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TOPIC
Diocese of New Westminster

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Episcopal Visit to St. Mary the Virgin, Sapperton for Advent I

A Photo Feature

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Lighting the Advent I Candle. Readers Maya and Katrielle are seen at the lectern as the Candle of Hope is lit by Neil Berto. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray

Throughout my time in this position and through to the end of 2019, and early 2020, I would often try (not always successfully) to visit a parish in the diocese of New Westminster on a major festival Sunday. A parish, that for a variety of reasons had not received recent coverage through diocesan communications vehicles: *Topic*, website, Facebook page, Twitter feed or Diocesan E-News. COVID-19 made this informal comms policy a bit difficult to execute, however, it has been a bit easier since last summer to visit parishes and find out in a closer and personal way (more than livestreams and Zoom meetings) what is going on. The visit to St. Mary's, Sapperton on Advent I has revived the program slightly and if we aren't all shut down by the OMICRON variant, we may soon resume visiting parishes during festival times of the year.

The visit to St. Mary's also coincided with Bishop John Stephens' first episcopal visit (in fact, his first ever visit to the 154-year-old parish and building). Since the arrival of the vicar, the Rev. Arvin Amayag in early 2017, the parish has experienced huge growth and has become the spiritual home of a large contingent of the Filipino Anglican diaspora who make up substantial portions of this and three other parishes in our diocese. There is a large youth group, Anglican Church Women (ACW) group, children's church and St. Mary's is also the headquarters of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew in our diocese.

On November 28, 2021, Advent I, the rain was pounding the Lower Mainland. This was the second in a series of three "atmospheric rivers" that caused flooding and havoc in Southern BC. The inclement weather did not prevent folks from coming to worship and there were approximately 60 people in the sanctuary, masked and maintaining appropriate physical distance. There was lots of music in worship, led by organist Diana Welsh and the St. Mary's Choir.

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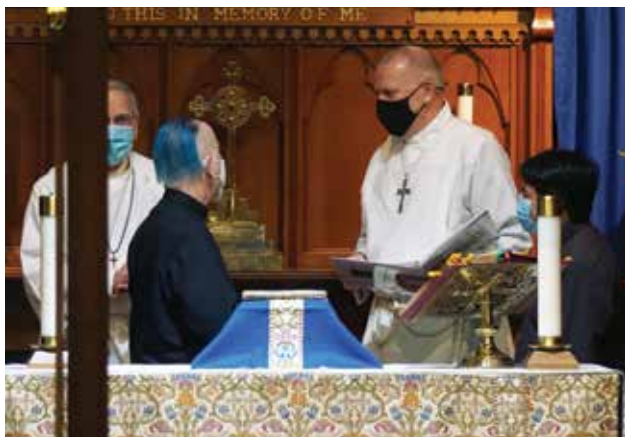
Members of the choir.

"The Peace of the Lord, be always with you."



LEFT The unmasked, archival photo of bishop and priest-in-charge. MIDDLE The sanctuary party: Chaplain, Herman Klassen, ODNW; Deacon, the Rev. Brynn Craffey of St. Thomas, Collingwood; Bishop Stephens; and the Rev. Arvin Amayag, Vicar of St. Mary's rehearse the liturgy. RIGHT Greeters, Ruby Galgala and Jonette Solang in traditional dress in the narthex.

Episcopal Visit to St. Mary the Virgin, Sapperton for Advent I

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

In his sermon, Bishop John focused on the meaning of Advent, "a time of discovery and possibilities" as we anticipate the imminent arrival of Jesus Christ. The bishop began with a personal message to the St. Mary's community:

"This is actually the first time, I've been here… and been in this beautiful church. I've had a quick tour already, and, I must say 'absolutely gorgeous.' I am so grateful to your vicar, Arvin for all of his work as your priest and pastor. I know I don't really need to tell you this, but he works incredibly hard, and is so dedicated to living out his ministry of servanthood with you and amongst you. At the Confirmation service at the Cathedral, just a few weeks ago (October 23), it was a delight to see so many young people from this parish be confirmed (24). It was good to get to know them a little bit prior to the service and then to come to know them as very much an intelligent and faith-filled group. It is great to be with you."

I echo the bishop's thanks to the Rev. Arvin Amayag and the people of St. Mary's. I hope you enjoy these photos. ✠

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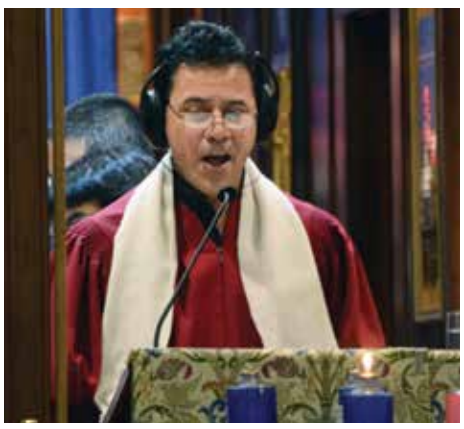
Bishop John Stephen's sermon is available on the diocesan website at https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2021-11-28-advent-a-time-of-discovery-and-possibilities

Reader, Liway Olosan shares the Epistle, *1 Thessalonians 3:9-13*.

Soloist, Emilia leads the Gradual Hymn, *To You, O Lord*.



Cantor, Rick leads the Sequence Hymn, *Prepare! Prepare!*

Deacon, the Rev. Brynn Craffey proclaims the Gospel, *Luke 21:25-36*.

Bishop John preaching.

Prayer over the Gifts.

Growing communities of faith in Jesus Christ to serve God's mission in the world.

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Diocese of New Westminster

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Thank you!

Episcopal Visit to St. Mary the Virgin, Sapperton for Advent I

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

LEFT Vicar and deacon — the ablutions. RIGHT Sanctuary party briefly lowers masks for an archival photo: (back row) Crucifer, Neil Berto; Chaplain, Herman Klassen, ODNW; Deacon, the Rev. Brynn Craffey; (front row) Vicar, the Rev. Arvin Amayag; Bishop John Stephens; and Organist, Diana Welsh.

Response to the November Sumas Prairie Flood

ALLEN DOERKSEN
Vicar, St. Matthew, Abbotsford & St. Thomas, Chilliwack

Sometime familiarity is a shocking thing! I woke up the morning of Wednesday, November 17 to see a screen shot my daughter-in-law had texted me from the other side of the country, it showed the "Welcome to Abbotsford" sign as part of the first headline in the BBC world edition. I wasn't expecting that!

The tragedy that imposed itself on Abbotsford as well as other communities in the southern half of our province seemed to come so suddenly and then develop so rapidly. My spouse, Denise and I live just above the flood evacuation zone, and it felt surreal to walk only a short distance from our house and meet people forlornly looking at their homes and apartment buildings surrounded by water.

Later that same day, the Rev. Paul Richards, Deacon at the Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock contacted me and wondered if it might not be helpful to have some clergy present at the Evacuation Centre (EVAC) at the Tradex building at Abbotsford Airport. I was enthusiastic about this initiative and the Rev. Richards and I introduced ourselves to the Evacuation Centre managers and they welcomed our presence, encouraging us to listen to people's stories. It was both heartbreaking and heartening to do so. Several people I talked to were in shock, one woman barely escaped with her life, rescued from the top floor of her house as the waters swirled beneath her. I heard stories of truckers sloshing through waist high water on Hwy 1 after abandoning their rigs and yet other stories of people feeling guilty because they had to abandon family pets and farm animals.

I was heartened by the response of our province, the professionalism of the organization (we're apparently getting to be "old hands" at climate crisis management) and by the compassion of the staff of organizations present including the Salvation Army.

After conferring with staff, Bishop John Stephens, the Rev. Richards and I were able to initially present a donation of $1,000 of Walmart gift cards which enabling several of those present to purchase fresh underwear, socks and towels; this opportunity was especially helpful to the migrant farm workers present on site. Thanks to Bishop John and the generosity of the people in our diocese.

In the weeks that followed we moved on to the next stage of this crisis: the evacuation centre becoming a "resiliency centre," helping people figure out "what next?" and as the difficult decisions over which buildings can be salvaged through renovation and which cannot are made. This will continue for many weeks and probably months.

The week this happened culminated with the celebration of the final great feast of the Church Year, the Reign of Christ, a feast imagined after the calamity of WWI in answer to the perennial question, "Where is God/Christ when anarchy is unleashed?" This may become a feast of increasing poignancy as the "anarchies" predicted continue to increase over the coming decades. May all of us continue to dare believe that in and through our small actions of kindness, Christ is indeed reigning with the power necessary to change our hearts and so change our world.

Deacon the Rev. Paul Richards presents Erin (one of the Evacuation site managers) with $1,000 worth of Walmart gift cards.

John Stephens in communication with representatives of PWRDF shared that additional diocesan clergy had also been visiting the EVAC Centre at the Tradex building at the Abbotsford Airport. In Hope, BC, the vicar at Christ Church, the Rev. Timothy Morgan, along with many volunteers from the parish and in the community, opened the hall as a place of refuge. Stranded travellers were able to get warm and fed. In Agassiz, All Saints Church, was involved in being a place of refuge to those unable to get home or fleeing the flooding. In Sardis, the rector of St. John the Baptist, the Ven. Allan Carson was stranded in his car for many hours. Eventually he was able to get home and then be part of the outreach to those in need in Sardis and Chilliwack.

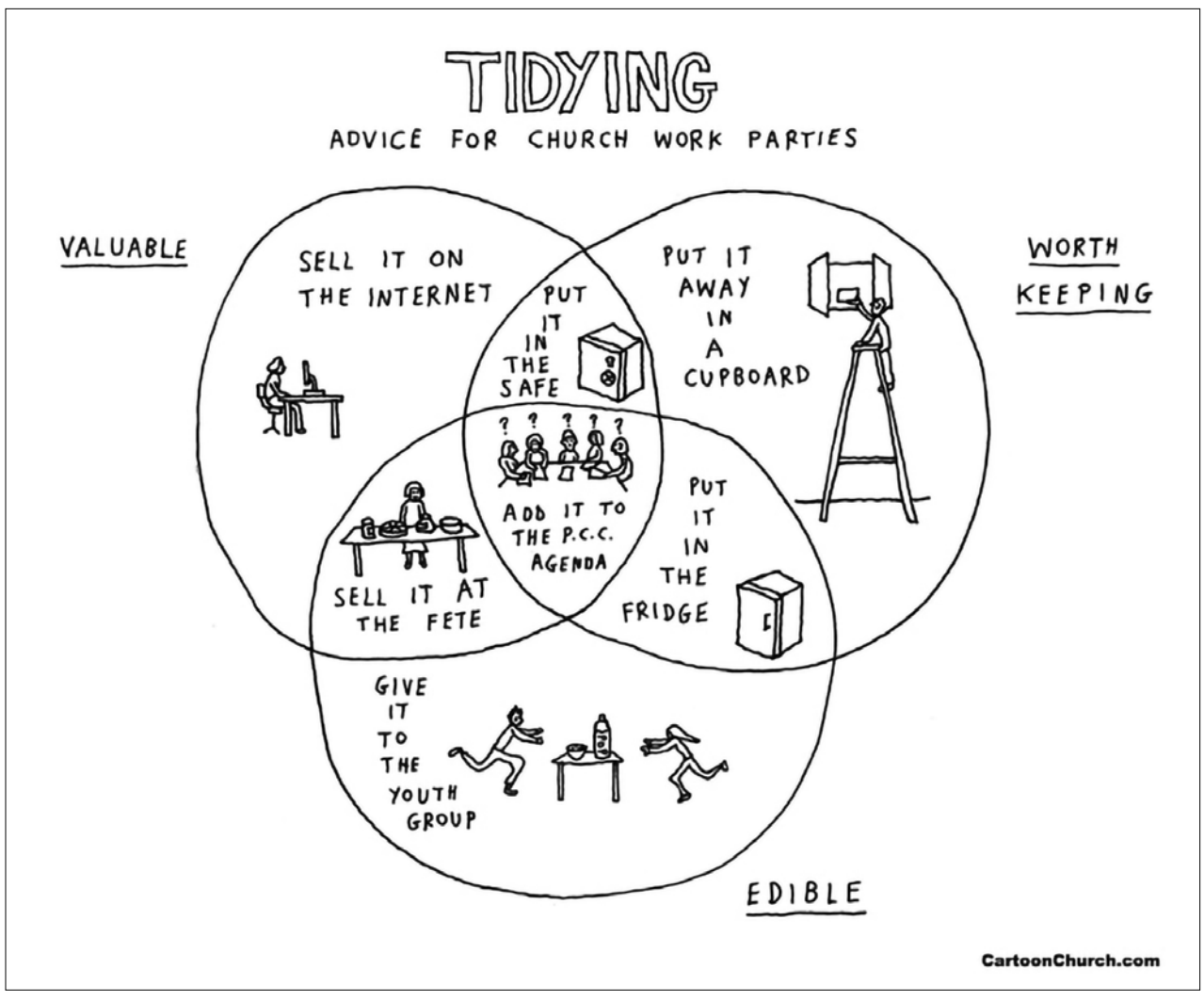
On November 25, the Rev. Art Turnbull, honorary assistant at St. Matthew, Abbotsford and a regular *Topic* contributor offered the following:

"We remain in immediate response mode overall at municipal levels of action and emergency support to those impacted. The community is doing a tremendous job of reaching out and helping, all hands-on deck. Representing churches and the Anglican church specifically, we are seeking to meet individual requests as well as getting in touch with important contacts for future work that we can be called upon to support."

People from all over Canada and beyond contributed to PWRDF's BC flood appeal and by early December an initial amount of $10,000 was forwarded by PWRDF and flowed through the diocesan finance department for immediate aid to victims.

From the Editor

Following the writing and circulation of the preceding report from the Rev. Doerksen there were subsequent reports from the Fraser Valley. On November 24, Bishop



Missioner for Indigenous Justice Report — 2021

KERRY BAISLEY
Missioner for Indigenous Justice, diocese of New Westminster

The past year has been busy, challenging, and a time of developing relationships.

The two greatest challenges of the year were the May reports of unmarked graves by the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc people and the death of the Rev. Vivian Seegers from COVID-19 related complications in June. Both events shocked, disrupted lives, and challenged the faith of many individuals.

