



# THE NEW BRUNSWICK ANGLICAN



A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

JUNE 2022

SERVING THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON

## Beloved priest laid to rest

### The Rev. Jonathan Springthorpe 1974-2022

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

The Church of the Resurrection was filled with family, friends, fellow priests, a large number of young people, current and former parishioners and many others — all gathered April 21 to celebrate the life of the Rev. Jonathan Springthorpe.

Jonathan died suddenly on April 13. He was two weeks shy of his 48th birthday, and at the time of his death, was rector of the Parish of Lancaster. He had previously served in the Parish of Musquash and with the West-side Anglican Mission (WAM).

By all accounts, Jonathan had many passions in life: God, his family, his dog Charlie, nature, cooking, helping others, making others laugh, and creativity, which manifested itself in Shakespearean acting, painting, drawing and writing.

The Rev. Michael Caines and the Rev. Canon Ed Coleman officiated at the service. The Rez worship team led songs that meant a great deal to the family.

“All the songs, readings and prayers have been selected by the family,” Mike told those gathered. “I know this sounds strange, but I want you to sing your hearts out.”

Before Jonathan was ordained, he was active in lay ministry. As a Church Army evangelist, he worked with Archbishop David Edwards at Stone Church when David was the rector there.

Archbishop David could not attend, as he was in the UK attending a funeral and preparing for his own mother’s funeral. He sent a statement, which Mike read.

“I have been thinking about Jonathan a great deal over these last few days and remembering times we had together. We first met on a deck in Mission B.C., when I interviewed him as a potential student for Church Army. He came with no means of financial support, by faith, and God saw him and us through.

“We worked most closely together at Stone Church where, as youth minister, he made a great impact, as shown by the tributes to him on Facebook. Many people who are now adults regard Jonathan as a significant person in their lives.

“I have many stories that I could tell about Jonathan, and if I were there, I would have a whole routine. One which comes to mind is from the

**Springthorpe continued on page 4**



MCKNIGHT PHOTO



MCKNIGHT PHOTO

**MOTHERS' UNION MEMBER GINNY MCEWEN** puts the finishing touches on a garden party hat fit for royalty, in this case, fellow member Yvette Reid, during the annual Mothers' Union rally held at St. Mary & St. Bartholomew Anglican Church in Saint John on April 30. The hat decorating challenge saw teams each bedazzle a hat, after which models demonstrated the creations, all in honour of Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee this year. Both members are from St. John the Baptist Anglican Church in Riverview. In the background is MU chaplain, the Rev. Caleb Twinamatsiko. Read the rally story on page 6.

# Petitcodiac's Say Yes! To Kids campaign kicks off

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT



The pandemic has not been kind to the Parish of Salisbury & Havelock.

The parish has a big focus on children and youth in their small community, so COVID measures meant the cancellation of many programs. No middle school dances, no barbecues, no games nights and so on.

That's one reason the Rev. Chris Hayes jumped on the chance to raise money for youth initiatives in his parish.

"Our project is to rekindle the old projects and kick-start new ones," he said. "Youth has long been part of our work and the Anglican Foundation opportunity is a great opportunity for us."

The Anglican Foundations Say Yes! To Kids initiative, running from April to June, will see peer-to-peer fundraising at the local level, as opposed to the traditional grant application for money.

The group keeps 60 per cent of the proceeds for their project, with 20 per cent going to their diocese and the remaining 20

per cent to the Anglican Foundation.

In return the project gets case development, training support and the possibility of matching funds from AFC.

"This is a whole parish effort," said Chris of the fundraising. "It's a team concept, though anyone can donate to our team."

Chris is especially impressed by the community aspect to the Say Yes! To Kids campaign.

"When I looked closer, I saw this wasn't just a church thing," he said. "They really stress community connection. Community businesses, community families are invited into this."

So much so that a family has donated a bike as a prize for the parish's planned bike rodeo. They're also planning a community Blessing of the Animals service and an addition to the church playground which sits on the front lawn of the church.

By far, it's the middle school dances that have been missed.

"That's probably the thing

we've been asked about the most."

The parish's youth ministry is, in many way, casual, said Chris. Past initiatives have not resulted in a flood of kids suddenly turning up at church.

But that wasn't the point, said Chris. Changing the way people view the church and nurturing relationships with them and the community is the goal. Thus the dances, the pop-up barbecues, and their much-used playground, which came about because of diocesan and Anglican Foundation support.

"Not a day goes by that there's not a kid at the playground," he said, adding conversations there range from casual to theological, with everything in between.

If you'd like to support the Say Yes! To Kids campaign in the Parish of Salisbury & Havelock, visit <https://www.anglicanfoundation.org/kids/> or contact Chris ([revchrishayes@gmail.com](mailto:revchrishayes@gmail.com) or 506.756.2296).



**THE PLAYGROUND AT ST. ANDREWS** church in Petitcodiac, in the Parish of Salisbury & Havelock, sits on the front lawn for everyone to access. Its building was helped along by an Anglican Foundation grant, and rector Chris Hayes is hoping the AF's Say Yes! To Kids campaign will help further the parish's efforts to provide programming for young people.



**ANGLICAN FOUNDATION OF CANADA**

**Say Yes! to Kids is back, and better than ever!**

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Help our church grow a brighter future for young people, today! Visit [anglicanfoundation.org/say-yes-to-kids](http://anglicanfoundation.org/say-yes-to-kids)

**Clergy Spouses' Retreat**

- Sept. 15-17, Villa Madonna Retreat House, Rothesay
- A time for clergy spouses to retreat and spend time together. There is no charge but donations are welcome.
- Guest speaker: Karen Stiller [karenstiller.com/](http://karenstiller.com/)

**DEADLINE for news and photos for the September edition of the New Brunswick Anglican is Aug. 1. Send submissions to [gmcknight@diofton.ca](mailto:gmcknight@diofton.ca)**

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**THE BISHOP'S PAGE**

# Change, decay, renewal all around me

As I write during the season of Easter, it seems strange to be reflecting upon the well known funeral hymn *Abide with Me*.

The words “change and decay in all around I see” have a great sonority for me at present, and on the face of it do not provide the basis for cheering thoughts as we move into the carefree days of summer.

As I write, I am sitting in my dad’s house in England, still a week away from my mother’s funeral.

I recently attended Janet’s stepmother, Elizabeth’s, funeral, where I read the lesson, and added to these things was the sudden death of my friend and colleague, Jonathan Springthorpe.

Death has a finality to it from our day-to-day perspective. The person is no longer physically present. The conversations and shared experiences are lodged in the memory but cannot be renewed. The person is no longer just a phone call or text away.

But it is not that final-



Archbishop David Edwards

ity which has been filling my thoughts. We know that “in Christ all shall be made alive” and “made new.” What has been making me think is the change and decay that I see.

I have attended my home church for the last two Sundays, and last week was speaking to someone I have known for many years. She is about 15 years older than me and helped lead the youth group when I was a member.

We were remembering many of the church members who are

no longer attending, due to age, infirmity, having moved away or death.

There is a whole new group of people who have replaced them, and the building has been totally renovated to enable different ways of doing things.

Then closer to home there is my dad, who is not doing as well as he was even in the fall. There is his neighbour, June, one of the only two originals left in the street, who seems to be “going down the nick,” as my dad would say.

Added to this are things like the garden here. It is not a terrible mess, but what was once pristine is now ragged around the edges — another sign of declining strength and stamina.

As I sit here thinking, I am aware of the changes in me as I age along with everyone else. How am I to react to these thoughts and feelings?

Well, the hymn gives us a clue that through the changes, the Lord abides with us and that beyond death is life, but is that enough?

A strange question, you might say. How can it fail to be enough? Certainly, it is enough for the individual — my mother, Elizabeth and Jonathan — but what of the others? Those who continue after us — are they faced with decline, change and decay? The answer is a resounding no!

We live in a creation where there is continual renewal. This comes about naturally, but we are to play a part. We are a resurrection people who are to be constantly renewed by the Holy Spirit.

As we are now in the season of Pentecost, let’s recognize the realities of decay, but look forward to the changes brought about by the renewal of the Spirit.



David Edwards is Diocesan Bishop of Fredericton.

**PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS**

**MAY 21 - JUNE 5  
PILGRIMAGE -  
ARCHDEACONRY OF  
FREDERICTON  
WITH JUNE 5  
SERVICES AT  
ALL SAINTS,  
MARYSVILLE AND  
CHRIST CHURCH  
CATHEDRAL**

**JUNE 7  
ACW DIOCESAN  
ANNUAL MEETING**

**JUNE 11  
ORDINATION OF  
NICHOLAS  
SAULNIER,  
ST. GEORGE’S,  
MONCTON**

**JUNE 12  
\* PARISH OF PRINCE  
WILLIAM, DUMFRIES,  
QUEENSBURY AND  
SOUTHAMPTON**

**JUNE 19  
\* PARISH OF THE  
NEREPIS AND  
ST. JOHN;  
DECONSECRATION  
OF ST. JOHN THE  
EVANGELIST STONE  
CHURCH BUILDING**

**JUNE 26  
\* PARISH OF  
SAINT JOHN;  
\* PARISH OF  
MONCTON**

**JUNE 27  
MISSION TO  
SEAFARERS  
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**JUNE 28 - JULY 25  
VACATION**

**JULY 26 - AUG. 8  
LAMBETH  
CONFERENCE**

**AUGUST 14  
ALL SAINTS,  
MAGAGUADAVIC,  
ANNIVERSARY  
SERVICE;  
KINGS LANDING**

\* CONFIRMATION

## Stewardship as we return to normal — sort of



Mike Briggs

Well, a lot has happened since I wrote last month’s column. The world changes quite rapidly these days!

Both Judy and I came down with COVID — me first and then Judy a few days later.

We found it was not too serious, with just a cough and sinus congestion with lingering fatigue once a week or so.

It’s the first time we have missed a Palm/Passion Sunday service in quite a number of years.

Are we back to normal yet? Well, sort of. We will continue to wear masks whenever we are out in a covered environment and definitely at church where we sing.



EVGENI TCHERKASSKI ON UNSPLASH

One of the lasting legacies of COVID is the reduction in attendance at services and drop in collections.

