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Easter 2022

| Onsite & In-Person Worship Returns

For Holy Week 2022, Wayne Chose, unofficial (but really, he's THE official) diocesan photographer visited Christ Church Cathedral for three liturgies, Maundy Thursday, the Easter Vigil (on Saturday night, April 16) and the Easter

Day Festal Eucharist.

In the centerspread (pages 12 – 15) of this Summer 2022 issue of *Topic* we are pleased to present more photos from Wayne's Holy Week 2022 collection. ✠



Pedalavium, Bishop John washing feet on Maundy Thursday, April 14 at the Cathedral. PHOTO Wayne Chose



The newly baptized at the Easter Vigil, April 16 at the Cathedral. PHOTO Wayne Chose



The Rev. Lorne Manweiler, Rector of St. Philip, Dunbar on Easter Day, April 17. The Rev. Manweiler began his sermon by representing the Resurrection by stretching out his arms and proclaiming "TA-DA!" PHOTO Derek Simpkins



Processing in to a full Cathedral on Easter Day singing, *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*. PHOTO Wayne Chose

Pathways to Reconciliation | Gathering #3

SIMON JOHNSTON, ODNW
Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock

On Saturday April 2, 2022, 40+ parishioners from two White Rock parishes; St. Mark's, Ocean Park and the Church of the Holy Trinity gathered to listen, to learn and to discern their roles on the journey towards Truth and Reconciliation. This gathering was the third in a series of four events co-sponsored by the two parishes.

The first gathering, October of 2021, explored the *Doctrine of Discovery*, a video made by the Anglican Church of Canada as a response to the 94 *Calls to Action* in the Truth and Reconciliation report. The documentary provided insights and education into the racist foundations of many property laws still in existence today. The second gathering in February 2022, featured author Lynda Gray who presented commentary about her book, *First Nations 101: Lots of stuff you need to know about First Nations people*. Lynda Gray is a member of the Tsimshian Nation and the Gisbutwada Clan (Killerwhale). Many attendees expressed their astonishment at learning from Lynda how governance systems dismantled traditional structures, how Indigenous economies were obliterated, and how residential schools tore families apart, to mention but a few of the themes raised by participants.

The third gathering convened Saturday, April 2, 2022, at Church of the Holy Trinity. The themes presented were in two parts. Part one focused on *The Indian Act* with the showing of a TV Ontario interview of Bob Joseph, author of *21 Things you may not know about the Indian Act*. Bob Joseph explained that the Indian Act has dictated and con-



Kerry Baisley, ODNW. ALL PHOTOS H.H. Shieh

Pathways to Reconciliation | Gathering #4

WHEN Saturday, June 18
1:30pm – 4:30pm

WHERE St. Mark's, Ocean Park. 12953 20th Avenue, Surrey

This event is free, and all are welcome.

strained the lives and opportunities of Indigenous Peoples with laws such as: the imposition of the elected chief and band council system; the denial of status for women; and the renaming of individuals with European names, to mention just three in a list of oppressive colonial dictums. Following the 20-minute video, Kerry Baisley, ODNW (Missioner for Indigenous Justice for the diocese of New Westminster) facilitated a discussion on the issues that Bob Joseph raised.

After a refreshment break, part two offered a glimpse into the infamous *Sixties Scoop*. Participants watched a portion of *Birth of a Family*, the National Film Board of Canada's documentary featuring three sisters and a brother who meet in middle age for the first time. Removed from their young Dene mother during the *Sixties Scoop*, the siblings were separated and lived with different families across North America. Kerry Baisley facilitated a discussion on the film. The video had a profound impact on the gathering, many of whom had never heard of such cruelty and were shocked that it was part of our history. ♦

To watch the documentary, *The Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts* go online to <https://www.anglican.ca/primare/tfc/drj/doctrineofdiscovery>

To watch the National Film Board of Canada's documentary *Birth of a Family* go online to https://www.nfb.ca/film/birth_of_a_family/



Simon Johnston speaks to the plenary.



Table discussions.



100 Years of Loss presentation boards.

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



Published eight times a year as a section of the *Anglican Journal* by the Bishop and Synod of the diocese of New Westminster.

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Issue This is the 5th issue in the 53rd year of publication

Deadline For Submissions
July 22 for the Fall (September & October) issue

Subscriptions
Please subscribe online at www.anglicanjournal.com/newssubscription/

Address changes in writing to
Topic c/o Anglican Journal,
80 Hayden Street, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 3G2

Printed & Mailed By
Webnews Printing Inc., North York, Ontario

Circulation
1,895

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A global community of 80 million Anglicans in 64,000 congregations in 165 countries.

Website For the latest news and events go to www.vancouver.anglican.ca

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The diocese of New Westminster
The Anglican Church in the Lower Mainland, the Fraser Valley and on the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia, located on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish First Nations, consisting of 69 worshipping communities.



The Bishop of New Westminster
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Thank you!

Pier 21 Musical Video Pledged to Support Ukrainian Relief Fund

ELIZABETH MURRAY, ODNW
St. David's, Delta

I Just Want to be Free is the third song on the CD of the musical, *Pier 21*, produced in 2019, by St. David (Delta) parishioner Allen Desnoyers. It reminded audiences across Canada of the refugees (many from the Ukraine) who fled the horrors of the Soviet Union during World War II. Tragically, on February 24, 2022, history repeated itself.

Seldom has a song written with so poignant intent on an earlier era, suddenly become the cry of today's people under siege in their Black Sea homeland.

To help support a fundraiser created by Allen, a \$25 online streaming video of *Pier 21* is available for purchase at www.canadianamusical.com. Adding further to this appeal for relief funding, donations will be matched by a supporter whose father set foot in Canada at the eastern seaboard receiving station known as Pier 21.

Music director, composer and playwright Allen Desnoyers presented *Pier 21* musical to a Lower Mainland audience consisting of descendants of Ukrainian refugees who entered Canada through gateway Pier 21, Halifax, between 1928 and 1971 (when the immigration shed was closed). Proceeds from that event went to help current Ukraine relief efforts—an endeavour that strives to further support a dire need through purchase of a streaming video that portrays how Canadians responded with compassion and personal sacrifice during those dark days of World War II. Another performance of the musical to raise additional funds was scheduled to take place in Delta on May 14 which was after this issue of *Topic* goes to print.

The musical drama, focussed on the now memorialized Halifax dock, was performed at Tsawwassen Arts Centre in November 2019 following a successful across-Canada tour that summer. Itinerary included performances at the International Metropolis Conference in Ottawa, and during a ten-day celebration in Halifax marking the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Canadian Museum of Immigration. ✦



PHOTO Courtesy Allen Desnoyers

DEADLINE
FOR TOPIC SUBMISSIONS

July 22 for the Fall
(September/October)
issue

SCHOOL FOR PARISH DEVELOPMENT 2022 Summer Intensive At Sorrento Centre

We are happy to announce that
the School for Parish Development
2022 Summer Intensive sessions
are scheduled as follows:

Virtual July 25, August 1, 8, 15, 22
In-Person August 28 – September 2, 2022



REGISTRATION
Please scan the QR Code
or go to
<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ej5z0li19f31f75f&oseq=&c=&ch=>

What to do if I have questions about the School for Parish Development?

If you have any questions or require assistance with your registration, please contact us at your earliest convenience using the following contact information:

Elias J. Neto, Diocesan School Administrator
1410 Nanton Avenue | Vancouver, BC | V6H 2E2
604.684.6306, ext. 210
eneto@vancouver.anglican.ca

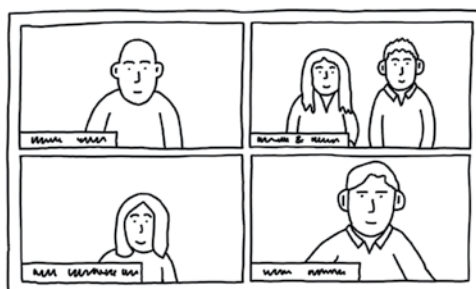


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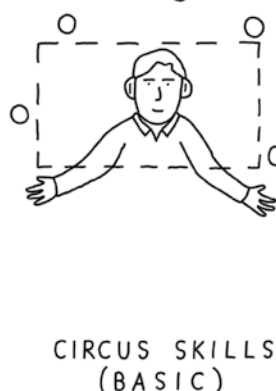
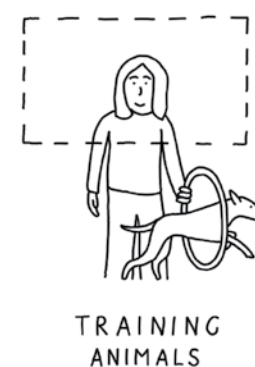
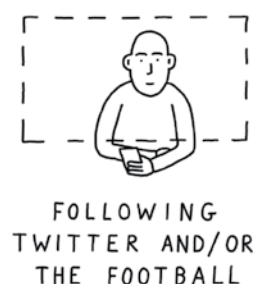


THE ONLINE MEETING

APPEARANCE



REALITY





The Oils. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray



Kerry Baisley, ODNW poses in the sacristy surrounded by empty glass jars that will soon be filled with Holy Oils.



LEFT Reader of the Old Testament, *Isaiah 49:1-7*, John Innes of Christ Church Cathedral. RIGHT Bishop John Stephens and Thurifer, Justin Berger during the Gradual Hymn.



Reader of the Epistle, *1 Corinthians 1:18-31*, the Rev. Terry Shields Dirbas, Rector of St. John, Shaughnessy.



Preacher, the Rev. Ronald Culmer.



“To share in Communion and to sing and worship together was meaningful and a powerful reminder of how important community is in our lives and for our soul.”
Bishop John Stephens



Deacon, the Rev. Neil Seedhouse proclaims the Gospel, *John 12:20-36*.