At the diocesan level, I worked with Captain the Rev. Robin Major, an Anglican Chaplain in the Canadian Armed Forces, on Resilience Training for the diocesan Clergy Day. In September, Dennis Joseph, an Elder from the Squamish Nation, and I spent the morning with Diocesan Council at their annual day long working retreat day sharing thoughts on Truth and Reconciliation. The project *Raising Hearts to Remember* was developed in response to the reporting of the Missing Children. More will be said about this project early in 2022. In December, I had the opportunity to participate in an online meeting with the Royal City and South Burnaby Deanery to discuss Indigenous Justice issues and processes regarding education leading to the building of community and relationship with Indigenous Peoples.

LEFT Processing flowers to the Memorial Garden in Whonnock on June 21.

A number of visits took place in 2021

- A June 21 Service at Holy Spirit, Whonnock for National Indigenous Day of Prayer.
- A presentation in White Rock to over 70 members of Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock and St. Mark, Ocean Park on the *Doctrine of Discovery*.
- Two *Felting Hearts* sessions at St. John the Divine (SJD), Maple Ridge and one at St. Dunstan, Aldergrove.
- A visit to St. Mary, Kerrisdale to review the Seasons of Creation Companion Workbook.
- Visiting All Saints, Agassiz and discussing the community building being done with the Stó:lō people with plans for a *Felting Hearts* session have been re-scheduled to early 2022 at the Agassiz parish.
- Giving the *Address* at St. Clement, North Vancouver on the Feast of St. Luke.
- Providing the after meal talk for a Senior's Moment lunch at St. Agnes, North Vancouver.

Educational events and opportunities were organized by many parishes. Often online they included Great Speaker series at St. Laurence, Coquitlam, an online Retreat for Reconciliation with St. Dunstan, Aldergrove, and Food for the Hungry Canada provided a series of masterclasses on Indigenous issues with the Rev. Dr. Ray Aldred of the Vancouver School of Theology (VST). I was involved in providing educational opportunities for Adam Dawkins, a seminarian from Sewanee University of the South in Tennessee. The year also saw the development of a Season of Creation Companion book and in mid-November, I was able to attend an in-person session of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund's (PWRDF) *Mapping the Ground We Stand On* at Christ Church Cathedral. I had the chance to meet Nancy and John Denham of St. Hilda's, Sechelt, PWRDF BC/Yukon regional *Mapping* facilitators.

All forms of Indigenous Justice work involve relationship building. The past year has been one of developing relationships with members of the Squamish Nation and being introduced to Shain Jackson and invited to his Spirit Works facility in North Vancouver. Relationship building is already beginning, although it's in early stages with the

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LEFT Kerry walking and drumming on September 30.

Making *Felted Hearts* at St. John the Divine.

Felted Hearts at St. John the Divine.

Christ Church Hope Celebrates 160th Anniversary as a Parish Church

TIM MORGAN,
Vicar, Christ Church, Hope

Bishop John administering the Sacrament. ALL PHOTOS Submitted

Cutting of the Cake — Rev. Carole Neilson, Bishop John, and Rev. Tim Morgan.

Bishop John received a gift of "Hope-made fudge."

On Sunday, November 7, the congregation, family members, and friends of Christ Church, Hope gathered to mark the 160th Anniversary of the parish. Bishop John Stephens presided at the service of Holy Eucharist as Celebrant and Preacher. Deacon, the Rev. Carole Neilson, from Holy Trinity Cathedral in New Westminster joined Bishop John and the Rev. Tim Morgan, vicar, in leading the congregation in worship. Lori Ann Steberl, a former organist of the parish returned to play the keyboard on this special occasion, while Keisha Kirksey led the processions as Crucifer, and Beverly Kreller, ODNW served as Bishop's Chaplain. Following the service, Bishop John blessed five items — the name plaque in the Scattering Garden, three outdoor benches given in memory of former members of the parish, and the new lighting system in the parish hall, also a memorial. A luncheon, prepared by the parish Anglican Church Women (ACW) was served, and all who attended enjoyed the refreshments and the fellowship. It was a marvellous day!

A Brief History of the Parish

The construction of Christ Church began in July 1861 and was consecrated on November 8, 1861, by Bishop George Hills, the Colony's first bishop. It still sits on its initial site, so is the oldest church in the province on its original foundation. The church was commissioned by the Rev. Alexander David Pringle, a missionary from Scotland for the Anglican Communion, and he became the first rector of the parish. The church was built by the Royal Engineers, Columbia Detachment, as they were laying out the town of Hope at that time. To this day, the exterior of the church looks much the same as it did when it was first built. Inside the church, the pews, the pulpit, and the Baptismal Font are original. The cross at the High Altar is in memory of Rev. Charles Croucher, who was rector from 1891 – 1917, and the first bible — dated 1857 — remains in the showcase at the back of the church.

Christ Church became a Canadian National Historical Site in 1995. The Gothic Revival style of architecture was a significant factor in the Canadian Board and Monuments' decision to honour the site. ✠

Missioner for Indigenous Justice Report — 2021

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Native Education Centre (NEC) and more will be said about this in 2022.

September 30 was Orange Shirt Day, and the first Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada. It was spent walking with Residential School Survivors and community members from the Friendship Centre to Grandview Park. Later that afternoon, at the request of Tk'emlups te Secwepemc people, an *Honour Song* for the Missing Children was sung at the Port Moody Hatchery and many other places across Canada. A developing partnership has formed with Algonquin craftsman Sabian Rawcliffe by funding sessions where 30 Residential School Survivors and Youth each created their own drum through Britannia Community Centre.

Conversations have been happening and plans are developing for activities in many parishes including: St. John the Apostle, Port Moody; St. Anselm, Point Grey; St. Philip, Dunbar; St. Faith, Oakridge; Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster; St. Cuthbert, Delta; and St. Alban the Martyr, Burnaby.

Urban Aboriginal Ministry (UAM) has been finding its way after the tragic and untimely death of its priest and founder, the Rev. Vivian Seegers. Meetings have taken place and conversations have focused on what can be done to support Vivian's work and ministry. Two activities, the Drum Circle and the Food Ministry have been identified as works to be supported. The Friday Drum Circle takes place at St. Mary Magdalene followed by a meal prepared by Steven Seegerts, Vivian's son. Plans are in the works with Christ Church Cathedral for a summer event working with the Maundy Ministries. Discernment for the future is taking place while plans are being made for the Christmas Feast that has been a highlight for so many through the years. Vivian is missed and her work continues through her family and the community that has developed. ✠

Learning the *Honour Song* at Port Moody on September 30.

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
January 21 for the March issue

Please email Randy Murray at rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca
All contributions are appreciated
• EDITOR •

Six Years of Salal + Cedar

LAUREL DYKSTRA
Priest, Salal + Cedar Watershed Discipleship

By the time you read this, Salal + Cedar Watershed Discipleship Community will be well into our 7th year of ministry. In some ways, 2021 has been our most difficult year yet: members of our extended community have died, households were impacted by fire, floods, landslides, and COVID, we witnessed the publicity around the burial sites at residential schools and supported impacted families, clearcutting and pipelines continued despite our resistance, and land defenders in our circles received lengthy jail sentences.

Despite these losses this has also been a year of profound beauty and joy where we experienced what it truly means to be church. Community member Brynn was ordained a transitional deacon; outdoor Eucharist with Salal + Cedar had helped to spark their return to Christianity after a lifetime of estrangement. We were invited to show up for a survivor of St. George's residential school as she led her community in shutting down the trans-Canada highway to remember the children who died at residential schools. We read Black science fiction author Octavia Butler and studied the biblical tradition of Wilderness Prophets. We watched in awe as a hummingbird mother stopped pipeline construction for the summer. Community members took risks and made sacrifices to protect life in our watershed, and time and again when crises arose, we were able to quickly raise funds and provide practical and spiritual support to our community.

Some of you might know Salal + Cedar as the people who brought forward the Climate Emergency motion at Synod, the church that prays outside, those activists, or maybe you haven't heard about us at all. Whatever you know, it's probably not the whole story so we'd like to share the answers to our most frequently asked questions.

SALAL + CEDAR FAQs

Where do you meet?
We worship at different outdoor locations in the Lower Mainland, usually parks or trails, sometimes contested places like the provincial courthouse or a pipeline construction site. If there is a place where you would like us to meet, invite us there. During the pandemic we have added gatherings by Zoom.

Why do you meet outside?
Not everyone finds God in a building, but many people feel a spiritual connection in the forest, by the water, or under the stars. We help people deepen their spiritual lives and grow their love of creation.

What if it rains?
Then we get wet. We have only had to cancel worship once when a windstorm blew a tree down in front of one of our cars. We are often surprised by how often the skies clear on a rainy day.

What is Salal?
A tough persistent evergreen bush with large tough leaves and a string of purple berries that grows in the understory *(the underlying layer of vegetation in a forest or wooded area)* of the forest near the coast.

Do I have to be an Anglican to participate?
Nope, Salal + Cedar has a half-time Anglican priest and a volunteer deacon and is associated with the diocese of New Westminster. While some of our members are Anglicans, we also have a fair number of Baptists, rogue Catholics, and others.

Well, do I have to be a Christian?
Nope, we are a Christian church, our worship includes readings from the bible, paying attention to the Holy in nature and we share Communion, the sacramental meal of bread and wine, but if you are comfortable with that, we are glad to have you. If that all seems a bit much, then our contemplative walks might suit you better.

When do you meet?
Our current schedule is a little irregular: We meet at 4pm on the 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Saturday by Zoom or in person.

On the 2nd Saturday we join the Quaker-inspired meeting at the Kwekwecnewtxw Watch House on Burnaby Mountain at 10:30am.

We celebrate quarter days and cross quarters, usually in person with an extended celebration including food.

What are quarter days and cross quarters?
Salal + Cedar celebrates the solstices, equinoxes, and the four days at the mid-points in between (Candlemas, May Day, Lammas, and All Souls) these holy days of the Celtic calendar mark key times in the northern European agricultural year, correspond to the church calendar and help us attend to the rhythm of the changing seasons.

Do you have education programs?
Heck, yes! We love to learn together through bible studies, book groups, retreats, and skill-shares. We can also bring these programs to other churches or organizations.

Do I have to be an activist?
Nope. Salal + Cedar members have a shared vocation for ecological justice, and we want to support folks who care about climate justice to take the next steps that are right for them. For some of us this means we attend rallies and direct actions or participate in lobbying or court support together, you are always welcome to join us, but you don't have to.

What does Watershed Discipleship mean?
Watersheds are natural water drainage basins which divide up bioregions. Metaphorically we refer to this time as a "watershed moment" in terms of climate crisis. Watershed Discipleship means asking, "What does it mean to be a follower of the Jesus Way here at this time, with the land,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Janette McIntosh and Rev. Brynn Craffey halt the cutting of trees along the Transmountain Pipeline route in Burnaby (September). ALL PHOTOS Laurel Dykstra

Contemplative Walk on Boundary Bay (January).

Spring Equinox Altar.

Six Years of Salal + Cedar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

water, creatures, and people of this particular place?"

What do you mean by Mutual Aid and Solidarity?

Economic justice is important to us. On a small relational level, we redistribute a portion of the money (12%–17%) we raise each year to folks who need support (funeral expenses or childcare fees) and organizations that do some of the work that we wish we could (housing Indigenous land defenders, running a free food pantry).

What do you mean by decolonizing?

Anglican churches exist here on Coast Salish territory because of British colonialism. Most of our members' families came here from elsewhere in the world to settle. We talk about these facts and contemplate what it means for our community to be in right relation to the land and the people who were here first. We start our services by acknowledging that we meet on unceded territories and ask each other how we will live differently because of this. We try to follow Indigenous leadership in protecting land, water and show up when Indigenous people ask us to. We pay attention to how climate justice and racial justice are connected.

What's all this about pronouns and access needs?

When we meet, we invite participants to share their name, pronouns, and any access needs that will help them to participate fully (seating, scent-free, large print). We do this each time we gather, even if we all know each other because all of these are things that can and do change.

How do you do so much amazing stuff?

We love and believe in what we do, community members volunteer a lot of time, and we train and empower lay people for leadership roles, but this work is not free, and we appreciate financial support from folks who value this model of church.

How can I join you?

Get our weekly update with prayer concerns, education opportunities and worship schedule.

Please email salalandcedar@vancouver.anglican.ca for the times and locations of upcoming events or check our website at www.salalandcedar.com ✠

The hummingbird that stopped a pipeline (March).

Report from the Council of General Synod

MARNIE PETERSON

Rector, St. Anne's, Steveston; Council of General Synod member from the diocese of New Westminster

I am writing this report having just returned from our first hybrid Zoom and in-person meeting of the Council of General Synod (CoGS) the first weekend in November 2021.

It was both strange and wonderful to be able to gather again. The last time we had any sort of in-person meeting together was at the Queen of the Apostles retreat centre in Mississauga, Ontario in March of 2019, just as the world changed completely.

Since that meeting, we have held several Zoom meetings in an attempt to do as much work as possible together in shorter but more frequent meetings as we learned how challenging it can be to sit in a meeting on Zoom for long periods of time.

This was our penultimate meeting of the triennium as we look towards General Synod which will be hosted by the diocese of Calgary this coming July. There were three big pieces of work that happened at this meeting that I want to tell you about, but if you would like a fuller report you can go to the links found at the end of this report to read the highlights posted on the national church website from Friday's and Saturday's sessions.

The first piece of business of note was the presentation from the strategic planning working group. This group has been working hard and in consultation with several groups and conversation partners from all over the national church to put together a document that will hopefully guide us all in our work and ministry. Given the ever-shifting landscape of our world and our church, it was noted that this will continue to be a work in progress, but it offers some aspirational statements to guide us as the Anglican Church of Canada. These statements are as follows:

The Anglican church of Canada will be a church that:

1. Invites and deepens life in Christ.
2. Is intentionally dismantling colonialism and passionately inclusive.
3. Embraces mutual interdependence with the Indigenous Church (Sacred Circle).
4. Stewards God's creation and attends to the well-being of humankind.
5. Lives in relationship with each other in local, diocesan, national and global communities.

The strategic planning group have been working hard to share their work with dioceses and provincial synods to hear responses.

The second piece of business that I want to tell you about is the approval of three liturgies and a sampler of a new addition to the hymn book, *Common Praise* all now available for trial and feedback, with the approval of diocesan bishops. These works include: *Deconsecration of a Sacred Building*; *Welcoming Those Preparing for Baptism/Rite for the Catechumenate*; and *Pastoral Liturgies for Journeys of Gender Transition and Affirmation*.

And finally, on Saturday we spent some time hearing from Archbishop Mark McDonald (who joined us from Glasgow where he was attending the COP26 conference) and the Rev. Canon Murray Still on the Anglican Council of Indigenous People. It was great to hear about the important work happening, and as a part of their presentation they shared a powerful video called *Reclaiming Our Spiritual Wholeness: Our Journey to Self-Determination*, documenting the long journey Indigenous Anglicans have taken to get to this point.