Some has been made up by e-offering, and I know of parishes that wonder why they did not go to e-offering before the pandemic. Some parishes are restarting some fundraisers and fellowship after services.

One of the most powerful speeches and press conferences I heard recently was from

Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, on his visit to Saskatchewan to formally apologise to the survivors and families affected by the Residential Schools run by the Anglican Church.

The Church was not following any of the 5 Marks of Mission in the way they treated the children who were taken away from everything they knew. Apologies are a necessary part of reconciliation, and it is difficult to think about how we acted back then.

Definitely a lack of good stewardship.

As I have said before, stewardship is so much more than money, although that is important as it allows us to continue our mission work in the community. We must acknowledge our faults and strive to correct them as we do God’s work in our community.

Volunteering at the food bank and working on other food security programs makes me appreciate how good God has been to us and how much we need to support the less fortunate in our community.

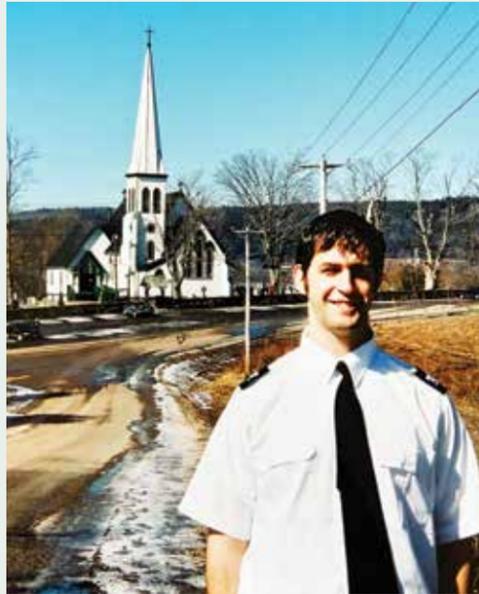
This will not change. In fact, it will become more critical as economic pressures place more people in dire financial straits.

This is the last column until the September issue, so I wish you all a safe and healthy COVID-free summer.

Maybe I will see some of you at Diocesan Choir School in July.

Michael Briggs is the diocesan stewardship officer. He lives in Moncton.

## JONATHAN SPRINGTHORPE



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** the Rev. Jonathan Springthorpe doing what he did often — laughing; Jonathan as a Church Army officer at St. Paul's in Hampton; the Rev. Canon Ed Coleman gave the eulogy; a collage of photos of Jonathan during his ministry; the Rev. Mike Caines during the homily.



# The Rev. Jonathan Springthorpe laid to rest

Springthorpe continued from page 1

Stone Church mission trip to England. The team was due to lead a VBS and the evening before went to see what needed to be done. One thing was face painting and Debbie had her face painted as a ladybug.

"The plan was that we would immediately return to the place where we were staying. Then Jonathan changed the plan. He decided we needed to eat, so we went to a restaurant with Debbie still painted. Jonathan then decided to wear a rainbow wig in solidarity with her.

"All of us who have travelled the journey with Jonathan know that he has had his struggles and he would be the first to say that. What I can say is that he loved his family and was very proud of Eli, Jeremy, and Olivia.

"Jonathan also loved Jesus and wanted others to as well. I remember that, as one of the first things he said to me, and

he did not waver from it."

Mike, in his homily, noted the many different groups in attendance and those watching online from around the world — a testament to the wide and deep impact Jonathan had on so many, particularly young people.

Mike first met Jonathan at Camp Medley 14 years ago. Mike was the camp director and Jonathan was coming to be a chaplain at a youth camp.

"His reputation preceded him," said Mike. "And it was like watching the master. He was a pro."

Clearly, Jonathan's ability to reach young people was one of his many gifts, he said.

Mike recalled a family camp day of activities, during which Jonathan adopted an Australian accent with which to provide ongoing colour commentary on the day's events.

Jonathan was a talented chef who loved to cook for others.

"I was the recipient of many of his meals," said Mike. "The scripture says, 'I go to prepare

a place for you.' Now think of the best restaurant you've ever had a reservation for. And think of this: Jesus has made a reservation for us at the banquet table of God."

Mike recounted the events that took place after the resurrection of Jesus, specifically when the disciples were in disarray and Peter went fishing. Having not caught a thing, Peter saw a man on the beach who told him to cast his nets on the other side of the boat.

A net filled with fish was the result, and Peter realized the man on the beach, sitting at a bonfire, was Jesus.

So much had happened since the Last Supper. Judas had betrayed Jesus. Peter had denied him. Their Lord had been arrested, beaten and crucified and now, here he was.

"They didn't discuss theology, not the denials, arrest, betrayal, or his death," said Mike. "No, Jesus fed them. So I think Jonathan has had a great breakfast already today."

Mike spoke specifically to

the many young people in attendance, reminding them of recent Easter celebrations around the world.

"This is not the last chapter of anyone's life," he said. "The last chapter is in Jesus's story, written by Jesus."

The Rev. Canon Ed Coleman gave the eulogy, admitting that until the visitation the night before at Stone Church, Jonathan's death had not seemed real.

"Such deep, deep sadness — and then I heard such beautiful stories, how he'd influenced their lives. It was almost like an Emmaus experience."

Ed spoke directly to the family, saying how much Jonathan loved his children.

"When you arrived, he treated you as a gift from God," he said. "You did not have to do anything for him to love you more."

One of Ed's fondest memories is of the Colemans and the Springthorpes at the Irving Nature Park, all with easels set up and paints ready for each

of them to capture the nature before them.

"Each of us looking at the same scene, producing God's great works of art," he said.

Ed ended with the Serenity Prayer and with the final lines of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*: "Good night, sweet prince, And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."

Eli Springthorpe spoke of his father's love for his children.

"He was a great father. He taught me how to cook, how to drive, how to fish," he said, adding their late-night cooking sessions were when he learned the most from his father.

"Even at a young age, he'd take me on mission trips," he said. "He'd always find a job for me."

Pallbearers were the Revs. Paul Ranson, Terence Chandra and Rob Salloum, plus Shawn Branch, Jim Wolfe and Allan Barnett.

The private interment was held directly after the service at Greenwood Cemetery.

# THE VICAR RETURNS

*The Rev. Canon Walter Williams looks forward to a second summer as the vicar of Kings Landing*

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

It's no exaggeration that the Rev. Canon Walter Williams enjoys his role as the period-costumed vicar of Kings Landing. Now, at the beginning of his second year, he's had time to appreciate what comes with the role, but also what doesn't.

"First of all, no vestry meetings!" he said. "And I don't have to take collection."

Now he's set for the historical settlement near Fredericton to open on June 8.

"That will probably be our first day to visit," he said. "There was never a thought of not going back this year."

Walter finds lots of positives in the role that has been re-visited from decades ago when the village had a vicar on staff.

"I get to know a lot of the staff, and get to talk to a lot of people about what the church meant in the village," he said. "We've been made very welcome by everyone there."

"It's also good for Lorna and me to do things together,"

he said of his wife, because a vicar's wife also plays a role.

"She's found her niche in quilting here, and now she's involved in other crafts as well."

She's also a member of the village ladies' benevolent society, said Walter.

Because the seasonal staff works virtually every weekend for five months, they've gotten to know Walter in a more personal way.

"For a lot of staff, I was their minister," he said.

That's exactly the plan CEO Mary Baruth had when she brought Walter on last year. She encouraged staff to view him as their pastor and confidante, particularly since they miss their own services while Kings Landing is open.

This summer, every weekend has a theme. While Walter's main visiting day is Wednesday, he'll be around for special events like Rogation Sunday on June 26.

As well, Walter organizes leaders from around the diocese for the Sunday afternoon



MCKNIGHT FILE PHOTO

**THE REV. CANON WALTER WILLIAMS**, centre, at St. Mark's Chapel of Ease after his installation service as vicar. His wife, Lorna Williams, and Archbishop David Edwards stand with him. The July 2021 service saw visitors to Kings Landing and many staff, whom he considers his parishioners, witness his installation.

services at St. Mark's Chapel of Ease, and he'll take his turn a few times. Long-time Anglican and Kings Landing staffer Patricia Graham will act as his layreader at St. Mark's. Staff are permitted to attend Sunday afternoon services and many do, said Walter.

Mary arrived at Kings Landing in early 2020, just

before the pandemic began. Despite the ensuing limitations, she's made her mark with changes like adding an on-site vicar.

"It lends itself to a more authentic experience," she said last year, adding that in any 19th century village, the vicar, his wife and the church would play a central role in the lives

of the inhabitants.

That includes during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Walter has led a Christmas service in the village the last two seasons.

To visit Walter and Kings Landing, take exit 253 off the Trans-Canada Highway and follow the signs. The site is 20 minutes from Fredericton.



GEORGE LAWRENCE / VIOLET MCLAUGHLIN PHOTO



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**LEFT: BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS** adorned All Saints church in the Parish of Bright on Easter Sunday.

**ABOVE: EASTER IN THE PARISH OF RICHMOND**, St. John's church, included this lovely display of Easter hats in honour of Queen Elizabeth's 96<sup>th</sup> birthday.

# Mothers' Union rally speaks of transformation

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

"I'm so happy to hear so much chatter," said Joanne Fitzpatrick as she addressed members of Mothers' Union.

That statement exemplified the feeling of the day as members gathered for their annual rally. Other than a small gathering last fall at Camp Medley, the tightly-knit group has not met in person since 2019.

The rally was held April 30 at St. Mary & St. Bartholomew church in Saint John with 40 in attendance. Usually a rally draws 60 or more, but all things considered, co-presidents Joanne Ham and Susan Colpitts were pleased with the turnout.

"We're all trying to find our way," said Susan. "It's baby steps, but this many people here is wonderful."

"Our theme is 'transformation,' which helps us find strength for today and a new way forward," said Joanne, adding several members were watching the rally as it livestreamed on YouTube.

Susan began her co-presidency in January 2021. Having two presidents at one time is new for MU, but the two women are enjoying it.

"We each have our own strengths," said Joanne.

"And it eases the workload," said Susan.

