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In Memoriam  
Vivian Seegers

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International Day  
of the Seafarer

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The signage and a chair with blanket and hat symbolizing those who are not longer able to attend gatherings. Those who did not come home.



Faith Roberts and her grandfather, Jerry Peters shared dances and songs.



Elder Nora Hanuse.



Elder Kelvin Bee, ODNW.

# To Offer Respectful, Attentive, Listening

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The late spring and summer of 2021 will be remembered in Canadian history for two distinct and very different events. There was the discovery of 215 unmarked graves of children at the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School on May 27, sadly the first of several similar situations which took place before the end of the month of July. And, the gradual easing of restrictions on gathering and normal interaction in the Province of British Columbia and elsewhere due to the decrease in COVID-19 infections.

The reaction to the discovery of the 215 unmarked graves was unprecedented in its impact on the general population of Canada, however, for those of us (settlers, descendants of settlers) in the church, and specifically the Anglican church where there has been an ongoing movement to strive toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, the realization that the stories we'd heard for decades about the children who never returned home were true and more horrific than we'd imagined. Although presented with the *Calls to Action* generated by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission we had collectively not responded with speed and purpose. However, within days, many well-meaning church folks called for immediate action, funding should be sent out to aid in additional searches for remains, there were events planned to gather and memorialize the dead but for many Indigenous people this was not the time. Many did not want that kind of input, their priority was to grieve in the way that was most appropriate for the situation, honouring the culture, protocols, and the spirits of those who did not come home.

In her May 31 Media Release Tk'elup's te Secwépemc Chief, Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir offered these words of advice:

*"We ask all Canadians to reacquaint themselves with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report and Calls to Action—upholding the heavy lifting already done by the survivors, intergenerational survivors, and the TRC. In addition, to show your solidarity, we encourage you to wear an orange shirt and start conversations with your neighbours about why you are doing so."*

The final paragraph of the release was a message to the media that they were urged share with their viewers, listeners and readers.

*"Media—please respect our need to attend to our loved ones, to the ceremonies and protocols required at this time. Defer from visiting our community until further notice. We are grieving these lost children that are in our care. During this time of pandemic, we do not wish to have a tragedy upon a tragedy. We are concerned for the well being of all with the growing crowds that are coming to our community. We have yet to suffer a loss due to COVID-19 and we also want to ensure that anyone who comes to our community is not put at risk either."*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2





Constable Rick Lavallee prepares to offer an honour song to conclude the event.



Bishop Stephens is interviewed by CBC.



Natalie King speaks from the heart.



The Elders who had organized the event invited Bishop Stephens to speak.

# To Offer Respectful, Attentive, Listening

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

And during a June 4 interview with *Global News*, Chief Rosanne Casimir asked for privacy, thanked the public for the outpouring of support that they'd received, but went on to say:

*"Ceremonies, protocols, and justice are at the top of our mind for everyone. This is only the beginning the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc is working with their community members regarding their role as the caretakers for these children. We need to respect their space, to host their ceremonies and also to plan the approach ahead. There will be a time to be together and the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc will take the lead when that is best."*

With this approach in mind, an event to Honour the Children was planned by the various groups and individuals active in the Downtown Eastside Aboriginal Community to take place on the steps of St. James' Anglican Church on June 16, 2021. This was not an ecclesiastical event, it was led by Elders, Survivors, Witnesses and their children and grandchildren. Clergy were invited to attend. They were asked to wear black clergy shirts, however, the Elders suggested that collars be kept in pockets and not worn around the neck. Bishop Stephens was invited to speak.

A number of Indigenous leaders were present and spoke at the event, including: Musqueam Chief Shane Point; Elder Kelvin Bee, ODNW, Kwakwaka'wakw People; Nii K'an Kwsdins, (Jerry Adams) of the Nisga'a Lisims; Elder Nora Hanuse, one of the principal organizers and handled media relations (CBC, CTV and Global TV were onsite but ultimately there was limited coverage); Ian Bee of the Cree Nation and Kwakwaka'wakw People was MC; and Constable Rick Lavallee, Liaison Officer for the Vancouver Police Department who is of Cree and Métis heritage. After elders had placed dozens of articles of clothing, and dozens of pairs of shoes on the St. James' steps, Constable Lavallee offered an honour song. There were a number of speakers who took a turn at the microphone. Some directed their remarks to the clergy who gathered at the bottom of the steps thanking the Anglican church for ongoing work toward reconciliation, others were very angry at the "preachers," but the general feeling was that anger expressed honestly without holding back can aid healing.

Bishop John Stephens was invited to speak, and he respectfully agreed and shared with those present the words of his June 2 pastoral letter to the diocese of New Westminster.

*"The discovery of the unmarked burial site at the Kamloops Indian Residential School, and the remains of 215 children found there has shocked us all.*

*The reporting of horrors of abuse and brutality at residential schools is not new to us but this burial site has brought into sharp focus the structural disrespect, cultural violence and cruelty that took place on a regular basis. We cannot ignore that 215 children were buried without markers, without notification to families and likely little or no ritual or ceremony of burial. How are we able to respond with so many emotions swirling around and within us?*

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**Thank you!**





Chief Shane Point is chosen as a "Witness."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

*It is a difficult but painful truth that some of those children were potentially baptized in the Anglican Church and quite possibly in our diocese of New Westminster. We have a connection to this ghastly discovery, much as it might shock us to understand that.*

*A journey is taken one step at a time and the journey of reconciliation is a lifetime pilgrimage, not something soon done and finished. We are on that journey, and we must seek ways to continue and never give up.*

*On August 6, 1993, the then-Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, Archbishop Michael Peers, said this to Indigenous people of Canada:*

*"I accept and I confess before God and you, our failures in the residential schools. We failed you. We failed ourselves. We failed God. I am sorry, more than I can say, that we were part of a system which took you and your children from home and family. I am sorry, more than I can say, that we tried to remake you in our image, taking from you your language and the signs of your identity. I am sorry, more than I can say, that in our schools so many were abused physically, sexually, culturally and emotionally."*

Following Bishop John's address, the Rev. Matthew Johnson, Street Priest, resident at St. James' read Archbishop Fred Hiltz's July 12, 2019, confession of sins against First Peoples.

Nii K'an Kwsdins (Jerry Adams) shared Anglican Indigenous Archbishop Mark MacDonald's message to the people gathered that day. Here is an excerpt:

*"This is a time to listen. To listen to the voices of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. To listen to their pain, their truths, their voices, their understanding.*

*To listen to how we live into reconciliation not with words alone but actions that build hope and compassion and new life. To listen and find a way to keep moving forward on this path to reconciliation.*

*Chief Robert Joseph once said, 'True reconciliation, fundamentally, is about relationships. It means that you and I can coexist in mutual respect and all of us can afford each other, dignity.' May we live into this hope, aware of the harm and violence that has taken place but seeking true reconciliation by listening and responding with action."*

Natalie King, of Urban Aboriginal Ministry (UAM) touched the hearts and souls of everyone present as she paid tribute to UAM's priest, the Rev. Vivian Seegers who suffering from the effects of COVID-19 had died exactly two weeks earlier at Vancouver General Hospital.

Just a few days after the gathering on the steps of St. James', on June 24, the Cowessess First Nation announced a preliminary finding of 751 unmarked graves at a cemetery near the former Marieval Indian Residential School.

The Marieval Indian Residential School operated from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Prior to the event beginning.

*"This is a time to listen.*

*To listen to the voices of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.  
To listen to their pain, their truths, their voices, their understanding.*

*To listen to how we live into reconciliation  
not with words alone but actions that build hope and compassion and new life.  
To listen and find a way to keep moving forward on this path to reconciliation."*

Archbishop Mark MacDonald



# FUNDRAISING

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St. James' steps covered with children's clothing and shoes.



Ian Bee, MC.



Witnesses are chosen and receive the traditional payment of coins.



A number of clergy were invited to attend. Here we see the Rev. Amanda Ruston, the Ven. Douglas Fenton, Bishop John Stephens and Rev. Michael Batten.

# To Offer Respectful, Attentive, Listening

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

1899 to 1997 in the area where Cowessess is now located, about 140 kilometres east of Regina. Children from First Nations in southeast Saskatchewan and southwestern Manitoba were sent to the school.

The First Nation took over the school's cemetery from the Catholic Church in the 1970s.

In early June, Cowessess started using ground-penetrating radar to locate unmarked graves.

And there were more discoveries to follow and there will be more to follow those that have been revealed.

In contemplation of circulating coverage of the June 16 event all involved took into serious consideration how non-aboriginal people should respond to the current situation. In a message to diocesan communications on June 24, Father Matthew Johnson shared these words:

*"The way I see it, actions—praxis—are the sine qua non of reconciliation. But we must also realize that almost nothing will take away the pain of this moment. Least of all, anything we can say.*

*More opportunities will come, for outward solidarity with the healing and self-determination these Peoples are already doing for themselves. But for the moment, I think the most the Church can hope for is to offer a respectful, attentive, listening, other-focused, penitential witness to the present-day human impact of our past actions in Christ's Name.*

*We steel ourselves against the almost certain prospect that there are numerous grave sites to be discovered. Κύριε, ἐλέησον (Lord, have mercy)."* ✠

*As of this writing there are projects being developed in close collaboration with Aboriginal peoples. More information is available on the diocesan website, Diocesan eNews and will be included in upcoming issues of Topic.*





# St. Mark's Welcomes Reverend Billy Isenor

BRIAN WALKS, ODNW  
*St. Mark's, Ocean Park*

On Sunday, July 18, the Parish of St. Mark, Ocean Park welcomed the Rev. Billy Isenor, OSF (Order of St. Francis) and his family with a *drive-thru* after church meet and greet, followed by a classic car parade through White Rock and Ocean Park.

Many took advantage of the time to meet Billy's family after the first onsite Sunday Communion service since October 2020. There was a mid-week Communion service in the outdoor chapel on Wednesday, July 14.

Billy arrived by car on July 2 from Spruce Grove, Alberta, with his family, including a new baby and elderly dog. Much of the journey, they were battling the extreme heat and smoke of wildfires. A pre-registered COVID restricted congregation of 50 people welcomed Billy and his family for his first service on July 4. His sermon was about Jesus, who wants us to build relationships. If people are not ready to receive Jesus, it may not be the right time or space, but Jesus wants us to hold space. It may not be God's time or space.

On July 18, the official welcome Sunday, 65 worshippers attended, including first-timers and former members, now living in Toronto. The classic car parade included visits to three long-term care facilities to meet and greet 16 parish members and then to *Fun Fun Park* in Ocean Park to meet the families of the parish. Thirty-two folks welcomed the Isenor family on this sun and fun filled day with cool drinks, games, and a reunion of parish families, most whom had not seen each other since March 2020.

There is a lot of excitement surrounding Brother Billy's arrival after going through the entire pandemic with supply clergy and a seven-month full-time interim ministry by Rev. Philippa Segrave-Pride. We thank them all for their 18 months of combined leadership.

Billy's induction was Wednesday, August 25. He was inducted by Bishop John Stephens who presided at the Eucharist. Coverage of the Celebration of a New Ministry Eucharist is available on the diocesan website.✠

*Liturgies may be viewed by accessing the Parish of St. Mark, Ocean Park's YouTube channel or through the website at <http://www.stmarkbc.org>.*



The Isenor Family: Billy, Dana, Florence, Alison and Baby Micah. PHOTO Barb Walks



The Rev. Billy Isenor and Ken Miles in the classic car parade. PHOTO Barb Walks



Billy and Alison at the drive-thru. PHOTO Barb Walks



Parachute Play at Fun Fun Park. PHOTO Barb Walks



Garry McIntosh and Ken Miles checking out the Morgan. PHOTO Roger Hussen



Marion, Fran and Lynn Hurd, ODNW with the Rev. Br. Billy Isenor. PHOTO Barb Walks





Mic'd up. Vicar, the Rev. Miranda Sutherland and Bishop Stephens wait outside in the early summer morning sun for the liturgy to begin on June 20.



It's been about 14 months since younger members of a parish gathered together at the chancel entrance to hear a message from the celebrant, in this case the bishop. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray (unless otherwise noted)

# Episcopal Visit & National Indigenous Day Observances at Holy Spirit, Whonnock

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On June 20, 2021, the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, the day before National Indigenous Day, Bishop John Stephens made his first visit to his parish of Church of the Holy Spirit, Whonnock. For those who do not know, Whonnock is located in southeast Maple Ridge just to the north of the Fraser River.

The parish is currently celebrating its centennial. The liturgy of Holy Eucharist with Holy Baptism was exceptional for a number of reasons, not the least being that this was the parish's first full liturgy since the *Circuit Breaker* time-out in the Province of British Columbia. On this Sunday, due to new guidelines from the Provincial Health Officer and guidelines from Bishop John Stephens, parishes were encouraged to open their doors for onsite worship to 50 people or 10% of capacity whichever is greater, as long as COVID-19 safety protocols could be safely executed.

There was a lot going on including the Baptism of Lillia Ella Rose; the blessing of the vicar, the Rev. Miranda Sutherland on the 10th anniversary of her ordination; gifts given in gratitude for the ministry of the bishop who Rev. Sutherland reminded the congregation was visiting the parish on the 112th day of his episcopacy; the distribution of Certificates of Appreciation to a number of parishioners who have given and are giving outstanding

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Deacon of the Word for the liturgy, the Rev. Maggie Cole proclaims the Gospel, Mark 5:35-41.



The water is blessed for the baptism of Lillia Ella Rose.



Baptism begins. PHOTO Randy Murray



With the Sign of the Cross, Lillia is marked as Christ's own.



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Between the "Glory to God" prayer and the Episcopal Blessing and Closing Hymn, Jean Davidson, Centenary Coordinator was MC for a number of events including gifts presented to Bishop John.



Bishop John announced that just a few days prior, Diocesan Council had approved financial support to assist the parish in increasing Rev. Sutherland's ministry. The bishop also announced that Rev. Sutherland had been appointed Vicar of the Parish of St. Oswald's, Port Kells at 30% time.

service to the parish particularly during this time of Centennial Celebrations and parish revitalization.

The grounds of the parish and the church building were adorned with rectangular orange signs consisting of an orange background, 215 small hearts in white and a large heart with the number 215 displayed in the centre. The signs, from People's Warden, Tom Kerr, ODNW were manufactured and placed in recognition of the May 27 announcement that the remains of 215 children had been found in unmarked graves on the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. At the conclusion of the liturgy on June 20, Tom presented a somewhat larger version to Bishop Stephens to take back for display at the Synod Office. The sign was in place at the top of the entrance staircase in front of the main doors of 1410 Nanton Avenue at 8am the next day, National Indigenous Day, June 21.

The journey toward understanding and reconciliation continued the next evening at Holy Spirit, with an in-person, onsite but outside prayer event for National Indigenous Day. Vicar, the Rev. Miranda Sutherland with parish leaders had requested that Missioner for Indigenous Justice from the diocese of New Westminster, Kerry Baisley, ODNW participate in the event entitled, *A Gathering to Honour 215 Children*. Kerry was happy to attend the event and contribute.

The gathering took place at 8pm and included: the ringing of the church bell 215 times, prayers led by the vicar as well as a recitation of an original poem, the Litany led by Kerry, the official raising of a banner with 215 hearts, processing the June 20 altar flowers to the memorial garden and the placing of 215 battery powered tea lights on the parish grounds. ✠



Deborah and Jim Sproule with Kerry Baisley ringing the bell 215 times on the evening of June 21.  
PHOTO Courtesy of Kerry Baisley



TOP Tom Kerr, ODNW presents a sign to Bishop Stephens for display at the Synod Office.



BOTTOM The sign on display at the Synod Office.



Members of the parish gather outside, physically distanced, couples and families together.  
PHOTO Courtesy of Kerry Baisley



LEFT Processing the flowers from the previous day's Sunday worship to the memorial garden. RIGHT Some of the 215 battery powered tea lights positioned around the parish property. PHOTOS Courtesy of Kerry Baisley





# Retired Clergy & Spouses Tea Without the Tea (Unless it was self-catered)

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor



The Rev. Maggie Cole has a great smile.

At 2pm, May 31, 2021, the Zoom meeting co-hosted by Bishop John Stephens and former-Synod staffer Lauren Odile Pinkney began, and very quickly there were 35 retired clergy and spouses online, delighted to see friends and colleagues and very much looking forward to the hour they would spend together.

There are two scheduled events that take place every year for this cohort of the diocesan family; the Advent Luncheon usually held at the Synod Office around the Feast of St. Nicholas (December 6); and the Spring Tea which is a moveable feast in that it is held in different locations around the diocese. In recent years the Spring Tea has taken place at a parish in the Fraser Valley.

These events are organized by the co-chaplains for the Retired Clergy and Spouses, Deacon, the Rev. Karin Fulcher and the Rev. Neil Gray. In pre-pandemic times the two chaplains did most of the heavy lifting organizing the event, including the distribution of the invitations and the development of an interesting and fun-filled programme. There was always assistance from Synod staff, particularly Bill Siksay, Executive Assistant to the Bishop's and Executive Archdeacon's Offices, however for the Spring Tea, Bill made sure that the invitations were circulated and then Administrative Assistant/Reception and Screening in Faith Facilitator, Lauren Odile Pinkney (who has become a very skilled Zoom operator) operated the Zoom meeting. The programme feature of these events is an address from the bishop, offering a report on the life of the diocese followed by a Q&A session.

Just after 2pm, Rev. Neil Gray welcomed the guests and went over the running order of the hour-long meeting consisting of the aforementioned informal address from Bishop John Stephens, followed by those in attendance gathering in small groups, and then back to the plenary for some Q&A. Participants were instructed to ask questions by using Zoom's chat function.

Bishop John Stephens welcomed the group and began with a territorial acknowledgement that he was co-hosting the meeting from the ancestral lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh nations. He began by saying that he plans to continue building on Archbishop Melissa's focus on parish development and parish growth, encouraging the development of relationships beyond our church walls.

The many months of pandemic have created the environment for a huge change in how we gather, but he is optimistic about how online church has brought visitors from all over, taking part in worship and programming originating from the diocese of New Westminster. It is important that we welcome this new component and analyze best practices as we move forward. Zoom is definitely popular and a helpful tool for connection.

Bishop John reminded the group that he had been a bishop for five months and bishop of the diocese for just three months, so to really get a feel for his new ministry it was and is necessary that he meets lots of people. He said that one of the upsides is that "everyone is home," so arranging online meetings had been relatively simple and the meetings productive. He stressed that it has been "delightful" getting to know all the priests on a personal



Bishop John with an orange shirt hanging in his office.



The Rev. Lilian Elliott in an orange shirt.



Co-Chaplain, the Rev. Neil Gray.

level through these scheduled meetings and Bishop John at that time last May had begun moving into one-on-one meetings with deacons.

He spoke about the diocese's role in securing financial aid for parishes through the government's CERB and the



Co-Chaplain, Deacon, the Rev. Karin Fulcher.

Anglican Initiatives Fund sponsored technology grants.

The focus as of June 1 was all about how we open up and what response will be like. As the Provincial Health Officer had given permission that we may gather onsite, Bishop John asked that we exercise caution and slowly re-open beginning June 15, and then to July 1 when things may change significantly, and then up to September when it is possible life in BC will hopefully resemble pre-pandemic times.

Bishop John reported briefly on the May 15 online Synod and summarized diocesan program opportunities.

The plenary were very interested in Bishop John's participation with faith leaders and the Provincial Health Officer. He said that he'd met several times with Dr. Bonnie Henry and faith leaders around the province. Rabbi, Dr. Robert Daum is the spokesperson for the group and there are usually about 30 in attendance. Bishop John believes that Dr. Henry has a deep and holistic understanding of the importance of Faith and Spirituality and he reported that at their last meeting she'd said, "Thank you for all you have done during the pandemic. You have saved a lot of lives."

The bishop had also joined a round table looking at spiritual care around the province, primarily in hospitals. The group will focus on the important conversations about spiritual care as it connects to people's physical care.

In closing he said that churches around the diocese are working to become more outward looking and less inward looking. The pandemic makes that difficult, but it hasn't stopped parishes from working toward that goal and putting plans in place for when we can gather again in significant numbers without restrictions. Church will be different, but the pandemic has created an environment where people are searching for meaning and allowing themselves to hope.

