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Choral Evensong in Commemoration of Her Late Majesty Elizabeth the Second

At 4pm on September 25, 2022, at Christ Church Cathedral, the diocese of New Westminster in collaboration with the diocesan cathedral, Christ Church Cathedral celebrated a Choral Evensong in Commemoration of Her Late Majesty Elizabeth the Second.

The liturgy included the attendance of representatives from several different organizations including the current mayor of Vancouver and ecumenical and multifaith participation. It was a memorial that highlighted the diversity of the diocese.

The homilist for the liturgy was the Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster, the Rt. Rev. John Stephens. He began his address with these words:

“When King George VI died on February 6, 1952, newspapers around the world proclaimed: ‘The King is dead, long live the Queen!’ The young princess Elizabeth was on a royal tour in Kenya at the time and hastened her return to England. And after a long delay, on June 2, 1953, the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II took place at Westminster Abbey. And she would reign with a wisdom, compassion and kind-heartedness that won many hearts as she became both foundation and pinnacle to the United Kingdom, countries of the commonwealth and places far beyond.

Today we recognize that about a week ago, once more, she returned to Westminster Abbey but for a final time; not to mark a beginning, but an ending... at least an ending in this world. But she has left an indelible mark on the history of the planet, an impression that will stay with us for countless years to come.”

More coverage of this service is available through the various communications vehicles of the diocese of New Westminster: website, E-News, and diocesan YouTube channel. ✦



Bishop Stephens preaching the homily, reminding us of the Queen’s constant call for unity and peace amongst all people of faith and those with none which emanated from her own deep faith in Jesus Christ. ALL PHOTOS Geoff Howe



LEFT Mayor Kennedy Stewart, Elder Rikki Kooy, and some of the ecumenical partners: Pastor Rebekah Swanson (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, ELCIC), Bishop Gerard LaPlante (Old Catholic) seated in the front row. Vancouver Fire and Rescue Department member stands as a Vigil Guard. RIGHT Bishop Ingham listens as Imam Mohammad Shujaath Ali Nadwi (Imam, BC Muslim Association, Vancouver Branch) leads prayer as one of Interfaith partners.



Bishop John & Bishop Benny



On Wednesday, September 14, 2022, Holy Cross Day, then Bishop-Elect, the Rev. Benny P. Lang-akan was ordained and installed as the 6th Bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Northern Philippines, the Companion Diocese of the diocese of New Westminster. Bishop John Stephens, the 10th Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster was there as one of the consecrating bishops. He was joined by: Ruth Stephens, Elizabeth Ferguson (St. Francis-in-the-Wood), Jean Kyle (St. Agnes, North Vancouver), the Rev. Helen Dunn (Rector, St. Clement, North Vancouver and Regional Dean of North Vancouver), the Rev. Philippa Segrave-Pride (Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Helen, Surrey and recently appointed Executive Archdeacon of the diocese of New Westminster), the Rev. Wilmer Toyoken (Rector, St. Michael, Vancouver and Regional Dean of Kingsway), and the current Executive Archdeacon of the diocese, the Ven. Douglas Fenton.

In this photo we see the two bishops posing for a memorable shot. Bishop Lang-akan wearing his new pectoral cross, beautifully crafted by BC First Nations artist Alvin Adkins. The cross is a gift from the diocese of New Westminster and matches Bishop Stephens’s pectoral cross also crafted by Alvin Adkins. More coverage of this trip available on the diocesan website and in a future issue of *Topic*.



Bishop Stephens prays the Benediction as Evensong concludes.

PHOTO FEATURE

Raising Hearts to Remember Installation & Dedication of the Medicine Wheel

KERRY BAISLEY, ODNW

Missioner for Indigenous Justice, diocese of New Westminster



We gathered September 10 to mark the installation of the Medicine Wheel on the grounds of St. John's, Shaughnessy and the Synod Office. It was also an opportunity to gather and explore next steps in the journey of Reconciliation.

Since May 2021, thousands of unmarked graves have been located on the grounds of former residential schools throughout Canada. Indigenous Peoples have always known about these Missing Ones and have lived with the loss and the pain.

Raising Hearts to Remember seeks to honour the memory of the missing children. It is also a reminder to all that this is not history, it is about the present day and how we need to work together towards healing, caring and relationships based on mutual respect.

In the words of Dr. Cindy Blackstock, "We should never look away again."

Over the past year, participants in this project learned about Canada's residential school history, and some participants shared their personal stories. They made felted hearts, representing the missing children, and tanned over 200 salmon skins into leather, the salmon symbolizing the journey home. The leather skins were assembled to create a seven-foot Medicine Wheel that serves as a visual reminder of our shared responsibilities in Reconciliation.

The installation day was a full day of "drop-in" events which featured keynote addresses from the Rev. Ray Eldred, Director of the Indigenous Studies Program at Vancouver School of Theology (VST) and Nii K'an Kwsdins (Jerry Adams), Nisga'a Elder, parishioner at St. James, Vancouver and former Missioner for Indigenous Justice at the diocese of New Westminster (just a few of his many accomplishments), Reconciliation information sharing, Bannock making and a delicious chili lunch. ✚

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RIGHT Participants in the day, gather at the Medicine Wheel for *Honour Song*. ALL PHOTOS Courtesy of Kerry Baisley who was assisted by Brian Hsieh and others



Participants at workstations learning about Reconciliation work.



Elaine Aldred with a picture of her Bannock mentor, Leona Gettle.



Elaine's mentor insisted there was to be no hair in your Bannock hence the shower caps and Elaine using a t-shirt.



The Rev. Ray Eldred talking about his personal experiences growing up.



LEFT Close up of Deacon, the Rev. Ray Eldred. RIGHT Janey Chang, teacher of fish tanning. Janey's mentorship was central to the unique construction of the Wheel.



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



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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 65 worshipping communities.



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Thank you!

A Very Anglican Advent | A Bite-Sized Devotional for 2022

JESSICA SCHAAP

Missioner for Christian Formation, diocese of New Westminster

Now in its fourth year the diocesan email Advent calendar has become tradition. Last year's calendar with reflections from Indigenous Anglicans was well received and this year will continue with exploring the richness of persons found in the Anglican tradition. Called *A Very Anglican Advent*, this year's daily devotional will offer a thought-provoking quote from an Anglican past or present and from around the Anglican Communion. Novelists, politicians, scientists, nuns, and more will all be quoted in a daily email during the season.

The four figures pictured give a taste of the Anglicans we will hear from. Richard Hooker was one of the found-

ing theologians of the emerging Church of England in the 16th century. He was known for his comprehensive thoughtfulness and civil spirit in a time of great division. Jenny te Paa-Daniel is a prominent Māori theologian who served 23 years as dean of Te Rau Kahikatea seminary at St. John's Theological College in Auckland, New Zealand. Madeleine L'Engle was a beloved fiction writer for children and adults, known best for her famous novel *A Wrinkle in Time*. John Polkinghorne, a mathematician, physicist, and Anglican priest wrote for decades on the intersections of science and religion.

Each day's entry will include a quote, a biographical

line, and links to learn more. Weekly discussion questions will be available on the webpage if you wish to gather with a small group. This bite-sized devotional offers a way to begin the day both grounding and expanding our sense of Anglican identity. But the primary hope is that it's one more small way to keep mindful of the season's purpose: awaiting the person and presence of Jesus.

It's easy to sign-up for this emailed Advent calendar and it's free to subscribe. The emails will begin on November 27. Just fill out the short form on this diocesan webpage at tinyurl.com/advent2022. ✦



Richard Hooker.



John Polkinghorne.



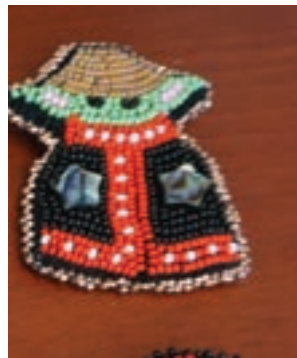
Dr. Jenny te paa Daniel. PHOTO Peter McIntosh.



