



# Only Jesus can heal our hopelessness

*What should the Church's response be to Medical Assistance in Dying/assisted suicide?*

By Rev. Brody Albers

**M**edical Assistance in Dying (MAID), while it may be a relatively new phenomenon in the medical field for humans, is something we are all quite familiar with for other members of our families: namely, our pets.

I remember when my childhood dog Bailey, which I had known my entire life, a lovely good-natured yellow Labrador Retriever was coming to the end of her life.

She had begun to have seizures nearly daily — a problem that had previously plagued her from time to time — and we realized the end had come. My mom made the call that no one ever wants to make, and had the vet come around to administer euthanasia to our beloved family dog.

The family gathered around her and pet her, tears in our eyes, reassuring her that everything would be OK as the vet gave the needle.

The question that MAID raises is whether we can in good conscience administer this same treatment to human beings meeting a similar end to their life. And if not, then why not?

Surely on the one hand, it seems the humane thing to do. We want to limit human suffering as much as we can. Nobody wants to see their loved one go



**The only way to uphold human dignity is to work with our hands to alleviate others' suffering in every possible way, writes Rev. Brody Albers. Photo by Pixabay.com**

through weeks, months, or even years of suffering and slow decline before the end. It is not an end we would wish upon our worst enemy.

Yet we vow in our baptismal covenant to uphold the dignity of all humans. Some might argue the way to uphold this dignity is to give people the right to choose to end their suffering.

However, the only way to uphold the dignity of all humans is to work with our hands to alleviate their suffering in all possible ways, and then when that fails, realize what we can do physically will never be enough.

All of us need the blood of Jesus, the forgiveness and healing He brings, to alleviate our suffering. Our physical suffering points as a sign to the suffering of our souls under the weight of sin.

As a youth minister, I think of our young people.

Our youths in Saskatchewan are killing themselves or attempting to kill themselves in greater numbers than ever before. There is a pandemic of hopelessness in our province that only Jesus can heal.

At the same time, the government and proponents of MAID want to suggest that in the face of this pandemic of hopelessness, in the face of suffering, that self-inflicted death — suicide — is acceptable. Instead, Christians can offer the hope and healing of Christ in the face of hopelessness and suffering.

It is an impossible task to treat this topic properly in a short article.

However, we as Christians can do two things: first, we can journey with those who

are coming to the end of their life and are suffering.

The One who suffered and died for us would do no less, and what we do for the least of these we do also for Him.

Second, we can make our disagreement known.

I do not know if the government will ever reverse the decisions made about MAID, or the slippery slope trajectory we are on (now adding those whose conditions are not fatal or terminal, and who struggle with mental illness to the list of those who can access MAID).

But I do not agree that the church should keep its nose out of the issue.

We must be diligent in proclaiming both to those who suffer and to those in authority the good news of Jesus Christ, that there is hope for those who are suffering beyond a lethal injection.

## Speaking against assisted suicide a civic duty

*What should the Church's response be to Medical Assistance in Dying?*

By Rev. Dell Bornowsky

**N**ecessary brevity may make this article seem immoderate. For many this is not theoretical, but involves difficult personal decisions made at times of distress and grief.

Medical ethics is messy. Circumstances tend to present exceptions to otherwise apparently clear moral principles.

Allowing someone to die of “natural causes”

seems sensible until we realize how difficult it is to determine what is truly “natural” among our options to provide pain relief, or to passively or actively intervene in providing the “necessities of life.”

Responding graciously but honestly will be difficult in families when not everyone agrees. One response might be courage to simply be more candid.

The euphemism “assistance in dying” seems disingenuous because providing comfort for someone while they are dying is significantly

different than killing them. Being invited to care for a dying person is quite different than being invited to witness their suicide or murder.

The old name for euthanasia, mercy-killing, points more starkly to the paradox that killing someone might be thought of as an act of mercy.

### A humanistic worldview

Taking matters into our own hands because God's providence seems to deprive us of desirable choices, is an idea that has been with us since the Garden. Ever since Cain

and Abel, human problem-solving has tended to involve killing whatever prevents us from “living life on our own terms.”

If my life is truly my own, why shouldn't I do with it as I please and even end it whenever I want to? Within the worldview (religion) of Humanism this seems only logical.

If, on the other hand, I understand my life is merely “on loan” from my Creator; if my life has a role in creation beyond my own self-oriented purposes; and if my body is not as much my own

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Published by the Dioceses of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon and Qu'Appelle. Published monthly except for July and August.

Whole No. 292, Vol. 51, No. 6  
A Section of the Anglican Journal

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
For change of address, undeliverable copies and subscription list updates, contact:

- Your parish
- e-mail: circulation@national.anglican.ca
- Or send to Saskatchewan Anglican, c/o Anglican Journal, 80 Hayden Street, Toronto, Ont. M4Y 3G2

**RATES**  
\$10 in Canada  
\$17 outside Canada

**SUBMISSIONS**  
Submissions for the March issue must be received by the diocesan editor no later than Jan. 27. All pictures must be sent as JPEGs and 1 MB (megabyte) in size.

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**PUBLISHING DETAILS**  
Published from 59 Roberts Place  
Regina, Sask., S4T 6K5

## The Bishop's Corner

# Visit to Lichfield a special experience

By Bishop Helen Kennedy

The Diocese of Qu'Appelle has a very long-standing relationship with the Diocese of Lichfield in England.

The first bishop of Qu'Appelle was the son of the Earl of Lichfield and that is where our connection began. This past November, I was able to be part of a very exciting and long-awaited project that was coming to fruition.

The backstory goes that Chad, a seventh century monk, brought the message of the gospel to the heathens in the kingdom of Mercia, one of the three Anglic Kingdoms in Great Britain at the time.

He died in 672 A.D. and was enshrined in Lichfield. He was soon canonized a saint for his focus on healing.

During the English Reformation as relics were being destroyed, some of St. Chad was removed and retained. The pieces travelled around different parts of the country for safe keeping, even spending some time in France during the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1841 they found a home in the new St. Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham. In 1919 the relic was examined by the Oxford



Archeological Laboratory and authenticated as a "true relic" by Vatican authorities.

On Nov. 8, 2022, 1,350 years after his death, a relic of St. Chad was translated back to St. Chad's original cathedral in Lichfield.

This momentous occasion came after nearly 40 years of discussion with the Roman Catholic church along with the rebuilding of the original shrine.

The new Shrine of St. Chad at Lichfield Cathedral seeks to go back to the original purpose of shrines — as a reminder that a godly man has brought the Christian faith to this place.

The ceremony was held over two days; day one to prepare and dedicate the shrine, the second to translate the relic to its place of residence.

I was fortunate and honoured to attend as I took with me the vestments of the original bishop of our diocese. Archbishop Hosam Naoum from Jerusalem was also present as some icons from Jerusalem were also dedicated. It was a very special time and a testament to ecumenical relations.

In witness to the community, St. Chad Catholic School from Birmingham brought many of the school children to the event. It was a sacred time and one that built relationships, friendships and faith.



The shrine of St. Chad, at Lichfield Cathedral in England. Photo by Bishop Helen Kennedy

## ... the 'true prophetic voice has always been a minority'

Continued from page 2  
property as it is a limb belonging to the "body of Christ;" then in this context taking my "own" life is demanding the right to destroy something that does not belong to me.

In the face of all the rhetoric about "death with dignity" do I want the last choice I make in life to be the indignity of destroying someone else's gift?

### Jesus' teachings

We can sympathize with those desperate enough to take their own lives without needing to valorize their choice.

Love obviously calls us to reduce the suffering of others when we can, but Jesus' teaching seems to subvert the presumption that we have a "right" to never suffer.

Christian responses to the classic "Problem of Pain" may not persuade all skeptics but they are plausible and coherent.

Not only is God's love not disproved by

our suffering, but our suffering is understood as transformative fellowship with our crucified Saviour and preparation for the rest of our life with God.

Indeed "*Our momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison*" (2 Cor. 7:14).

However, wouldn't it be selfish of me to demand someone else prolong their suffering, (rather than killing themselves), for the sake of my ideology that they may not even share?

This is not my intention and I will not hazard to assert how much the state should restrict individual freedom for "the common good" especially when values are no longer shared.