Chrism Mass 2022

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

In any given year (excluding the Covidtide years which may or may not be gone) there are approximately a half dozen diocesan Celebrations of the Eucharist. These liturgies do not have a fixed date but change every year with the calendar and the moon. Diocesan Confirmations are usually (but not always) in May; Ordinations take place often on or near a Commemoration of a Saint or a Holy Day in June and December; every second year (odd numbered years) the regularly scheduled Diocesan Synod takes place the second or third weekend of May; and the liturgy (recently a Celebration of Morning Prayer) that marks the Investiture of New Members to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW) takes place every second year on even years on the Saturday before All Saints Day (or more specifically the Saturday before the Sunday closest to All Saints Day). The most consistent of diocesan liturgies is the Chrism Mass, more correctly, the Holy Eucharist with Reaffirmation of Baptismal and Ordination Vows, and Blessing of Oils, celebrated at Christ Church Cathedral on the Tuesday of Holy Week (so... still a celebration with no fixed date). This worship is one that does not translate well to Zoom or livestream as an alternative to being there onsite. For it to have real meaning, clergy and lay need to be together in-person. As a diocese we have not gathered for this liturgy since March of 2019, however, that ended on April 12, 2022, as approximately 100 clergy and 40 lay occupied the pews and chairs of Christ Church Cathedral.

This was the first Chrism Mass of Bishop Stephens's episcopacy, and he was moved by the experience. Here is what he said:

“On Tuesday of Holy Week, 2022, for the first time as diocesan bishop I was able to preside in-person at the Chrism Mass. It brought tears to my eyes that I could stand at the altar in our Cathedral and look out on so many of the people and clergy of our diocese as we all reaffirmed our baptismal and ordination vows. To share in Communion and to sing and worship together was meaningful and a powerful reminder of how important community is in our lives and for our soul. I am grateful to God for this opportunity and for this community.”

The preacher for the liturgy was the Rev. Ronald Culmer. The Rev. Culmer was the guest preacher and teacher for Holy Week 2022 at Christ Church Cathedral. He is the Rector of an Episcopal Parish in Northern California's Bay Area. In his address the Rev. Culmer commented on the circumstances of this Chrism Mass:

“In this time of coming together, I'm impressed to see as many of you here as I do. In a way it's a time of redundancy. Clergy from around the diocese, many who haven't seen each other since Clergy Retreat (which will happen again later in the year). Well, we move in close, as we don't get to hear the bishop preach often and, we will collect oils for baptism and anointing the sick, and then we are going to eat lunch together and then what happens is that we eventually part ways. There's a typical rhythm as in some ways it feels more obligatory than necessary. And furthermore, for some time now I've been perplexed by what I could possibly say to this body that has not already been said. Indeed, what is there more to say about Holy Oil... as I sat down to write... the images came of all the powerful ways of which Holy Oils are sacrament.”

Participation in the liturgy was diocesan wide. There were clergy and lay representing several parishes. There were three deacons active in the liturgy, the Reverends Brynne Craffey, Martha Cameron and Neil Seedhouse. Music in worship with congregational singing was led by a solo quartet of members of Cathedral Choir under the leadership of Director of Music/Organist Rupert Lang. Executive Archdeacon and Archdeacon of Vancouver, the Ven. Douglas Fenton was the MC and Bishop John Stephens was the presider, leading the Reaffirmation of Baptismal and Ordination Vows, presiding at the Eucharist and Blessing the Holy Oils. This was also the first diocesan service since March of 2020 offering Communion of both kinds, the Body of Christ and the Blood of Christ in the Common Cup. Many communicants took the Common Cup, some returned to their seats after receiving the Body of Christ and some touched the outside of the chalice in a gesture of acknowledgement.

This is truly a beautiful liturgy, and you are encouraged to mark your calendar for April 4, 2023, in hopes that again we will be able to gather in-person to reaffirm our vows and spend some time in community.

What follows is the content of the inside front page of the Chrism Mass service bulletin assembled by the organizers of the April 12, 2022 liturgy:



Bishop John leads the Renewal of Vows.



Censing the chancel platform prior to the Prayer Over the Gifts.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

THE HOLY OILS

Following the Eucharist and prior to the Dismissal, the bishop blesses three oils: Oil for the Sick, Oil for the Catechumens and the Oil of Sacred Chrism

The Oil of the Sick (OI • *oleum infirmorum*)

The Letter of James urges its recipients to anoint the sick with oil (*James 5:15*), as a sign of the healing and forgiveness that are also given through the Holy Spirit (*Mark 6:13*). In earlier times use of this oil was largely restricted



The return of the Common Cup during Holy Communion.

to persons in the Last Rites at the point of death. Thankfully it is now common practice to make regular use of this provision, as a sign of God's longing for healing and wholeness for everyone.

The Oil for Catechumens (OC • *oleum catechumenorum*)

In part of the tradition, the Catechumens, those preparing during Lent for baptism at Easter, were signed with the Cross near the beginning of their instruction. It has now become the practice in some churches for candidates for Confirmation or Reaffirmation to be signed with the Cross using this oil at the beginning of their course of preparation.

The Oil of Sacred Chrism (SC • *sanctum chrisma*)

Baptism is the sacramental sign of our union with Christ, and of God's gift to us of the Holy Spirit, to make us God's children by adoption and grace, and to equip us for the share that all Christians have in Christ's own mercy. The New Testament speaks of this gift of the Holy Spirit as an anointing (*1 John 2:20-27*, *2 Corinthians 1:21-22*). From an early date, it became customary to trace the sign of the Cross in oil on the heads of candidates for baptism, and to anoint them again after baptism with the Oil of Sacred Chrism—a sign of incorporation into the prophetic, priestly and royal life of Jesus the Christ, the Anointed One.

This oil has also come to be used (after practice in He-

brew Scriptures) for the setting apart of people and things for a special place in the life of the Church, for bishops and priests at their ordination, for kings and queens at their crowning, and for churches and altars at their consecration. ✠

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An audio version of the Rev. Culmer's homily is available on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2022-04-12-chrism-mass-sermon>



Some communicants opted to gently touch the chalice.



MC for the Eucharist, the Ven. Douglas Fenton places the oils for blessing on the altar, assisted by Deacon, the Rev. Martha Cameron of St. Barnabas, New Westminster.



LEFT Bishop John blessing the Sacred Oil of Chrism: "Gracious God, whose blessed Son was anointed by the Holy Spirit to be the Saviour and servant of all, we pray you to send down that same Spirit to consecrate this oil, that those who are sealed with this Chrism may share in the royal priesthood of Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever." RIGHT The majority of the congregation remained to enjoy a Bette Geddes (Sharing Abundance) catered lunch.



Healing Oil of Unction.



Sacred Oil of Chrism ready to be distributed to the parishes and worshipping communities of the diocese.



Vicar, the Rev. Marion Wong; Bishop's Chaplain, Karen Fleischmann; and Deacon of the Word and Table, the Rev. Christine Wilson participate in the Hosannas.

*“In the world of today
as we rethink
how we are to live the gospel
in our time and our place,
St. Titus is an excellent example
of one who understood
much about
church formation and development,
about how to live out faith
in Jesus Christ
and grow
and develop
the Church.”*

Bishop John Stephens

Palm Sunday at St. Titus, Oakridge

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On April 10, 2022, the threat of rain was imminent around the Lower Mainland. Many parishes of the diocese of New Westminster planned to celebrate the Liturgy of the Palms outdoors prior to the commencement of the Sunday of the Passion Eucharist. This was the case at St. Titus, Oakridge, a parish that has gone through considerable transition over the past 15 years, which most recently included a name change and all the legal wrangling that entails. This would also be the first visit to the parish by Bishop John Stephens and the bishop's first visit to the church since the name change. For many years Bishop Stephens was the Regional Archdeacon with responsibility for the parish formerly known as St. Matthias and St. Luke. Happily, the rain did not fall until much later in the morning and the Palm Sunday processional took place with joyful Hosannas sung.

During the opening section of his homily (which followed the reading of the Passion according to St. Luke), Bishop Stephens made these comments about the December 30, 2020, name change:

“This is the first time for me to be here after your name change. I know that it was a complicated decision to change the name of this church and to consider what that means in relation to the future of your ministry and your hopes and prayers for this parish. St. Titus was a contemporary of St. Paul in the early days of the formation of the Church and this seems the perfect patronal saint for a church. In the world of today as we rethink how we are to live the gospel in our time and our place, St. Titus is an excellent example of one who understood much about church formation and development, about how to live out faith in Jesus Christ and grow and develop the Church. Well done on this change.”

The congregation consisted of onsite worshippers and a small contingent joining remotely via Zoom. In fact, the Prayers of the People were led by Elli Sy via Zoom. Although not visible on the screen, the sound was excellent, and the prayers came through with remarkable clarity.

Vicar, the Rev. Marion Wong, Music Director, Kevin Zakresky, DMA and the lay leaders of St. Titus put together a prayerful and uplifting liturgy for Palm Sunday. The music under the leadership of Kevin Zakresky (who is a very fine tenor) was augmented by a guest choral quartet consisting of: Anna Wawzonek, Canita Mai, Heather Fitzgerald, and Mary Ann Saunders. Not only did the singers lead the congregational singing of the hymns and the Mass setting they also offered two choral pieces, Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* and Franck's *O Salutaris Hostia*, the first followed the bishop's homily and the second just prior to the post Communion prayers. Another treat was the superb playing of oboe soloist, Zofia Stefanicki, who is a member of the parish. Situated in the gallery located at the west end of the church she performed a Prelude and a Postlude

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



The sanctuary party gather to rehearse the reading of St. Luke's Passion.



Bishop John leads the Liturgy of the Palms.



The Director of Music leads a rehearsal for the processional *Hosannas*.



Acolyte and vicar are ready to for their roles in the reading of the Passion



The Rev. Marion Wong welcomes the congregation to Palm Sunday worship.



Passion Gospel narrator, the Rev. Wilson.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

both accompanied on the keyboards by Kevin Zakresky. Deacon, the Rev. Christine Wilson, a member of the St. Mary's, Kerrisdale clergy team was "on loan" for Palm Sunday and it was indeed a busy liturgy for a deacon, with the Gospel reading for the Liturgy of the Palms, *Luke 19:28-40* and the narration of the Passion, *Luke 23:1-49*. The Rev. Wilson also prepared the altar for the Eucharist during the Offertory.

Following worship, the Rev. Wong had several announcements, followed by a brief address from Bishop Stephens. Prior to a celebratory lunch in the hall downstairs, Kevin Zakresky screened a new promotion Facebook video titled, *Why Do I Come to St. Titus*, consisting of parishioner testimonials. ✠

Bishop John's sermon is available on the diocesan website (video, audio and text) at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2022-04-10-which-procession-are-we-in>



Bishop John preaching.



The Quartet.



The deacon prepares the altar during the Offertory, *We Are One*.



Eucharistic Prayer.



