



IN THIS ISSUE



**St. Alban's,  
Richmond  
Parish Leader  
Honoured with  
National Award**  
  
PAGE 14



Interview with  
the Reverend  
Simbarahse  
Emmanuel Basvi  
  
PAGES 10 – 12



New Book by  
Herbert O'Driscoll  
– *I Will Arise  
and Go Now*  
  
PAGE 19



John R. Stephens is ordained Bishop.



Bishop Stephens receives a crozier from the Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC/Yukon, the Most Rev. Melissa Skelton.

## Welcoming Our New Bishop The Right Reverend John Stephens

By the time this issue of *Topic* is posted online on the diocesan website ([vancouver.anglican.ca](http://vancouver.anglican.ca)) during the last week of February 2021, the Installation and Seating of the Rt. Rev. John Stephens as the 10th Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster will be just a couple of days away. As will the retirement of the Most Rev. Melissa Skelton who will complete seven years of servant leadership as the 9th Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster and 12th Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC and Yukon on that same date, February 28, 2021. Now those of you who receive a hard copy of *Topic* by mail or through your parish as a sec-

tion of the *Anglican Journal* may be reading this during the first or perhaps early in the second week of March and you may already have followed the online news coverage of the Installation Liturgy. The following is a look at the beginning of Bishop Stephens's ministry and some coverage of the significant events that took place January 9–23. Full *Topic* coverage of the February 28 Installation Liturgy as well as coverage of online and onsite events that were celebrated in gratitude for Archbishop Skelton's ministry, will be available online and in future issues of *Topic*. ✦

• EDITOR



# St. John's, Shaughnessy Bids Farewell to Rev. John

## How times have changed since COVID-19.

REGAN GORMAN  
*Building Manager, Synod Office of the diocese of New Westminster; Verger, St. John's, Shaughnessy*

At the request of many parishioners, St. John's, Shaughnessy held a *Drive Through Farewell* event Saturday, January 9, for their outgoing rector, the Rev. John Stephens. In less than two months from that day, then-Rev. Stephens would become their incoming Bishop.

After carefully reviewing the provincial guidelines and putting many precautions in place, parishioners were able to "Drive Through" and wish John all the best.

Drive throughs were offered at 10am and 2pm and attendance was managed through Eventbrite the online ticketing software. Approximately 15 cars attended the 10am while the 2pm doubled that amount.

John's new vestments were also on display.



Cope detail.



The new Bishop's Cope was on display. ALL PHOTOS Derek Simpkins

"I knew it would be special to (after so long) see the faces of people that have been such a wonderful part of my life—but I wasn't prepared for just how special it was," said Fr. John.

Parishioners were welcomed and received blessings not only while in their vehicles but Deacon, the Rev. Pitman Potter and his wife Vicky Potter, ODNW combined both physical and spiritual care of their hearts and rode to the occasion.

Fr. John's last service as rector and pastor of St. John's, Shaughnessy was streamed Sunday, January 10.

Many thanks to Derek Simpkins of St. John's for these photos from January 9 and 10. ✚



Cope detail.



LEFT Rev. (soon to be Bishop) John Stephens at the ambo during the January 10 livestream, Priest Associate (and currently Priest-in-Charge of SJS) the Rev. Liz Ruder-Celiz seated on the left.

MIDDLE The Potters on their bikes pose for a photo. RIGHT Parishioner Penni Stock says farewell to Fr. John.



Fr. John displays the memory book (a gift from the parish), to the Dezell family.



Michael, Annabelle and Julia Dirk wish Fr. John a fond farewell.

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 Archbishop and Synod of the diocese of New Westminster.

**Editor** Randy Murray  
rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca

**Designer** Jennifer Ewing, BDes

**Issue** This is the 2nd issue in the 52nd year of publication

**Deadline For Submissions**  
March 19 for the May issue

**Subscriptions**  
Please subscribe online at  
[www.anglicanjournal.com/newssubscription/](http://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**  
1,760

**The Anglican Church & The Anglican Communion**  
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](http://www.vancouver.anglican.ca)

**The Anglican Church of Canada**  
A community of 640,000 members organized into four ecclesiastical provinces, including British Columbia and the Yukon.

**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**  
The Right Reverend John Stephens  
**Address** Diocese of New Westminster  
1410 Nanton Avenue,  
Vancouver, BC V6H 2E2  
**Phone** 604.684.6306

**Contributors & Helpers for this issue**  
Alvin Adkin, Ian Alexander, Simbarahse Basvi, Colleen Butterley, Scott Brubacher, Melanie Calabrigo, Wayne Chose, Regan Gorman, Margaret Hewitt, Kevin Hunt, Barbara Jenks, J. Libik, Lorie Martin, Tiffany Martin, Elizabeth Murray, Susanne Neumann, Lauren Odile-Pinkney, Herbert O'Driscoll, David Quinton, Marche Riley, Amanda Ruston, Jessica Schaap, Glenn Sigurdson, Derek Simpkins, Bishop John Stephens, Art Turnbull, and David Walker

Thank you!



# Welcome to the Synod Office Father John



The Co-Adjutor Bishop-elect signs in at the Synod Office on January 11.

Monday, January 11, 2021, the Rev. John Stephens arrived at the Synod Office for his first day on staff as Bishop Co-adjutor-elect.

Apparently, he didn't have trouble finding the place. When asked to share a few words about his first day, Rev. Stephens said:

*"My first day in a new office. What a delight to come to the Synod Office this morning! I must say that it felt very odd to pull up to a different parking space than I have used for the past five years. When I came in, to see my name on the office door and some of my belongings put in place was incredibly welcoming! Great to see lots of familiar faces as well. I am very happy to get this time of transition started. Archbishop Melissa has been incredibly helpful, supportive and gracious in helping me begin, as we will work together now until February 28. I am so pleased to be here!"* ✠

ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray



Executive Archdeacon, the Ven. Douglas Fenton accompanies John to his temporary office.



Ready for Day One.

# Portrait Photo Session

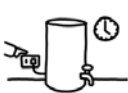
On Tuesday, January 19, 2021, Vancouver freelance photographer, filmmaker and writer Stephane Lavoie met with then-Reverend John Stephens and Randy Murray at Christ Church Cathedral for an afternoon photo shoot. Masked and physically distanced, Stephane directed the Co-adjutor Bishop-elect through three different set-ups

in order to ultimately arrive at the goal, which is to have official photo portraits of the 10th Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster ready for use in all communications materials and distributed to the parishes of the diocese for display following the Installation and Seating on February 28, 2021. ✠




## SKILLS


GAINED OVER A LIFETIME OF CHURCHGOING




SWITCHING ON THE URN AT THE CORRECT TIME




NOT FORGETTING TO BRING THE MILK



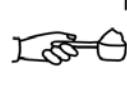
KNOWING HOW MANY TEA BAGS ARE NEEDED IN THE LARGE TEA POT




POURING A REASONABLE CUP OF TEA




DEALING WITH SPILLAGES IN A CALM MANNER




REMEMBERING HOW MANY SCOOPS TO PUT INTO THE COFFEE MACHINE




BEING ABLE TO LOCATE THE TEA SPOON DRAWER UNDER PRESSURE




GRASPING BASIC SERVING-HATCH ETIQUETTE




FOLDING THE COFFEE TABLES WITHOUT INJURY





WASHING UP 14 CUPS AND SAUCERS IN A MINUTE





3? OR IS IT 7?





















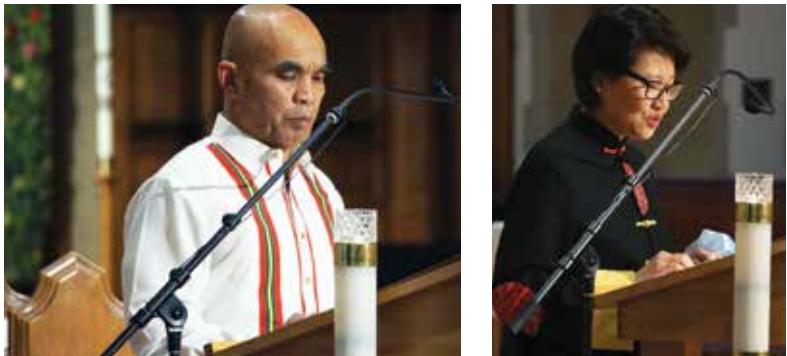


CartoonChurch.com





The Procession during the Opening Hymn, *In the Name of Christ We Gather*. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray



LEFT Teofilo Bosang, ODNW of St. Michael's, Vancouver (aka St. Michael's Multicultural) shares the First Reading, *Acts 26:9-23* in Tagalog. RIGHT Helen Cheung, ODNW of St. Titus' (formerly St. Matthias and St. Luke) reads the Second Reading, *Galatians 1:11-24* in Mandarin.



The Rev. Jeffrey Preiss prepares to proclaim the Gospel, *Matthew 10:16-22*.

# The Ordination of John R. Stephens as Co-Adjutor Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster

The Rt. Rev. John Stephens was ordained Co-Adjutor Bishop on January 23, 2021, at Christ Church Cathedral. The Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC/Yukon and Diocesan Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster, the Most Rev. Melissa Skelton presided and was joined by the Rt. Rev. David Lehmann, Bishop of Caledonia and the Rt. Rev. Lynne McNaughton, Bishop of Kootenay fulfilling the roles of Provincial Presenters and Co-Consecrators. Bishop McNaughton was the preacher.

In her greeting found on the inside cover page of the Order of Service bulletin, Archbishop Skelton offered these words to those worshipping online:

*"It is with great joy that I welcome you to participate in the Ordination of John Stephens as he becomes the Bishop Co-Adjutor of the diocese of New Westminster. John has served in many roles in this very diocese: Rector of St. John's, Squamish; Rector of St. Philip's, Dunbar; and most recently Rector of St. John's, Shaughnessy. He has also served as Archdeacon of Burrard and as a member of the Finance and Property Committee of Diocesan Council, two important leadership roles in the diocese.*

*Today John and the diocese take a big step forward, the first of two steps that culminate with his installation as Diocesan Bishop on February 28, the last day of my term as Diocesan and as Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon."*



CONTINUED ON PAGE 5 The Bishop-elect is presented to the Archbishop.



The preacher, Bishop Lynne McNaughton.

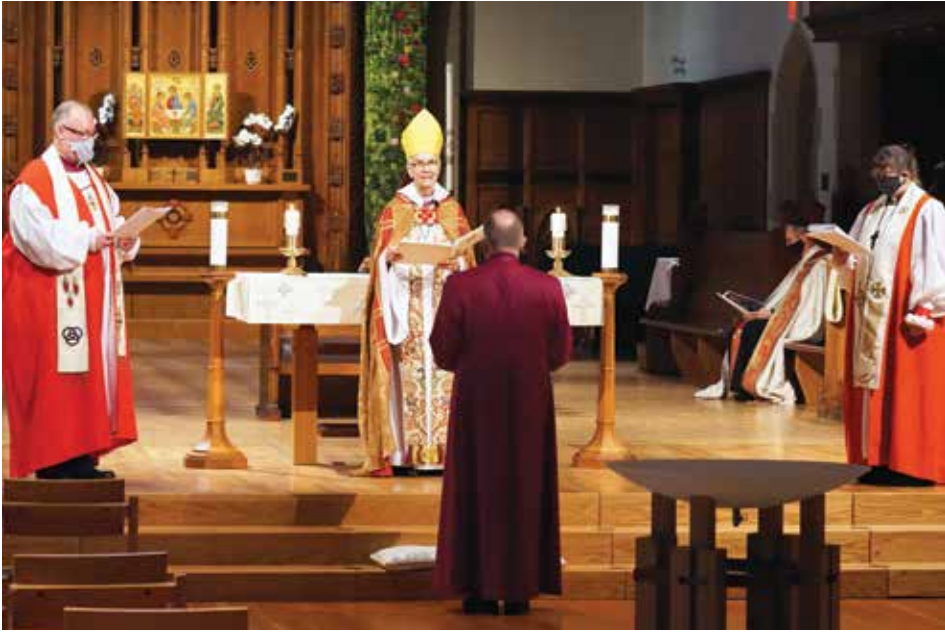


The Chancellor reads the Testimonials of the Election.



The Bishop-elect offers the declaration.