Madeleine L'Engle. PHOTO Sigrid Estrada

Raising Hearts to Remember Installation & Dedication of the Medicine Wheel

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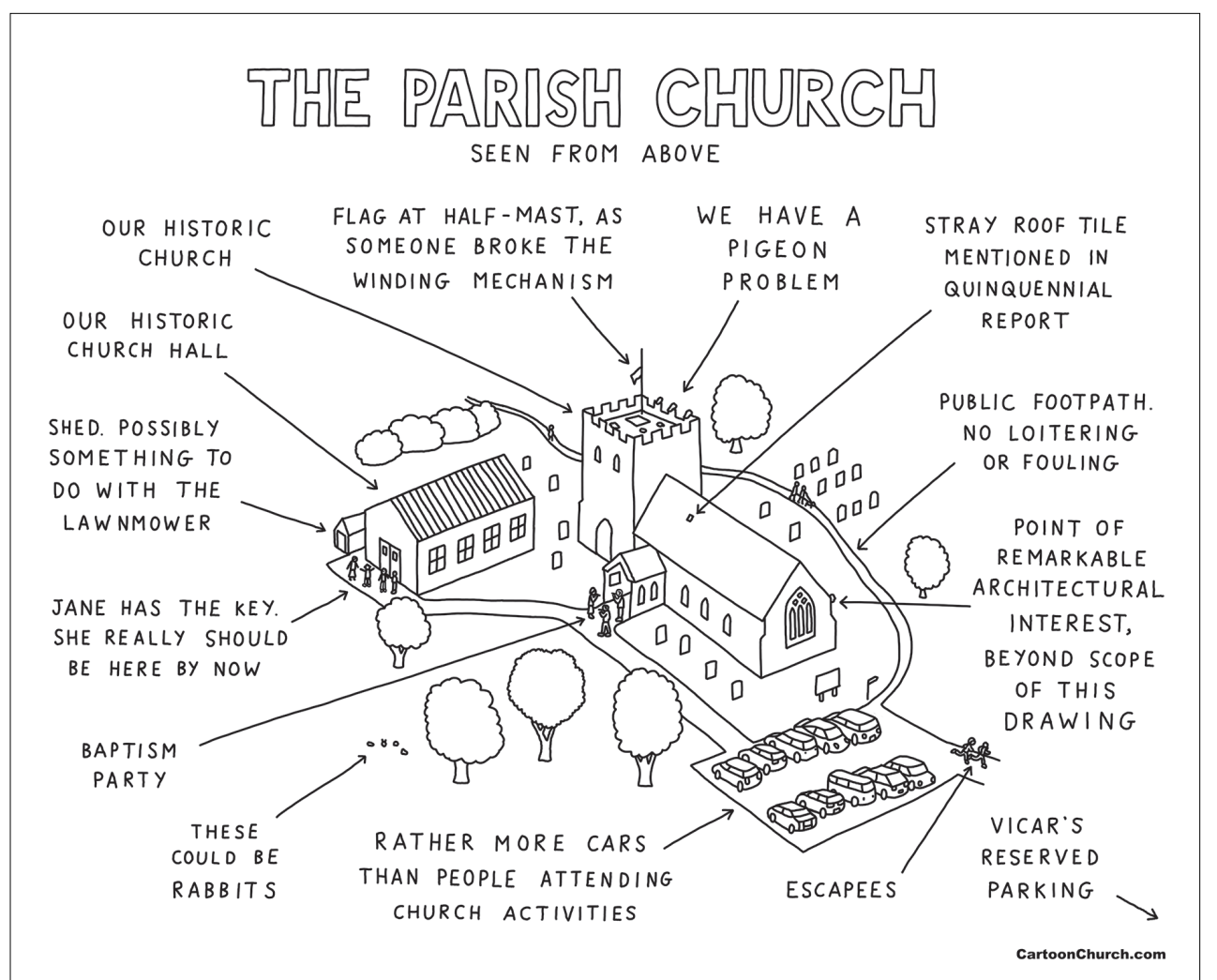


Beading done by Melissa Adams for Coming Home Society.

LEFT Elaine Aldred leads the Bannock making. RIGHT More Bannock making.



Vanessa LeBourdais leading *Honour Song* for the dedication of the Wheel.





The City of Canterbury with the grand Cathedral dominating the skyline.



Interior of Canterbury Cathedral.



Retreat Day in Canterbury Cathedral. All Photos Courtesy of Bishop John Stephens

Some Reflections on Lambeth | July 28 – August 7, 2022

THE RIGHT REVEREND JOHN STEPHENS
Bishop of the diocese of New Westminster

The Lambeth Conference concluded on Sunday, August 7 and the next morning about 600 Bishops and many spouses from all around the world scrambled to find buses, taxis and trains to return them to their home countries. We had arrived almost two weeks earlier, descending on the city of Canterbury bringing our own theological perspectives and vision of the Anglican Church.

Prior to arrival, there was much attention brought to the “call” on human dignity as attempts were made for it to be more conservative and less supportive of those provinces where same-sex marriages are the norm. This seemed to align with the approach taken that same-sex spouses were not invited to the Lambeth Conference. As we gathered, it felt like the tension would be high and differences of theology and opinion not encouraged.

The Lambeth Conference took place on three sites: Kent University, Canterbury Cathedral and Lambeth Palace. Most of the accommodation was at Kent University, although a few bishops found lodging in Canterbury itself.

The first day and a half were spent in a retreat for the bishops and a separate retreat for the spouses. The bishops gathered in Canterbury Cathedral for worship, lectures, discussion, quiet reflection, and opportunities to meet other bishops. It was a wonderful experience to gather in Canterbury Cathedral; having it essentially to ourselves for much of the two days.

As the retreat portion ended, we all assembled for official photographs of the bishops, the spouses, and the women bishops. It took about three hours to get more than a thousand people in the correct place for the correct photograph! This day ended with a keynote address by the Archbishop of Canterbury which centred around living out our faith in the expansive grace of God.

Saturday, July 30 brought what would be the regular routine of many days at the conference: an address on *1 Peter* by the Archbishop of Canterbury, bible study in small groups (7–9 bishops), a presentation related to the upcoming “call” and then a formal discussion of the call.

In the past, the Lambeth Conference would debate resolutions to try to come to consensus on certain issues in the Anglican Communion. These debates had often been contentious and led more to division than resolution. As the resolutions were not binding or necessarily consistent with the canons and practices in provinces (national Anglican churches) or dioceses, the divisive debates were not helpful for the unity of the Communion. Therefore, this Lambeth Conference discussed calls which reflected the fuller breadth of thought in the Anglican Communion.

The first call was on *Mission and Evangelism*. The call was presented to us, and it was well written, reflecting a desire across the communion for the work of mission and evangelism to grow and develop the Anglican Church. We had good discussion, but it was clear that what made sense in one context did not translate to others (162 countries were represented at the conference). When it was introduced that we would be voting on the call (only to get an indication of how much support, or opposition there was amongst the bishops) there was much concern. There was not enough time (given such a large group) to work toward consensus and full discussion. Therefore, in the end the voting showed minimal support for the call because of the concerns raised. There was confusion and frustration.

The next day was the opening liturgy at Canterbury

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The Archbishop of Canterbury (ABC) speaking on Evangelism.



With Ruth Stephens at the Lambeth Palace Luncheon on the Environment.



Prime Bishop Brent Alawas of the Philippines.



With Bishops Geoff Woodcroft (Rupert's Land) and John Watton (Central Newfoundland).



The ABC welcomes all to the Lambeth Conference.



Lambeth Palace.



Archbishop Linda Nicholls preparing to be co-celebrant for the final Eucharist with Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, Primate of Southern Africa.



The ABC speaking about the call on Human Dignity.



With Bishop Te Kitohi Pikaahu, a Māori bishop in New Zealand and chair of the Anglican Indigenous Network.



With a contingent of Canadian bishops: John Stephens, Geoff Woodcroft (Rupert's Land), David Lehmann (Caledonia), Linda Nicholls (Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada), Susan Bell (Niagra), and in front Annie Ittoshat (Arctic Suffragan).



Arriving for the first day of retreat at Canterbury Cathedral.



Voices against Climate Change at Lambeth Palace.



Lambeth Palace Luncheon music.

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Cathedral. A grand Communion Service with a huge procession of bishops into the Cathedral. The sermon, music, singing, and liturgy were excellent.

In the afternoon we moved to the second call on *Safe Church*. Once again there was concern about the process. There was overwhelming support for much needed work on Safe Church policies. The number of cases of abuse by clergy and other church leaders continues to be deeply troubling, as there was no doubt that this remains the great sin of the church of our day. But when it came to showing our support for the document with which we were presented, there was much hesitation as to how this would work. A change was needed in the process for showing support.

