



# Diocese of New Westminster

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

The Right Reverend John R. Stephens  
Bishop

The People of St. Francis-in-the-Wood  
4773 South Piccadilly Road  
West Vancouver, B.C. V7W 1J8

September 7, 2021

Dear People of St. Francis-in-the-Wood Parish,

On March 1, 2005, The Revd Dr Angus Stuart came to your parish to be your new Rector. When a new Rector arrives there are many emotions and questions that come to the surface. Here are some that perhaps were voiced at that time: What is the new Rector like? How will he relate to us? Will he bring vision and direction? Will he be creative and forward looking so that the Church relates to the world of our times? How will he be a pastor and teacher to us?

We are now more than 16 years later, and Angus has answered all of these questions, and then some, with a dynamic and engaging ministry at St. Francis-in-the-Wood. Angus has brought a wonderful perspective of how our faith in God touches every aspect of our lives and invites us into closer relationship. Angus's ministry of *Testament of a Naked Man* opened up new possibilities of how we connect with the Bible and with the person of Jesus Christ. Angus also created strong and rich pastoral relationships with the people of the parish, bringing a deep sense of caring and compassion.

Today you are honouring Angus's ministry at St Francis-in-the-Wood. One cannot summarize 16 years of excellent ministry in a few sentences or a few phrases but suffice it to say that Angus will be deeply missed. His strong and capable leadership built bridges that went far beyond the parish. He opened up new potential for the parish and its connection to the surrounding community.

Angus possesses a long and rich list of skills, talents and abilities, all of which will be missed by the entire parish. But mostly, I would assume, that you will miss seeing him at Sunday morning worship. He has consistently been a big part of all of your lives for 16 years and his retirement leaves a big gap. There is much to celebrate on this day, but we also affirm that there is a deep sadness that this day has come.

I am also grateful to Angus for his service within the Diocese as a whole. In particular as a Regional Dean, but also in other aspects of the life of the Diocese, he has shared his gifts,

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talents, support, encouragement and wisdom in ways that will continue to have an impact into the future.

Today, as you celebrate the ministry of Angus, please know of my prayers for you and with you. Please know of my gratitude to you as a parish in the way that you have supported and encouraged Angus and also for the ways that he has supported and encouraged you.

May God continue to bless, hold and keep Angus as he moves into retirement from parish ministry.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' and 'S' followed by a horizontal line.

The Right Reverend John R. Stephens  
Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of New Westminster

JRS: wls