I strongly encourage you to take some time to watch, the link can be found at the end of this report.

I will close with the statement that was released to the diocese's regarding an important motion that was passed in response to our commitment to the *Call to Action #6* of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

"At the CoGS meeting we passed a motion brought forward by Anglican Council of Indigenous People's (ACIP) to affirm our commitment to the repeal of Act 43 of the Criminal Code in line with our commitment to the Call to Action *#6 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (and all of the* Calls to Action*). The Rev. Murray Still, co-chair of ACIP, shared a statement from faith leaders which is attached. Also attached is a fact sheet shared with the House of Bishops. These may be helpful background documents in sharing with others about the decision made this weekend.*

We continue in our ongoing work to fulfill the Calls to Action*."*

It was a very full three days and I continue to be grateful to be a part of it. One question that continues to arise is what relevance the national church has for us in our diocese and congregations and my hope is that by sharing the work of CoGS, some of those questions are answered.

Please reach out if you have any questions. And I ask you to hold in prayer the planning committee for the next General Synod. ✠

Call to Action #6

We call upon
the Government of Canada
to repeal Section 43
of the Criminal Code of Canada

Section 43

Every schoolteacher, parent or person
standing in the place of a parent
is justified in using force
by way of correction
toward a pupil or child,
as the case may be,
who is under his care,
if the force does not exceed
what is reasonable
under the circumstances.

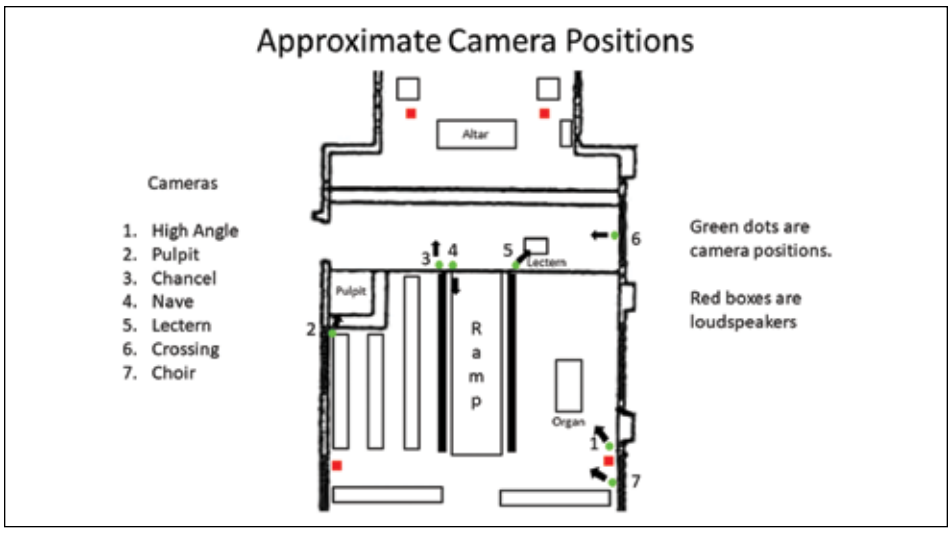
Highlights from the Council of General Synod on Friday, November 5, 2021, can be read online at https://www.anglican.ca/news/highlights-from-the-council-of-general-synod-november-5-2021/30035870/

Highlights from the Council of General Synod on Saturday, November 6, 2021, can be read online at https://www.anglican.ca/news/highlights-from-the-council-of-general-synod-november-6-2021/30035931/

Learn more about the strategic planning group's work at https://www.anglican.ca/changingchurch/

Learn more about the Faith, Worship and Ministry working group at https://www.anglican.ca/faith/

To watch Reclaiming Our Spiritual Wholeness: Our Journey to Self-Determination, *please go online to https://vimeo.com/574923273*



Camera position diagram. ALL PHOTOS Submitted

Service.

Streaming at St. Alban's, Burnaby

GORDON ARTHUR
St. Alban's, Burnaby

When the pandemic forced the closure of in-person worship, St. Alban's (and in particular the Rev. Greg Jenkins) decided to prerecord services and stream them on YouTube and link the YouTube feed from the parish website. When reopening came onto the agenda, Parish Council decided to investigate options for livestreaming services instead. This was initially to take the load off Greg, but we soon began to realize that this could be an ongoing project that might allow us to reach out to a larger number of people who may not normally come to church. Since I had worked in postproduction in the TV industry for more than 20 years before moving to Canada, I was asked to spearhead this project.

We looked at several options, including the recommendations by diocesan communications (Synod Office), and concluded that the layout of St. Alban's gave us the option of something more powerful and more flexible. We arrived at a seven-camera solution. To keep the costs down and to minimize the visual impact, we bought seven Logitech C-920 Pro webcams, most of which we mounted on monopods fixed to pew ends. One webcam is mounted higher than the others to give a wide-angle shot; it is attached to a wall with a flashgun bracket for a still camera. The cameras feed into an Acer TC-885 desktop PC with a six-core Intel i5 processor and 12GB of onboard memory. The cameras are carefully positioned so that none of them covers the control point, which also allows for people who do not wish to be on camera remain unseen by sitting directly behind the operator. If this happens, the priest takes Communion to them rather than asking them to come forward.

Since the cameras are widely spread out, power is an issue. There is a limit to how far you can run USB cables, so we needed to add three powered USB hubs to drive the cameras. However, USB 3 uses a lot of resources, so we had to use USB 2 hubs so that the computer could address them. This had the disadvantage of reducing the maximum resolution of the cameras from 1080 lines to 720, but it is still more than YouTube's default of 576 lines. We used active USB extensions (with repeaters) to connect the hubs to the computer to prevent signal loss. We also discovered that it is unwise to use more than one active extension per circuit, as the repeaters tend to interfere with each other.

The software we are using is vMix version 24. It is powerful and flexible, and while the control panel may look rather intimidating, in practice, it is easy to use once you become accustomed to it. On our set-up, it takes about ⅓rd of the computer's resources at peak load. We already had a feed from the audio system to the location of the streaming control point, so we took sound directly rather than using the built-in microphones in the webcams. However, we did need to set up an additional microphone in the sanctuary to pick up ambient sound so remote viewers can hear the congregation. Most of the sound from this microphone goes to the livestream, with only a little going to the speakers. Thus, the operator can do a seven-camera mix without having to worry about the sound, which is controlled from a separate location.

One disadvantage of using webcams is that they do not have built-in zoom capability. The vMix software supports remote zoom for cameras that offer it, but it does not work with our webcams. However, the large number of sources makes up for this, as it is easy to insert cutaways and therefore unnecessary to hold on the same camera for long periods.

This is a bespoke system that was designed specifically for our building. The equipment cost would likely be about $2,500–$3,000, with the software cost being $350 (US) for a permanent license including upgrades for one year, with upgrades thereafter costing $60 (US) per year. The set-up would need adaptation for other layouts, and it helps to have someone with technical experience to set it up. However, it does show what is possible for livestreaming given some creativity and determination.

The livestreams from St. Alban's can be accessed via https://saintalbansburnaby.ca/sunday-worship/ (the YouTube link changes for each stream).

Streaming Chancel and Nave.

Streaming Pulpit, Chancel, Nave and Lectern.

Streaming High Angle and Choir.

Streaming wide.

vMix Start.

Holy Spirit Celebrates 100 years of Ministry from the Current Church Building

JEAN DAVIDSON
Holy Spirit, Whonnock

The Centennial Celebrations at Holy Spirit, Whonnock culminated on the weekend of November 13 – 14, 2021.

A jazz trio playing an original composition and an accompanying narrative of the story of *The Prodigal Son* enthralled guests on the Saturday afternoon, November 13. This was part of *A Celebrating Family* weekend marking the 100th anniversary of the opening of the church building. *The Prodigal Son*, a story of reunion, was a fitting welcome for past members, neighbours, and dignitaries as well as those afar who had sent greetings. There was celebration of the 100 projects the parish has been working on which include: t-shirts for foreign farm workers, blood donations and distributions of bibles.

Marc Dalton, MP; Bob D'Eith, MLA; Maple Ridge Councillor, Chelsa Meadus; and Ross Dunning of the Maple Ridge Historical Society were present and brought greetings. With an abundance of COVID-caution, in lieu of the usual tea and cake, guests departed with goodie bags containing Holy Spirit "swag," and an Oregon grape seedling as part of the parish's 100-tree planting project.

What we had not planned was the recurrence of Noah's Ark the next day. Floods of water coming downhill greeted those who remained onsite to visit after the Sunday lunch. The meal was catered, so for once in 100 years, members of the parish did not have work in the kitchen and miss the party.

Vicar of the Parish of Holy Spirit, the Rev. Miranda Sutherland welcomed everyone to the Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration. Her sermon drew on the imagery of the "crossing over of the Israelites" as the parish crosses over from one century into the next. The Rev. David Price served as officiant and he was accompanied by his spouse, Erica. The Rev. Price was invited to read messages of congratulations from: Bishop John Stephens; Regional Archdeacon, the Ven. Allan Carson; and Regional Dean, the Rev. Kelly Duncan. Among the guests at worship were representatives from St. Oswald's, Port Kells, where Miranda is also vicar, and Maple Ridge Councillor, Ahmed Yusef and his family. In bringing greetings, Councillor Ahmed expressed with thanksgiving, the connection that the liturgy and the sermon made with water, the journey of the Israelites and our faith.

Other greetings were read, stories shared, cake-cutting, and a certificate was presented to Pamela Watson. It celebrated the Watsons as a "Founding Family" of the parish. Pamela's grandfather helped build the church, her grandparents wedding was the first to take place in the building, her father was the first baby baptized, and her parents were married in the church. Pamela later shared the information that her father removed, repaired and replaced the historic bell in time for her sister's wedding in 1973.

The children of the parish led the singing of the final hymn *Draw the Circle Wide*, twirling colourful ribbons as the theme of welcome continued through to the Closing Hymn. The youngsters helped cut the cake to launch the next century of worship and service for one of the few remaining "country" churches in the diocese of New Westminster.

It was quite a week for the Holy Spirit community as two days before, neighbours were welcomed to what has now become an annual tradition — *Ringing the Bell for Peace* at sunset on Remembrance Day.

- The Imam from the nearby Mosque. whose grandfather served in the British Army in Burma in WWII, rang the bell for all who served.
- A 17-year-old woman in the parish (who would be old enough to enlist and serve in combat after her next birthday) rang the bell for women in combat.
- A neighbour told of her childhood in an internment camp in China and rang the bell for all children who are victims of war.

Everyone present took a turn ringing, and loudly replying to "Let there be Peace on Earth," with "Let it begin with me."

In the words of the vicar, Miranda:

"The future of our parish is in the hands of the Lord as the faithful saints, through the mercies of God, continue their mission and ministry in the community of Whonnock." ⌖

LEFT Children of the parish and the vicar twirl colourful ribbons during the Closing Hymn of the November 14, Eucharist, *Draw the Circle Wide*. PHOTO Femka Heaven
RIGHT The Imam rings the church bell on November 11. PHOTO Jean Davidson

Folks enjoy the concert on Saturday, November 13. PHOTO Ken Mulligan

The Cake. PHOTO Submitted

Vicar, the Rev. Sutherland (second from right) between MP, Marc Dalton (right) and MLA, Bob D'Eith (left). PHOTO Submitted

The Rev. Sutherland strikes a pose at the party. PHOTO Submitted

IN MEMORIAM

Donald William Stebbing, ODNW
March 6, 1929 – October 2, 2021

Don Stebbing's early years in the Anglican Church were spent at St. George's Anglican Parish, North Kamloops, where his attendance record was 100%.

It was in the same town that he met Betty, his wife of 71 years, whom he married at the United Church (Betty's church) in April 1950.

Don worked for CN Rail, first in Kamloops, but later moved to Vancouver. He and Betty and their family (four children) were a central part of St. Thomas' Collingwood from 1957 until 1992.

Don took on many responsibilities there, chef to the Men's Group, treasurer, and part of the Administration and Finance Group. He was also rector's warden, people's warden, a member of the Canonical Committee, and the Maintenance Committee.

PHOTO Submitted

Don also served as President of the Vancouver Transportation Club which held its monthly meeting and dinner at the Stanley Park Pavilion.

Betty became seriously ill in 1967, and was given just two years to live. Don was her rock — "As Christ to her," said Betty — during the illness and treatment of her life-threatening illness.

In moving to Surrey, Don and Betty began to attend the Church of the Epiphany. Don was very active as treasurer, and as a member of the Bible Study group, as well as the Pastoral Care group. He was also a lector, and led intercessions for worship services, and did many handyman/maintenance jobs through the years. Don was presented with the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster on November 6, 2011, for his many years of service.

Here is the Citation:
Don has been an active member of two parishes in his long service to the Anglican Church. At St. Thomas, Vancouver and then Church of the Epiphany he has held a variety of leadership positions. Don has also been active in diocesan ministry in a variety of ways, in particular working with St. Jude's Home and the Hospice Program Unit.

He continued as a member of the Church of the Epiphany until his death on October 2, 2021, at the age of 92.

Don always said that he had been very blessed in life, and always thanked God for so many blessings.

An online Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, November 6, 2021. ✠

Graeme Edward Brownlee, Priest
December 22, 1943 – November 8, 2021

The Rev. Graeme Brownlee died on Monday, November 8, 2021, in Royal Columbian Hospital after a short illness. We give thanks for his ministry in our diocese and in the Anglican Church of Canada.

Prior to attending seminary, Graeme served as a server, sides person, Sunday school teacher and superintendent, licensed lay reader, and People's Warden. He also served on deanery committees in the diocese of Toronto.

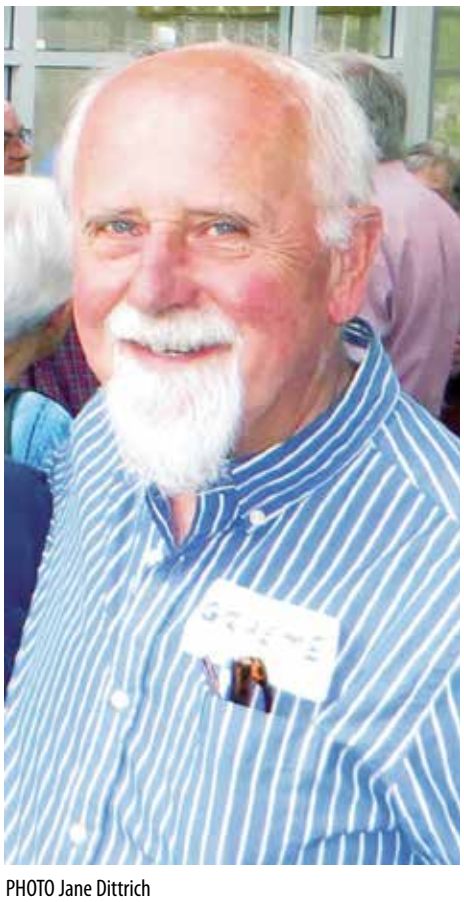


PHOTO Jane Dittrich

Graeme graduated from the University of Emmanuel College, Saskatoon, with a Bachelor of Theology in 1983.

