts 1937 - 1939 (John Henry Watts? Was my parish priest in Estevan Sask until the late 60's) He told me that he first came up the Coast as a theology student summer fill in. He was given a bicycle from the Diocese to pedal from St Hilda's to St Bart's and St Aidian's. The parishes on the Coast thought this wasn't good enough and supplied him with an old car the next summer. He and Bea Rankin were class mates in University Latin class.

Thomas Bailey 1939 - 1941

Tom Bailey brought seminary students here in the summer and one of these did card tricks for us on the front lawn.

Dennis L. Page baptism 1941

John (Jack) Lax 1941 - 1944. His philosophy was that the whole sermon could be summed up in 5 minutes. (Take note Clarence!)

John Snowden 1945 - 1946. John Snowden came here as a theology student and junior priest. His son John became the Bishop of Caribou. After his retirement he came here to officiate at that funeral of Harry Hall, Rev Cathy Hall's husband. On the way home from the funeral the Snowden's were killed in a car accident.

Charles Gibb 1946 - 1948

1947 Betty and Archie Williams and Margaret moved to Sechelt.

Henry Oswald 1948 - 1958

My parents were married here (much to my relief!)

The first retired minister I met (and I have met quite a few), and we didn't feel we could charge a fee for making house calls! (to retired clergy of all stripes)

Dennis Harris 1958 - 1963

Sunday school and church picnics at Mrs. Dawes on the waterfront. Sorry for picking your trialing blackberries.

August 27, 1960 Margaret Williams married John Webb at St Hilda's.

James Ferguson 1963 - 1966

Jim and Jill played their guitars and sang at the Elphinstone Secondary School Assembly. Songs like Eve of Destruction, Michael Row Your Boat Ashore. The Beatles were huge but to me the Fergusons singing at Elphie were just as huge. (*Sandra S*)

Because of them (ie their music) we became Anglicans.

Margaret (Williams Webb) lost her parents Archie and Betty Williams. Diane Webb (Heisler) was confirmed.

Suffered the loss of our infant child Ingrid in 1966

Barry Jenks 1966 - 1970

I was confirmed and four of our kids baptised in 68/69. (BP)

Barry taught me that this was a church I could belong to even if I had many questions. That was the start of a new journey for me.

Thank you for a welcoming church family 1969 (*Bev Dall/Bob*)

I stayed with Betty and Archie Williams for a visit and came to church with them in the summer. (*Diana Heisler (Webb)*).

We arrived in Sechelt in 1966 to find Garry's Kindergarten and Sunday School (friend was Minister!). We have been members since 1966. Our 3 children were baptised and confirmed at St Hilda's. Very involved until they left the coast. Very involved until they left the Coast.

Denis Popple 1970 - 1973

Canon Green collapsed during the service (must have been boring?) CPR revived him...but he wasn't so pleased as he was ready to meet his Maker.

July 1972 Margaret (Williams), John, Diana, Sylvia, David and George Webb moved to Sechelt to live.

Mary, David and Violet Knight first visited St Hilda's.

I first met Mary Knight when she came down from Powell River to visit to family during Thanksgiving Day weekend. *Lois*

Moved to Sechelt March 1974. Kay Nelson invited me to go to church with her when I said I had gone to an Anglican Church in my home town. *Lois*

Christmas Eve service 1972 the church was packed, and when we came out afterwards it had snowed..

John Godkin 1973 - 1978

August 1974 Jeanette Gory baptised the s....family's children baptised at the same time. Afternoon service - not during the Sunday service. *Lois*

Invited to "Family Life" meeting. Once a month for women. Separate babysitter! Met many women from St Hilda's including Bev Dall. Our babies were about the same age.

Nov 1, 1975 - Ken and I married here. (*Sandra Sneddon*)

John Paetkau 1978- 1987 John Paetkau believed in a celibate priesthood as he didn't think a priest could give both his parish and his family enough attention. He left here with a wife and 3 children!

July 1982 Moved to Sechlet after coming as a guest for a couple of years. Truly Paetkau's smile and hug made sure I knew I was in the **right** church. *Bobbi K.*

After moving many times and trying many churches I came back to St Hilda's and it was **home**.

