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# Order of the Diocese of New Westminster

## | Investiture of New Members for 2022

Diocesan event returns after four-year hiatus

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor



The Group Shot. The 46 newly invested members of the ODNW gather on the stage of the Massey Theatre for the traditional "team photo." ALL PHOTOS Wayne Chose & Randy Murray, except where noted

The 11th Investiture of Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW) new members was celebrated within the context of Morning Prayer at the Massey Theatre in New Westminster, November 5, 2022, at 10:30am following a four-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Investiture is a biennial event. The purpose of this liturgy and the investiture contained within it is to honour a new group of people who have distinguished themselves in living out their baptismal identity and commitment in an exemplary way through service within their parishes, in their broader communities and in the diocese of New Westminster.

One of the major departures from past versions was the invitation to the 2020 members to attend and be seated in the front rows centre of the theatre in order to be recognized prior to the investiture of the 2022 members. There was no investiture liturgy in 2020, new members were invested in their parishes, mostly in gatherings of ten people or less.

For 2022, forty-four Parish Nominees and ten Bishop's Appointees accepted the diocesan honour. Forty-six of the fifty-four were in attendance in person. One member was invested posthumously with a family member present to accept the ribbon and medallion, and the other seven to be invested at their parishes later.

This was the first ODNW Investiture of Bishop John Stephens' episcopacy. Bishop John was officiant and preacher.

Each of the Regional Archdeacons: The Ven. Kevin Hunt, Archdeacon of Burrard; the Ven. Stephen Muir, Archdeacon of Capilano; the Ven. Luisito Engnan, Archdeacon of Fraser; the Ven. Stephanie Shepard, Archdeacon of Granville; the Ven. Kelly Duncan, Archdeacon of Lougheed; and the Ven. Richard Leggett, Archdeacon of



The medals and ribbons are in place and ready on a table at stage left.

Westminster invested the new members from their archdeaconry while the Executive Archdeacon of the diocese, the Ven. Douglas Fenton read the Citations. This was the first time since the inaugural that the Warden of the Order, Robert Watt, ODNW was not present to participate and read the Citations. The Dean of the diocese of New Westminster, the Very Rev. Christopher Pappas invested the ten Bishop's Appointees who were all in attendance.

The Massey Theatre staff did a wonderful job working with and guiding the diocesan production team who gathered early on Saturday morning to make sure that all was in readiness for the service.

In 2022, both greeting coordinator, Jane Dittrich and photographer, Wayne Chose were being invested which raised a couple of logistics challenges. However, Jane and Wayne were happy to reprise their ODNW event roles which they executed with their usual aplomb and were still able to be on the stage to be invested by Dean Pappas and congratulated by Bishop Stephens.

Music in worship was led by organist Michael Dirk, Director of Music and Organist at St. John's, Shaughnessy. A choral octet also from St. John's, Shaughnessy was led by Jaime Yoon. Michael arrived early to set up his portable electronic organ console with four separate speakers, integrated into the Massey Theatre sound system. The organ sounded great and the level in the theatre supported congregational singing.

The Offertory Hymn was the traditional *For All the Saints* sung enthusiastically by the 400+ in attendance as the 13-member greeting team organized by Jane moved amongst the congregation collecting financial gifts to be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# Order of the Diocese of New Westminster | Investiture of New Members for 2022



Early on Saturday morning at the Massey Theatre for set up.



Organist/Music Director of St. John's, Shaughnessy, Michael Dirk begins to set up the portable organ.



LEFT The Rev. Philippa Pride checks out the lectern. RIGHT Screening in Faith Coordinator for the diocese of New Westminster and parishioner at St. Alban the Martyr, Burnaby, Deirdre Thornton checks-in the soon to be invested new members at the Plaskett Gallery. The Massey Theatre's Plaskett Gallery served as the "Green Room."



The theatre is filling up at 9:45am, early for the 10:30am start. Several rows of the middle section of the Orchestra were reserved for ODNW members 2009 – 2018.

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

directed to the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF). The total collected during the Offertory was \$3884.15.

A light lunch was provided onsite following the liturgy by Bette Geddes, ODNW and *Sharing Abundance Catering*. As there are no wall jacks for electricity in the room where the luncheon was served, Bette was tasked with coming up with a delicious light meal with a beverage that did not require heating or refrigeration. For 2022, she outdid herself with a choice of three delicious bunwiches with sides, desserts and drinks.

Near the conclusion of his homily, Bishop John shared some quotes from Saint Teresa (Mother Teresa) and how those words fit into the modern-day saints being honoured that day:

*"Saint Mother Teresa offered many thoughts that make sense to consider on this day. Let me share a few with you:*

*'If you judge people, you have no time to love them.'*

*'Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.'*

*'The most terrible poverty is loneliness, and the feeling of being unloved.'*

*'A life not lived for others is not a life.'*

*Today in our diocese we are honouring people who know Saint Teresa's words well. They have responded to the call to live out the gospel, the good news, the beatitudes, the Lambeth calls, the doing to others as we would have them do to us. They were not wanting the spotlight but merely wanting to get on with the work of loving one another, but did it in the small responsibilities, the hidden chores that might not set the world on fire but do change perspectives of what is most important. These people are involved with all sorts of activities that paint a very different picture of the world than is sometimes portrayed on the news. They have offered themselves in ways that remind us of God's love and God's grace. We will hear in a little while about these diocesan saints who have been treasurers, Sunday School teachers, Christmas pageant organizers, meal providers, wardens, parish librarians, trustees, Synod delegates, bread bakers, choir members, gardeners, altar guild members, refugee sponsors, pastoral care visitors, drivers, outreach committee*

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



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### The Bishop of New Westminster

The Right Reverend John Stephens

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**Thank you!**

# Order of the Diocese of New Westminster | Investiture of New Members for 2022



LEFT The choir from St. John's, Shaughnessy rehearses. RIGHT Executive Assistant to the Bishop and Executive Archdeacon, Bill Siksay is the Synod Staff member who administrates the ODNW process. Here we see him speaking to the new members who are waiting in the Massey Theatre's Plaskett Gallery before they take the stage.



Bette Geddes and the Sharing Abundance team prepared many light lunches.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

members, stewards of time and talent, environmental stewards, photographers, reconciliation animators, antiracism workers, housing and homelessness advocates, PWRDF volunteers... to name but a few.

The world needs people like these, people who are making a difference. The Church needs people like these, people who see their actions not about themselves but about blessing people beyond themselves. We need people like these so that we can see that saints are not simply those people who are etched in glass or have churches named after them. Saints are those people who help us to see that the Holy Spirit is alive and well in this

world and is inviting us to respect the dignity of every human being as we do to others as we would have them do to us."

The next ODNW Investiture will take place on the first Saturday of November 2024. Time and location to be announced. ✠

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 WITH THE CITATIONS

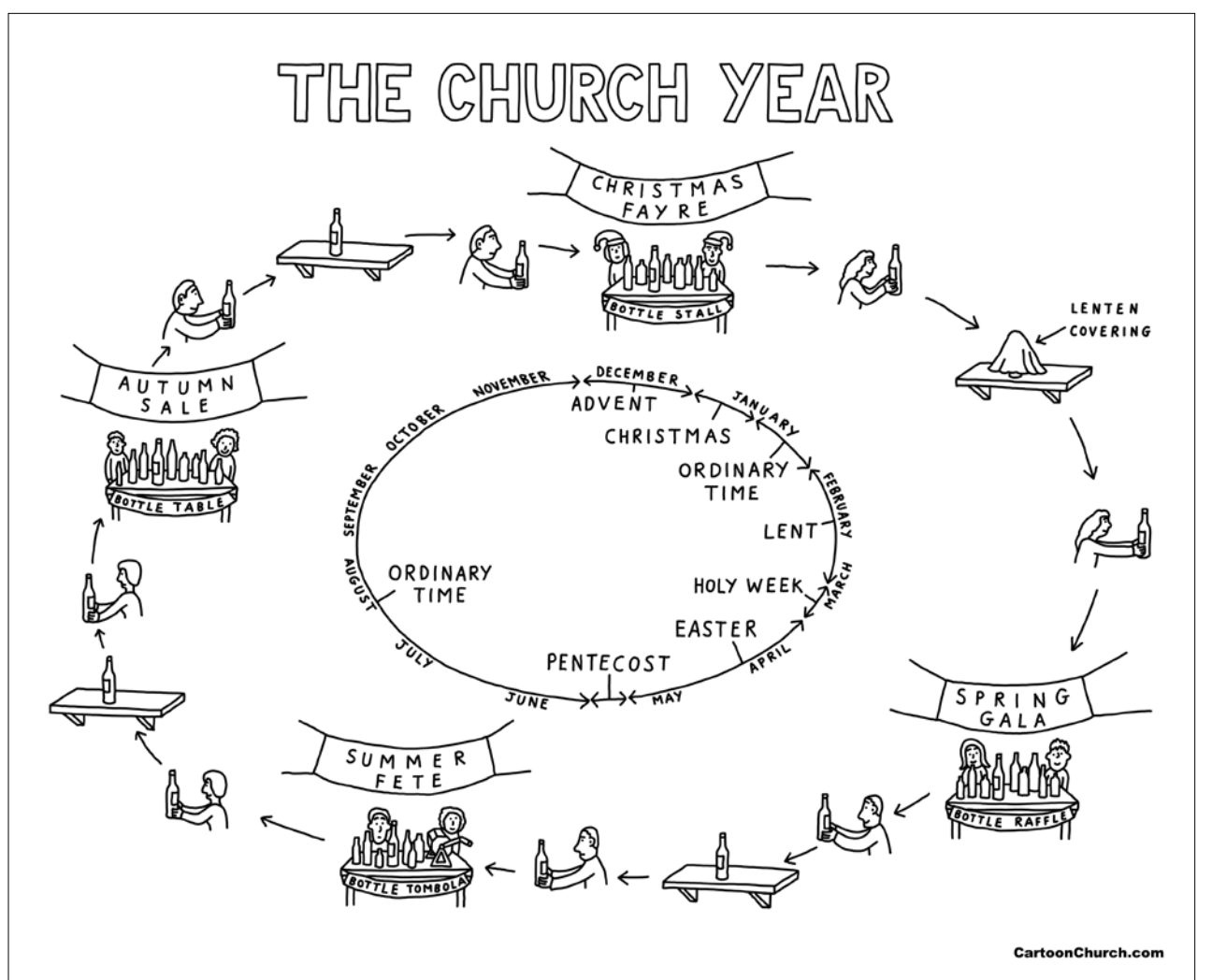
Bishop John Stephen's homily is available on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2022-11-05-they-have-responded-to-the-call-to-live-out-the-gospel>



LEFT Marilyn Watson and Alison Brookfield both from the North Vancouver Deanery chat in the Plaskett Gallery. RIGHT Clergy organize the seating before the procession in.



Vested clergy gather in the foyer for the procession in.



**DEADLINE FOR TOPIC SUBMISSIONS**  
February 24  
for the April issue

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

# Order of the Diocese of New Westminster | Investiture of New Members for 2022

## 2022 Citations

The investiture took place within the context of Morning Prayer, November 5, 2022, at the Massey Theatre in New Westminster. The new members were invested by archdeaconry and in alphabetical order. The medallions and ribbons were placed by the regional archdeacon while the Executive Archdeacon of the diocese, the Ven. Douglas Fenton read the Citations. The Dean of the diocese of New Westminster, the Very Rev. Christopher Pappas invested the ten Bishop's Appointees. We have maintained the format styles of the Citations, curated by Bill Siksay, Executive Assistant to the Bishop's and Executive Archdeacon's Offices, however, due to spacial requirements some Citations are not in alphabetical order. • Editor

## BURRARD ARCHDEACONRY

The Ven. Kevin Hunt

### Mrs. Mona Atkinson

*Bishop Hill's Memorial Church of St. Mary the Virgin, South Hill*

Mona has been a parishioner of St. Mary's since she was a child. Her sense of service to the church and to God are strong. She served the church well in her varied roles as Treasurer, Sunday School teacher, Sidesperson, planning the Christmas pageants and caroling, working on various committees including MAP, coffee hour helper, and assembling the Centennial Anniversary Book. She also participated in various 100th Anniversary renovation projects. ✦

### Ms. Lynann Frances Burton

*St. James, Vancouver*

*Lynann died on September 1 and was invested posthumously. Her son, Mr. Robert Burton, represented Lynann's family at the Investiture Service.*

Lynann was baptized in New Zealand at the age of one month and was a lifelong Anglican. St. James, Vancouver, became her spiritual home. Parish Librarian, member of the Flower and Readers Guilds, and of the Open Church ministry, Lynann was quiet, reflective and prayerful, not least in the face of physical infirmity. As Lynann would say, "My faith is my salvation and strength. It has been tested many times and never failed me. It is my comfort and joy." ✦

### Ms. Lorie Ann Chortyk

*St. Thomas, Vancouver*

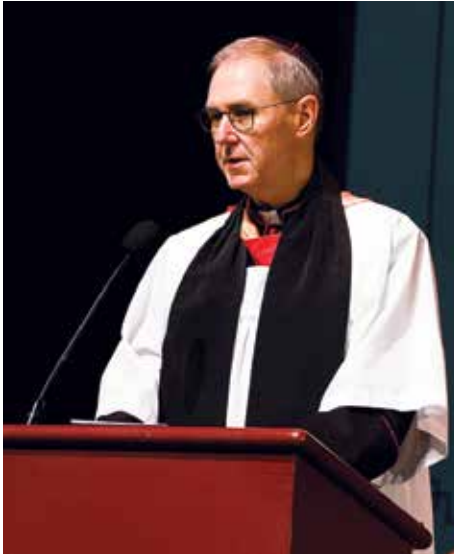
*Lorie was invested at St. Thomas, Vancouver on November 6, 2022.*

Lorie has, from a young age, been a dedicated member of St. Thomas'. Her ministries at St. Thomas' and beyond it have been many and varied and reflect her deep care for the community and the individuals in it. These have included outreach, fundraising, accessibility renovations, and the Capital Campaign. Lorie brought to these ministries her very special gifts for leadership and music. Whether chairing a committee, being a prayer partner or leading music, Lorie does it with her characteristic energy, commitment, infectious laugh, and warmth. ✦

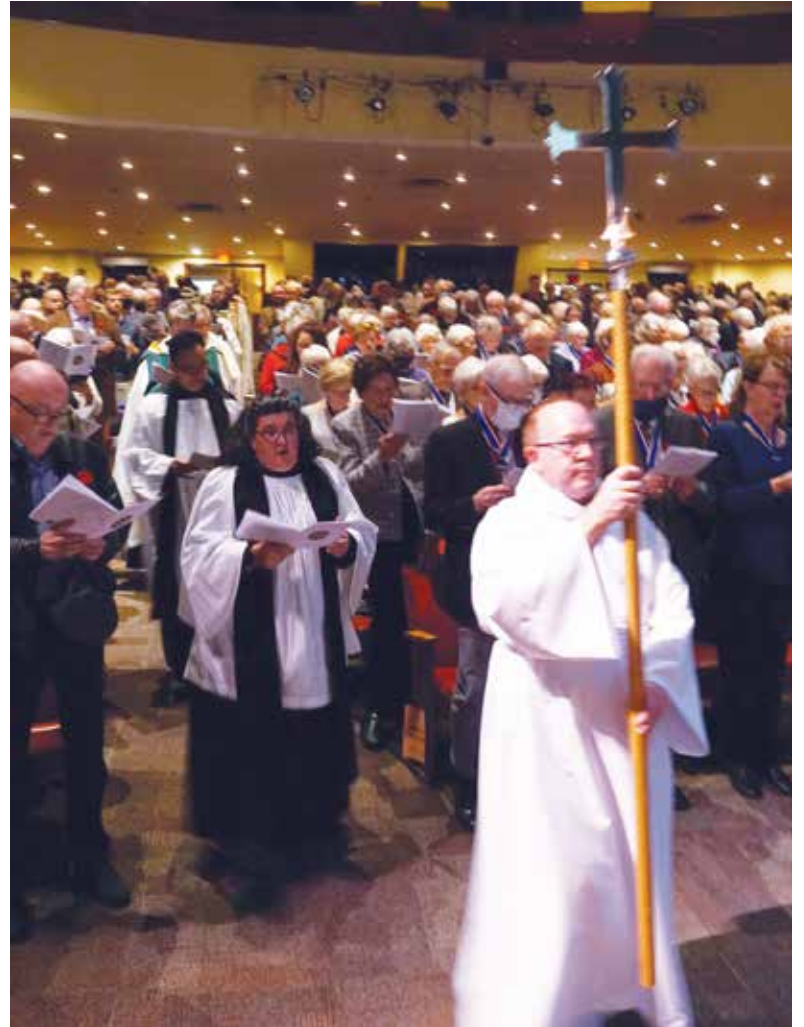
### Ms. Patricia Anne Theresa Longmire

*St. Margaret, Cedar Cottage*

For over 25 years Patsi has been a dedicated and faithful member of St. Margaret's, Cedar Cottage offering to take on just about every ministry position in the parish including Warden, envelope recorder, counter, greeter, Eucharistic Administrator, bread baker, reader, prayer leader and events coordinator. She has been a deanery representative on Diocesan Council and Synod delegate. She supports the ministry of the parish and the wider community and is committed to always learning and deepening her own spirituality and faith development. ✦



The Ven. Douglas Fenton.



LEFT Joan Stewart, ODNW, Bishop's Appointee who attends St. John's, Shaughnessy shares the First Reading, *Ephesians 1:11-23*. RIGHT One of the two processions.



All are in place on the stage as the Opening Hymn, *Eternal Unchanging* concludes.



LEFT Barbara McLaren, ODNW reads *Luke 6:20-37*, Barbara is a Bishop's Appointee who attends All Saints, Mission. RIGHT Choristers from St. John's, Shaughnessy lead the music in worship.



# Order of the Diocese of New Westminster | Investiture of New Members for 2022

**Ms. Lily Bad-ay**

*St. Michael Multicultural, Broadway*

Lily is a devoted member of St. Michael's who is small in frame but big in heart. Her love and support for the church is immeasurable. She loves to help whenever she can particularly with the food ministry, the Anglican Church Women (ACW), and fundraising. She is a team worker and a cheerful companion. At church gatherings, she always makes people smile with her fancy ballroom dancing moves. Lily regards St. Michael's as her second home, and she does her best to support the church. ✦

**Mr. Stephen Barry Bottomley**

*Holy Cross, Vancouver*

Steve started volunteering for Holy Cross in the care and maintenance of the building. Steve makes ministries possible through his willingness to open doors and move tables. In 2015, Steve went to Japan with Holy Cross and then in 2018, Steve joined Cristosal, going to El Salvador. As Steve's faith grows, so does his service. He has been an Assistant Warden since 2019, bringing his international awareness and willingness to get down to practical details to his faithful service. ✦

**Ms. Carol Megan Cook**

*Christ Church Cathedral*

Carol has been an active servant leader at the Cathedral since 1978, serving on Parish Council, as a Trustee and Peoples Warden, and on Worship, Stewardship, and Education Committees. Carol's forte has been working quietly behind the scenes in hospitality, organizing community meals, Maundy kitchen, Parish Fairs, Healing Touch retreats, and managing worship teams. Time and again, her skills have been invaluable in ensuring things happen, and properly. Carol's active passions are travelling, worship and singing. ✦



LEFT Bishop John preaching. MIDDLE Archdeacon Fenton and Bishop Stephens lead the applause for the 2020 members.