There were announcements of current ordination anniversaries: the Rev. Canon Harold Munn celebrated 48 years; Archdeacon Andrew Pike celebrated 55 years; and on the day of the Spring Tea, May 31, the Rev. Doug Dittrich was marking 59 years.

Following the bishop's address, the plenary broke up into small groups to discuss the bishop's questions: How has this time of pandemic affected you? How difficult was this for you? How has this affected your spiritual life?

Bishop John and Rev. Gray said that there was no need to have a reporter to report back. The small group discussions were informal, intended for people's own development and interest.

After 20 minutes of small group discussions the plenary returned and there were lots of hellos and greetings between colleagues and friends who haven't seen each other for a long time.

There were warm wishes for Bishop John's birthday the next day, June 1. There were also some discussions about how different parishes approach the use of Zoom based on the retired clergy and spouses' observations of the parishes that they now attend.

But more than anything, like any other group of people, they long for the day when they can gather together again. Perhaps this December, at the Synod Office? It'll be quite a party! ♦



# Truth & Reconciliation at All Saints, Mission

TRUTH & RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE  
All Saints, Mission

The Parish of All Saints, Mission devoted the month of June 2021 to Truth and Reconciliation.

Children's shoes and toys were arranged around the altar, so they could be seen on Zoom, including moccasins that belong to Indigenous members of the congregation.

On June 3, a group of parishioners observed the *Burning* ceremony and a *Vigil* for remembrance and healing for Indigenous peoples and the community at large following the announcement of the discovery of unmarked graves in Kamloops. This was sponsored by the Mission Friendship Centre at Fraser River Heritage Park, the site of a residential school.

A member of the parish shared the following report during Sunday worship:

*"The ceremony began with a fire for the burning of traditional food, to which Elders, one at a time, followed by others, could add food. Burning the food is a spiritual way to symbolically feed the starving children forced to attend residential schools. Drumming and singing accompanied this ceremony. Two of All Saints congregation were drummers.*

*Several Elders who had attended residential school spoke about what they had endured and how it affected them. One Elder who had attended a school in the coastal area of BC spoke about hate being the only thing she learned there. Carrying all this anger resulted in a self-destructive life in Vancouver.*

*Fortunately, she was able to turn her life around and realize that, as she said, love, not hate, was the answer to living life. As a result, she strongly encouraged her children to pursue education. One son became a doctor. Another Elder requested that if people want to help with Reconciliation, that housing is a huge area of need.*

*A very generous lunch was served, and is the custom in Indigenous cultures, as Elders, the two parishioners were served lunch.*

*The Vigil was very moving and left us saddened but with more emotional understanding of what transpired in these schools. We need not only to acknowledge the missing children who lost their lives in neglectful and abusive ways, but also the many ways the legacy continues to harm our Indigenous neighbours. It is a first step toward healing, and I hope another step towards Reconciliation."*

Worship on Sunday, June 20, included text compiled by the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples. Drummers were present during the service and the church bell was rung at the conclusion of the service.

At the Offertory there was a special collection for the two scholarships (these have been awarded for five years now) to First Nations, Métis or Inuit students graduating from École Mission Secondary School.

This year's students are Rena Knight and Vera Peters.

Rena is of the Lil'wat Nation and has worked with Elders in her community to learn their teachings. She feels privileged to have learned so much and willingly shares her knowledge with others. She is part of the school drum group and has worked with and supported a younger elementary school girl. As a child who has been in care due to substance abuse issues in her family, Rena has proven to be resilient, answering the call to help others. She hopes to be a minister or a counsellor and to that end has been accepted at both Columbia Bible College and the University of the Fraser Valley.

Vera is of the Chawathil Nation. She has been impacted by the residential school system on both sides of her family; sadly, her mother is one of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW). This led Vera to be one of the creators of the MMIW gathering in Mission which is now organized by Mission Friendship Centre. She is a drummer and a gifted singer and has mentored students at Hatzic Middle School. Vera's career plans include cooking school, and she expects to enter Riverside College, then transfer to University of the Fraser Valley. At present Vera is working full time as a cook in Hope and completing her Grade 12 through Summit Learning Centre.

As Jody Shaw, MSS Indigenous Department Head says of the two scholarship recipients, "They are both strong young women walking in a good way." We offer our congratulations to Rena and Vera and wish them all the best in their future studies.

Thanks to a generous donation last year, the parish is pleased to give each recipient \$750 in 2021 instead of the usual \$500. ✦

.....  
This article with the two photos was submitted by the All Saints, Mission Truth and Reconciliation Committee. Many thanks to parish administrator, Donna Kennedy for posting it online.

*"...love, not hate, was the answer to living life."*



A full view of the chancel and altar during the month of June 2021.



Close up of moccasins.



## 2021 Request for Proposals

Support children, youth, and young adults in a post-pandemic world.

- More than \$100,000 in funding available
- Multiple grant categories and sizes up to \$15,000 and under \$5,000
- For new or existing initiatives in 2022
- Submit your proposal between September 1 and October 1, 2021

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[anglicanfoundation.org/2021RFP](http://anglicanfoundation.org/2021RFP)





Welcome back cookie portion. PHOTO Paul Woehrle

# Return to Onsite Worship in the Diocese of New Westminster

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Many thanks to those folks who sent in photos or let diocesan communications know about worship and events that involved gatherings at parishes around the diocese from June 20 to July 11.

A few parishes in the diocese returned to onsite worship in some form or another on June 20, still physically distanced, diligently observing COVID-19 sanitizing protocols and with a soloist leading the music in worship on behalf of the congregation. Like a number of parishes, St. Cuthbert, Delta has a baker in their congregation, Shama Vimalendiran of *Delish Cakes and Pastries* in North Delta. The folks at St. Cuthbert's requested that she prepare 80 cookies in anticipation of the first onsite worship since the fall of 2020. According to the rector, the Rev. Paul Woehrle, everyone received a cookie on the way out and

his assessment of the pastry item was, "The BEST Cookie!" Thanks Pastor Paul for the photo included with this article of a partial cookie.

June 24, 2021, Bishop John Stephens made the trip to Powell River to spend an extended weekend with the lay and clergy leaders at the Parish of St. David and St. Paul. Jeanette Wiley took some photos of Bishop John, clergy and nave POV during the Sunday morning worship where a number of parishioners were onsite. And what would an Anglican Church service be without at least a couple of technical difficulties. At Powell River the audio was not behaving quite as it should which prompted the bishop's expression captured by Jeanette in the first photo of the Powell River collection printed with this article.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



LEFT Bishop John beginning his sermon in Powell River as the onsite technology acts up. RIGHT A view of the preacher from the nave. PHOTOS Jeanette Wiley



Deacon, the Rev. Taras Pakholchuk with his family and Bishop John. PHOTO Jeanette Wiley



A lighthearted group with the newest Anglican clergy person in Powell River, the Rev. Lucy Price (right). PHOTO Jeanette Wiley



The Rev. Cameron Gutjahr hands out the brief order of service for the Bike Blessing liturgy. PHOTO Randy Murray



Blessing the bikes and riders in Squamish. PHOTO Randy Murray





The new Vicar of Holy Cross, the Rev. Alecia Greenfield (left) offers prayers as the font is filled by candidate for baptism, Atsumi. PHOTO Midori Seo, ODNW



Atsumi reads the baptismal vows. PHOTO Tadafumi Tamura



A Holy Cross group photo with Jasper being welcomed to the community. PHOTO Tadafumi Tamura



Women of the Parish of St. Stephen's pose with new rector, the Rev. Ken Vinal. PHOTO John Ruddick



Bishop John processes in. PHOTO Derek Simpkins



Piper, Owen Reid begins the Postlude from the nave entrance. PHOTO Derek Simpkins

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

The Rev. Alecia Greenfield celebrated Holy Eucharist with Baptism and Renewal of Baptismal Vows outside the church building at Holy Cross in East Vancouver on July 4. Two dozen parishioners including baptismal candidate, Atsumi were present and so was Jasper the church dog who was welcomed into the community.

And here is a report from St. Stephen's, West Vancouver from the parish's correspondent, Hilary Clark:

*"On Sunday July 4, 2021, there were more than just the Americans celebrating. St. Stephen's, West Vancouver broke out from COVID slumber and worshipped outside, beneath trees, on the plaza, in the sunshine, with palpable joy for all to be together again! There was one more added pleasure to enhance the celebration: the new rector, the Rev. Ken Vinal, led his first church service to the delight of the congregation now able to gather, although with limitations."*

*St. Stephen's new ordained leader has come to St. Stephen's from Florida, via Whistler, succeeding the recently retired Canon Jonathan L.Loyd. Canon L.Loyd returned to his home and family in England in the spring where his very first grandson was waiting to greet him. Starting a new ministry outside in the sunshine may be a first for a new rector, in a space with folding chairs, birds flying overhead, and a distant piano under the capable fingers of Minister of Music, Dr. Annabelle Paetsch. No singing was yet allowed, but there was great enthusiasm in the reading of Psalm 95, 'Come sing to the Holy One!'*

*Rev. Vinal gave a sensitive homily that he referred to as a 'Reflection.' His message was centred on caring and love. It was well received by the members of the parish present who have deeply missed regular access to worship, learning about the Christian faith, and being with each other. In an inspired aside, Ken mentioned that next week the congregation would offer coffee hour after the service. The 'new normal' sounds promising!"*

While Jasper was being feted in East Vancouver and Rev. Vinal welcomed to St. Stephen's, the Rev. Cameron Gutjahr, Rector of St. John's, Squamish was gearing up for the first ever Anglican Bike Blessing of his incumbency in the parking lot of the Garibaldi Highlands parish. Three cyclists and a worshipper who uses a walker were on hand for the first blessing, which involved a brief liturgy culminating in a blessing complete with asperges (a holy water-soaked cedar bough sprinkling the objects and people being blessed). Later, individual cyclists showed up and participated in the liturgy of blessing.

Onsite worship returned to St. John's, Shaughnessy in a big way on the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, July 11, 2021, with the return of their former rector and now their bishop, the Rt. Rev. John Stephens. There were more than 50 worshippers onsite for the liturgy which followed the new COVID guidelines circulated by Bishop John on the previous Monday, July 5.

- It is strongly encouraged that masks be worn upon entry to the church and kept on for the entirety of the liturgy.
- Greeters/welcomers should wear masks.
- Anyone speaking or leading singing may remove their mask for this role.
- People should be encouraged to still distance from one another (unless from the same household) to help build confidence for those hesitant about returning to in-person worship.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13





As this was the parish's Centennial Celebration it is fitting that a photographic memory (pun intended) be made for future generations. Patrick Finch, Warden and Tech; Susan Cummings, Intercessor; Barb Cederlund, Sacristan; Frances Fagan, ODNW, Warden; Ulo Valdma, Organist; Sean Latimer, Bishop's Warden; Bishop John Stephens; Deacon Paul Richards; Henry Lazar, Trustee; Helen Davison, Treasurer; Priscilla Archer, ODNW; and Lenore Richards, Soloist. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray

# 100 Years of Anglican Ministry in White Rock

## Bishop John Stephens visits his White Rock parish for their patronal festival & centennial celebration

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On Sunday, May 30, 2021, Bishop Stephens visited his parish of Church of the Holy Trinity for their Feast of Title (Patronal Festival) and Centenary Year Celebration Eucharist.

The Eucharist was livestreamed and only the sanctuary party and liturgy participants were onsite. This would be the first Sunday following the May 25 announcement by the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry that she would allow onsite gathering for religious services for up to 50 people (of course that would depend on the size of the facility and its ability to accommodate that many people and retain social/physical distancing and all other COVID protocols). Bishop Stephens had not given permission for the churches of the diocese of New Westminster to open in this way for May 30. A slower more cautious approach had been chosen for our diocese as re-opening progresses. Parishes were asked to move forward at a pace with which they would be most comfortable and in collaboration with diocesan staff ensure that their re-opening plans were well thought out with the focus always on complying with health orders and safety of those in attendance.

At 10am, Warden, Patrick Finch who is also the parish *livestreamer* began the broadcast and Bishop's Warden, Sean Latimer welcomed the ten people in the building and the 50+ online to worship. He gave some context about the liturgy, informing the congregation about the Patronal Festival and the Centennial Celebration being recognized that day. Following his greeting and address, organist, Ulo Valdma played the Processional Hymn, *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*.

Prior to the Gathering of the Community prayers, Bishop Stephens asked that the onsite and online congregation pause for a time of silent reflection on the discovery of the remains of 215 children at the Kamloops Indian Residential School.

The Eucharist continued with the lay people present taking on the roles of reader, psalmist and intercessor. The liturgy took place entirely in the chancel between the choir stalls and the altar area. The psalmist for the liturgy, Lenore Richards chanted *Psalm 29* and Bishop's Warden, Sean Latimer sang two verses of the Gradual Hymn chosen for the Feast Day, *Holy, Holy, Holy*, Bishop Reginald Heber's well-known 19th century hymn. Both Lenore and Sean are fine singers.

The first paragraph of Bishop John's sermon was of a personal nature, his thoughts on being there that day, again online, unable to "physically be together." However, in his second paragraph he turned the clock back 100 years and reflected on the centennial:

*"One hundred years is a full and rich history for a parish. As I thought about this, I wondered about what life was like back in 1921, here are a few things to ponder... The average life expectancy was about 59 years. Only 8% of homes had a telephone. The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police had only been in existence under that name for one year. The first original White Rock pier was actually built in 1912, but that had to be replaced again in 1914, either way both versions were well over 100*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



LEFT Bishop's Warden, Sean Latimer reads the opening announcements prior to worship. RIGHT Warden and tech lead, Patrick Finch prepares to begin the livestream.



Bishop Stephens and Deacon, the Rev. Paul Richards have processed in. Bishop Stephens asks that the congregation onsite and online enter a time of silent reflection on the discovery of the remains of 215 children at the Kamloops Indian Residential School.



Frances Fagan, ODNW reads the Epistle, Romans 8:12-17.



Following worship, Bishop John returned to the chancel where an impromptu version of *Happy Birthday* from Sean Latimer and Lenore Richards took place.



# 100 Years of Anglican Ministry in White Rock

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

years ago. In 1921, the village of White Rock had a population of about 500. The first Anglican service was on Easter Sunday, 1920, and was held in the school, and led by the Rev. W.M. Holdom. The next year it was determined that a church should be built, and after the building lot was purchased, it was all volunteers, save for one paid person, who erected the first church. Sixty-eight people attended the service of dedication on May 1, 1921, with Archbishop dePencier presiding. Those were the humble beginnings 100 years ago. And the Holy Spirit has guided this parish in so many ways ever since.”

At the conclusion of worship, Bishop John was called back to the chancel where he received a physically distanced COVID-19-conscious version of *Happy Birthday* sung by Sean and Lenore as he would be celebrating a birthday two days later.

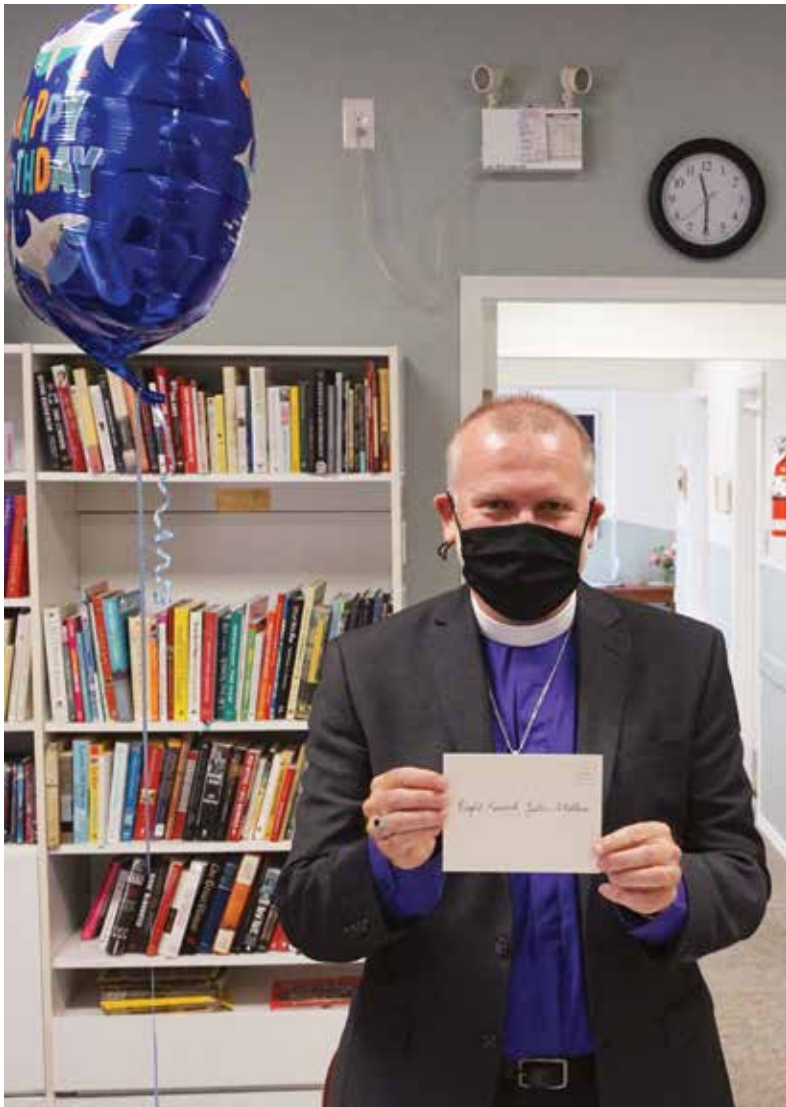
There was a small reception held in the meeting room/ lounge located adjacent to the parish kitchen. In order to respect the COVID-19 attendance restrictions, Warden, Simon Johnston, ODNW had remained at home during the liturgy but attended the meeting with the bishop that got underway at about 11:30am.

The Parish of the Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock at this time in their history are in transition and the transition has been challenging. Please keep the parish in your prayers as they enter into the next 100 years of ministry. ✠

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Bishop John Stephens’ sermon is available online at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2021-05-30-trinity-sunday>



A Covidtude view of a parish kitchen preparing hot drinks.



Bishop John with a birthday card from the parish.



Cheers! Warden, Simon Johnston, ODNW (right) has arrived for the bishop’s meeting with parish leaders.

# Return to Onsite Worship in the Diocese of New Westminster

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

- Prior to receiving Communion, individuals should sanitize their hands.
- A choir leading the music in worship is permitted.
- Congregational singing is permitted.
- It is no longer necessary to pre-register or collect contact tracing information for those attending worship.
- Washrooms no longer need to be designated “for emergency only.”
- Social times before or after worship are permitted, however, please ensure that those handling food/beverages have sanitized their hands.

There were a number of highlights of Bishop John’s return to St. John’s, Shaughnessy (SJS) among them: the bishop’s sermon; SJS choir leading the music in worship with congregational singing; worship was concluded with piper, Owen Reid entering the nave after Deacon, the Rev. Pitman Potter’s dismissal to begin the bagpipe and organ duet, *Highland Cathedral* and then leading the crucifer and bishop back up to the chancel joining organist and director of music, Michael Dirk; a post worship reception with chocolate cake; a whiffle ball game; and the joy of gathering together after many months. ✠

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As this issue of Topic becomes available online and in print to subscribers in early September the next phase of re-opening should be well underway.



Bishop John has a pretty nice swing, good form. PHOTO Michael Dirk



## IN MEMORIAM



Rev. Seegers, the day she was priested, December 1, 2018. PHOTO Randy Murray

## The Reverend Vivian Margaret Seegers, Priest

March 13, 1959 – June 2, 2021

Vivian died on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, at Vancouver General Hospital of complications related to COVID-19.

Vivian was born in Uranium City, Saskatchewan. She was Cree/Chipewyan.

She is survived by her children, Deanna Burgart (Jonathan), Clio Straram (Shawn), Steven Seegerts and grandchildren, Donovan (Allison), Connor, Sean, and Emma and great granddaughter Elaina.

Vivian received a Master of Divinity from the Vancouver School of Theology and an Associate of Arts Degree from Selkirk College. She also had certificates as an Alcohol and Drug Counsellor from the Native Education College, in Pastoral Care to Married Couples and Families from Emmanuel College, and as an Executive Secretary from Pitman Business College. She participated in the Wycliffe College Indigenous Leadership Programme in 2017.