Vivien and David Blair retired to Sechelt in 1983 and loved St Hilda's. Dad's funeral was in September 2002 and Mom's in July 2005, both at St Hilda's. They were much loved.

A divorce.

1981 After living in the Far East for 14 years it was good to return to church again and St Hilda's made me feel so welcome. Barbara Carver
During Mark Lemon's tenure at this church I did not get what I came to church for. Truly it was a troubled time for our parish as he was a troubled man.

Lois Gory, People's Warden, approximately 25 years old. No one else would take the job.

David Knight was the rector's warden.

About 1978 became Sunday school teacher. Jeanette in kindergarten. *Lois*

1982 married Diane and Vernon Paul. Also Crystal Paul was christened here in 1983.

1980 Carol and Ted Eades arrived. Glad to find a younger congregation! For our upcoming family (then St Aidan's Roberts Creek)

Our kids were baptised.

Holding a 2 year old in my arms while they received Communion. Powerful.

I took the service for the first time one Sunday morning when John Paetkau was sick. We were in the hall then as the new church was being built. *Lois*

1984 Angela Page was baptised.

What great memories painting the walls with Oscar and Len and others and helping Rosemary choosing the carpet. Really admiring her choice. Oscar and Len started theroom and storing their tools there. What happy times and still are. Thanks everyone.

Joyce Cyr dad...Shelegha???

Robert McLarty came the first Sunday we worshipped in the hall. I remember staring at the hole in the ground where our church had been with him after church. He offered to be a crucifer as he had been one at his previous church in Ottawa. He and Chloe were married here and he was buried from here. A very active and loved member.

Marg and I arrived September 1985 and were greeted with a hug from Lois and the whole parish. *Bruce*.

I greeted them enthusiastically as we had been praying for a leader for our 'In Our Dreams Only' youth group. Marg and Bruce had both been active in Scouts/Guides, played guitar and came from a young vibrant church but alas this was not their ministry. *Lois*

Diane and Vernon Paul's (Waldo Heisler) daughter Alaina was christened here 1984.

The energy, enthusiasm and generosity shown by our parishioners had our church built and paid for in a few short years. Those who enjoy this place now own them a vote of thanks.

December 1985 new church dedicated

My older son Ian, and Marg were baptised by Archbishop Hambidge. *Bruce*

John and Henny Saunders came the Sunday that John Paetkau announced he was leaving. They had moved to the Coast from Ontario after retiring and had been very active in the Presbyterian Church there. Presbyterians who had used St Hilda's in the afternoon were a young and "informed hippie" congregation and their minister suggested St Hilda's to John and Henny as they were more older people and the minister and John Paetkau had exchanged pulpits so he knew our style. They joined the choir right away and were a wonderful mainstay. They had bible study at their house. John was in EFM and Henny was in ACW - a real blessing.

Bruce, John Saunders and I took the services on a regular basis between John and June. John Godkin would take communion services. *Lois*

I struggled with my young daughter receiving communion before confirmation. We argued all the way up the aisle but in the end the decision up there was between her and God. Hard to believe now in 2012 but it was a problem for me

June Maffin 1987-1992

I arrived in 1989 and instantly felt at home my second Sunday. I was invited to Dorothy Minchin's home for a ACW party a few months later. I was asked to be the secretary for Church Committee. I was accepted and encouraged to **participate**. Near the end of Rev. Maffin's time here I was asked to be the people's warden and really learned how a parish works!

Diana and Michael Heisler married 1990 (Webb Hall)

My daughter was denied the Eucharist while at the rail.

Eades made June jump in the deep end with Natalie's baptism on June's first Sunday.

I was assistant at that service . *Lois*

I remember the solemn look in Natalie's eyes.

On the Canonical Committee that chose June I remember the twinkle in Eric's eye when he stood up to announce we had a new priest and **her** name is ...the sound of eyebrows going up filled the church. June laughed with us later as our parish profile had said we were looking for a 'family man' and got a twice divorced single mom instead. Just goes to show God's only to ready to enjoy the joke.