RIGHT Unable to gather for their investiture due to COVID-19, members invested in 2020 were seated in the first three rows of the Middle Orchestra and we see them here standing up as their names are called.

**CAPILANO ARCHDEACONRY**

*the Ven. Stephen Muir*

**Ms. Deborah Amelia Foster**

*St. Hilda, Sechelt*

Amelia has embraced St. Hilda's since 2009, and expands her compassion to the less fortunate in the community. ACW president since 2015, she tirelessly spearheads annual fundraising events and is currently Vice President of the Diocesan ACW. Amelia heads the Servers Guild with grace and humbleness and she is often found in the parish kitchen leading volunteers, coordinating funeral receptions, and organizing special events. St. Hilda's is blessed to have someone with such strength, hope, leadership, and inspiration. ✦

**Mrs. Margaret Ann Hasle**

*St. Martin, North Vancouver*

Ann became a member of St. Martin in 2006, and immediately began a journey of faith and service. She has been a choir member, music librarian, envelope secretary, bookkeeper, reader, intercessor and lay administrator of the chalice, and since 2017, Warden. Ann contributes in other ways including participation in social evenings, the annual Fall Fair and the coffee hour. Given the changes at St. Martin, as a member of the leadership team, Ann is actively guiding the parish through the challenging process of merging with the Parish of St. John the Evangelist. ✦

**Mrs. Jeanette Marie Terrace**

*St. Clement, Lynn Valley*

As St. Clement's warden, Synod Delegate, Member of Parish Council and Finance Committee, Jeanette has been a quiet, steadfast leader and an encouraging presence during times of significant transition. She continues to lead by example in ways large and small through hospitality, church and grounds maintenance, regular worship attendance, and project initiatives. Jeanette was nominated in appreciation for her steady hand on the tiller through rough and calm seas over the last 40 years of the parish's life. ✦

**Ms. Alison Jane Brookfield**

*St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver*

To say that Alison is an overachiever is an understatement. Alison has provided leadership and service at St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver, and at regional and Diocesan levels over many years. Those who know her describe her as organized, enthusiastic, positive, welcoming, prayerful, resourceful, always energetic and thoughtful. The roles she is most proud of are being a Warden, leading prayers of the people and facilitating the *Sounds of Silence* contemplative group. The parish thinks Alison is amazing! ✦

**Mr. Roger Sweeny**

*St. Francis-in-the-Wood, West Vancouver*

Roger Sweeny first set eyes on Caulfeild Cove and St. Francis-in-the-Wood as a boy aboard the Cutty Sark. After service in the Merchant Marines and ministry in other parishes, he and wife Mary-Ann have made St. Francis home for the last 27 years. Roger's passion for all nations and ethnicities have benefitted people far beyond West Vancouver. His motto is, "Prayers are fine, but action is what counts." And he has acted through the Social Concerns Committee and refugee resettlement. A valued elder now, Roger continues to inspire. ✦

**Mrs. Marilyn Nora Watson**

*St. Agnes, North Vancouver*

Marilyn has been a member of St. Agnes since 1983. Her son Greg was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy as a child and Marilyn dedicated herself to his wellbeing all his life. She has been tireless in her fundraising for Muscular Dystrophy. Marilyn is a member of the Altar Guild, Parish Council secretary, and is a helper at almost all church functions. Although baptized as an infant and active in the church all her adult life, she was recently confirmed by Bishop John in 2021. ✦

**Ms. Heather Peacock**

*St. Catherine, Capilano*

An eager and tireless worker, Heather began her service to the church in the 1990s as a member of the Altar Guild, and hospitality committees. She was a Sunday School teacher for ten years ending as Church School Superintendent. Serving on Parish Council for three terms and Warden for three years, she has also been an intercessor, reader and eucharistic administrator. Above all, for more than 20 years, she has shone in outreach, as a leader and worker on dozens of projects. ✦

**Mrs. Elizabeth Smith**

*St. Christopher, West Vancouver*

Elizabeth is an integral part of St. Christopher's parish. From her work on the Altar and Hospitality Guilds, in the garden, and sometimes on the roof, she is always doing something to better the Church. Her hats are a popular sight, and her creativity has been enjoyed by many via her knitting. Her sense of humour and positivity are appreciated by all who interact with her, and the parish thanks her for all that she has done for St. Christopher's. ✦



LEFT The Ven. Kevin Hunt places the ribbon on the first new member invested in 2022, Mrs. Mona Atkinson, ODNW of St. Mary the Virgin, South Hill.

RIGHT Ms. Lily Bad-ay, ODNW of St. Michael's Multicultural is invested.

Robert Burton, accepting the ribbon and medal for his mother Lynn Burton of St. James'.

# Order of the Diocese of New Westminster | Investiture of New Members for 2022



Archdeacon Stephen Muir places the ribbon and medal on Elizabeth Smith, ODNW of St. Christopher, West Vancouver.

**Mrs. Sharon Susanne Indridson**  
*St. Mark, Ocean Park*

Sue is an amazing presence in the parish. In 2011, Sue recognized a need for seniors, particularly singles who were lonely, and created *Savvy Seniors*, a place for fun and fellowship. During COVID-19, her dedication to ensuring that shut-ins and seniors have had a connection to the church continued. Sue delivered copies of the bulletins and Parish Pulse every week, making a huge difference in their lives. Sue refers to the group as “her seniors” and truly cares about them as her family. ✦

**Mrs. Anne Denis**  
*St. Alban, Richmond*

Anne has been bringing her dry sense of humour, infectious joy, and stalwart but humble service to the Parish of St. Alban’s for over 30+ years. She currently serves on Parish Council, the Altar Guild, the roster of lectors, the roster of sidespersons, and the Hospitality Committee, and has also been a staunch volunteer with the garden maintenance crew, the Outreach Community Meal program, and just about every other activity of the parish. ✦

**Mrs. Valerie Jean Reimer**  
*St. Cuthbert, Delta*

Val has been involved with the Sunday School at St. Cuthbert’s for 35 years, the last 19 as teacher and coordinator of preschool to Grade 12 students and teachers. She works hard to create a safe and supportive place where all can participate. She is a community-builder, recruiting and mentoring a dedicated teaching team, which in turn has attracted families to the church. Her innovative program highlights have included theme days, children singing in church on special days, and mission giving. ✦

**GRANVILLE ARCHDEACONRY**  
the Ven. Stephanie Shepard

**Mrs. Jean Margaret Quinton**  
*Holy Trinity, Vancouver*

*Jean was not able to attend the Investiture Service and will be invested at a later date.*

Throughout her 79 years of service Jean has consistently portrayed a life of faith, humility, and tireless devotion to God. At Holy Trinity Jean has served in the choir, the Altar Guild, as People’s Warden, on the Heart Committee for parish reconciliation, on the building committee, and,

still today, on Parish Council. Never seeking acknowledgement, her deep commitment to church life leaves a legacy of inclusivity, caring and commitment. At 94 years old, Jean’s faithfulness reminds us of the impact small kindnesses can bring to those around us. ✦

**Ms. Mary Gail Helmcken**  
*St. Mary, Kerrisdale*

One of Gail’s first involvements in the diocese was during debates around the blessing of same-sex unions. Parishes were twinned for study sessions and Gail chaired one of the groups. Gail was a Warden at St. Mary’s from 2001 to 2003. She has been a member of the Outreach Committee for many years, chairs Community Donations, and is active in refugee resettlement. Gail is a regular Reader, an Eucharistic Minister, a member of the Pastoral Care team and a long-time member of Parish Council. ✦

**FRASER ARCHDEACONRY**  
the Ven. Luisito Engnan

**Mrs. Patricia Eileen Sallis**  
*All Saints, Ladner*

*Pat was not able to attend the Investiture Service and will be invested at a later date.*

Over 29 years at All Saints, Ladner, Pat has served as Peoples Warden and many terms on Parish Council with dedication and commitment. She maintains strong personal faith and loyalty to her values, family and friends. A faithful worshipper, Pat has served as an Eucharistic Administrator, Usher, Greeter and with the prayer ministry. Pat enriches the life of the parish through her enthusiasm and energy for fundraising, community outreach, and Pastoral Care. She demonstrates how faith in action can overcome both personal and church-related challenges. ✦

**Mrs. Helen Davison**  
*Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock*

*Helen was not able to attend the Investiture Service and will be invested at a later date.*

Helen and her husband John joined Holy Trinity in 2001. Her deep faith, and belief that “one serves,” anchor her contributions. Her service since 2003, includes Parish Council, ACW President, Bookkeeper, current Treasurer, Pastoral Care, willing hands (hers and John’s) helping at or organizing events, Coffee Ministry, and hosting coffee hours at their home, uniting parishioners after COVID isolation. Helen’s first words are “How can I help?” A caring consensus-builder, she works for the better good. ✦



Bishop John and Elizabeth Higginbottom, ODNW of the Church of the Epiphany, Surrey perhaps, sharing a secret?

**Mr. David Craig Wilson**  
*St. Philip, Dunbar*

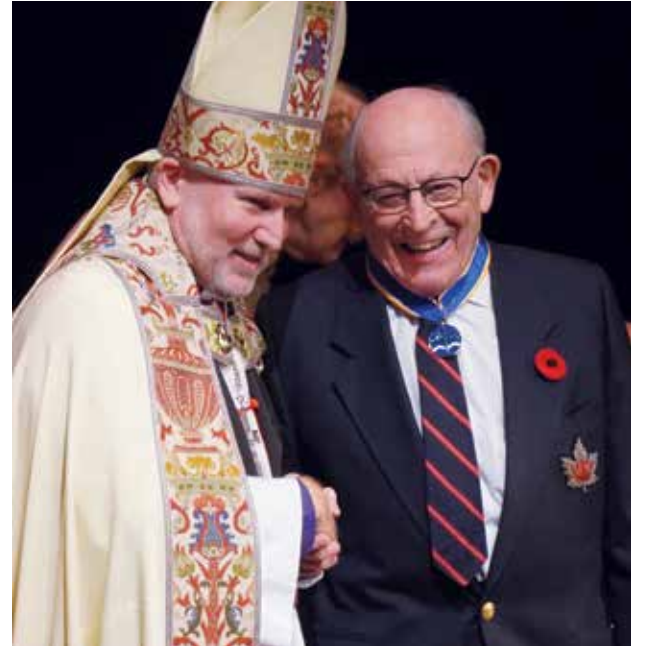
*Craig was not able to attend the Investiture Service and will be invested at a later date.*

Craig has shown steadfast commitment to the St. Philip, Dunbar community during changing times in its life. Craig is a faithful man of thoughtfulness, insight, sensitivity, and humour. From website technology to parish visioning, from family nights to finance, from soundboard

management to Warden and Trustee, Craig has been deeply involved. He embodies St. Philip’s values, treating others with dignity and grace. The parish is blessed to count Craig as a leader among them and they are made a better people by his love and care. ✦

**Ms. Rosemarie Schipizky**  
*St. Anselm, Vancouver*

Rosie is vibrant, welcoming and caring. A lawyer by profession, Rosie takes her role as parish trustee seriously, stewarding the parish like her own home. As Altar Guild coordinator, Rosie finds great joy behind the scenes, mentoring others, and making the sanctuary a beautiful offering to God. A skilled organizer, Rosie was instrumental in delivering *Art & Spirit* and *Spiritus* programs to the community. From overseeing parish finances, to picking strawberries, to helping children make communion bread, Rosie brings joy to all she does. ✦



Roger Sweeny, ODNW of St. Francis-in-the-Wood, Caulfeild is congratulated by Bishop John.

**Mrs. Sheila Margaret Snell**  
*St. Oswald, Port Kells*

Sheila is a dedicated member of St. Oswald’s where she is instrumental in many activities such as the yearly Surrey Food Bank drive. She has involved St. Oswald’s parishioners and her daughter Laura in assisting with a centre where vulnerable young mothers can shop for free. Sheila is someone who is “on speed dial” if a question needs to be answered. She is a conscientious caretaker of church finances and a “go-to” hard worker who is looked up to by everyone in the parish. ✦

**Mrs. Elizabeth Anne Higginbottom**  
*Church of the Epiphany, Surrey*

Betty remembers coming to Epiphany with her husband Ken and two daughters and beginning her service to the church. Betty has noted that she has “poured a tanker carload of tea and coffee and took enough minutes to fill many books in a small library.” Betty has honoured her church as a humble and hardworking parishioner. She is kind, loving, with a special sense of humour. The parish gives thanks for her years of humble service. ✦

**Mrs. Corrina Mary Kaweski**  
*St. Michael, Surrey*

Spare time is not in Corri’s vocabulary — allotted time is — and that is the time she cherishes, because it is the time she gives to others. Corri is a feisty multitasker, a dynamo of energy and generosity. She teaches school, drives for cancer patients, buys church supplies, and serves on the Altar Guild. Corri is the pilot of church fundraisers, helping to replenish the old with the new, and she donates selflessly. Corri’s love for her church is palpable. And this year she has taken on the role of Regalia Coordinator for the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster. ✦

**Ms. Katherine Theo Madeley**  
*St. Faith, Vancouver*

Theo has given a lifetime of service to St. Faith’s. First, she was a pioneering youth member of Parish Council and Youth Delegate to Diocesan Synod. In later years, she was as an Altar Server and Warden. Today, she shares her wise counsel as a member of Parish Council, Delegate to Diocesan Synod, and liturgical arts team participant. Her faithful presence and unassuming willingness to serve and support the parish makes Theo a part of the bedrock of the congregation. ✦

# Order of the Diocese of New Westminster | Investiture of New Members for 2022



A big smile from Rosemary Schipizky, ODNW of St. Anselm's, Point Grey.

**Mrs. Johanna Katharina Coughlin**  
*Christ Church, Hope*

Johanna has been a member of Christ Church, Hope for 57 years. Over that time, she has held the positions of Warden and Member of Parish Council and, for over 20 years, was Treasurer of the ACW. Johanna has also served as Advisor to the Parish Treasurer and as Environmental Steward. She led the congregation in implementing environmentally friendly practices when upgrading the parish buildings. Johanna is committed to the upkeep of Christ Church, especially the Scattering Garden. ✦

**Mr. Wayne Adams**  
*St. Thomas, Chilliwack*

Wayne, a convert to Anglicanism later in life and in the wake of personal grief, brings a lifetime of experience in making friends with all types into his multiple roles at St. Thomas'. Wayne is the epitome of a life-long learner, using his "rolodex" to involve many others in parish projects allowing St. Thomas' to be a welcoming, inviting building and community. Wayne is a wonderful example of large-hearted goodness served up practically. ✦

**Mrs. Janet Coghlan**  
*St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge*

Janet is by nature a selfless person. Her genuine care for others has been a hallmark of her life. In her service to St. John the Divine, Janet has been instrumental in supporting the growth and development of the parish community. She cares deeply about her congregation, generously sharing her time, gifts, and talents in a variety of ministries including as Warden, as stewardship and fundraising coordinator, and as PWRDF representative. She is known by her parish to be reliable, honest, kind, and wise. ✦



LEFT Peter Bailey, ODNW of Christ Church, Hope was intercessor and led the prayers. RIGHT The next day (November 6) Lorie Chortyk, ODNW was invested by Bishop John during his episcopal visit to the Parish of St. Thomas, Vancouver. PHOTO Mike Roberts, ODNW

**LOUGHEED ARCHDEACONRY**

the Ven. Kelly Duncan

**Ms. Christine Elizabeth Duamel**  
*St. George, Maple Ridge*

Christine has devoted years of quiet service to St. George since 1986. She has been a member of the Choir, Altar Guild, Building Committee, Social Committee, and a member and Chairperson of the ACW. Her "green thumbs and fingers" have given hours of time tending the church gardens and grounds over many years and helped establish the neighbouring Community Garden. Christine has been selfless in giving her time, talent and energy to seniors at weekday Communion, children in Vacation Bible Schools and fundraising outreach of every kind. ✦

**Ms. Linda Burton**  
*St. Matthew, Abbotsford*

If the Church might be compared to a garden, Linda is one of those sure to check that each type of plant is getting the type of nutrients it needs. Her attention to detail has influenced all aspects of St. Matthew's common life whether it be the servant leadership of the Warden's role or in her roles on the Altar Guild and ACW. Linda cares for the church community with practical and faithful love. ✦

**Mrs. Euphemia Geertruida Maria Hunfeld**  
*Holy Spirit, Whonnock*

Mimi is an ardent and committed member of Holy Spirit Anglican Church and is highly respected in the parish. She is a member of the Parish Church Council, a Synod Delegate, President of the Altar Guild, Sunday School Coordinator and the Outreach Program Coordinator. She also heads the Gardening Committee, keeping the grounds looking gorgeous. Mimi finds joy in serving, and is always ready, with her kind heart and gentle smile, to help as God directs her. ✦

**Mr. Brian David Smith**  
*St. Dunstan, Aldergrove*

*Brian was not able to attend the Investiture Service and will be invested at a later date.*

Brian is the handyman every church dreams of having around. He will be there to prune bushes, replace fixtures, hang art and guide tradespeople to where they need to go. Through the pandemic Brian spent hours renewing the Building and Grounds bringing light to the outer cross and towers. At the same time Brian volunteered in the parish meal program through the pandemic ensuring that the central ministry of the parish continued at a difficult time for the community. ✦



Archdeacon Duncan places the ribbon and medal on E.G.M. "Mimi" Hunfeld, ODNW of Holy Spirit, Whonnock as Diane Sharp, ODNW looks on.

**Mrs. Dianne Sharp**  
*St. George, Fort Langley*

Dianne joined St. George, Fort Langley in 1990 and has been an integral part of the parish ever since. She has worn many hats over the years including being the Youth Group Leader, Intercessor, Eucharistic Minister, Prayer Team member, Messy Church volunteer, Open Doors greeter, and long-time Server. She is a most positive person who radiates God's love. Dianne spends many hours behind the scenes getting the church ready for all types of services. Her dedication is exemplary. ✦

**Mr. Richard John Blades**  
*All Saints, Mission*

Dick is the type of parishioner every parish prays for. He is always there to listen to new ideas, offer help when needed, and support any initiatives All Saints has put forward. When one talks about stewardship of time, talent, and treasure, Dick is the perfect example of a good steward, and that is obvious in all the positions he now holds or has held in the past, and in the volunteer work he has taken on over the years. ✦

**Mrs. Catherine Barnes**  
*St. Andrew, Langley*

Not one to seek the spotlight, Cathy is an integral and dedicated contributor to the St. Andrew's community in many ways. Most in the parish would associate her with her dedicated and on-going leadership of the children's programs, but on any day, you might find her doing garden clean up, acting as Rector's Warden, helping in the kitchen, or greeting new parish members. Always willing to step in and support in any way, Cathy is the epitome of selfless service and a much-loved member of the St. Andrew's community. ✦



Three members of the diocesan communications team: Wayne Chose, ODNW and Jane Dittrich, ODNW and beaming proudly, communications officer, Randy Murray.