In her pre-ordination interview Vivian's ministry was described as "a sterling example of urban Indigenous ministry consistent with the belief, theology, and praxis of the Anglican Church."

Vivian was ordained to the diaconate on January 21, 2018, and to the priesthood on December 1, 2018. She was the first Aboriginal woman ordained in the diocese of New Westminster. Her curacies were served at St. Clement, Lynn Valley and St. Mary Magdalene, Vancouver. At the time of her death, Vivian was Priest at the Urban Aboriginal Ministry and Assistant Priest at St. Mary Magdalene, Vancouver. Prior to her ordination, Vivian served as Lay Native Minister at St. George, Vancouver and St. Michael, Broadway, and at the Long House Church, and Grace United Church. She was also connected to St. Barnabas, New Westminster offering Sacred Circles, preaching, and

resourcing Lenten Series on Healing and Reconciliation.

Vivian worked as an alcohol and drug counsellor at the Fort Chipewyan Drop-in Centre in Alberta, as a Tutor in English and Psychology at Selkirk College in Castlegar, as a Traditional Healer with Métis Family Services in Surrey, and as an Administrative Assistant at the Aboriginal Women's Counsel in Vancouver. Over the years she was part of the Vancouver School of Theology Native Ministries Consortium, Metro Vancouver Alliance, the Vancouver Recovery Club, Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society, Christ Church Cathedral Social Justice Group, and the White Buffalo Society. In 1996, she marched across Canada on the Women's March Against Poverty.

Vivian was a *Sun Dancer*, a person who works in the spirit world helping people. The Sundance, sweat ceremonies, sacred circles and the Medicine Wheel were essential to her spiritual practice and ministry, and the Anglican *Via Media* was significant to her.

On the day of her death Vivian's daughter, Deanna posted the following message on her Facebook page:

*"To our dearest loved ones near and far, it is with heavy hearts and lifted prayers that we share with you that our mother, sister, aunty, teacher, mentor, and elder Rev. Vivian Seegers has left us to join our aunties and uncles, grandmothers and grandfathers in the Spirit World."*

*She left us this afternoon surrounded by family, love, prayers and medicine. We thank you for your continued prayers and love."*

A memorial is planned for Saturday, October 2, 2021, at Christ Church Cathedral. ☩



Philip Norman Green. PHOTO Wayne Chose

## Philip Norman Green, ODNW

April 3, 1942 – June 3, 2021

Philip's parents met and married in Elkhorn, Manitoba, where they both worked. The couple moved west, settling for a time in the BC First Nation community of Gitanyow (formerly Kitwankool). His parents moved there because his father was assigned to be the local priest and teacher. Philip was born the third of four brothers (David, Richard, and the late Harry) in Hazelton, BC, as this was where the closest hospital to Gitanyow was situated.

It was in 1970 that Philip came to Vancouver and went looking for an Anglican church. His mother had earlier heard of St. James', but only from unemployed men who rode the trains across the prairies during the Great Depression. She was in charge of a bakery in Elkhorn. Fr. Cooper (then Rector of St. James') apparently told any of these men whom he had met in Gastown to hop off the train at the water stop in Elkhorn and run to the bakery for food. Philip's mother would give the men a hot meal and sandwiches to take back on the train. She herself had never been to Vancouver, having come directly to Winnipeg from England.

Philip and Cynthia met at St. James' and were married at the church in 1983. Devoted to one another, Philip and Cynthia regularly offered hospitality to parishioners in their

home. More recently, Philip has cared for Cynthia as she has become less mobile. Philip, who travelled widely in his younger days, had a particular affection for Cynthia's home island of Trinidad.

Over the years, the Anglo-Catholic liturgical tradition was a major attraction for Philip. He was a server, a Lay Subdeacon, and a Master of Ceremonies. He acted on occasion as a consultant on future liturgical services because of his experience in this last capacity. Employment as an administrative clerk in a bank, a tax preparer, hotel night auditor, and accountant prepared him well for his many other roles in the parish. At St. James' he served as a book-keeper, treasurer for about five years, and until his death, as Envelope Secretary. He was also known as the one who sets off the church alarm when he is working late.

He was invested into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW) in November 2012. Here is the Citation:

*"Philip has been quietly serving St. James' for almost 40 years as a Server, MC and Envelope Secretary (amongst other roles). Philip has heard the call and his answer has always been 'Here am I—send me!' the response of a true servant of God."* ☩

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

**DEADLINE FOR TOPIC SUBMISSIONS**  
September 17 for the November issue

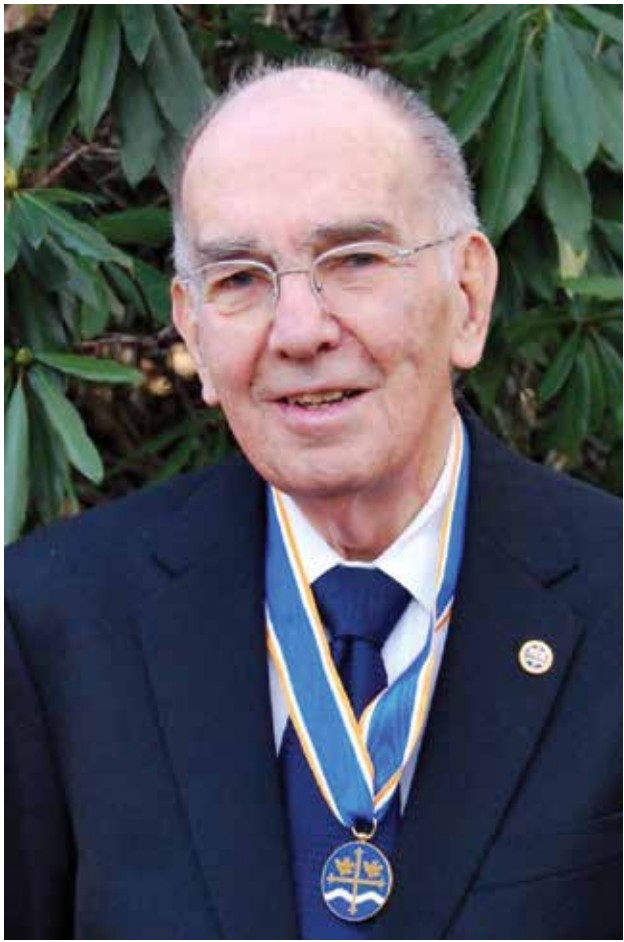
Please email Randy Murray at [rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto:rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca)

All contributions are appreciated

• EDITOR •



IN MEMORIAM



Jack Griffiths, ODNW. PHOTO Kath Biebrich

Jack Griffiths, ODNW  
January 7, 1935 – May 8, 2021

A long-term member of the St. Clement's community, Jack Griffiths, died peacefully at home on the evening of May 8, his daughter and son, Lynn and Vern, by his side. We will miss him deeply.

As husband of Barbara, father, father-in-law, grandpa, friend to all ages, neighbour, community member, colleague, Jack brought steadfast wisdom, kindness and patience to everything he did.

Jack helped to guide the parish over more than four decades. He was awarded the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW) in 2013, the second member of St. Clement's to be so recognized. Here is the Citation that was read at the investiture, November 5, 2013:

*"Jack has been active at his parish of St. Clement's since 1968. In addition to serving in various leadership roles in the parish, he has been active in the maintenance and operation of the parish buildings. There are very few light bulbs in the building that he has not replaced!"*

In the early spring of 2021, Jack wrote this Stewardship Moment, which one of the wardens, Phoebe, read out for the congregation. Here are some of his words:

*"Throughout my life, God has been unfailingly present when I needed Him. First off, briefly, He caused me to be born into a loving family with devoted parents and, in time, wonderful, supportive, brothers and sisters, although I was too young to recognize all of this at the time."*

*As a young man, I found myself mentally ready to meet a nice girl, settle down and raise a family. Lo and behold, while visiting my mother in hospital I met a nice girl, single, intelligent, attractive, personable, about the right age, etc. A number of unusual circumstances resulted in the meeting, and once again I felt those circumstances were the hand of God at work. I married her, and we had almost 60 years of amazing wedded bliss.*

*In my mid-fifties I found myself in need of open-heart surgery. To say I was scared out of my mind is to only hint at the depth of my concern. Just before the surgery I decided to 'give it to God to handle,' so I prayed, 'Dear God, I am putting myself in your hands. Thy will be done.' I felt an immediate peace. The surgery went amazingly well. That was almost 30 years ago.*

*As for my service to St. Clement's, I have been a member since 1968. Through the last five decades, I've served as warden under four priests... Synod Delegate, chair of Parish Council, a sidesperson/greeter, reader, eucharistic administrator, on the building maintenance committee... So yes, I was an active member."*

Jack's ashes were interred in the Memorial Garden, where they will join those of his beloved Barbara.

May Jack rest in peace and rise in glory. ✠

Created with files from Elizabeth Mathers

Healing Touch at Christ Church Cathedral

JENNY BIRTWELL, ODNW  
Christ Church Cathedral

It is natural for us to pray for people who are ailing, but over the centuries laying on of hands became very rare, almost disappearing from Christian communities.

About 20 years ago a fledgling Healing Touch Ministry began to take shape at Christ Church Cathedral. It grew out of the Healing Prayer Ministry, a ministry that began in the 1970s with a healing prayer service at noon on Thursdays. Opportunity for individual healing prayer was then extended to Sunday at the principal 10:30am Sunday Eucharist. During Holy Communion, people also have an opportunity to come for prayer for individual concerns. We pray with them and anoint them if they wish it. It was at a gathering of the Healing Prayer Ministry Group that we first witnessed a demonstration of healing touch given by two of our members. Enough interest was piqued, with a healthy dose of scepticism—including me—to organize our first training session.

Our training has been under the auspices of the United Church of Canada's Healing Pathway programme which continues to provide training, support and guidance.

So, what is healing touch? The Healing Pathway has much in common with the more widely known Therapeutic Touch, Healing Touch International and Reiki amongst others, but is grounded in our Christian faith and practice. Healing touch works with the body's bio energy field. Western medicine has tended to see the body as a system of organs and functions that can be controlled chemically through prescriptions or mechanically through surgery. In Healing Pathway, we learn to be aware of the body's energy field, both good energy and bad energy. We learn to clear away bad energy and to smooth and balance the body's good energy in a way that promotes healing. We are very clear that we work to heal not to cure. Healing is a restoration or promotion of wholeness of body, mind and spirit, being at peace with God and oneself. I call it body prayer.

My experience of receiving healing touch is of being held in love, to experience a sense of calm and a profound sense of peace, a lessening, or often a disappearance of pain if there has been pain, and an increase in well-being. Others report similar feelings.

Since the initial workshop there have been more training sessions and new group members. We meet once a month to check in, deal with business and to practice our techniques. A member of the Cathedral's clergy team is designated chaplain to the Healing Touch Ministry Group. In addition, every second year we meet at Rivendell Retreat Centre on Bowen Island, with focus on self-care and our own spiritual development. It is fair to say that initially there was some scepticism from clergy and some parishioners, but healing touch has since become an integral part

*"As the sun was setting,  
all those who had any who were sick with various kinds of diseases brought them to him;  
and he laid his hands on each of them and cured them."*  
Luke 4:40



The Christ Church Cathedral Healing Touch Ministry Group at Rivendell, 2019.

of the Cathedral's pastoral ministry.

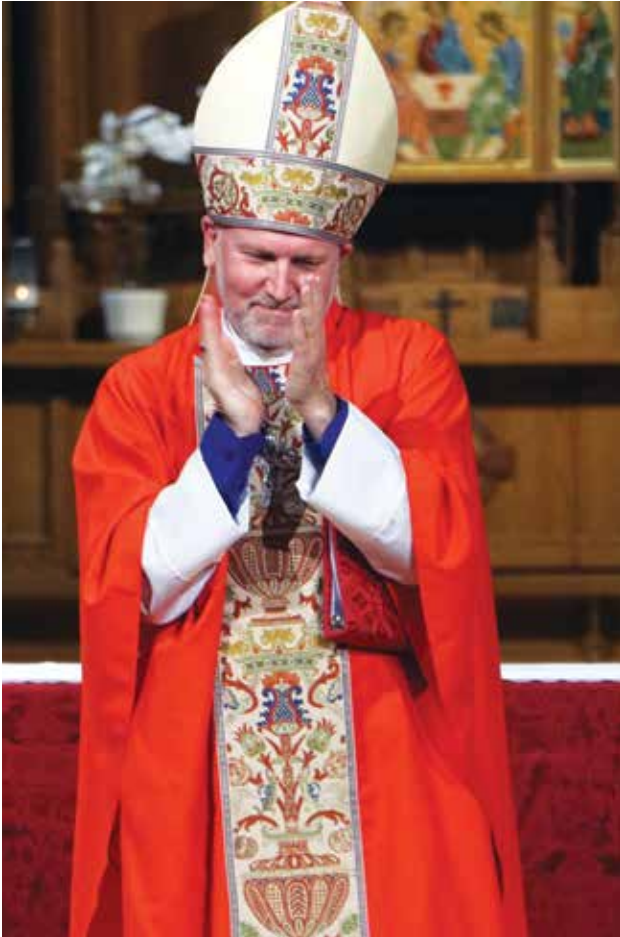
We work by responding to requests for healing touch that commonly come from the clergy team. We visit people in their homes, or sometimes in hospital. Some of the healing touch members regularly visit a hospice, and one Sunday a month (in non-COVID times), healing touch is offered at the Cathedral following the 10:30am Eucharist.

Since the pandemic began, our work has continued, albeit in a different form. A few years ago, we began a practice of distance healing touch, in which we are not

present with the recipient. That this is effective attests to the importance of intention in every healing touch session, whether in-person or at a distance. Distance healing touch is different from prayer in that we execute the process of healing touch as we would if the recipient was present.

We love our work, and we are open to talking to others who may be interested in exploring and developing healing touch in their own parish. If you would like to speak with us about beginning a Healing Prayer Ministry, we can be reached at [healingtouch@thecathedral.ca](mailto:healingtouch@thecathedral.ca). ✠

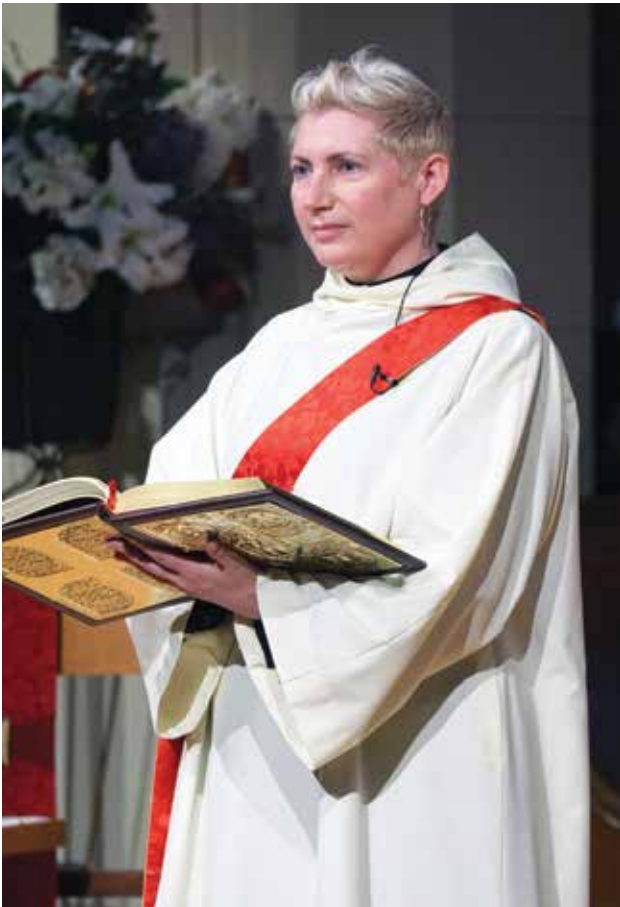




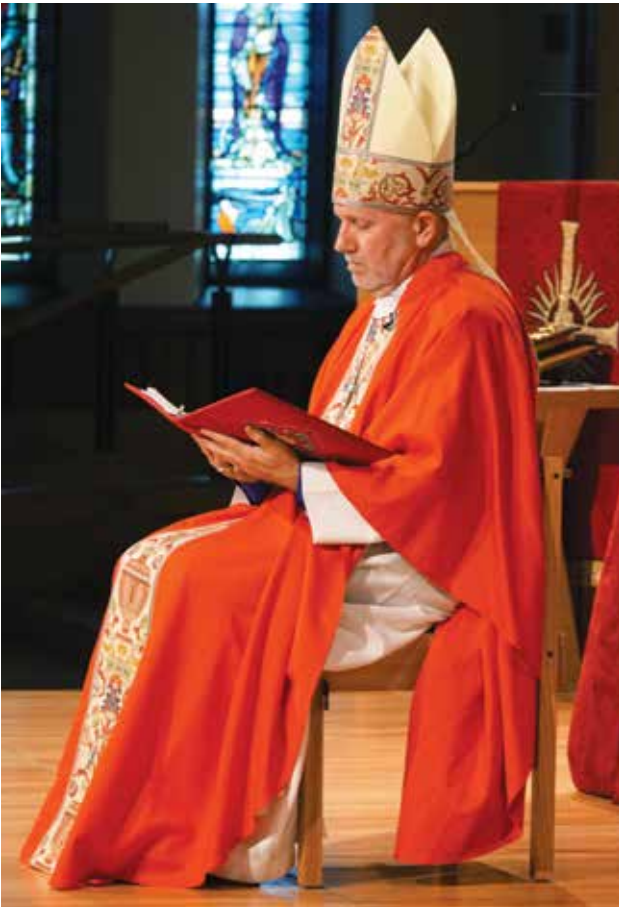
The Rt. Rev. John Stephen leads a joyful welcome for the newly ordained.



The Episcopal Blessing with the newly ordained. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray



The Rev. Amanda Ruston proclaims the Gospel, *Matthew 10:7-16*.



Bishop John Stephens is seated as the ordinands are presented.



Diocesan history taking place, the Rt. Rev. John Stephens' first ordination of his episcopacy.

# You Are Gatherers

## Ordinations in the Holy Church of God

RANDY MURRAY  
*Communications Officer & Topic Editor*

*“You are gatherers of community, and you will shape our church, and our church will shape you. Ask questions, be wise, take risks, start new things, remember that you are beloved and chosen. And that what we do together does matter for us and for the world, we just have to be clear about what that is.”*

The preceding passage quoted were the final three sentences of the Rev. Marnie Peterson’s homily shared at the Ordination Eucharist on the Feast Day of St. Barnabas (transferred), June 12, 2021. The Eucharist was celebrated at Christ Church Cathedral with approximately 30 in attendance, the largest onsite gathering for worship at the diocesan Cathedral since the November 2020 restrictions were imposed by the Provincial Health Officer. The service was livestreamed. Rev. Peterson was at that time, priest for the St. Brigid’s worshipping community resident at Christ Church Cathedral and Chaplain to the four who were ordained.

### Bishop John Stephens ordained to the diaconate (All three are on track to the priesthood)

- José Luis Aranda Moyano, *St. James, Vancouver* presented by the Ven. Kevin Hunt and Mr. Peter Symons
- Brynn Craffey, *Salal + Cedar* (currently serving as a student intern at *St. Thomas, Vancouver*), presented by the Rev. Laurel Dykstra and Mr. Hubert Brooks III
- Montgomery Tugwete, *Christ Church Cathedral* presented by the Rt. Rev. John Hannen and Ms. Meredith Hannen-Tugwete

### Bishop John Stephens ordained to the priesthood

- The Rev. Amanda Ruston, *St. Andrew, Langley* (at that time serving as a student intern at *St. James, Vancouver*), presented by the Ven. Kevin Hunt and Mr. Gerald Harder

This was an historic event not only in the lives of the ordinands (a date they will not forget) but they were also the first to be ordained by the Rt. Rev. John Stephens who was ordained bishop on January 23, 2021 and installed as the 10th Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster on February 28, 2021. Also of note was the presence of retired bishop, the Rt. Rev. John Hannen, former Bishop of Caledonia (1981 – 2001), who is the now-Rev. Tugwete’s father-in-law and was clergy presenter for his ordination.