I was on the Canonical Committee that chose June - first woman priest at St Hilda's.

1988. I was asked to co-ordinate Sunday School. The following 20 years of combining my love for kids with my love for God and a desire/hope to start children out with a knowledge that they are loved by God.

Separation from family.

1989 summer first visit well received and said one day this would be my place of worship. Visiting in-laws at the time. *Karen Boxall*.

1989 first visit just before Christmas. Warm welcome by greeters John and Henny Saunders and Warren and Joyce Sybert. Invited to prayer groups Christmas social get-together at the Saunders home. Bought a house before returning to Alberta. Knew St Hilda's would be our church home when we finally retired.

I came back to St Hilda's in the fall 1999 with Chris and Anna. We came early and sat in the back pew. June sat with us, welcoming us before the service, talking to the kids. I felt I had come home. All 3 of us were baptised Jan 1992. My sister was by my side - it was very special.

I arrived at the end of June Maffin's year. I became secretary at Church Committee and felt **included** into this church immediately.

About 1992 the children's choir small but with 3 Eades daughters sang "Let there be peace on earth" while processing around the church with candles.

My job as Rector's warden was to send her to St Andrew's with a hot coffee!

John, Bruce and I took services between June and Cathy. Rick Deisbekker was also a preacher as was Carol Hartley.

Cathy Hall 1993 - 2000

Cathy called a special meeting in her home to discuss gay people and the inclusiveness in our church. (same sex blessings) It was then that I realized **everyone** is special.

Attended Christmas Community Carol service 97/98 with infant son. Rick D. made quite an impression. *Tom*

A marriage in crisis - we overcame, we are thankful.

I visited St Hilda's every Sunday after my own service and loved the people and the warmth and inclusiveness to gay's

Fall 1996 - Spring 1997 disciple bible study led by Bruce. First time reading the whole or parts of the Bible in depth. 12:30 Thursdays - lunch - 1-3, bible study complete, tea and goodies.

1993 my Mother's funeral began my return to the Anglican community.

Death of my wife of 45 years. EFM saw me through

1995 arrived at St Hilda's with my son Derek, then 2 years old. 1997 my angel Kristine Boxall arrived. 1998 Easter service Kristine and Derek were baptised. 1998 Kristine played baby Jesus at the family pageant. Derek a shepherd boy and Karen played Mother Mary. It was that beautiful special night that I realized God loved me as much as Mother Mary (a beautiful healing service). Kristine was a big part of my healing. Michael Prior and I called her Emanuella.

EFM was an amazing journey.

EFM opened my eyes to a deeper understanding of our faith.

EFM the wonderful fellowship!!!

EFM - 4 very interesting years of discussions. People who grew up in different faith communities. *Lois*

Mary Pellet started EFM when she was in her early 80's. Very interesting when we got to 20th century Christianity when she had lived through various ecclesiastical fads and knew some of the players. Remembered when hymns we thought were old standbys first entered the hymn book. Also knew some of the ...when we were still wet behind the ears.

Palm Sunday 1999, first day on the job. *Tom*

ACW supported my work with team mothers which gave me strength and encouragement. The support was financial and I was blessed by their prayers.

St Hilda's opened the doors for my students to gather to learn in safe, secure, welcoming place within the

gathering room for 3 years.

1998 expecting my first child I returned to the church after many years absence to give my daughters a strong foundation in their understanding that God loves all of us. This was the start of a very strong and nurturing connection with the Sunday school - lasting and important friendship.

April 1996 Finally here full time!! Music group before 10AM service with Roy Morris, Joan Slater, Carol Hartley and others was very special to us. - singing the newer songs we were used to from previous parishes.

July 1996 We moved here and came to St Hilda's because we had already met Cathy, and knew she would be welcoming of a lesbian couple. What we soon found out was how welcoming the congregation was also. *Janet.*

Yes, I remember meeting Carol Hartley and Bruce Morris our first Sunday and then making us feel not just welcome but needed! Roberta offered Janet a job on our first Sunday at St Hilda's! Muriel and Michael Prior invited us to Christmas dinner our first Christmas! All quite a transforming revelation for someone who had previously felt unwanted in church due to sexual orientation. Great gratitude.