### Great Commission

The precise political obligations of Christians remain debatable so I agree in part with Primate Nichols (October *Anglican Journal*) that our Great Commission mandate

is much more than advocating for legislation at odds with the religion of the masses.

However I do not follow the rationale provided in that article.

It is natural that pagan and humanistic governments will enact legislation that suits their views. It would be naive to expect otherwise.

But if society's reluctance to hear us is sufficient reason for our silence, then William Wilberforce need not have worked 20 years to abolish slavery, and Martin Luther King might be alive today if he had just accepted that Jim Crow laws were *fait accompli*.

The true prophetic voice always has been a minority.

Elijah and Jeremiah apparently did not think they needed a larger staff in order to confront the more numerous and more popular false prophets of their day. Should we fear that our reputation

will suffer because pagans might accuse us of imposing "our" morality on "their" society?

### A minority voice

Unless we have already given up hope for our liberal democracy, where the voices of minorities are supposed to count, we have a civic duty to speak for what we value.

The latest Canadian MAID legislation makes it easier for those who consider either their poverty or their mental illness to be "intolerable suffering" to get the government to put them out of their misery.

It is a lot cheaper to give someone a lethal injection than help them out of poverty or provide mental health care.

What a great victory for efficiency-oriented utopians and eugenics advocates to convince those who are "less productive," or burdens on the state or otherwise inconvenient to the rest

of us, to have themselves killed. The victory is even greater, since it is achieved using the rhetoric of our popular idols of free-choice and human-rights.

As Scrooge says in Dicken's *Christmas Carol*, "*...If they would rather die, they'd better do it, and decrease the surplus population.*"

But before we quietly consent to the legislation and practice of our present culture of death, we may remember Pastor Martin Niemöller's response to the eugenics practices of the Nazis.

"*First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the people with mental and physical disabilities, and I did not speak out—because I was not disabled.*

"*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.*"

# Advent the focus of youth winter retreat

By Mary Brown

**CHRISTOPHER LAKE** (Skwn) — On a frosty weekend in December, 10 youths (five boys and five girls) from parishes in the Diocese of Saskatchewan attended a retreat at the Quest Camp on Christopher Lake.

When I arrived Saturday, Revs. Brody and Rick were sitting on lawn chairs ice fishing. Some kids were fishing but left to go tobogganing. So we went to the toboggan hill, where nearly everyone was having fun.

Some of the girls showed me their quinsy they had made on Friday night. It looks something like an igloo, but instead tons of snow is shovelled into a huge pile. Then the next morning it is dug out to make room for occupancy.

Sara Albers and Julie Ann Reed were the chaperones for the girls with Brody and Rick chaperoning the boys. The Rev. David Butorac and his

wife and baby stayed over on Friday night, where he introduced the theme of Advent and gave the first talk of the retreat.

Evenings were spent playing board games, campfire worship singing, hot chocolate and snacks and ending with compline.

Brody led Morning Prayer on Saturday, after which they went outside to dig the quinzee, cleared snow for skating and set up for fishing.

After a full day of activities everyone had a supper of pulled pork, with chapel after and Rick talking about Advent. After they were back outside for night games.

On Sunday they went to St. Christopher's Church and returned to camp for lunch and then to clean up. The venue is a large building with a common room with a big fireplace. The retreat was a laid-back affair in a serene comfortable setting and the kids will likely look forward to the next one.



Youths dig out a quinzee they built while attending an Advent-themed retreat at Christopher Lake. Photo by Mary Brown

## DIOCESE OF SASKATOON EVENTS

### Announcements for February 2023

■ **Saskatchewan Anglican online!** Did you know you can read current and past issues of the *Saskatchewan Anglican* online?

Visit [www.anglicandiocesaskatoon.com/saskanglican](http://www.anglicandiocesaskatoon.com/saskanglican) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/saskatchewananglican](http://www.facebook.com/saskatchewananglican).

■ **Please note that if you are considering attending any church service in person,** please check on service availability and any requirements for pre-registration that may exist.

If attending services, please follow all the indicated seating, movement, distancing, masking, and sanitization instructions.

■ **Service Books available:** Emmanuel Anglican Parish, Saskatoon has changed its service format to an audio-visual one and as a result has a large number of service books to be given away.

If you would like to

pick up a small or a large lot of copies of *Common Praise*, *Book of Alternative Services* or others please contact Loretta Hartsook at 306-321-5087 or [hartsook@sasktel.net](mailto:hartsook@sasktel.net).

■ **Clergy Retreat 2023:** A diocesan clergy retreat with Archbishop Linda Nicholls has been set for Monday, March 20 at 10 a.m. until Thursday, March 23 at 3 p.m.

The exact location and schedule of events for this gathering will be confirmed at a later date.

Please mark your 2023 calendar now and plan to be present for this spiritually enriching time with our Primate Linda.

■ **Installation of the Rev. Fran Schmid:** The installation of the Rev. Fran Schmidt as the new incumbent at Emmanuel Anglican Parish will take place on Sunday, Jan. 29 at 2 p.m. at Emmanuel Anglican Church, Saskatoon.

■ **School of Discipleship Ministry Preparation Program:**

The Diocese of Saskatoon's School of Discipleship Ministry Preparation Program is a part-time three-year licentiate.

Students may take a course part way through the three-year cycle unless pre-requisites for a specific course are stated.

The first full complement for the ESC licentiate in theology is planned to be completed by spring 2023.

People wishing to take one or more of these courses should consult with the School of Discipleship co-ordinator.

People who sense a call to diaconal or priestly ordination will go through the diocesan discernment process at some point before the midway point.

See the notices of the WECAN and Evangelism courses posted elsewhere in this issue.

If you have any questions about our Ministry Preparation Program, please contact the School of Discipleship co-ordinator, the Rev. Dr. Trish McCarthy, at [tmccarthy@sasktel.net](mailto:tmccarthy@sasktel.net),

306-370-8378 and see the course listings posted elsewhere in this issue.

■ **Courses at the College of Emmanuel:** The College of Emmanuel & St. Chad welcomes inquiries and applicants for its courses.

For information on courses available from Emmanuel & St. Chad and through the Saskatoon Theological Union, please contact their office at 306-975-1550

■ **General Synod 2023:** It has been announced that the next General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada will be held from June 27 to July 2 at the University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta. Delegates to Synod 2023 should be receiving information packages by e-mail or regular mail over the next several months.

**Announcements:**

■ **The Right Rev. Christopher Harper:** Chris Harper, Bishop of the Diocese of Saskatoon,

has announced his intention to resign in January as our bishop in order to take up his new position as National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop at the end of January. Let us pray for him, his family, and for all the Church, that the peace and grace of our Creator will strengthen and guide both us and Chris in these new and challenging changes.

■ **To be included in a timely manner, brief notices should be supplied to the associate editor by fax, email or "snail mail" by the end of the month, one month before the month in which the insertion is desired (i.e. February entries will be in the April issue).**

**Detailed and longer texts of upcoming events will not be included in this section, but should space allow, could be the subject of articles and notices elsewhere in the Saskatchewan Anglican.**

## ... Death of deacon a loss for the Church, community

Continued from page 1 promoted an inter-faith dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church, which led to the signing of a covenant between the Anglican Diocese of Qu'Appelle and the Archdiocese of Regina in 2011.

This later expanded to include the Lutheran and Ukrainian Catholic Churches.

At the cathedral, Jackson sat on an ad-hoc liturgical group that recommended to the Dean and wardens that varied forms of liturgy and increased congregation participation be introduced into Sunday worship.

In making the recommendation, the group had come to the conclusion that Anglicans must be open to innovation and change in seeking God. The group did not have to convince Dean Duncan Wallace.

Over the next several years, liturgical experimentation dominated the agenda.

For his service to the cathedral, diocese and the wider Church, Jackson was appointed honorary canon of the cathedral in 2014, and received an honorary doctorate of divinity from the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad in 2020.

At the time of his death, Jackson was the longest-serving deacon in the Anglican Church of Canada.

Relating to the Armed Forces, Jackson was instrumental in St. Paul's Cathedral becoming the regimental church of



Michael Jackson (right) was very proud of all his granddaughters. Here he introduces Saleena Jackson as the cathedral's newest boat girl, in 2016. Also pictured: Dean Mike Sinclair and Madeline Bowen holding the thurible. Photo by Margaret Ball

the Regina Rifles, and in arranging for HRH Princess Anne to become honorary colonel of the unit, which is now the Royal Regina Rifles.