Rally day began with a service of holy communion, led by the Rev. Caleb Twinamatsiko, diocesan Mothers' Union chaplain and rector of the Parish of Pennfield.

Caleb spoke on the concept of peace and security, recalling that in his native country of Uganda, everyone locks their doors and windows. He was baffled to learn that not everyone does that in Canada, or at least not in Charlotte County.

"My friends in Canada, they don't lock their doors, or they leave the key where everybody can see it!" he said, adding they have little fear of harm.

But immediately following the death and resurrection of Jesus, the disciples were locking their doors, fearful of authorities.

"They didn't know where Jesus was," said Caleb. "They thought his body was stolen. So they went into hiding."

To ease their minds, Jesus came to them, suddenly ap-



**MEMBERS OF MOTHERS' UNION IN THE** Diocese of Fredericton pose for a group photo at the end of their rally. Below left, Kathy Urquhart, Hope Twinamatsiko and Sylvia Clifford team up to decorate a hat for the Platinum Jubilee parade. Below right, the Rev. Canon Greg McMullin was the guest speaker at the Mothers' Union rally April 30.



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS



pearing in a room that was locked.

"He knew they were lacking peace," said Caleb.

At Bishop McAllister College in Uganda, Caleb would often tell his students that in order to do well in school, they had to have peace — with the other students, with their teachers.

"When there is no peace, you can't be productive," he said.

Poor Thomas, doubting Jesus was alive, is seen by some as the reason Jesus visited the disciples a second time, because Thomas was absent during his first visit.

"My Lord and my God!" — that confession is needed for every person. If you don't confess that, you are still lacking in your faith," said Caleb, quoting Thomas.

Caleb noted the world is full

of broken, lost souls in need of peace. He spoke specifically of Ukraine and its people dying for the want of peace as invaders destroy all they have.

"In Uganda, I slept in the bush during the war. I know what it means," he said.

In the midst of our worry, as we wrestle with COVID, lost families, even war, there is the Holy Spirit.

"Ask God to reveal himself to you," he said. "The risen Lord is not bound by anything."

The offering taken during the service was earmarked for the Northern Clergy Family Fund.

Before lunch, Shara Golden led midday prayers, drawing attention to the painted rocks, in Ukraine's colours, at each table setting.

She prayed for peace in Ukraine, but noted the many

countries also torn apart by war: Afghanistan, Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Somalia and Syria.

The Rev. Canon Greg McMullin, rector of the Parish of Coldbrook - St. Mary, where the rally was held, was the guest speaker.

In keeping with the day's theme, he spoke of physical transformation, noting the millions of dollars we spend each year on cosmetic surgery.

"Our society is obsessed with human beauty," he said. "We scurry to change from an ugly duckling to a beautiful swan."

But for Christians, the Easter miracle is a true transformation unlike any other, he said. Paul spoke in Romans of the transformation that comes by the renewing of the mind.

"It's the kind of transformation God desires — a change in the way we think, and a change of heart only the Gospel of Jesus can give."

Greg went on to describe a biblical transformation — that of Saul to Paul on the road to Damascus. The man who hunted Christians became the greatest evangelist the world has ever seen after an encounter with Jesus.

"His story illustrates what happens when God's grace is received," said Greg. "And it's for everyone — ordinary people like you and me."

From grace received, as in Paul's case, to grace diffused — sent in many directions — for example, by the disciples and by members of Mothers' Union.

"Ladies, moms of Mothers' Union, you understand something big. That's why this ministry exists," said Greg. "I would say it's the most important ministry in the church, in my opinion."

"You know the place where the nurturing leads to transformation. It has to begin in the home. You get it."

Greg thanked the MU members for the principles upon which the organization rests, which he called a constant reminder of God's call on the family.

"May we lead the way in diffusing grace," he said. "It is our hope for a broken world. When families are transformed, churches are transformed. Communities are transformed. The world is transformed."

After Greg's presentation, members formed small groups to discuss several questions he posed.

The day ended with an art project. Small groups each worked on decorating a hat worthy of a royal garden party, in honour of Queen Elizabeth's platinum jubilee this year.

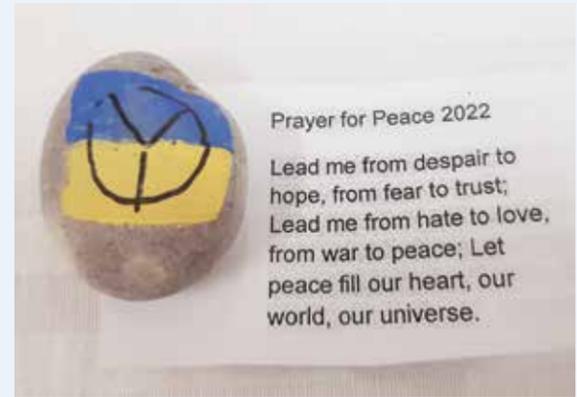
By the end, flowers, ribbons, mesh, glitter, and sparkling stick-on jewels bedazzled each hat, which were then modelled for everyone to appreciate.

The day wrapped up with prayer and thanksgiving for time spent together. Mothers' Union hopes to meet again in the fall for a small rally at Camp Medley.

**More photos on page 7**

MOTHERS' UNION

# Mothers' Union rally 2022



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Adele Knox gets a serving of soup from Sylvia Clifford; The Ukraine-themed rock and prayer at each table setting; the Canadian MU logo; Heather Miller mans the sale table while Joanne Leaman, Lilian Ketch and Deanna Morrison do some shopping; the Rev. Caleb Twinamatsiko during his homily; small group discussion; Shara Golden and co-president Joanne Ham in conversation during lunch.

MCKNIGHT PHOTOS



# Cloth lunch bag project hits 1,000

***It's a great start, but demand is growing, says ICYM director***

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Bagged lunches — upwards of 1,000 a week — feed children at several Saint John schools, part of Inner City Youth Ministry's work. The outreach keeps a fleet of volunteers and ICYM's director, Erin Rideout, very busy with planning, purchasing, preparation, packing and delivery.

Believing there's always room for improvement, this past winter, Erin decided the paper bags they'd been using had to go. Too much money, too much waste, too many trees were all factors, as was the desire to follow the Fifth Mark of Mission, which seeks to protect creation.

Foregoing paper, Erin put out a call for small, washable, reusable cloth bags. She developed a sewing pattern and hoped for the best. By mid-April, helpers came through all over the diocese, with about 1,000 cloth bags sewn and delivered.

But with the number of lunches they prepare climbing, the need for more bags has risen — to 2,400.

The 2,400 goal is enough to give the ministry time for washing and some flexibility for growth. So Erin's call for cloth bags has been renewed.

"With 1,200 bags, it will get us through three lunch days for one week at all six schools," said Erin. "The tricky part is getting them all back from the schools and then getting them washed. The more we have, the more flexibility we have with laundry."

So if you've put your sewing machine away, Erin is hoping you'll reconsider and sew a few more.

## RESPONSE

The response to the original call for bags was astounding.

"They are from so many different places and different people," said Erin, adding they came from Anglican parishes, individuals, ACWs, other groups and even non-Anglican churches.

"It's been a collaboration,

a widespread effort," she said. "And it came about a lot faster than I thought."

After March Break, they had enough bags to roll them out, in a test run, at one school. They found some were too small, and some drawstrings came out, got frayed or even melted in the dryer. But by Earth Week in mid-April, they had a full launch.

The volunteers find the cloth bags easier to pack, though the production lines have slowed somewhat as the bag designs are admired, said Erin.

"They all love them," said Erin of the volunteers. "We've heard nothing but positive. Teachers love them too. The kids were excited to get them."

A vocational group of adults practicing life skills is taking care of the laundry, which is a huge burden off her plate, said Erin.

For pattern information, consult their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SJICYM>.

## Bonnie Hunt returns to ICYM

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

The former director of Inner City Youth Ministry has returned to work as a food security program assistant, alongside director Erin Rideout.

"I run the Lunch Connection," said Bonnie, who began in mid-March. "I'm here every day supervising the lunches and looking after the volunteers."

"It means I now have time to do the things I haven't had time for," said Erin. "There's more time for big-picture stuff — grants, newsletters, planning. More time at the office, less time cutting carrots."

The Lunch Connection is a ministry within ICYM that provides a bag lunch to upwards of 1,000 students a week at six Saint John schools.

It takes a crew of about 40 volunteers to make that happen. There's a lot of peeling carrots, dividing crackers into baggies and packing bags, to name a few of the tasks involved.

When Bonnie headed



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Bonnie Hunt has been hired as a food security program assistant for the Lunch Connection; Katherine Grant shows off one of the 1,000 lunch bags sewn for the bagged lunch program; Cathy Turner and Bonnie Hunt on the packing line; a table filled with packed cloth lunch bags ready for delivery to Saint John schools.**



## MISSION IN MOTION: food security

ICYM, volunteers went into schools to prepare hot lunches, but with the pandemic, bag lunches became necessary.

Bonnie has arrived amid a lot of change: new cloth bags in which the lunches are packed, and an ever-growing number of lunches to prepare. New menu items that include things like hummus are another change.

During Ramadan, when daytime fasting is required, children were able to keep their lunches to eat after sundown, said Bonnie.

Also new is the location at St. Mary & St. Bartholomew Church on Westmorland Road. Having everything on one level has made life easier when loading and unloading, said Erin.

"We wouldn't have been able to do what we're doing this year without the move," she said.

The two hope to introduce a two-week rotating menu this spring. As of early May, every Tuesday, for example, had the same lunch items. They're looking at a monthly rotation

in the future.

"One of our volunteers is a registered dietician, so we always chat with her when contemplating changes," said Erin.

For Bonnie, the job has also included laundering the cloth lunch bags the program is now using. She's learned that 120 bags comprise one load of laundry.

"But the hardest part of the job so far is remembering everyone's name!" she said.

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

# Lift installed in St. Luke's Church, Portland

BY DAVID BARRETT

The Parish of Portland (St. Luke's Church, Saint John) had a goal to make the church more accessible to all people.

The main floor is actually the lower hall with the sanctuary being found up a long, wide, and steep set of stairs.

Many years ago, a chair lift was installed to make it easier for those with mobility issues to enter the church, though it was not wheelchair accessible.