Oboist, Zofia Stefanicki in gallery.



The outdoor, unmasked, archival episcopal visit photo.

Feed My Sheep

care + share for 2022 – 2023

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ A second time he said to him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Tend my sheep.’ He said to him the third time, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ And he said to him, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.’ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, ‘Follow me.’” (John 21:15-19)

The above account of Jesus’ post-crucifixion appearance in Galilee from John’s Gospel is the source of the title for the current *care + share* initiative. Although there is much room for interpretation, this passage is generally seen as a metaphor for Jesus requesting that his disciples carry on his ministry. The Mission and Ministry team of the diocese of New Westminster have reverse-engineered this concept somewhat as this new phase of *care + share* really is about feeding people.

Throughout the history of the diocese of New Westminster there’s been fundraising for projects that are diocesan in their planning and implementation. *care + share* is the most recent version. It was established following a resolution at Synod 2011. Ministries included in *care + share* do not receive “funding,” instead they receive financial contributions made by parishes and individuals, sent to the Synod Office finance department which forwards funds several times a year to the current recipients. Recipients are selected every two years at Diocesan Synod. One hundred percent of the donations go to the groups that are supported. These donations come in and go out under the diocese of New Westminster’s charitable tax status but the overhead for fundraising and administration is included in the Diocesan Budget, and not taken from donations. Donations may be directed to all ministries or to individual ministries in any combination or amount. Parish and individual gifts are encouraged. For 2022 – 2023 there are nine recipient groups, for 2020 – 2021 there was one. Historically, *care + share* recipients per term have numbered three or four.

Food insecurity has risen in most of the regions that make up the diocese of New Westminster. There is a deep desire to help alleviate this problem and now thanks to *care + share*, people from our diocese can make a significant coordinated impact.

Here are the recipient ministries for 2022 – 2023:

- St. Thomas, Chilliwack
— Food Ministry
- St. Dunstan’s, Aldergrove
— Thursday Community Meal
- Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster
— The Breakfast Club
- St. Barnabas, New Westminster
— Grab and Go
- St. Alban’s, Richmond
— The Lunch Box
- St. Augustine, Marpole
— St. Augustine’s Community Meals & Marpole Food Hub
- St. Mary’s, Kerrisdale
— Food Ministry
- St. Agnes, North Vancouver
— Sharing Abundance
- St. David and St. Paul, Powell River
— Sycamore Commons Vegetable Garden Community Partnership

The above list contains nine food ministries from a large cross-section of the diocese, from Chilliwack to Powell River that have been selected to help meet the need. These ministries are as diverse as the communities they serve. *care + share* is a way to put our dollars into action. A way to offer in abundance, food security, food literacy, access to social services, shared experiences, and more.

The Mission and Ministry team at the diocese of New

Westminster working closely with the Mission and Ministry Committee of the diocese have developed printed materials for display and distribution in every parish and worshipping community. These materials were distributed in late March and early April. Please look at the materials, share them with friends and consider your gift to *care + share*’s *Feed My Sheep*. ✦



The print materials distributed to parishes early in the spring of 2022.

Parish Closings & Mergers in the Diocese

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

During the March 16, 2022 regular meeting of Diocesan Council, the governance body of the diocese of New Westminster, the “Synod between Synods” (borrowing the words of Diocesan Chancellor, George Cadman, QC, ODNW), Council was presented with a number of agenda items regarding parish closings and mergers.

In November 2020, St. Catherine of Alexandria, Port Coquitlam, a parish congregation that had been worshipping in the shared space of Trinity United Church for more than a decade was closed by Archbishop Skelton invoking the provisions of Canon 8, January 31, 2021. This decision was made in full consultation with the parish officers and members. The parish then began the process of merging with St. Laurence, Coquitlam and this was finalized at St. Catherine’s Vestry Meeting, February 2022. At the March 16, 2022 meeting, motions were presented to Council to move the unrestricted financial assets of \$461,478.91 to the unrestricted assets of the Parish of St. Laurence and the restricted portion of \$1,369,743.51 of St. Catherine’s assets currently held in the Consolidated Trust Fund (CTF) transferred to the Anglican Initiatives Fund in order that the investment income be directed to fund a chaplaincy.

Here is a section from the Precis:

“The parish is recommending setting up a new fund under St. Catherine of Alexandria, Port Coquitlam name and to use the future CTF income to fund the salary of a Tri-Cities Deanery Hospital/Care-Home/Hospice Chaplain. The chaplain would visit those in Royal Columbian and Eagle Ridge Hospitals. The chaplain would also make pastoral visits to those parishioners in care-homes and hospices in the Tri-Cities, lead monthly

To make a gift online to *care+share* please visit www.vancouver.anglican.ca and click on one of the “Give” buttons.

For giving options and information please call 604.684.6306, ext. 220.

For more information about *care + share* visit www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/careshare

.....

worship services, collaborate with local clergy, and train and coordinate volunteers to assist in their ministry...

In addition, the parish believes that this will address a concrete diocesan need for dedicated Anglican spiritual care in the Archdeaconry of Westminster. The parish believes that this proposal will be a continuing legacy that honours the many decades of ministry undertaken by the St. Catherine of Alexandria, Port Coquitlam.

After discussion with the bishop, the treasurer (Bob Hardy, ODNW) is recommending that the restricted funds of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Port Coquitlam be transferred to the Anglican Initiatives Fund to create The Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Port Coquitlam Diocesan Chaplaincy Fund. The Administrators of the Anglican Initiatives Fund will be responsible for the Fund. The terms of reference for the Fund will specify that the priority is the funding for chaplaincy and pastoral care in the Archdeaconry of Westminster.

Using the archdeaconry rather than the deanery gives a wider scope in identifying the region within which this chaplaincy and pastoral care will be exercised.”

At the January 25, 2022 meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Property, motions were passed to meet the objectives laid out in the Precis and at the March 16 Council meeting the following motions were carried:

1. THAT the merger of the Parish of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Port Coquitlam and St. Laurence, Coquitlam be approved by Diocesan Council.

Come to Choir Camp at St. Cuthbert's This Summer

BARBARA BUXTON
St. Cuthbert's, North Delta

St. Cuthbert's in North Delta will be running its first ever choir day camp, for young people (8 to 18 years of age). Choir Camp is a weeklong experience for youth, and a two-evening experience for adults, where sacred choral music is enjoyed in a day-camp setting. We will sing a lot, play a lot, make new friends, and learn more than we realize in our short time together.

Along with the usual camp activities (crafts, games, out trips, etc.), all participants will be in the choir that will be training towards leading the Sunday service on July 24, with hymns, anthems and other music of the liturgy. We will be learning new choral music with guest conductor Murray Walker, who will teach some great church music and make you sound wonderful.

Older teens will be an important part of the choir but can also choose to practise their leadership skills, helping out with activities for younger kids. All young people are welcome whether you have singing or choir experience or not. All that is needed is a love of music and a willingness to learn.

For the adults, current St. Cuthbert's choristers, parents, and church members at large, our guest conductor will also be holding two evening and one Saturday rehearsal, so that they may also participate in one grand choir for Sunday morning.

Our guest conductor Murray Walker is the Director of Music at Calvary Episcopal Church, Santa Cruz. A native of Vancouver, Walker holds music degrees in choral conduct-

ing from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and California State University in Long Beach. He is retired from a 40-year career as a music educator, most recently at the York School in Monterey. ✦

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More information and registration forms are available on the St. Cuthbert webpage at <https://www.stcuthbert.ca/events/st-cuthbert-choir-camp/2022-07-18>

Please email registration forms to info@stcuthbert.ca, with "Choir Camp" in the subject line.

If you have questions, please call the church office at 604.594.8822.

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ILLUSTRATION habun (iStock ID#494509587)

Parish Closings & Mergers in the Diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

2. **THAT** Diocesan Council approves that the residual unrestricted financial assets of the Parish of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Port Coquitlam be transferred into the unrestricted assets of St. Laurence, Coquitlam.

3. **THAT** Diocesan Council approves that the restricted capital of the Parish of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Port Coquitlam CTF be invested in newly designated fund called *The Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Port Coquitlam Chaplaincy Fund*. The Administrators of the Anglican Initiatives Fund will be responsible for the Fund. The terms of reference for the Fund will specify that the priority is the funding for chaplaincy and pastoral care in the communities served by the current Archdeaconry of Westminster.

At the Annual Vestry held on February 13, 2002, the Parish of St. Columba, Pitt Meadows passed a Motion to close the parish. The Resolution passed with the required 2/3 majority with only one vote against. On March 16, Diocesan Council approved the request made by the parish that the bishop initiate the necessary legal and canonical processes

for closure. A celebration of the decades of ministry to the Pitt Meadows community will take place Thursday, June 9, 2022. Bishop John Stephens will be present for the Eucharist. This issue of *Topic* may not be in homes and parishes in hard copy form prior to June 9, however, diocesan communications will cover the June 9 liturgy and celebration and make that coverage available on the diocesan website, Diocesan eNews and in future issues of *Topic*.

At the Annual Vestry held on February 27, 2022, the Parish of St. Chad's, Vancouver located in the Arbutus Basin neighbourhood proposed a Motion to close the parish. The Motion was carried unanimously. At the March 16 meeting of Diocesan Council, the request made by St. Chad to close was approved by Council. The celebration of decades of ministry to the Arbutus Basin neighbourhood and specifically to those who's first languages are Mandarin and Cantonese took place Thursday, May 26. Coverage of that celebration is available on the diocesan website and will

be published in upcoming issues of *Topic*. The closing of the parish and subsequent distribution of assets will create new opportunities to explore and implement ministry for Chinese language speakers in the diocese.

As was mentioned on page 15 of the May issue of *Topic*, the Parish of St. Martin, North Vancouver held an Extraordinary Vestry Meeting on Sunday, March 27 and passed a Motion to close the parish with the goal of merging with the Parish of St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver. As of this writing in early May of 2022, Diocesan Council approval for the closing and merger is still pending. However, Bishop John Stephens, Executive Archdeacon, the Ven. Douglas Fenton, and Archdeacon of Capilano, the Ven. Stephen Muir support the parish's decision to close and the desire of the two parishes to merge. A merger is detailed and complicated, so please keep all those involved in this process over the coming months in your prayers. More coverage will be distributed as the process evolves. ✦



Bishop John blesses one of the younger members of the congregation during the Eucharist. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray



Rector and bishop discuss the flow of the liturgy prior to worship.