He was ordained to the diaconate and the priesthood in 1983. He served as Rector of Spiritwood in the diocese of Saskatchewan from 1983 to 1987, and as Incumbent of the Big Country Parish in the diocese of Qu'Appelle from 1987 to 1999. He was Regional Dean of Kinrose Deanery from 1989 to 1999. Graeme was a chaplain to a number of church camps and a Chaplain in the Order of St. Luke. He helped found the Crisis Centre in Spiritwood, Saskatchewan, served on the board of the Crisis Centre in Kindersley, Saskatchewan, and spent five years as member of the board of Canadian Association of Pastoral Education-Saskatchewan.

In 2001, Graeme transferred from the diocese of Qu'Appelle to the diocese of New Westminster and was appointed Incumbent of St. Augustine, Marpole, where he served until he retired in 2008.

Also in 2001, Graeme married Mavis Scott at St. Bartholomew, Gibsons. After Mavis was ordained, they eventually moved to the diocese of Ottawa in 2009, where Mavis served in parish ministry in West Quebec and as an Archdeacon. Graeme and Mavis returned to Vancouver in 2019, although they maintained their connection to their vineyard in Quebec.

A service took place on Saturday, November 27, at St. John's, Shaughnessy. ✠

Robert Yu-Kwong Yeung, Priest
July 12, 1924 – October 28, 2021

The Rev. Robert Yeung died at Laurel Place Hospice in Surrey on October 28, 2021.

Robert is survived by Marie, his wife of 68 years, daughters Jillian (Roland) and Joan (Paschal), son William (Jenny), sister Diana, brothers Lincoln and Philip, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Robert was born in Hong Kong. His father, Dr. Yeung Shiu Chuen promised Robert to a future doing God's work after Robert survived a life-threatening illness at the age of three.

Robert met Marie shortly after the Battle of Hong Kong in December 1941. They married in 1953, and built a successful optical business in Hong Kong, leaving it behind to immigrate to Canada in 1966 with their young family.

After beginning his theological studies at Union Theological College in Hong Kong, Robert enrolled at the Anglican Theological College at UBC graduating with a Licentiate in Theology (LTh). He was ordained to the priesthood by then Co-Adjutor Bishop David Somerville in 1970.

He served at: St. Faith, Vancouver; St. Michael, Surrey; and Mission to Seafarers, Vancouver. In 1983, he returned to Hong Kong and served as Vicar of St. Paul's Anglican Church, the parish he attended as a child, where he and Marie were married, and where their children were baptized. Completing his term there, he returned to Canada, serving at St. John, Toronto and Church of the Good Shepard, Vancouver. Robert was canonically resident in the diocese of Hong Kong and Macao at the time of his death.

PHOTO Dignity Memorial

Robert's Memorial Service was held on November 11. ✠

If you would like to read more about the Rev. Robert Yeung, please go to the Dignity Memorial website at https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/burnaby-bc/robert-yeung-10431633

Richard Dennis Morgan, Priest
January 23, 1941 – November 15, 2021

The Rev. Dennis Morgan died at St. John Hospice, Vancouver on Monday, November 15, 2021.

Dennis married Kathleen Anne (Kathy) on September 22, 1972, who survives him. He is also survived by his children Jenny, Paul, Angela, and Katiejane and his grandchildren.

Dennis graduated from the University of British Columbia with a BA in philosophy and sociology, and then from the Anglican Theological College in 1966, with a Bachelor of Sacred Theology (STB).

He was ordained to the diaconate in 1966, and to the priesthood in 1968 by Archbishop Godfrey Gower. He was Curate and Assistant Priest at St. John, Shaughnessy, Incumbent at St. Bartholomew, Gibsons (with St. Aidan, Roberts Creek), and Rector of Bishop Hill's Memorial Church of St. Mary the Virgin, South Hill. Dennis served at St. Mary, South Hill for 35 years, and he regarded it as "one of the friendliest parishes in the diocese." He was known for his funeral ministry which made a significant contribution to St. Mary, South Hill's financial stability.

In addition to parish ministry, Dennis assisted at the Haney Correctional Centre, on hospital chaplaincy committees, as a Camp Artaban volunteer, as a padre at the Royal Canadian Legion and with the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans.

PHOTO Diocesan Communications Photo Archives

A memorial service took place on Saturday, December 11 at St. Mary, South Hill with family and parishioners. A Celebration of Life is being planned for Sunday, January 23, 2022, which would have been Dennis' 81st birthday. Announcement of time and venue will be circulated through subsequent diocesan communications.

Please remember our brother in your prayers and at the altar. ✠

IN MEMORIAM

Helen May Riel, ODNW

September 9, 1924 – October 15, 2021

Helen May Riel (nee Johnston) was born September 9, 1924, in Melfort, Saskatchewan and grew up near Hudson's Bay Junction. After high school graduation in 1943, she joined the Women's Division of the Royal Canadian Air Force and served till the end of the war. Following the war, Helen moved west to British Columbia where she eventually met and married William (Bill) Hilaire Riel. They moved to Surrey, BC where they had three children: Lori, Bill and Martin.

Helen was a dedicated mother and committed member of St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church. In November 2016, Helen was invested into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster.

Here is the Citation

Helen has faithfully "let her light shine" for over 60 years through her service as a teacher and superintendent of the Sunday School, in the choir, on the Pastoral Care Team and with the Mothers' Union at St. Cuthbert, among others. One can perceive the light that is within as well as the love and genuine concern she shares with everyone, born out of deep, yet practical faith in Christ. Helen is well-known and well-loved by her parish.

She passed away peacefully and is survived by her loving husband Bill, her children Lori, Bill and Martin, daughters-in-law Kathreen and Rhianfa and grandchildren Hayden and Hillary.

Prepared with files from Dignity Memorial

Nearly $650,000 Granted to 110 Recipients Through Fall Grant Awards Cycle

ANGLICAN FOUNDATION OF CANADA

The week of November 21, 2021, more than 100 grant and bursary applicants received the welcom news that they will receive funding from the Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC).

"I am delighted to say that the Board of Directors of AFC has approved close to $650,000 in grants and bursaries to 110 applicants as part of its fall 2021 grant cycle," says Dr. Scott Brubacher, Executive Director. "This brings the 2021 grant awards total to more than $835,000, one of the most generous years in AFC's 64-year history." Brubacher says an additional $125,000 or more in disbursements from some of AFC's trusts may yet see the 2021 grants total hit the $1 million milestone.

Pushing the grant program to new heights was an astonishing $468,000 in funding for the *Say Yes! to Kids* Request for Proposals (RFP): the largest one-time investment in youth-focused ministry the Canadian church has seen.

"AFC supporters embraced *Say Yes! to Kids* with a spirit of generosity last spring," says Brubacher, "and applicants responded to that generosity with a spirit of innovation and creativity this fall. "For that initiative alone," says Brubacher, "a total of 84 applicants applied for nearly $520,000. It was the largest, and most diverse funding request—in terms of regional spread and social impacts—we have ever seen."

AFC's spring peer-to-peer fundraising campaign, combined with two very generous leadership gifts—and an 11th hour rally from AFC supporters for a stretch campaign to close the funding gap—enabled the Board to approve 90% of the RFP funding request. Brubacher credits AFC's generous family of donors as well as the exceptional volunteers who manage AFC's investments, growing our capacity to fund for impact.

"We are closing in on two years since the onset of the pandemic," says Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada and Chair, AFC, "and we know our churches continue to face challenges. But the entire Board feels so energized by our capacity to fund these innovative, missional projects and to support Canadian Anglicans in their vision for an engaged, compassionate church. There are creative, visionary projects from across the country here and we are praying for all of them."

"I am immensely grateful for this grant in support of our regional high school lunch program," says Kevin Alkenbrack, Executive Director, Morningstar Relief Mission, in the diocese of Ontario. Morningstar was one of nine RFP grant projects geared towards alleviating hunger and poverty. "Throughout the pandemic we have seen first-hand the food insecurity, loneliness, and mental health strain on individuals and families," says Alkenbrack. "Schools are open, but cafeterias are closed, and this lunch program will help us bridge a significant gap and benefit those students who find themselves without the means or support to feel fed, nourished and valued."

Grants awarded in the fall 2021 cycle range between $1,000 to $15,000 and fall within AFC's key impact zones: Community Ministries, Diverse Infrastructure, Indigenous Ministries, Leadership and Education, and Music and Sacred Arts.

A November 24 Zoom meeting facilitated by AFC Development Consultant, Michelle Hauser, and AFC Executive Director, Dr. Scott Brubacher welcomed participants from the diocese of New Westminster which included diocesan Anglican Foundation liaison, Rob Dickson, AMA and Bishop John Stephens. Michelle and Scott reiterated much of the general information included in the press release above but also listed the recipients of AFC grants and bursaries in the diocese of New Westminster. Seven *Say Yes! to Kids* grants were approved in our diocese most of those involved music, learning and communications technology.

- St. Timothy's, Burnaby • $10,000
- Holy Spirit, Whonnock • $3,000
- St. Alban's, Burnaby received two grants | one for $10,000 and one for $5,000
- St. Barnabas, New Westminster • $5,000
- St. Clement, Lynn Valley • $5,000
- Mission and Ministry department of the diocese of New Westminster received $5,000 toward the diocesan *Godly Play* for the training of teachers

For total of $43,000.

The Anglican Church Women (ACW) of the diocese of New Westminster stepped up and added $6,000 to the *Say Yes! to Kids* recipients.

There was also $48,500 distributed to four parish projects and two bursaries.

- The Reverends Robin Ruder-Celiz and Amanda Ruston are bursary recipients.
- St. Hildegard's Sanctuary at St. Faith, Vancouver received $5,000 for its ongoing arts ministry.
- Christ Church Cathedral received $15,000 for its compassionate service food outreach, Maundy Ministries.
- St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge received $15,000 for building improvements.
- St. Barnabas, New Westminster received $10,000 towards the reroofing of their 100-year-old parish hall (see page 18 of this issue of *Topic*).

For a grand total of $91,500.

During the 25-minute Zoom session, Bishop Stephens expressed his gratitude to the AFC for their ministry and their validations of the diocese of New Westminster's applications. The Rev. Emilie Smith shared how the financial help received to replace the roof has made a huge difference in the ministry of the parish, particularly to the surrounding neighbourhood. Deacon, the Rev. Peggy Trendell-Jensen thanked the AFC board for the grant which will allow former youth members of the Parish of St. Clement's to say close in touch with each other as they become separated for work, travel and school.

More information about the AFC and diocesan grants will be circulated through online news stories and in future issues of *Topic*.

Watch the fall 2021 grant awards slide presentation which provides a full list of all Say Yes! to Kids *as well as regular grant award recipients at https://vimeo.com/649514331.*

The centre table at the All Saints' sale and auction with silent auction items on chairs on the left.

The Rev. Leah Skuro (Deacon), the Rev. Justin Cheng (Vicar), and Mildred Johnson (Rector's Warden) .

The donated framed photographs, a feature of the sil

Christmas décor display at St. John the Divine's, Holly Tea.
PHOTO Courtesy of Janet Coghlan

The knitting sales table at St. John the Divine. PHOTO Courtesy of Janet Coghlan

Mebbo Basvi was quick to apply her artistic skill to BC greenery at a work bee for the parish Xmas Fair in Tsawwassen. PHOTO Sara Ciantar

Parish Fall Fairs Came Back for 202

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

It might be presumptuous to say that the return of November and early December parish craft fairs, bazaars, teas, luncheons, silent auctions and more bodes well for a post-pandemic future, however, the two events attended by my step-granddaughter, Naya and I on November 13, had most of the trappings of the annual church fall fair in place including a wide selection of items and generous cohorts of volunteers ready to help.

All Saints', Burnaby has a tradition of seasonal commerce taking place on their property. The north side area has long been home to a Christmas tree lot presented by *Aunt Leah's Place*, a compassionate service organization dedicated to helping prevent children in foster care from becoming homeless and mothers in need from losing custody of their children. On November 13, the signage for the lot was in place but too early for any trees. As with many parish fairs, the "Gift Basket" was and remains a perennial favourite at All Saints'; baskets filled with donated new items, usually but not always thematically connected, wrapped in cellophane, and seasonally decorated with ribbons and bows. Some with a set price, some requiring the purchaser to offer a price in the form of an auction bid. Even though things were different for 2021, there were still a few baskets and gift collections for sale at All Saints' along with attic treasures, collectables, a booth with hand-knit items for younger children, books, toys, and new stuffed toys. The kitchen was in use with a limited menu that included: Hot Dogs, Veggie Dogs, Cookies, Caramel Squares, Coffee/Tea and Juice, all at bargain prices.

A feature of the fair for 2021, were several silent auction items, primarily — new donated blankets still in their factory wrappings, and a collection of framed original art images donated by a parishioner who is a photographer. The vicar, the Rev. Justin Cheng and one of the two deacons of the parish, the Rev. Leah Skuro were present along with parish leaders including Rector's Warden Mildred Johnson who warmly welcomed visitors.

Mildred and her colleague, People's Warden Helen Duff said that they went ahead with the November 13 event with confidence, galvanized by the experience of hosting a garage sale last August 7. Mildred said, "We struggled more with deciding on August 7 because of the COVID restrictions, but based on that event's success we were more confident to have a Christmas sale this year." Heather added, "We knew it was going to be a lot of work, but I believe it is an important outreach to our neighbours and others, so it was not a difficult decision to hold the fair this year."

Admittedly they had less people attending and there was the added hassle of checking vaccine passports and dealing with reduced space for people to sit together and enjoy the food service. There will be some reflecting about the process of the silent auction, specifically around when to close out the bidding. There was a total of 14 volunteers and zero regrets about staging the fair this year, both Mildred and Heather said, "It was a lot of work (particularly the set-up), but we had a lot of fun."