The chair lift had some issues as it was old and a little shaky, and it struck fear into the heart of every pallbearer at a funeral — how did pallbearers manoeuvre around it while carrying a casket?

It certainly struck fear in the heart of this priest as I watched those pallbearers come down the stairs!

It was decided that the chair lift should be replaced with a vertical platform lift at the opposite end of the building, and this became one of the goals of the parish's Capital Campaign, but there were issues more pressing that required the parish's financial resources.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**NORMA DOYLE IS SEEN** entering the new lift at St. Luke's Church after a Sunday morning service while her daughter, Kathy Ryder, holds the door for her.

In 2021, a government inspector made his annual trip to

St. Luke's to inspect the lift and renew its licence for another year. He informed the parish

that the chair lift was the oldest one still in operation in Saint John, if not the province. He said it had lived its life and he gave the parish a year to replace it.

A quote for a new chair lift was obtained and it was decided to get a price for a vertical platform lift as well. While the vertical platform lift was substantially more expensive than a chair lift, it was decided the time had come to go in that direction.

A design and price were obtained from Harding Medical in Moncton, and then quotes were received for building the shaft. ICR General Contractors from Saint John was hired for this work, and the project was supervised by parish warden Jeena Jacob.

A support beam had to be placed in the basement and asbestos removed.

While all this was going on, the parish knew that while it had a significant amount set aside for the project, it could not proceed until all the funding (about \$65,000) was in place.

The parish applied to both the diocese and the Anglican Foundation for grants, and enough funding was obtained to proceed with the project.

Unfortunately, issue after issue arose which led to delays with the project, and week after week the rector, the Rev. Dr. Cole Hartin, would announce these delays to a disappointed congregation.

Finally, the lift was fully operational for the Christmas Eve service, a great gift for the congregation! Both the hall and sanctuary are now fully accessible to all people, with the lift going from a meeting room on the hall level to a meeting/choir room on the church level at the east end of the building.

The parish would like to humbly thank the Diocese and the Anglican Foundation for their financial support of this project. Without them it would not have happened.

The lift will prove to be a blessing to the parish for many years to come.

*The Rev. Canon David Barrett is the honorary assistant in the Parish of Portland.*

# Save the stone church at Lower Jemseg

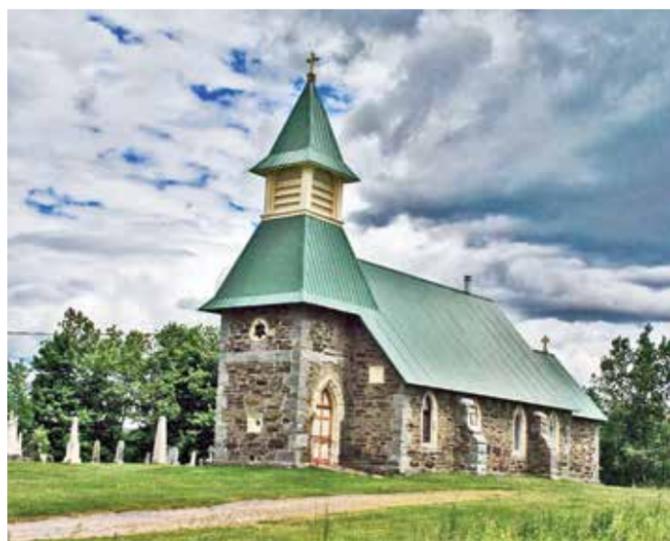
St. James Anglican at Lower Jemseg is an architectural and historical treasure.

Constructed in 1887, the fieldstone for it was collected by parishioners over the previous two-year period from the area around Dykeman Lake.

Granite was donated by the quarry across the river at Hampstead. Caen stone left from the construction of Christ Church Cathedral in Fredericton was used to frame the windows and doors, and for the chancel arch.

The design, copied from a church in Britain, accounts for the unusual small round window about four feet from the ground in front of the church. This "Leper's Peep" design element, from a time when lepers roamed the countryside in Britain, was never used for this purpose here in central New Brunswick.

The interior is as attractive



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**A CAMPAIGN IS UNDERWAY** to help save St. James Anglican Church. Reinforcements of the east wall foundation are the most urgent of the repairs. This Phase I comes with a price tag of \$130,000.

as the outside with marvelous memorial stained-glass windows given by local families. The adjacent cemetery in-

cludes resting places for Anglicans and other denominations. Many tourists visit each year.

Unfortunately, this beautiful

landmark is in need of urgent repair. The unstable east wall puts in danger the stained-glass portrait of St. James.

There are other repairs to be done, but reinforcement of the east wall foundation, rebuilding of the stone wall and repair and reinstallation of the St. James window, estimated to cost \$130,000, are the most urgent.

We are requesting your support to save this landmark of our community. While we will be making application to various funding agencies, it is anticipated that the majority of the funding will need to come from the community and those with historic attachment to the church.

A cheque or cash donation at this time would help us save this beautiful and historic place such that it may live on for another 50 to 100 years or more. All donations are

tax-deductible and can be addressed to:

The Anglican Parish of Cambridge and Waterborough, 2266 Lower Cambridge Road, Cambridge-Narrows, NB E4C 1P1

Donations may be sent by e-transfer to: treasurer@parishofcambridgeandwaterborough.com with a separate e-mail to confirm the donation and the address for the tax receipt.

Cheques should be made payable to "The Anglican Parish of Cambridge and Waterborough" with the memo line "St. James Restoration."

Tax receipts will be sent early the following year in late January or early February unless otherwise requested. Thank you in advance for your generous support.

*Submitted by the Anglican Parish of Cambridge and Waterborough.*



## NEIL OSIOWY

*This story is part of a series where we feature a member of the Anglican Diocese of Fredericton whose roots are far from New Brunswick. If you are, or know of a parishioner who is from away and would like to tell the story of 'how I got here,' send the name and contact information to the editor: gmcknight@diofton.ca or 506-459-1801, ext. 1009.*

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

The city boy has become a good old country boy, but the path from the city of Regina to the village of Doaktown was a long one with many difficult twists.

This is the story of how the Rev. Neil Osioy came to be an Anglican priest in the Diocese of Fredericton.

Neil's life in Regina, Sask. was a good one — a middle-class Catholic family where his parents, older brother and he enjoyed life.

He didn't have much of a thought for the priesthood, though. He was more interested in business. But every now and then, a priest would nudge him with comments like, 'I have an application right here in my pocket for you.'

But the idea of becoming a priest was met with self-doubt.

"I often had the feeling that I'm not good enough, not holy enough for that," he said.

When he graduated from the University of Regina with a business degree, he proudly told Father Ken one Sunday about his new sales job.

"That will give you good practice for selling the Good News someday," was his reply.

"What was he thinking?" thought Neil.

### THE CALLING

By 1998, though, Neil was out of a job,

and a yearning for something different could not be quelled. That yearning grew when God sent a man named Joe.

"Around this time I met Father Joe," said Neil. "He really seemed like a very ordinary man with a special calling. I saw him not so much on a pedestal."

But only a few months later, Father Joe died suddenly.

"I began thinking I could replace him somehow. I was out of work and I didn't really want to pursue another sales job. This led me to start talking to other priests."

Neil then went through the various processes that eventually led him to St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ont.

"My parents were very happy," he said, adding they even drove him to London when an Air Canada strike prevented him from flying.

"I still wasn't sure God was calling me to be a priest, but I felt I would be a better man for trying than not going and not knowing," said Neil.

After studies and a one-year pastoral internship in Estevan, Sask., he was ordained a deacon. Then he finished seminary, and was ordained a priest in the Archdiocese of Regina in May 2004.

His first posting was five minutes away from his parents' house in Regina.

After two years he moved an hour north of Regina to serve in three rural parishes. This was where he found a community.

"I really enjoyed that ministry," he said. "It was easier to get to know people in a smaller setting."

He played hockey, frequented the coffee shops and generally enjoyed his three years. This love for rural ministry would serve him well a decade later.

In 2009 he was moved to Moose Jaw, and that is where his priestly plans came undone.



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Neil, Deborah, Samson and Ruby.

Neil, right, at his ordination May 21, 2004, kneeling before Archbishop Peter Mallon.

Ordination day with proud parents Doreen and Ted Osioy.

Neil's First Communion in 1977.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

### FATEFUL MEETING

A year earlier, he had met a woman named Deborah through mutual friends.

"Deborah and I just connected and stayed in touch," he said. "For two years we maintained a phone friendship."

They figured out Skype, and in 2009, Neil visited her in New Brunswick, where she lived.

They took a trip to Grand Manan, and the island's magic made a big impression.

"I really enjoyed the natural beauty of New Brunswick," he said.

He returned to Moose Jaw and continued his ministry, but looking back, he realized he and Deborah were

naïve about where their friendship was headed.

"By June 2010, it became apparent that I had to make a decision," he said. "I could not continue with the relationship and with my ministry as a celibate priest."

### THE DECISION

The decision to leave the priesthood was a bittersweet one. He was both excited to be launching a new life with Deborah, but "I had a great sense of shame. I'd failed in my priestly promises," he said.

And then there was his family, who were heartbroken at the turn of events — both his leaving the priesthood and his moving to the other end of the

country.

### LIFE IN NB

Neil left Saskatchewan on June 30, 2010. He had a whole new life ahead of him but didn't quite know where to begin. He thought he might work for a community non-profit, but quickly found that many jobs in Moncton required the ability to speak French.

So he began working as a temporary employee in several places, but knew that wasn't a long-term option.

In 2011, he and Deborah bought a house, and it so happened that their new neighbour worked at Kent Building Supplies. He encouraged Neil to apply, and Neil took a position in the distribution centre.

The house purchase, the new neighbour, the job — all were part of a path to a much more life-altering circumstance.

Neil and Deborah became good friends with their neighbours, and on Christmas Eve, they were invited to their home for dinner.

After dinner, the couple was going to the service at St. John the Baptist Anglican Church in Riverview and Neil and Deborah went with them.

At this point, Neil and Deborah were attending a Catholic church in Moncton, but Neil found the Anglican service familiar.