The clergy enjoy a lighthearted moment in the rector's office prior to the procession.



Shawkat Shammass reads the Old Testament, *Isaiah 43:16-21* in Aramaic.

Episcopal Visit to the Church of the Epiphany for Lent V

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

Although Bishop John Stephens grew up in Vancouver and has served as a priest in the diocese of New Westminster for almost three decades, and has served as an archdeacon with Epiphany's rector of 20+ years, the Rev. Stephen Rowe, Sunday, April 3, 2022, Lent V was his first ever visit to the Guildford neighbourhood parish. He was not disappointed, as it was a great day for all involved.

With onsite worship gradually returning at that point in time to pre-COVID norms, the large in-person turnout at Epiphany for Lent V certainly sent a signal that things were changing. The great majority of those gathered were wearing masks and as per the diocesan policy still in place on that Sunday, Communion was administered in one kind only, the Body of Christ.

Beginning in late 2013, a substantial cohort of Chaldean Christians (Catholic) began worshipping at Epiphany following a Chaldean priest who had begun attending the Surrey church. Most of the Chaldean diaspora are immigrants from Iraq, many were refugees. Over the years, the children have grown up in the parish and Epiphany is so much the richer. Five years ago, the parish received some diocesan start-up funding that allowed for the hiring of two translators, Talal Labbo and Albert Mikhael who are now leaders and play an essential role in the worship life of the parish. Although the language of liturgy in the Chaldean church is Aramaic, the Chaldeans are Arabic speakers and Albert and Mikhael provide translation services.

The Eucharist for Lent V also included the Reception into the Anglican Communion of Carol Ann Brown. In addition to the Epiphany worship leaders, the sanctuary party included, Deacon of the Word and Table, the Rev.

Paul Richards from the Parish of the Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock and in addition to his regular translator duties, Albert Mikhael took the role of Bishop's Chaplain.

The bishop took the Gospel, *John 12:1-8* for his text and explored in-depth Mary of Bethany's (the sibling of Lazarus) anointing of Jesus. He said:

"...we were told that Mary took a pound of costly perfume. A pound, a generous and expensive amount of perfume, an extravagant amount. She took it out of its carefully crafted container and gently wiped it on Jesus' aching feet. The room filled with this beautiful fragrance, wafting, caressing the room as she slowly covered his feet with it and then wiped it off with her hair. The Bible does not say this, but I am pretty sure that the room was silent as this was taking place. Perhaps shocked silence, perhaps respectful silence, perhaps outraged silence, perhaps affirming silence, perhaps silence which spoke to the fear and concern. But silence fell as Mary let the scent speak to what was taking place.

I wonder if everyone knew what she was doing as clearly as Jesus seemed to know that she was anointing him for his death. I wonder if everyone understood that this was something that needed doing, to affirm that Jesus was going to die because, because well, because he proclaimed that God's love was greater than hate, that forgiveness was more important than judgment, that indeed grace and mercy should be seen and known, that death was not the end.

You see in the face of Christ's death, Mary did what she might have felt was the only thing possible. While words, as it is for many who have been overwhelmed by grief, while words could not capture the situation or explain it or bring any relief from it, Mary did what seemed the best response in a dreaded time. While she mourned what was to happen, she affirmed that indeed death would not have the final say, that life was God-filled and God-centred. Her statement was to affirm that while she did not have the words to explain her grief or understand her dread, she took out this costly perfume and covered Jesus' feet and the entire room with its sweet odour that named her pain but also pointed to her hope."

Following the liturgy, Bishop John, the Rev. Rowe, and translator Albert remained vested and took positions at the chancel entrance for a Q&A. Many of the questions involved items of specific interest to the Chaldean diaspora, specifically refugee ministry and an increase in liturgies available in languages other than English. There were some questions about when children and youth ministry might return with more intensity and the usual "When will things return to normal?" type of question.

There was a lunch with finger foods in the hall and after that Bishop John met with members of the Epiphany Building Committee continuing the parish's desire to sell a section of their property to help fund the building of a purpose-built church that will serve the needs of the current congregation and the neighbourhood for decades to come. ✠

Bishop John Stephen's sermon is available in video, audio and text on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/podcasts/media/2022-04-03-god-s-anointing-in-a-dark-and-desperate-time>



Shelley Prendergast, ODNW leads *Psalm 126:1-7*.



Stella Inimbga reads the Epistle, *Philippians 3:4b-14*.



LEFT Deacon, the Rev. Paul Richards makes the Sign of the Cross during the Gospel Acclamation.



LEFT Carol Ann Brown is Received into the Anglican Communion through the laying on of hands.



Holy Communion.



Rector and Bishop's Chaplain/Translator with the post-Communion announcements prior to the Episcopal Blessing and Closing Hymn.



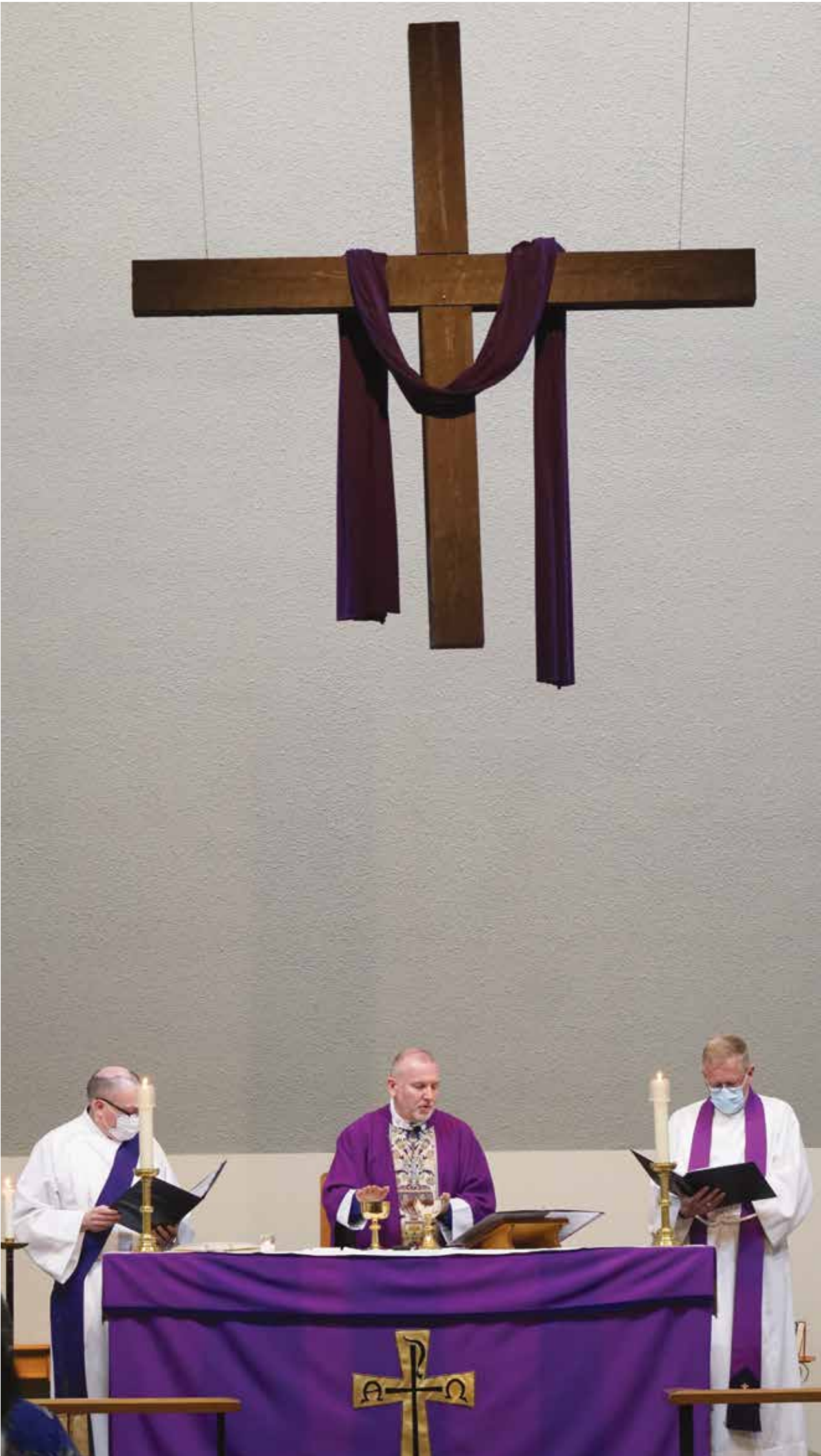
Bishop John has heard something amusing during the rector's announcements.



In place for the Q&A.



Surrey's newest Anglican (at the time) poses for a photo with Bishop John.



Prayer over the Gifts, full height view from the nave.

Holy Week Photo Sampler 2022

Many thanks to Wayne Chose for these fabulous photos of three of the Holy Week liturgies at Christ Church Cathedral. This selection of 40+ photos tell the story of a faith community returning to worship with all the accoutrements in place following 25 months of gathering restrictions. Limiting attendance was removed, and the sharing of the Common Cup returned, as did congrega-

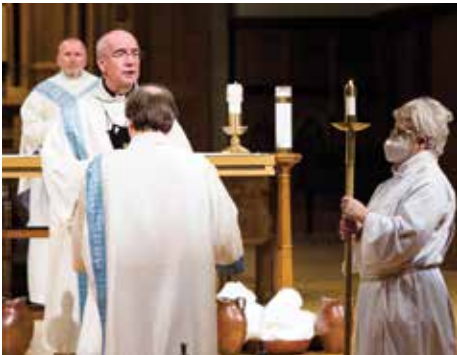
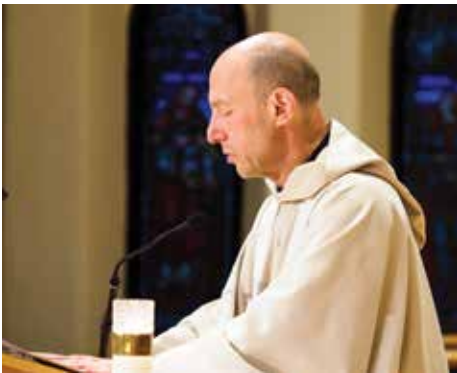
tional singing (masked and unmasked). Children gathered on the chancel platform steps at the beginning of worship. Physical distancing was still observed when it came to the passing of the Peace and the collection plate, however, these may prove to be COVID-19 inspired changes that have some longevity. ✠

More photos on pages 14 & 15...