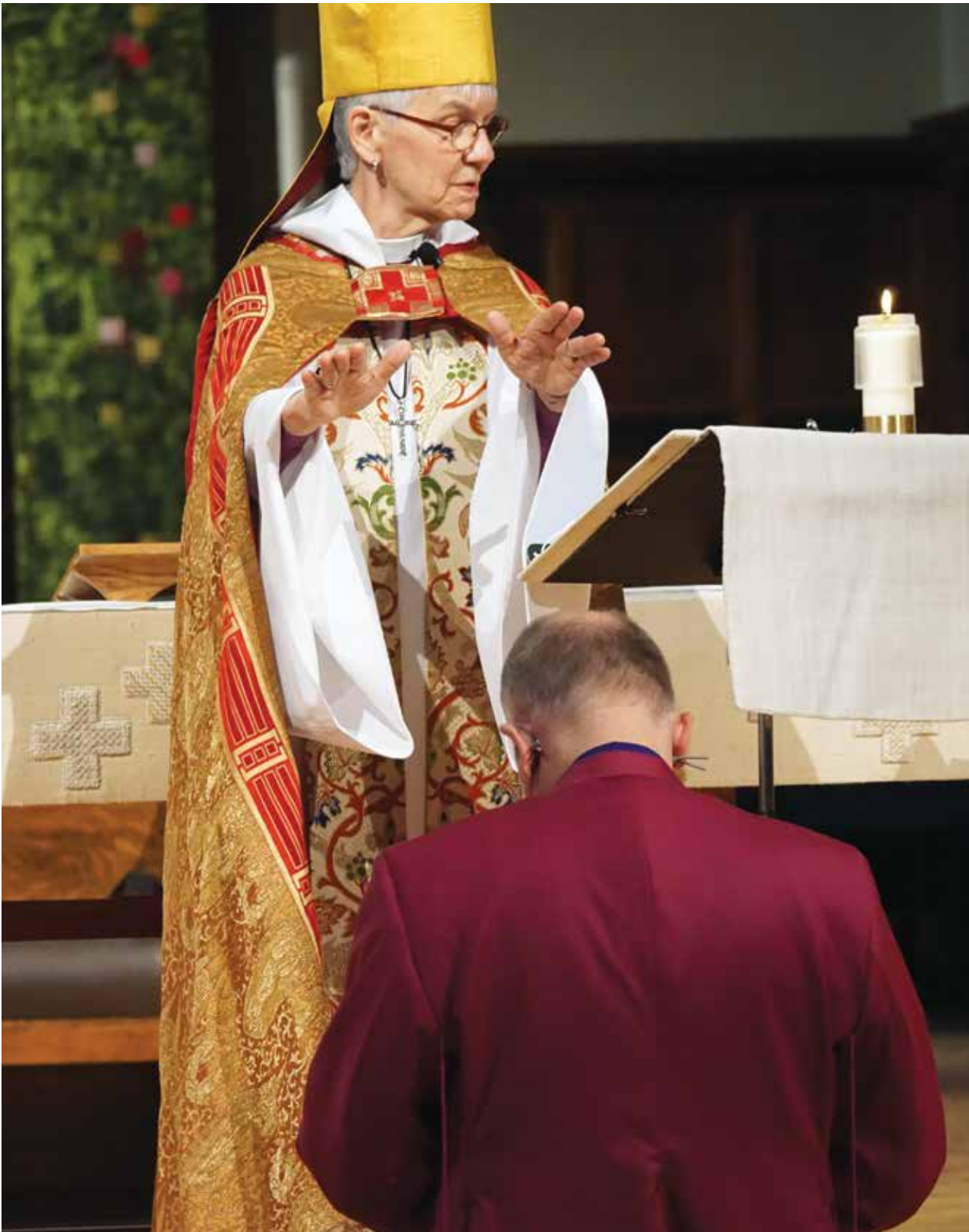




The Examination.



The Deacon is in place to lead the Litany.



Archbishop Skelton offers a prayer over the Bishop-elect.



Ruth Stephens assists with the vesting.



Placing the Episcopal Cross.



Placing the Episcopal Ring.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Archbishop Skelton concluded her message with the following:

*"To both +John, and the entire Stephens family, as well as all the people and parishes of the diocese of New Westminster, my prayers are with us all as we begin this important leadership transition together."*

The Dean of the Diocese, the Very Rev. Chris Pappas; the Executive Archdeacon of the Diocese, the Ven. Douglas Fenton were present as Diocesan Presenters and also as Witnesses. The Rev. Jeffrey Preiss, Deacon of the Word and Table completed the ordained membership of the Sanctuary Party. Rev. Preiss was the Gospeller and Litanist.

Ruth Stephens was present as one of the Diocesan Presenters. Ruth also assisted with the vestments and helped place the Episcopal pectoral cross and ring on the newly ordained Bishop, her husband the Rt. Rev. John Stephens.

The Chancellor of the Diocese, George Cadman, QC, ODNW read the Testimonials of the Election prior to the Co-Adjutor Bishop-elect's declaration to the Archbishop.

Teofilo Bosang, ODNW of St. Michael's, Vancouver (aka St. Michael's Multicultural) shared the First Reading, *Acts 26:9-23* in Tagalog and Helen Cheung, ODNW of St. Titus' (formerly St. Matthias and St. Luke) presented the Second Reading, *Galatians 1:11-24* in Mandarin.

Only the principals were onsite for the liturgy which

was livestreamed.

Apart from Ruth Stephens, the lay people present participated in the service from outside the sanctuary and only came into the sanctuary when they were required, one at a time.

In her sermon which followed Rev. Preiss's proclaiming of the Gospel, *Matthew 10:16-22*, Bishop Lynne McNaughton reflected on John and her long personal relationship with him. Bishop Lynne then wove in the readings from the Holy Day being celebrated at this Eucharist, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul (January 25).

At the completion of the consecration and vesting,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



# The Ordination of John R. Stephens as Co-Adjutor Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

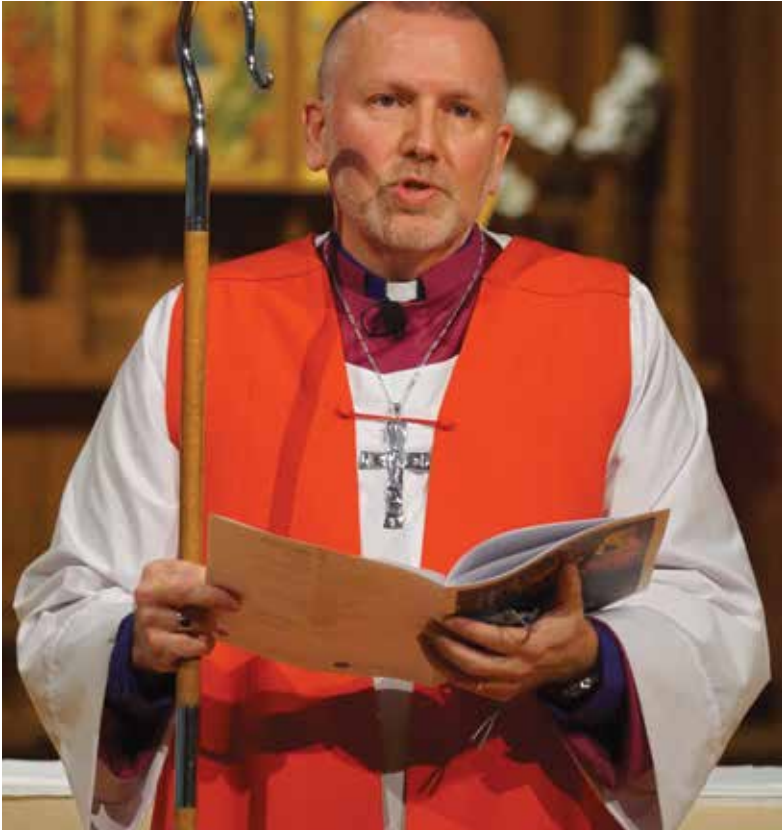
Bishop Stephens paused the liturgy prior to “the peace” to address the diocese and all those participating online. He began by saying:

*“Thank you so very much, people of our beloved diocese for your prayers; for your support; for your kindness; for your encouragement; as we all begin a new chapter in this diocese; and for me as a bishop in Christ’s church. I really wish that all of you could be here today, that we could’ve gathered and celebrated in-person, but sadly that was not to be... There are so many people that I’d like to thank, people who have been so influential in shaping me, my faith and my life, but I will keep it short. I’m so grateful to my wife Ruth for her love and support and her presence here today. To our adult children, Sarah and Matthew, who are not able to be here due to COVID-19 restrictions (I know that you are both watching at home), I love you both. To my family and friends who are tuning in from many, many places: here is BC, other parts of Canada, California, Ireland (lots in Ireland), England, New Zealand and other places around the globe. Especially my mum, who is watching from her home in Ireland.”*

Bishop Stephens then thanked by name and locations, the parishes where he has served and he thanked Archbishop Melissa for her “leadership, mentorship, graciousness and guidance.” He thanked Haida artist, Alvin Adkins for the beautiful cross and ring and for his support and friendship. The new bishop concluded his brief address with this message to the diocese of New Westminster:

*“And to all the people of the diocese, I am so thankful to you, your trust in me; your prayers for me; your walk with me to this day (which is) inspiring and much appreciated. Despite this pandemic, each parish and place of ministry has continued to offer beautiful and Holy Spirit-filled worship and creative ways to be a community of Christ despite it all. It has not been easy and continues to be a challenge and a burden. You are all in my prayers and I am so looking forward to visiting the parishes and other places of ministry in this great diocese in person and as often as possible. May God’s light and blessing shine upon you.”* ✠

A video recording of Bishop Lynne McNaughton’s sermon is available for viewing on YouTube at [youtube.com/watch?v=1qzaP94gmwc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qzaP94gmwc)



The Rt. Rev. John Stephens addresses the “congregation.”



The Eucharistic Prayer.



A view of the Chancel prior to the Dismissal.



The Metropolitan's license.



LEFT Bishop Stephens blesses the people. RIGHT Following the liturgy, Bishop Stephens blesses the Ven. Douglas Fenton.



The four bishops.



All of those participating in the liturgy.



# Meet the Reverend Lorie Martin

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

The Rev. Lorie Martin was ordained to the transitional diaconate in the first of two ordination Liturgies of the Word officiated by Archbishop Melissa Skelton at Christ Church Cathedral, Saturday, December 12, 2020. In order to celebrate these liturgies it was necessary to restrict total attendance to 10 people. At the second liturgy the Rev. Steve Black was ordained to the priesthood. Rev. Black was ordained to the transitional diaconate June 20, 2020 and his answers to these questions are available on page 12 and 13 of the September/October 2020 issue of *Topic*.

Rev. Martin remains on a path to the priesthood and continues in her role at St. Dunstan's, Aldergrove.

**Q. In 50 words or less please describe how you came to faith?**

A. A Sunday School bus went around the neighborhood and at seven years old I heard the Good News of Jesus, his love and forgiveness, and raised my hand and my heart to say, "Yes" to following Christ. I was baptized, loved reading my Bible, attending church and youth group.

**Q. Was there a particular moment or experience that signaled that you were being called to ordained ministry, or was it a gradual development?**

A. My call to ordained ministry happened through a few significant experiences that are joined by many smaller synchronous steps. One significant moment was attending Vocation Day in the diocese of New Westminster where I noticed an energized sensation in my gut as I heard Archbishop Melissa talk about her call to the priesthood. This confirmed many experiences from the past and strongly nudged me forward.

**Q. How would you describe the discernment process, what surprised you, what challenged you?**

A. The discernment process was delightful in how it moved me to self and community discovery but also terrifying as I risked being incredibly vulnerable. What surprised me most was how supportive so many people were as we looked and listened in discernment regarding my vocational call.

**Q. Describe your theological education? Do you think it has prepared you for ministry?**

A. I have wanted to go to "Bible School" since I was a teenager. After raising five children and being involved in lots of hands-on ministry, I now have the incredible privilege of theological study at the Vancouver School of Theology (VST). Seminary is an intense time of intellectual and spiritual formation as well as instruction. I don't think one is ever fully prepared for ministry, as we see in this pandemic, we learn as we go and as we grow; always being open to the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit. Seminary has helped me grow to be more intentional and resilient.

**Q. Although you have been in faith leadership for some time, it's early days in terms of ordained leadership, so how would you describe your ministry style? Are there any individuals who have inspired, supported, guided you in your journey?**

A. My ministry style is mostly collaborative. I see remarkable outcomes when a group or team of people listen and are inspired by God and each other to bring their puzzle pieces together to create and implement what is discerned.

Mary, Mother of God, Mary Magdalene, and the Christian Mystics inspire me; especially Lady Julian of Norwich, Theresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, and Therese of Lisieux. Having men open doors for me as a woman in ministry has made an enormous impact on my life and work; specifically, my husband, Dwight, Rev. Dr. Bradley Jersak, and the Rev. David Taylor.

**Q. Which passage from scripture best illustrates your call to ministry?**

A. There are a couple of favorite passages that say to me "Here am I, send me," illustrating my call to ministry, but I think following Christ with *Isaiah 61* is what is coming to mind currently. God called me, blessed me with the Holy Spirit, and asks me to bring good news and care for the oppressed, broken hearted, and those who mourn. I am also called to display God's glory and to build, raise up and repair, with God's help, that which is devastated or in ruin.