The Rev. Cheng reported on the day that commerce was not as brisk as in pre-pandemic times, however, gathering the community and working together to stage the event was a good experience and a good start to getting "back to normal."

The Quality Fair at St. Laurence, Coquitlam is one of the largest, most comprehensive, and successful annual church fairs around. The parish hall is large, and the fair is laid out convention-style with a large centre section of merchandise, mostly used items that might be found at a garage sale or flea market. The perimeter of the room features tables with a variety of specialties: knitting, crafts, books, toys (a **very** large toy section), baking, jams and jellies and some higher end "treasures" including silverware and musical instruments. The main entrance to the building from St. Laurence Street contained many tables with "Gift Baskets." Access to the fair was through the parking lot on the northeast side of the building and when we arrived at 2:30pm an hour before closing, Tony was on duty and offered a friendly greeting and gladly posed for a photo or two.

According to St. Laurence's People's Warden, Julie Lemon, the parish did not hold a COVID-19 version of the Quality Fair in 2020, and there was some uncertainty about going ahead with the 2021 iteration as numbers and health orders kept changing. However, they began planning in the summer, even though they weren't entirely convinced that the November fair would happen. The 2021 version was a smaller, scaled back event with the presentation of vaccine cards and the wearing of masks mandatory. And there were no food sales apart from wrapped and sealed products sold at designated tables. The 2019 Quality Fair was the most successful ever with $14,000 raised. The 2021 version raised approximately $8,000, but money isn't everything as Julie attests, "We had many positive comments from the community. We felt it was a very much needed incentive to attract people from the community. And it was so good for St. Laurence to gather again to work on a project that was hard work but fun as well." Although there were fewer shoppers and lower revenue, the organizers had no problem mobilizing a large cohort of welcoming and helpful volunteers.

At both of our stops on that rainy November afternoon (as fate would have it the beginning of the "atmospheric river" series of weather events) Naya was able to find some great gifts for her parents at bargain prices!

A week following our Saturday excursion, diocesan communications received a couple of photos and a brief report from Janet Coghlan, Rector's Warden at St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge, reporting on their Holly Tea for 2021:

"After such a long hiatus for COVID-19 we decided to go ahead with our Holly Tea and sale in November this year. It was touch and go up to almost the last minute, but we opened at 11am on Saturday, November 20, dutifully checking everyone's vaccine card and ID and making sure they were masked as they entered.

There were fewer shoppers and partakers of tea than in previous years, but everyone had a good time, and the food was excellent!

We scaled back, cutting out some of the sale tables and inviting vendors from the community to participate instead, which added variety.

In the end, we made a respectable profit (if less than other years) and decided, with the approval of Sunday's congregation (those gathered on November 21), to donate a large portion of the profits to flood relief in BC, through Sorrento Centre and the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF).

Who knows, we may even attempt a Strawberry Tea again next year!"

By the time this January issue of *Topic* went into layout late last November we had not received any additional reports, however, Elizabeth Murray, ODNW, a regular contributor

ent auction at All Saints'.

All Saints' parishioner, Andy, removes his mask for a photo by the tree "Christmas-cardy" type photo.

Hand-knit clothes for young children. PHOTOS Randy Murray except where noted

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to diocesan communications did send a promo in for the 2021 version of the St. David's, Tsawwassen Xmas Craft Fair. An annual event with an Alpine theme that did not take place last year. The fair featured handmade wreaths of cedar and holly and Northern European Christmas treats. What made 2021 very special was the involvement of the new rector, the Rev. Simbarashe Basvi and his family. In her promo Elizabeth wrote:

"Wreath-making with local cedar and holly for parish Xmas Craft Fair was a new experience for Mebbo Basvi, who is also about to enjoy her first Christmas in Canada.

The Rev. Simbarashe Basvi, wife Mebbo, their daughter Nicole, and son Ivan, arrived from Zimbabwe last December 29 to await Rev. Basvi's installation as rector of St. David's, Tsawwassen.

Come November 20, the family found that COVID *passports will get them, and all other fair-goers, to the Tsawwassen 'Europe' more quickly than a Government of Canada Passport to the EU! All the sooner to discover Bratwurst sausages sizzling on an outside grill, whiffs of hot coffee, and the smell-good aroma of traditional Stollen."*

We all hope that the Basvi family had a very merry first Christmas in Canada.

LEFT Naya buys some new brass oval picture frames at the All Saints', Burnaby sale. MIDDLE Following our drive from Burnaby to Coquitlam in the torrential rain, Naya poses by the exterior signage in front of St. Laurence. RIGHT Attractive displays.

LEFT Tony, removed his mask temporarily for this photo. He was at his post greeting folks to the St. Laurence, Coquitlam, Quality Fair. RIGHT A view of the tables in the St. Laurence entrance area with the ever-popular Gift Baskets.

A view of the middle section of the Quality Fair at St. Laurence.

Naya purchases some gifts for the family at bargain prices at Quality Fair.

Baking and preserves at Quality Fair.

Ordinations in the Holy Church of God | Nicholas Ferrar; Deacon & the Community of Little Gidding

Photo feature

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The second Ordination Eucharist of Bishop John Stephens' episcopacy was celebrated at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver on the morning of December 4, 2021. The liturgy marked the Commemoration of Nicholas Ferrar, a deacon of the English Church who died in 1637, after 11 years at Little Gidding, a place in Huntingdon where he shared his family's enterprise of a godly household.

The two ordinands were Martha Cameron, presented by the Rev. Emilie Smith and Mr. Roland Gwan; and Neil Seedhouse presented by the Rev. Christine Wilson and Neil's spouse, Ms. Pam Martin, ODNW. Martha was raised up for ordination through her parish, the Parish of St. Barnabas, New Westminster, and Neil through the Parish of St. Mary Magdalene. Neil has a long history of service to parishes in the diocese of New Westminster as an employee, contractor, and volunteer. Both Martha and Neil will serve at the Parish of St. Barnabas. Prior to the beginning of worship, the Rev. Emilie Smith, Rector of St. Barnabas could be seen with a big smile on her face as she would now be in shared ordained ministry with not one but two deacons.

The ordinands began their ordination weekend, December 1 with a retreat at Consolation of Theotokos at Williamson's Landing on the Sunshine Coast hosted by the Rev. Brian Heinrich and his partner Nathan. The retreat leader was Chaplain to the Ordinands, deacon, the Rev. Karin Fulcher, who was the preacher for the liturgy.

LEFT The Ordination Retreat location at Williamson's Landing. RIGHT The ordinands Martha Cameron and Neil Seedhouse with the Rev. Brian Heinrich. PHOTOS Karin Fulcher

The ordinands and sponsors are in place in the nave during the procession in to *Veni Sancte Spiritus*.

Kathy Shier of Christ Church Cathedral reads the Old Testament, *Job 1:1-5*.
PHOTOS Randy Murray except where noted

This liturgy also included the Collation of the Archdeacon of Lougheed and the Installation of the Regional Deans of Peach Arch Deanery and Golden Ears Deanery.

The Ven. Kelly Duncan, Rector of St. George's, Fort Langley and former Regional Dean of Golden Ears was collated Archdeacon by Bishop Stephens and installed by the Dean of the diocese of New Westminster, the Very Rev. Christopher A. Pappas. Archdeacons are given a stall in the Cathedral quire and are members of the Cathedral Chapter. Archdeacon Duncan succeeded the Ven. Al Carson who completed his ministry as Archdeacon of Lougheed on November 30, 2021.

The Rev. Laurel Dahill, Vicar of St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge and the Rev. Stephen Rowe, Rector of the Church of the Epiphany, Surrey were appointed by Bishop John Stephens as Regional Deans of Golden Ears and Peace

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The procession in is completed and all are in place as the bishop removes his mask and gathers the community with prayer.

LEFT Sean Lynn of St. Mary Magdalene leads *Psalm 119:161-168*. RIGHT The Rev. Trudi Shaw proclaims the Gospel, *Luke 10:38-41*. LEFT Preacher and Chaplain to the Ordinands, the Rev. Karin Fulcher. RIGHT The Ven. Stephanie Shepard leads the Litany.

LEFT Candidates for ordination are presented to Bishop John. MIDDLE Neil Seedhouse answers an examination question. RIGHT Neil signs the Oaths and Subscriptions in the presence of the Executive Archdeacon, the Ven. Douglas Fenton.

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Arch. Rev. Dahill replacing the Ven. Kelly Duncan and Rev. Rowe replacing the Rev. Stephen Laskey who had retired at the end of September 2021. The newly collated Archdeacon, the Ven. Kelly Duncan presented Rev. Dahill for installation and the Ven. Luisito Engnan, Archdeacon of Fraser presented Rev. Rowe.

Members of Cathedral Choir under the direction of Organist and Director of Music Rupert Lang led the music in worship, the Rev. Trudi Shaw was Deacon of the Word and the Rev. Alisdair Smith was Bishop's Chaplain. The Ven. Stephanie Shepard, Archdeacon of Granville led the chanting of the litany.

This was the first liturgy following Dr. Bonnie Henry's November 30 Provincial Health Order regarding worship services and increased precautions and protocols, so masks were mandatory and only removed to speak or sing solo. There were approximately 60 present in the congregation and about 40 vested clergy.

Please keep the newly ordained, and the newly installed and collated clergy in your prayers as they enter this new phase of ministry. ✠

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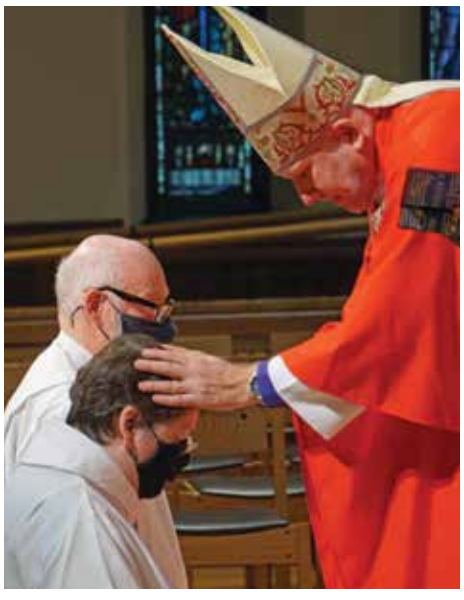
The Rev. Fulcher's sermon is available on the diocesan website at https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media



LEFT Martha is ordained. MIDDLE The Rev. Martha Cameron's sponsors Emilie and Roland have assisted her in vesting according to the order of deacons. RIGHT The newly ordained deacons are welcomed with applause.

Bishop John Stephens censes the altar prior to the Eucharistic Prayer.

TOP The newly ordained deacons prepare the altar during the Offertory Hymn, *The Church of Christ in Every Age*. BOTTOM The Rev. Cameron hands the bread, the Body of Christ to Minister of Communion, the Ven. Kelly Duncan.

Ordinations in the Holy Church of God | Nicholas Ferrar; Deacon & the Community of Little Gidding

Photo feature

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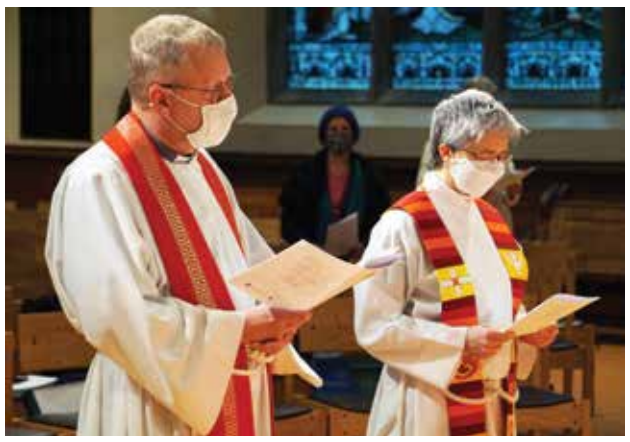

LEFT Following being collated by the bishop, the Ven. Kelly Duncan is installed Archdeacon of Lougheed. MIDDLE The Reverends Stephen Rowe and Laurel Dahill are installed as Regional Deans. RIGHT Bishop John with the diocese's two newest deacons.

A rare opportunity to get a photo of the bishop, the dean and all eight archdeacons of the diocese of New Westminster.

Horton Painting Links Two Historic Voyages Through Northwest Passage

ELIZABETH MURRAY, ODNW
St. David, Tsawwassen

John Horton, Delta marine artist and a parishioner of St. David's, Tsawwassen, could not have imagined his painting of the Franklin Expedition's *HMS Erebus* would one day hang aboard *HMCS Harry DeWolf*.

Harry DeWolf sailed into Vancouver Harbour October 1, having completed the first Northwest Passage transit of a Canadian Naval vessel since 1954.

In 2014, inspired by discovery of the wrecked Franklin ship, Horton painted a rendition of *HMS Erebus* which unexpectedly would have special significance to Harry DeWolf 's Commanding Officer Corey Gleason, and his crew. Horton presented his painting to the ship's company, at the end of a three-day Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) *Canadian Leaders at Sea* (CLaS) outreach program in which he participated.

Horton was invited to join a group of 15 prominent Canadian Community Leaders from across Canada who boarded Canada's newest warship at Lower Lonsdale's Burrard Dry Dock Pier in North Vancouver and sailed in her to Victoria's Ogden Point.

It is interesting to note that the famed RCMP *St. Roch*, first Canadian vessel, and second only to sail through the Northwest Passage, was built at the same Lonsdale location in 1928.

John Horton, OBC, CSMA, FCA, resides in Tsawwassen and is captain of the 52-foot *Delta Lifeboat* stationed in Ladner. He is a current recipient of *The Order of British Columbia*. PHOTO Mary Horton

This brand-new Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ship is the lead ship of its Class and one of six built or under construction to ensure Canada's Arctic interests are secure. These patrol vessels are designed to operate anywhere in the world but especially in first-year ice of up to 1½ metres thick. Unlike icebreaking-vessels that normally operate only in icy waters, this new ship can operate in a wider range of conditions.

During the voyage to Victoria — where a large crowd was on hand to welcome the ship — the CLaS group learned to appreciate the ship's amazing capabilities. While transiting the Gulf of Georgia and Haro Strait, the crew carried out in-depth demonstrations of the ship's potentials including search and rescue, firefighting, damage control and weapons firing.

The following day's agenda included informative tours of the Esquimalt Fleet Maintenance Facility and its Operations Centres, time onboard *HMCS Calgary* and submarine *HMCS Victoria*, and finally the Fleet Diving Unit and Damage Control School. Clearly, the CLaS group went home with a better understanding of Canada's role in the Arctic and today's global involvement of the RCN.