Fast forward one full year to Christmas Eve 2012 — the same invitation to dinner, the same trek to

the service at St. John the Baptist with their friends.

This time, the Ven. Brent Ham spoke about looking for a gift for his wife, Joanne, with the lesson that we sometime look too hard for material gifts while missing the gift of people.

It was just a simple sermon illustration, but Deborah came away with the seeds of a plan.

"I didn't know Anglican priests could be married," she said to Neil. "You should inquire about doing that. I know how much you loved being a priest."

### NEW ORDERS

So in early 2013, Neil began the long journey to a new calling as an Angli-

can priest.

Brent suggested two things: start attending an Anglican church, and think about getting married. They quickly did both, with them tying the knot in Regina in front of Neil's parents, who had softened to the idea of their son as both a married man and an Anglican.

In fact, before the wedding, Neil's mom gave him strict instructions on how to treat his bride.

Back in New Brunswick, Archbishop Claude Miller cautioned Neil to further discern what it might mean to be a priest in a new province, in a new church and as a married man.

In Riverview, Brent took on a mentoring role, and gave Neil opportunities to preach. Neil joined bible and book studies and attended vestry meetings.

"I was back, involved in the life of the parish, and it was appealing," said Neil. "It gave me a renewed sense of meaning and purpose in life."

In September 2014, Neil and Brent attended Archbishop David Edwards' consecration, another step in his introduction to Anglicanism.

Just a few weeks later, David met with Neil and the now Rev. Thomas Nisbett, who was also discerning a call.

"When I met Bishop David, I got a sense from him that I was to keep doing what I was doing under Brent's direction," he said. "It gave me a sense of affirmation."

By summer 2015, serious advances were in the works. Neil was directed to meet with the Rev. Dr. Ranall Ingalls, rector in Sackville at the time, to do directed readings and studies.

"We met twice a month," said Neil. "I'd drive to Sackville on Sunday afternoons. By David giving me a goal, it gave me a strong sense of hope."

By the following spring, Neil had satisfied the diocesan requirements, and in June he joined a group of seven others who were ordained. Neil, though was not ordained, since he had been already. Instead, Neil's Priestly Orders were received into the Anglican Church.

"It was a challenging three years of discernment," he said. "You naturally want to be accepted. I didn't always know that would happen. But in hindsight, I know it was needed."

### A PRIEST ONCE AGAIN

"It was a real sense of relief, renewing my priestly call," said Neil.

During the summer, Neil ministered in the Parish of Westmorland on Sundays, while continuing his job at Kent.

"David had a plan for me, and I needed to be patient," he said.

*MJH continued on page 12*

## MY JOURNEY HERE

# My Journey Here: Neil Osioy

MJH continued from page 11

In early fall, he interviewed for the position of rector of the Parish of Ludlow & Blissfield. He was appointed Oct. 15, 2016, and he and Deborah moved to their new home of Doaktown.

“We quickly fell in love with the people of the Miramichi and the parish,” said Neil.

Deborah gave up her thriving dog grooming business in Riverview to move, and one of their first tasks was to create a shop in the basement of the rectory so she could continue her career.

“Deborah was extremely supportive of me renewing my call and this new journey in our life together,” he said.

## LIFE IN THE PARISH OF LUDLOW & BLISSFIELD

Neil and Deborah found their new parish family to be very welcoming.

“The people were wonderfully supportive of me as I transitioned into full-time Anglican ministry,” said Neil.

“The day after the Service of New Ministry for me, Deborah and I travelled to Saskatchewan as we had received word that my mother was dying. The number of parishioners that offered prayers and condolences through Facebook was profound.”

Though COVID has changed so much about the ways things are done, Neil has an extremely dedicated group of volunteers, not only in the church, but also in community events.

“I find that Anglicans have a very strong sense of service to others,” he said.

To get to know the community, Neil and Deborah attend many different events. They started curling, and Neil joined the community choir.

Neil also serves as padre at Normandy Legion Branch # 78 in Boiestown.

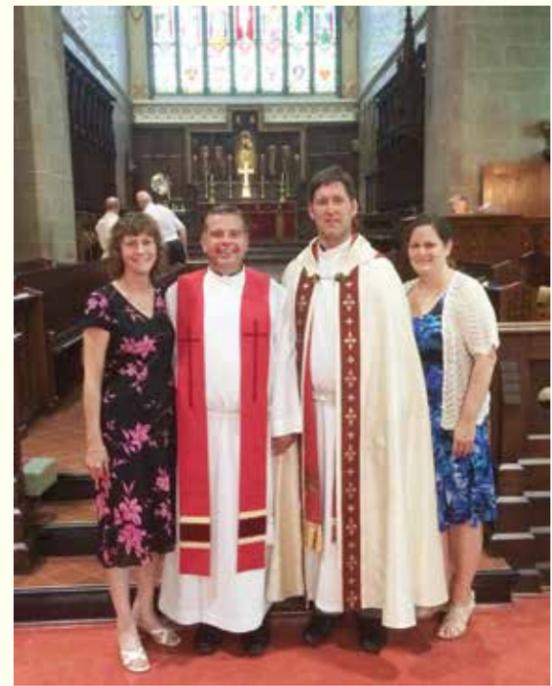
“That gives me the opportunity to be involved in the



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Neil on his ATV, which he uses for ministry, on a trail near Doaktown.

Deborah, Neil, Brent Ham and Joanne Ham in June 2016 at Christ Church Cathedral when Neil's orders were received which allowed him to become a priest in the Anglican Church.

Neil during a snowmobile event. He actually prefers snowmobiling to ATVing. It's cleaner and warmer — with the right clothing — he says.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

community in the upper end of my parish.

And by upper, he means upriver. He's shed his prairie habit of using compass directions, instead referring to locations as upriver or downriver.

He and Deborah have found a whole new outdoor life in rural New Brunswick, which began when a man named Paul invited Neil to go snowmobiling.

“That planted the bug in me,” said Neil.

He mentioned to the guys at Tim Horton's that he was buying two snowmobiles, and a friend there said, ‘if you're going to be a true Miramicher, you've got to get a couple of four-wheelers too.’

Neil had never been on a four-wheeler in his life, but he ordered two of them as well.

And that pretty much cemented his transformation from city boy to backwoods-loving country boy.

“The first time Deborah and I went out, we were dodging puddles because we didn't want to get them dirty,” he said.

They met up with a friend who took them on some wild rides that day that included a lot of water and mud. So much for clean bikes.

Since then, Neil has created a ministry that takes place on the trails. He has a group of older retirees he rides with, and he recently conducted the

funeral for one of them. He's also held a blessing of the bikes service.

“David's a strong advocate for being missional,” said Neil. “You can't just open the church doors and expect they'll come. You have to get out in the community.”

## AT HOME

Neil and Deborah, golden doodle Ruby and bernadoodle Samson have found a home in the parish.

“We have so much more of a life here than we did in Riverview,” he said. “It's not just the parish. We've made friends in the community as well.”

Neil figures he has the best of both worlds.

“We live in a village that has everything we need — a grocery store, a hardware store, a pharmacy, a dollar store, and a gas station. That appeals to me — and we're only an hour from Costco in Fredericton.”

After almost six years, Neil feels he is exactly where and what God had always meant him to be.

“God has given me a sense of peace that all is well. We're very happy here and continue to feel called,” he said.

“I look back and it hasn't been easy. Difficult decisions were made, but I feel that God's been creating this beautiful symphony and I have to respond as generously as I can. It's been my restoration.”

# Reflections on downsizing

COMMENTARY BY  
DAVID BARRETT

I have always been a collector. It started with stamps when I was in Grade 4 (I now have seven large boxes full of them in a closet).

I also started collecting coins, but they take up little space. In high school, a friend invited me to an auction, and I was hooked. I started collecting, well, a bit of everything — and what bargains are found at auctions!

In university, I worked summers at Kings Landing and developed a love for antique furniture, and I started collecting that.

Fortunately for me, in the first parish where I served as rector (Upham), I lived in a large rectory which had lots of room for furniture, and I filled it nicely. And then I got married.

Fortunately for me, my long-suffering wife, Alexandra, also likes antiques and she put up with my collecting.

Fast forward to 1994 when we moved to the Parish of Sussex, and there we lived in a 5-bedroom house with lots and lots of room for more furniture! We loved going to the auctions. Our three daughters

not so much, but they were great family outings, and we purchased some real treasures (at very affordable prices, of course!).

In 19 years, you can accumulate a lot of things. We finally came up with a rule that if we brought anything new into the rectory something else had to go, and Alexandra almost had to move out a couple of times, but that was avoided! And then we moved to a new parish and a smaller house.

This was my first experience with having to get rid of things. Twenty years of National Geographic magazines went to Dorchester Penitentiary.

Canon Albert Snelgrove found buyers for my beloved cherry wardrobe and walnut dining room set (both purchased at auctions).

And then we moved again, this time with me taking the position of hospital chaplain in Saint John and with us having to purchase a home.

Fortunately, we were able to find a home that held all our treasures. We loved that house and enjoyed it for six and a half years, but we decided it was time to give up our home and move to an apartment.

This was a big decision, one

made only after much prayer.

As we all know, the real estate market is very hot in New Brunswick these days. We put our house on the market on a Monday, the “For Sale” sign went up on Tuesday, and on Wednesday we sold our house.

We had rented a three-bedroom apartment in a new building, but what to do with all of our stuff?

Please note that throughout this article I have referred to our possessions as things, and that’s what they are. If we are not careful, our possessions can possess us.

We sold a couple of things privately, but we realized this was going to take too much time and effort. I called an auctioneer, and a huge number of

our things went into an online auction.

This was not an easy process. Many of these things were given to us by people who have died and there was great sentimental attachment to them, but they are things.

The Scripture passage that helped me with this was Ecclesiastes 3:1,6: “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away.”

As I parted with each treasure, I did not mourn its leaving; instead, I thanked God for the memory it brought, memories that I will always have, and knowing that memories cannot be consumed by moths or

rust, and thieves cannot break in and steal memories.

I am glad these things are now making memories for someone else, and some of them are now with our three daughters. I am thankful that God gave us the ability to have those things for a time, and I thank him for the memories we will treasure forever.