# Order of the Diocese of New Westminster | Investiture of New Members for 2022



The final new member invested was David Van Blarcom, Bishop's Appointee and Christ Church Cathedral parishioner.

## WESTMINSTER ARCHDEACONRY

the Ven. Richard Leggett

### Ms. Florence Mary Erwin *St. Mary the Virgin, Sapperton*

Florence's time at St. Mary the Virgin started in 1991. Since then, she's been part of the choir for thirty years and continues today as a member of the Altar Guild. She held the position of People's Warden three times and served on Parish Council, adding common sense to that work. Her greatest achievement has been the love she extends to all. Florence is known for her hugs during the Passing of the Peace, and their resumption will be a sign that the pandemic has well and truly ended. ✦

### Ms. Joyce Lilian Harwood *Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster*

Joyce has been and continues to be at the heart of Holy Trinity Cathedral since 1999. She has served in many and various capacities including as Parish Secretary, Warden and Member of Parish Council, Co-ordinator of Readers, Chalice Ministers and Intercessors, and Member of Synod, several of which she continues to serve at the present time. Her joy and commitment infuse the parish's common life and they honour her in gratitude to God for her ministry among them. ✦

### Ms. Mildred Ellett Louise Johnson *All Saints, Burnaby*

An enthusiastic champion of All Saints, Burnaby who has been attending for a long time, Mildred is helpful and friendly to all who come through their doors. She completes administrative tasks to make sure the parish runs smoothly and has been especially helpful in keeping things going during the pandemic. As a Warden Mildred has faithfully supported the parish's priests over the years. The people of All Saints hope Mildred will continue to be a strong leader in their community for many years to come. ✦



### Ms. Sheila De Vaal *St. John the Apostle, Port Moody*

St. John's has been blessed to have Sheila! She has served in many different roles and is presently the Treasurer and a Parish Council member. Always willing to take on new challenges, Sheila has been on top of the accounts throughout the pandemic. She is a member of the tech team for St. John's hybrid Zoom worship. Her warm, cheerful personality and friendly ways are always appreciated in every capacity for which she volunteers. ✦

### Mrs. Patricia Sharpe *St. Laurence, Coquitlam*

Pat's been a member of St. Laurence for more than 35 years. Pat's ability to welcome people on Sunday makes her an excellent Greeter. She shows her care for others by driving people to church and to hospital appointments and through years of involvement with the Issues and Action Committee, supporting the parish's refugee response. She enjoys teaching, which is obvious from the number hours spent organizing and teaching Church School. Pat is also willing to step in whenever asked to help anyone needing an extra pair of hands. ✦

### Ms. Sara Dyan Shaw *St. Stephen the Martyr, Burnaby*

Sara joined St. Stephen the Martyr as a toddler. She lives her baptismal covenant in everything she does and has served the parish in countless ways — beginning as a 5-year-old assistant to the Altar Guild, and later on Parish Council, as a Synod delegate, on the Canonical Committee, and as a Warden. Her ministry helps St. Stephen's be for others, what it is for her — as she says: "It is my centering place, it gives me the strength to be an example of Christ in the world, and it is an extension of my family and my safe space." ✦



Bishop John offers his blessing and dismisses the congregation.

# Order of the Diocese of New Westminster | Investiture of New Members for 2022

## BISHOP'S APPOINTEES



Bishop John congratulates diocesan photographer, Wayne Chose (Wayne did not take this photograph).

### Mr. Wayne Chose

Wayne has served as the photographer for hundreds of diocesan and Cathedral events, becoming a key member of the diocesan Communications team. From Synod Meetings to the Bishop's parish visits, from Episcopal Installations to Order of the Diocese of New Westminster Investiture Services, and even individual head shots for clergy and staff, he as photographed it all. He fondly remembers covering Bishop Ingham's installation service and Dean Peter Elliott's retirement. And more recently Wayne has appreciated the growing diversity of the Anglican parishes he visits. ✦

### Mrs. Joan Stewart

Since 2007, Joan has been a member of the Westside Anglicans Neighbourhood Ministry, which serves homeless and vulnerable people on Vancouver's westside. She is in her fourth year as co-chair of the programme's Board of Management, serving with members from St. Anselm; St. Helen, Point Grey; St. Philip; and St. John, Shaughnessy. Joan is also co-chair of the Bishop's Friends, which seeks to provide opportunities for fellowship and support to the Bishop, raising discretionary funds for projects that are dear to the Bishop's heart. ✦



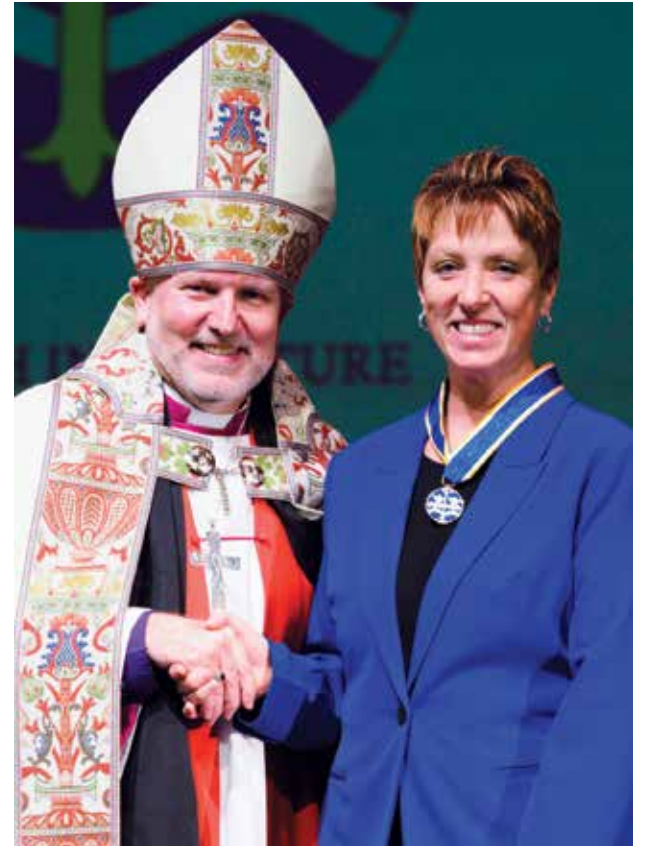
LEFT Erica Lucille Kooy, ODNW is congratulated by Bishop John. 'Rikki' LEX'LEX TCETS' NUW enx', Spirit Elk Woman, is an Elder and designer from the Secwepemc and St'atl'imc Nations, and a third-generation residential school survivor. RIGHT Bishop John congratulates Jane Dittrich, ODNW of Christ Church Cathedral.

### Mrs. Erica Lucille Kooy, SLEX'LEX TCETS' NUW enx'

Rikki, SLEX'LEX TCETS' NUW enx', Spirit Elk Woman, is an Elder and designer from the Secwepemc and St'atl'imc Nations, and a third-generation residential school survivor. She supports healing through wisdom sharing, storytelling, and hands-on reconciliation through art. She constantly reminds us that "it's all about love and relationship." Rikki is the designer of the *Feather Dance* Reconciliation Project. Her exquisite creations reside within our diocese and beyond. She brings beauty and excellence—and the twinkle in her eye—to everything she does. ✦

### Mr. John David Van Blarcom

David served for many years on the Board of the 127 Society for Housing, including as President and Vice-President. 127 arose from a Diocesan retreat more than 40 years ago and now provides shelter and community for about 350 people in three apartment buildings in Yaletown. Currently a member of the Diocesan Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Affordability, David works to increase awareness and understanding of these dual crises, seeking practical responses. This is in addition to his service in his parish, Christ Church Cathedral. ✦



### Ms. Jane Dittrich

Jane has volunteered at many Diocesan Synods, and at the 2019 General Synod. An avid writer and photographer, she regularly covers events for Diocesan Communications. Jane assists in various capacities at the semi-annual Retired Clergy luncheons, the annual Bishop's Friends dinners, the Order of New Westminster Investiture Services and participates in two annual fundraising bike rides, raising money and awareness for the Mission to Seafarers and for PWRDF. She is an Honorary Associate of PWRDF, and currently serves on Cathedral Parish Council as the representative to Sorrento Centre. ✦

### Ms. Clare Urquhart

Clare was her parish of St. James, Vancouver's youth delegate to Diocesan Synod for four years. Internationally, Clare represented the Anglican Church of Canada at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in 2017, and the PWRDF at *Women Deliver 2019*—the largest international gender equality conference. Nationally, Clare was a Member of General Synod in 2019, and is currently a member of the Council of General Synod. She is also the diocesan youth delegate to General Synod and a member and convener of the PWRDF Youth Council. ✦



LEFT Bishop John with Barbara McLaren, ODNW. RIGHT Bishop John with Peter Bailey, ODNW of Christ Church, Hope.



Bishop John with Jeddy James, ODNW of St. Michael, Surrey.



### Mr. Gilchrist Albless McLaren

Gilli is a member of All Saints, Mission. He is being recognized today for his commitment to anti-racism education as a member of the Diocesan Dismantling Racism Team. Gilli is working towards the Kingdom of God, for in the gospel of Christ, there is no discrimination of any kind. He finds meaning in working against racism, which he sees as "hatred in high octane" and believes that when Jesus said, "Come unto me, All," his invitation was addressed, not to a select few, but to all. ✦

### Mr. Jeddy Jithin James

Jeddy is an integral thread in the fabric of his home parish of St. Michael's, Surrey. He has served as the Rector's and Bishop's Warden and is currently Vicar's Warden. Jeddy helped develop and leads the Tri-Parish-Regional Ministry Implementation Team (RMIT), which grew out of the Ministry Assessment Process (MAP) in Peace Arch Deanery. He is a long-serving member of the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Development Committee and is involved in the Parish Development Grants Group and the Climate Emergency Working Group. ✦

### Mrs. Barbara McLaren

Barbara, of All Saints, Mission, is recognized today for contributions to the diocesan Dismantling Racism Team. This commitment stems from her personal experience, in the land of her birth where she was a religious minority, and then in the land which she accepted as her own, where she is considered a visible minority. It is also rooted in the belief that God created us all in God's own image. Barbara knows the Kingdom of God marches on and through the Dismantling Racism Team, she is part of that march. ✦

### Mr. Peter James Bailey

Peter has been a member of Christ Church, Hope since 1990. He has been very involved in all aspects of parish life. He has served as People's Warden, Bishop's Warden, and church secretary, and on the Canonical Committee that helped select a new priest. Peter has also been a Synod Delegate, and served on Diocesan Council, assisting in the development of the Bishop's employment agreement. Most recently he has been blessed to work with remarkable people on the Diocesan Task Force on Homelessness. ✦

# Starry Nights

## The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

With the arrival of Advent I, the first day of the Church Year (for those denominations that follow the lectionary) on Sunday, November 27, 2022, the St. Anselm's community began its year-long celebration of the parish's 70th Anniversary.

At 4pm, folks gathered at the church on the University of BC (UBC) Endowment Lands to enjoy the legendary St. Anselm's hospitality of good food and drink and to light the outdoor Advent wreath between 4:30 and 5pm as darkness fell over the Point Grey neighbourhood. Now this isn't just any Advent wreath, the Christmas Candle is approximately 1.5 metres in height, with the four Advent candles somewhat shorter. An Advent wreath of this size displayed on a church building is the first of its kind in the diocese. Bishop John Stephens was present to bless and dedicate the wreath. Also in attendance was the Rev. Tellison Glover, diocesan Director for Mission and Ministry Development who'd listened enthusiastically to the vicar's (the Rev. Alex Wilson) plan to create a large, plastic, illuminated Advent wreath, and although such an initiative may not exactly dot every "i" and cross every "t" of a Parish Development Grant, Tellison found the money to help support the project.

At approximately 4:40pm, all those in attendance left the warmth of the St. Anselm's narthex where the reception was being held and went out the main doors for the flipping of the switch. The Rev. Alex Wilson shared some

history of the project including a brief outline of its construction, Bishop John gave a blessing, and the wreath was illuminated with a particularly bright light shining from the Advent I "candle."

Another component of the launch was the invitation

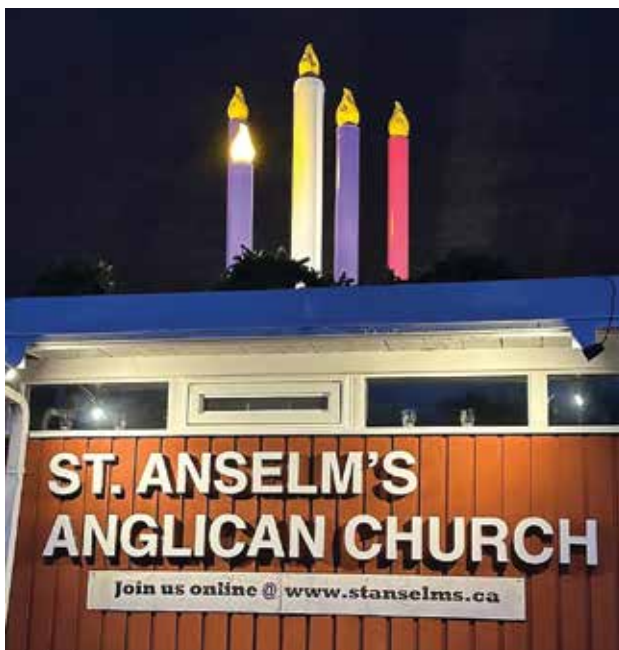
to all those in attendance to create their own wreaths. The materials were displayed and easily accessible in the entrance to the nave, with assembly tables available where wreath makers could take the components and assemble their own wreaths to enjoy at home.

In a post on the St. Anselm's website, the Rev. Alex Wilson gives some background about Advent and goes into much more details about the craft construction of the wreaths.

Here is an excerpt:

*"The origins of the Advent wreath are complicated, with many interpretations and assumptions about style, purpose, colour and meaning. At its core it is a device to tell time, in that the candles burn down over time which is a physical reminder of time moving towards a goal. But what is that goal? Well, in the wreath there are five candles of different colours. The colour is less important than the meaning, however, because the meaning of the candles are a reminder of the light of Christ which we are preparing to receive again at Christmas. It is for this reason that the centre candle, which we call "the Christ Candle" is the largest of them all—because it is our goal. It is the Christ candle because we light it only on Christmas day and the days which follow until January 6 as we give thanks for the coming of Christ, the anchor of our hope, at Christmas."* ✠

The Advent wreath at St. Anselm's as it appeared at 5pm on November 27, Advent I. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray



St. Anselm's lay leader, Heather Friesen, ODNW and Bishop John pose for a photo at the pre-lighting reception.



An attractive design accent set up in the narthex helped to set the mood. Apparently, it came from IKEA.



Using the components located in the nave's entrance vestibule, Jane has nearly completed her wreath.



Bishop John dedicates St. Anselm's rooftop Advent wreath.

# St. Anselm's Celebrates the Reign of Christ & the Parish's Ongoing Commitment to the PWRDF

SHIRIN THEOPHILUS, ODNW  
St. Anselm's PWRDF Representative

On November 20, the Parish of St. Anselm's celebrated the Reign of Christ, giving thanks to God for making us partners in the work of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF). By our immersion and participation in the work of PWRDF we are always reminded that we are recreating the joyful kingdom of God on earth. By each person's engagement in this compassionate work that extends across Canada and all over the world, we become partners in the sustainable development, emergency relief, refugee settlement and global justice and peace, thus living into our baptismal covenant.

For worship that Sunday, the intercessory prayers were written in English to be included in the PWRDF information package. Thanks for the beautiful prayers offered in Hindi (Edwin); Vietnamese (Thuy); Cantonese (Kin); German (Rosie); and Korean (Jungeun) bringing languages of the world in giving praise to God. The current messaging from the PWRDF focusses on the creation of a new world of joy and thanksgiving by engaging prayerfully in small acts of kindness in one's own environment.

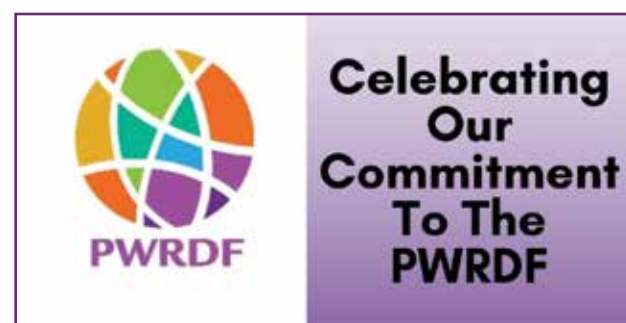
As usual, all the dishes for the lunch and the cakes were gift offerings to raise funds for PWRDF gratefully given by myself and partner, Daniel. Thanks to Sam for the most



Shirin graciously poses for a photo by the chancel Advent Wreath, Sunday, November 27, 2022. PHOTO Randy Murray

uplifting organ prelude and postlude as well as the worship music. Thanks to the Rev. Alex Wilson for the many ways that he supported the event as well as to Heather, Edwin, Thuy, Marian, Kin, and Maren who helped with all aspects of the luncheon set up and clean up. Each one of you brought your time and energy to make this a grand success.

And many thanks, dear Parish family for joining in the Indian vegetarian lunch and special PWRDF chocolate cake by generously donating to support the work of the PWRDF. We exceeded beyond our expectation, by raising \$2,070. Thanks be to God. ✠





Rita, Shaun and Siddhartha at the Shri Guru Ravidass Temple in Burnaby. ALL PHOTOS Submitted



Rita, Shaun, Siddhartha, and Pandit Dan at the Hindu puja.



Siddhartha's blessing at the Buddhist Vihara Society's Surrey monastery, with the Ven. Siriniwasa.



Cathedral Vicar Areeta Bridgemohan, Siddhartha, and Aunt Pamela Mehmi.

## All Bridges Lead to the Same Source of Universal Energy & Love

### Thanksgiving for the gift of a child

ANNE FLETCHER  
Christ Church Cathedral

Siddhartha Theodorus (Tatsat) Omaid-Mehmi, nattily dressed in shirt, vest sweater, and bow tie, lies back in his pram, maybe not quite taking it all in.

With a bare three months' experience of the world, Siddhartha could be having a hard time figuring out how he got here—the coffee hour hubbub amplified by celebratory samosas and cake, the congratulations to his parents from complete strangers, and, most of all, the blessing that Christ Church Cathedral's Vicar, the Rev. Areeta Bridgemohan and the congregation have just bestowed on him.