In addition to the bishop and the chaplain/preacher, the sanctuary party consisted of the Executive Archdeacon of the Diocese and Archdeacon of Vancouver, the Ven. Douglas Fenton who witnessed the signatures on the Oaths and Subscriptions and led the Litany; the Dean of the Diocese and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev. Christopher A. Pappas; MC and Sacristan, Liturgical Assistant, Vincent Carey. The Deacon of the Word was the Rev. Amanda Ruston, the Deacon of the Table, the Rev.





The Rev. Amanda Ruston receives the bishop's blessing prior to the Gospel Procession.

# of Community

José Luis Aranda Moyano. The Reverends Brynn Caffrey and Monte Tugwete dismissed the community at the conclusion of worship.  
Music in worship was led by the Cathedral's organist and director of Music, Rupert Lang and Cantor, Byron Hanson, one of Cathedral Choir's tenor soloists and section leads.  
In addition to the ordinands, presenters, chaplain/

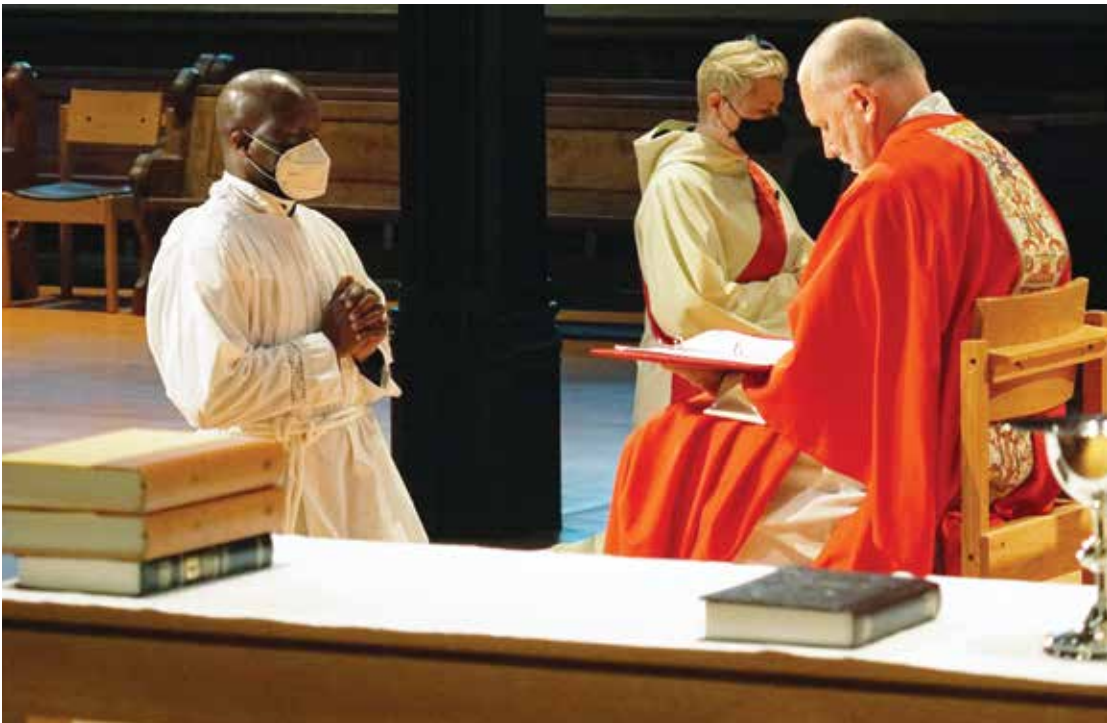
preacher, musicians, and sanctuary party there were also a number of priests in attendance for the worship and participating in the priesting of the Rev. Amanda Ruston. These included: Regional Archdeacon of Westminster and Vicar of Holy Trinity, Cathedral, New Westminster, the Ven. Richard Leggett; Regional Dean of Royal City/South Burnaby and Rector of St. Alban the Martyr, Burnaby, the Rev. Gregory Jenkins; Rector of St. Thomas, Vancouver,

the Rev. Michael Batten; and Rector of St. Paul's, the Rev. Philip Cochrane. ✠

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*The Rev. Marnie Peterson's sermon video and text are both available on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2021-06-12-you-are-gatherers-of-community>.*



LEFT Preacher for the Eucharist and Chaplain to the Ordinands, the Rev. Marnie Peterson.  
RIGHT José Luis Aranda Moyano signs the Oath in the presence of the Executive Archdeacon, the Ven. Douglas Fenton.



During the Litany, a time of prayer.



Brynn Caffrey is anointed.

*More photos after we Meet the Ordinands! on page 20...*



# Meet the Ordinands!

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

During the time of the COVID-19 pandemic (we are still in the time of COVID-19 but perhpas not as much pandemic) there have been three (technically four but two were celebrated on the same day three hours apart) Ordination Eucharists in the diocese of New Westminster. In order to get to know the newly ordained diocesan clergy I distribute a questionnaire and if the newly ordained deacons would like to answer and participate, they may do so. No expectations, totally up to them.

The Reverends Brynn Craffey, José Luis Aranda Moyano and Montgomery (Monte) Tugwete were ordained to the transitional diaconate by Bishop John Stephens on June 12, 2021. Those ordained to the transitional diaconate are on a path to ordination to the priesthood.

Let's meet them...

Q. In 50 words or less please describe how you came to faith?

**BRYNN CRAFFEY (BC):** After a long estrangement from Christianity, by chance I found myself at St. Benedict's Table in Winnipeg, on June 12, 2016, the day 49 mostly queer-identified people were killed at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida. The priest's deeply moving tribute to the tragedy's victims, followed shortly in the service by a beautiful, open invitation to Christ's table, persuaded me to receive the Eucharist for the first time in nearly 50 years. This experience led me to the Vancouver School of Theology (VST) later that year, and eventually to Salal + Cedar and ordination.

**JOSÉ LUIS ARANDA MOYANO (JLAM):** My family is Roman Catholic, and I attended a Roman Catholic school. Since I was a child,

I have wondered about my mortality and what would happen beyond this life. Learning to pray as a child and learning from the Bible have shaped who I am.

**MONTE TUGWETE (MT):** I was introduced to Christ by one of the Scripture Union (SU) folks that come to schools in my native Zimbabwe as they are allowed to come and do so there even up to now. It was in 1983, when I decided to commit my life to Christ because of this SU influence.

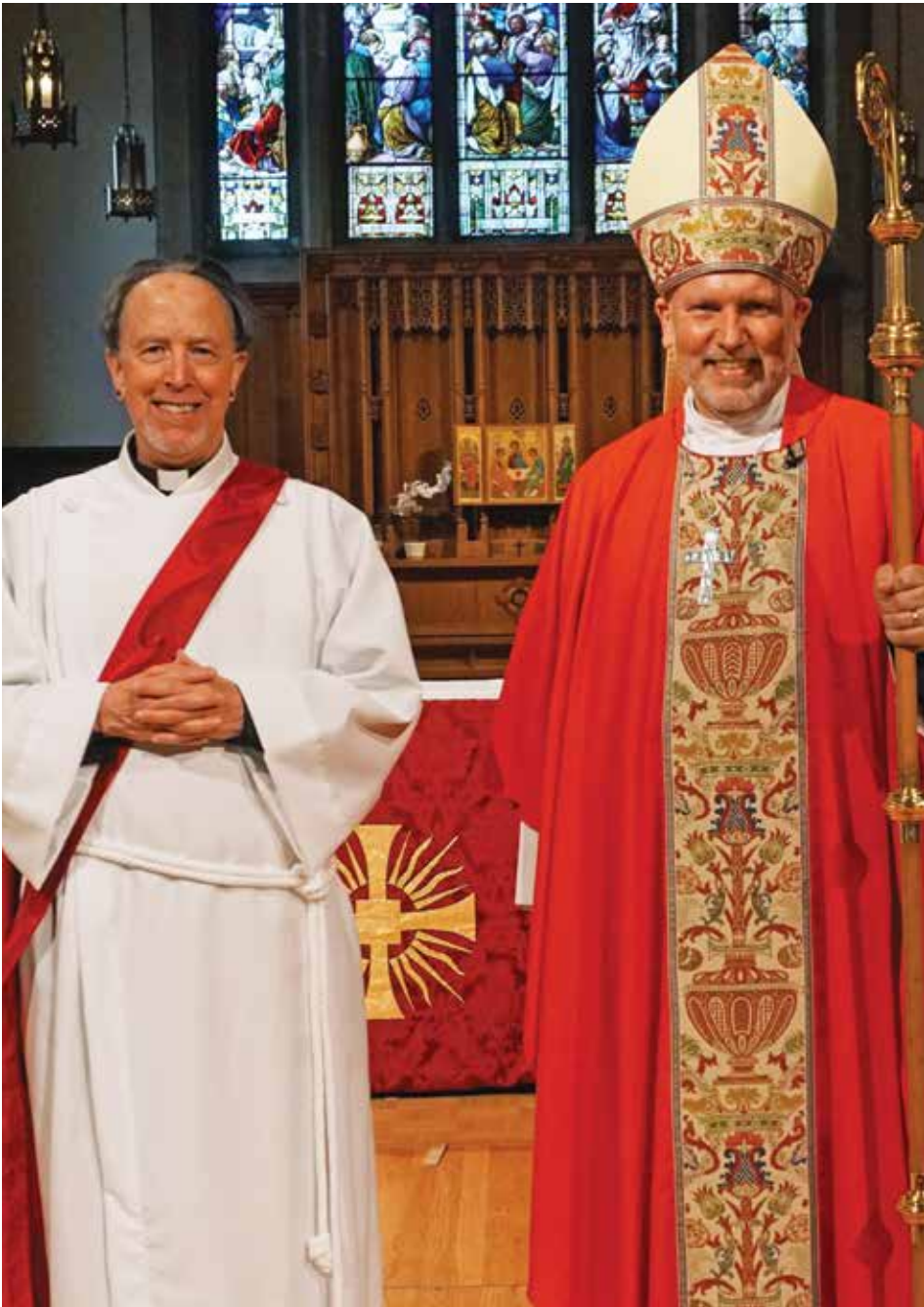
Q. Was there a particular moment or experience that signaled that you were being called to ordained ministry, or was it a gradual development?

**BC:** A gradual development culminating in a lightning bolt of certainty when I attended the ordination of two friends, Alecia Green-

field and Jonathan Odile-Pinkney, to the transitional diaconate in June 2019.

**JLAM:** At school, I looked to the priests with attentive eyes, curious to understand what they were doing and their job. Since that early age, I have felt comfortable with the idea of a dedicated religious life.

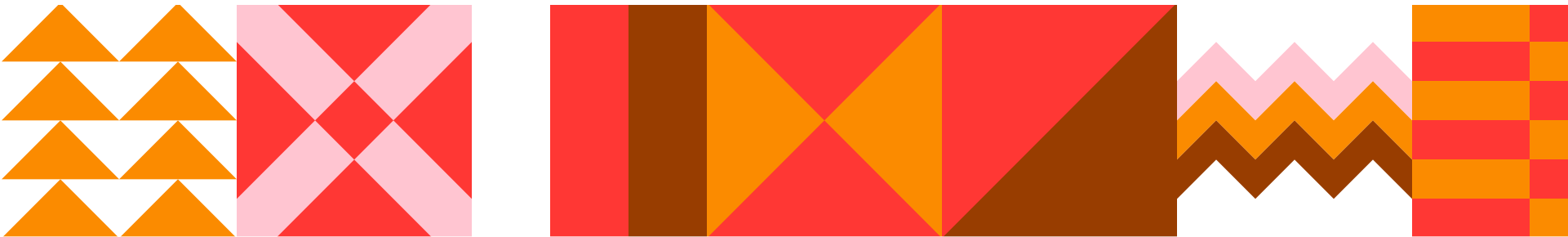
**MT:** My call to ministry as a youth pastor was vivid and memorable to me because it came through a vision. Though I did not immediately harken to it because of my busy-ness running my own business, God eventually closed the other doors and opened the right doors for me to serve in youth ministry for eight years, five of those years was in an official capacity full time at a parish in Zimbabwe. And this is where through the counsel of the saints the calling to the priesthood was noticed. I had to



The Rev. Brynn Craffey with Bishop Stephens. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray



The Rev. José Luis Aranda Moyano with Bishop Stephens.





wait for the confirmation which came as more and more saints confirmed the calling to ordained ministry and most of what I was doing academic-wise and continuous-learning-wise pointed to. Ordained ministry and everything just fell into place with good counsel, and encouragement.

Q. How would you describe the discernment process, what surprised you, what challenged you?

**BC:** What surprised me most is what a community endeavour it is. Which is both wonderful and crucial, in my opinion, given that effectively serving God in the church depends on an ability to integrate into and lead from within community.

**JLAM:** My discernment has been long (really, it's been half of my life), and I am thrilled

that it came to its realization. Through the formal Parish Discernment, Examining Chaplains and the Advisory Committee on Postulants for Ordination (ACPO), I have received a lot of validation and positive reinforcement. I have felt guided and accompanied. Nothing has been surprising or particularly challenging. On the contrary, it has been a very emotional and reflective process for me, which has helped me understand myself better and my vocation.

**MT:** My discernment process was deliberate and intentional, and it took a long time to get there. By my disposition I tend to frontend load things and the last part of my process was particularly sped up and it gently surprised me, which it should not, because I had worked on things prior to coming into the process. The pandemic

was challenging to the whole process because when COVID-19 struck all that was being done was in the field of "unknowns, uncertainty, and uncharted territory" yet by God's grace we are here! Who knew ACPO would successfully be done online as was the pre-ordination retreat?

Q. Describe your theological education? Do you think it has prepared you for ministry?

**BC:** My theological education has been a mix of ordinary and extraordinary. The ordinary keeps my feet on the ground, while the extraordinary inspires me go above and beyond and dream big. As for being prepared for ministry, my life has taught me that God always surprises. How does one prepare for the unexpected? My best guess is by staying present and being flexible.

**JLAM:** I hold a Bachelor of Theology (Honours) and a Master of Theology. I also studied religion and mythology as part of my, still in process, doctoral work. I have learned a lot from being involved in different ministries in the church. There is still a lot for me to learn since learning is endless. However, I feel ready for my ministry.

**MT:** I have a Certificate in Theology, Advanced Certificate in Theology, Diploma in Theology, Bachelor of Theology, Bachelor of Theology (Honours), Master of Arts in Theological Studies, Master of Sacred Theology and I am currently working on a PhD in Pastoral Psychology, Leadership and Human Development. This has prepared me thoroughly for ministry as I was also in ministry hands-on as I was studying for most of these qualifications. I now teach some of these, so my theological education backed with my ministry experiences have prepared me well for ministry.

Q. Although it's very early days, how would you describe your ministry style? Are there any individuals who have inspired, supported, guided you in your journey?

**BC:** My style is very much to think, "outside the box," although at the moment I'm still engaged in learning the actual parameters of this particular box! Many individuals have and continue to inspire me! Among them, Laurel Dykstra, Elizabeth Mathers, John Smith, Michael Batten, Amanda Ruston, Harry Maier, Jim Hatherly, Caitlin Reilly Beck, and many, many more friends and community members.

**JLAM:** I have been teaching for more than 15 years, and a big part of my teaching experience has been with adults. I am also an employment counsellor and general counsellor. I love people. People are an expression of God on Earth because he made us in his image. So, I would say that my ministry is about serving people, to make them feel the incredible love of God.

**MT:** I am a hands-on type of person who desires to accompany others in ministry. I see myself as one who walks alongside others in ministry and accompanies them on a journey of realizing their full potential in life. I have personal friends, pastors, mentors, spiritual advisors, regular saints, and accountability partners who have accompanied, inspired, advised, chastised, and guided me on my journey, and I owe them a great debt as I would not be where I am without their help. My take is that as iron sharpens iron, so do we, one to another,

and these people who have walked with me in this journey, God placed them there for such a purpose.

Q. Which passage from scripture best illustrates your call to ministry?

**BC:** Depends on the day you ask! At the moment, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." *Galatians 5:22*

**JLAM:** "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." *Acts 1:8*

**MT:** *John 21:15-19*. Where Simon Son of John, who is also known as Peter was asked by our Lord and Saviour three times, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" and three times was told, "Feed my lambs," "Tend my sheep," and finally, "Feed my sheep," speaks a lot to my call to ministry because right there in real time Peter was being commissioned regardless of the fact that he took it as a personal slight to his commitment to his rabbi. What mattered are the three words that were spoken to him after the question, "Feed my lambs," "Tend my sheep," and finally, "Feed my sheep," speaks a lot to my call to ministry as this is what I believe I am called to do and shall do it in earnest until I breathe my last breath.

Q. How do you see your ministry developing over the next five years?

**BC:** Many fewer term papers to write and textbooks to read! More actual work in community on issues related to LGBTQ2S+ affirmation, reconciliation with Indigenous communities, and action on the rapidly worsening climate emergency.

**JLAM:** Only God knows.

I want to be a priest.

I want to use my languages and reach many people.

**MT:** I am called to ministry as a worker priest, and I have one foot in the church and the other in the seminary teaching God's called leaders to be best at what they do. In the next five years as I complete my doctoral studies now as an ordained deacon on a path to the priesthood, I see myself becoming a priest and a PhD holder who will be co-pastoring a parish with another priest and also teaching at one of the seminaries in Canada, doing what I love to do the most, seeing fellow human beings actualize to their full potential in the church and at the seminary.

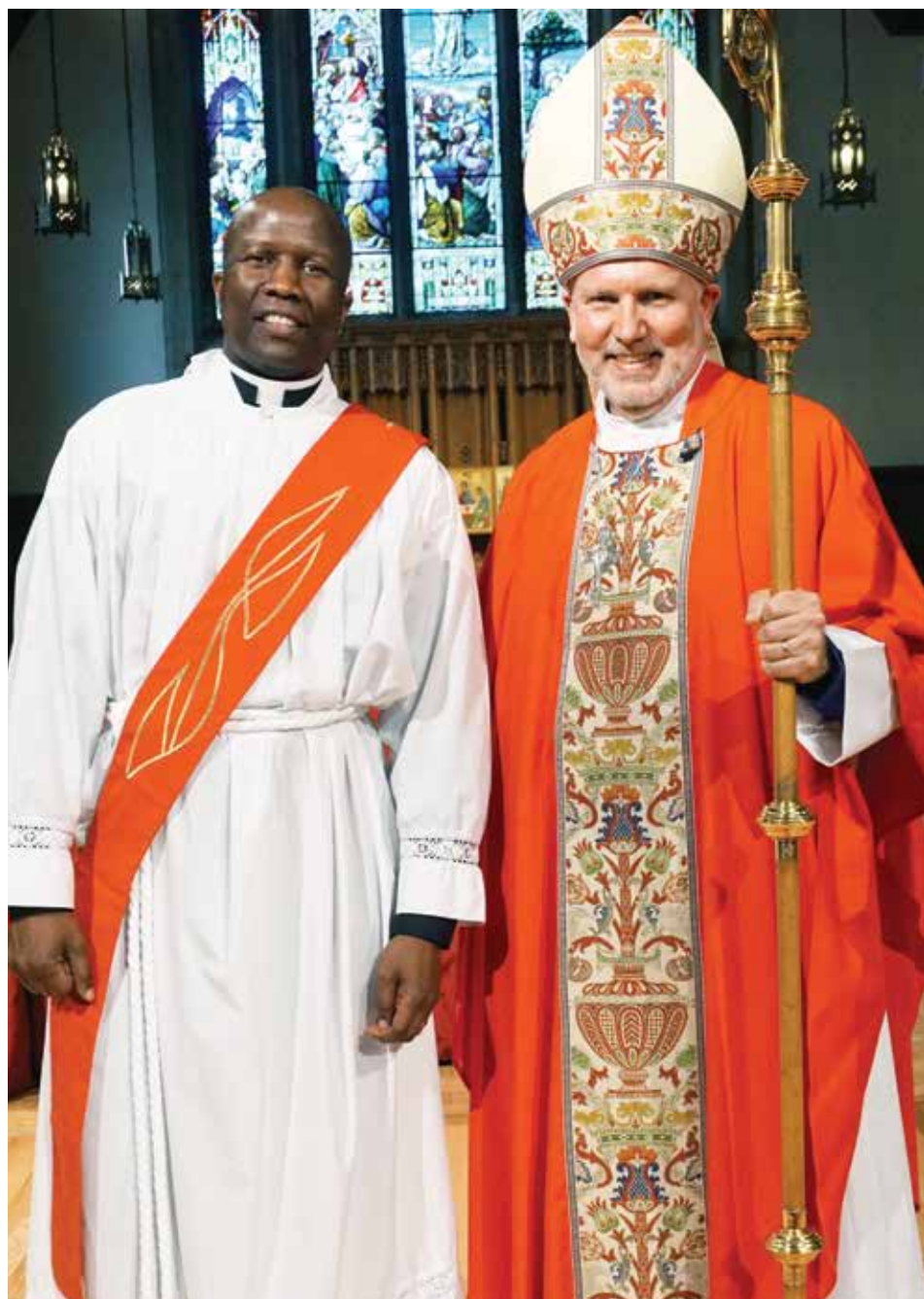
Q. Is there anything you'd like to add?