In recognition of his contributions to the unit, the RRR garnered support for Jackson to be able to join the Army Reserve, though he was older than the age for enlisting.

He served as a public affairs officer from 1983 to 1995 and retired as a

major.

Through this military connection, Jackson met Second Lt. Helen MacLean, and they married in 1987.

Though Jackson retired as chief of protocol in 2005, he remained very active and was often contacted by news media for his comments on anything relating to the Royal Family.

He was founding president of the Royal

Victorian Order Association of Canada from 2008 to 2020.

At the time of his death he was president of the Institute for the Study of the Crown in Canada. If he heard someone mention "The Queen of England," Jackson was always quick to point out that the Queen was "Queen of Canada."

He often served as presiding officer at citizenship ceremonies in Saskatchewan.

Jackson organized four national conferences on the Crown in Canada, and prepared for a fifth that was cancelled due to the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

He was author, editor or co-editor of many books relating to the role of the monarchy in Canada, the most recent being *A Resilient Crown: Canada's Monarchy at the Platinum Jubilee* (published by Dundurn, 2022)

## Memories of Deacon Michael Jackson

*The following are excerpts from a special issue of Cathedral Calling, the newsletter published by St. Paul's Cathedral, Regina. Special thanks to Angie Friedrich, editor of Cathedral Calling.*

### Dean Mike Sinclair

... He was our organizational dynamo, preparing intricate plans for services with corresponding seating and movement charts, with personalized copies for every participant that highlighted their individual parts.

He was our constant editor and fail-safe set of eyes, making available his time and expertise for everything from letters and articles to Sunday bulletins. He was dedicated to the multiple generations of servers formed here under his direction.

Michael was always prepared and expected those around him to be as well. He strove for, and often achieved, excellence. It is always possible to make a mistake; with Michael's planning it just became much more

difficult to do so.

The gift he offered this Cathedral in his devotion and service, played out in thousands of Sunday services, and tens of thousands of hours in between, will forever shape who we are and how we do things. ...

### Bishop Helen Kennedy

... Michael was one of the first people to contact me upon our arrival in Saskatchewan asking for my thoughts on the consecration service. I had no thoughts — and so he took the time to

sit with me and together we worked through the details of the service.

That attention to detail helped to make that day ... a wonderful and meaningful celebration for me and those who were watching online. ...

... I researched how this man and all of his achievements are to be correctly addressed. So, Dr. the Rev. Deacon Canon Michael Jackson, you will be dearly missed. I grieve that I have not had the time to know you better and learn all that I can from you.

I sense the incredible gaping hole you leave and will do my best to care for those around you.

Into God's arms we send you, with our love and gratitude for having you in our lives. May you rest in peace, and you will most certainly rise in glory.

### Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Primate ACC

... the legacy of our lives is heard in what others remember and tell about us. From politicians to clergy and bishops, I have heard of a man of faith

Continued next page

# ... Remembering Deacon Michael Jackson

Continued from page 5 and grace.

He is honoured by his colleagues for the quality of his work as a protocol officer of excellence to his work in the Diocese of Qu'Appelle as the longest-serving deacon in the entire Canadian church.

Both roles are ones of service to the wider community and the Church, quietly present on the margins but essential!

**Bishop Rob Hardwick,  
12th Bishop of  
Qu'Appelle**

Michael was a highly respected colleague.

He was passionate in his co-chairing, for many years, the Anglican and Roman Catholic ecumenical committee, an outstanding aide to Cathedral and diocesan worship, an enthusiastic master of ceremonies, and a prophetic advocate for the vocational diaconal.

His attention to detail, well-directed rehearsals and much-appreciated aide memoir worship notes were a great help to me, and to many, and certainly contributed to exceptional worship.

Above all Michael made an outstanding contribution to the vocational diaconate in the diocese of Qu'Appelle. ...

**Bishop Eric Bays,  
Ninth Bishop of  
Qu'Appelle**

Michael and I remained friends even when we disagreed over the nature of the diaconate.

At that time his vision of the work was, I thought, too "church facing" as the British say, as distinct from a "world facing" stance.

I imagine Michael probably widened his understanding since the '90s and I know he has written about that. In any case, we remained friends, and I was grateful each time I worshipped at the cathedral and saw how well the liturgy was handled.

I know much of that experience was due to Michael's training of the liturgical team.

**Bishop Donald Bolen,  
Archbishop of the  
Roman Catholic  
Archdiocese of Regina**

Deacon Michael Jackson has been a good friend to the Roman Catholic



In June 2012 Deacon Michael Jackson posed wearing the medals and awards he had received up to that point. Photos by Margaret Ball

community for many years and he will be dearly missed.

A natural ecumenist, with a sincere interest in the people and practices of other churches, he was a key figure in the development of the original Covenant between the Diocese of Qu'Appelle and the Archdiocese of Regina.

We worked closely together on that covenant and it was a beautiful thing to recognize that the growing relationship internationally between Anglicans and Roman Catholics also had a local history. ...

I always found it life-giving interacting with Michael and deeply appreciated his commitment and the energy he brought to making the real but incomplete communion between our churches ... something that was tangible and could be celebrated.

Deacon Michael

assisted us extensively as we implemented a permanent diaconate in the Archdiocese.

... Michael's ecumenical interests came to fullest expression in his passion for diaconal ministry.

As our two churches have sought to restore the ministry of deacons, Michael has helped us to learn together how this ministry continues to serve the mission of the one church. ...

**Brent Salkeld,  
Archdiocesan  
theologian for Roman  
Catholic Archdiocese of  
Regina**

Michael had a unique gift for holding strong opinions in a way that was not threatening to those who disagreed and that invited healthy engagement rather than discouraged it.

... It was a pleasure to have a disagreement with Deacon Michael! There are not many people you can say that about. He was one



Deacon Michael Jackson, speaking at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Regina. Jackson was instrumental in establishing the covenant between the Diocese of Qu'Appelle and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Regina in 2001; and the Lutheran, Anglican, Ukrainian Catholic and Roman Catholic Covenant for the province of Saskatchewan, in 2020.

of a kind.

**The Hon. Lynda  
Haverstock,  
Lieutenant Governor of  
Saskatchewan 2000-06**

Dr. Jackson had an unwavering devotion to everything he held dear: his beloved family, the Crown to which he dedicated so much of his life, pride in his country, his favourite province and her citizens, and his incomparable connection to his Church.

Michael epitomized the highest of standards in every single initiative he undertook.

By any measure, he was the consummate professional. ...

**Jim Melville, Warden,  
St. Paul's Cathedral**

... Michael was a perfectionist. Michael was a communicator. Michael wanted everybody and every event to be the best they or it could be.

... Michael loved working with young people

in the parish. He included them in every aspect of the worship service.

He asked and respected their opinions and suggestions.

He patiently trained them to work through the ranks of the servers' guild, from boat boys and girls to head servers and many graduated to become confident Sub-Deacons, working alongside Deans, Bishops and Archbishops.

... Through Michael's tutelage, St. Paul's has also produced two or three generations of young people that have grown up to be confident and excellent public speakers. ...

Michael's influence touched every aspect of life at St. Paul's. ... Michael was unique, Michael was a character, Michael was friend.

Above all, Michael was a proud Deacon, assisting at worship and manifesting the church in the world, by example, helping to make us all better Christians.



Volunteers celebrate Christmas by serving up a delicious hot lunch for their neighbours in the sanctuary of Christ Church, Saskatoon.

All photos by Ian McWalter

# Christ Church, Saskatoon, hosts successful Christmas lunch

### Submitted

SASKATOON — Christ Church Anglican partnered with NUTFLAKES Video Store, the church's official movie rental venue in its basement, to host a

sit-down Christmas Day lunch in the church's sanctuary.

The goal of this event was to offer a home-cooked meal in a beautiful setting to anyone wishing to come, with a special focus on those alone during the

holiday season. Volunteers set up tables and chairs throughout the sanctuary decorated with linens, candles and cutlery and served a delectable spread to dozens of attendees.

The meal was accompanied by live music

and tableside magic shows from master illusionist "Super Ron." The honorary mayor of Caswell Hill, Mel Genge, even sent over an honorary "key to the neighbourhood" for presentation to principal event organizer Stephanie

Sydiaha, recognizing her tireless dedication and service.