**Q. How do you see your ministry developing over the next five years, including the path to the priesthood and beyond?**

A. It is truly a mystery on how the ministry I am a part of will develop and unfold. There are a lot of areas of ministry that I am interested in and there are many needs in the Church. I want to serve as a co-creator of sacred places and spaces for people to come together into awareness and encounter with God which we do at St. Dunstan's Centre for Spiritual Renewal. I plan to explore the various ways of offering one-on-one spiritual direction care with a focus

on contemplative retreats and living. I am drawn to create and to participate in community gatherings for worship, liturgy, and the sacraments, and to continue to love, grow, and serve as God and the Church leads.

**Q. Is there anything you'd like to add?**

A. I am deeply grateful for the enormous support and *cheering on* that I have received from my family, friends, and the Church. It truly is a Trinitarian Dance of grace upon grace. ✠



The newly ordained Rev. Martin with the rector of her parish (who was also her clergy presenter), the Rev. David Taylor and Archbishop Skelton.



Lorie and her husband Dwight posing for photos at the conclusion of the December 12 liturgy.

## Episcopal Cross & Ring

BISHOP JOHN STEPHENS  
Bishop of the Diocese of New Westminster



PHOTOS Courtesy of Bishop John Stephens & Kerry Baisley, ODNW

It was not long after I was elected to be the Co-adjutor Bishop for the diocese that I realized I would need an Episcopal Pectoral Cross and a Ring. There are many ways to source such things and I had not gone far down that road when it was pointed out to me that a design connected to this part of the world would be very fitting. To go even further, to have an Indigenous artist design and create the cross and ring would be fitting and important.

With help, I eventually was able to meet (virtually at first!) Alvin Adkins. According to Alvin's bio:

*"Haida artist Alvin Adkins has been creating distinctive, bold and unique works for more than 30 years. Alvin was born in Prince Rupert... he has been counselled by distinguished colleagues such as Dempsey Bob, Frieda Diesing, Bill Reid, Robert Davidson and Don Yeomans. In 2010 Alvin received the esteemed British Columbia Achievement Award."*

Alvin grew up in the Anglican Church and has many fond memories of being in church in Prince Rupert. He was delighted to take on this project of creating an Episcopal Cross and Ring. It was much more than a commission but became for him an act of faith and a beautiful link between his Haida tradition and the Anglican Church. It was a work of reconciliation and recognition of the Creator working in his life.

Alvin chose the hummingbird because of what it symbolizes in many Indigenous cultures. He wrote:

*"The hummingbird brings peace, love, joy and healing. They also carry beautiful warm prayers on their wings up to heaven. The hummingbird is a symbol of health. When a hummingbird appears, comfort and healing will soon follow. The hummingbird symbolizes the fragility of nature and all living things."*

I have come to know Alvin in the time since the October 3, 2020 election; he has become a friend and colleague. He watched the livestream of the Consecration on January 23 and was so delighted to see his cross and ring be placed upon me as symbols of the role of bishop. The cross and ring will always be part of my episcopal ministry, representing the link between Christ and the world in which we are called to live our faith. ✠





All those present and participating in the 10am ordination liturgy. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray

# Advent Ordinations in the Holy Church of God

RANDY MURRAY  
Communications Officer & Topic Editor

On Saturday, December 12, 2020, there were two Liturgies of the Word celebrated at Christ Church Cathedral and in each of those liturgies there was an ordination. Due to the orders currently in place from the Provincial Health Officer regarding COVID-19, attendance was restricted to a total of 10 people at each. An ordination like a baptism, marriage or funeral is a major life event. Prior, between and following the liturgies, Christ Church Cathedral staff thoroughly sanitized the exposed surfaces including the furniture.

The first liturgy began at 10am, and the ordinand was Lorie Martin, raised up by the Parish of St. Dunstan's, Aldergrove. The now-Reverend Martin is very active in ministry at St. Dunstan's and is the Co-Director of St. Dunstan's Centre for Spiritual Renewal. Rev. Martin was ordained by Archbishop Skelton to the transitional diaconate and is on the path to the priesthood. The second service began at 12:30pm and the ordinand was the Rev. Steve Black who had been ordained to the transitional diaconate on June 20, 2020. Rev. Black was raised up by the Parish of Christ Church Cathedral and for much of this year has been Assistant Curate at All Saints, Ladner. He has also been finishing some training in pastoral care. Archbishop Skelton has appointed Rev. Black, Vicar of St. Hilda-by-the-Sea, Sechelt and he began that ministry on January 1, 2021.

Archbishop Melissa Skelton was the Officiant for the Sacraments of Ordination. The Ven. Fr. Kevin Hunt, Rector of St. James, Vancouver and Archdeacon of Burrard, preached and led *Psalm 40:1-11* at both liturgies. Fr. Kevin also presented Rev. Black for ordination and participated in the physically distanced laying on of hands during the Consecration of a Priest section of the second service. Fr.

Kevin took the Epistle, *Philippians 4:4-9* for his text.

At the top of the address Fr. Kevin made reference to Advent, remarked on the few in number gathered that morning but more than that he focused on the joyful optimism of St. Paul's words, "Rejoice in the Lord always!"

*"Advent, especially in this time of pandemic and global tension, sets before us a sense of expectation and hope, as we look and long for the coming of God's kingdom. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace."*

*Though few in number we draw encouragement from the words of Jesus, 'Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them.' So, it is with this confidence and hope that we gather together to ordain Lorie a deacon and Steve a priest in the Church of God.*

*'Rejoice in the Lord always,' Paul exhorts the Philippians—and us—in the second lesson. 'And again, I say, Rejoice. The Lord is near.' These Ordinations today are cause indeed for rejoicing and giving thanks.*

*We give thanks for God's faithfulness to God's covenant with creation and with humankind, visible in the creation itself, and above all in Christ's Incarnation we are soon to celebrate, in his dying and rising again; for God's faithfulness in inviting human beings, Lorie and Steve, you and me, to share in the divine dance of love.*

*We give thanks for the Church's faithfulness—notwithstanding its many failings and betrayals down the ages—in proclaiming the good news, in prayer and worship, mission and service;*

*in recognising God's work and God's calling in the lives of its members.*

*We give thanks for the ordinand's faithfulness: to the baptismal covenant, and their journeys of discernment, of discovering and responding to God's call and that of the Church, which has brought them here for ordination today. (Remember, though, that ordination is not the destination, a terminus, but a staging-post, a new beginning: God has yet more for us to discover, as we journey with Jesus in the Way.)*

*For Lorie and Steve, and for each of us here, our journeys and our experience of life and of God are unique. Indeed, how dull it would be if they were all identical! God has touched, nudged, challenged us, disclosed Godself to us in different ways, enabling us to become who we are today."*

The Rev. David Taylor, Rector of St. Dunstan's was the pianist, cantor, and gospeller, proclaiming the Gospel for the day, *Matthew 9:35-38*. Rev. Taylor who is Co-Director of St. Dunstan's Centre for Spiritual Renewal was the clergy presenter for Rev. Martin and also participated in the physically distanced laying on of hands, priesting Rev. Black. The Ven. Fr. Douglas Fenton, Executive Archdeacon of the diocese of New Westminster and Archdeacon of Vancouver led the litany and was there in his roles as administrator and signatory of and for the Declarations, Oaths and Subscriptions at both liturgies.

Both ordinands were attended by the aforementioned clergy presenters, a lay presenter, their spouses and two daughters. Rev. Lorie Martin's lay presenter was Jacqui Pesek who shared the Old Testament reading, *Isaiah 6:1-8*,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



LEFT Lorie Martin is ordained to the transitional diaconate. RIGHT Lorie's spouse Dwight assists in the vesting in the Order of Deacons.

The Rev. Steve Black is ordained a priest.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

and her daughter, Jessica read the Epistle, *Philippians 4:4-9*. Rev. Martin's husband Dwight participated in the vesting according to the Order of Deacons. Rev. Black's presenter was Dr. Megan Otton of the Parish of Christ Church Cathedral who has served with Rev. Black for many years as a Liturgical Assistant. Dr. Otton also read the passage from the Book of Isaiah. Rev. Black's spouse, Rhonda read the Epistle and assisted Rev. Black vest according to the Order of Priests.

Rev. Taylor set the tone for worship prior to the Processions playing a Piano Prelude based on composer John Cosin's setting of *Veni Creator Spiritus*. He also led the music in worship singing the Gradual Hymn, *Fairest Lord Jesus* and the ancient text of *Veni Creator Spiritus* during the prayers following the Litany and prior to the Consecrations.

Although there were few in attendance, the Holy Spirit was present. These services were certainly different than the standard ordination Eucharist, however, both liturgies were joyful and prayerful. Holy Communion was certainly missed; however, the other elements of the worship were not diminished in any way by the limits of the COVID-19 protocols.

Please pray for the Rev. Lorie Martin, the Rev. Stephen Black, their families and their faith communities, St. Dunstan's, Aldergrove and St. Hilda's, Sechelt as they move forward into the next phases of their ministry and Christian witness. ✚



Steve's spouse Rhonda assists in the vesting in the Order of Priests.



Archbishop Skelton welcomes the newly ordained Deacon, the Rev. Lorie Martin.



LEFT Archbishop Skelton leads the applause of welcome for the newly priested, the Rev. Steve Black. RIGHT The preacher for both liturgies, the Ven. Fr. Kevin Hunt.



LEFT Rev. Martin's daughter, Jessica reads the Epistle, *Philippians 4:4-9*. RIGHT The newly appointed Vicar of St. Hilda's, Sechelt and his family.



All those present and participating in the 12:30pm ordination liturgy.





At Healing of Memories Training, Cape Town, 2014.



The Wailing Wall during the 2015 Jerusalem trip.



LEFT With friends at Caesarea P.

# The Gift of Unity in Diversity

## Interview with the Reverend Simbarashe Emmanuel Basvi



LEFT & RIGHT Walking the Stations of the Cross in Jerusalem, 2015.



LEFT Standing in the Jordan River, Jerusalem, 2016. RIGHT Rev. Basvi is second from left with colleagues celebrating 100 Years of the Anglican Church in Zambia, 2010.



It was announced on April 15, 2020, that Archbishop Skelton on the recommendation of the Search Committee had appointed the Rev. Simbarashe Basvi, Sub-Dean of St. Cuthbert's Cathedral in the diocese of Central Zimbabwe, Rector of St. David's, Tsawwassen. This announcement came during the first month of the first wave of the COVID-19 closures and the reality that the pandemic would continue unabated for months seemed hard to fathom. Few imagined that the new rector and his family would not arrive in Vancouver until December 29.

As of this writing in mid-January, Rev. Basvi, his wife and two children are now out of self-isolation and are beginning this next chapter of their lives and in arguably one of our diocese's most beautiful communities, Tsawwassen.

Rev. Basvi was kind enough to answer some questions and share information about his life and ministry.

**Q.** Rev. Basvi, Welcome! It is wonderful that you and your family have arrived. With what we assume is the experience of your journey from Zimbabwe to the southwestern-most tip of Canada during a pandemic very fresh in your mind, please share with us what the trip was like? What did preparing for the trip entail? How long did it take? What stands out for you about the journey itself?

**A.** Thank you very much for welcoming me and affording me the opportunity for this interview. Indeed, we made the trip during the unprecedented season of COVID-19. The Visa Process was delayed due to the pandemic. I view the whole process as a miracle because just when flights were opened again, we received visas and managed to travel before restrictions in most countries were announced again.

Preparing for the trip involved informing our family members that we were moving to minister in Canada, and saying goodbyes is never easy. We asked God to guide us as we made a huge transition, leaving a whole life behind and looking into the future in a different country where we had never set our feet. Saying our farewells to the parish was not easy as well, but we left everything to God who calls and sends. Travelling during the pandemic brought along a lot of anxiety, we had our covid tests done and set off from Zimbabwe through South Africa and France. This has been the longest trip we have ever taken as a family. It took us 26 hours to reach Canada. The children were excited at first, but eventually they were tired. What stood out on the journey was the sudden change from familiar to the unfamiliar. We realized the power of God as we adjusted to the different time zones while flying and eventually arriving in a time zone ten hours behind. Isn't God amazing? We were also coming from summer in Zimbabwe to winter in Canada. In our prayers we were saying: "Lord, here we are—send us where you want us to be."

**Q.** Please share with us a little bit about your background: education, experience etc.?

**A.** I was born April 26, 1977, in a little place called Chivhu in Mashonaland East Province of Zimbabwe. I grew up under the custody of my grandparents who were peasant farmers in the Manyene Tribal Trust Lands. For my primary school education, I attended Chamukwenjera Primary School in Chivhu and Maronda Mashanu Secondary School in Chivhu. I completed my Ordinary Level Education in 1993, and in 1998, trained for Teaching English as a Foreign Language under the auspices of a Missionary Organization called the St. Peters Mozambique Project. From 1998 to 2000 we were sent to teach English.