**BC:** My deepest thanks to the many people who have welcomed and supported me into this wonderful community.

**JLAM:** Thank you for these questions. They are a fantastic opportunity and forum for self-reflection and sharing with others.

**MT:** "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!' For surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell [and serve] in the house of the Lord my whole life long."

For more information about the ordinands and the current status of ministry please check out Clergy and Staff News on page 26 of this issue of *Topic*. ☛



The Rev. Montgomery Tugwete with Bishop Stephens.





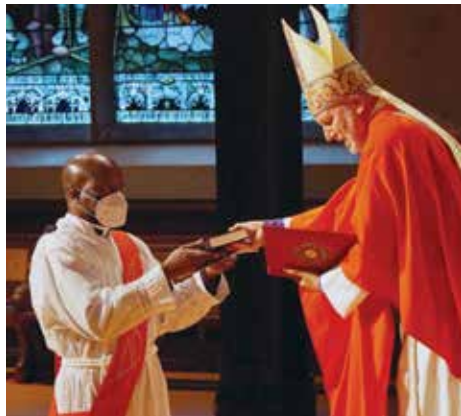
# You Are Gatherers of Community

## Ordinations in the Holy Church of God

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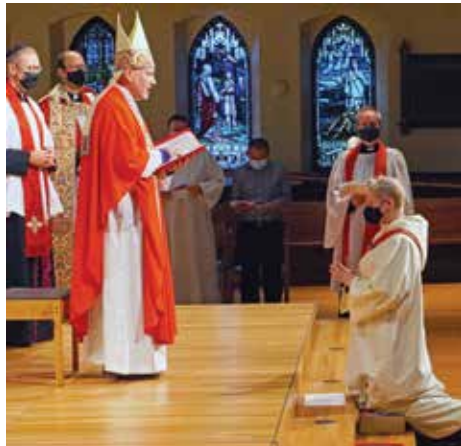
José Luis Aranda Moyano is ordained.



Monte Tugwete receives a Bible.



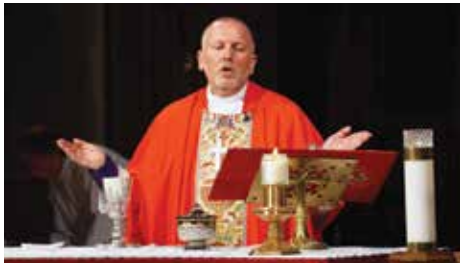
The priests present at the liturgy stand and raise their hands as the Rev. Amanda Ruston is ordained a priest.



The Consecration of a Priest.



The clergy stand on the chancel platform as the Eucharist concludes with Common Praise Hymn 433, Lord, You Give the Great Commission.



Bishop John Stephens begins the Eucharistic Prayer with Sursum Corda.



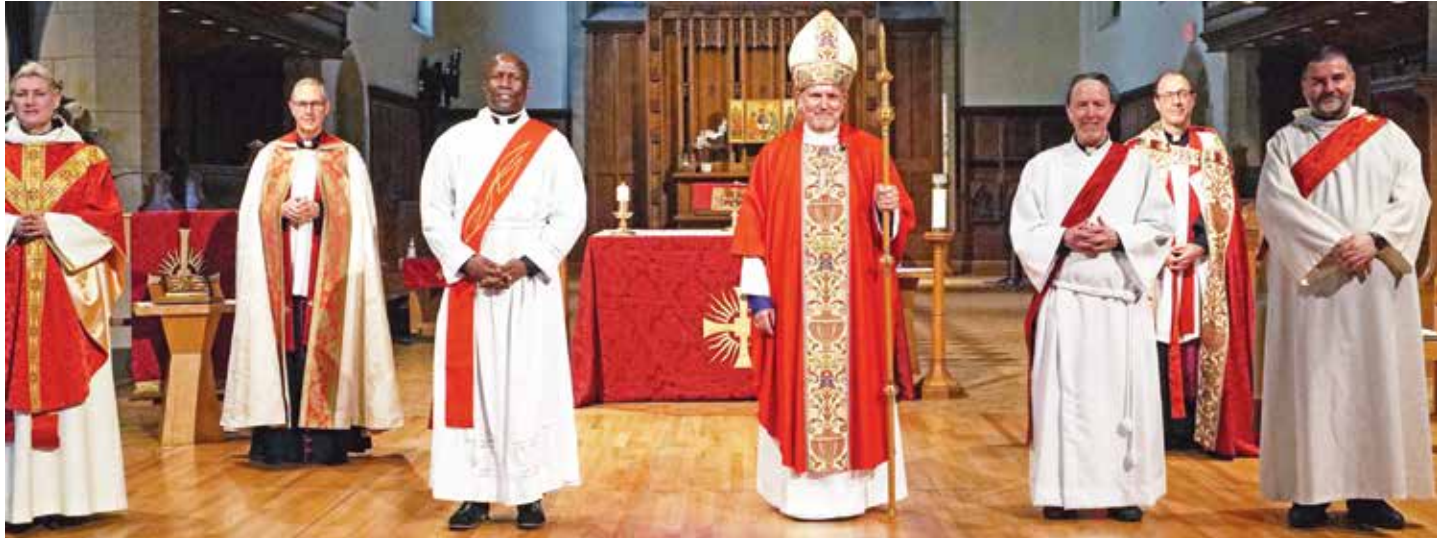
The Rev. Michael Batten, Rector of St. Thomas, Vancouver and clergy presenter of the Rev. Brynn Craffey receives the Body of Christ.



Rev. Ruston is anointed.



Mtr. Amanda and the bishop.



LEFT The new priest blesses Ms. Meredith Hannen-Tugwete and the Rt. Rev. John Hannen, the lay and clergy presenters of the Rev. Montgomery Tugwete. RIGHT The Group Shot.



# Education for Ministry Graduation Eucharist for 2020 – 2021

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Approximately 20 gathered in the sanctuary of Christ Church Cathedral for the Education for Ministry (EfM) Graduation Eucharist at 7pm on Monday, June 14. The liturgy was livestreamed by Cathedral staff through the Cathedral's livestreaming platforms. Due to COVID-19 there had not been an EfM graduation event in the diocese for almost two years.

Those present at the liturgy included: the Rev. Paula Porter Leggett, Diocesan Coordinator for EfM who welcomed the congregation both onsite and online and led the music in worship; the Christ Church Cathedral EfM group's co-mentors, Dr. James Berger and Mr. Ken Peppin presented their graduates to the bishop and led the Prayers of the People; Christ Church Cathedral EfM group graduate, Mr. George Lawson was the reader; Deacon of the Word was the Rev. Juanita Clark, a 2019 graduate from the Christ Church Cathedral's EfM group; and the preacher and presider was Bishop John Stephens.

Including the Rev. Clark there were eight of nine graduates present to receive their diplomas from Bishop Stephens. The other seven graduates were from the 2020 and 2021 program cycles. Rev. Clark was ordained to the diaconate in 2018, completed a 16-month placement at St. John's, North Vancouver at the end of 2019, and since March of 2020, has been in ministry as deacon to the chaplain, the Rev. Bryan Rivers on the Spiritual Care Team at Vancouver General Hospital. Thanks to the generosity of the diocesan Anglican Church Women (ACW), Rev. Clark is registered for the Clinical Pastoral Experience (CPE) program scheduled to begin in the fall of 2021.

## GRADUATES

From the group meeting at Christ Church Cathedral, January-December cycle:

- Jaunita Clark (2019)
- Manuella Dressler
- George Lawson
- Leah Skuro

Leah Skuro is now the Rev. Leah Skuro having been ordained to the diaconate by Archbishop Melissa Skelton on June 20, 2020. Raised up for ordination by the Parish of All Saints, Burnaby, Rev. Skuro is now in ministry as a deacon of the parish.

From the group meeting at St. John the Apostle, Port Moody, September-May cycle:

- Heather Esposito
- Constance Keen
- Lois Holmlund

Ms. Holmlund who found a faith home at St. Stephen the Martyr, Burnaby is now the Parish Administrator of the Burquitlam parish.

Also graduating was Jan Nichol from the EfM CAN02 group in the diocese of Kootenay.

Even though gathering for worship onsite was still restricted to the principals; a small number of friends, family and diocesan clergy were present to support the graduates.

In the homily, Bishop Stephens took the Gospel, *Mark 5:35-43* for his text.

He explored the story of Jairus, a far from perfect human being who comes to Jesus desperately seeking Jesus' help. His daughter is gravely ill and as is reported by Mark in the passage, the girl dies while Jairus attempts to convince Jesus to come to his home.

Jesus does come to his home and commands that the little girl rises from her deathbed, he says to her, "Get up." And she does. Bishop Stephens unpacked the story in a contemporary context and applied it metaphorically to the often-heard rumour that the Church is dying.

The bishop said:

*"There are some who say that the Church is dying. That soon we will be no more. That the numbers will continue to spiral down, soon the doors will be locked for the last time and the end will have arrived. But this passage from Mark's gospel seems to be saying something rather different. It is an invitation to affirm that Jesus is inviting us as well to get up off our deathbed and proclaim the resurrection.*

*You see this evening we are honouring graduates in the pro-*



Bishop John and the graduates present at the EfM Graduation Eucharist. A posed group shot, no one looking at the camera but lots of smiles and laughter.  
ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray

*"Don't just lie there  
and ignore what God is calling us  
to be  
and do  
and live.  
Don't just lie there  
but get up."*



The Rev. Juanita Clark proclaims the Gospel, *Mark 5:35-43*.



Rev. Paula Porter Leggett welcomes the congregations online and onsite.

*gram of Education for Ministry. Honouring those who have been digging deeper into what it means to have faith in Jesus Christ in 2021. Honouring people who have come searching for deeper answers, not satisfied with simple pat answers but wanting to know where it is that Jesus continues to come to us and say to us, get up. Don't just lie there caught up in this pandemic, frozen and not able to function. Don't just lie there saying that the world has changed, and people no longer want to hear about the God of love. Don't just lie there and ignore what God is calling us to be and do and live. Don't just lie there but get up.*

*Get up and do something different than what Jesus implored*



George Lawson receives his diploma.



Graduate Constance Keen receives the Body of Christ.

*at the end of this passage in Mark. For Jesus said to them to tell no one else about what had taken place: that prayers were answered, that hope was seen, that new life had come, that the Holy Spirit was known, that Jesus had invited the little girl to get up and in so doing extended the invitation far and wide."*

Please keep the graduates in your prayers as they continue in their ministries. ✚

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Bishop John's sermon is available on the diocesan website in video, audio and text formats at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2021-06-14-education-for-ministry-graduation-eucharist>





Vincent Carey censuring the chancel area during a Gospel Procession, 2008. PHOTO Courtesy of Christ Church Cathedral

*“It was always a delight to see how V brought his faith life into his work life and made all our lives easier in the process. The Parish of Christ Church Cathedral has much to be grateful for in his ministry both in the chancel and in the office.”*

Former Priest Associate and Vicar of Christ Church Cathedral, and current Dean of King’s College London, the Rev. Ellen Clark-King

# Lift High The Cross: The Retirement of Vincent Carey

JANE DITTRICH  
Diocesan Communications & Topic Contributor, Christ Church Cathedral

“Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim” is, of course, the first line of the English hymn *Lift High the Cross* written in 1887, by the then-Dean of Winchester, George William Kitchin. It suitably sums up the work of Christ Church Cathedral’s Vincent Carey: in his lay liturgical assistant roles of MC and Crucifer; in his vocational role of Parish Administrator; and more recently with the title, Dean’s Assistant for Administration.

Vincent announced in May 2021, that he would be retiring from his paid position on Cathedral staff as of July 8. He and his partner of 29 years, Ed Friesen, have been and remain much loved and valued members of the Parish of Christ Church Cathedral since 2000. Vincent has been a full-time employee at the Cathedral since 2007, and has volunteered on the Servers’ Guild since 2004. To the delight of staff and parishioners alike, he will remain with the Servers’ Guild following his retirement, and he and Ed will also continue as members of the parish.

Vincent shared these words about his retirement:

*“I have approached my decision to retire thoughtfully and prayerfully. It was not an easy one to make as the Cathedral has been like a home to me these past 14 years, and those there, like members of my family. I have loved my time and can honestly say that it has been my calling. It has been a pleasure to work for, and with you. I have truly enjoyed*

*getting to know our ‘living stones,’ from our eldest, Margery Kellett, to some of the youngest. One of my Cathedral highlights is yet to come as Ed and I have been asked to be godfathers for now six-month-old parishioner, Ellis. I have appreciated the opportunities that I have been given as I grew both professionally and personally. I am thankful for all the valuable lessons I have learned from former and current clergy, staff and volunteers. I take with me many fond memories, especially from those with whom I have worked closely, (receptionists, and the Altar and Servers’ Guilds). I have greatly enjoyed the planning of the Liturgies of Inclusion and the Welcoming Lunches for Newcomers. These events provided a means for me to connect with the newest members of the parish. Ed and I will continue to be part of the ministries with which we are currently involved, and we look forward to remaining in this warm and welcoming community. See you in the pews!”*

Included on these pages are words from two of Vincent’s long-time colleagues, former Rector and Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott, and former Priest Associate and Vicar of Christ Church Cathedral, and current Dean of King’s College London, the Rev. Ellen Clark-King.

*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, Vincent, and thank you for so richly sharing your many gifts with the Cathedral and by extension, the diocese, over these many years! ✠

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23



Vincent Carey in the role of MC, preparing the altar for the Corpus Christi liturgy on June 6, 2021. ALL PHOTOS Jane Dittrich (unless otherwise noted)



# Deacons Gather Online for National Conference

STEVE BAILEY  
Deacon, St. Aidan & St. Bartholomew (Bart's), Gibsons

July 9 and 10 saw 100 Anglican and Lutheran deacons gather for an online conference sponsored by Anglican Deacons Canada (ADC). Organized by the College of Deacons of the diocese of Niagara, the gathering drew together deacons from all areas of Canada.

The conference theme was *Deacons in a Pandemic and its Aftermath: Coming Together in Virtual Community*. Deacon, the Rev. Katherine Yeo was inspired by the encouragement of Primate Linda Nicholls' keynote address *Guide to the Church: An Ear to the Ground*.

"Our primate reminded us that we must listen critically to the world and the church, never working alone, but as part of the greater body of Christ," commented Deacon Yeo.

Deacon, the Rev. Maggie Cole added that, "It was very gratifying to have our Primate be our keynote speaker. All that surrounded her message—the worship, the sharing, other talks/sermons amazed me that a Zoom gathering could run so smoothly to those of us who were participants. I'm glad that I ventured to Niagara virtually."

"We were reminded that as deacons our job is to 'keep a foot in the door' in our vital ministry of listening. It is our diaconal commitment to bring the needs of the world to the church, and the message of the church to the world," added Deacon, the Rev. Steve Bailey.

Conference participants were invited to attend one of three webinars: *Migrant Farmworkers*, *Truth and Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples*, or *Prejudice and Inequality*.

All three representatives of the diaconate in the diocese of New Westminster attended Deirdre Pike's webinar on *Prejudice and Inequality*. Pike is a program consultant for justice and outreach in the diocese of Niagara as well as a senior social planner for the Social Planning and Research



Council of the City of Hamilton, Ontario. She touched on a variety of justice and equity issues and how to facilitate conversation and improve community engagement around key justice issues.

The *Truth and Reconciliation* session by Archdeacon Valerie Kerr, Archdeacon for Truth, Reconciliation and Indigenous Ministry for Niagara included a webinar led by Janice Whiteley. Archdeacon Kerr's focus is to help the Bishop of Niagara implement the Anglican Church of Canada's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

Father Antonio Illias is a missionary for the *Migrant Farmworkers Project* that engages the seasonal farmworkers, farmers, community partners and volunteers to work together to address the physical, mental and spiritual needs of migrant farmworkers. He pointed out that each year over 4,000 migrant farmworkers come to Ontario for seasonal work.

Conference participants also heard addresses by Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada National Bishop, Susan Johnson, and Bishop of the diocese of Niagara, Susan Bell. There were additional presentations by Deacon Tracie Middleton, President of the Association for Episcopal Deacons, and Ted Dodd, President of Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean.

Sessions took place in the context of inspiring worship and contemplative prayer led by Anglicans the first day and by Lutherans the second day. Worship included inspiring accounts of on-going diaconal ministry during COVID-19.

During the proceedings Anglican Deacons Canada held its annual meeting, electing new members to its board and giving thanks to Nancy Ford of the diocese of Islands and Inlets (British Columbia), outgoing president of ADC. ✦

Links to conference resources can be found at <https://www.anglicanadeacons.ca/pages/presentations-resources>

## Lift High The Cross: The Retirement of Vincent Carey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22



Vincent Carey and his partner of 29 years, Ed Friesen.



Vincent Carey and the Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev. Christopher Pappas in the Cathedral Chancel prior to worship.

*"The word administrator comes from the Latin—ad meaning 'to' and ministare meaning 'serve'. At the heart of the work of administration is the call to serve and in his 14 years as Parish Administrator at Christ Church Cathedral, Vincent Carey has exemplified servant leadership in support of the ministry and people of Christ Church Cathedral. Quiet and self-effacing, Vincent's work never drew attention to himself, but all that he did was to build up the community and mission of the Cathedral. Having had the privilege of working with him for at least 12 of those 14 years, I can testify to his diligence and more often than not, I was deeply moved witnessing his devotion and deep faith in Christ. Miraculously, he was always able to find whatever we were looking for, although how he ever did that in his uniquely organized office is truly a modern-day miracle. I join with others in expressing huge appreciation and thanks to Vincent for his excellent work, and of course he will be deeply missed by all at the Cathedral and beyond and wishing him every blessing and happiness as he moves to this new stage of his life!"*

Former Rector & Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott



Ed Friesen, the author, Vincent Carey and two young parishioners, brothers, Eamon and Ellis, June of 2021.



Vincent Carey and the Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev. Christopher Pappas in the Dean's office prior to the Corpus Christi liturgy.



# The Anglican Foundation of Canada Celebration of Giving

On July 8, 2021, the Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC) celebrated the close of the *Say Yes! to Kids* campaign with a *Celebration of Giving* via Zoom to announce the final result of the campaign: over \$110,000.

“This campaign set a stretch goal for AFC, and no one really knew what to expect,” said Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Primate and Chair of AFC. “In the end, hundreds of donors from coast to coast to coast have given generously to *Say Yes! to Kids*.” Archbishop Nicholls thanked dioceses, ACWs, parishes, corporate sponsors, and other groups from across the church for their generosity. “To those who chose to support *Say Yes! to Kids* when local youth efforts you would have normally supported were suspended due to COVID-19, you helped this campaign to be successful, and the church will be stronger for it.”

The Rev. Canon Dr. Judy Rois, Executive Director of AFC, thanked AFC’s friends and volunteers—Board Directors, Diocesan Representatives, Bishops, and diocesan staff champions—who carried the banner for *Say Yes! to Kids* in their dioceses. “Much of the momentum for *Say Yes! to Kids* grew out of the efforts of our team fundraisers and their supporters,” said Canon Rois. “We had 12 teams and 33 individual fundraisers in AFC’s first peer-to-peer fundraising effort, and we have been inspired by your energy and enthusiasm.”