The Archbishop of Canterbury and other leaders of the conference brought in a new system to encourage a way forward. He asked if there was support for the call as it was or at least if it was going in the right direction (there were opportunities to give feedback) — or if it needed to be scrapped. There was enthusiastic support for it in principle,

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Worship at Canterbury Cathedral.



Ruth with Bishop Sam Rose (of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador) with his wife, Jill.



Waiting for the official picture of all the bishops attending Lambeth with bishops Helen Kennedy (Qu'Appelle), David Edwards (Fredericton) and Adam Halkett (Saskatchewan).



Bishops of Toronto (Andrew Asbil and Kevin Robertson) taking a photo of the preparation for the official photo of the Bishops at Lambeth.



With Bishop Cam Venables (diocese of Brisbane, Western Region) with his wife, Kate.



The Canadian bishops and spouses' official shot.

Some Reflections on Lambeth | July 28 – August 7, 2022

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again recognizing that different contexts would need to adjust as appropriate. We also came back to the call of the previous day on *Mission and Evangelism*, and it was asked if there was support in principle. It was overwhelmingly supported. We now had a new way of affirming the direction of the Lambeth calls.

The next call was on *Anglican Identity*. On August 2, we considered *Reconciliation* and *Human Dignity*. We looked at reconciliation within the Anglican Church (recognizing that there is division in the Communion) and with those outside the Anglican Communion (including Indigenous People in different parts of the world and the evils that have been done in the name of the Church and colonialism). Voices from Indigenous bishops in Canada (and other places) were heard which included reflections on the horrific abuse at residential schools.

The call on *Human Dignity* was the one expected to be most contentious and most divisive. But given the updated process for showing support in principle (recognizing that more work needed to be done) there was a changing mood in the room. The Archbishop of Canterbury gave a passionate address on the topic. This is part of what he said:

“For the large majority of the Anglican Communion the traditional understanding of marriage is something that is understood, accepted and without question, not only by bishops but their entire Church, and the societies in which they live. For them, to question this teaching is unthinkable, and in many countries would make the church a victim of derision, contempt and even attack. For many churches to change traditional teaching challenges their very existence.

For a minority, we can say almost the same. They have not arrived lightly at their ideas that traditional teaching needs to change. They are not careless about scripture. They do not reject Christ, but they have come to a different view on sexuality after long prayer, deep study and reflection on understandings of human nature. For them, to question this different teaching is unthinkable, and in many countries is making the church a victim of derision, contempt and even attack. For these churches not to change traditional teaching challenges their very existence.

So let us not treat each other lightly or carelessly. We are deeply divided. That will not end soon. We are called by Christ himself both to truth and unity.”

The assembled bishops gave Archbishop Welby a standing ovation. The call itself was supported in principle recognizing that it needs more work. This felt like an extraordinary moment as this gathered group of bishops from all around the world and with countless different contexts had offered a sense of agreement that the Anglican Communion needs to stay united even if there is disagreement on human sexuality. The big tent approach of the Anglican Church suddenly felt bigger and more expansive than only a few days previous. Many did not expect this level of unity to be expressed at the conference.

Other calls that were discussed by the bishops were on *Christian Unity*, *Interfaith Relations*, *Discipleship*, *Environment and Sustainable Development*, and *Science and Faith*. There was good support in principle for each of these calls. In my own mind, I reflected that the call on *Science and Faith* could have been just as controversial as the one on *Human Dignity*, as it recognizes that the Anglican Church needs to be in better relationship with the science community and recognize that science will push the Church into new thinking and perspective.

On Wednesday, August 3, all the bishops, spouses, stewards, conference coordinators and many volunteers journeyed by coach to Lambeth Palace in London for a garden party at the home of Archbishop Justin and Caroline Welby. It was a grand affair with more than one thousand people eating lunch in a tent in their garden. There were also several presentations on the environment and the need for the Anglican Communion to speak out about the climate emergency. We returned to Canterbury later that day via boats along the Thames and then via motor coaches.

There were many events that filled the days at the Lambeth Conference, including worship several times each day (with incredible musicians and great variety in the music), seminars on a variety of topics, and small groups sessions bringing together thoughts and ministries from many parts of the globe. On different evenings, each of the bishops and their spouses were invited to a dinner with the Welby's at the Old Palace on the grounds of Canterbury Cathedral.

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Report on the Lambeth Conference

ELISA KORNER
Conference Steward

During the summer of 2022, I had the opportunity to be one of the stewards at the Lambeth Conference. Youth aged 18–30 from around the Anglican Communion were invited to come to Canterbury, England to assist with running the conference. We got to do a huge variety of tasks, from helping bishops with wayfinding to setting up and running venues, from counting attendance to staffing seminars and speeches. The principal venue for the conference was the University of Kent, with one day where we all took buses—and then boats on the river Thames—to Lambeth Palace in London.

Before stewarding the conference, I was doing an internship at a church in Durham, England, but prior to that I worshipped at St. Laurence, Coquitlam. Because I was already in England, Jason Wood, the youth minister at St. Laurence, suggested I apply, so I did and was accepted.

I went into it with very little idea of what to expect but was blown away by the community that immediately

became apparent. Of the 40 stewards there, we represented about 20 countries from all around the Anglican Communion, including three Canadians. We mostly worked in smaller groups during shifts—my group had, in addition to myself, people from Panama, India, Pakistan, and the United States. Very few of the stewards had met before, and despite coming from all over the world and from so many different roles within our churches (there were stewards who were deacons, priests, youth ministers, engineers, architects, and students, just to name a few), we immediately connected. We really felt like family through our faith, and our common task of working behind the scenes to assist bishops and keep the conference running smoothly. We're all keeping in touch, and regularly sharing messages and pictures of what's going on in our churches and communities.

Maybe even more impactful, was the sense of connection within the wider conference; bishops were

coming in from so many different contexts, with so many different opinions, and yet there was a tangible feeling of community. Throughout the conference so many people were praying for connection and unity, and it really felt like those prayers were answered.

I came to the Lambeth Conference with little understanding of the importance of the Anglican Communion, and even less of my own role within it. I left with a deep appreciation of the way that we are all part of God's Church, and how we, even when we might rarely meet each other and might disagree on things, are family. It has affected the way I think about and how I pray for the worldwide church. If there is one thing I would like to share from my time at the conference, besides saying thank you to everyone who prayed for it, it is how interconnected we are, and how important each and every one of us is in the worldwide Communion. ✝



Bishop John Stephens taking a selfie with conference steward, Elisa Korner.



Elisa, Emily Clough, Josh Floberg, Sean Murray, and Oshin Gill. PHOTO Sean Murray



Elisa on London Day directing delegates onto boats. PHOTO Oshin Gill

Some Reflections on Lambeth | July 28 – August 7, 2022

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One of the highlights of a Lambeth Conference is related to the conversations that take place throughout the two weeks. Conversations over a meal, over coffee, during the breaks in the meetings, in the bible study groups, as we walked from one venue to another (and there was lots of walking!) or standing in one of the many queues. These conversations were rich and rewarding, demonstrating that we share the same faith and a commitment to Christ expressed through an Anglican context. I will treasure these dialogues for years to come.

The Closing Eucharist was held at 4pm on Sunday, Au-

gust 7. After a long and exhausting conference, this liturgy brought great energy and hope for the future. Archbishop Thabo Makgoba (primate of Southern Africa) and our own Canadian primate, Archbishop Linda Nicholls were the celebrants, with Archbishop Welby preaching. The music was uplifting throughout (a mixture of a cathedral choir and a worship band) but processing out of Canterbury Cathedral while singing *Siyahamb' ekukhanyeni kwenkos* (*We are Marching in the Light of God*) with drumming brought tears to many eyes.

In preparation for the Lambeth Conference, I was

wondering what the Anglican Communion would look like afterwards. Would we be united or even further divided? We are very much further united, united in faith in Jesus Christ. While we differ as to what our response to that might be in different contexts, we continue to be unified in praying the words of our faith and our liturgy:

Glory to God whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen. ✝



LEFT With Archbishop Maimbo Mndolwa of Tanzania.



MIDDLE The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada on the big screen.



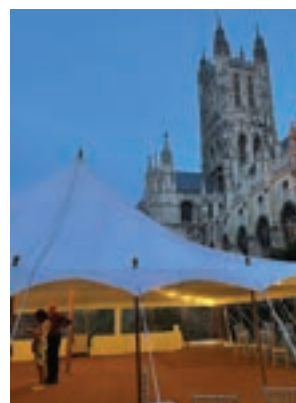
RIGHT With Ruth and Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, Primate of Southern Africa.