The auction is over now, and I feel liberated. I miss none of the things we parted with, and we now have less to deal with, less to dust. And one final note: Hannah, Elizabeth, and Rachel: we have done you a huge favour!

*The Rev. Canon David Barrett is the hospital chaplain in Saint John and honorary assistant in the Parish of Portland.*



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**THE REV. CANON DAVID BARRETT** has found freedom in letting go of many items he has collected over the years as he and his wife sought to downsize. Once they sold their house, they didn’t have much choice about letting go of the antique furniture, books, magazines and other items.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Grand Manan baptisms

**THE EASTER SERVICE AT THE** Church of the Ascension on Grand Manan Island saw an extra special celebration as six children were baptized. Back row from left: layreader Adele Peacock and the Rev. Jim Crighton. Front row, from left: Pacey Urquhart, Koby and Katie Urquhart, Wesley, Tanner and Adrian Urquhart.

# Can churches double as homeless shelters?

## A response based on painful experience

COMMENTARY BY  
TERENCE CHANDRA

The City of Saint John is at present mired in a mounting homelessness crisis.

In the forgotten spaces of our city's urban core, under bridges and stairwells, in dingy nooks and crevices that only the desperate know, a growing number of unfortunate souls have been forced to make their refuge.

Those who labour among them — social workers and nurses, street preachers and activists — are more than well aware of just how serious this problem has become.

According to a friend I've spoken to in social services, the past few months have seen an alarming rise in cases of hypothermia and severe frostbite.

Each evening, the unsung staff of Coverdale and the Outflow Men's Shelter (God bless them for what they do!) are forced to dismiss perhaps half-a-dozen hapless souls into a cruel and spiteful cold, their limited spaces overtaxed by what has become an excess of need.

It was in response to this need that our church (Stone Church) was asked by our MLA, Arlene Dunn, to open a temporary overnight emergency shelter for late January and the whole of February. Although our initial response was enthusiastic, every knowledgeable voice we consulted in the days that followed warned us against such an undertaking.

It's too difficult and dangerous, we were told. You haven't made the necessary preparations and, by the time you do, the cold season will be over.

But, thanks to provincial resources freed up by the MLA and her office — not to mention a small cadre of truly saintly staff and volunteers — we officially launched on Monday, Jan. 24.

In the days following our



Terence Chandra credits the presence of Christ in all who came through the door as the reason Stone Church's five-week shelter operation was not a catastrophic disaster, because all the elements for harm were present.

closure five weeks later, some have posed the reasonable question, "Why did you close your shelter at the end of February, with spring temperatures still a month away and so many people in need?"

Over the course of the next few paragraphs, I hope to offer a response to this question, and in the process of doing so, provide some greater insight into the complexity and severity of our city's homelessness problem.

**Why we closed when we did**  
To but it bluntly, we closed our shelter because it would have been extremely dangerous for us to continue any longer than what our initial mandate entailed.

The homeless population of Saint John (and, I presume, most North American cities) consists largely of people experiencing extreme forms of mental illness — from paranoid schizophrenia to severe mood disorders.

If the problem isn't mental illness, it's addiction — intractable addiction to all manner of substances, both legal and illegal: alcohol and prescription pills, opiates and amphetamines. In fact, both the problem of mental illness and drug abuse tend to feed into one another, as people suffering from, say, depression

might seek to self-medicate with a whole array of illicit substances.

Add to all of this the fact that a number of our guests were once imprisoned for violent offences and then released without secure housing and the result is this: a highly volatile and threatening environment, not only for our staff and volunteers, but for our guests as well.

I should also note that, in the initial weeks of our operation, we tended to receive the clients who had been banned from other homeless shelters for violent behaviour.

**Some of the horrible things we were forced to deal with**

Let me recount just a few of the extremely distressing situations that we had to face over the course of the five weeks of our operation. (Bear in mind, this is by no means an exhaustive list):

Our security guards had to convince a potentially violent man (possibly in the throws of a psychotic episode) to leave the church in the middle of the night for trying to sexually assault a female guest (a young woman lying defenceless on the floor, high on what appeared to be narcotics).

One volunteer — an extremely kind and generous woman who routinely worked

our graveyard shift — watched as a man with severe frostbite literally collapsed to the floor on his way to the bathroom, his foot finally giving way after months of severe infection brought about by untreated frostbite. An ambulance was immediately called, and he received treatment in hospital.

A few nights later, that same volunteer sat on the floor for an hour-and-a-half with an Afghan War vet as he experienced a vivid and terrifying flashback of his experiences in Kandahar, wondering, all the while, if calling an ambulance would help the situation or only make it worse.

On a regular basis, our church's custodian found loose needles tossed carelessly into ordinary plastic garbage bags — despite the fact that there were medical grade sharp containers placed strategically in the bathroom and around the church for guests to use.

The dangers that both our custodian and our other volunteers faced in handling these garbage bags is obvious.

Please bear in mind that our volunteers consisted of ordinary people just like you: a retired couple, a music teacher, an engineer, a stay-at-home mom, an accountant, a church pastor and his wife, a short-order cook, a few grandparents — none of whom have

been trained in conflict de-escalation, crisis intervention, or emergency medical care.

None of them knew how to recognize signs of opiate overdose. None of them possessed any experience in talking desperate people out of committing suicide. None of them knew a thing about calming someone in the midst of a PTSD flashback.

None of them were professionally trained in the handling and disposal of hazardous materials. The only resources we had in such situations were calling 911 and prayer (both of which we did repeatedly over the course of the past five weeks).

In the month during which we operated our shelter, any manner of thing could have gone catastrophically wrong and, not only our staff and volunteers, but our guests would have been the ones to pay the price.

The fact that, in the end, no one was hurt is something that I — without a trace of hyperbole — credit entirely to the presence of Christ himself, filling and surrounding every one of the precious souls who came in and out of our building. I will repeat this unashamedly to anyone who will listen.

Hopefully, this answers the question of why we did not continue to run the shelter for a single day beyond the previously agreed upon five weeks.

Anyone who would fault us for closing our shelter when our allotted time came to an end — anyone who would demand that our staff and volunteers continue to expose themselves to such grave risk, night after night, indefinitely — harbours a near pathological level of callousness that I find impossible to comprehend.

**Final thoughts on homelessness and the church**

It would be a mistake to perceive the homelessness crisis as a single, isolated problem. Rather, from what I've observed, homelessness is the final problem in a long chain of interlocking problems, each of which feed one into the other to create a pernicious feedback loop. I name only a few examples here:

- the problem of untreated

Shelter continued on page 15

# A reflection on protest and self-denial

COMMENTARY BY  
KEITH OSBORNE

This has become a common scene on the global stage: streets filled with people shouting and chanting, at times being sprayed with tear gas or pepper spray.

We see flags and banners with slogans articulating, for better or worse, the desire for freedom and human rights.

Police make their stand in riot gear, pushing the crowd, or using their presence as a deterrent.

So it is, as history bears it out, that the lust for power and control over the masses continues as a disease inherent in the human condition.

Whether it be dignified politicians in a liberal democracy or dictators who rule with an iron hand, all can succumb to this powerful addiction.

The airwaves can be inundated with lies and propaganda, which many will believe.

Honest dialogue between groups is strangely absent and we, as Christians, wonder how long will it be before the state seeks to govern the Church.

After all, Jesus is not exactly the most popular name in a post-Christian world.

May I suggest that these



**A PROTEST AND RALLY** to support Ukraine in its struggle against Russian aggression in Boston on March 6, just days after the invasion of Ukraine began.

pervasive situations present to us, as Christians, an issue

which begs serious consideration.

We are clearly told in scripture to obey those in authority over us, as they are there to do God's will, to maintain order for the welfare of all.

We are also given the non-negotiable paradigm of dying to sin and the self.

We are called to be self-effacing, to resist the clamour for our rights to be acknowledged. If we live under the cross in a true spirit of dying to self, then we actually have no rights.

All we can claim to have in this lifestyle of godly humility are privileges instead of rights.

We cannot lay claim to the strident cry to be avenged of all wrongs done to us, nor to what is due to us in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

However, does the experience of dying to self mean we become a door mat upon which those in places of power may wipe their feet?

Perhaps we can say that to fight for our personal and individual state-declared prerogatives is off the table, but to protest and struggle for the freedom of a nation is our duty.

If one sees their nation descending into a place of martial law, the loss of rights and freedoms, the pillars of democracy being compromised

and the state control of the media, then is it not a grievous fault to say nothing and to stand for nothing?

Christians often lament the loss of the Lord's Prayer in schools, but what did we do to prevent it? At times our silence condemns us.

In order to fulfill both sides, are we then to compartmentalize according to motives?

We look to those in the past who we regard as heroes, and who, yes, practiced civil disobedience: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Mahatma Gandhi.

They all fought, not for themselves, but for the survival and welfare of their respective nations.

Can we then, with clear conscience, follow in that same path, not for the satisfaction of self but to preserve a nation formed under God?

We remember the inscription carved near the entrance to the Parliament Buildings: "He shall have dominion from sea to sea."

•••

*The Ven. Keith Osborne is archdeacon of Saint John and leads a senior care ministry there.*

## Can churches serves as shelters for the homeless? continued

Shelter continued from page 14

mental illness.

- the growing rates of addiction to new, stronger and more insidious drugs.

- the failure of our economic system to provide affordable housing.

- the exposure of small children to highly unstable home environments where they are extremely likely to experience abuse and neglect.

- the unravelling of our social fabric, leaving the most vulnerable people alienated from the life-giving supports that prevent them from falling through the cracks.

These problems are our col-

lective responsibility. When we fail to address them — when the end result is our fellow human being, passed out on the snowbank, lost in a psychotic break or paralyzed in an opiate haze — it would be unreasonable, indeed cruel, to point to volunteer-based civic groups and simply say, "They're your problem now. Deal with it."

Rather, the homelessness crisis and all the crises that feed into it upstream must be dealt with collectively, with every sector of society contributing to a solution.

Don't get me wrong. I believe the church has an instrumental role — if not a leading role to play — in this great,

collective work.