Archbishop Anne Germond, Vice-chair of the AFC Board, spoke to the impact the Request for Proposals (RFP) arising from this campaign will have in dioceses. “In the Diocese of Algoma, and elsewhere in the country, there are wonderful ministries serving vulnerable children and youth. Through this campaign they have discovered that there is both a will and a way to provide the additional

funding they need.” Diane Dance, AFC’s Representative for the Diocese of Huron, captain of *Huron Says Yes!*, the campaign’s top fundraising team, and member of the RFP Committee said, “My hope is that champions for youth across our church will spend some part of the summer months imagining the kinds of projects they might undertake with this new funding.” Dance, a retired educator, added, “I spent 40 years in the classroom, and I know that not all children have the same opportunities. The church has a vital role

to play in post-pandemic recovery and maximizing what we can offer children and families in our communities will be part of that.”

While the campaign is officially closed, late gifts will continue to be counted and will increase funds available for the RFP and maximize funding impact at the local level. ♦

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For more information on the RFP, visit  
[anglicanfoundation.org/2021rfp](http://anglicanfoundation.org/2021rfp)  
or email [foundation@anglicanfoundation.org](mailto:foundation@anglicanfoundation.org).

A graphic with a purple and pink color scheme. At the top, a heart says "We asked..." and another says "...you said Yes!". Below these are photos of diverse groups of people. In the center, the text reads: "Thank you To all our volunteers, individual donors, and team fundraisers for giving generously to AFC's Say Yes! to Kids campaign. Together we raised over \$110,000 to fund programs that will support children, youth, and young adults in a post-pandemic world. With courage, compassion, and creativity, AFC will Say Yes! to Kids. www.anglicanfoundation.org".

## The Vancouver School of Theology Chancellor’s Scholars Confirmed St. James’ curate receives one of two scholarships

The Vancouver School of Theology (VST) has named the Rev. Amanda Ruston (Anglican) and the Rev. John Snow (United Church of Canada) as the 2021 recipients of the Chancellor’s Scholarship. These scholarships are the most prestigious and generous scholarships offered to VST students each year. They will be officially awarded on November 18, 2021, at the Chancellor’s Dinner.

### Mother Amanda-Magdalene Ruston, OSBCn

Amanda Ruston is an Anglican priest, a professed Benedictine, an artist, and a student at VST. Amanda is starting the final year of the Master of Divinity program this fall, as well as a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and a part-time curacy at St. James’ Anglican Church in the Downtown Eastside (DTES) of Vancouver. Amanda states:

*“I absolutely love being in ministry in the Anglican church, especially serving in the amazing and vibrant neighbourhood of the Downtown Eastside. I feel incredibly grateful to have been called by God to do this work, and to have been formed to do so by the excellent mentors I have had, as well as the education I’ve received through VST. I love theology, liturgy, and the amazing collegial relationships and friendships I get to have through ministry, but when I am not working or studying, I also love reading, spending time in nature, or working on an art project. These past couple years living through a global pandemic have been really hard on all of us—emotionally and financially—and as such, I am deeply thankful for the generous support of the people that make scholarships possible and am especially humbled and honoured to have been selected for the prestigious VST Chancellor’s Scholarship. This will enable me to finish my degree on pace, and to continue my ministry in the Church without undue barriers. I am really excited to see what God does with and through me in the year ahead and am committed to ongoing learning and personal spiritual development, so that I may continue to be faithful and sensitive to God’s voice in my life and in the life of the Church.”*

### The Reverend John Snow Jr., BSc, PMLM, MA

John is a Traditional Land, Cultural and Environmental Specialist. He belongs to the Stoney Tribe, Treaty 7, Member of ICD, CAPL, CAPLA.

John is an advisor, teacher, contract consultant for Indigenous communities, various colleges, universities, and governments. John is an Indigenous Instructor and Lecturer for Land, Cultural and Environmental Monitoring courses and a lead writer, researcher, and interpreter working amongst Indigenous Elders on multiple resource projects. John has advised many Indigenous organizations throughout the world. He is a specialist on legislative, regulatory, and corporate processes. He holds a Graduate degree in Public Policy, Law and Administration and more



LEFT Mother Amanda-Magdalene Ruston. RIGHT The Rev. John Snow Jr. PHOTOS Courtesy of VST

recently completed and serves as instructor on Pipeline Monitoring and Operations certifications. His visionary approach has helped to implement innovative solutions to many challenging issues. John is an ordained minister with the United Church of Canada, a Nakoda pipe holder, traditional and cultural specialist and assists instruction and advisory roles for diverse organizations. On receiving the 2021 Chancellor’s Scholarship, John states:

*“As a fourth year Master of Divinity (MDiv) Indigenous Student by Extension at VST I have been grateful for the opportunity and support for my program. I hope to continue my studies in the PhD program when I complete the MDiv, to guide my Indigenous Ministry in the Church, Educational Institutions and in Community. My work in the United Church continues at the regional level and involves Reconciliation, Indigenization and Decolonization. My father began our work with ordination in 1963, in the United Church of Canada and was also a Nakoda pipe holder. His Father before him taught from the Cree Syllabics Bible and was a pipe holder. Following the tradition of my family I have been ordained September 2020, and am also a Nakoda pipe holder. I hold the teachings of Christianity alongside those of my Indigenous Traditional and Cultural Heritage that have served to illuminate Understanding, Hope, Love, Joy, Kindness and Healing.”*

### About the Chancellor’s Scholarships

Each year two Chancellor’s scholarships of \$7,000 dollars will be awarded to students entering their final year of studies at VST, as an encouragement to fuller-time engagement in their studies. The award is intended to support the costs associated with the recipient’s tuition and related personal investment in theological education.

To qualify to receive a Chancellor’s Scholarship, the recipient needs to be:

1. A student who is in a degree program that aims at congregational ministry and who will be entering their final year of study in the fall.
2. A student with at least a B+ average in courses in which a grade is assigned.
3. A student who shows promise for ministry, in the opinion of faculty and their relevant judiciary.

These awards were assigned by the Faculty of VST in keeping with the criteria of the scholarships. VST is grateful to former Chancellor, Dr. Heather Clarke, and previous chancellors for their personal contributions. VST has contributed to a second Chancellor’s Scholarship to double the impact of this important award. ♦



# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Aboriginal Vaccination Clinic at St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge

SUBMISSION Laurel Dahill

On May 19, Members of Fraser Health's Aboriginal Health team gathered at St. John the Divine in Maple Ridge to host a vaccination clinic focused on members of local Indigenous communities. The lounge and hall in the church provided ample space for health team members to check-in and vaccinate patients with a special emphasis on creating a supportive environment.

The Aboriginal Health preparations included smudging the space prior to the arrival of patients. In the reception area, medicine bags were provided containing sage, cedar, sweetgrass and local tobacco. Vaccinations were given while recipients sat in a large circle where they could face one another and talk while they waited to complete the vaccination process. ✚



Medicine Bags. PHOTOS Laurel Dahill



Clinic set up for physical distancing.

## White Rock Deacon Recognized for Extraordinary Service



PHOTO Submitted

On Sunday, June 6, the Rev. Paul Richards, deacon at the Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock attended via Zoom a gathering of the Order of St. Lazarus, Canada, of which he holds the rank of *Chaplain*.

He received the award of Companiate of Merit in the grade of Member (MMLJ) for his work and ministry over the past year raising funds for Peace Arch and Surrey Hospice Societies, as well as Canuck Place Children's Hospice in Vancouver.

Congratulations Paul for this well-deserved recognition. ✚



## Worship in Surrey

June 6, 2021, Second Sunday After Pentecost

SUBMISSION Natasha Kaweski

The worship service began with the territorial acknowledgement.

In solidarity with First Nations people and to honour the 215 children whose remains were found buried in unmarked graves on the grounds of Kamloops In-

dian Residential School, the parishes of St. Michael's and Christ the Redeemer both in Surrey offered a moment of silence and solemn prayers to their families and friends who mourn for the loss of their loved ones. ✚



Vicar of both parishes, the Ven. Luisito Engnan.



Bryce Engnan.

## The Summer of Clean

Many thanks to the new vicar of the Parish of Holy Cross, the Rev. Alecia Greenfield for sending in these photos to the Executive Archdeacon's office from the week of June

20. During the "summer of clean" a crew has come in every week to clean, remove paint, and generally spruce up the place. ✚



PHOTOS Submitted



## AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Clergy &amp; Staff News

The Rev. Miranda Sutherland has been increased to 60% time as the Vicar of Holy Spirit, Whonnock effective July 1, 2021. Additionally, Miranda was appointed Vicar of St. Oswald, Port Kells (30%) on August 1, 2021.

Bishop John Stephens has appointed the Rev. Georgina Harris as priest-in-charge of St. Columba, Pitt Meadows effective July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. Georgina will be facilitating a self-study and discernment period for the parish.

The Rev. Armand Mercier has been appointed Vicar of St. Alban, Richmond effective August 1, 2021, following the Search Committee's recommendation. They had asked the bishop for a direct appointment. He will also serve as an assistant priest for pastoral care at Christ Church Cathedral. Here is some additional information about Fr. Armand:

*"Rev. Armand Mercier is husband to Carol Anne, dad to Benoît, 11, and Étienne, 7, and a lifelong (almost) resident of Alberta."*

*After obtaining a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Alberta, Rev. Armand worked for a number of years in the automotive industry before beginning a discernment to ministry in the Franciscan Order in the Roman Catholic Church. After ordination to the diaconate and obtaining his Master of Divinity and Master of Theology degrees, Rev. Armand left the Franciscan Order to marry Carol Anne; some time later, Rev. Armand and Carol Anne were called to the Anglican Church, where they participated as parishioners for several years in two different communities.*

*Rev. Armand was subsequently called to serve as a deacon before receiving the call to the priesthood in 2016, after which he was an honorary assistant in the diocese of Edmonton. In 2017, Rev. Armand was inducted as Rector of St. Stephen's Parish, where he served until July 2021. Rev. Armand also worked at Habitat for Humanity Edmonton from 2010–2021 as Director of Family Services.*

*Apart from enjoying the company of his family, Rev. Armand enjoys outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, and cycling, and he and his family look forward to many new adventures in the diocese of New Westminster."*

The Rev. Melanie Calabrigo has been appointed as an assistant priest for pastoral care (40% time) at Christ Church Cathedral. Melanie will begin on September 1, 2021. She will continue as the assistant priest at St. Faith, Vancouver with responsibility for St. Hildegard's sanctuary.

Following the recommendation of the Search Committee, Bishop Stephens has appointed the Rev. Marnie Peterson as the next Rector of St. Anne, Steveston. Marnie will begin on September 16, 2021. She leaves her ministry as an assistant priest at the Cathedral where she was a developer of the St. Brigid's congregation and the primary priest for Maundy Café.

The Rev. Amanda Rushton has been appointed Assistant Curate at St. James' Church effective, July 1, 2021. Mother Amanda will be at 50% time in her first year as she completes her final year of coursework at VST and a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE).

The Rev. Jose' Luis Aranda Moyano has been appointed as Assistant Curate to St. Paul, Vancouver effective August 1, 2021. Jose' Luis will be completing a unit of CPE during his curacy. This will be a 50% time position in year one and full-time in year two.

The Rev. Monte Tugwete has been appointed by the Bishop as Assistant Curate at St. Alban the Martyr, Burnaby (75%)

with the Rev. Greg Jenkins and Holy Trinity Cathedral (25%) with the Ven. Richard Leggett effective September 1, 2021.

The Rev. Alecia Greenfield has been appointed by the bishop to serve one-day each week as Special Projects Facilitator in the Mission and Ministry Department. She began on July 8 and Thursdays will be her regular office day.

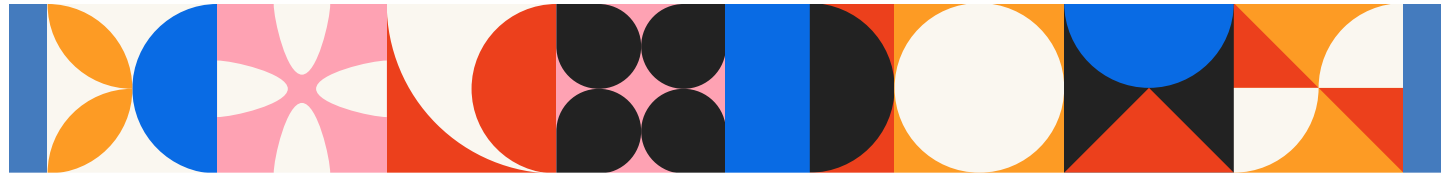
Bishop Stephens has received the resignation of the Rev. Angus Stuart as rector

of the Parish of St. Francis-in-the-Wood. Angus has served at St. Francis-in-the-Wood since March 1, 2005 and is looking forward to retirement and next opportunities. His last Sunday will be on September 12 and his final date as rector on October 1, 2021.

The Rev. Stephen Laskey has signified to Bishop Stephens his resignation of the Parish of St. Helen, Surrey effective October 15 as he takes up retirement. Stephen has also indicated his resignation as Regional

Dean of Peace Arch effective September 30 and as Chair of the Christ Church, Surrey, Cemetery Committee on August 31. Stephen's last Sunday will be on September 26.

After more than 40 years of ministry as parish priest, university chaplain, spiritual director and most recently as Director of Anglican Formation at the Vancouver School of Theology, the Rev. Grant Rodgers is retiring at the end of December 2021. ✠



## Inductions &amp; Celebrations of New Ministry

Inductions of Rectors and Celebrations of New Ministry for Vicars have now been scheduled. Some have been delayed since January 2021. As this issue of *Topic* will go into final layout prior to the first of the scheduled Induction/Celebration Eucharists taking place, coverage of some of these will be found on the diocesan website news pages at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/news>.

- **The Rev. Steve Black,**  
*Rector, St. Hilda, Sechelt*  
The Feast of St. Bartholomew  
| August 24  
Bishop John Stephens presiding and the Very Reverend Peter Elliott preaching
- **The Rev. Billy Isenor, OSF,**  
*Rector, St. Mark, Ocean Park*  
The Feast of St. Bartholomew (transferred)  
| August 25  
Bishop John Stephens presiding and the Rev. Armand Mercier preaching
- **The Rev. Helen Dunn,**  
*Rector, St. Clement, Lynn Valley*  
The Feast of St. Aidan | August 31  
Bishop John Stephens presiding and the Rev. Miranda Sutherland preaching
- **The Rev. Tasha Carrothers,**  
*Vicar, St. Mary Magdalene, Vancouver*  
| September 1  
Archdeacon Stephanie Shepard presiding and the Rev. Sharon Smith preaching
- **The Rev. Marnie Peterson,**  
*Rector, St. Anne, Steveston*  
The Feast of St. Matthew | September 21  
Bishop John Stephens presiding and the preacher TBA
- **The Rev. Ken Vinal,**  
*Rector, St. Stephen, West Vancouver*  
The Feast of St. Michael and All Angels  
| September 28  
Archdeacon Stephen Muir presiding and the Very Rev. Peter Elliott preaching
- **The Rev. Simbarashe Basvi,**  
*Rector, St. David, Tsawwassen*  
The Feast of St. Stephen  
| August 3  
The Bishop John Stephens presiding and Archdeacon Luisito Engnan preaching
- **The Rev. Alecia Greenfield,**  
*Vicar, Holy Cross, Vancouver*  
The Feast of St. Mary the Virgin  
| August 15  
Archdeacon Kevin Hunt presiding and the Rev. Jason Byassee preaching
- **The Rev. Miranda Sutherland,**  
*Vicar, Holy Spirit, Whonnock*  
The Feast of St. Mary the Virgin  
| August 15  
Archdeacon Al Carson presiding and the Rev. Alex Wilson preaching
- **The Rev. Armand Mercier,**  
*Vicar, St. Alban, Richmond*  
The Commemoration of Holy Women  
| August 16  
Archdeacon Luisito Engnan presiding and the Reverend Br. Billy Isenor preaching
- **The Rev. Miranda Sutherland,**  
*Vicar, St. Oswald, Port Kells*  
The Commemoration of John Stuart  
| August 17  
Archdeacon Luisito Engnan presiding and the Rev. Helen Dunn preaching

on Synod staff were sad to say good-bye to Lauren but so pleased that she has this opportunity, and that she will still be a big part of the diocesan family. Lauren's husband of ten years, the Rev. Jonathan Pinkney is Assistant Curate at Christ Church Cathedral, and they will be doing some elements of their ministry together.


Lauren joined Synod Staff in November of 2019. In addition to her job description duties, Lauren was always happy to lend her considerable skills to the programming and communications departments in a variety of ways, from website updates to graphic design to program development for youth ministry and during the pandemic as Zoom operator and administrator extraordinaire. Lauren will continue in her volunteer role as Chair of the Diocesan Youth Movement (DYM) and as one of the principals of *Infinately More* young adults ministry.

When informed of Lauren's decision to take on this new role Bishop John Stephens had this to say:

*"I am so sorry to hear that Lauren is leaving us but delighted for her as this aligns very well with her education and her longer-term ministry goals."*

Lauren remained on contract continuing to administrate the diocesan Screening in Faith program until a replacement was found.

Elias Neto was appointed full-time Reception/Administrative Assistant effective August 1. Elias has been in a dual role, working both as Administrative Assistant in the Synod Office and for the Ecclesiastical Province. His focus will now be more generalist, responsible for hospitality and meeting bookings in the diocesan centre. His work will include providing support to the School for Parish Development and Parish Development grants process. ✠



## Brought to our Knees

### Prayers during Covid-19

by Judy Rois

Prayers for individuals with Covid-19, front-line workers, summer rest, faith communities, musicians & choirs, and students.

[anglicanfoundation.org](http://anglicanfoundation.org)

**ANGLICAN**  
FOUNDATION OF CANADA



# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## My Dishwasher Theology

Priest of the Diocese Living in Europe has First Book Published After furthering his education at the Vancouver School of Theology (VST), which was followed by ordination, a curacy at Christ Church Cathedral and an eight-month incumbency at St. Clement's, Lynn Valley, the Rev. André M. Stephany returned to Europe in the spring of 2021 to continue his ministry. Originally from Germany, Rev. Stephany is currently a research assistant at Bern University in Switzerland.

On July 1, 2021, his first book, *My Dishwasher Theology* was published. It is an easy and accessible run through the big questions of Christian Faith, as the role of the Bible, heaven and hell, prayer, salvation... According to André, "I think it would be a good resource for study groups or those with a developing interest in Christianity."

The description of the book supplied by the publisher is as follows:

*"If you want to get to the core questions of Christian faith with members of a Christian*

*faith community, you have to wash the dishes with them after the Sunday coffee hour. That is where the big questions are asked and discussed. That is where the learning happens, and the deep spiritual experiences can form disciples. This book tries to provide ministers, seminarians or interested Christians with food for thought for some of the typical questions you would encounter when washing the dishes with parishioners. 'Do you believe in the Bible?' 'Are not all religions the same?' 'What about heaven and hell?' This book tries not to give finished answers but intends to help the reader to develop an answer themselves. ✝*

My Dishwasher Theology is available from your local bookseller or on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.ca/My-Dishwasher-Theology-André-Stephany/dp/1666704520> or via direct order from the publisher at <https://wipfandstock.com/9781666704518/my-dishwasher-theology/>.

## Conferral of the Companion of the Worship Arts 2020 – 2021

Thomas Roach, ODNW, CWA recipient of the 2020 honour It was announced last year that Thomas Roach, ODNW was the 2020 Anglican recipient of the Companion of the Worship Arts. This award is presented biennially to highlight significant contributions and immense gifts in the worship life of the church at both the local and national levels. The Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada have presented the award jointly since 2014, with one recipient from each denomination recognized for their commitment and service to God, through worship, spirituality, and the arts.

Thomas is recognized for his immense contributions to the worship life of his former congregation, the Parish of Christ Church Cathedral, the diocese of New Westminster, the Anglican Church of Canada and more through his remarkable skill and creativity with textiles. Thomas' uniquely designed vestments, banners and liturgical art creations enhance worship wherever they are found.

The Lutheran recipient of the honour is Robb Wilson, CWA of St. Thomas, Ontario a skilled designer and restructurer of worship spaces.

The award was to have been presented

last summer at the National Worship conference which was cancelled due to COVID-19. The conference took place online on July 6 and 7, and the conferral was done virtually with Lutheran National Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Susan Johnson and the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls making the presentations which were recorded in late June.