His aunt, the Cathedral's parishioner, Pamela Mehmi, as the only baptized Christian in her Indo-Canadian, Buddhist-Hindu family, is a little overwhelmed herself. Days later, she reflects: "It was just one of the happiest, most joyous days of my life... it was amazing to have my biological family and my church family—both worlds—coming together."

This November 6 All Saints Day post-service party was unimagined back on Sunday, July 31, when Pamela went for healing prayer for her sister, Rita, during the Christ Church Cathedral service. Rita was in her third day of labour at St. Paul's Hospital with her first child, and the first baby among the three Mehmi sisters. Looking back now, "It was a bit scary," Rita says.

As that July service ended, Pamela introduced herself and her story to the Rev. Bridgemohan who at that time was just two-and-a-half weeks into her new ministry as the Cathedral's vicar.

Areeta was pregnant herself with her second child (due November 25), with sharp memories of her own first difficult delivery in July 2020. Like Rita, she would give birth to her family's first grandchild, a boy, Kiran. Like Rita's husband, Shaun Omaid, her family is Indo-Guyanese. Like Pamela, she is a Christian in a predominately Hindu family.

The news of Siddhartha's safe delivery came through early that afternoon. And Areeta was ready when Pamela came to her the next week.

This new life is just such a blessing, Pamela told her, after two years of loss piled on loss—the sisters' father, uncle, grandfather, and, finally, Pamela's well-loved elderly dog, all dying during the dark pandemic days.

Areeta could hear the yearning. "She really wanted to embrace Siddhartha and Rita and Shaun in the love of God."

Pamela knew the day she entered the Cathedral in January 2016 that she was home. "It was love at first sight," she says, with her baptism coming only months later at the 2016 Easter Vigil.

A baptism for her nephew in the place that means so much to her wasn't possible but, still, "I wish there was something I could do," she told Areeta.

There is, Areeta answered, pointing her to the "Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child" in the *Book of Alternative Services*. It also includes a prayer of thanksgiving for a mother's safe passage through pregnancy and childbirth. "That meant a lot to me as well," Pamela says.

Rita, a Buddhist, and Shaun, a Hindu, said an unqualified yes to the proposal. "For me, it wasn't even a question of whether we should or shouldn't," Rita says. "All bridges lead to the same source of universal energy and love."

Pamela remembers this part a bit differently. "They were for it right off the bat," she says. "But Rita kept saying, 'Do they know we're not Christian?' She must have asked three or four times and then I got worried, and I asked Areeta, and she said, 'Oh, that's okay.'"

Areeta did have one question for her non-Christian



LEFT Shaun Omaid, Rita Mehmi, and Siddhartha at Christ Church Cathedral on November 6. RIGHT The blessed baby, dressed for the occasion.



The splendid coffee hour cake.

family—several of the service prayers end with "through Jesus Christ our Lord." Could they say those words with sincerity?

"It wasn't an issue for me," says Shaun. "In Hinduism, you respect all gods and goddesses. For most Hindus, Jesus would be accepted as a divine being."

Areeta says her own grandmother, a follower of Krishna, thinks much the same way. "This gets to how we conceive of God," she says. "How expansive our idea of God can be."

When it all came together during the Feast of All Saints, there was Areeta, 37 weeks pregnant, looking toward her own delivery, and wearing a blue cope with the image of Mary, pointing toward Advent and the Christmas birth of Jesus.

After the necrology and the *Kontakion*, then the blessing. "It was such an incredible honour," Areeta says. "The service was the holding together of life and death which is the reality of the human condition."

Siddhartha's carefully chosen names—Siddhartha,

for the Buddha, meaning "he accomplishes his goals"; Theodorus, reflecting his Western heritage; and Tatsat, his private Hindu name—"that which is true"—charted his path of blessings.

Before he got to the Cathedral, Siddhartha had already visited the Buddhist Vihara Society-run monastery in Surrey for a blessing from the monks. Then his paternal grandmother held a Hindu puja for him in her home.

Finally, after his Anglican blessing, attended by his grandmothers, aunts Pamela and Savita, an uncle, and cousins, his maternal grandmother took him to the Shri Guru Ravidass Temple in Burnaby.

That puts Rita in a good position to make comparisons. Despite her new-mom sleep-deprived state, she could feel the power of Christ Church Cathedral's Christian blessing.

"The reception we received was just so warm and welcoming," she says. "The energy being channeled through the priest was the same as at the Buddhist monastery and the Hindu puja... it's just a beautiful thing." ❖

# St. Stephen's Community Singers Concert

HILARY CLARK

St. Stephens, West Vancouver

After a fall dedicated to learning new repertoire, St. Stephen's Community Singers took their talents out to the West Vancouver community to perform for the residents of Kiwanis Garden Village. This residential community is fortunate to have a great hall with excellent acoustics and a multiplicity of functions. It suited the needs of the guest performers perfectly.

St. Stephen's Community Singers is a community choir based at St. Stephen's Anglican Church under the sponsorship of the Rev. Kenneth Vinal. It is open to all, no auditions, small bi-annual fee and great fellowship! The group meets from September to June. The repertoire is varied, moving from pop classics and folk melodies to classic art songs and religious standards. The director, Dr. Annabelle Paetsch, brings formidable musical credits to the group augmented by patience and a sense of humour!

The fall concert, *Singing the Seasons, Fall to Christmas*, took place on Thursday, November 24 at 3:30pm. The easy, lilting style of the first two numbers, *Can't Help Falling in Love* and *Autumn Leaves* set the tone and suggested the variety of the concert's offerings. These pieces and many others were enriched by the accompanying flute of Nancy

Riecken and Lynne Graham. Percussion was added when appropriate by Hilary Clark playing snare drum, triangle, maracas and tambourine (not all at the same time!).

An international inclusion featured *Calypso Lullaby*, *Christmas in Killarney* and two Australian carols, plus *In the*

*Bleak Midwinter* and *Go Tell it on the Mountain*. Canada was represented by Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*.

The audience then joined in with some well-known group carols ending with *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. A good time was had by all. ♣



A full view of the choir and audience in the Great Hall. PHOTOS John Ruddick



Dr. Paetsch in a hat.



The percussionist and reporter, age 92 and going strong.



Flautists and percussionist.

## IN MEMORIAM

### Margery Violet Skerry, ODNW

March 9, 1922 – October 24, 2022

On October 24, 2022, beloved Mum, Nana, Great-Nana and dear friend, Margery Violet Skerry of Mission City passed away at the age of 100. Leading up to her passing in hospice, Margery was surrounded by friends, family and lots of love and laughter.

She will be lovingly remembered and dearly missed by her children: Susan (Fred), Sandra, Rick (Karen), Rob (Wendy); grandchildren: Brenna (Andrew), Andrew (Rebecca), David (Katherine), Katie, Shae (Sam), Leah (Crys); great-grandchildren: Sophia, Natalie, Lucy, Hana, Laurel, Dougie, Eddie and Benji; step grandchildren: Jason (Lori), Theresa (Allan); step great-grandchildren: Kieran, Emily, Orion and Analis; as well as countless friends.

She was predeceased by her husband, Wilfred; son, Alan; and son-in-law, Larry.

Margery was born in Beeston, England and lived in England until she met her husband, a Canadian soldier, Wilfred. After Wilf was demobilized, he returned to Canada and Margery followed with a new baby to Didsbury, Alberta where they lived for a few years and had another daughter and a son. The family moved to Mission, BC where Wilf had a job working for the *Fraser Valley Record* newspaper. Here they lived on Ferguson Avenue for 37 years and had two more sons. The family suffered a great loss in 1978 when eldest son, Alan, unexpectedly and tragically died in a skiing accident.

As Wilf and Margery slowly became empty nesters, they took every opportunity to live life to the fullest—such activities

included camping, canoeing, hiking, cross-country skiing, square dancing and traveling to England, Australia and New Zealand and many parts of Canada. In 2000, Wilf passed away and Margery, yet again, perse-

vered and found herself adapting to a new life. She remained very active and continued to travel the world, took up golfing and even did the Grouse Grind at age 79!

Margery's lifelong dedication to the

church was recognized in 2013 when she was invested into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster. Margery's selfless work for her church included, but was certainly not limited to, starting a children's choir, teaching Sunday School, accepting the role of secretary, serving on the Church Council, helping form a prison ministry at the Mission Prison, serving monthly dinners to her community, fundraising by baking pies, and even when her eyesight was declining, she managed to still find a way to help by putting the Sunday bulletin together. Her Citation reads:

*Margery has been involved in the life of the Anglican Church since her arrival in Canada as a war bride. She has been very active in many parish ministries over the years. Now in "retirement," she continues to make pies for the Outreach Program and volunteering in the church office.*

It is impossible to capture what a remarkable person she was—the world was gifted 100 years of love, humour, compassion, and strength. Margery was a friend to everyone and saw the good in all people; she was a trusting and non-judgmental confidante for so many and will be dearly missed. We will especially miss her hilarious stubbornness, catching up over a cup of tea and, of course, her whistling.

A memorial service was held at All Saints, Mission on November 12.

The family wishes to send a special thank you to the staff at The Cedars and the volunteers and nurses at the Mission Hospice. ♣



Margery Skerry, ODNW receiving congratulations from the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz then-Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada upon investiture into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster, Sunday, November 3, 2013. PHOTO Wayne Chose

## IN MEMORIAM

### Colleen Gwen Keil, ODNW

March 24, 1929 – November 10, 2022



Colleen Keil, ODNW photographed at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver, November 6, 2011, the day she was invested into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster. PHOTO Wayne Chose

On November 10, 2022, a wonderful Mum, Grandma, and GG, Colleen Keil of Mission, BC passed away at the age of 93. She is survived and lovingly remembered by her children: Eileen and Edwin (Julie); grandchildren: Sara (Mario), Matthew (Chantelle), Grant (Isabel), Kate (Ryan), Jeni-Belle, Zoe, Sierra; great grandchildren: Allie, Sofia, Lily, Owen, Adrian, James, and Shay; and brothers: Bob (Judy) and Tom (Ann). She was predeceased by her husbands: Scott in 1956, and David in 2017; her daughter, Jennifer in 2018; and her son-in-law, Ron in 2021.

Colleen was born, March 24, 1929, in Vancouver, BC. She attended Burnaby South High School and enjoyed attending her class reunions. Colleen worked for the Burnaby School Board as a secretary until marrying her husband Scott in 1951. Scott passed away at a young age from leukemia. With the support of her very young daughter, Eileen, family, and friends, Colleen returned to work at the Burnaby School Board until marrying David in 1958. They moved to San Francisco for a few years before returning to Vancouver. Jennifer and Edwin were born, and the family lived in West Vancouver, Victoria and in 1974, settled in Mission.

Colleen's faith was strong. She faced some difficulties and challenges in her life and her commitment to the Church provided much comfort. When she moved to Mission, Colleen joined All Saints and made close friends. She was active in the Anglican Church Women (ACW). Her last post was as President and she enjoyed volunteering making mincemeat and organizing Christmas bazaars, Spring Teas and the Anglican Ladies luncheons twice a year. She also planned the World Day of Prayer Services when they were held at All Saints. From 1996 to 1998 she was named Bishop's Warden to help guide the church during the time that the parish was without a priest-in-charge. With the help of two priests available part-time, she kept All Saints humming along. In 1999, the new rector asked her to be the Rector's Warden for one year for continuity and to help him get established. She was also a lay administrator,

a reader, led the Prayers of the People, and for many years was a member of the Altar Guild. In 2011, in recognition of her contributions to the life and work of the church, she was invested into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster, an honour of which she was very proud.

Here is the 2012 Citation:

*Colleen has been a member of the Anglican Church for almost 60 years and a member of All Saints, Mission for almost 40 of those years. She has many, many talents and has joyfully utilized them in her many ministries over the years.*

Just prior to her passing she was thrilled to attend the same award ceremony for her good friend, Dick.

Colleen was also active in the Parents Associations of the schools her children attended and Brown Owl for the local Brownie group for many years. She loved playing bridge and played with her bridge group right up to a few weeks before her passing.

Colleen enjoyed spending time with grandchildren and great grandchildren both at home and at the family place on Bowen Island. Fond memories over the years are of board games, popping popcorn over the fire, ABC Friday night movies and sharing cups of tea.

Colleen faced life's joys and adversities with strength, compassion and love. She was a kind and gentle soul, and her kindness touched many people of all ages. She represented traditional values, but always found humour and positivity in many situations. Her example is something that we can all learn from.

A Celebration of Colleen's Life is scheduled for January 7, 2023 at All Saints. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Memorial Fund at All Saints, Mission.

Many thanks to the staff at Chartwell Cedarbrooke in Mission for their thoughtfulness and kindness towards Colleen over the many years she lived there. A special thank you to her "helping hands" Linda and Susan for their loving and supportive care over the last few years. ✠

### Joan Alma Sanderson, ODNW

March 11, 1929 – November 17, 2022



Joan Sanderson, ODNW photographed at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver on Sunday, November 3, 2013, the day she was invested into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster. PHOTO Wayne Chose

Joan Alma Sanderson (nee Corbould) passed peacefully on November 17, 2022, surrounded by love and prayers, and completely on her own terms at the age of 93. Joan aka, Mom, Joanie, Auntie Joan, G'ma, GG'ma, the Hot Sauce Granny, to name but a few, fought valiantly, although her health issues over the past year may have taken her strength, her fighting spirit remained. Fiercely independent, she was in control to the end.

Born in Kamloops, BC with twin sister Margie, the "most unlike twins" were in the middle of six children of Charles Edward Bernard and Alma Hetty Corbould.

Joan is survived by her children: Penny (Stewart) Holmes, Ian (Sharon) and Margie (Jim) Moore of St. Albert, Alberta, and Frank (Susan) and Debbie (Marek) Godlewski of Rothesay, New Brunswick; grandchildren: Geoff (Lori), Stephen (Linda), Kim (Matt), Anna, David (Ashley), Amy (Damien), Mary-Claire (Ian), Bevan (Katie), Meighan, Kelsie, Aleksander (Shannon), Elise (Chris), Adam (Moriah), Colan (Cassiya) and Evan; and great grandchildren: Adalyn, Annabel, Emmett, Julia, Rowan, Emmy, Leo, Marceline and Wally; Brother Brian (Barbara) Corbould of Port Coquitlam and sister Margaret Francis of Coquitlam. She will also be missed by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Joan was predeceased by her parents and sisters: Betty McGregor, Norah Klett and Pat Hasselfelt; in-laws: Jim, Colin, Inky, Cy, Gordon, Mary, Wineva, Bruce; parents-in-law Lundy and Margaret; and her former husband Lundy Sanderson.

A proud graduate of Kamloops High School (1947) and the Royal Jubilee Hospital School of Nursing in Victoria (1951), Joan was committed to a life of caring and service. She was a lifelong volunteer, serving with the Jaycees, the New Westminster YWCA, SHARE and the Anglican

Church of Canada. Joan was invested into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster in 2013.

Here is her Citation:

*Joan's ministry at St. Laurence has been extensive. She has worked in many different aspects of community life and is known to always be quick to offer assistance wherever needed. Her big smile and warm welcome have been a gift to many newcomers to the parish.*

Returning to work after raising her children, she nursed at the Como Lake Hospital in Coquitlam until her retirement in 1996. Joan continued her volunteering at St. Laurence Church and the SHARE Food Bank into her 90s. She made a point to say thank you, to welcome a stranger, and to be sure that her children and grandchildren learned to do the same. Always up for an adventure, Joan travelled the world with family and friends over the years. Family was her life and she travelled throughout Canada to visit her children and other family. Wherever she was, she made friends easily, was always interested to learn from others or share her sense of humour.

In 2013, she began acting in commercials, most notably in the *Frank's Red Hot Sauce* commercials.

Joan's family would like to thank those who accompanied her through her challenges—the staff of Parkwood, Coquitlam; and River Ridge and Comfort Keepers, St. Albert; and the care teams at hospitals in Coquitlam, Edmonton and St. John, New Brunswick. A celebration of Joan's life will be held in Coquitlam, BC at a later date, when the sun and flowers are out. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the BC Cancer Foundation, the MS Society of Canada, the Alzheimer Society of Canada, or to your local foodbank. ✠

*May they rest in peace & rise with Christ in Glory*



Limina — close up view of face and hand.  
ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray



Deacon, the Rev. Karin Fulcher welcomes the congregation prior to the procession in.



Organist/Director of Music, Michael Dirk prepares to play the Prelude, Elgar's Nimrod from *Enigma Variations*.



Thurifer for the liturgy, the Rev. Geoff Carson leads the procession in, to the Opening Hymn, *Abide With Me*.



Interim Choir Director, Jaime Yoon.

## Choral Evensong *Limina* Dedication at St. John's, Shaughnessy

PREPARED WITH FILES SUPPLIED BY CLERGY & LAY MEMBERS OF ST. JOHN'S, SHAUGHNESSY

The Parish of St. John's, Shaughnessy (SJS) held a Solemn Choral Evensong on Sunday, October 30 in commemoration of all the faithful departed. Those who have died, especially those who have left this life in the past year were remembered by name. Following worship, members of the congregation went outside for the dedication of the *Limina* sculpture, located in the parish's Memorial Garden on the south side of the church property footprint. Both the artist, David Robinson, and the project's patron, Lise Struthers, spoke during the service, and the choir offered Evensong repertoire by William Byrd, Sarah MacDonald, and J.S. Bach. Bishop John Stephens attended as a member of the congregation and blessed the sculpture when it was dedicated after Evensong. After the dedication a reception was held in the Trendell Lounge, the gathering space shared by SJS and the Synod Office of the diocese of New Westminster. The lavish reception was catered by Bette Geddes and the *Sharing Abundance* team. The torrential rain falling that afternoon was no deterrent to those who attended this very significant occasion, as there were approximately 100 people present.

At the liturgy a member of the sanctuary party was the Rev. Geoff Carson who is Godfather to the children of SJS rector, the Rev. Terry Dirbas. Fr. Geoff was visiting from San Diego and fulfilled the role of thurifer during worship. Mother Terry's husband, the Rev. Joe Dirbas who is Rector of the Parish of the Church of Holy Trinity, White Rock was

MC. Special thanks go out to organist and director of music, Michael Dirk, choirmaster, Jaime Yoon and the St. John's, Shaughnessy choir for the beautiful music they provided. Finally, we give thanks to everyone who shared names for the necrology, to all those who invited friends, and to all who attended worship whether in person or online. What a blessing it was to be together for this great occasion.

Lise Owen Struthers, although living in Ontario, has a long history with SJS, as it was the parish she attended with her family during the time she was growing up in Vancouver. In December of 2020, at the height of COVID-19 restrictions, Lise approached then-rector of SJS and now-bishop of the diocese, the Rt. Rev. John Stephens, and a meeting of the trustees was called, everyone masked and sitting the required six feet apart at the west end of the nave where the labyrinth is located. During that meeting the initial idea for *Limina* was conceived.