April 14 Maundy Thursday



LEFT Processing in. MIDDLE Deacon, the Rev. Alisdair Smith proclaims the Gospel. RIGHT Guest preacher and teacher for Holy Week, the Rev. Ronald Culmer.



LEFT Bishop John washing the feet of a younger member of the congregation. MIDDLE The Reserve Sacrament. RIGHT The Rev. Jessica Schaap reads *Matthew 26:30-46* during the Stripping and Washing of the Altar.



Cathedral Choir and Director of Music, Rupert Lang lead the Psalm.



The Rev. Alisdair Smith censing the chancel platform.



The candles are snuffed out prior to the stripping and washing the altar.



The dean and bishop wash the altar.

April 15 The Great Vigil of Easter



After the candlelight procession in from the Cathedral's Plaza the sanctuary party and congregation are in place for the first section of the worship.



Deacon, the Rev. Jeffrey Preiss chants the Exsultet, the Easter Proclamation.



Rupert Lang conducts Cathedral Choir.



The lights come up and the procession is in place at the chancel entrance.



Dr. Bill Orr reads the Epistle.



LEFT Deacon of the Word, the Rev. Jeffrey Preiss, the Gospel Procession.



RIGHT The preacher for the Easter Vigil, Pastor Ingrid Doerschel of St. Mark's, Lutheran Church.



Baptismal candidate with family and sponsors.



Baptismal candidates with family and sponsors.



Censing the altar during the Offertory.



Sursum Corda.



Episcopal Blessing.



Easter Vigil fire on the Cathedral's Plaza, April 16.

Holy Week Photo Sampler 2022

April 16 Easter Day Festal Eucharist



LEFT Decorations on one side of the chancel platform and if you look you may see a “hidden” Easter egg. RIGHT The sanctuary party acknowledges the altar following the procession in.



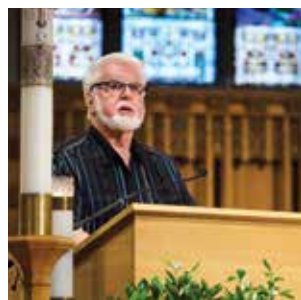
LEFT Opening Prayers on Easter Day. RIGHT Lauren has found a message within an egg discovered by a young parishioner.



Children's Time with Jane Dittrich and Lauren Odile Pinkney.



LEFT Vice-Chancellor of the diocese and Cathedral Warden, Kevin Smith, ODNW assisting some younger members of the congregation find some eggs. RIGHT Susan Alexander with the First Reading.



LEFT Ed Friesen reads the Epistle. RIGHT Deacon of the Word, the Rev. Alisdair Smith proclaims the Easter Gospel.



Cathedral Choir with Rupert Lang on the bench — some masked, some not — lead the Psalm.



Dean Pappas preaching.



The Gifts of God for the People of God.



LEFT Dean Pappas administers the Body of Christ during Holy Communion. RIGHT Bishop John administers the Body of Christ during Holy Communion.



Decorations in front of the chancel stairs leading to the ambo.



Wayne Chose was not the only photographer submitting content to diocesan communications and *Topic* for Holy Week. Photos were also received from John Ruddick, Jane Dittrich and Derek Simpkins. ✝

More Holy Week photos



On Palm Sunday, choristers, rector, crucifer lead the Liturgy of the Palms on the plaza at St. Stephen's, West Vancouver. PHOTO John Ruddick



Umbrellas in Gastown on Monday, April 11. PHOTO Jane Dittrich



At the Children's Good Friday Service at 10am on April 15, Greyson greets the congregation. PHOTO Jane Dittrich



Families working on Easter activities in the Cathedral chancel on Good Friday. PHOTO Jane Dittrich



On Good Friday, Sarah Nation from the Cathedral's Altar Guild and Lauren Odile Pinkney the Cathedral's Children, Youth and Families Minister, help children build Easter story gardens. PHOTO Jane Dittrich



LEFT The Rev. Jessica Schaap blesses the Easter story gardens that the children built on Good Friday to be presented on Easter Sunday. RIGHT Floral Cross. PHOTOS Jane Dittrich



The Rev. Manweiler proclaims the Easter Day Gospel. PHOTO Derek Simpkins



Lamentation Tree on the altar. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray



Bishop John is introduced to Squamish Elder Xwechtaal (Dennis Joseph) by Sue Cruickshank, ODNW and Kerry Baisley, ODNW.

They Are Not Just Statistics

Opioid Crisis Service of Lament

RANDY MURRAY
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

“On this date, April 14 of 2016, the provincial health officer of the day, Dr. Perry Kendall declared a public health emergency in relation to the opioid-related overdose deaths. In 2016, the rate of overdose deaths per 100,000 people was 20.4. That rate in 2021 was 43 deaths per 100,000 people.

2,224 deaths last year, more than six people dying every day. Every day.

These are the statistics and perhaps if we simply keep them as statistics, we can try to ignore them or avoid them or not make any real eye contact with them. But these are real people. People who are our neighbours.

They are brothers, sisters, parents, children. They are uncles, aunties, teachers, lawyers, friends. They are people who work in grocery stores, coffee shops, offices, universities. They are people who know the streets, walk the streets, drive the streets, or have a fancy home on a street. They are like me, they are like you, they are like those people in our lives whom we love and cherish and appreciate. They are all of this and of so much more.

But they are real people. Real people with dreams and aspirations and hopes and fears. Real people who laughed and cried and wondered how this world could be a better, kinder, gentler place. Real people who sadly probably died on their own even though there are many others who could have tried to help them. They are individuals just like us gathered here today to mourn them and mourn what continues to take place. They are not just statistics.”

With these preceding paragraphs Bishop John Stephens began his reflection shared at the Opioid Crisis Service of Lament at Christ Church Cathedral at 2pm on Maundy Thursday (April 14, 2022). This liturgy was organized by members of the Cathedral parish, clergy, and representatives of Providence Health Care and Vancouver Coastal Health. The Very Rev. Chris Pappas, Deacon of the diocese of New Westminster and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral was present as were Cathedral clergy team members; the Reverends Clare Morgan, Armand Mercier and Deacon, Alisdair Smith. The Rev. Morgan supplied harp music for prayer and reflection prior to the service and read an Epistle, *Romans 8:22-23, 26-27, 31-39*. The Rev. Mercier welcomed those who had arrived to participate, and he also spent some time being interviewed by CBC News, explaining to the media the purpose of the liturgy that afternoon.

Squamish Elder Xwechtaal (Dennis Joseph) offered a welcome, a territorial acknowledgement and a powerful *Travel Song*.

The Public Health Reflection was a principal component. Philip Murray, Spiritual Health Practitioner, Vancouver Coastal Health, well-know to many in the diocese had originally been scheduled to attend, however in his absence Beth Burton of Providence Health Care read the report that Philip had written. It contained, with some additional detail much of the material that Bishop John addressed in his reflection. A significant part of the ceremony was the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



Bishop John listens to the welcome by Xwechtaal.



Singing and drumming Travel Song.



Beth Burton of Providence Health Care reads Philip Murray's reflection.



Members of Providence Health Care place the tree on the altar.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Lamentation Tree. Branches drawn on presentation board with accompanying paper leaves. People attending the service were asked to write names of victims of the opioid crisis and/or memorial messages on the leaves and then affix them to the tree. The Lamentation Tree was processed into the sanctuary by two members of Providence Health Care, Rejoice Anthony (who is also a Christ Church Cathedral parishioner) and Kate Wilkinson and placed on the altar prior to Bishop John's Reflection. Service organizer, Sue Cruickshank, ODNW and the Rev. Alisdair Smith offered prayers followed by Beth and Rejoice taking turns reading Jan Richardson's *Blessing When the World is Ending*.

*Look, the world
is always ending
somewhere.*

*Somewhere
the sun has come
crashing down.*

*Somewhere
it has gone
completely dark.*

*Somewhere
it has ended
with the gun
the knife
the fist.*

*Somewhere
it has ended
with the slammed door
the shattered hope.*

*Somewhere
it has ended
with the utter quiet
that follows the news
from the phone
the television
the hospital room.*

*Somewhere
it has ended
with a tenderness
that will break
your heart.*

*But, listen,
this blessing means
to be anything
but morose.
It has not come
to cause despair.*

*It is simply here
because there is nothing
a blessing
is better suited for
than an ending,
nothing that cries out more
for a blessing
than when a world
is falling apart.*

*This blessing
will not fix you
will not mend you
will not give you
false comfort;
it will not talk to you
about one door opening
when another one closes.*

*It will simply
sit itself beside you
among the shards
and gently turn your face
toward the direction
from which the light
will come,
gathering itself
about you
as the world begins
again.*

A solo quartet consisting of members of Cathedral Choir under the direction of Rupert Lang punctuated the liturgy with music appropriate for prayer and reflection culminating in Rupert Lang's well-known funeral piece, *Kontakion*.

The busyness of Holy Week proved to be a less than an opportune time to schedule another liturgy, however, those who were involved, those who participated and those who attended will never forget the hour they spent together on a rainy Thursday afternoon in early Spring lamenting the grave opioid crisis in our province, and the inability of all of us, not just governments to come up with an holistic plan to begin putting an end to this senseless loss of life. ✠



View from the nave of the chancel platform during the bishop's reflection.



The intercessors, Sue Cruickshank and the Rev. Alisdair Smith.



Rejoice Anthony and Katie Wilkinson take turns reading verses of *Blessing When the World is Ending*.



The Rev. Clare Morgan closed the liturgy with an acapella postlude.

.....
Jan Richardson's *Blessing When the World is Ending* is from *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*;
© Jan Richardson — janrichardson.com



PARISH DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

INTENT TO APPLY FORM AND INFORMATION SHEETS
NOW AVAILABLE



Diocese of New Westminster
ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Parish Development Grants for 2023

On March 27, 2022, Laetare Sunday, the Program Development Grants Team of the diocese of New Westminster launched the Parish Development Grants program for 2023.