The conferral includes words from Bishop John Stephens and words of thanks from Thomas.

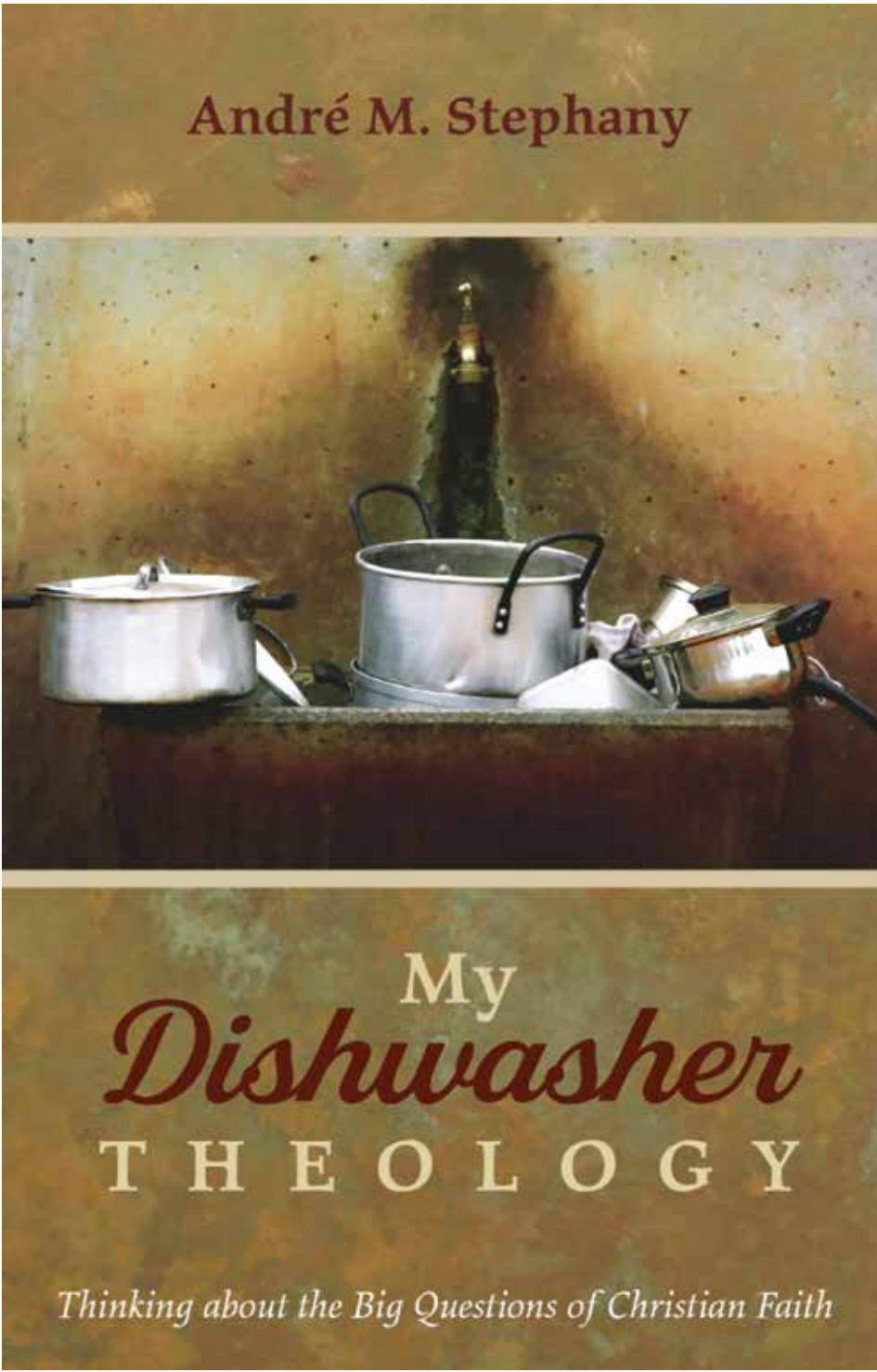
Thomas began his address of thanks with these words:

*"If we believe that we are created in the image of the God who is creating, then we must understand ourselves as creative beings. Uplifting and celebrating that creativity in all its varied forms, whether that be stitching, writing, cooking, painting, performing, dancing, composing, playing or singing—all become part of our prayers of praise of thanksgiving and of intercession." ✝*

The video of the 2021 Conferral of the Companion of the Worship Arts (approximately 20 minutes long) may be found online on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0IK8dT2Dis&t=573s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0IK8dT2Dis&t=573s).



Thomas Roach, ODNW and Bishop Stephens in the chapel at the Synod Office recording the conferral on Zoom. PHOTO Randy Murray



## Letter to the Premier from the Eco-Justice Unit Chair

Regarding the Building Back of the Community of Lytton  
SUBMISSION Margaret Marquardt

On Friday, July 8, the Rev. Margaret Marquardt, Chair of the diocesan Eco-Justice Unit sent the following letter to Premier John Horgan:

Dear Premier Horgan,

*I was glad to hear in your press conference today of the commitment to build Lytton back within an ecological framework.*

*I hope that Lytton might be a pilot for what an ecological planned community could look like, bringing together all of the expertise ecologically regarding building houses and business, Indigenous historical and present insight for care of the land, with stewardship of the forest and local vegetation and honouring the specific landscape and climate of the area.*

*It could become an incredible way forward with Indigenous partnership and a showcase of building economically and smart ecologically.*

*New business could start with such partnerships with the Indigenous community and the local folks.*

*A historical centre could address the Indigenous roots and also the Chinese workers who brought so much to the area over the decades.*

*Tourism would be central in such a pilot community.*

*Such a place could be a worldwide centre of what can be done when there is a commitment to a new way forward in the midst of climate change.*

*It seems we have a great opportunity here out of the devastation of the fire.*

*Let us not squander this opportunity. It is a time to be diligent and courageously move forward.*

*Looking forward to the leadership of the BC government in this as you gather with the local communities to bring new life creatively from the ashes.*

Sincerely,  
The Rev. Margaret Marquardt  
Chair, Anglican Diocese  
of New Westminster, Eco-Justice Unit ✝



AROUND THE DIOCESE



LEFT Smyth and Smith go up the gangway to deliver pizzas and cookies. RIGHT A beautiful day at Vanport on June 24, just a couple of days before the heatwave of 2021. PHOTOS Randy Murray

International Day of the Seafarer

Thank You From All of Us

Here is a note from Senior Port Chaplain of the Mission to Seafarers, the Rev. Peter Smyth:

*“June 25 is known as the International Day of the Seafarer in which focus is given to the seafarers acknowledging the essential role they have in keeping the world supplied and moving.*

*They do so to support their families and face the challenges of the job in doing so.*

*It is why the welfare organizations such as the Mission to Seafarers are there to assist them and advocate for better working conditions contributing to their spiritual, mental and physical well being.*

*We acknowledge the support of the ILWU 400 in providing funds to purchase many pizzas to bring to the ships in port in Vancouver to show our appreciation, to Nathan Smith, International Transport Federation (ITF) for accompanying us on our visits and to our photographer, diocesan Communications Officer, Randy Murray for coming out with us and taking the pictures on June 24.*

*Lastly but certainly not least thank you to parishes, individuals, and Bishop Stephens for supporting the seafarers by supporting the Mission’s work.*

*We can’t do it without you.”*

Nathan Smith with Peter and the other Mission to Seafarers (MtS) chaplains spent the week of June 21 visiting the cargo ships in both Vancouver and Delta Port and distributing pizzas for the crews. Once on board, the chaplain and union rep would speak with the crew members, ask them about their lives and families, where they were going next and so importantly, when they would be going home. It was also customary to turn the pizzas over to the ship’s cook for distribution to the crew. The cooks were very happy to take a break from their galley and chat with the MtS folks.



16 dozen chocolate chip cookies. PHOTO Stephanie Shepard

Accompanying the pizzas were 16 dozen chocolate chip cookies baked and donated by the Parish of St. Martin, North Vancouver. These 16 dozen were in addition to the 20 dozen baked by the parish bakers for Father’s Day on June 20. In the note to diocesan communications written by the Ven. Stephanie Shepard, priest-in-charge

of St. Martin’s she said:

*“We remember all the parents separated from their families through their work at sea, and pray that these little bits of sweetness and love will remind them of their homes. That is, if Archie, the Flying Angel Club cat, doesn’t eat them first.” ♦*



Archie checks out the cookies. PHOTO Stephanie Shepard



LEFT The pizzas are presented to the cook. RIGHT Preparing the ship to cast-off. This fluid container tanker would be departing for Korea two hours after the visit from the Mission to Seafarers folks. PHOTOS Randy Murray



## AROUND THE DIOCESE



## Summer Institute of Church Music

helping church music to flourish

### Canada's Summer Institute of Church Music Names Rupert Lang its Seventh Honorary Fellow

The Summer Institute of Church Music's (SICM) Board of Directors have named Rupert Lang, Founder of the Vancouver Children's Choir and Director of Music to that city's Christ Church Cathedral, its Seventh Honorary Fellow, entitling the use of the post-nominal letters F.SICM.

To mark the conferring of this honour, composer and organist Dr. Matthew Larkin composed a new anthem, *Psalm 84 for Choir and Organ*, which was given a "virtual choral premiere" by choristers from across Canada on Thursday, July 8, 2021, when the Fellowship was conferred online.

Founded in 1970, the Summer Institute of Church Music has met annually at Trafalgar Castle School in Whitby, Ontario excepting 2020 and 2021, which have been held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In each odd numbered year since 2009, it has conferred the title "Fellow" upon a prominent Canadian church musician who "has pursued training, employment and ministry in church music in a deep and personally-transformative way, and made a significant impact on the study, practice or condition of church music in Canada." Past recipients of the honour are the late Dr. Kenneth W. Inkster, Dr. Fred K. Graham, Ruth Watson Henderson, Winifred Sim, Dr. Patricia Wright and SICM founder Dr. Stanley L. Osborne (conferred posthumously in SICM's 50th anniversary year, 2019).

Rupert Lang, BMus, MA (Cantab), DD

hails from Red Deer, Alberta. He took his Bachelor of Music in organ performance at the University of Manitoba and went on to study at the Royal School of Church Music, and to receive his MA in music from the University of Cambridge, St. John's College, studying with George Guest, Gillian Weir and John Scott. Returning to Canada, he became Director of Music at West Vancouver United Church, where he founded the Vancouver Children's Choir, and since 1986, he has been Organist and Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver. Rupert Lang is also a prolific composer of choral and liturgical music known and performed around the globe. In addition to this honour, Vancouver School of Theology selected Rupert Lang as its Honorary Doctor of Divinity Recipient for 2021 (announced December 8, 2020, conferred May 11, 2021), and on April 7, 2021, the Archbishop of Canterbury announced the 2021 Lambeth Awards which included Rupert Lang as the recipient of the Thomas Cranmer Award for Worship.

SICM's 2021 Honorary Fellowship was presented to Rupert Lang, and the new anthem by Dr. Larkin given its virtual world premiere, as part of the virtual closing Gala Choir and Organ Concert of its 52nd Session. ✦

Visit <http://sicm.ca>

to view the Virtual Gala Concert.

### Intergenerational ODNWs

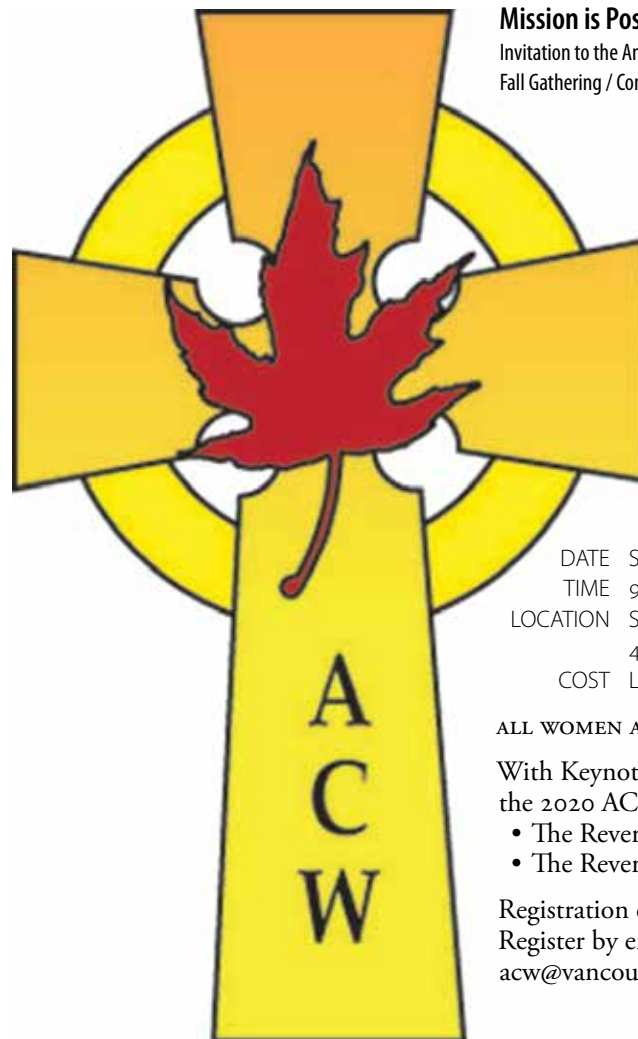
Many thanks to Christ Church Cathedral parishioner and lay leader Kevin Smith, ODNW for sharing this photo of himself and his grandmother (who is also a great-grandmother) Ms. Shelagh Smith, ODNW posing with their medals and ribbons earlier

this year.

Shelagh was the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster Nominee from the Parish of St. Anselm in 2015, and Kevin who is also the Vice-Chancellor of the diocese was a Bishop's Nominee recipient in 2020. ✦



PHOTO Courtesy of Kevin Smith



### Mission is Possible | Empowered By God

Invitation to the Anglican Church Women's  
Fall Gathering / Conference

DATE Saturday, October 16, 2021  
TIME 9:30am – 2pm  
LOCATION St. Michael's Multicultural Church  
409 East Broadway, Vancouver  
COST Luncheon \$10

ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!

With Keynote Speakers,  
the 2020 ACW Bursary Recipients:  
• The Reverend Lorie Martin  
• The Reverend Amanda Ruston

Registration deadline October 8, 2021.  
Register by email at  
[acw@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto:acw@vancouver.anglican.ca). ✦

### Diocesan School for Parish Development 2021

The Diocesan School for Parish Development (SPD) is a diocesan program organised by the Department of Mission and Ministry Development which aims to give parishes educational resources so that they can grow their community in faith and their mission.

The one-week intensive program for the


school will take place during the fall.

DATES October 4 to October 8, 2021  
LOCATION Sorrento Centre.

Register online at  
<https://events.r2o.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=ao7ei65djrlc58db539&oseq=&c=&ch=>. ✦


Join us in the fall at Sorrento Centre

SCHOOL FOR PARISH  
DEVELOPMENT



OCTOBER 4-8, 2021 | +4 ONLINE PRE-SESSIONS  
SORRENTO CENTRE, BC

\$600 per person (\$300 bursary for groups of 3 or more)

 Diocese of New Westminster  
ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA



## A Time for Harvesting Donaguile, Castlecomer, 1940

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

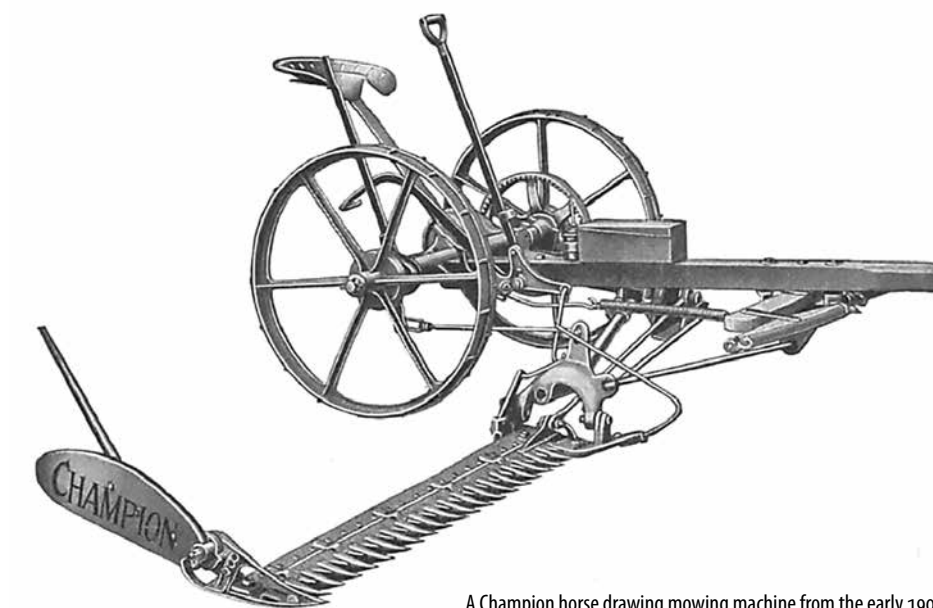
Retired Priest of the diocese of Calgary, former Dean of the diocese of New Westminster & Rector of Christ Church Cathedral

In the 1920s the world of Irish farming was simple and modest. Some large estates were exceptions, but they were diminishing in number as the decade went by. Otherwise very few farms had machinery. However, in the years after the First World War, many farmers purchased a mowing machine, among them my grandfather.

When we arrived in Donaguile for the long summer holiday in August 1940, my uncle told me that we had come just in time to see him, my grandfather and the hired man John cut the barley on Hill Field near the farmhouse. I was 12-years-old, my brothers eight and two.

My brother and I are up with the sun to watch the preparations. Two horses are needed to pull the mower. They stand on either side of a long wooden shaft to which my grandfather yokes them. Behind them is the mowing machine itself. Above two metal wheels and an axle is the seat for the driver. A smaller metal seat beside it is for the reaper. On this particular day, my uncle will drive the horses and my grandfather will take a large wooden rake and climb on to the side seat. Below him at ground level are the long well-oiled knives that will cut the barley, shutting back and forth with a loud harsh clattering. Behind the knives is a wooden rack into which the falling barley will tumble, swept back by my grandfather's rake.

This morning my brother and I follow behind the mower with my aunt and the hired man John. Their task is to take each armful of barley, tie it with binder twine and leave it lying for others who will follow to build the bundles into "stooks." Standing in



A Champion horse drawing mowing machine from the early 1900s.

stooks, the barley will then be ready to dry in the fervently hoped for summer sunlight.

There is a break for lunch. At some point during the meal my uncle turns to my mother and says, "I think this young man — pointing to me — could drive the horses this afternoon." I can't believe my ears. At first my excitement is fearful, then it gradually simmers down to excited anticipation.

The day continues to be fine as we return to the field. John has completed watering the horses. My Granddad takes his place beside me with his rake. He shows me how to hold the long reins and emphasizes how important it is that I keep the horses walking in a straight line along the edge of the standing crop. As we set out on the

first round of the field he keeps a close eye on me. Once or twice, he signals to me to straighten up. At one point he grabs the reins from my right hand and pulls it strongly to bring the right-hand horse nearer to the still standing barley.

By the third round of the field I am confident enough to take my eyes off the horses now and then and to look about me. I notice a pattern in my Granddad's directions. Each time we come to a corner of the field he signals me to begin turning the horses before we get to the end of the field. This happens at all four corners. The result is that at each corner of the field we leave a triangle of uncut barley. When I ask why we are doing this I receive the simple reply, "Because it's in the Bible."

In the year of our Lord 1940 you did not say to your grandfather "What do you mean — it's in the Bible?" You acknowledged the explanation and concentrated on driving the horses!

I intended to investigate further but my uncle said to me that I had done a great job and I could perhaps do a bit of driving in another field on the morrow. This so filled me with excitement that all else faded from my mind. A few days later I did ask my parents. Neither of them could enlighten me. Summer went by. We returned to the city.

It is 1990. Half a century has slipped away. I am in a window seat of an Air Canada flight from Toronto to Calgary and home. I look down to glimpse a golden ocean of Saskatchewan wheat far below. Suddenly, long ago horses are pulling on my tightly held reins and I hear my granddad say, "It's in the Bible." I can hardly wait to get home to consult my Cruden's *Concordance* of the Bible. Hastily I turn the pages to the list of Biblical references for the word "reap," tracing my finger down the miniscule print. Suddenly there it is! *Leviticus 2:22*.