David Robinson, the sculptor behind *Limina*, is the son of the Rev. Harry Robinson, a former Rector of St. John's Shaughnessy. The Rev. Robinson was appointed in the late 1970s when the parish was not faring too well, and he helped to build the congregation into the largest Anglican parish in Canada.

Lise is a longtime friend of the Robinson family, as well as having a long family association with SJS. Lise reached out to David Robinson in the midst of grieving the sudden death of her husband, Robert. It was in this period of



Rector's Warden, Judith Downes, ODNW reads the First Lesson, *Wisdom 3:1-9*.



The Rev. Terry Dirbas censes the altar during the singing of the *Magnificat*.



Members of the choir with Michael Dirk on the portable organ were situated at the entrance to the nave. Here they lead the Office Hymn, *Adore Devote*.



The artist, David Robinson addresses the congregation.



Project Patron, Lise Struthers addresses the congregation.



Folks gathered in the chilly rain in the St. John's, Shaughnessy Memorial Garden.



MC for the Evensong, the Rev. Joe Dirbas and Celebrant/Precentor, Rector of SJS, the Rev. Terry Dirbas lead the Preces.

mourning during contemplative moments that Lise had a vision and she felt called to manifest it in the world. And so began a conversation with David about the piece that would eventually become *Limina*.

In her address to the congregation during the liturgy she shared that David had spent many hours journeying with her, being attentive to what she was experiencing, thinking and feeling. The two of them exchanged beautiful prose that they had come across from others who had lived through similar loss. Lise said that her hope is now that *Limina* will invite people to pause at the statue as they look upon *her* and contemplate the space between the protective shadow of now and the light beyond.

David not only created the beautiful sculpture that is *Limina*, but he also wrote the beautiful poem (included on this page) which describes what *Limina* means to him and the feelings it invokes. His words appear on a plaque above a bench for reflection a few feet away from the sculpture in SJS's Memorial Garden. ✦



Bishop John and Mother Terry prepare to bless and dedicate the statue.



Bishop John — standing with the rector, the Rev. Terry Dirbas — blesses the *Limina* following Evensong.



A member of the catering team applies some finishing touches to the refreshments table in the Trendell Lounge.

*This Side of the Veil*

*Of fingertips alight upon an iron pall  
 And of feet grounded in the fidelity of clay  
 The mind's eye slips sidelong into realms ulterior  
 A thin place billowing taut the shroud of time  
 We sift as through a portal, passing as the wind sees fit  
 And are swept heavy as sand up to the sills of heaven  
 From dust to dust to living loam  
 Lain fallow in the garden  
 Is memory enough  
 Until the dawn of spring*

# Celebration of a New Ministry in Richmond

## The Installation of the Reverend Elizabeth Ruder-Celiz as Vicar of the Parish of St. Alban, Richmond

RANDY MURRAY

Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The Richmond parish of St. Alban's has had some challenges in recent years, however, the future looked much brighter on the evening of Thursday, November 24, 2022, when the Rev. Liz Ruder-Celiz was installed as vicar by the Archdeacon of Fraser, the Ven. Luisito Engnan as ordained leader of the parish's shared ministry together and partner with Bishop John Stephens in the overall mission and ministry of the parish.

The classic wood frame Gothic Revival church was constructed in 1909, a few kilometres away from its current location and moved to this site in 1961. The last full-time rector was the Rev. Margaret Cornish who retired September 30, 2015. This incumbency was followed by two periods of interim ministry by the Rev. John Firmston and the Rev. Mary Rose Muldoon. By the spring of 2018, the parish in collaboration with the Executive Archdeacon, the Ven. Douglas Fenton and others requested the then-bishop, the Most Rev. Melissa Skelton appoint the Rev. Paula Porter Leggett as Vicar. The installation took place on September 5, 2018. The Rev. Porter Leggett's ministry concluded January 31, 2021, as she served the community well and helped to guide the parish through the bulk of the COVID-19 era. The next vicar appointed was the Rev. Armand Mercier who was also part of Christ Church Cathedral's clergy team. The Rev. Mercier who came to the diocese of New Westminster from the diocese of Edmonton in 2021, resigned August 31, 2022, and returned to Alberta. It was time again to seek a new priest and the Rev. Elizabeth Ruder-Celiz former priest associate at St. John, Shaughnessy and Interim Priest-in-Charge of that parish following the departure of now-bishop, the Rt. Rev. John Stephens in January 2022, and also in ministry as Associate Anglican Formation Director at Vancouver School of Theology (VST) was keen to resume her call to parish ministry.

Considering the difficulties faced by the parish with the many changes in ordained leadership over the past seven years, St. Alban's continues to be a place of outreach to the Richmond community. Its positioning in the older section of the more urban Brighouse district is an ideal location to offer compassionate service to those on the margins. St. Alban's has always shown great generosity and kindness to its neighbours and has been a great example of how to enter partnerships with other entities for the greater good. The parish has supplied, meals, shelter, showers and more, and now Chinese language worship and ministry has been added with the arrival of the Rev. Bill Mok, former Rector of the now-closed Parish of St. Chad's in the Arbutus Basin. The Rev. Mok has been welcomed by the parish with the initial plan to establish a presence and then move to offering Chinese language worship in the St. Alban's sanctuary.

The preacher for the liturgy was the Rev. Ruder-Celiz's recently arrived colleague, the Rev. Canon Dr. Rob James, who since July 1, 2022, has been Associate Professor of Anglican Formation and Studies at VST. For those unfamiliar with Canon James here is an excerpt from his bio on the VST website:

*"Rob comes to VST from Wells Cathedral in Somerset, in the southwest of the UK, where he has been the Canon Chancellor since 2019. Before going to Wells, Rob was the Vicar of a three-parish benefice in the diocese of Gloucester. He was ordained deacon in 2005 and priest in 2006. As well as his Church of England career he spent some time working for the UK government on security matters, whilst undertaking unpaid duties for the church. Alongside his work for Church and State, he has usually been involved in teaching theology to undergraduates and to those training for ordination.*

*Rob holds six degrees from five universities, including a PhD from the University of London on the use of Scripture in Anglicanism. Unusually for a priest, he also holds a Master of Letters in Terrorism Studies from St. Andrews. He has broad academic interests, having published on biblical interpretation in Anglicanism, biblical interpretation in African Christianity, Islamist terrorism and, most recently, New Testament studies. His book The Spiral Gospel: Intratextuality in the Gospel of Luke is to be published soon by James Clarke Publishers. He is currently working on another article on the Gospel of Luke and on an article on religious authority in the work of William Prynne, a 17th century Puritan."*

In his homily, Canon James constructed his remarks using the readings for the liturgy: *Jeremiah 1:4-9; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 12:1-18; Luke 10:1-6, 17-20* but he also touched on the aforementioned challenges the parish has faced in recent



LEFT The Rev. Liz Ruder-Celiz smiles in acknowledgement of the applause following the Ven. Luisito Engnan's words, "I present Elizabeth as the leader of your ministry, and I invite your welcome." RIGHT The Symbols of Ministry are placed in order in the narthex in preparation for their presentation. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray, except where noted



David Kimpton, ODNW leads the procession in to the hymn, *Holy Spirit, Come with Power*.



During the Processional Hymn, the new vicar processes in just ahead of the officiant.



Pianist, Yoonjoo Jee.



The Rev. Bill Mok reads the Epistle, *Romans 12:1-18*.



The preacher, the Rev. Canon Dr. Rob James.



Mother Liz signs the oath.



Filling the font during the presentation of the symbols of ministry.



Dianne Woodhouse brings forward "loaves & fishes" symbolic of the food ministries at St. Alban's.

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years, but despite those challenges the mission and ministry of the parish continues, and continues to grow with the arrival of the Rev. Bill Mok and Chinese Language ministry.

The Celebration of New Ministry Eucharist followed the established pattern with the Covenant in Ministry taking place following the sermon, and its components: the description of the process of how the priest was chosen; the administration by the officiant, in this case the Regional Archdeacon, the Ven. Luisito Engnan of the oaths and subscriptions; the signing of the oaths by the new vicar; the reading of the License of Institution by the archdeacon; the examination; the Presentation of the Symbols of Ministry of the Whole People of God; the presentation by the presider of the new vicar to the congregation; the welcome from the Regional Dean, the Rev. Paul Woehrle, Rector of St. Cuthbert, Delta; and the Prayers of the People led by long time St. Alban's parishioner, Pamela Hiensch. Following the prayers, the new vicar shared the Peace and participated in the administration of the Eucharist.

There was a good turnout of clergy, mostly from the Richmond/Delta Deanery, including the Rev. Liz Ruder-Celiz's husband, the Rev. Robin Celiz, who will finish his current incumbency at All Saints, Ladner early in 2023 and will begin a new ministry as Rector of the Parish of St. Helen, Surrey. Their daughter Amelia was also present and took some fine photographs. There were also some folks from St. John's, Shaughnessy supporting Liz in her new ministry.

Please keep the Parish of St. Alban's in your prayers as they move forward in their next phase of ministry. ✠

.....  
 Canon James' sermon is available on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2022-11-24-installation-of-the-reverend-liz-ruder-celiz>



The chalice and paten for the wine and bread of the Eucharist are presented by Tannis deBrouwer.



Stan O'Keefe presents the Constitution, Canons and Regulations of the diocese of New Westminster.



The intercessor Pam Hiensch.



The keys to the buildings are presented by the wardens, Larry Scherben, ODNW and Stephanie Christie.



The new vicar administers the Body of Christ.



The Prayer over the Gifts.



A beautiful photo taken by Amelia Ruder-Celiz of the bowl of candles situated at the front of the nave.



The vested, unmasked archival photo, this one featuring the vicar's daughter, Amelia. (Left to right) The Rev. Canon Dr. Rob James, Amelia, the Rev. Liz Ruder-Celiz and the Ven. Luisito Engnan.



Joan Stewart, ODNW, Bishop John and Robyn Woodward, ODNW.



As folks entered the restaurant they were greeted by Bishop John. Here he is with Elizabeth Murray, ODNW of St. David, Tsawwassen.

## Bishop's Friends Annual Fall Gathering with a Twist

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The Bishop's Friends is a diocesan-wide group with approximately 60 members, united with the specific goal of supporting the ministry of the bishop, usually, but not always financial assistance for ad hoc projects that are not part of the bishop's day to day ministry.

Over the years, the Bishop's Friends have gathered annually, in the fall, close to the end of the church year. They share a meal, spend some social time together and hear from the bishop and others about the results of initiatives that the Bishop's Friends have supported, and hear about new opportunities on the horizon.

The 2022 gathering took place on Wednesday, November 16, at the Shaughnessy Restaurant, located on the same Oak Street property footprint as the VanDusen Gardens. The *twist* mentioned in the title is that this year the event was a luncheon, not a dinner, with a start time of 12pm and a wrap-up between 2 and 2:30pm. The co-chairs, Joan Stewart, ODNW and Robyn Woodward, ODNW both from the Parish of St. John's, Shaughnessy had reserved the western section of the large restaurant which contains a dining space for 50 guests and a small presentation area, through two doors to the west is a spacious solarium. The solarium was where the silent auction items were staged, and guests were encouraged to spend some time in that space, browse, and bid on a variety of gift baskets and more.

Bishop John Stephens and the co-chairs were at the venue well before 12pm to greet the guests as they arrived. Everyone was delighted to see Beverly Kreller, ODNW and Joan Cope, ODNW of Christ Church, Hope who'd left their homes in the eastern Fraser Valley early in order to reach the Vancouver restaurant on time. Once the lunch orders were taken (there were three delicious choices: fresh



Bev Kreller, ODNW and Joan Cope, ODNW made the two plus hour trip to Shaughnessy from their homes in the eastern Fraser Valley.



Bishop John greets the guests.

Steelhead filet on a bed of spring greens; roasted chicken breast with lemon basil sauce, potatoes and arugula; and a hot shellfish and cheese filled croissant served with salad) Bishop John took to the microphone. He thanked everyone for their support, particularly the Bishop's Friends' financial support of the September 7-18, 2022 trip to attend the Consecration and Installation of the Rt. Rev. Benny Langakan, the new bishop of the diocese of New Westminster's Companion Diocese, the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines (EDNP). The bishop also thanked them for their presence at the lunch and led the group in a prayer of thanksgiving for the food about to be received.

After lunch, the bishop and co-chair, Robyn Woodward introduced after-luncheon speaker, the Rev. Helen Dunn, Rector of St. Clement, Lynn Valley and Regional Dean of North Vancouver. The Rev. Dunn was one of the members—with Bishop John Stephens, Ruth Stephens, the Ven. Douglas Fenton, the Rev. Wilmer Toyoken, the Rev. Philippa Pride, Jean Kyle and Elizabeth Ferguson—of the diocesan cohort that travelled to the Philippines in September. She told the story of *The Broken Toilet* which produced gales of laughter from the audience but at the same time helped to connect everyone with the world of those who live in the Companion Diocese of EDNP. The text of the Rev. Dunn's talk is included in article.

After the "talk", the Rev. Philippa Pride, currently Special Assistant to Bishop John Stephens (the Rev. Pride will succeed the Ven. Douglas Fenton as Executive Archdeacon of the diocese and Archdeacon of Vancouver upon Fr. Fenton's retirement at the end of 2022) guided the audience through a two dozen slide PowerPoint presentation that

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Archdeacon Fenton puts in a bid.



Table pose.



Cheers.



Bishop's Table.



The Rev. Philippa Pride presents the EDNP trip PowerPoint.

# The Broken Toilet Story

After luncheon talk given by the Rev. Helen Dunn, Rector of St. Clement's, Lynn Valley and Regional Dean of North Vancouver at the annual fall gathering of the Bishop's Friends, Wednesday, November 16, 2022. • Editor

As I sat down to prepare my speech for today, I wondered what the Bishop's Friends would want to hear about from a member of the delegation to the Episcopal Diocese of the Northern Philippines, a trip which your financial contributions so generously funded. Thank you.

I wondered, perhaps, if you might want a 200-slide PowerPoint, with photos mostly of the delegation's nostrils, attempting to take selfies that included both the people and the scenery? The Rev. Philippa Pride has prepared a beautiful slideshow that she'll show you in a few moments here.

Perhaps the Bishop's Friends want to hear a 90-minute lecture on transubstantiation or some other obscure doctrine? You know how clergy love a captive audience!

A story. A story is what I've decided to tell you this morning. A story about how yours truly, on her first day as a guest of the Episcopal Diocese of the Northern Philippines, promptly and irreparably broke the toilet.

I awoke on that fateful day to the sound of rush-hour traffic. Bontoc is the capital city in the Northern Philippines. I had slept well after a 12-hour journey through the winding, bumpy, roads, some of which were under construction following a recent earthquake.

As I was getting ready for the day, I prepared a bucket of water to flush the toilet, manually. I had done my research, you see. I was well aware of the adjustments we'd have to make while in the Philippines. Having taken extensive notes, I made several attempts in my hotel room that morning to deal with the plumbing—bucket style. When I was unsuccessful, I rolled up my sleeves and thought to myself, "I know how to fix this."

I took hold of the porcelain reservoir lid and removed it. I felt the thin layer of condensation that had settled on its surface. It glistened in the morning light. In a matter of seconds, the lid twirled into the air; set free from my grip. It landed on the floor—smashed into a thousand pieces. I followed suit shortly thereafter.

So, I did what any self-respecting person would do in a situation like this. I tried to pick up the pieces, one by one, and hide them in a bag that I would later dispose of when no one was looking. Finally, I admitted defeat and made my way to the lobby to plead my case with the manager.

As I left my room, though, there was the Executive Archdeacon, on the balcony, doing his morning study.

"Good morning, Helen," he chimed.

"Good morning, Archdeacon."

"Everything alright with the room?"

The story came tumbling forth, my words as hurried and fragmented as my attempts to clean up the porcelain pieces from the bathroom floor.

"Well, you'd better go down and have a word with the manager, haven't you?"

Yes, I'd better go down and have a word with the manager, haven't I?

In actual fact, the Archdeacon was quite sympathetic, and we laughed a great deal at my expense!

I made my way to the main floor. I greeted the manager. "I have some bad news," I said.

I pulled up a photo of the damage on my phone. She nodded and gestured to one of her sons. I insisted on paying for the damage. I asked if I could take a mop and clean it up myself. She smiled and pointed to a stack of porcelain lids in the back room.

"We have extras," she said, "because of foreigners, like you."

I thanked the manager and turned to make my way upstairs.

"One more thing," she said.

"Next time, ma'am, just press the button. It's automatic."

The lesson I learned that day would become a bit of a theme on our journey. I had, as anyone would, preconceived notions about what life would be like in our companion diocese. It's true; many of the toilets did require a bucket. But, as I came to appreciate, the people in our sibling churches are incredibly clever when it comes to dealing with foreign visits to their land.

Take, for example, the origins of the Anglican or "Episcopal" Church in the Northern Philippines. It was American missionaries\* who brought Anglicanism to the mountain province in the early 1900s. Many churches were built; many villages evangelised. Then, during World War II, the missionaries fled.

In the years following, the Northern Filipinos began to exercise what is known in postcolonial theory as "mimicry



The Rev. Helen Dunn relating the *Broken Toilet Story*.



*"The lesson I learned that day would become a bit of a theme on our journey. I had, as anyone would, preconceived notions about what life would be like in our companion diocese."*

and mockery" (a theory I was first introduced to at the Indigenous Studies program at the Vancouver School of Theology). It's:

*"When colonial discourse encourages the colonized to 'mimic' the colonizer, by adopting the colonizer's cultural habits, assumptions, institutions and values. ... [T]he result is never a simple reproduction of those traits. Rather, the result is a 'blurred copy' of the colonizer that can be quite threatening [to the colonising institution]. This is because mimicry is never very far from mockery, since it can appear to parody whatever it mimics. Mimicry therefore locates a crack in the certainty of colonial dominance." \*\**

If I had to sum up my visit to the Episcopal Diocese of the Northern Philippines, I would say that "the crack in the certainty of colonial dominance" has been firmly located. The Church in the Northern Philippines practises the Christian faith in unique and vibrant ways. Locally made textiles adorn the altars as opposed to exclusively British or North American imports. The Bible is being translated into not one but two dialects so that it can be read and interpreted by local communities for local communities. Christianity has been refashioned into a tool to preserve

rather than eradicate Indigenous language and culture, thereby making a kind of parody of what was maybe the original intent of the American missionary project.