Thilippi an ancient Roman city located at the southwestern base of Mount Hermon in the Golan Heights. RIGHT St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem.

With the Archbishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, the Most Rev. Suheil Dawani.

In 2000, I felt called to ordained ministry, so I left the teaching field and went back to Zimbabwe to test my vocation and train under the diocese of Central Zimbabwe. While waiting to enter college I had a stint as a till operator in a supermarket. In 2001, I did my training at Bishop Gaul College which is an Anglican Theological Seminary based in Harare. I graduated in 2003, with a Diploma in Pastoral Studies. While at Bishop Gaul College I studied for a Diploma in Religious Studies with the University of Zimbabwe. I completed my studies in 2004. On December 6, 2003, I was made Deacon at St. Cuthbert's Cathedral in the diocese of Central Zimbabwe. I was sent to serve my diaconate at St. David's Dorset in the rural part of the diocese. In the year 2004, I enrolled in a BA Honours Religious Studies program with the University of Zimbabwe and graduated in 2006. Since I had to go back to Harare for full-time studies I was made an Assistant Priest for St. Paul's Malborough in the diocese of Harare. In 2006, I completed my studies and went back to the diocese of Central Zimbabwe. That same year I was appointed Chaplain for St. Patrick's Mission, comprising of a clinic, primary school, high school and farm. At the beginning of 2009, I was seconded to go to Zambia under the United Society for the Proclamation of the Gospel Exchanging Places Programme. I served as Rector of St. George's Parish, Luanshya and also as the Diocesan Lay Training Officer. In 2011, after my stint in Zambia was completed I went back to Zimbabwe to be the Rector of St. Martin's Mission. In 2011, I also became Part-Time Director of Zimbabwe Theological Education by Extension which is an Ecumenical Theological Education institution offering studies through the open distance learning model. In 2015, I graduated with a Master of Development Studies Degree from the Midlands State University. In 2018, I was appointed Sub-Dean of St. Cuthbert's Cathedral and eventually Dean in 2019. In June 2020, I graduated with a Master of Transformational Development from the Eastern College of Australia. Over the years I have been involved in various roles within the church, these include: Member of the Standing Committee, Archdeacon, Training Chaplain, Diocesan Education Board Member, Coordinator of All Africa Theological Education by Extension Colleges for Southern Africa Region, Member of the Bishops Senate, Member of the Anglican Council of Zimbabwe Committee, Diocesan Secretary, Diocesan Trustee and Vice-Chair of the Diocesan Finance Committee.

I am married to Mebbo and the Lord blessed us with two children Nokutenda (By Faith) and Kupakwashe Ivan (Gift of the Lord). They are my prayer partners and my friends.

**Q. How did you come to faith?**

A. I was baptized at the tender age of five and brought up within the Anglican Tradition. As I grew up, attending church was part and parcel of the family tradition. I loved the church because it played a pivotal role in my upbringing. At one point in my life, my fees were paid by a pastor from another church because he wanted me to succeed. The love and warmth I received from the church solidified my faith. I was nurtured to believe my faith in God was everything. My grandmother, who is now 93, reinforced that, leaving an indelible mark of faith in my life. I've never looked back.

**Q. At what point did you feel your vocational call? Was there a specific experience or did it happen over time, or is it a combination?**

A. I felt called to ministry when I went into Mozambique just after protracted civil strife in 1998. We went there both as English Teachers and Missionaries. I came across a few missionaries who had left the comfort of their countries to serve God in remote Mozambique with all the challenges associated with ministry. I had a deep conviction that God had sent me to Mozambique for a purpose; to serve him. Having seen the challenges that young people in Mozambique had faced I had an introspection and realized God had blessed me by sending me to such an area to realize that the harvest was plenty but the labourers were few. I asked God to use me fully as his instrument in his vineyard. God was calling me to be a priest to serve his people. The decision was not fully supported by my relatives because they said priesthood will make you poor, but I told them that when God calls, God will empower. With the support of my devoted grandmother, I took the leap of faith and was allowed to test my vocation in the diocese of Central Zimbabwe in 2001.

**Q. If you hadn't answered God's call to ordination where do you think your talents and skills would've directed you?**

A. I am passionate about Community Development and if God had not called me to ordained ministry, I would have been directed to be a Community Development Officer. I also love teaching and that was my other option.

**Q. In your ministry up to now what has been your principal focus?**

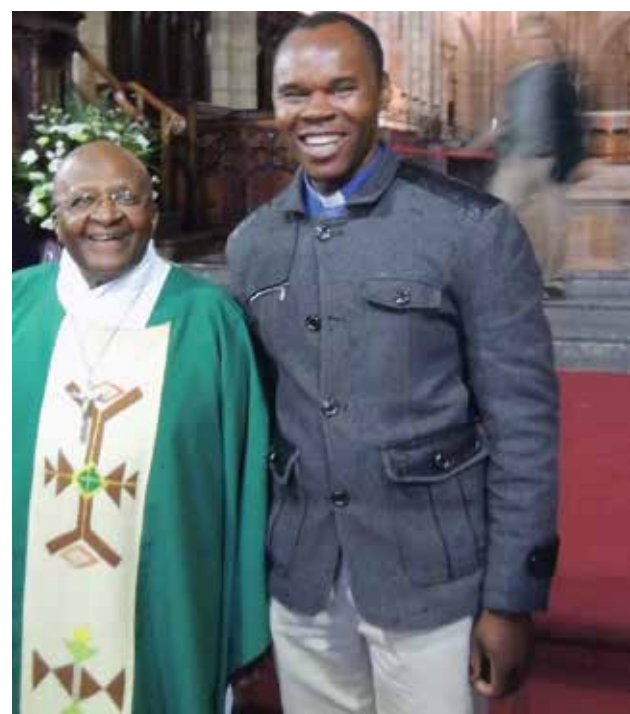
A. I have tried my level best to make sure that whatever we do as people of faith is centred around the unconditional love of God. I love the *Five Marks of Mission* of the Anglican Communion because they are an holistic approach to the mission of the church. Where God has sent me, I have endeavoured to make sure that the community I serve proclaims the good news of the Kingdom, baptizes and nurtures new believers, responds to human needs by loving service, stands for justice and cares for the creation. This is done in various ways and keeps the church of God as an embodiment of true love, inviting everyone to belong.

**Q. How would you describe your liturgical style?**

A. I consider myself a priest who is comfortable with liturgical design that brings joy within the parish. I am comfortable with all forms of worship that are acceptable within the Anglican Church — whether Evangelical or Traditional. I have served in various churches with various liturgical styles and practices, but I've managed to become and remain relevant because of my understanding that liturgical styles and practices do not have to be imposed but have to emanate from a particular context. My observance of the liturgy is central to my Christian faith and therefore forms an integral part of my relationship with God. I am within the Anglo-Catholic tradition when it comes to liturgical rites, but I am Evangelical when it comes to proclamation of the Word. I can fit within both strands whether high or low church. I understand liturgy as the encounter with the overwhelming love of God throughout our worship. The liturgy is the work of the people of God and the church and the world is the context in which this divine work is undertaken. I observe liturgy through a balance of the word and sacraments.



Wading in the Sea of Galilee.



With Archbishop Desmond Tutu.



Presenting a Paper at the Theological Education by Extension Workshop in Mbabane, Swaziland.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



# The Gift of Unity in Diversity

## Interview with the Reverend Simbarashe Emmanuel Basvi

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Q. Is there a passage or perhaps passages from Scripture that inspire and guide you?

A. I love *Jeremiah 29:11-14*, *Psalms 23* and *Psalms 121*. *Matthew 28:20*.

Q. What prompted you to apply for a ministry position in the diocese of New Westminster?

A. When I felt God was calling me to minister anywhere in the Anglican Communion I narrowed my prayers towards Canada, and I felt the Holy Spirit guide me to a diocese where the Five Marks of Mission are central. The website of the diocese of New Westminster clearly states that its priorities are guided by the Five Marks of Mission. The diocesan mission statement is *"Growing communities of faith in Jesus Christ to serve God's mission in the world."*

I felt God was calling me to be part of the growth that impacts the world. I am here to learn, share and grow within this great community of faith. The Anglican Church came to Zimbabwe through the work of missionaries, so I am a product of missionary evangelism. When I saw the opportunity to come and serve the Lord in the diocese of New Westminster I saw it as a calling to minister as a way of expressing the gratitude of the work done by missionaries coming to Zimbabwe from all parts of the world. Above that, the Anglican Communion is blessed with the gift of unity in diversity which creates the opportunity for clergy to understand that you are not ordained for a particular diocese but the whole worldwide Anglican Communion. I am encouraged by the words of John Wesley who said: *"I look upon all the world as my parish; that in whatever part of it I am, I judge it meet, right, and my bounden duty to declare unto all that are willing to hear, the glad tidings of salvation."* (June 11, 1739)

Q. Over the months as you prepared to become the Rector of St. David's was there anything about Canada, the Anglican Church of Canada, the Diocese of New Westminster and St. David's, Tsawwassen that surprised you or stood out?

A. I was amazed about how big the Anglican Church of Canada is. Some of the provinces might be the size of Zimbabwe as a whole but the church is so organized under the guidance of the Almighty. The Church in Canada is welcoming to various people from all over the world. It is Christ-centred and represents the true Jesus movement. The diocese of New Westminster is inclusive. When Archbishop Melissa appointed me to be the next Rector of St. David's, Tsawwassen, I gave Glory to God because I never considered myself any more special than all the other aspiring rectors. I just said, "God, here is an inclusive diocese accepting ministers from afar to become missionaries to learn, share, empower and also get empowered for the growth of your Kingdom." One thing that touched my heart profoundly in the diocese of New Westminster is the servant leadership of Archbishop Melissa. Within leadership circles it is very difficult for a leader to allow their predecessor to be chosen while they are still in office. This is what I would call divine-centred succession. I kept reading about St. David's almost every day as I continued to pray for them and asking God to guide me as I prepared to come and minister amongst them. I was looking forward to coming to learn from them and also for them to learn with me so that our experiences from different contexts would empower us all for growth. Together we shall continue to be: *Rooted In God, Responding to God's Call, Reaching Out To God's World in the Name of Jesus Christ*. St. David's leadership touched me by their articulate organization as they prepared for our arrival and their ability to undergo a long period of transition while functioning like a well-oiled machine.

Q. I won't ask you about ministry plans for St. David's, but are you thinking of any projects you'd like to pursue when we once again may gather for worship.

A. As I respond I am compelled to say "So help me God" because we cannot succeed alone. In all projects and plans, we need God to lead as we follow. We shall journey together as God guides us to articulate the aspirations of the parish profile. We shall learn from one another, sharing experiences, empowering each other and growing spiritually and numerically. By the Grace of God, we shall also pray to be transformed into quality Christians who live the Gospel by fully articulating the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion. We desire to be a parish that has a robust hope while existing for others. In receiving this post, I will contribute to the already existing work that keeps the parish as a force to reckon with. We will endeavour to make sure that our vision resonates with the vision of the diocese. ✠



Mebbo and Simbarashe's wedding day on May 6, 2006.



Marriage to Mebbo, May 6, 2006.



Mebbo and Simbarashe on vacation at Victoria Falls.



St. David's Parish Council members, Nick Robinson and Anthony Hanna, welcome Rev. Simbarashe Basvi and family at the Vancouver Airport on December 29, 2020. PHOTO Submitted by Mary Horton.



# Vancouver School of Theology to Honour the Cathedral's Director of Music

Rupert G. Lang has been selected as the Vancouver School of Theology's 2021 Honorary Doctor of Divinity recipient

The Vancouver School of Theology (VST) is delighted to announce that Rupert G. Lang has been selected as its 2021 Honorary Doctor of Divinity recipient.

Rupert Lang holds a Bachelor of Music with Honours from the University of Manitoba, an MA (Music) from the University of Cambridge, St. John's College (studying with George Guest, Gillian Weir and John Scott) and the Archbishop of Canterbury's Certificate in Church Music, the Royal School of Church Music. He also holds Diplomas from the Royal College of Music and Royal College of Organists.

In addition to serving as the Director of Music and Organist with Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver since 1986, Lang is the Founding Artistic Director of the Vancouver Children's Choir. His conducting and choral work, musical composition and performance as an organist have attracted national and global recognition. His many compositions have been published by Boosey and Hawkes, and recordings of works from around the world can be found on YouTube and a variety of streaming music services.