*"When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor, and for the alien." I am the Lord your God.*"

Today we have much official language for such things. We write of Ethical Farming Policy, Responsible Agriculture, International Cooperatives. My grandfather was a ten-year-old boy in school when he learned that verse from Leviticus. It would have been 1871. ✦

## BOOK REVIEW Ashamed of the Gospel? Try Unapologetic

JESSICA SCHAAP

Missioner for Christian Formation, diocese of New Westminster

It's been a few years now since populist atheist writers like Sam Harris, Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens and the like stormed bookshelves and bestseller lists. But only a fleeting visit to comment boards

on news sites and social media platforms will show their sentiments and slogans alive and well in contemporary discourse. Religion is the root of all evil, religion and science are hopelessly incompatible, the history of Christianity is one of unrelenting conflict and misery, especially after Constantine, and so on. And it is true that Christians can and do feel shame about much. Canadian Anglicans need look no further than the residential schools. But when that shame overpowers our living in and through and by the gospel, well that's a shame.

Recently, I was conversing with a deacon who shared how several of her most faithful and reliable parishioners are very uncomfortable in their Monday to Friday lives with divulging they are Christians who go to church. The potential judgement and quiet humiliation are felt just below the surface in many workplaces. Combine this with an Anglican spirituality that sits well with reserve and introversion, and you've got an underground stream of Christians. Should that stream surface? Where does one even begin?

Francis Spufford's *Unapologetic* suggests one place to start — the dignity and significance of the emotion, imagination, and instinct that the Christian story provokes. Spufford, a lay person in the Church of England, is not interested in a traditional apologetic — a defence of the faith with hard-headed reason. He flips that approach with showing how the depth and strength

of our emotional response to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is a very human, fairly promising, and well, reasonable, place to begin with conviction. In a holistic and I think incarnational way, Spufford brings to bear all his powers of reason and thought to articulate this call to take seriously the power of emotion, imagination, and instinct in faith.

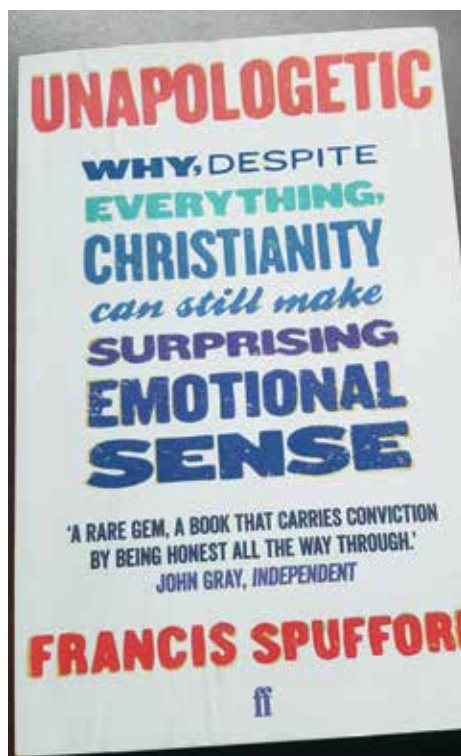
Spufford also does an admirable job of picking up many of the contemporary objections and critiques frequently laid at faith's door — from sex to science — and responding either with humility or incisive observations. He frequently says things like, "The life of faith has just as many he-doesn't-exist-the-bastard moments as the life of disbelief." Did I say his language is a little spicy at times? You should hear what he calls sin. He even gets into some internal Christian debates such as those over the gnostic gospels and cheekily dismisses any faith shattering effect some may think they hold. He asks us in a footnote to be grateful that he has condensed for us, "A vast amount of Gnostic wibble into this convenient joke." My main critique of the book is a simplistic characterization of the other Abrahamic faiths — Judaism and Islam. But nobody gets it all right and that's a big message in the book too.

Who's this book for? Do you know any senior high school, university or college students? Maybe get this for them. They are in places where people do a lot of academic posturing to avoid faith matters. My

hunch is this is often prompted by the vast ignorance of faith in popular culture, and an unexamined emotional avoidance cued by social threats to belonging than a very conscious or informed decision to reject.

Or do you know someone who has stopped going to church for a long time? Maybe you suspect they might have an underground stream of the Christian story still running through them too. This might be a book for them. It could help to sustain them in this leg of their journey or plant a seed for later and they're not listening to you right now anyway. Do you have a spouse who doesn't quite understand why you bother with church but is sympathetic and supportive of your spiritual life, and maybe that time when there was a crisis you even prayed together? Maybe get this and read it together and have some conversation and find out more about each other, and adventure into a different domestic relation for a time. Finally, do you feel embarrassed and not sure how to respond to the noisy, emotionally avoidant, yet often default anti-theist and anti-Christian waters we swim in? Maybe get this book for yourself. I did and I come away feeling energized and more importantly, closer to Jesus, lover of *all*.

The other thing that's worth mentioning is that Spufford is a very fine prose stylist. I haven't read a popular book of theology that has paid such attention to crafting language and displayed such a lively energy in a long, long time. The medium is the message too. ✦



**Unapologetic**  
Why, Despite Everything, Christianity  
Still Makes Surprising Emotional Sense

Written by Francis Spufford  
Published by HarperOne (January 1, 2014)



OPINION

The Dremel, the Doorstep & the Post-COVID Parish

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

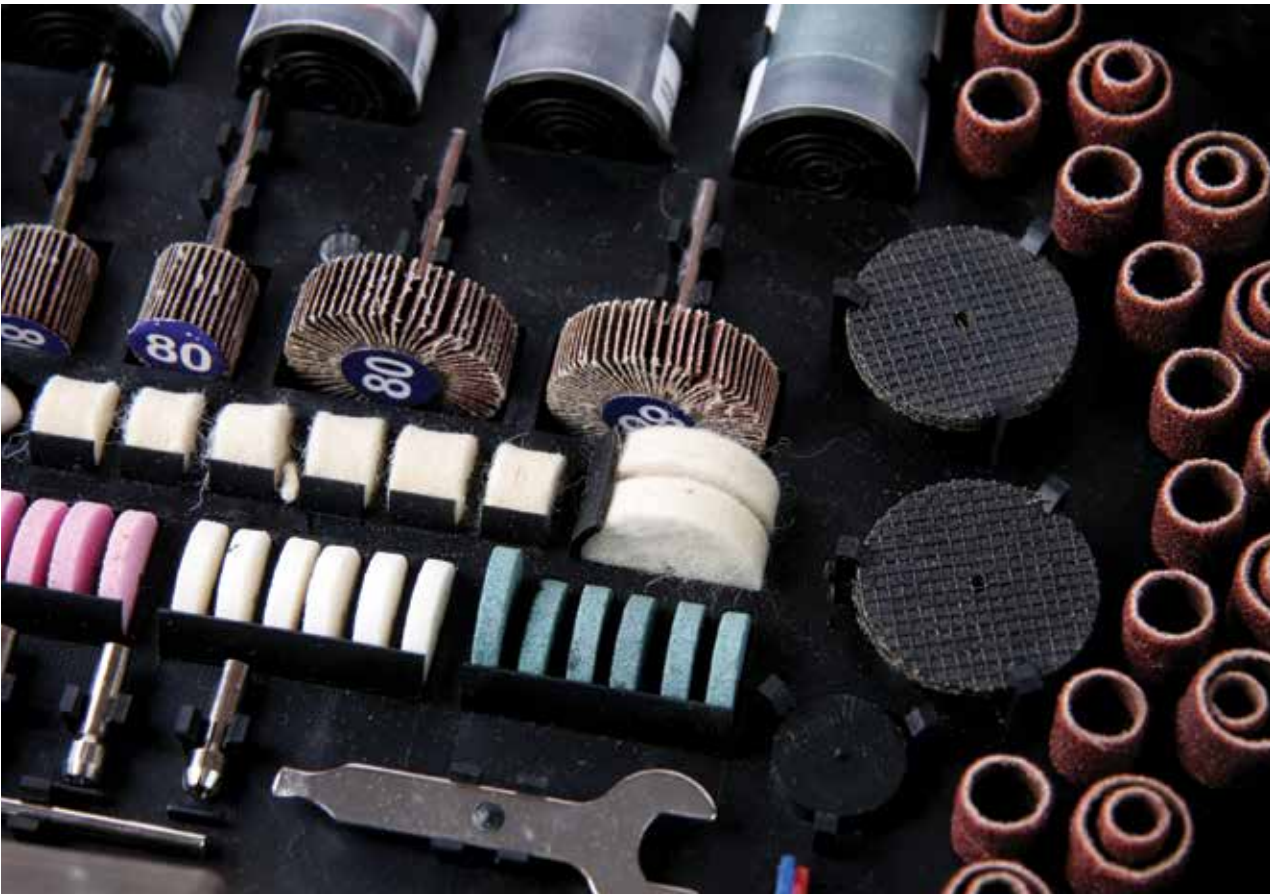
The front door of our house got stuck. Only with the greatest effort could we get in. Problem? The wood had swollen, the doorsill was broken, and the lock mechanism had shifted in the door frame. We hadn't been there for a while and things had changed.

What will the post-COVID parish look like? The same or changed?

What will be the same: still declining membership, aging parishioners, beautiful building, the loving ministry of the Altar Guild, the altar a joy to look on, the history of the parish, the wistful memories of a fully enrolled Sunday School, ongoing maintenance bills, the dedication of musicians and the choir, the liturgies including more funerals, continued fellowship.

Different: even less income, even older parishioners, worries about the parish future, less parish activities, and the impact of Zoom worship.

It's too soon to identify the ways in which digital worship will leave its mark. Will it result in some disengagement? Once you get used to drinking coffee in your housecoat while you "attend" church, why give up the ease? Parishes that choose to maintain both the Zoom and the real-place-together community may experience fragmentation. Parish members who prefer to stay at home with



Dremel Set. PHOTO Eric Ferguson (iStock ID:176062428)

Zoom may still come for special events like the bishop's visit, Christmas Eve, a funeral. Does that a parish family make? Can the parish council invite the Zoomers back by:

1. Starting the service later, 11am instead of 10am?
2. Offering to rent a van and driver to pick them up?
3. Letting them know how much they are missed?

We fixed our door with an old, simple tool, a *Dremel*. Who knew? But somewhere in a box of old tools, there it was, just the right tool. Now to fix the sill.

The doorsill of most Anglican churches is too high, metaphorically speaking. If you are accustomed to stepping over it, you do not notice that it is a stumbling block for others. What is that sill? Tired liturgies, worn out language, unexplained customs, bad hymns, the constant need for donations, old theological thoughts, no, or almost no, baptisms. No children's activities, the parish's library books untouched. In a word, passivity.

When was the last time a parish made a serious attempt to seek the seekers, to reconnect with the children we baptized, to walk the neighbourhood with invitations, to organize a summer Christian Day Camp?

The average age of parishioners in this diocese probably about 75? If younger persons do not become engaged members, how many years does your parish have left?

Think about your children, great and great grandchildren, your godchildren. You pray for them but when was the last time you prayed with them?

Characteristics of younger generations we need to understand, make room for and respect (some generalizations of course):

1. Digital communication has changed the ways in which people think. Not only what they think but *how* they think. Our long-winded linear way of theologizing and communicating is not very accessible to them.
2. They may still have respect for our faith and practice, but they are not engaged with it.
3. Modernism means that Big Stories are no longer meaningful. The over-arching narrative on our Faith story from *Genesis 1* to the end of *Revelations* does not connect with them.
4. The language around monarchy, "King, Prince, Son of the Most High" etc. evokes the cult of banal Celebrity. With all due respect to the current queen, of whom many Anglicans are very fond, royalty no longer elicits much interest. We have to find other wording for that historical sense of wise authority. The concept of inherited rule seems odd and the idea of a "heavenly throne" for lots of people now is a story from "once upon a time."
5. Their sense of reverence and awe for Creation is deeper than it has been in my generation.

6. Their commitment to restoration of the environment is deep and non-negotiable.
7. Their strongest modality is visual not verbal.
8. They have genuine desire for spiritual life though they may not know where and how to access it.
9. They have confusion about what/who Christ is.
10. Many are *Matthew 5:6* and with a sense of urgency.

Is your parish willing to adapt? There is so much richness in our traditions of faith and practice: truth and beauty to share.

Make more of our visual liturgical richness.

Freshen up the churchy language without making it flat (call in the poets).

A Sunday just for Seekers.

A multi-generational parish retreat.

Free (other than cleaning cost) space for community groups including concerts, movies, dances, and craft sales.

Advertise the supervised childcare available during worship.

More Q & A times.

The mysteries inherent in liturgy cannot be fully explicated, they can be presented in fresh ways. Those Lectionary readings do not speak much to the post-print population.

Provide social/cultural context of the Bible.

Adapt the Lectionary readings and use different translations.

A play instead of a homily?

This is the right moment for changes. COVID-19 was a shock, and some shocks wake you up. Who knows? There might be a new curiosity about what we actually *do* in church and why.

Even before the restrictions, many parishes were already in passive decline. "Oh, we're just too old." Any newcomer unfamiliar with Anglican worship might be tempted to think, "Pleasant Sunday recreational activity for seniors."

My memory of the parish I joined 20 years ago: we had so much fun! There was active discussion, Bible studies, book group, children, weekly events, even a theatre group.

How to revive? "Oh, Anglicans don't do revival." True, we do not do Big Tent/altar call/personal testimonies events (is that such a bad idea?). What would revival look like in your parish: a 2021 version of an Anglican *Dremel*? ✦

Hannah Main-van der Kamp is 74 years old, a writer and gardener. She is a member of St. David and St. Paul in Powell River.

*In Memory of Children  
Who Never Returned Home*

**We are Settlers and First Nations**  
Common Praise 536  
By Herbert O'Driscoll; Tune: Holy Manna

*We are Settlers and First Nations  
Sharing lands from sea to sea,  
With a vision of the future  
And the people we can be.*

*We are Settlers and First Nations  
Sharing lonely city streets,  
Where we seldom share a greeting  
And where no one ever meets.*

*We are Settlers and First Nations  
In a world we can destroy,  
Or we walk and work together  
For a world we can enjoy.*

*We are Settlers and First Nations  
Sharing long remembered pain,  
Seeking reconciliation  
To unite us once again.*

*We are Settlers and First Nations  
On a quest that must not end,  
While God calls us to be neighbours  
We must seek to meet as friends.*

*That as Settlers and First Nations  
On our journey round the Sun,  
We are children of One Spirit.  
We are human. We are one. ✦*



## In Memory of Children Who Never Returned Home

### Little Shoes

by Sandy McKenna

Canada, shamed,  
Naked before the decent of the world,  
Hearts  
Just beginning  
To be ripped out,  
Kneeling  
Among the génocidaires of the world.  
  
We, too, opened  
A door to the innocent.  
A door then closed by  
Hijackers of faith,  
Corrupting it to their  
Dark appetites.  
  
Finally, slowly,  
Just beginning  
Our fall  
To the depths of repentance,  
Then the long climb  
With love  
Upwards to justice.  
  
Little shoes. ✠

## Residential Schools & the Reports of Unmarked Graves

KERRY BAISLEY

Missioner Indigenous Justice, Diocese of New Westminster

Reports of hundreds and now thousands of unmarked graves associated with residential schools have shaken many Canadians and re-opened past traumas for many residential school Survivors and their family members. These unmarked graves were not “discovered” they have been known about for years. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s (TRC) report produced 94 *Calls to Action*. Calls 71 to 76 are recorded under the heading, *Missing Children and Unmarked Burials*.

Few of us read the report and the *Calls to Action* with the mindset of building active relationships and community with Indigenous, Métis and Inuit peoples. Take a moment to think about this:

*“What would your response be if your family members told you about their children who did not come home from school and were never found?”*

We need to shift from asking, “What can we do?” to “What have we been?” and “What can we be both now and in the future?”

These questions may lead us towards some truths and activate a reconciling process that builds relationships with Indigenous, Métis and Inuit peoples.

The first thing we can be is a listener. Now is the time to listen carefully and walk together on a journey that responds to the concerns and issues that are identified by the Community Leaders and residential school Survivors.

David A. Robertson shared this perspective on the CBC for Canada Day 2021:

*“Residential school history is not Indigenous history. It is not Canadian history. It is not history at all when we are still healing, even as new wounds have been opened. This is Canada now. Reconciliation is a shared responsibility, and you need to figure out what your role is. Educate yourself with stories told by Indigenous people. Share what you have learned and use that knowledge to take action that will create lasting meaningful change.”*

The residential school system fractured and sabotaged family relationships at every level. Children were separated from their own siblings by separating boys from girls and



Kerry Baisley, ODNW with Officer Rick Lavallee of the Vancouver Police Department, at St. James, Vancouver on June 16, 2021. PHOTO Randy Murray

younger from older. The process separated parents from their children. Intergenerational teaching and child rearing processes were eliminated. The family “being” was attacked until it collapsed into frightened, abused individuals feeling guilt, anger and loneliness in all directions.

For many, reading about an experience does not engage us the same way as seeing and hearing it. If you have not done so already, listen and see these four presentations regarding residential school and the consequential trauma they caused that continue to the present day. I have included the titles and a summary along with their network affiliations. These films are relatively easy to source online.

### We Were Children

NFB/CBC Gem | 1 hour 23 minutes

*An emotional film showing the life changing impact the residential school system inflicted as seen through the eyes of two children.*

### Tlatsini: Journey of the Taku Kwan

CBC Gem | 22 minutes

*A beautifully shot movie detailing a canoe journey along the Taku River and the medicine that comes from such a process.*

### Every Child Matters:

#### Reconciliation through Education

CBC Gem | 1 hour 27 minutes.

*Join us as we honour the resilience of residential school Survivors and the journey of Truth and Reconciliation that lies ahead.*

### Keep Going My Daughter

CBC Gem | 12 mins

*A young couple from Treaty 6 Territory, Andrea and Colby, record a message to their young daughter as they consciously work with the historical and personal trauma in their families and the goal of not passing the trauma on to the next generation.*

There are no actions, however well intentioned, that can “turn around” or undo the multi-generational trauma intentionally created by the actions of the Canadian government and the implementation of the churches. What is needed is a journey of healing and wholeness, which is done by working towards justice with our Indigenous, Métis and Inuit sisters and brothers.

What does that journey look like? That is for you to determine, in your specific place and given the individual details of your community and parish and the First Nations people who have lived there for thousands of years. To begin the process, as in how all friendship starts, we need to reach out, to be engaged to become Allies at both collective and individual levels.

In 2012, Wab Kinew wrote these words for *The Winnipeg Free Press* about the canonization of the first Native American saint, Kateri Tekakwitha by the Roman Catholic Church:

*“The truth about reconciliation is this: It is not a second chance at assimilation. It should not be a kinder, gentler evangelism, free from the horrors of the residential school era. Rather, true reconciliation is a second chance at building a mutually respectful relationship.” ✠*

## Vivian Seegers – My Friend

GILLI MCLAREN

All Saints, Mission

I first met Vivian in 1999, we were both first year students at the Vancouver School of Theology (VST). It was the gathering of our class, and I met these young minds, bright and perceptive people who would be a credit to any organization or corporation anywhere in the world. And here they were, faithful and full of zeal, seeking an education that will prepare them for a role to serve the people of God in the Kingdom of God.

I remember Vivian as a happy person with a glint in her eyes that the glasses she wore could hardly hide. Coming as I did from a different culture and a different country, I had but the vaguest idea about the suffering and cultural genocide, that the Indigenous people of this land had suffered.

And then I saw the fierce passion of Vivian for her people, and the tears of anguish that sometimes rolled down her cheeks, and I learned that justice did not roll like a river in this land, and that people forgot (hopefully temporarily), that righteousness is an imperative of their faith.

I admired Vivian as she continued towards her destiny, completing her education, and becoming a priest. But all these years that passion never dimmed; in fact, the flame got bigger and brighter. Her journey ended, as all our journeys will end some day; except that hers ended too soon, leaving unrealized promises, at least so it seems to us. And like her many friends, I mourn her passing. May her soul rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon her. ✠



The VST Class. PHOTO Courtesy of Gilli McLaren