Further, in contrast to the charity model that has historically characterized international relationships between churches, it was very clear throughout our trip that we were there as guests. We were friends and companions, there to learn from each other, to give gifts, sure, but mostly to receive them. We didn't go to build churches or to make Christians in our own image; but to witness churches being built by Filipinos for Filipinos—in God's image. ✚

*\*Bishop Charles Henry Brent who had a lot to do with evangelizing the Mountain Province was a Canadian; born, raised and educated in Ontario. After completing seminary, he couldn't immediately get a ministry position in Canada, so he was ordained in the Episcopal Church in New York State and was subsequently consecrated bishop after he'd committed to going to the Philippines as a missionary. It was American Episcopal missionaries who converted folks in Luzon, however the bishop was Canadian. • Editor*

*\*\*Nasrullah Mambrol, Mimicry in Postcolonial Theory, at <https://literariness.org/2016/04/10/mimicry-in-postcolonial-theory/>*

## Bishop's Friends

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

served to illustrate the experiences of the diocese of New Westminster group during their time in EDNP. The cohort were not just there for the consecration, they also visited many different parishes where the clergy members of the group participated in the liturgy as presider and preacher and the lay members prepared talks about their home parishes to share with the EDNP folks. The diocese of New Westminster folks were also welcomed as guests into the homes of members of the EDNP parishes that they visited.

Following the Rev. Pride's presentation, Bishop John opened the floor for questions, with several guests asking not just about the differences of worship, mission and ministry in EDNP but the similarities as well. The Bishop's Friends who attended the luncheon will all have a closer and more relevant connection to EDNP and to their "partner parishes" when they gather in their parishes to pray for the Companion Diocese during the Prayers for the People at Sunday worship.

Before concluding the luncheon with the Episcopal Blessing, Bishop John acknowledged the Ven. Douglas Fenton who will retire at the end of the year, the Bishop's



Applause for the retiring Executive Archdeacon.

Friends gathered responded with sustained applause for the Executive Archdeacon. ✚

*Anyone who is interested in becoming a member of Bishop's Friends is encouraged to contact [reception@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto:reception@vancouver.anglican.ca) or call the administration desk 604.684.6306 ext. 210 and you will be put in touch with a Bishop's Friends representative who can supply you with all the information.*



## ACW Council of the North Retired Clergy Fund Established

GAIL REVITT, ODNW

Past President, diocese of New Westminster ACW; Parishioner, St. Cuthbert, Delta

In the fall of 2020, an article was written in the *Anglican Journal* of the hardship the Rev. Jonas Alloloo had in finding accommodation after his retirement in Iqaluit, Nunavut.

The ACW Board discussed the possibility of offering financial assistance to the Rev. Alloloo and after much discussion, thought that there are probably others like him who would have difficulty finding accommodation after they retire, when they had been living in church accommodation while serving.

The diocesan ACW have contacted the chair of the Council of the North, Bishop David Lehmann, to discuss this and have learned that many of the clergy in the Council of the North are non-stipendiary and do not receive a pension from the Anglican Church of Canada on retirement.

There are nine dioceses in the Council of the North, three of which are in British Columbia. Salaries for clergy in the Council of the North are substantially less than in the rest of Canada while expenses for everyday living (i.e.: food, internet, hydro, etc.), is much more costly than in the southern section of Canada.

The ACW Board has offered an amount of \$100,000 to the Council of the North to administer to retired clergy. This will be held by the Anglican Foundation.

While \$100,000 sounds like a lot of money, when divided between the nine dioceses of the Council of the North it is only \$11,000 per diocese. A challenge was made to all National ACW's and others across Canada to increase the initial amount of the fund. Several ACW groups in other dioceses have replied positively.

The official establishment of the Fund with the Anglican Foundation completed on November 15, 2022, and will be called *ACW Council of the North Retired Clergy Fund*. Since this initiative as reported in the *Anglican Journal*, we are pleased to know that the fund has substantially grown from other donors and will make a difference to those retiring from the Council of the North who have sustained mission and ministry in Northern Canada on behalf of the Anglican Church.

Individuals may also contribute to the fund through the Anglican Foundation, noting the name of the fund when contributing. ✚

To donate to the ACW Council of the North Retired Clergy Fund please go to the Anglican Foundation's "Donate" page online at <https://www.anglicanfoundation.org/donate/>

## Blanket Exercise at UBC

ALEX WILSON

Vicar, St. Anselm, University Endowment Lands/Point Grey

On November 19, the Parishes of St. Anselm's, University Hill United, and St. Mary's, Kerrisdale, gathered at Epiphany Chapel, University of BC (UBC), on the unceded territory of the Musqueam people, to take the next step together on the road of Reconciliation. Gathered with facilitators from the ecumenical group Kairos, and overseen by elders, the parishes explored the Blanket Exercise together. This visual and at times very personal reliving of colonial history from the point of view of Indigenous peoples, walks the participants through Canadian history as a reflective tool towards deepening our understanding of what colonization has meant for Indigenous people.

The day opened with a welcome, orientation, and then the exercise, when participants were invited to come stand on the blankets which represented the section of Turtle Island, which we call Canada. Slowly, as the history of colonization, treaties, disease, and residential schools was read out, people were either invited to sit down, because they represented the dead, displaced, or disappeared. As this work continued, we were asked to reflect internally on what it meant to be part of this history in such a physical way as the land became smaller and smaller. No longer was this just numerical history for many, now it became a living experience which asked the question of the room "how then shall we live."

During the break, Kerry Baisley, ODNW, Missioner for Indigenous Justice for the diocese of New Westminster set up three table displays in the hospitality room, which explored the practical and real ways one might engage with the Truth and Reconciliation Committee's *94 Calls to Action*. Kerry asked us to think about what "our reconciliation plan" might be as individuals as we seek to live our baptismal call to be in better relationships with everyone we meet. It was remarkable to see how many ways we could deepen our understanding and support the *94 Calls to Action*, ways which are already alive in the world.

The day began and ended with a Circle of Learning, which is an opportunity for equality of voice within the whole. Many moments of gratitude, deeper awareness, and wonderings for what next were shared. We were also honoured by the presence and testimony of a residential school survivor. Their testimony was a reminder that this exercise is not just some cerebral experience alone—all of it is a real and living history for many still in this land, which added another layer of humanity to the day. This humanity, this challenge, this sacred work, was wrapped deeply in the grace of God and the pastoral provision of the accompanying clergy from St. Anselm's, University Hill United, and St. Mary's, Kerrisdale.

While this was a first step for many, it will not be the last. There are plans to hold a Mapping Exercise in June 2023, with some interparish formation opportunities and book studies between now and then. The resounding experience of grace that was felt that day was being witness to what the power of small things, done with great love, can do to

influence a change in the world. Our small action, of showing up, with great love in our hearts to learn with openness about our shared history and deepening relationships, will continue to ripple throughout our communities as we take on the task of sharing what we witnessed on November 19 with everyone we meet.

"How then shall we live, church, because of what we've seen today?" asked Rev. Alex Wilson in his concluding remarks to the group on November 19. "By sharing what we've heard, seen and felt, with everyone we meet, as we set out again together on the road to right relationship with everyone we meet. May it be so in our lives, with God's Grace." ✚

To find out more about how to host a blanket exercise, visit <https://www.kairosblanketexercise.org/> or contact Rev. Alex Wilson at [awilson@stanselms.ca](mailto:awilson@stanselms.ca)



Epiphany Chapel at UBC with the blankets ready. ALL PHOTOS Alex Wilson



The Blanket Exercise in progress.

# December Book Release Promises an Exciting 2023 for Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock Parishioner

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Simon Choa Johnston, ODNW has written a stand-alone sequel to his Globe and Mail bestselling 2016 novel, *House of Wives*. The new book's title, *House of Daughters* was released December 6, 2022.

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Simon immigrated to Canada to attend McMaster University where he graduated in 1972. After attending theatre studios in New York, he returned to Canada where he has worked as a playwright, director, and artistic director.

His plays have been seen at the Arts Club Theatre, BC; Gateway Theatre, BC; Western Canada Theatre, BC; the Belfry Theatre, BC; Kaleidoscope Theatre, BC; Youtheatre, Quebec; Collective Arts Production, Ontario; and the Lighthouse Festival, Ontario. Simon was writer-in-residence at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival and was featured at Toronto's Factory Theatre Cross Currents Festival.

Amongst his numerous awards are: City of Richmond's Cultural Leadership 2011; McMaster University Alumni Award; Winner, Theatre BC's National Playwriting Competition; Canada 125 Medal for Arts and Tourism; and three Vancouver Jessie nominations for best Play.

Simon and his wife, Sheila Johnston, ODNW moved to South Surrey in 2014, where they joined the Parish of the Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock and where Sheila began a new ministry as Parish Administrator of the nearby Anglican church, St. Mark, Ocean Park.

In 2016, Simon was invested into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster in recognition of his long-time support of his former parish, St. Mary's, Kerrisdale, and his diocesan leadership that began with his appointment as Chair of Synod Planning in 2014 (through 2019) and his subsequent appointment as Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2019 General Synod that convened in Vancouver in July of that year.

In anticipation of the release of the new novel, Simon sat down with diocesan communications officer, Randy Murray in mid-November 2022 for this interview.

**Q.** Thank you so much for taking the time to speak with me again. The last time we had a conversation like this was March of 2016. A lot has happened in the world. The penultimate question I asked you during that interview almost seven years ago was "What do you foresee in the future for Simon Choa Johnston, novelist? Where do you think this might lead?" And you answered, "As long and as arduous as novel writing can be, all I want to do now is write another one. It will be a story about the children of the three characters in *House of Wives*." Well, now it's done. So... please give us a summary of your *House of Wives* experience and how and when you began *House of Daughters* and... whether it was "arduous?"

**A.** *House of Wives* became a *Globe and Mail* bestseller in 2016, which opened a whole new world of book touring. I felt overwhelmed by the generosity of book clubs in British Columbia, and Ontario who kindly invited me to their meetings. I must have done a couple of hundred presentations between 2016 and 2019, in intimate spaces such as people's homes to lecture halls in colleges such as my alma mater, McMaster University. I also attended the TATA Literature Festival in Bombay as well as several book festivals on the West Coast. Attendees at these events encouraged me to write a sequel. Their comments about the characters in *House of Wives*, prompted me to wade into the next generation in the *House of Daughters*. Then, a trip to Hong Kong allowed me to research the 1920s and 1930s in the local archives. A chance meeting with a distant relative gave me the core of the story in *House of Daughters*. His files, made the writing less arduous but no less challenging.

**Q.** In that March 2016 interview, I asked you what you wanted people to take with them after they had read the book and you replied, "I had this written on a sheet of paper and stuck to the wall above my computer screen: "Two women compete for the affections of their opium-merchant husband in a tale of friendship, fortune and rivalry in colonial Hong Kong." Did you pin a sheet of paper on the wall this time?"

**A.** Yes, this is what it says: "In the 1920s and dirty thirties, a wealthy Jewish-Chinese Matriarch, her daughter and granddaughter confront class, culture and the legacy of a deadly curse."

**Q.** Although fiction, your first novel was inspired by real events and personal experiences, with the central characters: Emanuel, Semah and Pearl, real people connected to your life. Emanuel and Pearl are your great-grandparents. Does this connection continue in *House of Daughters*?

**A.** Yes, the connections continued, and they also expanded. Pearl starts the story. Then I explore her daughter (Leah) Felicie Belilios who is based on my grandmother. Felicie married a prominent Eurasian comprador named Choa Po-sien — named Po in the book. In real life they had 12 children but, for economy's sake, they only have five children in the book. Later I bring in Rachel who is based on my mother. She married Arthur who is based on my father.

**Q.** What do you think makes a good story?

**A.** Three things: a compelling central character, his/her/their goal and how he/she/they overcome the things that stand in the way of achieving their objectives.

**Q.** The story is set in Hong Kong in the 1920s and 30s. To set the story in the applicable period and place and to avoid anachronism did you find you had to do a lot of research? Did you have help with this part of the project?

**A.** The houses described in the book are no longer standing but they exist in my relatives' memories. I kept many notebooks as I was growing up and referred to them frequently. Also, newspaper accounts in the periodicals section of the HK Library and city archives opened a window into the period. A dear family friend also supplied me with a treasure trove of old photos dating back to the 1920s and 30s along with tantalizing handwritten diaries describing people and incidents. With gratitude, I based much of my story on those sources.

**Q.** In the form and development of the book did you change your process at all from the days of writing plays and the first novel? If "yes," what were those changes?

**A.** The "what" of the narrative is the same, i.e., what is the story about? However, the "how" is very different, i.e., how do you tell the story. A stage play of my novels would require a large cast and different settings. A novel allows me to explore a large canvas in more detail. A stage play is a conversation with 300 or 400 people at a time in a theatre. A novel is an intimate conversation with one person at a time, usually in their home

**Q.** Do you have a favourite character in *House of Daughters*? And is there a character that you're glad you don't know?

**A.** That's like asking if I have a favourite son or daughter. They are each uniquely different, making their own way through life. My job, I think, is to help the reader know why they act the way they do and without judging them.

**Q.** Many authors from Thomas Wolfe to J.M. Coetzee to Yiyun Li say their writing is autobiographical. What's your take on that and does that ever come to mind when you are writing?

**A.** Oh my, to be mentioned in the same breath as Wolfe, Coetzee and Yiyun Li means I can now go to my rest completely fulfilled.

Yes, I draw from my own experiences both lived experience and observed experiences, my own insecurities, and flaws and those I might see in others. I try to ask myself why, I, or people I know behave in the way we do, say the things we say, and live the way we live. I try as best I can to find the funny in situations, although I don't always succeed.

**Q.** Did you hear from the readers of *House of Wives*? What kind of things did they say? And did anything that you heard surprise you?

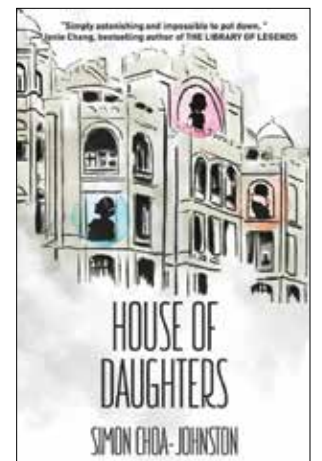
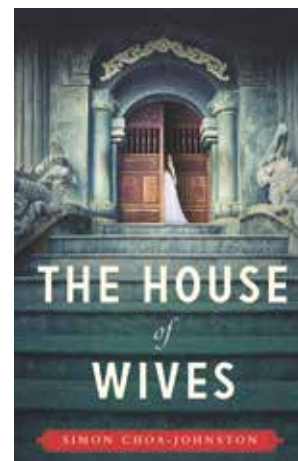
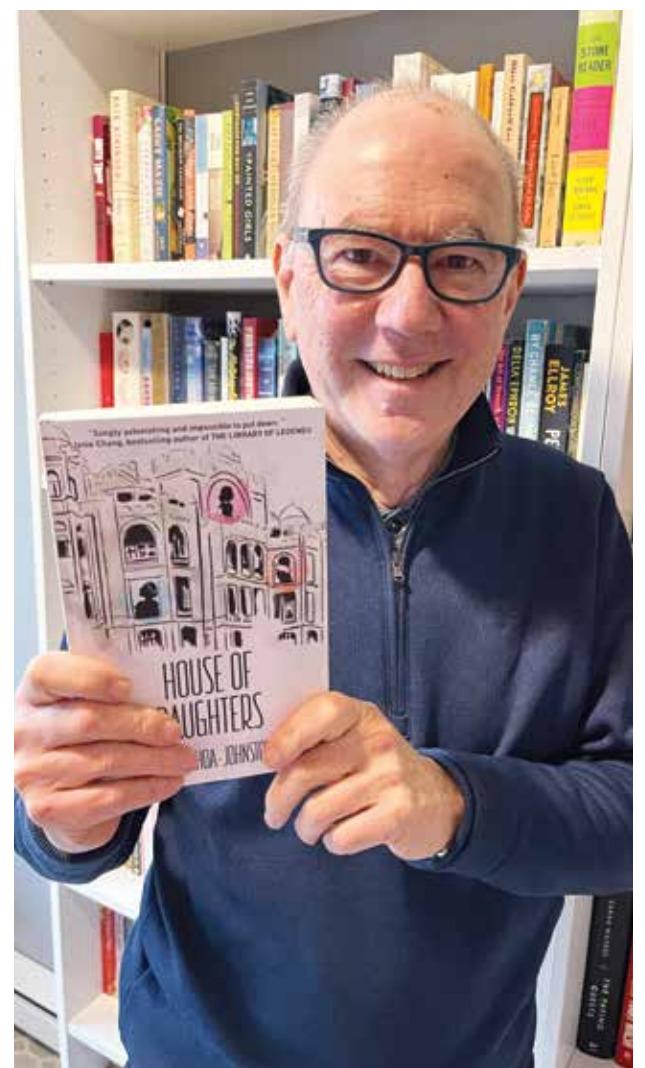
**A.** Initially, all the reactions surprised me. *House of Wives* was about Emanuel Belilios, a wealthy 19th century, Jewish opium oligarch from Calcutta who sold his wares in Hong Kong. He had two wives, Semah also Jewish from India and Pearl Li a local Chinese beauty. The three lived an unusual ménage à trois in a Hong Kong mansion named Kingsclere. Some popular questions were:

*What happened to Emanuel's fortune in drug-money? In real life, did Semah really lose her leg? Did you ever meet Pearl?*

BTW, Pearl passed away in the 1930s — that would make me at least 90 years old. Good grief, maybe I need a face-lift?

**Q.** What does your family think of your writing?

**A.** Mercifully, my family is very supportive of my work. They are like my stealth marketing team, promoting my novel to their book clubs, purchasing copies to give as gifts and recommending them to their children and grandchildren. I have 32 cousins scattered around the world. They have been very accepting of my work. Phew!



For more information about Simon and his two novels, please visit his website at <https://simonjohnston.ca/>

**Q.** What was one of the most surprising things you learned in writing this book?

**A.** I learned that a writer better love the story he/she/they are writing, because you're going to have to proof-read the darn thing a million times before publication. It's a colossal time-suck.

**Q.** We will supply links to your website where folks may access links to purchase *House of Daughters*. However, are there any events on the horizon that you are particularly excited about and might include public participation.

**A.** Yes, there will be a White Rock/South Surrey launch in late January, and some library readings in March and in the summer. Dates are TBA as public facilities work out the COVID protocols that are still operative. My website will be the go-to place for announcements. Readers can also reach me at [simonchoajohnston@icloud.com](mailto:simonchoajohnston@icloud.com) if they wish to be on my mailing list.

**Q.** In 2016, I asked you if your faith informs or impacts your writing and you said, "I'm still try to figure that out?" Well...?

**A.** Still working on it.

**Q.** What's next for Simon Choa Johnston the artist?

**A.** I'm working on the second half of *House of Mine*. Set in 1967, the novel will be the final installment of the *House of... trilogy*. It will be a fictionalized novel about my experiences as a boy living in Hong Kong during the Chinese cultural revolution. ✦

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### PWRDF Wild Ride 2022

SUBMISSION Jane Dittrich, ODNW

The annual fundraiser for the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) formerly under the name *Ride for Refuge* continued in 2022, with a new fundraising model called *PWRDF Wild Ride*. Teams and individuals from across Canada raised money from June through October by cycling, walking, hiking, baking, singing, reading, knitting and through other creative ways of participating!