Event organizers and attendees alike agreed the event was a winner, and plans are already afoot for Christmas lunch 2023 ... stay tuned!



Illusionist "Super Ron" invites Elias McWalter to 'pick a card, any card.'



Some of the happy attendees at the Christ Church Christmas Lunch.

# Organizer thankful for great Christmas lunch

*Editor's note: Stephanie Sydiaha was the main organizer for the Christ Church Christmas Lunch and wished to thank all those involved in volunteering time, effort and food and for attending a very successful event.*

By Stephanie Sydiaha

SASKATOON — Greetings and Happy New Year.

Thanks for supporting the Christmas Lunch; it was a wonderful gathering. There were about 45 people in attendance, and had there not been a fresh dump of snow, there likely would have been a few more.

The food was fabulous with ham donated by Freshco on 33rd, turkey, Mennonite sausage, samosas, green bean casserole, dressing, scalloped potatoes, carrots, salad, cole slaw, buns and a selection of desserts, including amazing homemade frosted brownies, all donated by church and



Christmas lunch organizer Stephanie Sydiaha receives an honorary "key to the neighbourhood" from Caswell Hill honorary mayor Mel Genge after the Christ Church event.

Photo by Ian McWalter

community members! (I don't think I missed anything).

It was a feast by any measure. There was music and magic, good conversation and fellowship, a great way to

spend Christmas Day!

This gathering was made possible with enthusiastic support from the church community and our neighbours in Caswell Hill including Cathy, Ian, Ted, Ron, Wilma, Deb,

Beth, Joan, Linda, Al, Hilary, Charlotte, Valerie, Delayne, and Betty, who provided food, cooking skills and volunteer labour. We also received cash donations to support our efforts.

A BIG THANK YOU to Mark for shovelling snow and making a special presentation on behalf of the mayor of Bedford Road (betcha didn't know we had a mayor of Bedford Road). Thank you Mark!

Ian brought takeout containers so we could send our guests home with food, and what remained was put in containers and left in the box on the church lawn.

After the other volunteers had gone and I was noodling around, I decided to put some of the MANY desserts and dainties in tin foil packages outside as well, and they were gone in a flash.

We know the need is great in our community, and it was deeply satisfying to share this

special Christmas bounty with the neighbours.

I am one who struggles with Christmas and I know many are alone at this time of year.

One of the guests is an old friend of mine who recently lost absolutely everything he owns in a house fire, so I was very pleased he joined us.

I volunteered at a Christmas Lunch in Perth, Ont. (my Uncle Frank's home) many years ago, where I was given the title of greeter.

I remember feeling a deep sense of peace and gratitude when it was done for having been part of creating a few hours of companionship to people who would have spent the day alone.

We created that same feeling in the beautiful, sacred space that is the Christ Church sanctuary, bringing together friends and neighbours to feast on this day of celebration. It was a wonderful Christmas gift to me as well, so thank you.

## Feeling the Holy Spirit

# The one good thing

By Rev. Gene Packwood

Jesus once said to a woman overwhelmed with grief and what she thought were too many things to do, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things" (Luke 10:41).

I wonder if that's what He'd say to me, (except for the "Martha"), if I were to look up and catch Him looking at me, listening to my concerns and prayers, and loving me just now.

I have been a bit anxious and troubled about many things these days, too. Covidity and flu, war and mean-spiritedness mixed with inflation and a health-care system that seems to be wobbling more and more alarmingly as I age and approach more need of its services.

Such things seem to gather and mutter and lurk in the dark corners of my life.

And before I can catch his eye to tell him more



about the things that are bothering me, Jesus continues and says, "One thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion" (Luke 10:42).

One thing? The good portion? But there are so many things going on in my life! I'm not sure how good, or not, they are for me and the people with whom I live and move and have my being.

Søren Kierkegaard, 19<sup>th</sup> century Danish theologian, philosopher, poet, social critic, and religious author, defined a saint as "someone who can will the one thing."

It just so happens that we are about to enter a

season in the church year that is brilliantly designed to help with that — Lent.

The six spiritual disciplines for observing

a Holy Lent are just the thing for drilling down to The One Good Thing. (You'll hear them on Ash Wednesday and can find them in the BAS, p282, and the BCP, p612).

They are as follows with some One Thing Bible verses added upon which to focus. As you read, pray and meditate on each verse, ask The LORD what The One Good, or Better, Thing is for you at this time.

**1. Self-Examination**  
But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but

*one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:41-42).*

**2. Penitence (repentance in the BCP)**

*He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see" (Jn. 9:25).*

**3. Prayer**

*One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple (Ps. 27:4).*

**4. Fasting**

*John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven" (Jn. 3:27).*

**5. Almsgiving (self-denial in the BCP)**

*When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute*

*to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me" (Luke 18:22).*

**6. Reading and meditating on the Word of God.**

*But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:13-14).*

Oh, and one more thing!

The Holy Spirit who still "over the bent World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings," as Gerald Manley Hopkins puts it in his poem, *God's Grandeur*, is waiting to guide us from scattered busyness and resentment into holy singleness of purpose, through the 40 days and the six spiritual disciplines of Lent.

*Ash Wednesday is Feb. 22, which is also when Lent begins.*

# Swift Current says farewell to the Dowdeswell family

By Lois Nisbet-Wall

**SWIFT CURRENT (Qu'A)** — On Nov. 30, 2022 the congregation of St. Stephen the Martyr said farewell to their beloved clergy, Archdeacon Chris and Deacon Krista Dowdeswell.

Bishop Helen Kennedy presided over the service, with Archdeacon Chris delivering a farewell sermon and blessing a new child through baptism.

The congregation was sad to see him leave but realized this is where God is calling Chris and everyone wished him all the best for his new future. Archdeacon Dowdeswell has been appointed Dean of the Diocese of Calgary.

Rector's Warden Michael Siebert delivered a heartfelt farewell to Ven. Chris and Rev. Krista and it is quoted below.

"It has been such a joy and a maturing experience for our church to have the Venerable Chris and the Rev. Krista Dowdeswell and their family with us over the past six years," said Siebert.

"I remember the first Sunday it was announced that they would be with us at least for the short term. I was in the process of looking for a church, having recently moved back from Toronto, and I hadn't yet committed to going to St. Stephen's.

"It's hard to explain, but when I first saw their picture, I just had the sense they would be an excellent fit and people I would love to get to know.

"Then, when I met them in person and spent time visiting at their house, my feeling was confirmed. These people had depth of life experience and education combined with a strong faith in Jesus and care for others that made them holistic people, servant leaders, and wonderful friends. Over the years, this continued to be confirmed.

## Soul seaching

"You may recall Chris' original contract with us was for a one-year transitional appointment. During this time, he led us through soul searching as a church, helping make the transition from a difficult previous few years to a more stable foundation," Siebert continued.

"He had a gentle and yet steady way of leading that



**Archdeacon Chris Dowdeswell thanks wardens Michael Siebert and Lois-Nisbet-Wall during the ceremony.**  
Photo submitted

was informed by his studies in psychology.

"I recall some excellent meetings we had at Camp Harding. He was regularly teaching us how to become better followers of Christ, caring for ourselves and others with patience and love. It was in these types of retreats and meetings where he really thrived.

"The transitional appointment thankfully soon turned into a longer term appointment. As a church, we were very grateful, knowing that this was not typical protocol. During this time, Chris helped us make progress in many areas of need.

"This included strengthening the vestry and leadership, stabilizing the liturgical and musical planning, and helping develop the children, family, and 'midling' adult ministry.

## Supporting youths

"It was especially wonderful to see how much energy Chris and Krista put into children and young families.

"You may remember Chris' many wonderful children's talks (he is so good interacting with children), Krista's leadership in the Sunday school, Krista's work with the Music Collective (and music generally), the Family Camp outings we would have at Camp Harding, and the Summer Crosstalk kids camps at the church.

"Chris and Krista would also regularly try to make sure church events like Bible studies included child care. The extent to which our parish is so intergenerational today is

due in no small part to this work.

"Then COVID hit. What a difficult time for any priest or pastor. So much of the job is supposed to be together with people — meeting together on Sundays, visitation throughout the week, caring for the sick, gathering for Bible studies and other events — and here a pandemic made

this dangerous, with one of Chris' children being at special risk.