The outpouring of acknowledgements of Rupert Lang include:

*"Not since Healey Willan has Canada known such a prolific composer of church music nor a church musician whose work is so widely appreciated. Bridging two centuries, Rupert's compositions possess the unusual quality of being very rooted in their time yet transcending that to join with the classical treasures of the Anglican choral repertoire. As a Cathedral Director of Music and Organist, he combines a deep sense of pastoral care with liturgical sensitivity. In every way his ministry as a church musician is outstanding."*

The Very Reverend Peter Elliott, DD

Dean of the Diocese of New Westminster, & Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver, BC 1994–2019



Dr. Rupert Lang. PHOTO Courtesy of Christ Church Cathedral

*"Rupert Lang is one of those rare Anglican composers and musicians who can do it all: compose congregational choral music that is both complex and singable, play the organ Sunday after Sunday in a way that supports the spiritual life of congregants with excellence, and lead a choir Sunday after Sunday whose singing both sends chills down the spine and makes one feel utterly at home in the Church. We in the Diocese of New Westminster have looked to Rupert to show us what the best of our Anglican musical tradition looks like and sounds like. It is a tradition that avoids a simple-minded view of the Divine while embracing holy simplicity. It is a tradition that inspires the soul, enlightens the mind, and, through the gift of music, confidently leads us into an experience of our oneness in Christ."*

The Most Reverend Melissa Skelton

Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC and Yukon, and Archbishop of the Diocese of New Westminster 2014–2021

*"Rupert is a gifted organist, composer, and conductor—and in the years that Rupert has served as Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver, BC, he has established the Cathedral as Vancouver's finest setting for traditional worship music both in the city and across western Canada. In fact, the Cathedral Choir has received numerous awards over the years affirming their status as one of Canada's leading amateur choirs. Yet, it is Rupert's skill as worship leader that sets him apart in an elite class of church musicians. Rupert's choices of liturgical music, choral anthems, hymns, organ settings, descants, chants, introits, and postludes—and the execution of them—are transportive, and are spiritually transformative on both aesthetic/emotional as well as intellectual levels. This feature of Rupert's work and service is what distinguishes his contribution to the church, and which characterizes his dedication and contribution to the Anglican Church of Canada."*

Dr. Graeme Langager

Director of Choral Activities

University of British Columbia School of Music

## Archival Backlog Project

MARCHÉ RILEY

Diocesan Archivist

An archival backlog is a reality for all archivists. At some point or another, a backlog will exist—this is inevitable. But, as we'll soon discover, that can be addressed, and to great effect.

For the past few months, myself and our amazing Archives volunteer, Andy Resto (an Archival Studies graduate student at the University of British Columbia) have been working on a major archival processing project here at the Diocesan Archives. In this project, we aimed to completely clean up the primary/main section for materials we've received but haven't yet processed/arranged. Andy and I went box-by-box, unpacking them, properly arranging them in new, specially-designed archival folders, labeling said folders and then their new boxes, and then—finally—storing them in the vault for permanent storage.

To start off, we had about 150–200 boxes to deal with in the primary unprocessed materials storage section. At first, Andy was in two days a week (a four hour shift each day), and together we would complete work on a varying number of boxes across each week, but consistently making steady progress.

In the span of two to three months, we made significant progress, cutting the amount of unprocessed diocesan materials by two thirds. For this project, Andy and I focused on the Banker Boxes, given that—due to their size and thus the increased number of records in them—we'd get the most reward for our effort that way. In the end, it proved correct—while there was a very small number of boxes we didn't manage to get to in the end, we cleared up a backlog that went back over two decades. As a result, the diocese has active access to many records and materials previously unprocessed.

This project was a delight in many ways. To start with, making substantive progress in a backlog is always a feather in any archival worker's cap. We accomplished an enormous workload and vastly decreased the amount of unprocessed diocesan materials. In addition, I was able to offer Andy training and practical experience in processing and describing (in the Archival Studies sense) archival material.

But ultimately, this project gave me—and I'm sure the same is true for Andy—a special insight into the history and life of our diocese and the movements that have coursed



Marché surrounded by the Diocesan Archives.

across it in its time. Matters such as the debate over Same-Sex Unions were monumental in the life of our diocese; the crisis of the schism regarding the *dissident parishes*; the various activities and legacies of so many parishes over so many years. Looking into this momentous base of material, one truly got a picture for how alive, vibrant, and diverse the diocese of New Westminster has been over its now 142 years. The Anglican Church in the Lower Mainland has

grown from an initial, small parish in the tiny settlement of Derby in 1859, (that parish presently known as St. John the Divine in Maple Ridge, for the history aficionados) to the growing, thriving collection of parishes and Anglican worshipping communities that now make up our diocese.

The project's success has dramatically changed the outlook of my work for the months to come throughout 2021. In 2019 and 2020, a large part of my workload was, in some way or another, focused on the totality of our backlog. That work has been greatly shaped and changed because of this reduction. Consequently, the Diocesan Archives will be able to focus more on projects that have been sitting on the backburner, with more thought directed to what other kinds of activities and ventures to which we may direct our skills and energy (in particular I'm pondering in the "Outreach" category of things).

I do think this project will be seen as a notable moment in the history of the Archives. An enormous portion of our total backlog was cleared away, and thus more room for newer, different projects to take the fore.

What's the future of the Archives past this project? Well, lots of things! In the planning stages are proposals for outreach programs, along with internal policies and programs we could implement to improve overall functionality. With the backlog cut down to nearly nil, my volunteers and I will be able to move much more swiftly on processing new arrivals of material.

Above all else, however, is the bigger picture, that every diocesan archivist must strive to keep in sight at all times (it's just that important!), and that is the vision of the Diocesan Archives as the institutional history, and lifeblood, of the diocese. Here is where the records are kept—of diocesan operations; of parish operations and activities; of the lives that have passed through our parishes and the lives of those parishes, in the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, marriage and burial; and so much more. All these records, all of them strands of a grand tapestry illustrating the love and worship of God across so many lives, communities, and decades.

That's the vision all Diocesan Archivists—and their volunteers—must keep in mind. It is indeed a special work to engage in.



# St. Alban's Richmond Parish Leader Honoured with National Award

Pamela Hiensch, long time member and lay leader of St. Alban's, Richmond has been awarded the *Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers*.

*"The Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers (SMV) is a national award that recognizes the volunteer achievements of Canadians from across the country in a wide range of fields. It is the highest honour for volunteer service that an individual can receive within the Canadian Honours System.*

*The SMV program was created in 2016 to replace its predecessor, the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award (CCA), conceived in 1995 by then-Governor General the Right Honourable Roméo LeBlanc. The Medal builds on the legacy and spirit of the CCA by honouring the dedication and commitment of volunteers."*

Those who are accepted to receive the honour have been nominated through the nomination process. The nominators are anonymous. The main eligibility criteria are that that nominee's service be:

- 1. Unpaid
- 2. Sustained
- 3. Significant

Here is the nomination text as supplied by Margaret Hewitt:

*"In 1971, Pam Hiensch founded The Richmond Singers by placing an ad in a local newspaper inviting women who were interested in singing recreationally. The initial group of 15 members has grown to 58 members that the City of Richmond describes as a 'popular, long-standing musical organization that provides opportunities for singers to perform throughout Richmond and beyond.' Members range in age from 20 to 80 representing diversity in backgrounds and talents that enhance performances and connections with audiences.*

*Each season the choir performs two to three main concerts, normally including local guest performers, often children's groups, and occasionally guest choirs. The choir also sings for City of Richmond events, for local charities, and other special events. The Richmond Singers are proud to have been invited to represent British Columbia at the July 1, 2003 Unison Choral Festival celebrations in Ottawa, at Festival 500 in St. John's in 2009, and in 2016 to sing with 1000 choristers from around the world at the Kathaumixw Festival in Powell River, BC.*

*Over her many years in the choir, Pam contributed her leadership skills to the society's various operating committees and on its Board of Directors, including serving as President. Now retired from the main choir, she continues to sing in The Richmond Singers Ensemble, of which she was also a founding member. The Ensemble performs in venues not suitable for the larger choir. Averaging more than 30 performances a year, its 16 members enthusiastically take their lively interactive programs to retirement homes, adult day care centres, and community events.*

*A wife, mother, and grandmother, Pam's life work is caring for her family, church, and her community. A decades-long member of St. Alban's Anglican Church, her past and current volunteer commitments include serving as Warden for*



Pamela has declined the award ceremony for the presentation of the ribbon and medal and has asked that it be sent to her by mail. PHOTO Randy Murray

*the congregation, Liaison with the Diocese, the Canonical Committee for hiring clergy, Liturgy Reader, Sunday School programs, and preparing lunches for homeless persons. Pam was also among the parishioners who started the Richmond Food Bank with which she volunteered for many years after it became an independent society. Pam's volunteerism continues to enhance our community and inspires others to do the same."*

Pamela Hiensch's Citation reads as follows:

*Having founded The Richmond Singers and The Richmond Ensemble, Pam Hiensch entertains at charity events in her community and helps to break the isolation of seniors by performing at long-term care facilities. For the past four decades, she has also been serving meals to the homeless and those in need at the Richmond Food Bank and St. Alban's Anglican Church.*

Presentation ceremonies are held throughout the year in communities across Canada. The Chancellery of Honours makes every effort to arrange a presentation ceremony within two calendar years of the date of the award. The recipient may also opt to have the Medal sent to them by mail within two months of it being awarded.

Hopefully a presentation ceremony will be allowed to take place and photos will made available.

Congratulations to Pam for this well-deserved honour and many thanks to Barbara Jenks and Margaret Hewitt for alerting diocesan communications and sharing the news. ✦

.....  
For more information about the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers visit, [www.gg.ca/en/honours/canadian-honours/sovereigns-medal-volunteers](http://www.gg.ca/en/honours/canadian-honours/sovereigns-medal-volunteers)

Submitted by Margaret Hewitt and Barbara Jenks



The Medal.

## IN MEMORIAM



The Reverend David Geoffrey Hawkins. PHOTO Submitted

# The Reverend David Geoffrey Hawkins, Priest November 9, 1929 – December 16, 2020

The Rev. David Geoffrey Hawkins died suddenly on Wednesday, December 16 at Vancouver General Hospital. He was predeceased in 2009, by his wife Norma Jean Beck (née). David is survived by his brother Martin and sister-in-law Carol in Essex, England and by Norma's sister, Ruth Smith, in Saskatchewan, and by his dear friends Rosemary and Douglas Payne and Janet and Jerry Brown in Vancouver.

David was born in London, England. He moved to Canada to study at Emmanuel College, Saskatoon, having been sponsored by the Colonial and Continental Church Society in 1953. He also studied at the UBC School of Social Work and at Union College, earning a Bachelor of Divinity in 1965 and a Master of Sacred Theology in 1969.

David was ordained to the Diaconate in May 1959 and to the priesthood in May 1960, at St. Alban's Cathedral, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan in the diocese of Saskatchewan. Before transferring to the diocese of New Westminster in 1966, he served five rural churches in the parish of Birch Hills, Saskatchewan.

In the 1960s, David worked on the Diocesan Chinese Work Committee, the Inter-Church Immigration Committee, the Vancouver Inner City Project, and on the West End Community Council. He wrote articles and fiction for numerous religious and secular publications and won an award for fiction in the Saskatchewan Arts Board Literary Competition.

In this diocese, David served at Holy Trinity (Vancouver), Christ Church Cathedral, Good Shepherd Chinese Mission, St. Paul (Vancouver), St. Helen (Vancouver), and St. George (Vancouver).

David spent over 20 years in hospital chaplaincy at Royal Columbian Hospital, the BC Cancer Control Agency and Vancouver General Hospital beginning in 1973, and through to the mid-1990s. He was Regional Dean of Vancouver Central Deanery from 1974 to 1976.

In retirement, David was a member of St. Philip, Dunbar and more recently, St. John, Shaughnessy. ✦



IN MEMORIAM



Brian Rocksborough-Smith, ODNW. PHOTO Amanda Ruston

Brian Rocksborough-Smith, ODNW  
October 14, 1947 – January 13, 2021

Brian passed peacefully after a brief struggle with cancer, and will be deeply missed by his wife Jennifer, sons Ian (Rose), and Michael (Naomi); siblings Margot (Clarke) and David (Tanya); nephews, nieces, and many, many friends. Born in Toronto, he grew up in South Burnaby and Vancouver, where he loved to be active outside. Brian enjoyed caring for and spending time at the family cabin in the Okanagan, and later at Nicola Lake. Brian loved reading widely on all subjects, especially educational or spiritual matters. Baptized and married at St. James' Anglican Church he was a lifelong, faithful and diligent servant and volunteer, awarded the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW) in November 2020, for his service to the church.