The diocese of New Westminster had two fundraising teams this year. The *Divine Dashers* of St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge, and *Team PWRDF Vancouver* comprised of Jane Dittrich, ODNW of Christ Church Cathedral and Peter Goodwin, ODNW of St. James', Vancouver. Both Jane and Peter

are PWRDF Honorary Associates.

The *Divine Dashers* raised \$2,122, and *Team PWRDF Vancouver* raised \$3,430 for an inspiring combined total of \$5,552. The *Divine Dashers* pulled the parish together to raise money for *Wild Ride* in many different ways. They held a bike ride, a walk, a bread bake-a-thon and a parish dinner! Jane Dittrich cycled 150km over four months for *Team PWRDF Vancouver*, and she and Peter Goodwin did a 10km walk together in early October which began at Christ Church Cathedral and included a walk around the Stanley Park seawall.

All diocese of New Westminster *Wild Ride* 2022 participants wish to thank everyone for their very generous support! ✦

Read the PWRDF Wild Ride launch story at <https://pwrdf.org/new-campaign-supports-refugees-and-idps>



Peter Goodwin, ODNW of St. James', Vancouver and Jane Dittrich, ODNW of Christ Church Cathedral starting their October 1 walk from the Cathedral.



Jane Dittrich and Terry Love on a bike ride. Terry is a longtime parishioner at the Cathedral and is on both the Altar and Serving Guilds.



LEFT Cathy Driver with the 42 loaves of bread that she baked on her September 9 Bread Bake-A-Thon! After all her Wild Ride sponsors received their loaves, any remaining were sold at the parish with all funds to PWRDF. PHOTO Janet Coghlan  
RIGHT The chefs for the Parish Lasagna Dinner on September 9 were (left to right) Anne Schaffar, Beth Scott and Joan Ogrodnick.



Members Lawrence Ogrodnick, Joan Ogrodnick, Wayne Scott, Cathy Driver, Betty Ross, Belle Coombs and Beth Scott of the *Divine Dashers* of St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge on a September 24 parish walk which commenced at Osprey Village in Pitt Meadows.



Jane Dittrich on one of her cycling days.

pwrdf.org	
Menu Give Today	
1	JANE DITTRICH for PWRDF Vancouver Raised \$3,030.00
2	Yukon Betty Raised \$2,431.55
3	Abe Linda Nicholls Raised \$2,425.00
4	St. Paul to St. Peter's Wild Ride 2022 Raised \$1,800.00
5	Valerie Maier Raised \$1,548.00

Jane was immensely grateful to all her donors for making her the top fundraising individual in Canada.



Members of the *Divine Dashers* of St. John the Divine Maple Ridge on a September 10 ride along the Fraser River.

### The Phantom of the Opera Film Screening for Hallowe'en

St. Philip's organist provides two nights of soundtrack entertainment

The Parish of St. Philip's, Dunbar presented two memorable evenings of entertainment, October 28 and 29. Just in time for Hallowe'en, St. Philip's Organist and Director of Music, Michael Murray provided scary organ music as the live soundtrack for the classic silent film, *The Phantom of the Opera* (1924) starring Lon Chaney.

When asked about the experience, Michael said:

*"I played a whole bunch of different pieces to create an atmosphere of suspense and levity. Everything from Pop Goes the Weasel to Ride of the Valkyries. The film is both scary and has corny moments too. I was making a*

*soundscape that could be flexible and spontaneous. For example, I had lots of pieces to play in a particular order, but I might have abandoned them to play what occurred to me in the moment. Sometimes the Phantom sits at the organ in his dungeon and would play for a while, so I would play something that might be funny for example Goodbye Yellow Brick Road by Elton John or more serious like Opening by Philip Glass.*

*The audience had a great time, and they went home buzzing. I received a standing ovation and was feeling tired but definitely could have played it again. It is great to be able to draw on this old tradition of music for silent movies."* ✦



PHOTO Submitted

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**DEADLINE FOR TOPIC SUBMISSIONS**  
February 24  
for the April issue

.....

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

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### Bishop's Retreat for Clergy November 7 – 9 at Loon Lake

Clergy gathered at Loon Lake near Maple Ridge, BC with Bishop Matthias Der who led the clergy to reflect on their relationships with God, themselves and others.

Thanks to the Reverends Alecia Greenfield and Philip Cochrane for sending in these photos. ✚



LEFT Bishops John Stephens and Matthias Der. RIGHT The Rev. Laurel Dahill, Vicar of St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge and the Rev. Monte Tugwete, Assistant Curate, St. Alban the Martyr, Burnaby and Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster.



Bishop Der addresses the diocesan clergy.



Bishop Stephens Celebrates the Eucharist.



Posing in the chill of a November day: (front row) the Rev. Laurel Dahill, Vicar of St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge; the Rev. Justin Cheng, Vicar of All Saints, Burnaby; Bishop John Stephens; Bishop Matthias Der, Retreat Facilitator; the Rev. Expedito Farinas, Rector of St. Mary the Virgin, South Hill; the Rev. Liz Hamel, Priest-in-Charge, St. Helen, West Point Grey; the Ven. Stephanie Shepard, Archdeacon of Granville, Priest-in-Charge, St. Francis, Caulfeild; the Ven. Luisito Engnan, Archdeacon of Fraser, Vicar of St. Michael, Surrey, Vicar of Christ the Redeemer, Cloverdale. (back row) The Rev. Wilmer Toyoken, Rector of St. Michel's Multicultural; the Rev. Alecia Greenfield, Regional Dean of Kingsway, Vicar of Holy Cross, Vancouver, Special Projects Facilitator for Mission and Ministry on Synod Staff; the Rev. Amanda Ruston, Assistant Curate, St. James'; and the Rev. Philip Cochrane, Rector, St. Paul, Vancouver.

### Commemoration of Remembrance Day at St. Stephen's, West Vancouver

SUBMISSION Hilary Clark

The St. Stephen's congregation were summoned to a memorial service commemorating Remembrance Day on Sunday, November 13 by Haydn's *Trumpet and Organ Prelude* performed by Minister of Music, Dr. Annabelle Paetsch and trumpeter Paul Dubnick. Bagpiper Mike Chisholm then led the introduction to the service on the pipes. The congregation sang *God Save the King* standing at attention in the sanctuary.

Rector of the parish, the Rev. Kenneth Vinal read the Collect for the day that led into two appropriate Biblical readings from Isaiah and Thessalonians. In place of the usual Psalm, a Canticle, *Surely it is God who Saves me*, was sung. St. Stephen's has been blessed by the donation of a harpsichord that was used to accompany the canticle. Paul Dubnick's trumpet added another layer of melody to the hymns.

The Rev. Kenneth Vinal's sermon dealt with the honour of sacrifice and the sad fact that death was often the price to protect country and our way of life. After communion, The Act of Remembrance was initiated by a procession to the War Memorial Plaque, where the rector read out the names of the members of St. Stephen's congregation who gave their lives in past wars. Carol Harrington recited *In Flanders Fields* before Paul Dubnick's playing of the

*Last Post*, the two minutes silence, and *Reveille*. The liturgy concluded with a Prayer of Commemoration for the Fallen followed by *O Canada* and the piper playing *Highland Cathedral, Hymn to Joy* and the *Gay Gordons*.

Refreshments in the lounge hosted by Jan Harvey were greatly appreciated by the congregation. ✚



ALL PHOTOS John Ruddick



### Song for Areeta

Christ Church Cathedral's vicar begins parental leave

SUBMISSION Jane Dittrich, ODNW

On November 13, 2022, following the main Sunday morning Celebration of the Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral, the

parish community gathered in the parish hall to sing yet another new "custom" version of the Cathedral's classic song parody

*690 on Burrard*. This time it was in tribute to the vicar, the Rev. Areeta Bridgemohan. The Rev. Bridgemohan was the presider at the

liturgy, her last before beginning maternity leave. Areeta, husband Chris and son Kiran welcomed baby boy Neel on December 4.

#### Song for Areeta

*At 690 on Burrard, we have a song as part of our tradition  
At 690 on Burrard, for each occasion there's a new rendition  
Let's sing out for Areeta and her baby on the way  
She's adding to our numbers and we all say 'Hip Hooray.'  
We're very glad she's with us; for her family we do pray  
At 690 on Burrard*

*At 690 on Burrard, we appreciate Areeta's many talents  
At 690 on Burrard, she preaches, prays,  
and gives us all some balance  
Italian, French and Spanish, and American, she speaks  
She soon will speak Canadian, it'll only take her weeks, eh?  
We know she'll find that CCC's the greatest place to be  
At 690 on Burrard*

*At 690 on Burrard, we've welcomed Chris and Kiran and Areeta  
At 690 on Burrard, a baby to be born, what could be sweet-a?  
We've come to love Areeta and her presence with us here.  
We wish her and her family many blessings through the year.  
We look forward to her ministry, November of next year.  
At 690 on Burrard. ✚*



LEFT Rosalind Kellett positions the Rev. Bridgemohan for the serenading. RIGHT The Cathedral community singing to Areeta.

ALL PHOTOS Jane Dittrich, ODNW

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### The Feast of Christ the King at Diocesan Cathedral

On Sunday, November 20, Christ Church Cathedral celebrated its Patronal Festival on the Feast of Christ the King. Thanks to Jane Dittrich, ODNW for capturing some of the moments from and around the principal 10:30am Celebration of the Eucharist with guest preacher, the Rev. Fr. Matthew Johnson. Fr. Matthew is resident at St. James, Vancouver and is Priest at the Street Outreach Initiative. During the liturgy, Assistant Priest, the Rev. Matthew Senf was congratulated on the 10th Anniversary of his ordination. ✠



The Commissioning of Lay Ministries took place during the liturgy. Ministry leaders brought forth symbols of their respective ministries.



During the liturgy, the Cathedral's Dean, the Very Rev. Chris Pappas announced that it was the Rev. Matthew Senf's 10th Anniversary of ordination. Cathedral clergy and servers, along with Rikki Kooy, ODNW gathered to celebrate Pastor Matthew's ten years of ordained ministry.



LEFT The Rev. Senf's wife Rose and one of their daughters join him for prayers in gratitude for his ten years of ordained ministry and his many gifts to the Cathedral community. RIGHT Guest preacher, Fr. Matthew Johnson and Dean Chris Pappas.



### Clergy News Around the Diocese

Although this information has been circulated several times through all the diocesan communications vehicles including *Topic* over the past few months it bears repeating that the Ven. Douglas Fenton retired at the end of 2022 after 12 years of service. His successor is the Rev. Philippa Pride who will likely be collated "Archdeacon" with the honourific, "the Venerable" at the Chrism Mass on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, although that could be subject to change.

The Rev. Alecia Greenfield has been appointed Regional Dean of Kingsway succeeding the Rev. Wilmer Toyoken.

The Rev. Elizabeth Ruder-Celiz has been appointed by Bishop Stephens as Vicar of St. Alban, Richmond, effective November 7, 2022. A Celebration of New Ministry was held on Thursday, November 24. The Ven. Luisito Engnan, Archdeacon of Fraser officiated and presided at the Eucharist. The Rev. Canon Rob James was the preacher. Canon James is Associate Professor, Anglican Formation and Studies at Vancouver

School of Theology (VST). Coverage of the installation is available on pages 16 and 17 of this issue of *Topic*.

Bishop John Stephens has appointed the Rev. Robin Celiz as the next Rector of St. Helen, Surrey effective February 1, 2023. Fr. Robin succeeds the Rev. Stephen Laskey as Rector and the Rev. Philippa Pride as Interim Priest-in-Charge.

The Ven. Al Carson, Rector of St. John the Baptist, Sardis, signified to Bishop Stephens that he will resign his parish on January 31, 2023. Archdeacon Carson has been the rector since September 1, 2014, and was previously Archdeacon of Lougheed and Rector of St. Cuthbert, Delta.

At the November meeting of Diocesan Council, the appointment of the Rev. Andrew Halladay, Vicar of St. Andrew's, Langley as Chair of the Mission and Ministry Development Committee one of the principal standing committees of the diocese was affirmed. The Rev. Halladay began this new diocesan ministry late in 2022. ✠



The Rev. Philippa Pride. PHOTO Cheryl Kathler



The Rev. Robin Ruder-Celiz. PHOTO Wayne Chose



LEFT The Ven. Al Carson preaching at Christ Church Cathedral, June 11, 2022. PHOTO Randy Murray  
RIGHT The Rev. Andrew Halladay. PHOTO Wayne Chose



### The Reverend James Hwang Received into the Anglican Communion

On Tuesday, November 29, Bishop John Stephens received the Rev. James Hwang into the Anglican Communion from the Roman Catholic Church. The reception

took place during the weekday Eucharist at the Synod Office. Joining Synod staff members for worship were several clergy from the diocese so the weekly Eucharist

was moved from the Chapel of the Presentation of Our Lord to the Conference Room. Father James had his Orders recognized by the Bishop at a liturgy that took place on

Saturday, December 3 at St. John's, Shaughnessy. Father James has been appointed Assistant Curate at St. John, Shaughnessy effective December 1, 2022. ✠



Bishop John Stephens and the Rev. James Hwang.



A handshake following the liturgy.



LEFT The Rev. James Hwang smiles in acknowledgement as he is welcomed by applause into the order of clergy in the Anglican Church of Canada. MIDDLE The Rev. James Hwang reads the oaths, declarations and subscriptions. On his right, our left is the Rev. Terry Dirbas, Rector of St. John's, Shaughnessy. RIGHT The Rev. James Hwang, Priest in the Anglican Church of Canada and Bishop John Stephens.



OPINION

**The Magi's Vision  
Epiphany as Process**

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

With expectation for fun and sparkle, my elderly neighbour and I went to our local Community Hall (a pioneer school converted to a hall in 1937, much loved, maintained by volunteers). The annual Christmas Fair takes place on a Saturday morning (except of course 2019, 2020, 2021). How pleasant it is to chat with locals, have coffee and mince tarts, peruse the handiworks of local knitters and crafters, and come home with some jams and a new tea cozy! I said to my neighbour, "Let's go early when it opens and not stay long."

But what is this? As we approach the Hall, the parking lot is already jammed full and both sides of the highway are parked as far as I can see. There's a line-up at the stairs to the door to get in. I pop in to have a look: a sardine can, no room to move even. Noticed the absence of face masks. I put my neighbour's walker back in the car. Nope, we're not going in. We didn't stay long; we didn't stay at all.

Usually that Fair will have 25 – 30 folks at any one time. This was a crowd five times that size. Folks obviously made the drive from town, a 30-minute drive away. There was an excited buzz in the line-up. It said, "After three years, we just want, urgently, our normal Christmas season back."

Now it's the Season of Epiphany. As I draft this piece in mid-November, I do not know if there will be a "normal" Christmas 2022. I am not a catastrophist, but aware of challenges that will befall the locals, let alone the world, between Advent and



Galette des rois — Epiphany Cake and Crown (chocolate or almond?). PHOTO Margouillat Photos (iStock ID#1286450740)

Epiphany.

I too looked forward to the Season, the liturgies, the social occasions. I had my candlesticks polished before the First in Advent and the outside lights up and on.

Epiphany is not just about the Star westward leading. It's still proceeding. Insights may be sudden but leaning into them may be a process. You may have heard of

T.S. Elliot's *Magi*. He returns to his own country "in the East" after the long and difficult journeys to and from Bethlehem. He would do it again. The birth of the new king has transformed his life. But it means "bitter agony," back in his own culture, he doesn't fit. He's so changed, he's "no longer at ease with the old dispensation."

In December, the malls were packed and

consumer confidence was "robust." Now the glitter and merriment is gone and more harsh realities are ahead—always remembering though that for some, Christmas is blue, including for some parishioners. We may want to go back to "normal" but actually was there ever a "normal?" Prior to the fall of 2019, there was a climate crisis, wars, racism, social inequality not to mention chronic diseases.

Writing to the *Ephesians*, Paul tells of a great mystery that was made known to him by a revelation, an insight, or epiphany, into the mystery of Christ. Paul was writing from prison. Isaiah tells of a people who walked in deep darkness and "on them has the Light shined."

What are our epiphanies now? Can we live in the light and also process the pain of not being in the world of merriment and glitter, knowing there is no normal ahead? Can we line up on the stairs and enter the door of courageous vision that is not celebration?

My neighbor and I laugh about it now. We say, "Well, we did have an outing." That's merriment after disappointment. May the season of Epiphany bring strong light that does not blind. Robust spending not required. ✦

*Hannah Main-van der Kamp lives south of Powell River. Her tree always goes to the compost on January 7. Reluctant to take her outside lights down, keeps them up longer for her neighbour. Sparkle!*

**Privilege**

ART TURNBULL

*Retired Priest of the diocese of Ontario; Honorary Assistant Priest, St. Matthew, Abbotsford*

I am a privileged person. I have been born privileged to live in a wonderful prosperous nation. Too many are not. I have shelter and food and purpose combined with so many opportunities. Many have none. I have had an abundance of privileges over the decades in which I have served the church. I have been in the special place of responsibility bestowed by ordination as a priest.

Over the years of being an active priest it has been a privilege to serve thousands of people. It is not to be taken for granted if one finds oneself as a "parson" during the community. Sometimes we clergy know our place. Many times, I did not know the effect I have had, or did not have, upon those I served.

Many special moments, the opening of occasions, the chances of being in the right place at the right time, have happened to me as a priest. I have been present for births and deaths, weddings and divorces, victories, and tragedies in the lives of ordinary people.

There have been privileges that just seem to happen. I have been called upon to lead prayers at the opening and closing of the Summer Games. One summer I was chaplain to the Legion National Track and Field event in White Rock. There have been civic occasions of openings and closings; beginnings and endings in government and industry. All to which I'd been invited as part of the opportunities I was blessed to have.

I have been privileged to be able to voice concern for the poor and the marginalized, the masses of wounded and neglected people of the world. Many times a year for over 50 years I advocated for the good works of the PWRDF and similar organizations and

initiatives. I have witnessed in small ways my solidarity with the unemployed, with community neglect, with those who are abused

and suffering, with folks fearing loss of any privilege so small but sacrificially gained.

*Rails, Jails and Trolleys* is a documen-

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him  
may not perish but may have eternal life."  
John 3:16*



PHOTO Kunakorn Rassadomyindee (iStock ID#1345765648)

tary about the Farmer's Protest in India, a movie made by a young filmmaker, Henna Mann. This documentary is about people worldwide seeking the right to live and be productive, to look after one's family, to be free to become all that one can become in this world. It was my privilege to be invited to the premiere of this film, shown in August of 2022 at Fraser Valley University. I had never been to a premiere before. It was a privilege.