"There was so much uncertainty during this time, many different opinions, and felt like being in the fog of war.

"What to do? There are no doubt different opinions on Chris' response, but it seemed to me he did an excellent job steering us through without being excessive on any one side. And I think most people felt similarly.

"In that excellent tradition of making lemonade out of lemons, Chris used his technical and computer abilities to figure out how to run online services in a way that kept them interactive and so could better keep community alive.

"He also was able to organize meetings by Zoom and later oversee the transition to hybrid worship, which continues to be important for a multitude of reasons, including making services possible in blizzard conditions," Siebert said.

"I recently went to meet-

ings at the Council of General Synod and from what I heard there, there are so many churches that have not come out of COVID in such good shape.

## A surprising change

"The final chapter in this story is Chris' sabbatical and the surprising circumstance of his being hired as the Dean of the Cathedral in Calgary. This is still fresh and involves many thoughts, questions, and emotions.

"On the one hand, we are very proud of him and his family and wish them all the best. We knew that Chris had gifts that would likely take his family elsewhere, and what impressive accomplishments both to be finishing a doctorate and becoming the Dean of the archbishop's cathedral!

It's also a great location for them to be near both sides of the family.

"But on other hand, we were also certainly hoping to have them a little longer.

"A little longer would have been nice. Especially

**Continued on page 14**



# PAGE

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# Three deacons ordained to the priesthood

By Mary Brown

PRINCE ALBERT — Deacons Brody Albers, Michel Lyons and Ted Williams were ordained to the priesthood on Nov. 30, 2022, in St. Alban's Cathedral.

Their principal at Wycliffe College, the Right Rev. Stephen Andrews, was invited to give the sermon at their ordination. He spoke of God continuing to raise up shepherds for His flock in these challenging days, while the college has tried to equip its students to be visionary leaders.

The challenges being the age demographic of the church is older than the surrounding population and young people are suspicious of institutions and do not relate to their structures of authority.

Also, there has been a loss of Christian memory and hence, the Christian imagination is unintelligible to those outside the church; and this has been accompanied by the growing marginalization, not to say hostile ostracism, of all religion in modern western culture.

The values of our society are increasingly post-modern with no reference to universally recognized truth; while there is a nearly universal obsession with social media that shrinks, shallows, and shreds the world.

Andrews went on to state the two characteristics of a priest are to be oriented upward in worship and outward in witness, who say their prayers and are prepared to serve others self-sacrificially.

He spoke of a commitment to prayer, in the daily office, private prayer and Sunday worship. The reason for this characteristic of



Gathering after the ordination, in back from left are Bishop Helen Kennedy, Bishop Michael Hawkins, Bishop Adam Halkett, and Bishop Stephen Andrews. In front are newly ordained Rev. Teddy Williams, Rev. Michael Lyons and Rev. Brody Albers. Photos by Mary Brown

Anglican priesthood is to do with the formation of the soul and with leadership in worship.

The priest who says his or her prayers will communicate an authenticity in corporate worship that encourages genuine worship in the congregation.

The priestly vocation is not a career. The badge of real honour in the church is not the rectorship of the plum parish, the dean's cope, the archdeacon's gaiters, or the episcopal mitre, but rather the slave's apron.

For Jesus said that He "came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many."

The bishop has seen small often dispirited clusters of Christians become powerful engines of mission and all it requires are priests who, while using what they have learned in seminary, say their prayers and are prepared to serve sacrificially.

Bishop Andrews closed his remarks saying, "My fellow soon-to-be priests, in the future God holds for you — a future full of promise and disappointment, a future full of blessing and woe — may you be caught up in the 'grace of God in Christ,' for then the ministry will not be yours but his."



Dean David Butorac (left) speaks with a homeless man in the hall at St. Alban's Cathedral, after the ordination of three priests. The man attended the service to escape the cold but was fully involved in the service.

*"And through your prayer and service you may count on a 'plenteous' harvest and the 'perfecting of the saints' for the work of the church."*

Also attending this service was Bishop Helen Kennedy from Qu'Appelle, the Rev. Lawren Miller of Qu'Appelle and the Rev. Amy Bunce from the Diocese of Saskatoon. Nipawin, Tisdale, Melfort and Christopher Lake parishes are blessed to have new priests in their parishes.

The Cathedral Church in Prince Albert attracts

plenty of at-risk and homeless people who inhabit the downtown area.

On this cold night two homeless people were sitting in the two pews in front of me. One of them came in out of the cold but the other guy was totally involved in the service.

He followed the bulletin kneeling and standing and singing the hymns. The gradual hymn "I heard the voice of Jesus Say" (Blue Hymn Book #503) a beautiful Celtic hymn seemed to affect the man deeply and I could hear

him crying.

He was very moved by the whole service and went up for communion. When the procession of bishops walked down the aisle, he knelt in the aisle in respect for them.

I spoke to him at the reception following the service and he told me about tattoos he had on his arms of trees pointing to heaven. You can't always tell what someone you see is really like but I think our priests have a vocation that includes everyone who needs God in their life.



# Lichfield priests reflect on visit to Qu'Appelle

By Rev. Nicola Busby

LICHFIELD, ENGLAND — What an amazing visit! The opportunity for Rev. Sara Humphries and myself, to meet with so many lovely people, as we were welcomed and accepted into their lives, homes and churches.

A diverse country with a diverse landscape. But the overarching welcome prevailed. The Anglican Church on a world mission stage.

Bishop Helen Kennedy was most hospitable, opening her home to us for the majority of our stay, along with her husband, Stephen, who self-states he is the 'Bishop's Wife.'

They made us feel like we were at home, if we moved away and travelled for a few days, it was always like coming home, when we got back to Regina.

Charles Dickens said: *"It is Christianity to love our neighbours as ourselves and to do good to all men and women as we would have them do to us. It is Christianity to be gentle, merciful, and forgiving, and to keep those qualities quiet in our own hearts, and never make a boast of them or of our prayers or of our love of God, but always to show that we love Him by humbly trying to do right in everything."*

*"If we do this and remember the life and lessons of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and try to act up to them, we may confidently hope that God will forgive us our sins and mistakes and enable us to live and die in peace."*

Christ enables us to love each other, no matter what appears to be our differences, growing in fellowship together, listening and sharing our individual stories, giving time and space to the other.

The three weeks took us from west to east and back again across the bottom

third of Saskatchewan, and the Qu'Appelle Diocese, meeting clergy and congregation from several of the churches and parishes.

The country is so vast, and it took us no time to understand that distance is measured in hours, not miles. Driving for three to four hours is not uncommon to reach your destination.

We were asked on numerous occasions, the best thing, the worst thing, and the most unexpected thing we had encountered on the trip, Sara and I agreed on all counts.

The best thing: The friendly people and warm welcome everywhere we went.

The worst thing: The driving time to get from place to place.

The most unexpected thing: The similarities of

the weekly liturgy. And here we added a second thing: The continuing issues, historical and current, between the Indigenous peoples and Canadians.

The trip was a

resounding success, and we continue to pray for the people of Qu'Appelle Diocese and for the continuing relationship we have across the water.

Rev. Sara Humphries and Rev. Nicola Busby,

Lichfield Diocese assistant ministers, visited the Diocese of Qu'Appelle in September and October 2022. The two dioceses have a long-standing relationship and are Companion Dioceses.

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# Bishop discusses resignation in final letter

By Bishop Chris Harper

*Isaiah 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"*

To all my church family in the Diocese of Saskatoon.

Greetings and peace, I write to you today to share and update the changes that have transpired over the past few weeks here within our Diocese and within our shared ministry.

It should now be widely known that my ministry with you has changed.

I have been elected by the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples (ACIP) to the position of National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop and I have accepted the appointment by our Primate Linda Nicholls, to begin on Feb. 1. This appointment and duties related, effectively means that I have had to resign my place as the 13th Diocesan Bishop of Saskatoon.

Please know that this letter of resignation was submitted with sadness and tears.

I have loved my ministry with all of you, we together have



traversed the faith landscape together in an amazing journey of life and faith, we have crossed the divides of good and bad, we together have laughed and cried... we have become family.

Thus Tracy and I leave you, our church family, with all our love and prayers as we head out to another and differing landscape, and calling.