On a personal level, John Horton's special interest in the Arctic prompted a rewarding conversation with Cmdr. Gleason whereby they discussed at length the ill-fated Franklin Expedition and how *Harry DeWolf* had followed Franklin's tragic path. "Hearing how the ship anchored near the wreck sites enabling visits to graves of the crew, was an

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In Conversation with Canterbury

Dean delivers at Deacons Day

PEGGY TRENDELL-JENSEN
Deacon, St. Clement, Lynn Valley

It isn't often that a YouTube luminary and TikTok star headlines the diocesan Deacons Day conference, but this year Bishop John urged the planning committee to "think big" when considering a keynote speaker. It was good advice. On Saturday, November 6, the diaconal community gathered at the Synod Office and online to hear from the current rock star of the Anglican world, Dean Robert Willis of Canterbury Cathedral.

Dean Robert's morning reflections from the deanery garden began on the first day of the UK's lockdown in March 2020, when not even clergy were allowed to step foot in their churches. Rather than break a 1,400-year tradition of daily prayer at the Cathedral, Dean Robert's partner Fletcher suggested he say morning prayer on the Cathedral grounds instead. "I will bring a camera into the garden, in case one or two of the congregation want to tune in," Fletcher said on a whim.

Those early recordings from the garden, less than 10 minutes long, provided a point of contact, stability, and spiritual succor in the early, anxious weeks of the pandemic. But it took a nudge from nature to get Dean Robert's viewership levels through the roof.

Addressing the assemblage of deacons gathered in the Trendell Lounge and on Zoom, Dean Robert recounted the first time one of his cats, Leo, made an unexpected on-screen entrance. Leo leapt onto the table beside the tea tray, startling the Dean. Behind the camera, however, Fletcher motioned him to continue speaking, and Dean Robert carried on saying the Lord's Prayer. As he reached "amen," he told the deacons, Leo gave an enormous yawn that looked as if he was chiming in with an enthusiastic "amen" of his own. That charming moment, said Dean Robert "unlocked an intimacy and informality that was impossible to conjure up one's self."

From then on, the occasional antics of the cats, pigs, guinea fowl, hens and other creatures wandering by the Dean's ever-changing garden locale became of great interest and amusement to a world far beyond the parish bounds; Russell, the deanery rooster, is now famous for his lustily voiced and perfectly timed addition to the reading of the thrice-crowing cock at Peter's denial of Christ, while a clip of Leo disappearing into the Dean's cassock has been viewed over one billion (!) times.

"People ask 'How do I go viral?'" laughed the Dean. "And I tell them I absolutely haven't a clue." But, as he mused, "the world needed cheering up" in those first months of the pandemic, and the animals met the need. Even better, though, is that these widely shared posts and lighthearted TV clips introduce countless numbers of people to the Dean's morning service. The Dean quoted a favourite email he has received from one of these viewers: "I tuned in for cat and stayed for catechism."

Indeed, the "garden congregation" has grown from an initial few dozen to tens of thousands of people around the world. They come from all ecclesial backgrounds, or none; a non-religious friend in the United States who is "a hard nut" when it comes to spirituality sends the video services on to his colleagues and reports to Dean Robert that they are well received. Robert noted that some of the highest praise he gets is from young adults at smart cathedral wedding receptions who "sidle up" to him and say, "we've tuned in to the things you're doing and some of them are very cool." Watching the service in the privacy of one's home, said the Dean, gives people who are shy about their spiritual yearnings "a place safe from ridicule at doing something that is grossly unfashionable" in a secular society.

In this, Dean Robert and Fletcher (who plans the garden backdrop and weaves in clips of music, art and film to complement the commentary) are doing the diaconal work of building a bridge between the church and the wider world. On camera and off, their joint ministry continues; Fletcher is sometimes able to reach out to garden congregants in distressing circumstances; candles are lit in the cathedral for those asking for prayer. Dean Robert says it was Fletcher who insisted he rouse himself at 10:30pm on January 6 to record a supportive message for Americans shocked by the riots in progress at the Capitol building. During the morning service, Robert makes reference to disasters and concerns being suffered in countries around the globe. "I feel that one is treading on almost holy ground when one is dealing with a nation's sorrow," he told the deacons.

Diaconal work is critical to his vocation, he said. "My deacon's orders are my orders I prize most of all," he noted. When he would officiate at a chrism mass, a liturgy that formerly heard the renewal of vows by order, he would insist that the priests rise to renew their diaconal vows as well. He is inspired by St. Francis and 17th century scholar Nicholas Ferrar, both of whom remained deacons because they felt no other ordination was necessary to accomplish the work God had set before them.

Excitement ensued when the link with Canterbury Cathedral went live and Bishop John and the Ven. Bruce Morris, Archdeacon for Deacons, had the opportunity to welcome Dean Robert to the gathering. ALL PHOTOS Submitted

Deacons gather on Zoom and are caught on camera in the Trendell Lounge, all under the watchful eye of Maddy Walter of St. Clement, Lynn Valley, who provided IT support for the day.

> *"I tuned in for cat and stayed for catechism."*

It was an added treat to have the company of the Rev. Eric Stroo, husband of Archbishop Melissa Skelton at Deacons Day. Eric was in town to mark his final service with St. Michael's Multicultural the following morning. On Archbishop Melissa's behalf, Eric presented a Bill Reid design to beautify the walls of the Synod Office.

Dean Robert pointed to the story of the wedding at Cana, in which the steward of the feast was mystified by the quality of the wine brought out after the previous stores ran dry. But the *diakonos* — the servants — were in the know; they had obeyed Mary's command to "do whatever [Jesus] tells you," and were agents in the messianic secret from the start.

The Rev. Chris Magrega, deacon at St. Augustine's, Marpole, spoke for many of the assembled when she thanked Dean Robert Willis for providing "encouragement and balance" during these challenging times; a place of retreat in which those who regularly support others can find spiritual support of their own. In turn, the Dean said that he is "always heartened to be in the company of deacons" and conveyed to the deacons of New Westminster the greetings of the Archbishop of Canterbury, with whom he had been meeting earlier in the day.

Following the Dean's talk and a Betty Geddes-catered lunch, the deacons broke off into smaller sessions to explore ministries in different "gardens" of the world: street outreach, climate change, truth and reconciliation, community partnerships, and chaplaincies. If you are interested in exploring what it means to be a deacon, with a view to discerning a call to ordination, you are encouraged to contact the Ven. Bruce Morris, Archdeacon for Deacons at brucemorris.church@gmail.com.

Watch Dean Robert Willis of Canterbury Cathedral on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/c/CanterburyCathedralOfficial/featured

Horton Painting Links Two Historic Voyages Through Northwest Passage

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unparalleled privilege," Horton said. "It was gratifying to learn that the ship's company of approximately 87 sailors had become fully engaged with the history of the 1848 Expedition and gained a huge respect for those who had gone before."

HMCS Harry DeWolf also called in at several hamlets inviting leaders and community members aboard. This was all about strengthening relations with communities in the Arctic and developing meaningful commitments to the people of the High North. From BC's South Coast, *Harry DeWolf* will transit the Panama Canal to complete a circumnavigation of North America and return to Halifax in December.

At the conclusion of this recent segment of *Canadian Leaders at Sea*, participants were requested to involve their communities in furthering awareness of the important part played by the RCN in ensuring Canada secures its position and respect internationally.

To record this historic voyage, Horton is now working on a painting of *Harry DeWolf* in an Arctic setting.

The Vantage crew in late October 2021 (on a nice dry day) replacing the shingles after the initial covering of the sturdy 100-year-old roof had been completed. PHOTO Emile Smith

The entrance to the hall with the new peaked roof. The areas of the roof that are flat have yet to be replaced. PHOTO Randy Murray

The Church is the Centre of Who We Are, but the Hall is the Heart

(PREPARED WITH FILES FROM MICHELLE HAUSER
Development Consultant, Anglican Foundation of Canada)

In a certain churchyard in the diocese of New Westminster, there stands an extremely busy parish hall aged 100 years+ that — according to structural engineers — must be liberated from four layers of deteriorating shingles before it can hope to keep the community who depends on it comfortable and dry.

"Our hope," says the Rev. Emilie Smith, Rector of St. Barnabas' since 2013, "is that this year we won't have to have buckets catching rainwater during our Christmas Day meal." Smith struggles for words when she talks about the parish's aged hall, its roof, and the burden it bears.

"The roof has been just…," says Emilie, followed by silence and a long, despairing sigh, "…its best before date was about 15 years ago. It leaks on the United Church congregation which shares our hall, and it leaks on our food cupboard."

Early estimates for a thorough repair, including the removal of all the old shingles, went as high as six figures, leaving everyone at St. Barnabas' feeling discouraged. "We thought it was going to be impossible," says the Rev. Smith. "We are not a church with deep pockets, or investments that can help us through these kinds of things." And, she explains, "The hall is where everything happens. The church is the centre of who we are, but the hall is the heart."

Established in 1891, as a church for working people, St. Barnabas' has been a neighbourhood church for 130 years. According to Emilie, "We are connected to everybody who lives in the neighbourhood, whether they come to our worship services or not."

St. Barnabas' hall hosts a busy daycare in New Westminster, which cares for about 60 children, and the hall is home to numerous recovery groups. "There's a different group here every day, sometimes twice a day," says Emilie, who has been trained in the use of the church's naloxone kit. While she has never had to use the life-saving device, she says seeing it mounted on the wall serves as a strong reminder of "who we are" and how the parish has been called to serve community members who struggle with addiction and other challenges.

Not to be forgotten, of course, is that the hall is the operational hub for the church's food security programs — running strong for nearly three decades. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the service model evolved to include a grab-and-go grocery program that fed 80 families per week for a year and a half.

If one were to count all the people in New Westminster who depend on St. Barnabas' for some form of comfort or security, there are well over a thousand reasons to fix the roof and to fix it quickly.

Thankfully, after months of searching for a solution to the roofing woes, a more affordable estimate finally came in from Vantage Roofing — one that has been lessened by community connections, including a retired roofer who is willing to pitch in. "And we are very grateful to the Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC) for a $10,000 grant this past spring," says the Rev. Smith.

Everyone at St. Barnabas' is feeling much more hopeful about the new roof. Sighs of relief will soon replace sighs of despair and the church will keep moving forward in its mission and ministry. Construction was scheduled to begin in late September, early October but really got underway in mid-late October.

In the past decade, AFC has provided grants and loans totaling nearly $1 million for parish hall projects. "Investing in churches like St. Barnabas' strengthens communities from coast to coast to coast," says the Rev. Canon Dr. Judy Rois, then-Executive Director, AFC. "We imagine an increased role for churches in a post-pandemic world, which means that now, more than ever, AFC needs to be a supportive partner, providing abundant resources for pandemic recovery."

In mid-October the lower mainland of British Columbia endured some huge storms followed later on October 24 by a "bomb cyclone." That initial storm on October 14–15 really caused some problems for the hall, however after the storm came the calm and Emilie took a few minutes to write a note to diocese of New Westminster communications and share a brief accounting of the story…

The Horror! The Horror!

The parish hall at St. Barnabas' was in trouble — its roof literally melting. The hall is the heart of the church's neighbourhood ministries — we host daily recovery groups, and weekly food activities. It is the site of our offices, and of New Westminster's oldest, and most loved, daycare centre.

Then the "atmospheric river" arrived on October 15–16. It poured right through the roof into the office of St. Barnabas' tenant — and best friend — Shiloh-Fifth Avenue United Church.

"It was coming right through the light fixture," says exasperated Shiloh minister, the Rev. Shannon Tennant. "And through the smoke detector."

"Then it flooded into our food cupboard room," added Emilie.

"We crossed our fingers hoping it wouldn't rain, but the monsoon season got ahead of us," said Smith.

But — thanks to St. Barnabas' friend, and New Westminster city councillor, Chuck Puchmayr — the job got started. "It was quite a mess," said Puchmayr. "There were four layers of asphalt shingles slapped one on top of the other. And it was about 15-years past its best before date."

Once the shingles were stripped the elegant construction of the original building was revealed. The bones of the roof were in perfect shape. No rot had seeped in to destroy the structure and the new roof was able to go up in the time between October 15 and October 24. There were some beautiful, clear days as we can see in the photos posted here that were taken on October 20.

Thanks to funding from the Anglican Foundation and the diocese of New Westminster.

Will need to do a bit more fundraising: the ceiling and insulation above Shiloh, and the food cupboard room will need to be replaced, as will the flat sections of roof below the newly repaired peaked sections. ✠

The Rev. Emilie Smith and her best friend in front of the hall in November of 2021. PHOTO Randy Murray

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Baptism on Harvest Thanksgiving

SUBMISSION Miranda Sutherland

This was the first Sacrament of Baptism presided over by the Rev. Miranda Sutherland in her ministry as Vicar of St. Oswald, Port Kells. In the submission to diocesan communications Miranda wrote:

"There is always joy in heaven and on earth when adults step forward and make that declaration that 'I want to follow Christ.'"

It was a sunny and bright Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday morning as family, sponsors and friends gathered for worship and witness the baptism of Naomi Rey.

The day ended with the *extension* of the meal from the Lord's Table to a celebratory fellowship meal in the parish hall. ⌖

The Rev. Sutherland makes the sign of the cross. ALL PHOTOS Rebeca Rey

The candle representing the Light of Christ.

Newly baptized, Naomi on the left with sponsors/family and vicar.

More Baptisms with the Reverend Miranda Sutherland

The Rev. Sanderson ready with chrism as the Rev. Sutherland baptizes Hailey Sage.

"Grandma Rev" holds Hailey as she reaches for the Light of Christ. ALL PHOTOS Submitted

November is the month when "Grandma Rev" is called upon to baptize her grandchildren.

On Saturday, November 6, 2021, Rev. Miranda was thrilled to baptize her granddaughter Hailey Sage Butler. Around the same date,three years ago, she baptized her grandson Brayden Andre Butler. It was a wonderful sunny and bright fall day with parents Rhonda and Andre Butler, Godparents and a host of family and friends gathered at St. Timothy's, diocese of Edmonton for the Service of Baptism.

Rev. Colleen Sanderson, their priest and Rector of St. Michael and All Angels, diocese of Edmonton was the presider. ⌖

Epiphany, Surrey Parishioner Drops the Puck

Alison Ince, long-time parishioner at the Church of the Epiphany, Surrey and a cancer survivor dropped the puck at Rogers Arena on Sunday, November 7 with Fred Fox, older brother of Terry Fox, on behalf of the Terry Fox Foundation.