The overall purpose of Parish Development Grants is to assist parishes in the diocese as they develop, with God's help, into healthier, more faithful, and more effective communities of faith. The Team are interested, therefore, in making grants to parishes that have a vision for their own development and would like diocesan assistance in moving toward the vision.

In preparing an application, parish leaders may find the following definition of parish development helpful:

Parish Development is the development of parishes of all sizes, locations, and conditions into more faithful, healthy, and effective communities of faith that are:

- Focused on and faithful to their unique reason for being/primary task as parishes, which are local expressions of the Body of Christ that gather people into Christian community, transform people in their baptismal identity and purpose, and send them out to be God's presence in the world.
- Connected to and expressive of their unique ecclesial tradition, ethos, and character.
- Self-renewing and responsive to the challenges and opportunities before them.
- Sustainable or working towards greater sustainability in terms of congruence (or "fit") between the elements of their organizational life: vision for ministry, leadership, culture, size, property, finances, etc.
- Nurture a *parish culture* that is transparent, honest, open to learning and hopeful.

Some examples of the kinds of grants the Team would like to support are:

- Grants that seek to increase attendance, and stewardship within a parish via the development of an additional liturgy that will attract new people and/or a different population to the parish.
- Grants that seek to build the capacity of a parish to attract and form children in Christian faith via the initiation of Godly Play or some other program of children's formation.
- Development of pilot programs of any size that would be of benefit to the broader Church and are sustainable by the parish over time.

Over the past few years Grant money distributed has gone to a wide variety of projects, from music concert series produced in partnerships with organizations in the community to new appliances for a commercial grade kitchen to audio/visual/tech equipment to aid in livestreaming, liturgical production and parish communications to establishing programs for Christian formation to serve seekers of all ages.

\$15,000 is the maximum amount which will be granted to a project in a single year. ✠

Intent to Apply forms and information sheets are now on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-resources/grants-loans/pages/grants-for-parish-development> or scan the QR Code below or on the poster above.

There is a firm submission deadline of August 30, 2022.

The diocese does not fund capital projects through this Parish Development Grants process, funds for such projects may be accessed through other granting facilities.



Investiture of New Members to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster 2022

WHEN Saturday,
November 5, 2022
at 10:30am

WHERE The Massey Theatre
735 Eighth Avenue,
New Westminster



AROUND THE DIOCESE

White Rock Parish Aids Ukrainian Relief

Financial aid through PWRDF
SUBMISSION Paul Richards

In early April, Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock, generously provided \$5,000 to the Ukrainian Relief Fund through the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF). Additionally, the parish, in cooperation with the Ukrainian Ortho-

dox Church of St. Mary in Surrey, provided essentials of bedding, blankets, food, towels, pillows, socks, underwear, diapers, and medication for distribution to displaced persons from Ukraine. ✦



Here we see, Deacon, the Rev. Paul Richards in front of St. Mary's with a car full of donations. PHOTO Submitted

Retired Archdeacon Celebrates 50 Years a Priest

The Venerable Ronald Harrison's Golden Anniversary

April 16, 2022 was the 50th anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood of the Ven. Ronald Harrison.

Archdeacon Harrison is well-known to many in the diocese as his ministry posts include Rector of the Parish of St. Augustine; Rector of St. Philip, Dunbar; Associate Editor of *Topic* (photography division);

Archdeacon of Vancouver; and Executive Archdeacon of the diocese of New Westminster. Ronald retired in 2012.

Ronald was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale by then-Coadjutor Bishop David Somerville in 1971. In 1972, he was priested while "on loan" as an assistant curate in the Epis-

Kwhlii Gibaygum Nisga'a Dancers Returned to the Boards April 23

Many thanks to Jer Nii K'an Kwsdins (Jerry Adams) for sharing this photo.

Kwhlii Gibaygum Nisga'a dancers performed at the Anvil Centre Theatre in New Westminster during the afternoon of Saturday, April 23.

According to Jerry: "It was great to be back with our dance group and leaders

Keane and Emm, after more than two years."

Kwhlii Gibaygum Nisga'a Dancers have been generous with their time and talent performing at many diocesan and national Anglican church liturgies and events. They have been missed during the two years of COVID-19. ✦



The Sun Run is Back!

On "low" Sunday, April 24, 2022, the Second Sunday of Easter, the Vancouver Sun Run returned to onsite/in-person participation.

Christ Church Cathedral parishioner and diocesan comms contributor, Jane Dittrich was there with her camera at the corners of Burrard and West Georgia to get some snaps of the participants gathering at the START and some snaps of the

spectators.

Following a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19 the 2022 turnout was an impressive 23,000, approximately half of the 2019 numbers but still no small crowd.

The Sun Run was held virtually in 2020 and 2021. There was a virtual component to the 2022 edition as well with several thousand enrolled and participating on their own away from the crowds. ✦



A view of Burrard and Georgia from the Cathedral's plaza.



Folks on the plaza in front of the Cathedral's main entrance.

copal Diocese of Ohio. He was ordained in Cleveland.

To celebrate the beloved cleric, a few

of his friends (and some other people he knows) gathered for a celebratory luncheon on Wednesday, April 13. ✦



Front row: Sandy Harrison and the guest of honour, the Ven. Ronald Harrison. Back row (left to right): Neale Adams, ODNW, Rob Dickson, Thomas Roach, ODNW, Conrad Guelke, ODNW, Randy Murray, Peter Elliott, Melanie Delva, ODNW, and Stephen Rowe.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Eastern Fraser Valley Food Bank Challenge Returns for 2022

SUBMISSION Art Turnbull

Peace Lutheran congregation in Abbotsford challenged the Anglican Parish of St. Matthew to a second year of collecting food for the Archway Community Food Bank. This year the goal was set for the two groups to collect 2,022 pounds of non-perishables. The one collecting the most weight would be treated to a Tea (not the cup but the afternoon light meal) by the other. This was done as a Lent project ending on Easter Sunday. By Palm Sunday St. Matthews had collected 1,160.5 pounds with the Peace folk at just under 600. On Easter Sunday there was another estimated 300 pounds in the narthex at St. Matthews, with Peace having another 200 added to their total. The 2,022 goal was met! It was no trouble at all.

Trouble is a strange word. Living in troubled times creates problems for too many neighbours, whether they are in our backyard, or caught up between nations. The Archway Community Food Bank knows all about these difficulties. This time last year they were feeding approximately 3,000 people every month. Today they are serving over 4,000 of our neighbours, folks who have come into troubled times. No one knew that COVID-19 would become alarm-

ingly aggressive in 2021. No one knew that the cost of living would increase the burden of daily life, especially for all of those on fixed incomes. No one knew that the year end would be impacted by a massive flood. So many troubles, for so many people.

It is a pleasure and a responsibility to serve one's neighbours who need an extra helping hand. There may be many causes for people to be in a receiving situation. To be able to assist now is our mission of caring. That we may be in need of assistance in the future no one knows. None of us are immune to troubles. It is also in giving that we receive.

This is what this year's food challenge was all about.

"I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty, in any and all circumstances. I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me." That is what St. Paul said. (Philippians 4:12-13)

Sharing with others is no trouble for the Christian community in Abbotsford. God helps all of us. ✠



The Rev. Allen Doerksen blessed the food items collected at St. Matthew's. (Left to right) Dick Martin, Linda Burton and the Rev. Art Turnbull presenting the gifts of Palm Sunday. PHOTO Mary Lee

New Rector Appointed to White Rock Parish

Bishop John Stephens Appointed the Reverend Fr. Joseph Dirbas as Rector of the Parish of the Church of the Holy Trinity, effective June 1, 2022.

Here is a brief bio that Fr. Dirbas was kind enough to forward to Topic:

The Rev. Joseph Dirbas was ordained to the priesthood in December 2010. Fr. Dirbas received a Bachelor of Science degree in Electronic Engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo,



California and a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from California State University, Fullerton, California. Fr. Dirbas worked as an engineer and business unit manager for a small defense contractor in San Diego for nearly 20 years before his seminary education at the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church in New York. Upon completion of his Master of Divinity, Fr. Dirbas served as the associate rector at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Del Mar, California. In February 2014, Fr. Dirbas was called to serve as rector of All Souls' Episcopal Church in Point Loma. Fr. Dirbas resigned his position as rector in preparation for his family's move to Vancouver as his wife, the Rev. Terry Shields Dirbas had been called and appointed as the Rector of St. John's, Shaughnessy. Fr. Dirbas and his family immigrated to Canada in December 2021. Fr. Dirbas and Mother Terry Dirbas have five children: George and Jeannie (age 10), Chatham (age 5), and James and Mary (age 2).

A Celebration of a New Ministry Eucharist that will contain the induction of Fr. Dirbas by Bishop John Stephens is scheduled to take place at 7pm on June 16, 2022. More information about the Eucharist will be available on the diocesan website's Events pages. ✠

Capilano University Announces New Director of Choral Music



PHOTO Submitted

Kevin Zakresky, DMA, Director of Music at St. Titus, Oakridge announced via Facebook on April 25 that he has been chosen as the Director of the Choral Music Program at Capilano University beginning September 2022.

Dr. Zakresky's current credits include teaching singing at the Vancouver Symphony School of Music; touring the world as a conductor for the National Geographic Symphony, Zelda Symphony of the Goddesses, Heroes Symphony; directing the Vancouver Woman's Chorus; and his current and ongoing role as Director of Music at St. Titus. He is also known for facilitating a broad range of choral music workshops and learning sessions. Past credits include teaching positions at Simon Fraser University and Douglas College; Assistant Conductor of Chor Leoni Men's Choir; Director of the Pacifica Singers; and Conductor of the Prince George Symphony Orchestra.