Faith calls us to offer ourselves wholly and allow the leading of the Holy Spirit in all that we do, thus I in my personal ministry have always been wary of saying no to the calling and opening of a new door in faith from the Almighty. I have prayerfully asked God to lead me in all things.

God continues to always call us to be challenged, shaped and reshaped, just as the hands of the potter shape the clay, so too are we shaped for new ministry.

In this, I believe that the ministry of the Diocese of Saskatoon has an amazing future and new direction ahead, and this I will watch with great interest in the time ahead.

In our time with you, Tracy and I have offered to you, our church and diocesan family, a measure of what it means to be in family and community of believers.

I pray that you know that you have always been loved and held in our daily prayers, now and going forward. Thus thinking ahead...

I have set my service schedule to keep in accordance with my placement into my new role in ministry.

In acknowledging this schedule, I note that I have not that many days left to accomplish a vast amount of preparations and duties, in closing up my office, and starting up and opening a new one.

My endeavour will be to have two offices, my main in the west (prairie provinces) and a second lesser office in Toronto.

In this way I believe I will stand to better represent the church and people of faith by keeping a wider stance on the land and office for all.

Tracy and I will live in Saskatoon for the time being. As travel national and international will be within my new scope of

practice, I ask that you continue to keep Tracy and I in your personal and church prayers.

I have spoken with Archbishop Gregory Kerr-Wilson on Episcopal oversight of the Diocese of Saskatoon; he will take charge to assess and set up the next steps in the process going forward.

With Archbishop Gregory having Episcopal oversight, the Diocesan Synod Office here locally, will be cared for by Executive Archdeacon/ Admin. Alex Parson and Exec. Assistant Lorea Eufemia, for a time period determined by Archbishop Gregory.

If this announcement seems to be set in an accelerated timeline (and it is), this is due to circumstances beyond our control. So in closing I thank God Almighty for your ministry and faith as we go forward.

We are in a season of change and the church is adapting to new pressures and realities, and you too are ever changing and adapting.

For all this I am thankful and prayerful, because we together are part of a 'living church' and the Lord reveals new and wondrous things daily by the continuous movement of the Holy Spirit in and amongst us.

I close with love and prayers.

## The Companions Program September 2023 – June 2024

The **residential Companions** program is an immersive opportunity to experience a contemporary monastic community rooted in the Benedictine tradition. It is open to women aged 21 and up regardless of Christian denomination.

Companions live, work, and pray alongside the sisters, learning from them but also sharing each companion's own gifts with the sisters and their ministries. They will:

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- Put down deep roots of spiritual intimacy with God and each other
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**Application start & end (both programs):**  
January 1, 2023 – May 15, 2023



**Cost:**

**Residential Companions:** sugg. \$100/month.

**Companions Online:** sugg. \$50/month.

If cost is a hindrance, assistance is available.

Open to women of all Christian expressions, **Companions Online** is an opportunity to become "monastics in the world," living a Benedictine rhythm of prayer, work, study, and recreation. Online Companions learn to develop practices that support and nurture their spiritual life from the comfort of their homes.

They meet regularly for classes and discussion groups, and commit to times of personal prayer at home. They share in book studies, participate in online worship and screen films relevant to spiritual growth and self-understanding. Online Companions also develop spiritual disciplines that follow the liturgical year.

**To learn more about either program, or to apply, email:**

Shannon Frank-Epp, Program Coordinator, at  
companions@ssjd.ca, or phone St. John's Convent:  
416-226-2201, ext. 342

# The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine



## Deconsecrating St. Augustine's, Rosthern

**ROSTHERN (S'toon)** — A service of deconsecration was held at St. Augustine's, Rosthern on Dec. 14, 2022. Over 25 people

were in attendance including, from left, Executive Archdeacon Alex Parsons, Pastor Chad Moir, the Right Rev. Chris Harper (who

conducted the service), Monty Zadorozny, the Right Rev. Rod Andrews and Etta-Marie Green. Photo by the Venerable Alex Parsons

## Obituary

# Rev. David Lajeunesse served throughout central Sask.

March 31, 1946 to  
Oct. 18, 2022

Submitted

**R**ev. Captain David James Lajeunesse (pictured) died at age 76, in Nepean, Ont., on Oct. 18, 2022.

David was the son of the late Herbert Harry Lajeunesse and Phyllis Jean Emerson. Brother to the late Herbert Philip Lajeunesse and his wife Colleen Latimer.

He leaves his loving wife Yvonne Annette Gervais, their two sons Michael and Mark. His daughter-in-law, Mark's wife Jessica Kutchkoski, and grandsons Brody and Jaxon. Many cousins and many friends.

David served the Lord first in Church Army and then was ordained deacon in 1988 and priest in 1989. He served as assistant



to Canon Don Wootten at St. Paul's, North Battleford and then at St. John's, Borden and later served many parishes in Saskatchewan, Ontario, and Quebec.

In 2015, he joined the Anglican Network in Canada and was an honorary assistant at Blackburn Hamlet Community Church, Ottawa. David also worked with the Gideon's.

The funeral service was held Oct. 27 in St. Peter and St. Paul's Anglican Church, Ottawa.

## Stewards of God's abundance

# Giving thanks, always and in all things

By Deacon  
Arleen Champion

**A** Canadian couple was preparing to fly home from a holiday in the United States. It was American Thanksgiving Day.

Everywhere that week, they had been reminded of the big holiday coming up: Thanksgiving – the big kick-off to the Christmas season – people decorating for Christmas; and saw ads everywhere – start your Christmas shopping this weekend - don't miss the sales – don't forget to buy your pumpkin pie.

None of this said “give thanks” other than the holiday name. The commercialism completely clouded the original intent of the holiday's purpose to encourage people to set time aside to acknowledge God's provision through the harvest.

Checking out of the hotel,

this couple was greeted by a friendly woman's “Happy Thanksgiving.” “Happy Thanksgiving to you, but this is not our holiday. In Canada, we celebrate Thanksgiving in October,” was their reply.

This continued to Canadian Customs, where the customs officer greeted them with, “Good Morning” and sent them off with a, “Have a good day.”

They commented to each other that it was nice not to have someone wish them a “Happy Thanksgiving” and then realized what they had really been saying.

All morning, people had been greeting them, sharing their joy in thanksgiving, and the message the Canadian couple had conveyed back was, “We are Canadian, we are thankful in October, not today!”

Suddenly they stopped dead in their tracks, feeling quite ashamed.

Developing an attitude of gratitude in our walk to become faithful disciples and good stewards is important. It is like any spiritual discipline, it requires time, effort and faith.

One must be conscious and intentional about recognizing even the smallest blessings in life and humbly respond.

Gratitude is heartfelt with the recognition that something has been done for your benefit.

Thanksgiving is the active response acknowledging that, and the relationship between you and the benefactor.

All we have and all we are is a gift from God. The spiritual discipline of acknowledging that is developed in our prayer life, even if it is the arrow prayer “Thanks be to God” in the moment.

First Chronicles 29:14 tells us, “All things come of

thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.” The *Book of Common Prayer* prays this as part of the Offering in the Eucharist service.

This acknowledges relationship with the source, and the call to care and share, and helps us understand the importance of the action of thanksgiving.

As we give thanks, we acknowledge our relationship with God as the source and it affirms the benefactor.

This affirmation gives value to one another. It is speaking about “my” relationship with you, “my” connection with you, it is affirming that connection in your life.

Acknowledging one another is important in staying connected both with God and each other.

So how and when do we give thanks? The answer is “always and in all things.”

Parents can start by

modelling this in sending thank you cards or notes or making phone calls to their benefactors and teaching their children to do the same. It can begin with young children drawing a picture depicting their thankfulness.

A habit established as a child usually continues throughout a lifetime.

Corporately in parishes, it is a good practice to thank people for all they do and give. Include notes of thanks in the giving statements throughout the year and especially with the tax receipt.

Better yet, make it a note of thank you to all parishioners acknowledging not only those who financially support the parish but also those whose support is through time and talent only. Take turns in this act of acknowledgement including the clergy, wardens and treasurer.

Continued page 14

## More Anglicans receive Jubilee medals

By Joanne Shurvin-Martin

REGINA — The Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal was made to honour the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the late Queen's accession to the throne. It's the focus of the province's Jubilee year that ends Feb. 5.

A total of 7,000 medals will be awarded during the Platinum Jubilee year.