Here is the text of his ODNW Citation:  
*Brian is a St. James "lifer," baptized and later married there. As child and adult, he has been actively involved across the board—Worship, Canterbury Fayres, Formation, Education for Ministry (EfM), Home Communion, Narthex, Trustee, Discernment and Canonical Committees, Parish Council*

*Chair, Rector's and Bishop's Warden. Brian's depth of spirituality informs his pastoral care and concern for all, lay and clergy alike. He exercises a singular ministry of encouragement, offering detailed and thoughtful feedback with a heart-beaming smile—he is St. James' own Barnabas!*

Known affectionately by many students as "Doc Rock," Brian was a passionate educator, who as teacher and principal mentored many young teachers and staff. He modeled a pedagogy that valued human decency, respect for differences, and universal encouragement above all else. A private funeral has been held at St. James' Anglican Church, Vancouver, followed by entombment in the Columbarium. A larger gathering will be held when it is safe to do so.

Donations in memoriam may be made to the Street Outreach Initiative at St. James' Anglican Church ([stjames.bc.ca/donate](http://stjames.bc.ca/donate)).

Known for his welcoming smile, Brian will be cherished and remembered for his kindness, curiosity, humility, and loving presence. ✚



Edward Frank (Ted) Quinton. PHOTO Submitted

Edward Frank (Ted) Quinton  
August 9, 1924 – December 2, 2020

*Ted Quinton, organist and choral leader in our diocese is remembered by his son, David Quinton, ODNW.*

Music, family and friends were always high priorities for our Dad who had a joyful laugh that could be heard across any room of people. He was always welcoming and encouraging. Born in Winnipeg, Edward Frank Quinton was known to everyone as Ted or Mr. Q. In the early 1940s he moved with his family to Chilliwack. Upon graduating from high school, Ted, along with his entire class, "went down, signed up and then went home to tell their mothers." From August 17, 1943 until March 28, 1946, Ted served as a wireless air gunner in the RCAF. When he returned to Canada, he followed his family to Vancouver. Beginning at St. Thomas', Chilliwack, over the years Ted was organist and choirmaster at seven different Anglican churches playing the organ and leading both senior and junior choirs. Dad's choirs were always a lot of fun, focusing on the meaning of the words and making a joyful noise, even if you couldn't sing very well—everyone was welcome. After working for 30 years in a print shop, Ted turned his passion of music into his second 30 year career as a pipe organ technician.

He was an original and 35 year member of *The Gallery Singers* founded in the late 1960s at St. John's, Shaughnessy. Because Christmas was the highlight of every year, Advent and Christmas music started in the Quinton household each July. Dad met Mom at St. Margaret's in Vancouver and they were married on the hottest day of the year, July 11, 1959. 61 years later, Dad is survived by his wife Jean, daughter Nancy, son-in-law Jonathan, grandchildren Connor and Talia and son David. While the last ten years have been full of health challenges, Ted never lost his love of music and family. He passed December 2, 2020, quietly, quickly and comfortably for which we are eternally grateful to our Lord. He is missed beyond belief! In Ted's memory donations may be made to the Camp Artaban Society ([campartaban.com](http://campartaban.com)). Due to COVID-19, a memorial service will occur at a later date. As of late January, when the March *Topic* went to layout, a date has not yet been selected. ✚



Joyce Nash, ODNW, November 3, 2009. PHOTO Wayne Chose

Joyce (Rayleen) Nash, ODNW  
September 11, 1938 – December 6, 2020

Rayleen Nash was the first Christ Church Cathedral parishioner to be nominated for investiture into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW) in its inaugural year of 2009. Her commitment to her faith and to her community, her selfless servant ministry and her generosity remained constant throughout her life. Rayleen Nash was a true leader in the Church as her Citation read at that first Investiture liturgy in 2009 attests:

*Rayleen has served as a Warden and Trustee of Christ Church Cathedral, chair of the Synod Planning Committee, member of General Synod, and of the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Appointments.*

Rayleen was involved in many facets of the life of the Church, but one of her ongoing commitments was to head-up the planning and presentation of the Parish of Christ Church Cathedral's annual Epiphany Party, where there was always lots of food, presents and most importantly for Rayleen, music. She would always promote the event as "one more opportunity" to sing the Hymns and Carols of the season.

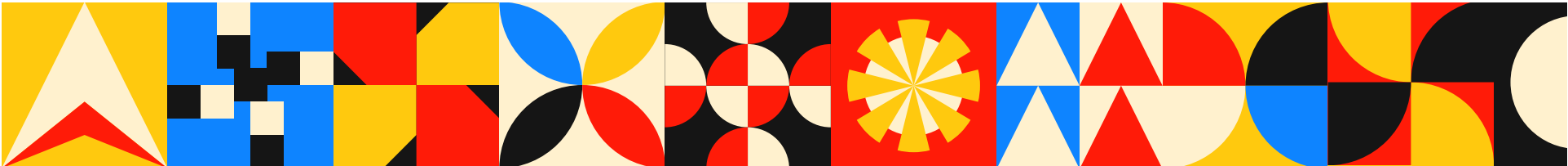
Here is Rayleen's obituary as published in the Vancouver Province, December 14, 2020:

*It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of Joyce "Rayleen" Nash—Sister, Aunt and friend, after a lengthy struggle with Parkinson's disease.*

*Rayleen was born in Cork, Ireland on September 11, 1938 and later emigrated to Canada where she lived for a time in Toronto, Ontario and later Vancouver, BC. She died at her retirement home on the afternoon of Sunday, December 6, 2020.*

*Rayleen worked for over 25 years at the University of BC (UBC) in various rolls finishing as the Assistant to the Dean of Graduate Studies. Rayleen was a deeply committed Christian who gave of herself and time helping at her local parish church of Christ Church Cathedral and in diocesan life.*

*Rayleen is survived by her brother Arthur and nephews David, Stephen and niece Valerie. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at a later date due to COVID-19. In memory of Rayleen please donate to Christ Church Cathedral ([thecathedral.ca](http://thecathedral.ca)). ✚*





# Stefan Glenn Sigurdson, CM, QC

## St. Christopher’s parishioner appointed to the Order of Canada

On November 27, 2020, former Governor General of Canada, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette announced 114 new appointments to the Order of Canada.

The Governor General’s website states:  
*The Order of Canada is one of our country’s highest civilian honours. Its Companions, Officers and Members take to heart the motto of the Order: Desiderantes Meliorem Patriam (They desire a better country).*

*Created in 1967, the Order of Canada recognizes outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. More than 7,000 people from all sectors of society have been invested into the Order. Those who bear the Order’s iconic snowflake insignia have changed our nation’s measure of success and, through the sum of their accomplishments, have helped us build a better Canada.*

*Appointments are made by the governor general on the recommendation of the Advisory Council for the Order of Canada. For more information about the Order of Canada or to nominate someone, visit [www.gg.ca/en/honours](http://www.gg.ca/en/honours).*

*Congratulations to the 114 new appointees, which include 8 Companions (CC), 21 Officers (OC), 1 Honorary Member (CM), and 84 Members (CM). Each recipient will be invited to accept their insignia at a ceremony to be held at a later date.*

One of the new Members is St. Christopher’s parishioner Stefan Glenn Sigurdson, CM, QC. Glenn has been a member of the West Vancouver parish for more than 20 years. His short citation reads as follows:

*For his dexterous relationship-building skills and for his contributions to alternative dispute resolution across Canada and beyond.*

Glenn has a very informative website that supplies information about his life and the book he has written and published with the title, *Vikings on a Prairie Ocean*. Here is the introductory biographical text from the home page:



Stefan Glenn Sigurdson, CM, QC. PHOTO Submitted

*“For his dexterous relationship-building skills and for his contributions to alternative dispute resolution across Canada and beyond.”*  
Stefan Glenn Sigurdson’s citation

*Mediator, teacher, lawyer, and leader, Glenn Sigurdson has helped resolve complex, high profile issues involving the land, waters, and environment—across Canada and beyond. As one of North America’s top conflict resolution professionals he works to develop solutions that work for people and communities through deep, long-term consensus and trust-building.*

*Since boyhood he has had a special relationship with the people of Canada’s First Nations including the convening and facilitating a remarkable series of Exploratory Dialogues across Canada that brought together for the first time survivors of residential schools, and representatives of senior levels of the Churches and Government of Canada. Such work as taken him into the middle of difficult issues around land, water, and resources, and the implications for indigenous people: their communities, lifestyles, and identities.*

*Sigurdson carries Lake Winnipeg with him wherever he goes. He is the fifth generation of one of the pioneering Icelandic fishing families that shaped life on the lake and helped create an industry that is a vital cornerstone of the economic and cultural landscape of Manitoba.*

Glenn is author of *Vikings on a Prairie Ocean*, and a series of short stories (fiction and non-fiction) known as *Splashes*.

According to fellow St. Christopher’s parishioner, Rob Dickson, AAM (Anglican Award of Merit) Glenn’s Icelandic heritage brought him to be the Honorary Consul General of Iceland for British Columbia. He shares that heritage with another long time St. Christopher’s parishioner, Heather Ireland who was the predecessor of Glenn Sigurdson as CG of Iceland for BC. Heather is the spouse of William Ireland who is a former Registrar (one of the diocese’s Legal Officers) of the diocese of New Westminster.

Congratulations to Glenn for this wonderful and well-deserved honour. ✚

.....

For more information about Stefan Glenn Sigurdson, CM, QC please visit the website <https://prairieocean.ca/>

# Lay Presidency of Holy Communion

DAVID W. T. BRATTSTON  
Contributor to Topic

Some Canadian Anglicans harbour misgivings about the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada’s (ELCiC) “lay presidency of the Eucharist,” whereby a layperson may officiate at Holy Communion instead of clergy. In the ELCiC, it applies only where no clergyperson can be found. The bishop consults with the parish council (composed entirely of laity), which then provides candidates. Authorization comes from the relevant congregation, with co-operation of the bishop.

Anglicans assume that competence to celebrate the Eucharist comes from ordination by a bishop, with the further requirement that she/he/they in turn was ordained by other bishops in an unbroken line stretching back to the apostles. For Lutherans, authority comes from a congregation through the working of the principle *Matthew 18:20*: “where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Thus, the Lutheran doctrine is that, wherever Christians are assembled, they constitute a church competent to elect one of their number to celebrate the Eucharist. Lutheran prisoners did this in Nazi concentration camps. However, both denominations adhere to the principle enunciated, for example, in Article Three of the *Thirty-Nine Articles*:

*“It is not lawful for any man to take upon him the office of public preaching, or ministering the Sacraments in the Congregation, before he be lawfully called, and sent to execute the same. And those we ought to judge lawfully called and sent, which be chosen and called to this work by men who have public authority given unto them in the Congregation, to call and send Ministers into the Lord’s vineyard.”*

Anglicans and Lutherans differ only in who can “call,” what constitutes a “call,” and who are the people “who have public authority given unto them in the Congregation.”

The following demonstrates that lay presidency was well-established among the earliest Christians. Historic Anglicanism believes in a living continuity between the original and present-day church, and that the early and modern periods ought not to be separated.<sup>1</sup>

Our earliest postbiblical references to Communion services describe the person in charge as “the president” rather than bishop or presbyter.<sup>2</sup> Such presidents were persons of unascertainable standing in the congregation.

One reference was from a Christian teacher at Rome in the middle of the second century, and the other from Tertullian.

Tertullian was a church father in what is today Tunisia. Sometime between AD 204 and AD 212, he outlined the origin of the clergy-laity distinction:

*“It is the authority of the Church, and the honour which has acquired sanctity through the joint session of the Order, which has established the difference between the Order and the laity. Accordingly, where there is no joint session of the ecclesiastical Order, you offer, and baptize, and are priest, alone for yourself. But where three are, a church is, albeit they be laics.”<sup>3</sup>*

Around AD 200, he discussed the principle more fully:

*“The chief priest (who is the bishop) has the right: in the next place, the presbyters and deacons, yet not without the bishop’s authority, on account of the honour of the Church, which being preserved, peace is preserved. Beside these, even laymen have the right; for what is equally received can be equally given. Unless bishops, or priests, or deacons, be on the spot, other disciples are called to the work. The word of the Lord ought not to be hidden by any: in like manner, too, baptism, which is equally God’s property, can be administered by all. But how much more is the rule of reverence and modesty incumbent on laymen—seeing that these powers belong to their superiors—lest they assume to themselves the specific function of the bishop! Emulation of the episcopal office is the mother of schisms. The most holy apostle has said, that ‘all things are lawful, but not all expedient.’ Let it suffice assuredly, in cases of necessity, to avail yourself of that rule, if at any time circumstance either of place, or of time, or of person compels you so to do; for then the steadfast courage of the succourer, when the situation of the endangered one is urgent, is exceptionally admissible; inasmuch as he will be guilty of a human creature’s loss if he shall refrain from bestowing what he had free liberty to bestow.”<sup>4</sup>*

The same rule applies, because both baptism and Eucharist are sacraments appointed in Scripture, which means they belong to and are bestowed by God, and not by human clergy.