He received his Doctorate from Yale University in 2012. ✠

Prayers for Peace in Ukraine

Every Thursday from 1:15pm to 1:30pm St. Augustine, Marpole (8680 Hudson Street) offers a brief prayer liturgy. In the photo we see the vicar, the Rev. Katherine Hough and the deacon, the Rev. Chris Magrega, and

on the table there is an additional "taper" in a candle holder that the Rev. Magrega lit for Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, as the prayer for peace service began on April 28. ✠

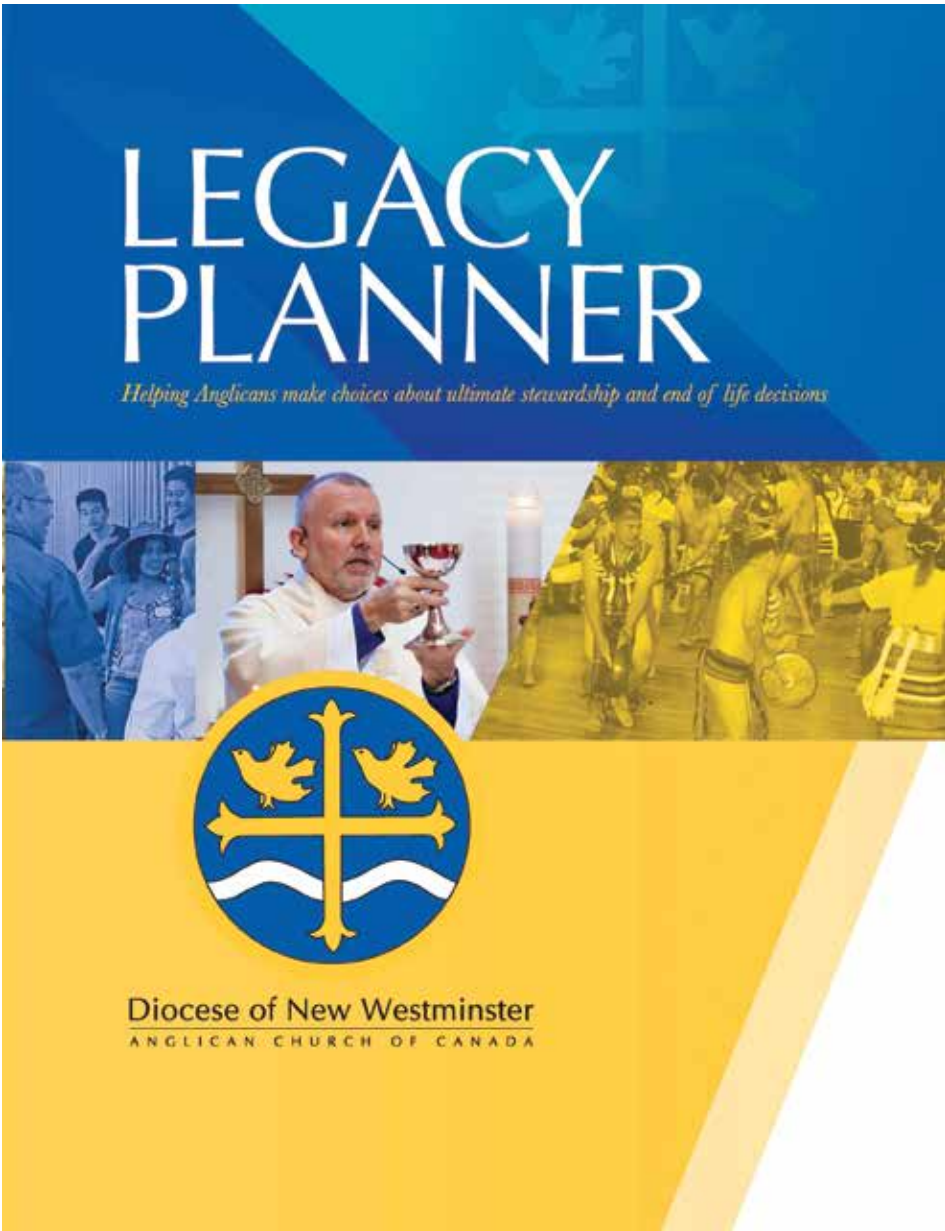


AROUND THE DIOCESE

Legacy Planner 2022 | Now Available

In 2015, Synod staff representing the Mission & Ministry and Communications departments assembled a Legacy Planner booklet. This diocesan publication has proved very useful for those who have chosen to use it, however, it is safe to say that despite glowing recommendations it was not widely shared. The planner is an ideal tool for individual or group planning sessions. Many parishes in the diocese host Legacy Planning sessions and this would be an excellent add.

As of this writing there has not been a print run done of the Planner, however, if you would like a copy or copies please contact, Communications Officer, Randy Murray by email at rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca or Administrative Assistant, Elias Neto by email at eneto@vancouver.anglican.ca and they will direct you to where you can find an electronic copy ready for downloading on the diocesan website, or they would be happy to print a copy and send it to you or your parish. ✚



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

DEADLINE
FOR TOPIC SUBMISSIONS
JULY 22
FOR THE FALL
(SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER)
ISSUE

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

OPINION

Rules | Colouring Inside the Lines

ART TURNBULL

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

As a young student in elementary school, I was taught to colour within the lines. *Teacher said so!* It took me a few years to get it right. Some classmates never got it straight. As adults, some of these “outside the lines” people drive their vehicles (especially pick-up trucks) outside and over the lines. They colour a different picture. *Rules never learned* do not keep us within these lines.

When Gordi and I got married at Camp Borden, the wedding was held in the brand-new chapel building. We were one of the first to be wed in that sanctuary. We were also one of the first couples to be married using the liturgy of the new *Canadian Book of Common Prayer* (1959), published just weeks before. The rubrics and wording dropped words like “and obey.” They must have dropped some other rules that I did not find in the years gone by. For example, hidden somewhere from easy view is a rule that seems to say that if the marriage gets a bit boring or difficult, you can get divorced easily. I couldn’t find that in the *Book of Alternative Services* (1985). Seems to me that



PHOTO Andrii Yalanskyi (iStock ID#1192872459)

half of the couples getting married go and break the rules rather than do the harder work of staying together “until death do us part.” I am old-fashioned and perhaps not up to speed on modern rules. Perhaps rules are meant to be broken. But at what cost?

It is said that history repeats itself. Over the last few centuries, certainly in the immediate past century, there have been wars to end all wars. Unless we forget. There is a rule to be learned and learned again and again — violence begets violence. The siege

mentality that has been thrust upon cities of Ukraine by enemy forces is not new. Hebrew scripture explains the tactical skill of siege warfare. Read the book of *Joshua 6:1-27*, to see the rule being developed. Every hundred years we see this method being applied as if no rules ever existed to say, “No!” Violence is alive and well, or dead and ill, in Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas. Is there no rule to say that we humans need to pay attention and learn the lessons needed?

The Bible, for many people, is seen as a book of rules, a lot of *thou shalt not*s. Many individuals use this idea to leave religion alone, to blame God for their mistakes, to use bits and pieces that they think are the nicest. Yes, there are many rules and directions in the Bible, words to guide and encourage us to live together in harmony. Yet, we break the rules, forget the rules, and do not dedicate ourselves to seek out the rules that we still need to learn.

The greatest of rules, rules not meant to be broken, but to be learned, retained, and lived is given to us by Jesus.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it; you shall love your neighbour as yourself.”

It is my opinion that this commandment, this ruling, by Jesus, to us, can be learned, and lived by all of us. It is not meant to be broken. It is such a rule that you can use it within the lines and creatively enjoy as you create new lines on the canvas of life. ✚

Dust Into Which God Has Breathed Life

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

Early June is time to dig out the compost that is ready for use and transfer it to the raised beds in the vegetable garden. Composting is science, art and intuition and use of a compost thermometer. All those layers, seaweed, grass, kitchen biodegradables, manure, twigs, cardboard, were once individual layers. Now they are big sweet-smelling garden gold.

What is the identity of finished compost? Can the components be separated?

What is my identity? Who am I as a spouse, a sister, a godmother, a gardener, an Anglican, a friend, or a senior? Each one of those is both the same me and *not* the same me. I shift with the weather, with health, changing bank account, the international news. On top of that is my ethnicity, my gender, my status, belongings, and my idols. In each state there are subtle and not so subtle differences. Not only differences but even contradictions.

“Do I contradict myself?” wrote the poet Walt Whitman. “Very well then, I contradict myself. I am large, I contain multitudes.”

On the way to Pentecost (June 5 in 2022), rejoicing in warmer temperatures and increased day light, my spiritual life



IMAGE Terra 24 (iStock ID#479440915)

fluctuated again. The rites of a liturgical tradition allow me a fluidity of feeling and experiences. Fluidity is healthy. There is no hurt or harm in discovering and exploring the inner layers. If there is a problem, it is with being static, with getting stuck in assigned roles that feel restricted. Same goes for theologies.

In her book *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Episcopal priest and theologian Barbara T. Brown identifies her fluidity as

“lunar,” many changes but not chaos. When we speak of “dark” emotions, she says, it’s not that some emotions themselves are dark but that we try to keep them hidden. When I turn a compost pile, I can see what was there in the moist dark but in the process of coming to light I see how they have blended and changed each other.

Can identity be forged or forced? Can I create a new identity for myself? That seems a little harsh. Allowing transformations

of raw material is a slow process. Are we at our centre dark coal dust or star dust? That requires some heavy theological lifting not to be undertaken here (*Pelagian* or *Augustinian*).

One of the Genesis Creation stories tells us, we are both. Dust of the ground *and* the divine breath. The Gospel describes fearful disciples hiding in a room after the crucifixion. Christ breathed on them, then gave them tasks.

COVID, war, inflation, weather; we also are fearful disciples. From Resurrection to Pentecost rites, was one layer of identity. Now back to our “ordinary” tasks, we still long for that breath of God to transform all our oppositions and detritus. May they be transformed into gold.

You could call it a theology of worms. A good compost is like a good liturgy. It is generative; moves us to another phase of our completion. Who we are, as Paul tells the Galatians, is a process of becoming. Ashes mixed with sparkles. ✦

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This time of year, Hannah Main-van der Kamp is in her Powell River garden as much as possible. Yes, there is such a thing as a compost thermometer.

The Past is a Foreign Country

LESLIE BUCK
Topic Contributor & Blogger

Jesus College, founded in 1496, is a constituent college of the University of Cambridge in England. It is exceptional in having a Master, Sonita Alleyne, who is a woman and who is Black. She is the first Black woman to be Master of a Cambridge college.

Tobias Rustat was a benefactor of Jesus College. He was a courtier to King Charles II and his memorial in the form of a stone plaque is mounted on the west wall of the college chapel. Last year, the college authorities decided that the memorial should be removed from the chapel and located elsewhere in the college. They wanted to dissociate themselves from Rustat’s involvement in the transatlantic slave trade which, they claimed, was the source of his benefaction.

A group of graduates of Jesus College opposed the removal, counterclaiming that whatever profit Rustat had made from the slave trade had accrued 20 years after his donation, and five years after the completion of the memorial, and could not have been the source of the benefaction.