LEFT With Bishop Lennon Chang of Taiwan.



RIGHT My bible study group with bishops from Jamaica, Papua New Guinea, Myanmar, Kenya, England and USA.



LEFT The iconic Canterbury Cathedral as viewed during a dinner in the garden of the Archbishop of Canterbury's residence in Canterbury.



RIGHT An interior shot in Canterbury Cathedral during the retreat.

We Will Gather with A Song

Sorrento Centre | July 17 – 23, 2022

JANE DITTRICH
Christ Church Cathedral

Gathering with a song in the outdoor chapel dedicated to St. Francis is how each morning beautifully and prayerfully starts during a summer program week at Sorrento Centre. This line, “We will gather with a song” is from the Rev. David Taylor’s song *The Invitatory (We Will Celebrate)* sung every morning during worship. The Rev. Taylor, Rector of St. Dunstan’s, Aldergrove, once again served as worship leader for some of the course weeks in the summer of 2022.

There were three courses during this week, the first was LEAP (Leadership, Experience and Adventure Program), a course for youth ages 15 and 16. LEAP fosters personal, spiritual and professional growth in leadership skills and work experience. Participants were involved in a variety of spiritual practices, along with engaging workshops and activities. One of the participants in LEAP this year was Maggie Cruickshank, granddaughter of the late Bishop Jim Cruickshank, Sorrento Centre’s founding Director. Long-time Sorrento Centre course leader Kathie MacDuff of Calgary led a course called *Creative Journaling: Potpourri Play*, and Karin Huehold (also of Calgary) led *The Creative Watercolour Mandala*.

With COVID protocols lifted this year, the Centre was back to its regular bustling self, and for the first time in a couple of summers, free from forest fire smoke. On the first day, a group of people enjoyed reconnecting while playing croquet (enthusiastically organized by Mark and Nadja Hoath of St. Mary’s, Kerrisdale) on the main lawn prior to the evening *Welcome and Orientation* gathering with the Centre’s Executive Director, the Rev. Michael Shapcott. Following this gathering, a stunning rainbow lit up the skies above the Centre, aptly symbolizing hope,

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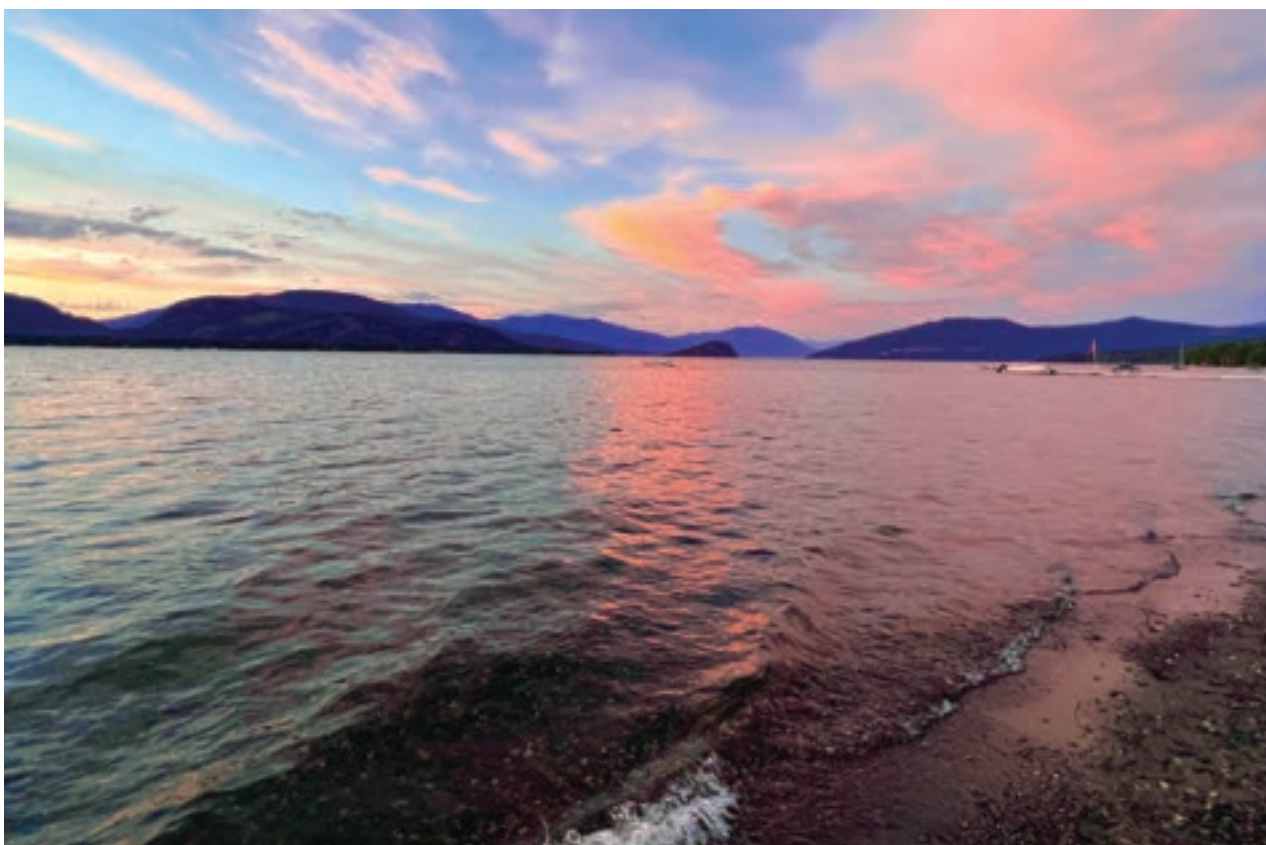
LEFT A game of croquet on the main lawn. RIGHT Jason and Sarah Williams of Calgary head out kayaking with their dog Kona. Sarah has previously served on the Sorrento Centre Board, and Jason always volunteers to do many repairs and projects on site whenever they are at the Camp. ALL PHOTOS Jane Dittrich



Monday night sing-along and campfire at the beach.



LEFT Sunset at the beach. RIGHT Brice Fraser, his daughter, Sue Cruickshank and Jane Dittrich heading off on Brice’s boat.



Another glorious sunset at the beach.

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LEFT Neale Adams, his wife Ros Kellett and their two grandsons performing a skit at talent night. RIGHT People gathered for closing worship at St. Francis Chapel.



LEFT Rev. David Taylor presiding over closing Eucharist. RIGHT Sorrento Centre's Executive Director, Deacon, the Rev. Michael Shapcott and Jane Dittrich.



The Rev. Michael Shapcott thanks members of the summer youth staff at closing worship.



Sunrise over St. Francis Chapel.



A beautiful mid-evening rainbow over the Centre.



The Taylor family (they attend Sorrento Centre together every summer) standing in front of a tree planted by the Centre's founding director, the late Bishop Jim Cruickshank.

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promise and new beginnings.

The six summer youth staff led the sing-along at the Monday night beach campfire with hot chocolate and the construction of *s'mores* over the fire pit. Shuswap Lake had been exceptionally warm this summer, inspiring folks to enjoy an evening swim while taking in the stunning sunset. Thursday night's talent night saw *Kekuli*, the Centre's outdoor amphitheatre, absolutely full! Everyone came to enjoy the jokes, and songs performed by course participants, youth staff, and youngsters attending the week's children's program. Lots of familiar faces to those in the diocese of New Westminster took part, including Ros Kellett and Neale Adams, ODNW, the Rev. David Taylor and his sons Nathan and Logan, and Phoebe McRae (Phoebe, formerly of Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver, now lives in Portland, Oregon with her husband, the Rev. Martin Ewert, and their family). Friday late afternoon saw the customary closing worship service in St. Francis' Chapel, with everyone gathering for Eucharist. This is when course leaders and participants offer highlights from their week together. It is also when Executive Director, the Rev. Michael Shapcott takes the opportunity to thank the leadership of the week, along with thanking the hardworking Centre staff and dedicated summer youth staff. Following worship, everyone enjoyed chatting over an outdoor dinner, prepared by long-time kitchen manager Karrie Tennent and her staff.