Despite all I've experienced during the past few weeks — despite all I've been through over the course of my 18 years of ministry as an ordained priest — I still believe in the power of ordinary faith communities to effect wonderful change in the broader civic community.

This confidence is rooted fundamentally in the work of Christ and the power of his Holy Spirit — a Spirit working in us to do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Now, to answer one final question that no one, as yet, has asked: Knowing what you know now, would

you still open a temporary emergency shelter for the homeless? The answer, of course, is yes.

**Note:** If you are as concerned as we are by the homelessness crisis our city is presently facing (or the homelessness crisis in general) please consider sharing this article.

### FOOTNOTES:

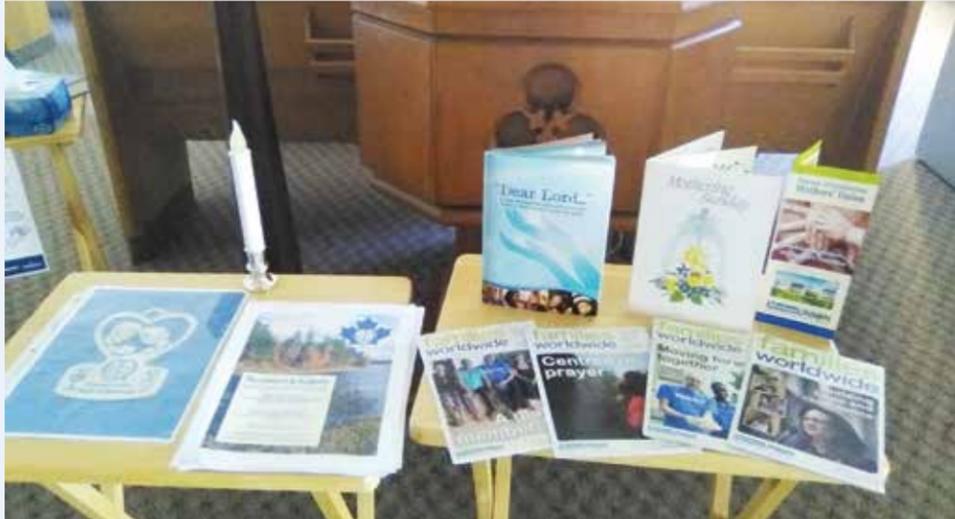
The biggest contribution from the province was to provide two security guards each evening. Once the five weeks were over, the funding for these security guards ran out. It would have been very dangerous to continue running the shelter even with the protection

they provided. Without them, it would have been impossible.

Alcohol and drug use was banned within our shelter. However, people could show up intoxicated. There was no way of preventing people from bringing drug paraphernalia in their backpacks or on their person. We encouraged people to dispose of used needles in medical grade, puncture proof boxes but not everyone complied.

*The Rev. Terence Chandra, with his wife, the Rev. Jasmine Chandra, are priests-in-charge at Stone Church in uptown Saint John, and operate a ministry called Pennies and Sparrows that helps meet needs in the city.*

PARISH NEWS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

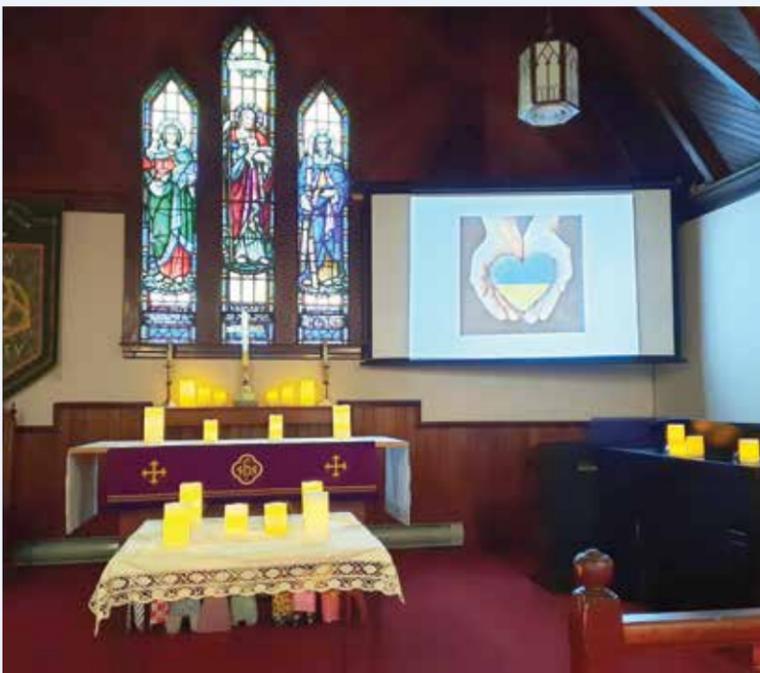
**ABOVE: MOTHERING SUNDAY** in the Parish of Richmond, St. John's church, featured a Mothers' Union display of MU magazines and books. The communion rail was adorned with a MU tablecloth and silk scarf. The altar depicted an image of "Mom, Dad, and baby" which is also found on the MU Parish of Richmond banner and the branch pewter ornament.

**RIGHT: THE MARCH 20** Mothering Sunday service at All Saints in the Parish of Bright was followed by fellowship and a delicious Simnel cake made by Ashley Watson. Everyone enjoyed it. Thanks Ashley!



GEORGE LAWRENCE / VIOLET MCLAUGHLIN PHOTOS

Parish news



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



**LEFT: PRAYER VIGIL FOR UKRAINE**

A community prayer vigil was held at Holy Trinity Hammond River on Friday April 1 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. While Taizé music played quietly in the background, prayer booklets were provided with prayers specifically developed for Ukraine. Those attending stayed as long as they wished for this quiet prayer-filled afternoon.

**ABOVE: STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

During Holy Week on Wednesday, April 13, a group from Holy Trinity Hammond River gathered for a meditative and prayer-filled walk along the Stations of the Cross pathway at the Villa Madonna in Rothesay. Pictured from left to right are Connie Downey, Nancy Floyd, Darlene Cannell and Sandra Smith. Missing from the photo is Cleo Cyr.

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

# Trinity celebrates links to England on St. George's Day

BY DAVID GOSS

Though the St. George Society no longer exists, there remains in Saint John many mementos reminiscent of the city's long connection with the mother country of England, and St. George's day was an opportunity to celebrate this.

About 60 people dropped in April 23 to enjoy treasures at Trinity donated by the St. George Society: a bust of Queen Victoria and the Society's banner which depicts St. George's battle with the dragon.

Throughout the afternoon, Spencer Belyea entertained on Trinity's new Phoenix digital organ. In the Bennett Room, Tim Blackmore presented "Georgian Serenade," a program of piano music from the



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



**ABOVE: TIM BLACKMORE**, centre, gave a musical presentation during St. George's Day.

**LEFT: Spencer Belyea** treated visitors to organ music during the event.

time of King George III. This performance was sponsored by the Saint John Early Music Festival.

Visitors also enjoyed a display of historical items put

together by Harold Wright, which included his own plus items loaned from the former St. George Society members, which document their many activities from 1802 until the

Society disbanded.

**In other Trinity news:**

- St. George's Day was the first of a number of programs being offered through a new committee of vestry called the

COVID Recovery Committee.

- A series of musical events will be held throughout June, July and August.

- The church will be open to visitors on all cruise ship days.

**ACW's annual Quiet Day**

**Wednesday, Sept. 7**

**St Margaret's Anglican Church**  
775 Forest Hill Rd,  
Fredericton

*"Together Again"*

St. Margaret's is wheelchair accessible

- 9:30 - Registration & morning refreshments
- 10:30 - Holy Eucharist service
- 11:15 - Group activity
- 12:30 - Pot luck lunch
- 1:30 - Speaker
- 3 p.m. - Closing Prayers

**CAMP MEDLEY!**

**SUMMER 2022**

- Boys & Girls 1** (ages 6-11) July 3-8
- Boys & Girls 2** (ages 6-11) July 17-22
- Boys & Girls 3** (ages 6-11) Aug. 7-12
- Welcome to Camp 1** (ages 6-9) July 3-8
- Welcome to Camp 2** (ages 6-9) July 17-20
- Day Destination Camp for the whole family** August 4, 5, 6
- Teen Camp 1** (ages 11-15) July 10-15
- Teen Camp 2** (ages 11-15) Aug. 14-19
- Leadership Camp** (age 14-16) July 3-8
- Welcome to Girls Camp** (ages 6-9) July 24-27
- Girls Camp** (ages 6-11) July 24-29
- Girl Boss** (ages 12-15) July 24-29
- Adventure 1** (ages 12-15) Aug. 7-12
- Adventure 2** (ages 12-15) Aug. 14-19
- Medley Makers** (ages 12-15) July 10-15
- Family Camp** July 30 - August 1

campmedley.ca

*Thank you!*

Thank you for your past support of our campership fund, which helps families not able to cover the full cost of camp. Please consider donating again this year. The need is always great — but the results are always worth it. Investing in campership enriches the lives of children. Contact: [director@campmedley.ca](mailto:director@campmedley.ca) or [www.campmedley.ca](http://www.campmedley.ca) to donate.

**CAMP MEDLEY!**

**Summer tour schedule**

- July 5 to August 26, Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Location: 245 Westmorland St. in Fredericton
- Tours are free. Donations gratefully accepted.
- Masks are required.
- To arrange an after-hours tour, call Christ Church (Parish) Church at 451-0630

*Visit St. Anne's Chapel of Ease this summer!*

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**Summer sounds at Trinity Church, Saint John**

Monday nights in June-July and Thursday nights in August, beginning at 7:15 p.m. for no more than one hour. Free-will offering for all events to be shared with the presenters. Comfortable padded pews for a relaxing visit.

**June 27: Andrew Clark**, guitarist and songster extraordinaire who specializes in modern and contemporary presentations, some he writes himself. He has performed as part of the Cool Chicks and Ugly Doclings, and is working on his 4th CD in his newly established studio.

**July 4: Ron Maloney** of Quispamsis with a mix of lively top tunes of the past everyone remembers. You can make requests and if Ron knows the piece you can hum along, tap your toes or get up and dance!

**July 11: Before the Mast**, Saint John's premiere sea shanty group, will give a lesson in shanty singing and a preview of their Sea Shanty Festival coming up in St. Martins August 12-14.