The ceremonial puck drop took place at approximately 7pm before the start of the Canuck's game verses the Dallas Stars. In her professional capacity as a health care worker, Alison took care of Terry Fox at Royal Columbian Hospital, became very close to Terry and the family, and has been associated with the foundation, raising money, making appearances, and speaking on behalf of the foundation for 40 years.

A feature article about Alison's experiences is in the works and will be featured in an upcoming issue of *Topic*. ⌖

PHOTO Submitted

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
January 21 for the March issue

Please email Randy Murray at rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca
All contributions are appreciated
• EDITOR •

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Lavender for Lytton

A Fundraiser for a Town Devastated by Fire

SUBMISSION Hilary Clark

In the fall of 2021, the congregation of St. Stephen's, West Vancouver initiated a plan to help the community of Lytton, reeling from the destruction of their town by fire on June 30, 2021. Under the leadership of rector, the Rev. Ken Vinal, the incumbent of Lytton's St. Barnabas', dicoese of Territory of the People, the Rev. Angus Muir, was contacted. He was appreciative of the help offered, initially of goods, but explained that the population of Lytton was spread out having lost everything. With no homes, they had nowhere to store anything, and suggested that the best resource for helping would be money. As Thanksgiving was approaching, the Rev. Vinal suggested that St. Stephen's parish hold a dessert sale: everyone was to bring a Thanksgiving style dessert to Sunday worship, and following the service, move into the pavilion for a dessert sale. This worked brilliantly, everyone went home happy, and the sale raised $748 for the people of Lytton.

Building on this idea, committee chair, Caroline Sutherland focused the purpose of the upcoming *Lavender Tea* on helping the people of Lytton. Early in the fall, Caroline, with the help of the committee (Jane Ruddick, Mollie Anthony, Carol Harrington, Jan Harvey, and Wendy Topham) harvested the lavender in the church's gardens, and from their own gardens, dried it, and turned it into sachets, tea bags and bouquets. On Sunday, November 21, the Feast of the Reign of Christ, St. Stephens' Director of Music, Dr. Annabelle Paetsch followed the morning service by conducting a performance of the St. Stephen's Community Choir. Everyone present was invited to enjoy lavender tea in the lounge and encouraged to purchase the lavender gifts on display. The highlight of the morning was the Rev. Vinal calling out the raffle ticket numbers for lucky people choosing gifts donated to the tea. A good time was had by all, COVID-19 protocols were respected, and by November 28 it was reported that $2,825 had been raised for the people of Lytton.

The Committee: (left to right) Caroline Sutherland, Mollie Anthony, Carol Harrington, and Hilary Clark (not pictured: Jane Ruddick). PHOTOS John Ruddick except where noted

Lavender sachets.

Lavender bouquets.

Cake table. PHOTO Jan Harvey.

The ladies enjoying each others company and the tea.

Blessing the Shoeboxes

SUBMISSION Sharon Grove, ODNW

Many thanks to Sharon Grove, ODNW, Parish Administrator of Holy Trinity, Vancouver for sending in this photo of the parish's intake of Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes taken towards the end of November last fall. Holy Trinity was a drop off location in Vancouver for the charity and receives boxes from churches and individuals throughout Vancouver.

Ida Tonks, ODNW, aged 99 is seen praying over the donations (Ida is the "official" intercessor for the boxes although sometimes the rector is allowed to pitch in). Ida, originally from Trinidad, is the widow of Basil Tonks who served as a bishop in the diocese of Toronto.

Ida Tonks, ODNW, aged 99.

Interim Anglican Leadership Appointments at the Vancouver School of Theology

Vancouver School of Theology (VST) is pleased to announce the appointment of the Very Rev. Peter Elliott as Interim Director of Anglican Formation and the Rev. Elizabeth Ruder-Celiz as Associate Anglican Formation Director effective January 1, 2022. We are grateful to Peter and Elizabeth for taking up this important work and excited by the wisdom and experience they bring to the school as a whole. President Richard Topping said, "I am thrilled by these important interim appointments for the school." Peter and Elizabeth will serve in these positions until May 31, 2022.

The Rev. Grant Rodgers, current Director of Anglican Formation and Studies, retired December 31, 2021. We are grateful to Grant for the faithful service he has given to the school and the church. The students love him. President Topping said, "We will miss Grant's wisdom, collaborative spirit, dedication to the students and good humour." Grant will teach a course at VST in the spring semester in his early retirement.

VST has made these interim appointments to ensure that our Anglican students are well supported in formation for ministry. We expect that the search for Grant's permanent successor will result in an appointment effective July 1, 2022. A search committee is already at work.

For more information about these appointments follow this link to the post on the VST website at https://vst.edu/2021/11/10/interim-anglican-leadership-appointments/

The Very Rev. Peter Elliott. PHOTO Wayne Chose

The Rev. Elizabeth Ruder-Celiz. PHOTO Wayne Chose

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Episcopal Visit to St. Laurence's & St. Catherine's

Celebrating the Feast of St. Catherine of Alexandria

On Sunday, November 21, 2021, most of the parishes of the diocese of New Westminster were celebrating the *Reign of Christ*, the lectionary festival that takes place the Sunday before Advent I. However, at St. Laurence, Coquitlam the community celebrated the Feast of St. Catherine of Alexandria (transferred from November 25).

On this Sunday, Bishop John Stephens made his first episcopal visit to St. Laurence, but this visit was specifically intended for the Parish of St. Catherine of Alexandria, the parish long resident in the community of Port Coquitlam. Early in 2021, the folks from St. Catherine's relocated from their shared space at Trinity United in Port Coquitlam to St. Laurence where the parish's deacon, the Rev. Pat Ratcliffe and the laity were welcomed by the St. Laurence community. In their honour the Feast Day of St. Catherine was celebrated. The Feast of St. Catherine of Alexandria had been deleted from the general Roman calendars in 1969, but restored as an optional memorial in 2002.

In his sermon, Bishop John spoke of St. Catherine and of the gathering of the two communities. In the first paragraph he said:

Derek Walmsley leads the procession out. PHOTO Derek Walmsley

"It is good to be with you at St. Laurence this morning, I am grateful to be able to share in this time of worship and reflection with all of you this morning. I recognize that this morning the emphasis is on St. Catherine's and the coming together of two communities and looking to the future and God's calling to new possibilities. It is great to be with all of you…" ✠

The clergy and crucifer: Deacon of St. Catherine's, the Rev. Patricia Ratcliffe; Crucifer, Derek Walmsley; the Archdeacon of Westminster and Vicar of Holy Trinity Cathedral, the Ven. Richard Leggett; the Rector of St. Laurence and Regional Dean of Tri-Cities/North Burnaby, the Rev. Eric Mason; and Bishop Stephens. PHOTO Derek Walmsley

The sermon is available in three formats online at https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2021-11-21-st-catherine-of-alexandria

The Cathedral Celebrates the 45th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women to the Priesthood in the Anglican Church of Canada

It was St. Andrew's Day, November 30, 1976, when six women, transitional deacons were ordained priests in the Anglican Church of Canada. In the diocese of New Westminster, the Reverends Elspeth Alley, Virginia Briant with the Rev. Michael Deck were ordained by the Most Rev. David Somerville at Christ Church Cathedral.

To mark the 45th anniversary, the Rev. Canon Judy Rois, formerly Executive Director of the Anglican Foundation of Canada was invited to preach at the 10:30am Choral Eucharist, Advent I, November 28 at the Cathedral. Canon Rois also facilitated a discussion and information session later that afternoon. Ordained women of the diocese were invited to attend, vest and process.

Many thanks to Jane Dittrich for these photos. ✠

A view up to the chancel from the position of the celebratory cake at the narthex entrance.

Dean Christopher Pappas cuts and serves cake following worship.

Prayer in the narthex following the Advent 1 Choral Eucharist: (left to right) Rev. Canon Dr Judy Rois (guest preacher to mark the 45th Anniversary of the Ordination of women); Deacon, the Rev. Christine Magrega; Cathedral Rector, the Very Rev. Christopher Pappas; the Rev. Melanie Calabrigo; Liturgical Assistant, Dana Osborne; the Rev. Miranda Sutherland; Liturgical Assistant, Vincent Carey; the Rev. Clare Morgan; and Deacon, the Rev. Leah Skuro.

Clergy News Around the Diocese

Bishop John Stephens has made Martha Cameron and Neil Seedhouse ordinands to the diaconate. They were ordained on the feast commemorating Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon and Little Gidding (December 4) at Christ Church Cathedral. The preacher and chaplain to the ordinands was the Rev. Karin Fulcher. Coverage of the ordination is on pages 14–16 of this issue of *Topic*.

Bishop John has appointed, the Rev. Stephen Rowe as Regional Dean of Peace Arch, effective October 16, 2021, and the Rev. Laurel Dahill as Regional Dean of Golden Ears effective December 1, 2021. She succeeds the Rev. Kelly Duncan who has been appointed Archdeacon of Lougheed.

Installation of the new Regional Deans of Peace Arch and Golden Ears along with the Collation of the Regional Archdeacon of Lougheed took place at the December 4 Ordination liturgy.

A Celebration of New Ministry with the Induction of the Rev. Terry Dirbas as Rector of St. John, Shaughnessy is planned for mid-late January 2022. The Rev. Dirbas began her ministry as rector on December 1. Coverage of the Celebration of a New Ministry Eucharist can be found on the diocesan website news pages and in an upcoming issue of *Topic*.

The Rev. Philippa Segrave-Pride is priest-in-charge of St. Helen's, Surrey following the retirement of the Rev. Stephen Laskey in October 2021.

GOOD NEWS!

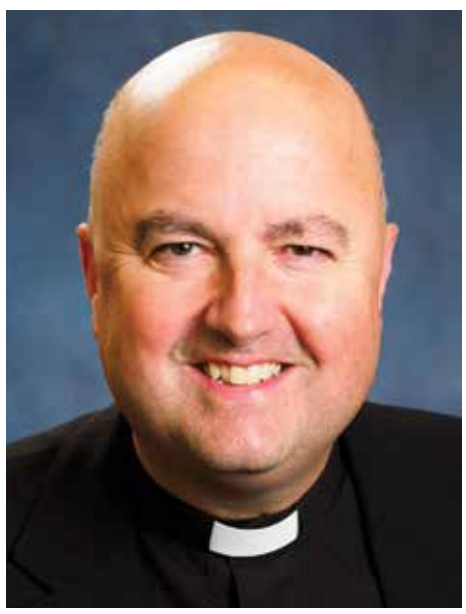
It may sometimes seem that news can only be dreary and disheartening—not so!

The Parish of St. Alban, Richmond has moved their vicar, the Rev. Armand Mercier, from 60% to 75%-time effective December 1.

The Parish of Christ Church, Hope will move their vicar, the Rev. Timothy Morgan, from 60% to 80% effective January 1. ✠

The Ven. Kelly Duncan. PHOTO Roy Cline

The Rev. Laurel Dahill. PHOTO Wayne Chose



The Rev. Armand Mercier. PHOTO Wayne Chose

OPINION

Announcements, Announcements

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

When the morning worship service has concluded and before we are blessed to go out and serve Christ in the world, we have … Announcements. Predict them. Most are already listed in the pew leaflet: meeting dates/times, request for volunteers, fundraising, welcome to visitors and invitation to coffee. Nothing shocking, not even a tiny smudge on a white wall.

In the second week of November 2021, while drafting this piece for the January 2022 issue of *Topic* (which may also show up as a blog post on the diocesan website), more huge events rocked the world. New COVID spikes, lockdowns causing violent unrest, a vile unelected strongman callously uses refugees in a nefarious geopolitical move, a major climate conference disappoints. The Gospel reading for Sunday is *Mark 13:1-8*. How will this end? Many persons just stop watching/listening to the "News" announcers; too disturbing.

I'd like to stand up in Announcements and confess to occasional moments of dread about "in those days, the birth pangs of the new age." Will I be quietly ignored? I will not welcome the predictable response, "Quite a world we live in, isn't it?"

I have been looking at a wall in my office. Scratched up, dented, stained, tape marks, nail holes. The room has had many occupants and uses in its 42-year life. That wall bothers me. Shall I sand, prime and paint? Or just paper over it?

Sure, it's a low, low-grade anxiety. But around and in me, low-grade anxieties are heightening. There is more contentiousness in home, family, staff rooms, neighbourhood, community, and the world. The country to the south of us is becoming a petri dish of rancour.

"In a healthy parish, all voices need to be heard. What if there is a prophet amongst us? Prophets are not known for soothing announcements."

GRAPHIC tintin75 (iStock ID#462572163)

The parish appears to run smoothly; Anglicans avoid dissension. Is that because we have no diverse opinions or because, though we agree we have them, we choose not to discuss them, at least not openly.

A respected, valued parish member of long standing, a community volunteer *par excel lance*, makes an Announcement after the service. He speaks clearly, briefly, articulately on a topic that, though of local political debate, has much wider implications. Oh no, some dissension! A dent on a smooth wall.

Where is the right place to express a strong concern to your fellow parishioners? At the lectern? At coffee time? In the pew leaflet? At the annual Vestry?

I'm looking at the cracks in my wall. It's a strong, weight bearing wall; a testament to the room's many uses (pets, guests, storage, poster-loving teenagers with tape and staples.)

Imagine a spectrum: "Not Appropriate" to "Iffy" to "Acceptable" and place the following possible Announcements on it:

- must express disagreement with the homilist because…
- I want to say how strongly I agree with the homily in that…
- The Gospel hymn was very hard to sing…
- The choir has done quite well this time…
- Please all wear a green t-shirt next Sunday because….
- I'd like to promote a local charity you have not heard of…
- Please sign the petition in favour of…
- Rejoice with me, I have a new grandchild…
- Since I've hurt my back, I need someone to help me in my garden…
- I am passing the hat for a needy, anonymous parishioner…
- That disturbing Old Testament reading should not be in the Lectionary…
- Can we please have the Bibles returned to the pews…
- In the Narthex, cukes and tomatoes from my garden, help yourselves…
- Could the Parish Council please consult the parish on…
- I am inviting you all to share my 80th birthday, cake downstairs.

What builds up the body? Is some disturbance good? Disagreement is not the same as rancour. How do we encourage reflection and discussion? In a healthy parish, all voices need to be heard. What if there is a prophet amongst us? Prophets are not known for soothing announcements.

Looking at that wall again I've decided to leave it as is. Not ignoring it but not fixing it either. No papering over the cracks.

Hannah Main-van der Kamp sings in the pretty good choir at St. David and St. Paul in Powell River. She'll trade veggies for help in her garden. No Announcement.