Richardson Lodge is one of two lodge accommodations at Sorrento Centre. It was originally named *Nova Vita* (Latin for "new life") and was later renamed after Lance Richardson. Lance was a member of the first winter course at Sorrento Centre in 1965, and not long after, he returned as the Centre's first property manager. He, along with Jim and Sue Cruickshank and others, supervised the construction of the much beloved pan-abode structure. Halfway through this course week, news of Lance's passing was relayed to Sorrento Centre. An evening prayer service of remembrance was assembled in quick order in his honour that evening. The Centre's gorgeous private beach is always a popular spot and is a special gathering place for people. Children, teenagers and adults alike love splashing around in Shuswap Lake, swimming out to the dock, playing on floaties, enjoying the sun and good times with friends and family. This year, returning guests Brice and Meaghan of Kamloops generously took people out daily in their motorboat for rides, tubing and wake surfing.

As always, the week was full of countless memories made for all. In the magical atmosphere of Sorrento Centre, strangers become friends, old friends get reacquainted as if no time has passed, and everyone young and old share experiences, laughs, outdoor adventures, spiritual awakenings, and memories to last a lifetime. The Centre remains the camp, holiday and retreat gem of the Anglican Church of Canada. Something for everyone, and as is often said of Sorrento Centre, "Once you go there once, you will go there forever!"

Please have a look at the website at sorrentocentre.ca for upcoming events and programs, and for information on different ways to support the work and ministry of Sorrento Centre. ✦



Early morning by the water on Gambier Island.



Morning prayer with worship led by DYM leaders.

First Annual DYM Youth & Young Adult Retreat

Diocesan Youth Movement teams up with the Parish of St. Clement's, Lynn Valley for a weekend at Camp Artaban

LAUREN ODILE PINKNEY

Children, Youth & Family Minister at Christ Church Cathedral; Chair of Diocesan Youth Movement

On Friday, August 26, 47 youth and young adults from across the diocese of New Westminster met at Horseshoe Bay to begin their weekend away at Camp Artaban. Camp Artaban is a Christian camp rooted in Anglicanism located on Gambier Island, a 40-minute water taxi ride from Horseshoe Bay located north and west of the city of West Vancouver. The camp is celebrating its 99th year! Through several meetings, the Diocesan Youth Movement (DYM), Camp Artaban and St. Clement's parish planned a retreat that would be open for youth to enjoy time at Camp Artaban, but also offer an experience for young adults, ages 19+. Finally, after much planning, we were able to make this idea come to life, making space for all ages to gather in community over a weekend. The plan was to provide separate time with specific activities for each group, as well as gathering for meals, worship, campfire time and of course the various outdoor activities provided by the camp.

The retreat kicked off with a blustery boat ride to Gambier Island, the waves were a little rough and folks near the back of the boat got wet, but it made for an exhilarating ride before heading straight into the dining hall for dinner. The theme for the weekend varied for the ages. For the youth the theme was *Creation Connection* where the four elements (Earth, Air, Fire, Water) were used to explore ways that we connect to ourselves, each other and God by looking to the world around us. The young adults were focused on rest and renewal and ensuring that the participants had time for intentional self care.

After dinner, the youth settled in their cabins, which of course to their horror and leaders delight, didn't have electricity, which meant a forced technology fast. We gathered by the ocean at the campfire pit for worship. Led by myself, Lauren Odile Pinkney (Children, Youth and Family Minister at Christ Church Cathedral and Chair of the Diocesan Youth Movement), and Jason Wood (Youth and Families Ministry Coordinator at St. Laurence, Coquitlam), with liturgy from the Northumbria Community—the worship took on new meaning with its beautiful imagery as we were literally besides the ocean, mountains and forests. The sun set as we sang *How Great Thou Art* together.

The topic for the first session was *Air*. The youth took part in a guided meditation with me and Sarah Autio (Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator at St. Mark, Ocean Park). To get started we requested that they lie down on the ground, then with a rock they'd chosen from the beach earlier they placed the rock on their stomach and used it to assist in deep breathing through the session. The passage we used was also drawn from our theme for the weekend *Isaiah 43:2*:

*When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.*

This was followed by an opportunity to debrief and discuss ways in which meditative prayer practices such as this can help ground one when feeling anxious or stressed. Sometimes we need to remind ourselves that to love God and to love each other we must strive to love ourselves as well.

After the session, we had some delicious fresh from the oven oatmeal and chocolate chip cookies and of course hot chocolate before the youth headed off to cabins to finally get some rest.

On Saturday morning we noticed a shift in the weather, from grey and cloudy to glorious sunshine, just in time for a day outside. Following breakfast, we headed down to the campfire for Morning Prayer, we said our prayers together while watching herons as they fished.

The next session on *Earth* was led by the Rev. Cameron Gutjahr, Rector of St. John the Divine, Squamish and long-time DYM member. Cameron studied biology at university and has a passion for all things that grow, so it was fitting that he would lead this session. Together we learned about rocks and about how rocks change and how God changes us. Using the story of Jacob's Ladder, Cameron with some help from the youth retold the story, with an actual ladder and through this story we learned about God changing hearts of stone to hearts of flesh.

After lunch we met down by the campfire for our next session, this time, the theme was *Water*. Kerry Baisley, Missioner for Indigenous Justice on diocesan staff had shared some wisdom in our last two sessions. For the session about water, Kerry began with an exercise on *blind spots*. There was a printed handout with a dot on the left-hand side and on the right, a cross. When you closed one eye and focused on the cross, the dot faded away and became invisible. Kerry used this as an example of how we have lost sight of water. We also had a wake-up call as to how much water in the world is drinking water (only 1.2%). Kerry closed the session by encouraging the youth to question why no one is dealing with this and empowering the youth to use their voices around climate issues and in this instance—drinking water.

This was the perfect segue into our waterfront time, with bathing suits at the ready we headed down to the dock for swimming and kayaking. Those of us who were kayaking received a visit from a grey seal who followed us for a little while. The sun and the water were warm and welcoming as we had some well-needed fun in the sun with a side

helping of *vitamin sea*.

Meanwhile the young adult cohort enjoyed some Mandala painting on rocks, using dropping tools, coloured acrylics and using small dots to make patterns. Christie Smith, one of the young adult facilitators skilled in this craft led the activity and the results were exquisite.

What would camp be without a game of Capture the Flag? And that is exactly what we did to dry off, a site-wide game which included the entire group—red team vs blue team—vying to capture each other's flags before dinner.

The final session of the day and of the weekend was with Kerry. The theme was *Fire*. Next year the DYM plans to attend the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth (CLAY) Conference in Waterloo, Ontario. The theme will be *Ashes and Embers*, so to introduce the youth to some concepts around fire we asked Kerry to lead us in sharing some knowledge and wisdom. Kerry began the session in small groups, with everyone discussing words that we might associate with fire at different stages in our life: when we were very small; when we were growing up in middle or high school; and how our perceptions of fire have shifted since 2016 and the continuing experience of wildfires in our province. Kerry offered some instruction using Indigenous concepts of how to control forest fires and compared them to national initiatives. Kerry taught us about sacred medicine, sage, sweetgrass, cedar and tobacco. The youth interacted with these elements, experiencing the scents of sage and sweetgrass as well as some frankincense and myrrh from Jordan. To close the session Kerry led the youth in a teaching session around smudging and gave the youth the opportunity to be smudged if they so desired. We then proceeded to the campfire for worship, gathered around the fire, connected with one another, looked up at the stars and sang.

Meanwhile the young adults, led by the Rev. Helen Dunn, Rector of St. Clement's, Lynn Valley led a session on radical self-care. This work is important, especially amongst young adults, particularly millennials, who have high rates of burnout. Learning coping skills, setting boundaries and advocating for these needs have become not just important but vital to young adults trying to establish themselves in careers, life or adulthood in general. These are sacred acts and ways God calls us to care for others and ourselves.

The youth, after perhaps too many *s'mores*, shifted gear a little to have a night game. A bit of a tradition at Camp Artaban is to play *Lantern*, so with lots of help from James and Kia, Camp Artaban summer staff, we were able to get the youth competing in stealth mode to reach the lantern (without getting caught) and turn it off.

Following breakfast on the last morning, worship took place in the field before heading off for another round of archery, climbing and crafts. Christie Smith offered to instruct the youth in the Mandala rock painting. After



Kerry Baisley, ODNW teaches the youth about sacred medicine.



The Rev. Cameron Gutjahr demonstrates Jacob's Ladder.