2000 Easter Sunday. Cathy Hall last day. Keith and I were welcomed with open arms. Journey of Soul - a highlite in my early years here! One event that changed my look at 'life'. The meetings re the same sex blessings so carefully handled - so many shared their sensitive stories. This 'special' place has been a guiding haven for Keith and I so we are ...in our journey together and with our family here and at St Hilda's. *Julie Stevens*

Wonderful people, John Saunders, Mary Pellet, Mary Laxton, Joe Avery.

Joy hearing Roy Morris practice on organ while we did altar duty.

I developed cancerous brain tumours in 2000. On my way to surgery I felt very calm. I thought of St Hilda's, my friends, their prayers and support. *Roberta Foxall*

EFM was a rare and wonderful 4 years which held me closer to St Hilda's but not ready to join.

"Journey of Soul" - great connection to expose one's love of God.

1996 a wonderful marriage

1995 - months of Centering Prayer was foundational for my private praxis.

Anti-violence panel in sanctuary including perpetrators/victims. Hope- inspiring!!

I was appointed by Church Committee as Peace and Justice rep to Diocese committee. I organized a Peace and Justice meeting and invited everyone - no one came. To later be part of the Millenium Development Goals and the Ndandini effort was a wonderful redemption.

Need for inclusive language in services became a deterrt for some people and they stopped attending and searching in X'nty

St Hilda's church helped me 20 years!

Gifts to our family from St Hilda's: beautiful inspiring music from Tom. Among my kids first words was Alleluia. Quiet steadfast patient teaching from Bev, Carol and Lois must be a century of Sunday School work between them. Bruce's instinct to offer real help when it is needed. Sustaining friendships among the Sunday school families. An opportunity for us to offer service - equally a gift to us as to those we help. A chance for the kids to shine in pageants, children's time and as crucifers. The beautiful women of the

ACW catering my wedding in 2001.

Mark Lemon 2000 – 2007

I experienced a welcome where I could continue my practice as a counselor. This led to my work in pastoral care and hands-on-healing which was encouraged. I particularly liked the labyrinth which Mark Lemon began at that time. This encouraged the community to come closer to the church and the church to reach out. That was a thin place for me, as was the healing. Inclusiveness of gay blessing added to that. There was a spiritual connection with **all** humans and less divisiveness. This thin place has led me to work in Africa and Haiti where I can reach out to all humans as Jesus wanted us to do, with no judgement, just acceptance. I believe that this is where St. Hilda's was especially strong in its link to the creator. It is here, in Sechelt, in inclusiveness that I best feel God.
- Michele Beaudry.

On the Canonical Committee that chose Mark - Lois

Roy taught me my Hebrew roots. Thanks Roy.

Quantum Consciousness!!

Inspiring. Encouraging! Helped bring many friends back to their faith

Loss of this (above) has been felt deeply in the greater community.

The hypocrisy (sic) of leaders of the church e.g. Bishop Michael who could not find a way to overcome the bureaucracy and forgive as Jesus would do. I find this all denominations and therefore do not wish to be a member of any particular one.

SAME CHALLENGE

To stay & continue in X's Fellowship while hating the ease that discarding Tina and Mark & others due to broken relationships is an on going reality...

MISS MARK

Mark showed us the passion in worship. That emotion during service was good.

Deep grief.

The talks on same sex inclusiveness changed my thoughts forever and am glad that St. Hilda's has proved so accepting. – BB

When my husband passed the people of St. Hilda enfolded me dearly and closely.

Sept. 2001 Retired here. Journey of Soul amazing experience that opened my eyes to the experience of our elders and the love in this place. It (St. H. people) became our family. – D.K

2003 Retired here this summer and was welcomed by Linda Varin, Maggie, Rosemary and others. It soon became a special part of my life.

2000 After retiring here, looked for an Anglican Church: felt very comfortable from the beginning.
? was my church ?

2006

Loved being part of community choir led by Tom, performing Handel's Messiah. First contact with St. Hilda's.

The labyrinth. A truly "thin place" in our community.