The Epiphanies of Life

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL
Retired Priest of the diocese of Calgary, Former Dean of the diocese of New Westminster & Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver

Piano tuners, as you know, have to hit single notes again and again. However, now and again they play a chord, and you realize how infinitely richer a musical chord is than a single note.

Epiphany is like that. In fact, many of the great words of Christian faith — Revelation, Epiphany, Ascension, Resurrection, are much more like chords than single notes. They have all sorts of meaning within them.

Take the word "miracle." The first thing we think of is Jesus' healing, and so he did, wonderfully. But look what a great poet, Walt Whitman, can do with the term "miracle."

As to me,
I know nothing else but miracles,
Whether I walk the streets of Manhattan
or wade with naked feet along the beach,
Or stand under the trees in the woods,
Or talk by day with anyone I love,
Or look at strangers
Or animals feeding in the field,
Or birds…
Or the wonder of the sundown,
Or stars shining so quiet and bright,
Or the exquisite delicate curve
of the new moon in spring.
These with the rest, one and all
Are to me miracles.

For Christians, Epiphany refers to the Magi coming from afar to worship Jesus. Through them we think of Jesus as being shown to the whole world. That's what the Greek word *epi-phaino* means — to shine upon, to reveal.

But we need to remember that you and I are given epiphanies in countless ways if only our eyes are open to see them. We see something as we have never seen it before! That's an epiphany.

PHOTO Katarzyna Bialasiewicz (iStock ID#928999264)

Here are two moments when I saw something that will stay forever with me. I had been involved with a provincial conference of teachers in the Chateau Louise Hotel. I had intended to drive back to Calgary that evening but the weather closed in, and I had to stay overnight.

The next morning as I drove slowly out of the hotel parking, dawn was just breaking over a frozen Lake Louise. The winter ice huts that are built on it each year glittered in the darkness.

I was near the end of the hill that goes down to the Trans Canada when I decided to see what was among the bundle of tapes I had in the car. One happened to be Faure's *Requiem*.

The final movement of that beautiful requiem is called *In Paradisum*. It imagines the music of the souls in paradise. I realized that it seemed to come to me in this dawn light with unusual power. I then realized that the real power of that moment was that I was not only listening to a requiem. I was driving through a world which was itself a kind of requiem, held in the iron grip of winter. That morning remains in my memory as an epiphany.

Another such moment. I am leaving a city hospital. It is raining as I turn out of the parking lot. Ahead of me I see her crossing. She is walking slowly because there are now more years than there used to be. I know where she is going. She is dressed neatly and attractively for her age because she knows that these things are important to someone else. She has ample reason to become careless in these things, but she hasn't allowed that to happen.

She has been coming here for a long time. She will go down familiar corridors and take familiar elevators. When the two of them meet they will not say a great deal. This will not mean — as we say these days — that they are not communicating. They have shared a long past, and much now flows silently from all their shared experience. There have been three children, now adults, there has been another country, a war, much happiness, no great wealth but much contentment, and now sickness that first came intermittently and is now permanent.

If I passed here later in the evening, I would probably see her leaving. If I hailed her — because I know her — she would probably smile, even — such is her nature — laugh. She would laugh even more if I were to say to her that she, and others like her, are what that often-misused phrase "great lovers" really means. Theirs is a loving, both of life and of one another, that possesses great resilience and faithfulness. How often greatness and nobility stand in the rain waiting for the traffic to go by.

I can't help thinking of that magnificent statement of Saint Paul:

"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

For me, that is an epiphany.

OPINION

Buy the Farm

ART TURNBULL
Retired Priest of the diocese of Ontario with Permission to Officiate in the diocese of New Westminster, St. Matthew's, Abbotsford

On the Feast of the Reign of Christ for 2021, November 21, in the midst of the Fraser Valley flood emergency, the folks at St. Matthew, Abbotsford stayed focused on the concept that global life goes on. People in villages in Africa are hungry. Refugees in UN camps in Bangladesh need aid. Women and children still seek to be accepted as part of humanity, even though they are abused and forgotten. We addressed the disaster in our area, and helped our local neighbours, but remained committed to responding globally through Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF).

These are the challenges for the PWRDF. Last year's PWRDF *World of Gifts* catalogue caught the attention of parishioners at St. Matthew's. The feature called *Buy the Farm* indicated that the nearby Parish of St. Dunstan, Aldergrove had *bought the farm* last year. We said we could do that.

Challenged to raise $530 for buying one farm package, in just three weeks members of St. Matthew's rallied around and raised a total of $2,120—four farm packages.

PWRDF donation to *Buy the Farm* being presented by: (left to right) Tyler Evans, Rector's Warden; Allen Doerksen, Vicar; watched by Art Turnbull, instigator; and Trish Martin, People's Warden. PHOTO Mary Lee

Goats were provided in rural villages of Cuba, Zimbabwe, and Malawi. Hopefully families will have meat and a bit of income. Chickens gave eggs in Colombia and Zimbabwe, supplying protein for children. Seeds for planting in Bangladesh restored small family farm plots. Dairy farms were improved and made productive by Anglican Church of Canada support in various corners of the world. In the refugee camps in Kenya there are also now being made available grinders for corn to make chicken feed. New farmers will be given hope, and life, and love.

St. Matthew's parishioners are grateful for this generous opportunity to share with PWRDF. Months after the November "atmospheric river" events, we face our own local disaster needs and will be grateful to receive aid from churches and other charities. This global relationship is a continuous challenge, one we all must meet. Has your parish done a fair share? Thanks be to God that we can. ✠

The Cup of Blessing | The Common Cup & COVID

RICHARD LEGGETT
Vicar of Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster; Archdeacon of Westminster, diocese of New Westminster

Since the advent of AIDS and subsequent worldwide epidemics and pandemics such as SARS and COVID, the Anglican practice of using a common cup at our Celebrations of the Eucharist has come under widespread scrutiny. Scrutiny is not a bad thing unless it leads us to make decisions which make us lose touch with our spiritual heritage as well as be contrary to medical and scientific knowledge and research.

PHOTO Mariusz Szczygiel(iStock ID#501676808)

What is our current pastoral situation?

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, medical authorities were still uncertain as to how the virus was spread. Very quickly Anglican bishops in Canada decided to limit consumption of the consecrated wine to the presider and only to distribute the consecrated bread to the other communicants. In addition to these restrictions, clergy and congregations were mandated to wear masks, to sanitize their hands frequently and to maintain physical distance.

These measures were reasonable precautions to limit the spread of the virus and to protect the more vulnerable members of our congregations. But we know now that the virus is not transmitted by food and that sharing the common cup poses a minuscule risk, particularly when our traditional practices of administration are employed, for example, the use of wine, wiping the chalice after each communicant and the sanitizing of the hands of the administrator prior to administering the cup.

Intinction continues to be the form of administration that poses the most serious health risk to communicants, regardless of the care taken by the administrator and the communicant. For this reason, it has been the policy of the diocese of New Westminster to prohibit intinction as a form of administration.

Given what we know, Anglican dioceses in Canada are discussing how best to restore the common cup to those who wish to receive the cup as well as the consecrated bread. There is widespread recognition that *what we know* does not always change *how we feel*. Statistics and research do not always overcome our perception of the situation.

What has been our historical practice?

The oldest written account of how Christians celebrated the eucharist is found in Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Given what we know about the early Corinthian community and its contentiousness, it should not surprise us that Paul emphasizes how sharing in the one loaf and the one cup is a symbol of the unity of the Christian community.

"The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread." (1 Corinthians 10:16-17)

"In the same way he took the *cup also, after supper, saying,* 'This *cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink* the *cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again." (1 Corinthians 11:25-26, emphasis added)*

Elsewhere in the epistle, Paul equates sharing in the eucharist as our participation in the life, death and resurrection of Christ and as his pledge to us of eternal life.

Matthew 26:26-29, Mark 14:22-25 and *Luke 22:14-22* record Jesus' last supper with his disciples. In all three Gospels only one cup is mentioned, except for Luke's gospel in which a second cup is shared at the end of the meal.

Prior to the Reformation the common cup was the practice of the eastern and western Christian churches even after their disagreements on the use of leavened versus unleavened bread. Even when the cup was denied to the laity, the eucharistic liturgy always involved the consecration of wine in a common cup which the presider consumed.

During the Reformation some communities associated with Swiss reformers began using individual cups to emphasize the eucharist as a community meal. Over time this practice was adopted by other Christian groups, but Anglicans have consistently resisted this practice. The various Anglican prayer books throughout the Communion continue to reference the common cup as the normative practice of our tradition.

Our most recent authorized service book, *The Book of Alternative Services* (BAS), states that "it is desirable that there be only one chalice on the altar" and a flagon or decanter if required to fill "additional chalices" (BAS p.184). The common cup is also the stated norm of the Anglican Church of Canada.

While it is true that there have been times when Anglicans have refrained from or restricted access to the common cup, these have been seen as temporary pastoral actions taken to protect the community. It has been our practice to restore access to the common cup as soon as possible.

It should also be said that there have always been Anglicans who have refrained from receiving from the common cup for various reasons. We have consistently taught that to receive the consecrated bread alone is to receive the fullness of grace offered by God to us in the sacrament.

What are our theological values?

John Baycroft, sometime Bishop of Ottawa, and author of *The Eucharistic Way* (Anglican Book Centre, 1981), writes that we drink from a common cup:

"…as a strong symbol of unity and our willingness to accept each other. We share our love and lives as we share the cup… The cup of love and unity is unavoidably a cup of sacrifice."

When we break the bread and drink the cup, we symbolize Jesus' words to us in the Gospel of John, "I am the vine, you are the branches" *(John 15:5)*. To share in the cup is to participate in Jesus' mission in the world.

Should someone say, "It's just a symbol" or "It's merely symbolic," as justification for setting this ancient practice aside, I would respond in this way. When someone says that someone or something is "just a symbol" or "merely symbolic," the speaker may be unaware of the power of symbols and might wish to renew their intellectual and spiritual awareness of the truth that symbols participate in the reality that they signify. Symbols matter because they make truth tangible.

How shall we move into the future?

After almost 500 years of use, there is no evidence to suggest that Anglicans have a higher risk of infection than the general population. However, the perception among some people is that there is a risk. So, we resume the use of the common cup gradually and intentionally.

Congregations need good and clear information. Communion administrators need to be reoriented and retrained in the proper administration of the cup and how to do this in ways that build confidence among communicants. Clergy need to convey to their congregations that an adapted old Anglican adage applies here: "All may *receive*. Some should *receive*. None must *receive*." The resumption of the common cup offered to all can be done in a way that accommodates all communicants, those who receive in both kinds and those who do not. What will be accomplished is the liturgical proclamation of what Paul wrote so long ago that "the cup of blessing that we bless, (is a) sharing in the blood of Christ." ✠

For more information about the common cup and the Anglican Church of Canada go online to https://www.anglican.ca/ask/faq/common-cup and https://www.anglican.ca/resources/liturgical-principles

St. Mary the Virgin, South Hill.

Group Photo after the Migrant Mass, October 2019.

Apo Expie.

Palm Crosses.

Sachets of Ashes.

The Little Church with the Big Heart in Vancouver

ERIE MAESTRO
St. Mary the Virgin, South Hill

There is a little church in East Vancouver with a big heart and wide-open, welcoming arms for everyone, especially migrant workers. In 2019, St. Mary the Virgin, South Hill opened its doors to Migrante BC in partnership. What used to be the occasional Migrante Mass is now a joint monthly service of the church and Migrante BC.

The parish is located on a corner lot in an East Vancouver neighbourhood, sometimes easy to miss because it is a relatively small structure. The Parish of St. Mary the Virgin welcomes all. Many Filipinos have taken this to heart and know that this faith community *walks its talk*.

The Rev. Expedito Farinas, or *Apo Expie* as he is known to the community (*Apo*, an Ilokano word which means Elder), has roots in the Cagayan Province in Northern Philippines. He was ordained in the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI) or the Philippine Independent Church. He describes himself thus: "I came to Canada as a migrant priest, and now working in the vineyard of the Lord serving as priest in the Anglican Church of Canada. I am the Rector of the Parish of St. Mary the Virgin, South Hill."

St. Mary the Virgin is a growing community, and many Filipinos call the church their own. Among its programs: a youth program; a chapter of the Anglican Communion-wide, Mothers Union; a Sunday School; a telephone tree primarily for the purpose of checking in with the senior members; and a new program called *Fitness for All* facilitated by fitness instructor and lay leader, Yolanda Lumase.

In August 2021, Apo Expie offered the hall for the use of the mobile mission for Overseas Filipino Voting Registration, and other consular services of the Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver.

Bikes to Grow.

With Migrante BC, the partner in migrant ministry, the parish has been working together to source donations of bicycles and jackets/long sleeved shirts for the Filipino and Latino farm workers. The parish has also been supportive of disaster relief and the recent community pantries movement in the Philippines.

Pre-COVID-19, the congregation looked forward to Coffee Hour after the church service. Tea and coffee were always on, the accompanying table offered a wonderful spread of potluck goodies. The congregation's birthdays and anniversaries were celebrated, connections were strengthened. and friendships made.

Some of these rituals of gathering changed as the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions were mandated. The BC government issued COVID-19 protocols: physical and social distancing, mandatory use of masks, and rules of maximum capacity. First, all after-service refreshments were suspended in compliance with health protocols. Then, in-person, onsite worship services were suspended. These were replaced by online services via Zoom. The new ways were not without their challenges, but the parish and its members overcame and kept the community together.

For Ash Wednesday, Apo Expie and the staff mailed envelopes with a small sachet of ashes for the online service via Zoom. In anticipation of Palm Sunday, members received envelopes of mini palm crosses. During online worship, birthdays and anniversaries were still announced, and prayers for the sick and intercessions offered.

The "passing of the Peace of Christ," that, in pre-COVID-19 times would have seen the congregation getting up to greet people across and around the pews, to shake hands, even give a light hug and whisper "Peace be to you," was replaced by flashing the V-sign on the Zoom screen.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues well into its second year. On June 13, 2021, with the BC government announcement of relaxed restrictions for public gatherings, St. Mary the Virgin re-opened its doors for the eagerly awaited in-person Sunday worship, but still practicing physical distancing, the wearing of masks, and with safe capacity for the size of the sanctuary observed.

With the vaccine rollouts, after-service fellowship has resumed while still observing safety and health protocols.

Despite the pandemic, *the little church with the big heart* in Vancouver remains "open and welcoming, celebrating the diversity of all people," especially with migrants and migrant workers. Thank you, Apo Expie and the Parish of St. Mary the Virgin, South Hill.