Painting Mandala rocks.

our various activities, we gathered at the chapel for the last guided activity. The Closing Eucharist included everyone onsite filling roles in worship such as altar guild, readers, and intercessors. The goal was to use the traditional liturgical participation model but ensure that the youth and young adults had full creative reign in making the Eucharist their own. Each DYM leader with help from the Venerable Peggy Trendell-Jensen, Deacon at St. Clement's, Lynn Valley with the Rev. Dunn placed the youth based on their interests. The groups were: music (led by Jason), the sermon (led by Helen), the readings (led by Peggy), and decorating and space set up (led by Melissa Van Uum, DYM member). The chapel decorating group went above and beyond. Around the fence posts in the chapel were candles and hand-picked shells that the youth had beach-combed during prep time. The altar was covered in moss, flowers, branches and seaweed to represent God's creation. Also present on the altar, items humans had made found in the forest, a KitKat candy bar, and flashlight representing our lack of care for creation and the affect human-made things have on the planet. We heard from the readers who not only read the readings but enacted them, including walking with rivers using actual water being splashed over the group and walking through fire, represented by a fluorescent orange vest and fleece which were waved around the group. To top it all off we watched a skit facilitated by Helen, dramatically telling the story from the gospel *Luke 14*, where the host is encouraged to invite the poor to their banquet. The skit included New Testament News interviews with the rich guests, Jesus and the host. It was both hilarious and meaningful. The prayers, led by Sarah consisted of prayers the youth had written as well as the response:

God of the Forest
Hear our prayer.

We shared Eucharist together beneath the trees under the huge cross, before we said our goodbyes to camp, and the staff, and headed back to mainland.

The weekend was incredible and a huge thank you to Nancy and Jonathan Ferris at Camp Artaban, and all the summer staff, especially Kia and James! A big thank you to everyone at St. Clement's for helping dream the weekend up and make it a reality, Peggy, Helen and Mark. Thank you to Kerry Baisley for his wisdom, humour and passion. Thank you to the Rev. Jessica Schaap for her help behind the scenes in the lead up to the weekend. Thank you to all the DYM leaders, Cameron, Jason, Sarah, Melissa and Rev. Jonathan Pinkney. And thank you to the Anglican Foundation and the diocese of New Westminster for contributions that made this an affordable weekend for the young people and young adults of the diocese to attend and enjoy. We will not forget these happy memories. ✦



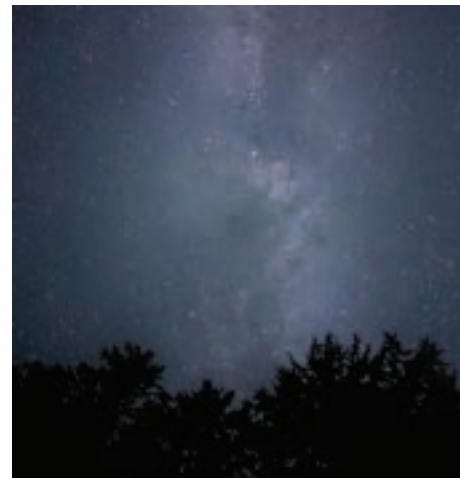
The Rev. Helen Dunn (on the left with stole) joins the youth in the "sermon skit."



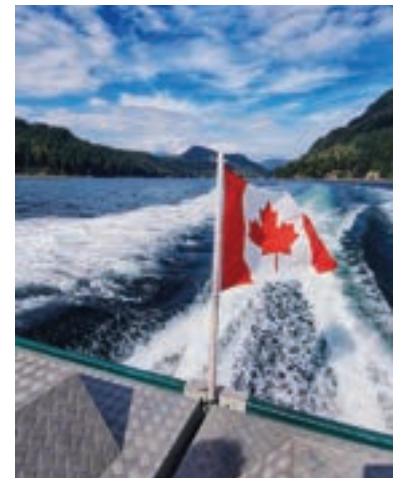
The youth enjoy social time by the campfire.



Closing Eucharist, the altar decorated by the youth.



The night sky above Camp Artaban.



The water taxi home after a great weekend.



Youth, young adults and leaders for the retreat. ALL PHOTOS Lauren Odile Pinkney, Jonathan Pinkney, Helen Dunn

Tea & Trees Celebration of Life

ELIZABETH MURRAY, ODNW

Topic Reporter, Parishioner at St. David, Tsawwassen

Mary Christina Brown had a heart as big as the trees she helped save on the Riverview lands in Coquitlam.

Her passion for nature prompted her to join the Riverview Horticultural Centre Society (RHCS), with its mission to preserve and protect the lands and trees on the former BC's Essondale psychopathic hospital site. This made Serenity Garden on Riverview grounds a fitting location to gather for afternoon tea in her memory on Sunday, August 14.

Some who came to tea had also joined the organized *Tree Walk*—a guided RHCS tour that takes place approximately once a month during appropriate seasons.

A long-standing and faithful parishioner of St. James, Mary (pre-deceased by husband Ian in January 2018) had travelled to be with family in Sechelt for Christmas. She attended the Christmas Eve Carol Service at St. Hilda's, where her sister Margaret Scott was singing in the choir. She sat with her niece Kat Roussos, received Communion and sang all the carols by heart. Mary collapsed outside the church and died in Sechelt Hospital, aged 87 years.

Mary held a wide variety of roles at St. James. She was elected a parish trustee in 1971–1972, was a long-time member of the Anglican Church Women (ACW) serving from 2003–2004 as Corresponding Secretary, a supporter of the Street Outreach Downtown Eastside Initiative and the Rev. Fr. Matthew Johnson, and a volunteer and then member of the Board of Directors of St. James Community Services Society (SJCSS)—formed in 1961 and renamed the Bloom Group in 2013.

At her Requiem Mass in St. James February 18, Fr. Matthew could not have paid Mary higher praise than when he said, "Finding words of appreciation is not at all difficult to do when a person is as genuine and as authentic as Mary Brown."

Fr. Matthew's Homily went on to summarize her life:

"An Englishwoman by birth, Mary served as a midwife in the UK before emigrating to Canada, and ultimately Vancouver, where she completed a nursing degree, specializing in public health. Midwifery and nursing were both natural vocations for a woman who was prepared to work good and hard for the welfare of others and for causes in which she believed. Together with her husband Ian they made a life for themselves in nearby Coquitlam.

Mary's life of service to others was not limited to nursing, for over the years she undertook the work of numerous worthwhile projects. She was instrumental in establishing Vancouver's first stand-alone hospice, and through SJCSS took a special interest in Victory House (a community supporting vulnerable adults with special needs).



Mary Brown. PHOTO Submitted

Her love of nature was the stimulus of her out-of-doors activity and led to her part in a powerful campaign to save a remarkable collection of distinct trees at Riverview. She also worked with Burke Mountain Naturalists to protect wild habitat, and at certain times could be found at Colony Farm Bird Count. Mary was profoundly conscious of an on-going, living

relationship with her Creator and she touched many lives with just that: God's love at work through her."

She was recipient of the Sovereign's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977 and was inducted into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW) in 2011. ✦



Co-hostess Kat Roussos helps serve afternoon savouries. ALL PHOTOS Elizabeth Murray



Great-niece Emma Taylor follows her Mom with variety of sandwiches.



Mary's family — Kat Roussos, Margaret Scott and Emma Taylor — with the Ven. Fr. Kevin Hunt.

IN MEMORIAM

The Reverend Edward John Hulford, Priest
September 17, 1923 – July 30, 2022

The Rev. Ed Hulford died on Saturday, July 30, 2022, at St Paul's Hospital, Vancouver.

Born in Makinak, Manitoba on September 17, 1923, Ed and his parents moved to Victoria soon after. Ed sang in the Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria choir as a boy chorister and benefited from the renowned Stanley Bully, the Cathedral Choir Director, who had been trained at Westminster Abbey. Ed was well-known for his exceptional gift of singing both the Mass as well as contemporary songs.

Ed was educated at the University of British Columbia (UBC), where in 1946, he graduated with a BA. During his time at UBC he was an altar server at St. James. He went on to study at Trinity College, University of Toronto, where he obtained a Licentiate of Theology (LTh).

He was ordained to the diaconate in 1949, and to the priesthood in 1950, here in the diocese of New Westminster.

Ed served curacies at Christ Church Cathedral and at St. James, Vancouver where he first served as an Assistant Priest during Archbishop Somerville's time as Rector. Ed was appointed Rector of St. James, Vancouver beginning in 1960 until 1965. He also served for a time as Regional Dean of Burrard.