**July 18: Tom and Mary Noel**, popular duo from Saint John West who specialize in Maritime and contemporary songs that will get your feet a-tappin'.

**July 25: Campfire Songs** with their stories, led by David Goss. David has delved into his past as a leader of Scouting campfires, and will share his favorite sing-along pieces, with the stories of their origin and use over the years, with guitar accompaniment.

**The August program** will feature artists on the Phoenix Digital Organ recently installed in Trinity. The program co-coordinator is Spencer Belyea.

**Trinity is located at 115 Charlotte Street, Saint John.**

**Seniors' Retreat**  
 Oct. 2-5  
 Camp Medley  
 \$150

Come for relaxation, fellowship and fun: canoeing, hiking, archery, art, hands-on projects, wellness stretching, campfires, storytelling and more



**CAMP MEDLEY!**

Geared to 50+ but all adults welcome.  
 Register online: [campmedley.ca](http://campmedley.ca)

St Michael's Youth Conference

**YOU ARE HERE**

Rediscover summer camp 2022



[nb.anglican.ca/ministries/camping-ministries](http://nb.anglican.ca/ministries/camping-ministries)

**POSTPONED TO FALL**

**Godly Play Storyteller Training**

More information and registration: [godlyplaymaritimes.com/](http://godlyplaymaritimes.com/)

**NEW FALL DATES!**

Sept. 30 (4-9 pm)  
 Oct. 1 (8:30-5:30) and Oct. 28 & 29 (same times)  
 Sackville United Church, Sackville, NB AND First Baptist, Halifax



**Strike Out**  
 CHILD HUNGER

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
 SATURDAY, OCT. 15

THE BOWLING TOURNAMENT TO HELP ALLEVIATE CHILD HUNGER IS BACK! START PLANNING YOUR TEAM TODAY.  
 SPONSORED BY THE PARISH OF MARYSVILLE.

**++ Missional Initiative Fund**

The Diocese of Fredericton has dedicated funds in the budget for New Missional Initiatives. These are intended to be small amounts needed to get the initiative going.

If you have an idea or proposal, we want to hear from you!

Applying is Simple - 4 things are needed:  
 1. A short summary of the idea/proposal;  
 2. Proposed Project Budget;  
 3. How is it Missional?  
 4. How is it New?

Send your proposals and/or questions to:  
 Shawn C. Branch at the Synod Office  
[sbranch@diofton.ca](mailto:sbranch@diofton.ca) or 506-459-1801 ext 1008.

MUSIC COMMENTARY

# What are we waiting for? For King and Country

So much has been written about the band, For King and Country, the Australian brother duo that has swept the Christian music industry by storm, right across the world.

The Smallbone brothers have had three studio albums that have had great success, as well as a Christmas album that has done extremely well, too, generating a world tour (something a seasonal project rarely does).

“Brother bands” are a bit of a kitschy sort of thing — the Allman bros., Everly bros., Bon Jovi brothers in the band, and the Van Halen bros. But Luke and Joel Smallbone work really well together as singers, writers, and performers, and they have the strength of their material to make the point.

Most recently they have been backed by an eight-piece band, but for this latest



record, *What Are We Waiting For?*, they have gone a more electronic route.

While this tends to limit the breadth of their music (their lyrics almost seem bigger than

the sound they make), the medium does work well, as they have adapted their songs to fit the change in style for this record.

I applaud the move, if only because it shows the growth and experimental nature of musicians. People have to grow.

The record starts out with a rather sparsely filled out song, even though it was the lead single. “RELATE” might be simplistic in its musical landscape, but such is the case for many songs today, and the simple backbeat makes room for the vocal line very well.

The mid-tempo track is typical for the whole album, in that the message of the lyrics take priority over the music. That’s not always a bad thing, unless the balance between the two becomes too great; that is not the case here.

Most of the album sways

back and forth between lighter, more openly written songs like “Stay” and “Hold On,” and more powerful, louder, heavier tunes, such as, “Unity” and “For God Is With Us.”

“Together,” one of the strongest such tracks on the album, is also in this vein. It features Kirk Franklin and Tori Kelly.

The song “Benediction” makes for one of the best album-ender tracks I’ve heard in a while, for its quiet atmosphere gives the perfect backdrop for some of the best lyrics on the album: “If you can hold the universe / then you can hold me too / If you can form the human heart / then you can mend it too...”

Some reviewers and fans have called this a weaker album for this group, not as good as previous ones. But I believe the move to a more electronic style dictated these reactions in part, as well as the

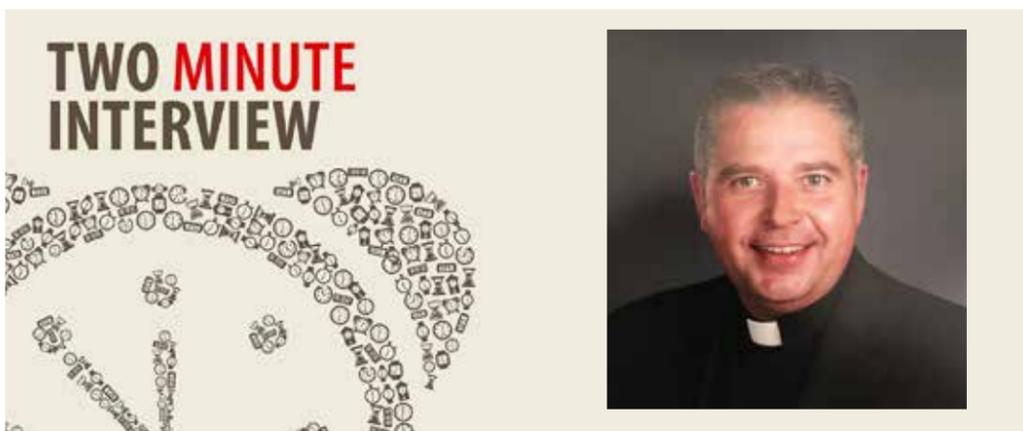
expectation that new projects should simply be more of past successful albums.

It must be remembered that for this band, the bar is already very high; “not as good” is still higher than average when compared with many other acts, in this reviewer’s humble opinion.

This is a very good album. It will particularly reveal its real treasure when one listens to the words, and thinks about their meaning for a while. One should do this with all the music they listen to! I hope you enjoy this album. There’s lots to mull over, to be sure.

Until we “meet” again, Dear Reader, in September!

*The Rev. Chris Hayes is a musician as well as a priest serving in the Parish of Salisbury and Havelock.*



**The Rev. Neil Osiowy, rector of the Parish of Ludlow & Blissfield**

**Favourite book of the Bible** – The Gospel of St. John

**Birthplace** – Regina, Sask.

**What you love most about God** – God’s grace and mercy. I have a large print of Rembrandt’s “Return of the Prodigal Son” which reminds me of this.

**Favourite place on Earth** – The hiking trails along the Fundy Trail Parkway

**Farthest you’ve been from home** – Costa Blanca, Panama & Italy

**Favourite meal or dessert** – Pizza

**Biggest fear** – Deep water, but I’m getting better with it. Last summer we kayaked at Grand Manan Island.

**Hidden talent** – Learning how to do things by watching YouTube.

Deborah and I built a deck and put on vinyl siding at her mother’s cottage the last two summers.

**Favourite streaming series** – *Yellowstone*

**Your hobby** – ATV-ing and snowmobiling

**Three things always in your fridge** – Fruit, eggs and cheese

**Favourite sports team** – The Saskatchewan Roughriders

## Episcopal Announcements



**The Rev. Shirley Noseworthy** will resign as rector of the Parish of Woodstock, effective October 1, 2022, in order to retire.

**The Rev. Dr. Sean Davidson** has been appointed rector of the Parish of Sussex in a shared ministry arrangement with the Parishes of Waterford and St. Mark’s.

**The Rev. Wendy Amos-Binks** will conclude her interim appointment with the Parish of St. James, Moncton, on July 31, 2022.

**The Rev. Chris Hayes’** appointment as regional dean of the Deanery of Shediac is extended for a further three years, to April 15, 2025.

**The Rev. Fran Bedell’s** appointment as regional dean of the Archdeaconry of Woodstock has been extended for a further three years to April 30, 2025.



## FAITH IN ACTION

This is the second in a series entitled *Faith In Action: Building Hope For Tomorrow In The Face Of Climate Change*, put together by the Ven. Kevin Stockall, Hannah Westner and Andrew Mathis, all of the Parish of St. Mary, York in Fredericton, with the help of additional guest writers.

The series sprang from a helpful book study last spring on Jim Antal's *Climate Church; Climate World*. The series hopes to explore the role that Church must play as part of humanity's response to the climate crisis, offering theological and scientific background as well as practical tips and advice.



### Climate Change Parish Primer: What is Climate Change?

Guest Author: Mike Howe

The extreme weather events of this past summer, such as the western wildfires and the British Columbia heat event, have both magnified the impact of climate change, and increased the interest in the subject for many Canadians, including members in our parish. This has brought forward many questions and concerns about the role of climate change and the impact on ourselves, our families, and the environment in which we live. Many folks are just asking, **what is going on?**

This five-part "parish primer" will provide a simple overview into the science behind, and the evidence for climate change. It will talk about some of the impacts that are happening now, and those that are most likely to occur over the coming years, both globally and here at home.

When trying to explain climate change, perhaps the best way to start is to clarify what it is not.

First, it's important to note that **climate change is not weather**. Weather refers to the short-term changes (such as rain, snow and sun) that "Mother Nature" delivers on an hourly, daily or weekly basis.



**Climate Change is also not global warming**. This was a term used many years ago to describe the impact of climate change. In fact, global warming is only one of several impacts of climate change.

Climate Change actually refers to any change in climate over time – whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity.

At this point, the evidence to support climate change is overwhelming. About 97% of the world's climate scientists have concluded that climate change is happening, and that it is caused by human activity.<sup>1</sup>

So now we have defined what climate change is, next time we will discuss the basics of the science that explain climate change.

#### For further reading

<sup>1</sup> Global Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet – NASA <https://climate.nasa.gov/scientific-consensus/>