His Honour Russ Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor of Sask., said, "This medal allows us to honour Her Majesty's commitment to service and pay tribute to Saskatchewan citizens who have devoted their time and effort to serving others in Canada, Saskatchewan and their communities."

On Dec. 13, **Judy Kobsar**, of Immanuel Church, Regina, got her medal from Mirasty in a ceremony at Government House. Kobsar was honoured for community and volunteer work, and for human rights, reconciliation and public

service.

Kobsar, who came to Canada from British Guiana via Britain, has volunteered for 42 years. The groups she has volunteered with and led shows the wide range of her efforts.

She has served as president of The Congress of Black Women of Canada (Regina Chapter); Immigrant Women of Saskatchewan (Regina Chapter) as well as vice-president of the national organization; Saskatchewan Caribbean-Canadian Association; and Regina Multicultural Council, which runs the Mosaic Festival in Regina.

She was a founding member of Spring Free from Racism.

Kobsar also served on the board of the Regina Food Bank for 10 years, and was treasurer of the Saskatchewan Association on Human Rights where she helped clients with issues in the workplace.

In related fields, she was vice-president of the Regina and District Labour Council, and

has been involved in provincial politics.

In 2001 Kobsar was named YWCA Woman of the Year for her community and humanitarian work.

Another member of Immanuel Parish, **Ralph Paragg**, was awarded the Platinum Jubilee Medal for his volunteer work as the Refugee Sponsorship co-ordinator for the Diocese of Qu'Appelle. Ralph started this work over 30 years ago, when Eric Bays was bishop.

Overall, the diocese has sponsored close to 500 refugees. Most are from East Africa, but many are also from the Middle East, and recently from Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Paragg received the award from the protocol officer, Government of Saskatchewan, at Government House on Dec. 14.

(He also received the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal in 1995, in recognition of his prior work with the refugee community, especially through the Regina Open

Door Society, from which he retired in 2002).

Ralph thanks the synod office for supporting his nomination.

In Humboldt, on Dec. 19, the Honorable Russ Mirasty and Donna Harpauer, deputy premier and MLA for Humboldt-Watrous, presented medals to 36 constituents.

Among them were **Mardelle Craven Robson** and **Deacon Jack Robson**, who were honoured for their many years of volunteering in Jansen, Lanigan and area

communities.

In 2018, they were both recognized as Jansen Volunteers of the Year. The Robsons are members of Christ Church Nokomis and Last Mountain Parish.

**Dean Mike Sinclair**, St. Paul's Cathedral, has also received the Platinum Jubilee Medal.

*Editor's note: If you know of any Anglicans who have received the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal, please inform your editor. Their contact information is on page 2.*

## ... Being thankful

**Continued from page 13**  
Perhaps have a thank you meal or coffee party with members of a ministry team. Include notes of thanksgiving when receiving a bequest or memorial of any size, sharing appreciation for the life of the deceased in your parish as well.

Perhaps vestry members could prepare a light lunch for parishioners after Sunday worship periodically, as a way of saying thank you. Be intentional, be creative, be grateful, be you — a faithful disciple of Christ!

It is February and "love" is in the air. Perhaps you are thinking about what you will do to express your love

for that special someone in your life. Perhaps expand that.

Are there people whom you may have not reached out to lately to say "thank you" or "I value you and our friendship"? It doesn't have to be a meal or flowers or chocolates.

A simple note, card or phone call, with a prayer, will do. Thanksgiving is not one day but every day. Thanks be to God.

*Rev. Deacon Arleen Champion is regional dean for Souris Deanery, deacon at St. Aidan Anglican Church in Moose Jaw and a member of the Diocese of Qu'Appelle stewardship team.*

## ... A farewell to the Dowdeswells

**Continued from page 9**  
after managing quite well through the sabbatical, which Chris prepared us so well for (and with Rev. Nancy Yee's help). I know many of us were envisioning a time with Chris and Krista back here post-pandemic of making great new strides forward as a church. Many of us were looking forward to that.

"God had other plans, however. We don't yet know exactly what they are," Siebert continued. "We trust that God is control and is already prompting the heart of a gifted man or woman who will continue where Chris and Krista have left off. Please join with us in that prayer.

### Many gifts

"Chris, thank you so much for ... sharing your many gifts with us over these six years, for your leadership, your preaching, your liturgical and musical sense, your orga-

nizational skills, your pastoral and service-oriented heart, your gifts with children and people of all ages and abilities, your ability to make people feel welcome and included while challenging them to grow in their faith ... .

"Krista, thank you also for sharing your gifts, whether with young or old, for making people feel so special and welcome, for your music, your beautiful voice, your assistance and encouragement in helping people grow in their talents ... .

"And Graeme and Lucas, thank you for your contributions to our lives, for how you've blessed us with your reading and singing ... . "We have seen you both grow up in front of our eyes and we are so very proud of you ... ."

After the service there was a farewell lunch with turkey, salads and pies, and a wonderful time of fellowship.

## Ministry of Supervision Course

Hosted with the Saskatoon Theological Union

Mon. to Thurs., May 15-18, 2023 and Mon. to Thurs., June 5-8, 2023  
9:00am- 12:00pm, 1:00-3:30 p.m. Hybrid Delivery: **in person** and on **ZOOM**

This course is designed for those who have been in the ordained ministry for five years or more with interest in passing on their wisdom and insights to those beginning ministry

Cost: \$500 in total per person for the two four-day modules

Facilitators: **Dr. Becca Whitla, Rev. Dr. Iain Luke, Bishop David Greenwood, Dr. Brian Chartier, Ven. Dr. Catherine Harper, Rev. Dr. Trish McCarthy & Dr. Adam Wright**

*Journey Spiritually and Theologically with Supervisee:*  
**Share Constructive Feedback, Adopt Intercultural Ministry Patterns, Encourage Self-Care in Ministry, Support in Sermon Development, Support Ministry Learning Goals**

*Adopt More Tools in:* **Supervision, Leadership Development, Organizational Systems, Group Dynamics, Management of Conflict and Nurturing Healthy Congregations in Supporting those New to Ministry**

*Course Delivery:*

**2 four-day modules, three weeks apart with reading and assignments in between. Course could interest experienced clergy in advanced studies.**

*Registration:*

**Emmanuel and St. Chad Seminary Registrar:**  
**(306) 975 – 3753 / [esc.registrar@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca](mailto:esc.registrar@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca)**

### Registration Form

Include your name, title, email, physical address, U.C. region/synod/diocese.  
Question for Response: Please share in 80 words or less how and with whom you will use the learnings from this course.

# Working together in response to God's call

By the Rev. Dr. Iain Luke  
Principal, College of Emmanuel & St. Chad



We just observed the 2023 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and I wonder how much impression (if any) it made on readers of this column, and the churches where you worship.

Did you pray for the unity of churches, for the unity of your church, or for the unity of all God's children?

All of these are good things for which to pray, but what I am really wondering is, what happens next. In January, Christians of many denominations around the world asked God to "help us embrace unity with each other."

How do we imagine that prayer will be answered, or even better, how do we already see it coming true?

For many of our parishes and institutions, this is a vital question. Some are developing internal unity after merger or conflict. Some are seeking, or strengthening, partnership with people of other Christian traditions.

Many have experienced the truth that our response to God's call is one we can only truly answer beside our neighbours.

That truth, and the challenge that comes with it, is part of everyday life at the College of Emmanuel & St. Chad.

As a college of the Saskatoon Theological Union, we share a building, we share worship, and we share our studies with the Lutheran Theological Seminary and St. Andrew's College (United Church).

Each of those communities often includes students and teachers who represent other faith traditions, from within Canada and beyond.

Such sharing can be a cause for great joy, as we discover the common ground we hold.

It can also be a source of frustration, when we find points of difference we had not anticipated! In my experience, it takes a considerable investment of time and energy to live with difference like this, but the rewards are

definitely worth it.

One of those rewards is simply working with a larger team.

While Jesus sent His disciples out two by two, they always had a bigger group to come home to, not just the Twelve, but the whole body of disciples. Each of them had their own background, take on what Jesus was teaching them, and way of living it out.

But they recognized their need for each other, both for building up a bigger picture, and for the sheer practical necessity of mutual support.

Another reward is the respect that develops, over time, between people who understand and appreciate their differences.

On a personal level, I learn the most from people with whom I disagree. I also receive the greatest sense of welcome from the very same people, as we reach the point of recognizing that we belong together, doing God's work.