Not long ago the local Muslim community invited me to a special event highlighting the history of Islamic life. The particular focus was on the history of the plight and flight of Muslims after World War II. I gained insights that challenged my privileged status; I was privileged to discover new voices offer their explanations of the condition of the world.

It is a very humble meaning of the word privilege that I am using in this opinion piece. It is an honour to serve others. The word privilege in the Bible gives the idea of a "restricted honour." That means it is a special restricted honour to serve God, and it is not something to be taken lightly.\* This is in context of a much greater sacrifice.

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." (John 3:16)*

It is my privilege to serve God each day. I also know, "Not my will, but Thy will be done." ✦

\* *The Privilege of Serving Jesus Christ*, Ed Taylor, 2021

## Companions on El Camino

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

Retired Priest of the diocese of Calgary, Former Dean of the diocese of New Westminster & Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver; Topic Essayist & Diocesan Blogger

For one enchanted evening a very long time ago I was one of the Magi—a Wise Man. My black moustache and beard were part of my older cousin's make up purse and my turban was one of my mother's colourful scarves. I think my all-enveloping outer garment was the dressing gown of some diminutive family member.

I've forgotten which of the Wise Men I was, but I do remember having some imaginary frankincense in a small glass bottle that my dad had been given by an old army friend who had served in India. That alone of course made it a mysterious and romantic bottle. Frankincense suggests from what we know of the ancient tradition that I was playing Balthazar. Together with two other choirboys playing Caspar and Melchior, we made a grand entrance on to the parochial hall stage. Miss Greenish, our Sunday School teacher played the parish piano, and we manfully led the audience—mainly proud parents—in *We Three Kings from Orient Are*.

Thus, childhood memories link us to long ago. But the question is, why when the editor asked me for a serious article about the meaning of Epiphany and Lent do I begin so playfully? Should I not be serious and suitably theological? Yes, indeed I should, but there is something paradoxical about childhood memory. You realize that it was making sure that you would never forget this because in your adult life you were going to realize that some things—like the Epiphany and Lent were to become a very big deal. The very vividness of the childhood memory ensures that you realize the seriousness all those years later.

Matthew tells us the story of the Wise Men. In doing so he's finding a way to show us that the birth of this child in this small stable in this tiny village is a long way from being small. It is an immensely big part of God's plan that involves the whole world, so nothing less than the whole world needs to be told about it.

Unknown to the humble family among whom the child has been born, Persian scholars a thousand miles away have decided that an astronomical event in the heavens has a deep astrological meaning. A delegation takes the long journey north and



A pilgrim doing the pilgrimage way known as the Xacobeo way to Santiago in the north of Spain.  
PHOTO nmillondeelefantas (iStock ID#526058695)

*“You know the famous pilgrimage route in Spain called El Camino. Anyone who has ever taken that pilgrimage will tell you that what makes it fascinating is the people you meet walking it with you. Well, I have suddenly realized that if I attentively read the Gospel passages in Epiphany and Lent that the lectionary gives me, the simply wonderful fact is that I am walking a kind of Camino (or Pilgrim Way) in the company of Jesus!”*

west, arriving to find a child before whom they kneel and present gifts. For them this journey has persuaded them that this birth has meaning far beyond itself. They have what we call an epiphany—a moment of understanding something as being much, much more than just what it seems.

So, how do we handle all this today? We worship each week, we listen—carefully if we are really worshipping—to a passage of the Gospel. Then we try to plumb the depths of what our Lord Jesus Christ means for us.

For instance, this year, *Year A* of the

lectionary, we are given Sunday by Sunday no less than eight readings in all of which either we see someone having an encounter with Jesus that enriches their understanding of Him (and of course ours) or we will read of individuals becoming aware of the consequences of Jesus life and ministry for them—and, again for ours. Each of those readings gave them (and gives us) an “Epiphany,” a surprise, an eye opener! In the last of these readings, we read of Jesus giving a group of friends what was probably the surprise of their lives in that they would never forget it. We call that shattering surprise—or epiphany—the transfiguration of Jesus.

So, that's the wonderful climax of the season of Epiphany. You might also say that's the wonderful stuff that we experience before the tough stuff called Lent.

When you come to think of it, what you and I are doing every time we worship is that we are sharing an aspect of Jesus' life and ministry. In fact, I have just this moment thought of a new way of grasping all this. You know the famous pilgrimage route in Spain called *El Camino*. Anyone who has ever taken that pilgrimage will tell you that what makes it fascinating is the people you meet walking it with you. Well, I have suddenly realized that if I attentively read the Gospel passages in Epiphany and Lent that the lectionary gives me, the simply wonderful fact is that I am walking a kind of *Camino* (or Pilgrim Way) in the company of Jesus! I watch as he deals with individuals, as he deals with groups and crowds, as he speaks of things of the spirit, as he heals, as he wrestles with death itself in the case of his friend Lazarus. In these Sunday gospel passages I am receiving nothing less than a master class in the Christian way. Near the end I must decide whether I have it in me to share the terrible part of my companion's journey, the part that ends in pain and death on Calvary. If I do stay with Him for that part of the journey, I am given the wonder and the Joy of Easter!

All of this is ahead of you and me as you read this. So, make the decision to set out on *El Camino* with our Lord. You'll find Him very good company. ✠

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

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**DEADLINE FOR TOPIC SUBMISSIONS**  
February 24  
for the April issue  
and  
March 24  
for the May issue

.....

Please email Randy Murray at [rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto:rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca)  
All contributions are appreciated  
• EDITOR •

## Comic Papers

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

I used to love comics when I was a child. Had stacks of them. Bought them when I had a few pence—borrowed them, exchanged them. Short of larceny I got them where and when I could. In those far off days they were more than just pictures with captions, as they later became. They had stories with illustrations. Alas, they were racist, sexist and every other “ist” you can think of.

I realize now that my parents had great fears for the state of my mind. They would let things go for quite a while, then for some mysterious reason there would be an explosion of concern. Why are you reading that kind of thing? Don't you know they're bad for you! Those things are frightful! You are not to bring another one into the house! These explosions never explained the dire fate reading comics could bring. This was quite puzzling because in another mode and time my father would fondly recall the comics he had read. Had they then been more moral, more pure, more wholesome than what I was reading? I never dared ask this of course.

Enough of this. Imagine my pleasure

on reading not very long ago of three very famous people who confessed to reading comics with much enjoyment. Despite this, all three lived—one is still living—reasonably respectable and responsible lives. One of these was Salman Rushdie who was in the news recently for being attacked on stage and nearly killed while he was speaking to a large audience. The two others were John Updike of literary fame, and most significant of all for me, no less than Bruno Bettelheim, the great child psychologist.

My goodness, if a child who read comics grew up to be one of the world's great experts in juvenile behaviour, what did my father have to worry about? But then how were we to know that a kid named Bruno chewing his way through mounds of comics would become such a guru about kids. I should have told my dad, but by that time he was no longer mad at me anymore when he realized I hadn't grown up to be an axe murderer.

I never met Bruno. After all, he was in Austria, and I was in Ireland. And anyway, he would have been 34 when I was ten, an old, old man. ✠

## OPINION

## From Light Through Darkness to Light Again Dynamics of Faith through Epiphany into Lent

PETER ELLIOTT

Retired Dean of the diocese of New Westminster; Retired Rector of Christ Church Cathedral

Do you see better now? Or now?

Anyone who's ever had an eye examination will immediately recognize these questions. As the optometrist places different lenses in front of your eyes, you focus on the letters on the screen and indicate if one lens helps you see better than another.

Seeing clearly is a key theme of the Biblical narrative because faith is more a matter of perception than belief. Faith is a way to perceive your life and the life of the world in the context of a bigger story—and for Christians that bigger story is the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ—the light of the world.

It should come then, as no surprise, that the calendar of the Christian year cycles through the seasons of the sun in the northern hemisphere because seeing things is easier in the light than in the dark. Each of the major festivals of the year is related to increasing or diminishing light.

- Christmas, celebrating the birth of Jesus is celebrated very close to the winter solstice: the “light” of God coming to earth when night is longer than day.
- Easter, when the resurrection of Jesus is proclaimed is near the spring equinox when daylight hours are increasing.
- Pentecost, when the gift of the Holy Spirit is celebrated is at the summer equinox when the hours of light are greater than the darkness.
- Holy Cross Day is near the autumn solstice as the hours of light are again diminishing.

It's a cycle of observances that, in the northern hemisphere, rhymes the spiritual with the natural rhythms of earth—the old carol gets it right with its refrain “and heaven and nature sing!” But nowhere is this focus on light and darkness so clear as in the seasons of Epiphany and Lent.



Clear view of nature through a lens focused on the light. PHOTO Jens HN (iStock ID#1264340404)

*“...the light shines in the darkness  
and the darkness does not overcome it.”*

Epiphany is the feast of light: the word *epiphany* means *revelation* or *manifestation*. Epiphany is the season that begins with the story of how a star—a light in the sky—guided the journey of the magi seeking the infant Jesus. A bright star in the darkened sky is what leads these Persian astrologers to find the Holy Family. It is light in the darkness that guides them to see the Word made flesh; as the author of the Fourth Gospel puts it “the light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it.” The star was the guide to encounter the light of the world.

In the Epiphany Sundays following the story of the magi, the appointed gospel readings offer various ways in which the light of Christ shines, enabling all who to

see their own lives and the life of the world more clearly. The stories of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan, the miracle of changing water into wine at Cana in Galilee, and the calling of the disciples describe moments where those around him were able to perceive more clearly how God was at work in Jesus. The season of Epiphany culminates in one of the most beautiful of all the illumination accounts in the gospels—the Transfiguration—where, on a mountaintop with his disciples, Jesus is bathed in light and a voice from heaven is heard to say, “This is my beloved Son!” Epiphany is the festival of light—of increasing clarity of who Jesus Christ is—and how that changes our perceptions of our own lives and the life of the world.

And then, as if a switch is turned off, the church is plunged into darkness as it moves into the season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday each person is reminded of our mortality—a sign of the cross is traced on our foreheads as the ominous words are spoken, “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Death comes to each of us. No matter how great our perception of the love of God in Christ Jesus is, our earthly lives come to an end. Not only do we all die but we continually miss the mark, we make mistakes, we sin, and these twin realities of sin and death begin a journey into the season of Lent.

Interestingly the name of the season “Lent” is an abbreviation of the word “lengthen” referring to the lengthening of daylight hours in the northern hemisphere. On the first Sunday in Lent the appointed gospel takes us to the wilderness, telling the story of Jesus temptations. Throughout the season, lectionary readings are filled with parables and accounts of how often even Jesus closest of followers do not see what is plainly in front of them, and miss opportunities to be part of the healing, reconciling love of God. Lent ends in Holy Week, when, beginning on Palm Sunday we recall the crucifixion of Jesus—the day the light goes out—the gospel accounts tell of how darkness at the time of Jesus death covered the whole earth.

But that's not the end of the story: very early on the first Easter day—while it was still dark—women came and found not only the tomb empty but were given an experience that spoke to them of the ongoing presence of Jesus now risen and with them in a new way.

Throughout this transition from Epiphany to Lent the optometrist's question is apt: about your faith, about how you perceive your life, about Jesus Christ—do you see better now? Or now? ✠

## The Inn

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

For some reason there are two things indelibly imprinted in my memory, both of them connected with the sea. One is the Admiral Benbow Inn at which, at the turning of a page, I came to in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* when I was about 12. The other is an image in romantic poetry. The poet Robert Browning speaks of “magic casements opening on the foam of perilous seas in faerie lands forlorn.” I would have discovered those marvelous lines a few years later, still in boarding school.

Why remember these things now? Because I was going through “stuff.” Do you go through stuff? I hope you do. Certainly, you will someday. Stuff remembered can be simply wonderful. What I have recently discovered is an ancient restaurant bill from another wonderful old inn, this time quite real on Whidbey Island.

As I handle the slightly yellowing receipt, I find myself looking out from the dining room of the Captain Whidbey Inn to where I can see a succession of vistas. First of all, without even leaving the dining room, there is the large beautifully carved windjammer on the mantelpiece. Then just beyond the large verandah there is a clump of small trees bent over from the frequent winds. Out beyond them there is a sailboat tugging at its mornings on the choppy water, and far beyond that is the glorious distant symmetry of Mount Baker.

I let my mind go, across the dining room, out on to the verandah, down the long garden to the wharf, across the water to the moored sailboat. Out on the white caps we move into the channel, turning

from Mount Baker toward the west and the open sea.

I am of course going nowhere. I am an ancient gentleman comfortable after a pleasant lunch. And yet, and yet, the old

wooden sign of the Admiral Benbow swings in the wind and I prepare for “perilous seas in faerie lands forlorn.”

I hope I shall be able to do this until voyaging ends. I hope you will too. ✠

*“...magic casements opening on the foam of perilous seas in faerie lands forlorn.”*



The central coast of Whidbey Island, with Mt. Baker behind. PHOTO drial7m1 (iStock ID#175263813)

# Deacons Day 2022

## Reflecting on the Seasons of Diaconal Life

PEGGY TRENDELL-JENSEN

Archdeacon for Deacons in the diocese of New Westminster; Deacon, St. Clement, Lynn Valley

On a beautifully sunny autumn day, the deacons of the diocese gathered to reflect on the various seasons of one's diaconal ministry—from nurturing the springtime vocations of new deacons to considering the riches of autumnal retirement.

It was all part of the annual Deacons Day with Bishop John Stephens held November 19, 2022 at the Synod office—but including active engagement from Zoom-based deacons from other areas, including the Sunshine Coast and even Palm Desert. Although she endured some friendly teasing from her envious colleagues, it was much appreciated that the Rev. Pat Ratcliffe took a day from her holidaying to join in online.

After coffee and mini breakfast sandwiches crafted by talented diocesan caterer Bette Geddes, ODNW, morning prayer included a reading from *Ecclesiastes* (3:1-7) and time for individuals to reflect on what is being “planted” and what is being “plucked up” during the current season of their vocational life.

Deacons were then asked to think about what had nourished them in the springtime of their discernment and early ordained ministry—who or what provided the “compost” in which they grew? These thoughts were written on paper leaves and taped onto the trunk of a tree that had been artistically chalked on poster paper by the Rev. Elizabeth Mathers. Deacons were next invited to consider what help would have been appreciated but wasn't so ready to hand when they needed it, and that valuable feedback was captured as well.

Deacons then turned their thoughts to the summertime of their vocation, a time when they have more confidence and are often growing in new directions. Trying new things carries risk but so does getting too comfortable in place! The importance of healthy communication with clergy colleagues in parish leadership was acknowledged as being key to bearing fruit in our shared endeavours. The Rev. Alisdair Smith, deacon at Christ Church Cathedral and nationally recognized business coach, led a session on maximizing team dynamics, establishing role clarity, and bringing our “better angels” to conversations and mutual ministries. Lush green leaves were taped onto the tree as deacons posted notes about where they were currently directing their growth and energy.

Before Bette's excellent lunch, Bishop John answered questions and gave a short reflection on his recent travels to Lambeth and the Philippines, particularly how they impacted his understanding of the Anglican Communion. He noted that it is a great accomplishment and a gift of Anglicanism that while the member dioceses spanning 165 countries may vary theologically, they are committed to remaining in appreciative communion with each other.

During the afternoon, the focus shifted to autumn and the possibilities offered in the “post-65” years. Speaking online from Sechelt, the Ven. Bruce Morris former Archdeacon for Deacons shared his experience of retiring from active church ministry as well as his business life at the end of May 2022. He noted the importance of preparing for these challenging transitions thoughtfully.

The Ven. Peggy Trendell-Jensen, Archdeacon for Deacons since Bruce's retirement, then outlined the options available to deacons who have reached their 65th birthday. The bishop's office has introduced some new practices to bring greater clarity to the roles played by deacons in their retirement years. These can range from continuing in active, licensed ministry with their parish, to transitioning into an Honorary Assistant role, to opting for full retirement. Detailed descriptions of these different models (and the administrative requirements for each) have been developed and are in the process of being circulated to deacons and priests so that consistency across the diocese can be achieved.

The Rev. Pitman Potter, retired deacon in the Archdeaconry of Granville, led a session encouraging experienced deacons to focus on people who may show signs of a diaconal vocation, and to help plan for and nurture a new “crop” of deacons. This is seen as vital to maintaining and growing the church's ability to extend its ministry into the world in the future. In small groups, deacons discussed how candidates might be supported in their discernment and early ordained life, recalling some of the feedback they had that morning as to where they had felt gaps in their own springtime years.

At day's end, deacons were asked to note on red and yellow leaves the mentoring gifts they might offer in their autumnal season, and these, too, were added to the now-colourful tree. The Rev. Karin Fulcher, deacon at St. John's,



A group photo that included the deacons Zooming in from as far afield as Palm Desert. Their participation was enhanced with the support of experienced Zoom facilitator Pam Martin, ODNW (far left). ALL PHOTOS Wayne Chose, except where noted



Conference facilitator, the Ven. Peggy Trendell-Jensen, welcoming the deacons participating on Zoom from both sides of the border.



LEFT The Rev. Alisdair Smith led a session on maximizing the fruitfulness of our ministries through good communication and healthy dynamics in the clergy team.



RIGHT The Reverends Kim Boehler and Leah Skuro catch up over coffee.



The Rev. Dixie Black, retired deacon from Christ Church Cathedral had wise words to offer about supporting young deacons.



Bishop John reflecting on attending the Lambeth Conference, and the ringside seat it gave him to the rich breadth of the Anglican Communion.



The Rev. Steve Bailey exchanging news with a colleague. Deacons Day gives deacons a welcome chance to get together, catch up and compare notes.



Once again, caterer Bette Geddes outdid herself with a lunch buffet that delighted vegetarians, carnivores, and low-carb aficionados alike.



The Rev. Karin Fulcher, deacon at St. John's, Shaughnessy, brought along her canine companion who is well used to hanging out in the Trendell Lounge.

Shaughnessy, asked that the tree remain in place on the wall of the Trendell Lounge to provide a conversation starter at that parish's post Sunday morning Eucharist coffee hour the next morning. The Trendell Lounge is a space that is shared between the Synod Office and St. John's, Shaughnessy.

After concluding prayers—and a day spent pondering, suggesting, questioning, and reconnecting—the deacons dispersed into the darkening afternoon, each returning to their own areas of ministry, and each with an eye out for the potential deacons of the future. ✚



As deacons reflected on the different seasons of their vocational life, they added thoughts and memories to a tree chalked by the Rev. Elizabeth Mathers. PHOTO Peggy Trendell-Jensen.

Are you curious about the diaconal life, or the process of discerning for ordination as a deacon? Please have a look at the information on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-resources/diaconal-ministry>, or be in touch with the Ven. Peggy Trendell-Jensen, Archdeacon for Deacons at [ptrendell-jensen@vancouver.anglican.ca](mailto:ptrendell-jensen@vancouver.anglican.ca)