Ed's primary calling was to prison ministry. He was a prison chaplain at Okalla Prison Farm in Burnaby, the Lower Mainland Correction Centre, the Lower Mainland Correctional Centre Women's Unit, and New Haven Correctional Centre. He also served as Chaplain to prisoners who were hospitalized. In 1970, he was appointed Senior Protestant Chaplain in the British Columbia Corrections Service. In 1975, he was appointed Director, Religious Programs for the BC Corrections Branch. He retired from the public service in 1988.

Ed is survived by the Rev. Bruce Gifford, his brother



The Rev. Ed Hulford. PHOTO Submitted

Stanley's children, Vera Anderson (née Hulford), Gordon Hulford and Elaine Hulford and his sister Evelyn's son, Ken Farey along with great-nieces and nephews.

A Requiem Mass was said at St. John's, Shaughnessy on Wednesday, August 17. ☩

Ronald (Ron) Charles Minshall, ODNW

December 9, 1935 – August 2, 2022

It is with sadness that we inform you of the passing of long time St. Laurence, Coquitlam parishioner, Ron Minshall.

Ron died around 3pm on August 2. His wife Muriel and daughter Sharon were both with him. The staff at his long-term care residence, Foyer Maillard, offered him and the family excellent and very attentive care right until his ending.

In 2012, he was invested into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster (ODNW) for his outstanding service.

His Citation read as follows:

Ron has been a faithful and dedicated member of St. Laurence since 1963. Over the years he has generously shared his gifts as a musician and a leader with the parish and the diocese.

For many years Ron was the Verger of the parish, he also loved to participate in worship and was a highly committed to his roles as Crucifer and Lay Assistant.

The Parish of St. Laurence will remember and continue to value Ron's gentle, warm spirit and his deep faithfulness.

Ron's Celebration of Life took place at St. Laurence's on Saturday, September, 24, 2022.

We give thanks for all the blessings of your life. ☩

Prepared with files from the Rev. Carla McGhie



Ron Minshall, ODNW. PHOTO Submitted

The Reverend Terence Meredith Allen, Priest
July 10, 1930 – August 20, 2022

The Rev. Terry Allen died on Saturday, August 20, 2022. He is survived by Barbara, his wife (two-weeks shy of 70 years of marriage), their son Matthew and their daughter Leanne Sinclair and her daughters Emily and Anika and grandson Noah.

Terry was educated at the University of British Columbia (UBC), where he graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science in 1954, and at Anglican Theological College at UBC, where he earned a Sacrae Theologiae Baccalaureatus (STB) in 1965.

He was ordained to the diaconate in 1965, and to the priesthood in 1966 in the diocese of Kootenay. Terry served at Chase and at Castlegar-Kinnaird-Robson in the diocese of Kootenay before transferring to the diocese of

New Westminster. He was the rector of St. Helen, Point Grey from 1974 to 1979.

Terry was also a mining engineer, and he and Barbara lived in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea for a time in the 1980s, where he worked for Placer Development and where he occasionally took services at St. John's Cathedral, Port Moresby. They later returned to Vancouver where he was the Environmental Coordinator for Placer Dome before retiring to Nanaimo and then Surrey, BC.

Terry was a member of St. Mark, Ocean Park.

Interment of ashes in St. Mark, Ocean Park Memorial Garden is scheduled to follow later in 2022, when arrangements can be made for family to gather. ☩



The Rev. Terry Allen. PHOTO Submitted

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

Marhaba Food Story

ANNE BAIRD

St. Francis-in-the-Wood, Caulfeild

In May 2015, three West Vancouver Anglican churches—St. Francis-in-the-Wood, St. Christopher’s and St. Stephen’s—united in ministry to sponsor a young Syrian family to come to Canada. Ranim Fahham, her sister, and their four children arrived in Vancouver in May 2016. Ranim, a highly qualified Civil Engineer, and Instructor at the Civil Engineering Institute in Aleppo, Syria, had managed large projects, and owned her own business. She hit the ground running.

Over the next five months, she sent out 200 resumes and 200 job applications. But received only five responses. Some companies said she was “overqualified.” A few advisors suggested she “lower her sights” and apply for lower-level jobs at chain stores.

Ranim’s response was to work harder. Through connections at the church, she was helped to create a compelling resume. She was then introduced to Knight Piesold Consulting, a Vancouver Engineering Consulting Company. In November 2016, the company offered her a job as a Designer/Intermediate Drafter, *tec 1*. She accepted. Willing to work 13-hour days, studying and taking courses at BCIT, within a year she rose steadily from Level 1 to Level 2. Perhaps, one day, she’ll find time to become a fully certified Canadian Civil Engineer.

Now, however, she’s fully engaged with her job, and with the time she devotes to helping other refugees.

For a while, she did presentations for Work BC and Immigrant Services Society (ISS) of BC advising newcomers on how to find work, and how to integrate into Canada. But she soon felt that wasn’t enough.

“Words don’t put food on the table. ACTION, not words are needed,” she said. “I wanted to be able to offer them JOBS.”

This led to her new company: *Food Story*.

In February 2020, she opened. Using a commercial kitchen, she hired staff to offer catering, a line of packaged frozen foods, online ordering, and delivery of Mediterranean cuisine. They were just getting started when the pandemic struck. They survived this for two years.



PHOTOS Submitted



In May of 2022, Ranim found a business partner in Amr Halem, an Egyptian restaurateur who used the same commercial kitchen. Combining their experience and talents, they created a new restaurant at 1157 Davie

Street in downtown Vancouver: *Marhaba Food Story*. The restaurant opened the third week in June. In its second week of operation, a group of five friends from St. Francis, decided to share dinner there. We wanted to experience and celebrate how our church’s sponsorship of a refugee from Syria had worked out.

It was a huge success! The food was delicious; the ambience, attractive and serene; the young staff eager to serve. Ranim was gracious, Amr, quietly supportive of their new project.

The daily special which included beef, chicken and lamb shawarma, with fragrant rice and steaming vegetables, was abundant. We didn’t miss alcohol, particularly with the copious selection of juices, coffees, teas, smoothies and soft drinks on offer. Prices were reasonable.

The name of the restaurant tells its story. “Marhaba” means “Hello and Welcome” in Arabic.

The greeting, normally used between family and close friends, announces the intention of *Marhaba* to treat every customer who walks in as a friend or future friend.

As for *Food Story*, we have already learned a little about Ranim’s incredible journey. But there is a larger story yet untold.

Marhaba gives back to the community that adopted them. It provides low-cost, even free meals, to non-profit organizations feeding the homeless. Ranim accepts invitations to speak about the plight of refugee families, and on how to help them integrate into Canada.

For me, it’s also about *Marhaba*’s desire to share their story; to share culture, cuisine, customs and history with new Canadian friends. And it’s about Ranim’s dream of mapping a broader future for everyone.

In such a future, refugees can become fully Canadian while still cherishing, and sharing, what is best of their own tradition.

In that way, we are all enriched.

We are all refugees and travelers on the Earth we share. Let’s enjoy the differences and the journey.

MARHABA! ✦

Welcome to Canada Saima & Family

LEAH MACFADYEN

Submitted to Topic by the leadership of the Diocesan Refugee Unit (DRU)

A refugee sponsorship partnership between a group of local citizens and the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster has changed the life of one Afghan family this summer. Saima and her family are members of the ethnic Hazara Shia minority that has been persecuted in Afghanistan for decades. Saima’s father has been a long-time community leader and advocate, and both parents supported the education of girls and women—all of their daughters have gone to school. Saima herself is a remarkable young Afghan woman. As a 15-year-old in Afghanistan she was selected to attend a Youth Leadership study program in the USA. When it finished, she found her way to the border—and walked across it into Canada. Her father had been kidnapped in Afghanistan and she was threatened with forced marriage to an older man if she returned home. Alone and afraid, she applied for entry as a refugee. She is now a permanent resident of Canada and a scholarship student at the University of BC (UBC). Saima has been living without her family for five years, some of that time in foster care.

When Afghanistan fell to the Taliban in August 2021, Saima’s family were forced to abandon their home and possessions and flee to Pakistan. They crossed the border without documentation, using up their last resources to do so. Her father (48), mother (43), sister (17), and brothers (15, 10, 5) have spent the last year in marginal housing in Pakistan, unable to work, attend school, or even move about safely in public. Saima reached out to a group of her Canadian teachers, professors, and friends for help, and that group resolved to do what they could. A first step was drawing on their network of international friends and contacts to get practical help for the family in Pakistan.