To remove the memorial, the college authorities had first to obtain permission from the Bishop of Ely because the chapel is a listed building. The bishop passed responsibility for deciding the matter to Michael Hodge, his Deputy Chancellor, and in a judgment that runs to 108 pages, Hodge sided with the opposers and denied permission.

Hodge was at pains to point out that he was not excusing Rustat’s involvement in slavery, but he accepted the opposers’ argument about the timing and source of the benefaction. He suggested, further, that keeping the memorial in place (and knowing of Rustat’s involvement in the slave trade?) may lead us to reflect on our own involvement with modern slavery associated with, for example, cheap consumer goods from developing countries.

The Rustat memorial is not the only memorial in Jesus College Chapel. As in most, if not all, Anglican churches, there are several memorials, one being for the revered, Thomas Cranmer. In his judgment, Hodge



Tobias Rustat Memorial. PHOTO Courtesy of the Cambridge Independent website

addresses the question: “If Rustat why not Cranmer?” To put it more explicitly: “Is a man who invested indirectly in the slave trade worse than a man who sent soldiers to kill communities that wanted freedom to worship as they wished, and who was instrumental in the execution of three defenceless and essentially innocent young women?” Those wanting freedom of worship refused to use Cranmer’s newly published *Book of Common Prayer*; the young women were

three of the wives of Henry VIII.

The questions raised by this affair will resonate with us all. We may look at the memorials in our own churches and find it easy, no doubt, to identify many artefacts memorializing persons who are now judged to be of dubious standing and integrity because they pursued evil and abhorrent policies and practices, slave trading among them. What are we to do about them?

Simply removing a memorial is the easy

answer. We can forget about it and move on. If the person memorialized practiced, or had connections with, slave trading, those of us who still enjoy the benefits accruing from such practices can continue to do so without being reminded of their provenance. Those of us who were the victims of slave trading may continue to live, as before, without recompense for our suffering.

Alternatively, we may leave the memorial in place and draw attention to it in order to reflect on what may be our own involvement with transgressions of like kind and find ways of correcting them. This was the course proposed by the Jesus College authorities who had intended to re-locate the memorial within the college with other archival material where it would have instructed visitors on the history and legacy of enslavement.

In his judgement Hodge cites the words of the novelist L. P. Hartley: “The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there.” That being so, we must begin, I suggest, by learning the ways of that country, not in order to follow them but to understand them and remember some of the things that we may conveniently wish to forget.

We must bear in mind also that sometime in the future we will be the past, and our descendants will have learned new ways. What will they find in our ways that they will look back upon and for which they will revile us? One day our own memorial may be at risk. ✦

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To access Deputy Chancellor, Michael Hodge’s 108-page judgment on the Tobias Rustat Memorial please go online to <https://lawandreligionuk.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Re-the-Rustat-Memorial-Jesus-College-Cambridge2022-ECC-Ely-2.pdf>
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Please go to the Cambridge Independent online to read more about the Tobias Rustat Memorial at <https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/brutal-questioning-puts-jesus-college-s-rustat-petition-on-b-9238295/>

OPINION

Know Something? God Isn't Finished Yet

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

The expression, "Out of the mouths of babes," is often used to comment on a statement made by a child that unwittingly nails a great truth on the head.

I couldn't help overhearing two small voices discussing the sun. I was just in time to hear a voice say, "And you know, it's very big and it's awful hot, and God made it." A silence followed as they both considered this observation. Then the other small voice said, "Yes, He did, and you know something? He isn't finished yet."

It is fascinating to hear a child utter an insight into the nature of things which many adults never fully realize. For centuries millions of people read the opening chapter of Genesis and were taught that the universe is God's creation. However, for most people that act of God was understood as something that took place away back at the dawn of time, then became locked away as an interesting item in the pages of an ancient book.

For a period ironically called the *Enlightenment* there was made popular in the philosophy of the 18th century an image of God as the Great Watchmaker. The idea was that God had made this great watch, wound it up and set the universe going. Essential in this version of things was that the universe was now complete. God put it down on his galactic sized desk and merely watched it operate. Some said—and others vehemently denied—that God stepped in from time to time to interfere a little bit with the workings.

But remember that child saying, "He isn't finished yet?" That child got it right! Hit the nail on the head, as I'd said. Long before the *Enlightenment* was ever heard of, the Judeo-Christian concept of God saw the process of Creation as being anything but

*"And you know,
it's very big and it's awful hot,
and God made it."*

*"Yes, He did,
and you know something?
He isn't finished yet."*



IMAGE Swilklitch (iStock ID#1306875579)

a single event in a long ago past. Today we are recovering this immense insight when we use language such as "Climate Change." Creation is an endless heaving ocean of life, forming, growing, changing, dying,

and coming to birth in ways far beyond our imagining. Creation is an inconceivably wonderful "IS" rather than an ancient long forgotten "WAS!"

And you know something? We are involved in this whole thing! Ask those two kids. They're already beginning to learn how. ✚

Evening Encounter

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

It was in late August and the last hour of one of these evenings of late summer when the sun, low on the horizon, pours in from the gulf, and touches every ripple of the low tide water by Spanish Banks. In that hour there are people who do slow and lazy

things and move along the beach. He was moving in and out of the water in his black shoulder-high fishing leggings. On the beach behind him there was a bucket. When I saw him, he was about 20 feet into water nearly to his chest as he

smoothed and settled his nets. He moved slowly and deliberately as if he had all of time. He worked with the ease of long practice. A few people watched him, some speaking, some not. Then he came out of the water, put some small fish into the bucket and a woman spoke to him.

They were both middle aged, inching towards elderly, she with a headscarf, naturally pale, fine boned, precisely dressed, leading a dog on a leash. He a dark ruddy golden man, face heavy but strong, deeply lined, eyes crinkled, a cigarette held between his lips, expansive in gesture.

He was telling her that he lived with his son now, and that he was Greek: that he was not long in Canada but that he was very happy: that he had fished all his life and that he loved to do it here in the evening sun.

As I heard the thin precise English voice and the deep broken sentences laughing to-

gether, I was aware of a moment of shalom, the setting sun, two worlds meeting in a moment rich with age, maturity, experience and contentment. Yet even with these words I have not fully captured this golden moment. ✚



*"...I was aware of a moment
of shalom, the setting sun,
two worlds meeting
in a moment rich with age,
maturity, experience
and contentment."*

PHOTO Welcomia (iStock ID#1369896689)





Meet our Say Yes! to Kids Fundraising Teams

Growing a brighter future, today.

anglicanfoundation.org/kids



Diocese of New Westminster Churches Rally to Support Young People

On Tuesday, April 19 the Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC) kicked-off its 2nd annual *Say Yes! to Kids* Campaign with a live online launch.

“Last year we knew we had hit on a real need within the church,” said Dr. Scott Brubacher, Executive Director. “This year’s campaign has focused on laying the groundwork for *Say Yes! to Kids* to be a long-term effort, one we believe can become a source of sustainable funding for youth-focused ministry and outreach across the Canadian church.”

According to AFC, there are approximately 20 fundraising teams nationwide. Campaign goals range from \$2,500 up to \$20,000 and programs include: dramatic arts, student bursary funds, revamping youth spaces, and support for young people who are experiencing homelessness, just to name a few. In the diocese of New Westminster there are currently two teams who have joined the *Say Yes! to Kids* family.

Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver: \$23,000

Lauren Odile Pinkney, Children, Youth & Families Minister at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver is looking to the *Say Yes! to Kids* campaign to fund a new dramatic arts development program for 2022 – 2023.

“The Cathedral’s vision is to create a program where youth can meet regularly in an informal way, learn and gain a broad range of skills under the umbrella of dramatic arts,” says Pinkney. “Be it acting, improvisation, stand-up comedy, musical theatre, playwriting, production, or set and stage design, this program need not be limited in the areas it can explore.”

Pinkney, who has a background in theatre, is hopeful the program will result in variety of performances and showcases, and the development of partnerships, both within the Cathedral and the broader community. “Most importantly, I’m hoping to see a group of young people emerge as leaders in dramatic arts, with new skills that will carry them through adolescence and beyond.”

Church of the Epiphany, Surrey: \$10,000

During the last eight years a significant group of families from the Chaldean Christian community, as well as other newcomer children, have joined the Church of the Epiphany in north Surrey, contributing to its development as an integrated community of Arabic and English-speaking followers of Christ.

“During the pandemic most of the children and young people did not come to Church,” says the Rev. Stephen Rowe, Rector. “However, in recent weeks they have begun to return.” Rowe says the church plans to use proceeds from this year’s *Say Yes! to Kids* campaign to rebuild a children and youth program — Sundays and a midweek meeting for teens — with staffing support.

“These children and young people have left their homes in Iraq and elsewhere and come to Canada, often as refugees,” explains Rowe. “As they have made a new life in our community, we want to build on the deep faith of their families now as part of the Anglican tradition.”

Diocesan & National Partners

For every \$10 donated to the New Westminster teams, \$4 will be shared between youth-focused ministry at the diocesan and national levels.

This year the diocesan share of *Say Yes! to Kids* campaigns will support the Diocesan Youth Movement (DYM). “Of

significant benefit to young people in our diocese is the DYM Annual Retreat,” says the Rt. Rev. John Stephens, Bishop of New Westminster. “What better way to *Say Yes!* to young people than to bring them together: engaging their hearts and minds, increasing their sense of belonging, and contributing to their journey of self-discovery. I am grateful to both our Cathedral and Church of the Epiphany for their support and leadership in this *Say Yes! To Kids* initiative.”

Nationally, funds raised through *Say Yes! to Kids* will support Indigenous youth initiatives that are national in scope, and that complement the transformational work being done at both the local and diocesan levels. Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada and Chair of AFC’s Board of Directors, says, “Our *Say Yes!*

to Kids champions are wonderful examples of sacrificial love and service, showing us in ways large and small how to be adaptable, how to persevere, and how to keep the faith amid uncertainty.” ✦

To support the New West teams, visit the page on the diocesan website at <https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/children-youth-ministries/pages/say-yes-to-kids-diocese-of-new-westminster-projects>

For more information on registering a fundraising team for the 2023 *Say Yes! to Kids* campaign, contact Michelle Hauser at mhauser@anglicanfoundation.org.