Ignatius and Hippolytus seemed to say that a celebrant must be a bishop or commissioned by one. Ignatius was a bishop of Antioch who had associated with the apostles personally. Around AD 107, he wrote many letters, speaking highly of bishops and exhorting Christians to hold them in

great regard, and be subject to them in all church matters. Without ever alluding to the doctrine of apostolic succession, he wrote to one congregation:

*“Let that be deemed a proper Eucharist, which is [administered] either by the bishop, or by one to whom he has entrusted it. Wherever the bishop shall appear, there let the multitude [of the people] also be; even as, wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church. It is not lawful without the bishop either to baptise or to celebrate a love-feast; but whatsoever he shall approve of, that is also pleasing to God, so that everything that is done may be secure and valid.”<sup>5</sup>*

Thus, the bishop could approve not only clergy to officiate, but anyone in the Christian community.

In AD 217, Hippolytus, a bishop in central Italy, compiled a manual to preserve apostolic practices. The manual deplores as “presumptuous” or contrary to “discipline” for laypeople to consecrate the eucharistic elements.<sup>6</sup> It does not expressly state it is invalid, nor that people “who have public authority given unto them in the Congregation” cannot change what is considered presumptuous or amend its discipline.

In short, Anglicans and Lutherans merely see different routes of authority, with Lutherans focussing more on the local worshipping community, but both insist that it resides in the church. ✚

.....

Dr. David W. T. Brattston is a member of the oldest Lutheran congregation in Canada, in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. His latest book is on apostolic succession (Eugene, Oregon: Resource Publications, An Imprint of Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2020).

.....

<sup>1</sup> Alan M. Suggate, “The Anglican Tradition of Moral Theology,” in *Worship and Ethics: Lutherans and Anglicans in Dialogue*, ed. Oswald Bayer and Alan Suggate (Berlin; New York: de Gruyter, 1996), pp. [2]–25 (5).

<sup>2</sup> Justin Martyr, 1 Apology 65, 67; Tertullian De Corona 3.

<sup>3</sup> Tertullian Exhortation to Chastity 7.

<sup>4</sup> Tertullian On Baptism 17.

<sup>5</sup> Ignatius Epistle to Smyrnaeans 8.2.

<sup>6</sup> Hippolytus Apostolic Tradition 26.12.

.....



# Archbishop Melissa Skelton Appointed Assisting Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia

In a joint release on February 19 from the dioceses of New Westminster and Olympia it was announced that Melissa M. Skelton will begin a new role as Assisting Bishop at the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia in ministry with her long-time friend and colleague Bishop Greg Rickel. Bishop Skelton retired as Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC/Yukon and Diocesan Bishop of the diocese of New

Westminster on February 28. Prior to her election as the 9th Bishop of the Diocese of New Westminster on November 30, 2013, and subsequent Consecration and Installation on March 1, 2014, she was priest-in-charge for nine years at the Parish of St. Paul's in Seattle, Washington and was also very active as a Canon for Congregational Development at the diocesan level. The Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province

of BC and Yukon will convene on March 6, 2021 and a new Metropolitan will be elected.

In the Anglican Church of Canada bishop's must retire from their positions of episcopal leadership at age 70. In the Episcopal Church, the retirement age is 72. Bishop Melissa remains canonically resident in the diocese of New Westminster, Anglican Church of Canada and will receive a license from the current Bishop of New Westminster, the Rt. Rev. John Stephens, permitting her to exercise her new episcopal ministry in the United States.

Bishop Melissa had this to say about her appointment:

*"I'm delighted to be able to serve as an Assisting Bishop in the diocese of Olympia, the diocese I served in before being elected bishop in New Westminster. Serving in this way will enable me to support the ministry of Bishop Greg Rickel with a special emphasis on congregational development in the diocese of Olympia."*

Bishop Rickel is delighted to be welcoming back his colleague and said:

*"I cannot tell you how excited I am to have Bishop Melissa Skelton back here in Olympia, and I hope everyone realizes how fortunate and blessed we are to receive this gift. My service as bishop began with Melissa on our team and I was so blessed to have her expertise during those first years. I am so very excited that she will be 'on the team' again as I round out my last ones."* ✠



Bishop Rickel vesting Bishop Skelton during the Ordination of a Bishop Eucharist celebrated at the Vancouver Convention Centre, March 1, 2014. PHOTOS Wayne Chose



## Encouraging the Formation of Youth Leadership in the Parish

A phone call in December raised some good questions for Lauren Pinkney, Chair of the Diocesan Youth Movement (DYM) and Jessica Schaap, Missioner for Christian Formation. How could Youth Delegates to Synod be empowered and encouraged in their faith formation and leadership in the local parish?

Youth delegates are parishioners between the ages of 15 and 25 who are members of a parish for at least one year and have been nominated and elected or appointed by a Parish Vestry. As Synod delegates they have membership in a parish council and attend the bi-annual Synod of the diocese of New Westminster where they are voting members of the Synod.

Youth delegates have some special programming during Synod itself, but how were they best nurtured in parish involvement? Was it fair to expect them at every parish council meeting? Were they enjoying, contributing to, and being formed by the parish council meetings they attended? After some conversation with the whole membership of the DYM, the following recommendations were generated. They are offered in a spirit of encouragement and openness to learning how parishes who find these questions relevant to them are forming young leaders.

- Remove barriers for youth attending meetings by lowering expected number of meetings to be attended.



The Synod 2019 Youth Delegates Luncheon.

- Consider holding a Parish Council Retreat morning/afternoon /day to build relationships and pray together shortly after the election of a new council at Vestry.
- Ensure youth are welcomed, and feel at home in the meetings, anything from checking in, to good snacks, to making space for questions.
- Make space on the agenda for youth to bring up things and give feedback in an informal way.
- Consider the pre-work and pre-reading expectations for meetings, how can these be adjusted to make space for all ages and reading abilities.
- Connect young person with an appropriate and experienced council member "mentor" for support before, during and after the meeting.
- Consult with the young person about the best location, time and medium for meetings. ✠

Submitted by Rev. Jessica Schaap, Missioner for Christian Formation & Lauren Pinkney, Chair of the Diocesan Youth Movement



# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## • Tree of Hearts at St. Faith's •

SUBMISSION Melanie Calabrigo

During the final weeks of Advent 2020, folks passing by St. Faith's on Cypress Street in southwest Vancouver were invited to add a heart to the tree located by the fence between the parking lot and the church building on the southeast side of the property. The "hearts" were held in a plastic baggy

and they were plentiful. The invitation was as follows: "You are invited to add a heart to the tree to represent the people and prayers you hold in your heart this season." As the days went by more and more hearts were added to the tree's branches. ✠



On December 18, fewer leaves but more hearts.

## • Baby Jesus Figure Missing from Outdoor Creche •

SUBMISSION Colleen Butterley, ODNW

On December 27, 2020, Warden Colleen Butterley, ODNW of St. Stephen the Martyr, Burnaby circulated the following message around to hopefully encourage folks to return the Baby Jesus figure in their outdoor nativity scene.

Here is her message:

*Baby Jesus has been stolen from the nativity display at St. Stephen the Martyr Anglican Church on Cameron Street in Burnaby near Lougheed Town Centre. The figure was last seen Tuesday, December 22, but no one noticed it was gone until 6:30am on Sunday, December 27. The simply designed nativity is made from heavy plywood and consists of four pieces: a blue background, Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. It is currently lit up with outdoor lighting (now on display, without Jesus) right at the front of the church facing Cameron Street.*

*We had not put the display up for a few years as it was badly in need of a paint job. However, back in November a small team of enthusiastic parishioners safely got together to bring the worn pieces back to life and put up for the first week of Advent. If there was ever a year to bring hope to the community, it was this year. We received many happy comments from friends and neighbours about how nice it was to see the display up.*

*We are hoping that someone will return the missing baby Jesus to the church, so we can reconnect Jesus to his family, and He can continue to bring hope and joy to the community.*

As of this writing in late January, the figure has not yet been recovered but doesn't hurt to get the word out. We will follow up on this report as information becomes available. ✠



The Nativity with baby Jesus.



Where's baby Jesus?

## • Clergy News Around the Diocese •

On January 24, the Rev. Tasha Carrothers was appointed Vicar of St. Mary Magdalene effective March 1. Rev. Carrothers has concluded her curacy at Holy Trinity with the Ven. Richard Leggett and will be leaving her Diocesan Staff position as Missioner for Parish Development after 13+ years of ministry. However, it is likely that her skills and extensive knowledge of the parishes, programs and life of the diocese of New Westminster will be called on in the future.

When asked to comment on her appointment, the Rev. Carrothers said:

*"I'm delighted by my appointment to St. Mary Magdalene. It's a wonderfully inclusive community with creative liturgy. I'm looking*

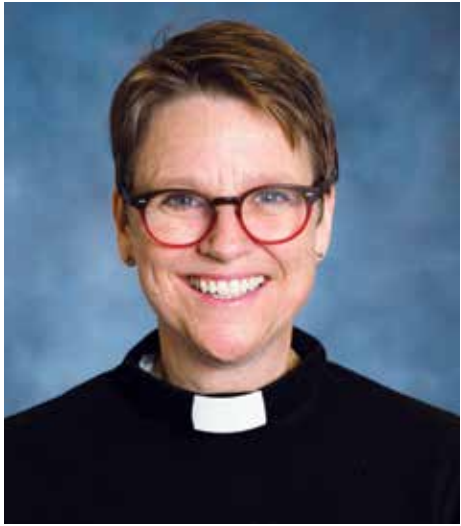
*forward to joining them as we discern and live into ministry in this neighbourhood over the next few years."*

More information about a Celebration of a New Ministry Eucharist and installation is to be confirmed.

Archbishop Skelton prior to her retirement made Martha Cameron a Postulant for the Diaconate. Martha is currently a member of St. Barnabas, New Westminster.

The Rev. Stuart Hallam, Rector of St. Philip, resigned from the parish. His last Sunday was February 28. We wish Stuart and his family well as they return to England.

The Rev. Scott Gould concluded his appointment as Rector of St. Helen, Point Grey on December 31.



Tasha Carrothers. PHOTO Wayne Chose

## Retirements:

- The Rev. Paula Porter Leggett retired as Vicar of St. Alban, Richmond on January 31, 2021.
- The Most Rev. Melissa Skelton retired as Archbishop of the Diocese and Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC and Yukon on February 28, 2021.
- The Rev. Brian Heinrich retired as Vicar of St. Aidan and St. Bartholomew on February 28, 2021.
- The Rev. Canon Jonathan Lloyd will retire as Rector of St. Stephen, West Vancouver and Regional Dean of Capilano on May 31, 2021. Jonathan and Sue, his wife, will return to England to be closer to family. ✠

## • A New Chapter in the Life of St. David's, Tsawwassen •

The long-awaited arrival of the Rev. Simbarashe Emmanuel Basvi

SUBMISSION Elizabeth Murray, ODNW

Delayed by almost a year by protocol and travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Rev. Basvi, his wife Mebbo, daughter Nicole, and son Ivan, arrived at Vancouver International Airport on December 29 to begin a new life in Canada.

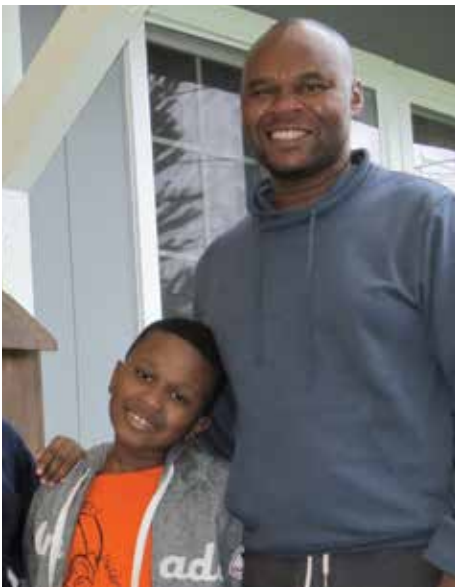
They were welcomed by a small group of parish council members who soon had the Basvi family, and luggage, on its way to temporary accommodation in Tsawwassen, and quarantine.

When flight dates were firm, a troop of council members and other volunteers swept into action to prepare for the anticipated arrival, and to ensure that the parish rector-appointee and family were comfortable in a temporary home equipped to meet their immediate needs during isolation. Work continues to make the family transition to this country as smooth as possible, not the least of which is the pending move to a permanent residence in Tsawwassen.

The Rev. Basvi was ordained in the Anglican Communion in 2003, and brings a wide-range of leadership roles to his new parish. Prior to his appointment in the diocese of New Westminster, Rev. Basvi's positions within the Anglican diocese of Central Zimbabwe in Province of Central Africa included nine years as director and tutor at Zimbabwe Theological Education by Extension in Gweru (an Ecumenical Training Institute), school chaplain at nearby St. Patrick's, Mission, Gweru, two years teaching English as a foreign language under the St. Peter's Mozambique Project in Beira-Mozambique, and another two years as Sub-Dean and eventually Dean of St. Cuthbert's Cathedral, Gweru. He also served as assistant priest at St. Paul's, Malborough (Harare) and was rector of urban parishes in Mission (Zimbabwe) and Luanshya (Zambia).