The same outcomes can be seen in the way our three colleges work together. Our collaboration compels us to understand what makes our partners tick, so that we can respect what matters to them, as they do for us.

We are all the richer for it, and we welcome one another whenever we have the opportunity to work together. A key part of this process is that it does not lead to a muting of our distinctive identities, or the adoption of compromises that satisfy no one. Far from it.

Our faculty and student body have to think more, not less, about what makes us Anglican, so we can bring our best to the table, and ask our partners to respect what is core to our identity.

Likewise, our sense of a unique mission for our college is sharpened, by explaining ourselves to our partners, and asking for their support in what we do — as they also ask

us. One of my hopes for the STU, as we grow closer together, is that we are learning to paint on a larger canvas.

As the people of God working together, we have a call that is bigger than

any one of us, or any one college or denomination.

That call includes, and is shaped by, the experiences of each individual and each institution, and we can only discover its full breadth by learning

respect and appreciation for what God is up to in our partners, as well as in ourselves.

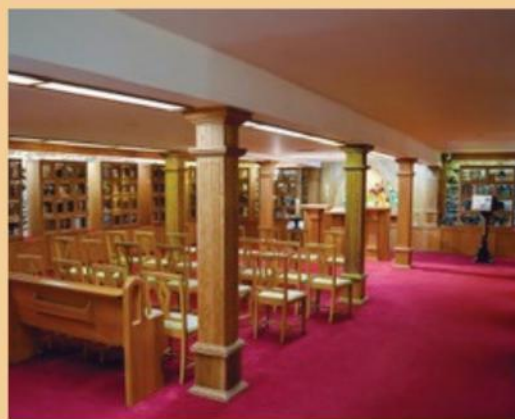
My prayer for you, and your church, is that you will also find the people with whom God is calling you to work, and grow with them towards unity.

Those prayers are being answered, as each of us opens up space in our hearts, in our minds, in our buildings, on our committees, or wherever else we can learn to welcome and appreciate the gifts our neighbours bring to our shared mission.

## St. Paul's Cathedral Columbarium

Our Columbarium offers a tranquil, sacred place for urns. Indoors and sheltered from the elements, the ashes of loved ones are placed in niches. These may be purchased with a one-time fee that includes opening, closing, and maintenance.

The Columbarium is available to everyone. For more information or to view the facility contact **St. Paul's Cathedral at 306-522-6439** or email [office@stpaulsregina.ca](mailto:office@stpaulsregina.ca).



## Compassionate by nature. Committed by choice.

Whether it's for his clients, his team, his family or community, caring comes naturally to Todd Lombard.



# Equipping the saints for the work of ministry

*'Like living stones ... let yourselves be built into a spiritual house' (1 Peter 2:5)*

Ministry courses are now offered collaboratively through *The Western Educational Collaborative Anglican Network*, also known as *W.E.C.A.N.* Below is the 2023 winter course schedule.

By Rev. Dr. Trish McCarthy

Our School of Discipleship Ministry Preparation program begins again for a new group of students in January 2023.

In these last three years, a good number of people have taken classes through our School which equips people for any number of lay and ordained ministries.

Now we are collaborating with other western and northern Anglican Diocesan Schools for Ministry to offer a rich and diverse program that can be taken online or in person.

After all, we are all in this together and now we can learn together!

Emmanuel and St. Chad College oversees

and grants the Licentiate in Theology to students registered through their diocese.

## SPRING 2023

Course: **"Spiritual Practices for Cultivating Resilience and Compassion"** (ESC-PE 131)

School: Saskatoon School of Discipleship (SOD), Core Subject for New Cohort

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Trish McCarthy

Time: Thursdays, Jan. 19, 2023 for 13 weeks (excl. Mar. 9) from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Time Zone: CST

Added Info: Includes one full-day hybrid retreat Monday, Jan. 23, 2023

Delivery: Hybrid using STU smart classroom three times during the semester

Register: Rev. Dr. Trish McCarthy trish.mccarthy@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca, (306) 370-8378. Please use Trish's STU email for this course. Thank you.

Course: **"Pastoral Leadership"** (ESC-PE 241)

Dates: Tuesdays, Jan. 17 to April 11 (excl. Mar. 7) from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

School: SOD, Core Subject for New Cohort  
Instructor: Rev. Dr. Trish McCarthy

Time: 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Time Zone: CST  
Delivery: Hybrid using STU smart classroom three times during the semester

Register with Rev. Dr. Trish McCarthy

Course: **"Theory and Practice of Preaching"** (ESC - PE 211)

Dates: Wednesdays, from Jan. 11, to April 12.

School: SOD, Core Subject

Instructor: ESC Principal Iain Luke

Time: 9 - 11:45 a.m.

Time Zone: CST  
Delivery: Hybrid using an STU smart classroom three times during the semester

Register: Lisa McInnis at esc.registrar@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca or (306) 975 - 3753.

Course: **Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures I and II** (ESC)

S.O.D.: Core Subject  
Instructor: Dr. Adam Wright

Time: Friday, Jan. 27 from 7 to 9 p.m. and Sat. Jan. 28 from 9 am to 4 p.m., and Friday, Feb. 10 from 7 to 9 p.m. and Sat. Feb. 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Time Zone: CST  
Location: TBA

Delivery: Hybrid using an STU smart classroom  
Register: Rev. Dr. Trish McCarthy

Course: **Introduction to the New Testament I and II** (ESC)

S.O.D.: Core Subject  
Instructor: Dr. Adam Wright

Tentative Time Frame: Friday, March 3, 7 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, March 4, 2023 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, March 17 from 7 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, March 18, 2023 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Time Zone: CST  
Location: TBA

Delivery: Hybrid using a classroom and Zoom  
Register: Rev. Dr. Trish McCarthy

The following course is for clergy who have been ordained five years or more as they begin a ministry of supervision.

Course: **The Ministry of Supervision I and II** (ESC - PE 351)

S.O.D. for clergy ordained over five years

Co-ordinator: Rev. Dr. Trish McCarthy

Instructors: Dr. Adam Wright, Dr. Brian Chartier, Bishop David Greenwood, Rev. Dr. Iain Luke, Dr. Becca Whitla, Rev. Dr. Catherine Harper and Rev. Dr. Trish McCarthy

Time Frames: Tentative Dates

Module One: Monday, May 15 to Thursday, May 18, 2023 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Module Two Monday, June 5 to Thursday, June 8, 2023 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Time Zone: CST  
Delivery: Hybrid using an STU tech classroom

Contact: Lisa McInnis  
*Please also see the more detailed poster and attached registration form elsewhere in this issue.*



## Helping African women

By Mary Brown

PRINCE ALBERT — On Dec. 5, sewers and knitters met at St. David's to hand over their items for the dignity kits that will go to Bishop McAllister College in Uganda in February. The knitters were quite busy and made more washcloths than were needed. Since their first meeting the women had three sewing machine events and one of them burnt out the motor on her machine. Kathy Hawkins now has more than enough of everything to take 300 dignity kits to Africa.

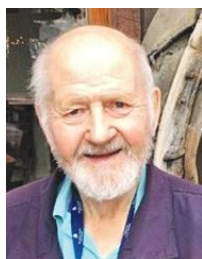
## Obituary

### Priest known for riding bike to Sunday services

By Mary Brown

The Rev Isaac Graham died on Nov. 17, 2022, in Kelowna, B.C.

He was born in Ireland on Sept. 13, 1934. As a young man he apprenticed in a department store where he learned everything. He then decided to be a minister.



The Colonial and Continental Church Society sponsored him to go to Canada to school. In return for his fare, room and board, and tuition, he worked

each summer in mission parishes in outlying areas, and in the winter, he was attached to a minister to help

with visiting, preaching, etc.

Upon ordination he spend one year in a diocese that was not self-supporting for every year of college.

He was ordained in 1958 and worked in the Diocese of Saskatchewan until 1976, starting in Meadow Lake from May 1958 to June 1963; St. George, Prince Albert from June 1963 to February 1969; and in St. Andrew's

Shellbrook from February 1969 to November 1976.

Even though he left Shellbrook years ago, he kept in touch with some parishioners and sent a generous donation a few years ago.

One parishioner from those days remembers him riding his bicycle along the gravel roads for the Sunday service.