In appreciation of his passionate dedication to the work of the church, Rev. Basvi was appointed a Capitular Canon of St. Cuthbert's Cathedral.

On coming to St. David's, Rev. Basvi



TOP & BOTTOM Basvi Family. PHOTO Mary Horton

spoke of the importance of family, the church working together as a team to achieve a shared vision, being part of the community, and ministering to all people regardless of age, nationality, gender or sexuality.

Mrs. Mebbo Basvi has teaching experience and may share her husband's interest in music, eco theology, reading, watching movies, and touring—but probably opts out of his soccer-playing pastime!

An Induction will be planned when conditions allow. Please see the feature interview article with Rev. Basvi on pages 10–12 of this issue of *Topic*. ✠



## OPINION

## Journey With My Father

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

Retired Priest of the diocese of Calgary; Former Dean of the diocese of New Westminster &amp; Rector of Christ Church Cathedral

MAY 1937—One day in the spring of my ninth year, my father tells me that he has a free Saturday, and we will take the train to Cobh to see the harbour. It's a journey of about 15 miles (24 kilometres). Many years experiencing the vastness of Canada make me realize how short a journey that is in comparison to how magically huge it seemed then.

When the big day comes, we go to the small window in the station ticket booth to purchase our return tickets to what my father still calls Queenstown. Only recently has it been changed to Cobh (pronounced *Cove*), since the new republic has come into being.

The harbour, my father tells me, is so large that it could at one time contain the whole British fleet. He tells me of the occasion when he and a friend, both of them then 16, made this same train journey in January 1901, on the occasion of the death of Queen Victoria. A flotilla of British naval vessels were in the harbour, their flags flying at half-mast, all solemnly draped in black bunting.

Much of that wonderful day is forgotten, save for isolated moments that remain like old sepia-toned prints. My father is pointing to the mouth of the harbour, where two great forts guard the entrance. He explains that just beyond the entrance is the open ocean, and only a few kilometres along the coast is the sunken wreck of the *Lusitania*, torpedoed by a German submarine with great loss of life. The awe and mystery of such an event reverberate in my young mind. I am far away in the heaving ocean, the outline of the great wreck looming in the depths.

Sitting on a bench, still looking out across the harbour, we share the lunch packed for us by my mother. My father jumps up, points out to sea and cries "Look! Out there! As far as you can see!" On the very edge of our vision, we could just make out a grey shape moving westward above the ocean. "It's the Hindenburg!" my father cries. "The big new German airship. It's sailing to America!" We stand together, transfixed with excitement. My father acquires a new aura of high achievement in my eyes, as if he has personally arranged this amazing conjunction of the great airship and our train journey. All at once, we are in touch with the great world usually experienced only through our evening paper and the crackling voices of our home radio.

Little did I realize that in a few days' time we would be sitting by that radio, listening to the terror of the same proud airship



LEFT Herbert O'Driscoll's Ordination. RIGHT A current impression of the St. Colman's Cathedral, Cobh Harbour, Ireland. PHOTO Susanne Neumann (iStock ID: 1175695879)

exploding and crashing, sending its crew and passengers to their deaths.

There were, of course, many other memorable times with my father, like the first movies I saw with him. The very first was *The Texas Rangers*. I recall both my parents taking me to see *Sanders of the River*, the now politically so incorrect film starring Paul Robeson as the Nigerian leader Bosambo. A third—they are coming to mind thick and fast—was the utterly thrilling *King Solomon's Mines*, Rider Haggard's wonderful story. We went to an early

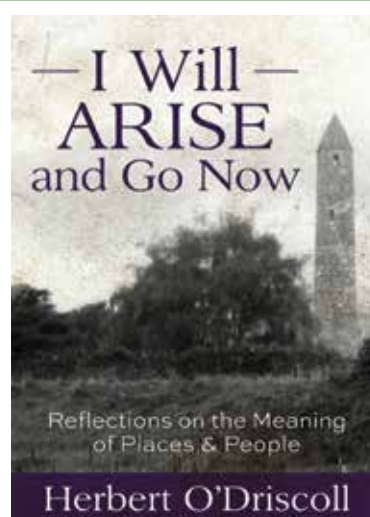


## A Note from Canon O'Driscoll's Editor, Ian Alexander

Herbert O'Driscoll's latest book—and perhaps his most eagerly anticipated after more than 50 previous volumes—is a collection of autobiographical reminiscences, entitled *I Will Arise and Go Now*. The subtitle is *Reflections on the Meaning of Places and People*. Altogether, there are almost a hundred short memory pieces, organized roughly chronologically, but ranging widely across both time and space. They cover his youth in Ireland, his student days at Trinity College Dublin, his four-decade ministry in Canada, his extensive experiences in the United States, and his later years of pilgrimage, especially in Holy and Celtic Lands.

The book was published February 17. The book (with a Canadian price of \$26.99) will be available in local bookshops and online. It's published by Morehouse Publishing of New York, an imprint of Church Publishing Inc. If your preferred bookseller doesn't have it in stock, encourage them to order it from the Canadian distributors, *Parasource* ([www.parasource.com/catalog/category/view/s/books/id/151/](http://www.parasource.com/catalog/category/view/s/books/id/151/)). Watch also for news of "virtual readings" at bookstores and parishes in various locations.

The preceding excerpt is from Part 1, entitled *Old Country*. It recalls a memorable, formative weekend excursion the eight-year-old Herbie made with his father. ✦



*Tarzan* movie, from which I came home attempting to imitate the great Ape Man's hunting call. My efforts were not met with appreciation! I realize now that my parents were very much into the then new world of movies or, as they were called, "the pictures." They certainly ensured that I would become a film buff and remain so for the rest of my life.

I recollect most vividly those moments when my father pointed me far beyond my immediate world. Three times a week, the big blue and white ferry, the *Inisfallen*, would come from Fishguard in Wales. My father knew the captain, so we would sometimes go aboard. I learned of the train that met the ferry in Wales, waiting to take people further on to a shining, infinitely distant London.

Nowadays we speak of someone being a "techie," able to do endlessly clever things on their iPhone and iPad. In those days, being a techie meant being adept in the still new world of radio. At times, I would share my father's forays into the exciting world of short-wave broadcasting. Voices came to us from some infinitely far off part of the world, sounding tantalizingly near for a fleeting moment or two, only to be swept away in the whistling and shrieking of what we vaguely referred to as the ether, notwithstanding our frantic searches on the twisting dial.

Suddenly, memory brings back the sight of something that was almost always on the wide kitchen windowsill. There, close to the radio and Dad's pipe and tobacco pouch (filled with Murray's Mellow Mixture) and his chair, was the current copy of a magazine of that time, *The Wide World*. As that title suggests, it specialized in articles from exotic places combined with the adventures of explorers, mountain climbers, dare devil pilots, and the like.

I realize now that my father was expressing a longing to escape from the prison that his job had become. He lived with unrelenting stress, robbing him of his health and the energy to participate fully in the lives of his three boys. He loved his family deeply, which added to his sense of defeat and futility. I suspect that his great fear was that his sons would also become prisoners of a society that at that time held little opportunity for a new generation. I have always regretted that he did not live long enough to know that life became very fulfilling for all three of us. ✦

## The Crows Know

ART TURNBULL

Retired Priest of the diocese of Ontario; Priest with Permission to Officiate in the diocese of New Westminster

Recently I noticed that the large wild and wooded area near my home was being prepared for development. Where hundreds of trees and bushes, birds and animals, once lived for centuries, the land would become 740 new homes for humans. A few trees were being selected to miss the axe and the grinding of the powerful brush cutter. I was saddened.

The next day as I went on my morning walk past the lot now empty of growth, I saw a murder of crows. Dozens of crows, all sitting on the remaining trees, all looking inward at the empty space. I could sense that they were wondering, "Where has our land, our home gone?" I felt very sad.

That evening I participated in a Zoom meeting for the World Religion Day. The Bahai group who were presenting made a local choice to focus on First Nation Spirituality and Reconciliation. The knowledgeable panel of speakers shared about residential schools, the deliberate settler policy of denying the Indigenous ways of life, the loss of lands and the rights to hunt and fish. The First Nation speakers talked about being on the reserves, with all the limitations and hardships that go with this "generosity" of



IMAGE J. Libik (iStock ID 601007006)

the predominant race of settlers. They spoke of the legacy of loss that cripples so many.

I thought of the Indigenous people, and I could sense them saying, "Where has all our land and water, our home,

gone?" I felt very sad.

Reconciliation is about the impact of development, of change, of privilege unshared and not equal for all. Why have thousands of years of nesting land been exterminated? Why have thousands of years of Aboriginal culture been subdued by power structures of our human making?

I'd heard that two coyotes had been exterminated in Vancouver's downtown Stanley Park by conservation officers. The coyotes were infringing on the joggers on the pathways. We asked each other, "Why can't such coyotes be transferred to wide open spaces to live for another day? And I asked myself, "Why are the crows, and the people of the land, denied the right to live as they are meant to live, just as we latecomers are also meant to share life?"

My Christian understanding in 2021, tells me we have to do so much better. John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin. Jesus came among us proclaiming the Good News of God, the Creator. Can we not hear and see, and act? Now! ✦



# Anglican Foundation of Canada Thanks Donors for Overwhelming Response to Annual Fundraising Effort

The spirit of generosity remains high among Canadian Anglicans as the Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC) thanks donors from coast-to-coast-to-coast for an overwhelming response to its annual fundraising effort, expected to total more than \$165,000, representing a 9% increase over last year.

“From the beginning of the pandemic we knew we must continue to do everything in our power to financially support parishes and faith communities across the country,” says Judy Rois, Executive Director, Anglican Foundation of Canada. “We acknowledged the difficulties people might be facing and asked those of our donors who were able to give to continue to do so. We asked those who were in a position to give a little bit more to give as they felt called.”

The result was an unprecedented outpouring of support. “I am overwhelmed by how our donor community came together,” says Rois, “and in spite of the challenges we will continue to face in 2021, it gives me courage and hope that with the strength of our supporters, AFC will be able to fund ministry that matters throughout this global health crisis and beyond.”

While AFC’s 2020 grant disbursements were lower than in previous years, due to a conservative approach taken during a volatile and uncertain financial environment, Rois says AFC’s ability to fund for impact notwithstanding the economic disruption is owing to “more than six decades of generosity: past and present.”

“In 2020, more than any other year, I have seen the power of legacy in action,” says Rois, “In addition to those who gave generously this year, people who are no longer with us were still with us in spirit, helping AFC to carry out its mission, investing over \$550,000 across the Canadian church through grants to more than 130 applicants.”

Canon Rois, who served in parish ministry before being appointed as Executive Director of AFC in 2010, has a message of hope for churches who find themselves struggling financially in the wake of COVID-19. “Many churches will be tempted to turn to survival mode in the months ahead,” she says. “Some may even put community-focused ministry and mission on hold.” Rois says AFC wants to continue to do its part to prevent this from happening.

“Every gift we have received this year has reminded me of the richness of God’s economy,” says Rois, “and every gift, of every size, has reminded me that with a spirit of generosity and continued creativity, Canadian Anglicans, working through this Foundation, can still mobilize to meet many of the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of people in our communities.”



St. Matthias, Fitch Bay, Quebec.

*“Every gift we have received this year has reminded me of the richness of God’s economy...”*

Judy Rois, Executive Director, Anglican Foundation of Canada

## Highlights

What follows are highlights of the projects funded during the May and November granting cycles:

- A furniture bank that provides gently used furniture for people in need
- An affordable housing project
- A homework club
- Solar power generation grid
- A garden of remembrance
- Online psalms for public and private worship
- The revitalization of Indigenous languages project
- A digital classroom
- Installation of solar panels on church buildings
- Urban farming to assist those with issues of food insecurity
- Online reconciliation modules
- Accessibility installations
- Building modernization
- \$50,000 to 20 proposals addressing the crisis of climate change. ✚

ALL PHOTOS Submitted



Trinity, Saint John, New Brunswick.



St. James Town Ecumenical Homework Club, Toronto, Ontario.



St. John in the Wilderness, Bright's Grove, Ontario.



The Common Garden, Flemingdon Park, Toronto, Ontario.



St. Andrew's, Kelowna, BC.

Children's Prayers with Hope Bear

Perfect Gift for Easter

ANGLICAN FOUNDATION OF CANADA

## Children's Prayers with Hope Bear

Prayers for liturgical seasons, holidays, and special moments in a child's life. \$15 each.

[anglicanfoundation.org/store](http://anglicanfoundation.org/store)