Once the family were safe, the sponsoring group decided that their goal and best course of action was to try to bring Saima’s family to safety in Canada as soon as possible under the Canadian government’s Humanitarian Resettlement Program. As a formal “Sponsorship Agreement Holder” in the process for sponsoring refugees, the diocese of New Westminster played a pivotal role, nominating the family for residency in Canada, advising the sponsoring group, and offering critical support and expertise with documentation and paperwork. By June

2022, the application was in process, and sufficient funds had been raised to support Saima’s family for their first year in Canada. Suddenly, in late August, everything started to happen. Arrival notification was received, a house was rented, cleaned, and furnished, and the family arrived in Vancouver August 27, 2022, one year and eight days after Saima’s original plea for help.

It’s difficult to adequately convey the airport scene on the 27th, as Saima finally reconnected with her family, after five long years. There were a lot of tears, but we are glad that we have a few photos to share. ✦

To learn more about Saima and her family, and the sponsorship project, visit <https://savesaimasfamily.wordpress.com/>



LEFT Saima on the right, with her dad, Abdul Hussain. Citizen Group (CG) members Alastair Foreman and Bev McDowell are seated on the sofa next to Gulsoom (Saima’s mum). And CG member (and Alastair’s wife) Janice de Boer is standing on the left. RIGHT A farewell street scene in Pakistan.



LEFT A last wave before going to the airport in Islamabad. RIGHT A family reunion in their new Vancouver home. Saima’s in the middle, with her youngest brother on her lap.



AROUND THE DIOCESE

Decoration of St. Clement's North Wall

SUBMISSION Jane Dittrich

In late August, Jane Dittrich, Ed Friesen and Vincent Carey of Christ Church Cathedral took their godson Ellis to visit the Rev. Helen Dunn, Vicar of St. Clement's, Lynn Valley. The Rev Dunn, her staff and volunteers were hard at work doing the initial phase of painting on their north garden

memorial wall, a new project in the works complete with a new garden, sitting area and a beautiful fence. ✚

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Here is a link to more details on this project

<https://www.stclementschurch.ca/news/how-does-a-cinder-block-wall-become-a-mural>



Jane, Vincent, Ed and the Rev. Helen Dunn. PHOTO Courtesy of Jane Dittrich



LEFT St. Clement's Deacon Emerita, the Rev. Elizabeth Mathers and Music Director Lynley Lewis hard at work painting.



RIGHT Ellis is enjoying the rinse bucket while Lynley paints. PHOTOS Courtesy of Jane Dittrich



The finished mural. PHOTO Randy Murray



The west side garden (left) and the east side garden (right) area located on the parish's north section. PHOTOS Randy Murray

Beginning the Season of Creation with Pilgrimage

SUBMISSION Alecia Greenfield

The communities of St. Thomas' and Holy Cross started the *Season of Creation*, Saturday, September 3, 2022, with a pilgrimage.

From St. Thomas we walked down to the Fraser River and up to Little Mountain. We sauntered along park paths, streets and sidewalks. Our route took us through the cemetery and up to a celebration of the

Eucharist in Queen Elizabeth Park. We wandered from the excitement of starting through the delight of unexpected discoveries. We walked through the tedium of expected weariness to our triumphant arrival at Holy Cross and the delicious meal awaiting us there. It was a joy to travel together in good company. ✚



Where we started out. ALL PHOTOS Alecia Greenfield



LEFT Pilgrimage walking by the water is Johnathan.



RIGHT Pilgrimage Stretching is St. Thomas parishioner Johnathan and the Rev. Michael Batton.

Summer of 2022 News from St. Stephen's, West Vancouver

SUBMISSION Hilary Clark

With the continued and developing easing of COVID restrictions and the sunny summer weather, St. Stephen's, West Vancouver experimented with a 10am outdoor liturgy. The design of the church exterior, with its curving plaza complete with a shade tree between the church building itself and the pavilion used for meetings and music rehearsals made for a good venue. With the fire exit door open on to the plaza, the piano was available for Minister of Music, Dr. Annabelle Paetsch, to accompany the outdoor service. The altar was created from a coffee table borrowed from the lounge, and readings from a music stand. Physical distancing procedures were followed and the outdoor singing seemed most appreciated by the local crows who joined in!

COVID has been the Wednesday morning Rector's Coffee Hour. From 11am to 12:30pm members of the congregation arrive in the lounge, help themselves to coffee/tea and goodies and sit down in a casual circle around the Rev. Kenneth Vinal, to discuss issues of interest. Topics vary from the US conflict over women's right to choose on abortion, discussions about aspects of the Sunday lesson, local politics, and questions about sins (of commission and of omission). The rector moderates the discussion and adds theological insights in answers to the questions that could have come up during Sunday worship but could not be asked given the necessary flow of the liturgy.

During Rector, the Rev. Kenneth Vinal's summer holiday, St. Stephen's was graced by Sunday Supply priest, Canon Donald Lawton, from Squamish. With the professional expertise of Parish Administrator, Nellie Gossen, the complete service is now printed out in booklet form for members of the congregation. This helps the congregation to follow the service, there's less confusion for visitors, and there are notes and messaging about upcoming worship and events.

On Sunday, October 16, the Third Annual Lavender Tea took place following worship.

Proceeds were donated to St. Stephen's Community Choir and the North Shore Harvest Project.

The St. Stephen's Community Singers started up again in September 2022, under the direction of Dr. Annabelle Paetsch. The group meets on Thursdays at 3:45pm and is open to all amateur singers. The music covers a wide range of styles, something for every taste. ✚

A popular event carried on following



LEFT Lavender bunches for the Lavender Tea. RIGHT The St. Stephen's Community Singers. ALL PHOTOS John Ruddick



AROUND THE DIOCESE

Diocesan Deacon Receives Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers

On September 6, 2022, Bishop John Stephens, acting on behalf of the Governor General of Canada, presented the Rev. Paul Richards, Deacon at the Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock, with the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers. The medal recognizes exceptional volunteer achievements of Canadians from across the country in a wide range of fields and pays tribute to the dedication and commitment of volunteers. These volunteers embody the caring community we aspire to build. The Rev. Richards has volunteered in many parish,

diocesan, and community activities since moving to Surrey in 2008.

The citation by the Governor General of Canada is as follows:

"Since 2008, Paul Richards has been a devoted member of the Holy Trinity Anglican Church. In addition to engaging and educating youth, he provides spiritual care to those struggling with isolation and illness in the community, ensuring they have someone with whom they can connect." ✠



Bishop John Stephens presents the medal.



A close-up of the medal. ALL PHOTOS Randy Murray

Spanish Language Mass at St. Paul's, West End

Monthly service began October 1, 2022

St. Paul's Anglican Church (1130 Jervis Street), is an inclusive community of faith that welcomes diversity in their worship and in their lives, striving to communicate the message that God wants everyone to feel good about each other, empowered, and blessed.

With that in mind the parish's assistant curate, the Rev. Fr. José Luis Aranda Moyano is beginning a monthly Spanish Language Mass at St. Paul's. Beginning in early September, Fr. José Luis distributed the following message through the St. Paul's and diocesan communications vehicles:

Everyone is welcome.

Please help spread the word and contact me by email at curate@stpaulsanglican.bc.ca if you have questions or would like more information.

Thank you very much, and God bless you." ✠



The Rev. Fr. José Luis Aranda Moyano. PHOTO Wayne Chose

"Our liturgy respects and celebrates the rich traditions of the Anglican Church. Beginning on Saturday, October 1, St. Paul's will begin celebrating Mass in Spanish on the first Saturday of each month at 6pm.

Namwayut | Now Available

Chief Robert Joseph's book, *Namwayut* is out in the world!

"I am very excited to share my story with you, and I hope that by reading this book, you will be inspired to share your own story."

Chief Robert Joseph

You can order your copy now at <https://www.namwayut.com/>

On the launch day, September 13, 2022, Chief Joseph's book, *Namwayut* reached the #1 bestseller status on *Amazon*, and entered *Toronto Star's* bestseller list at #3. ✠



Bishop John reads the Citation.



The Rev. Paul and Lenore Richards with Bishop John.

Sunday Before Orange Shirt Day at St. John's, Port Moody

The parish mission statement reads:

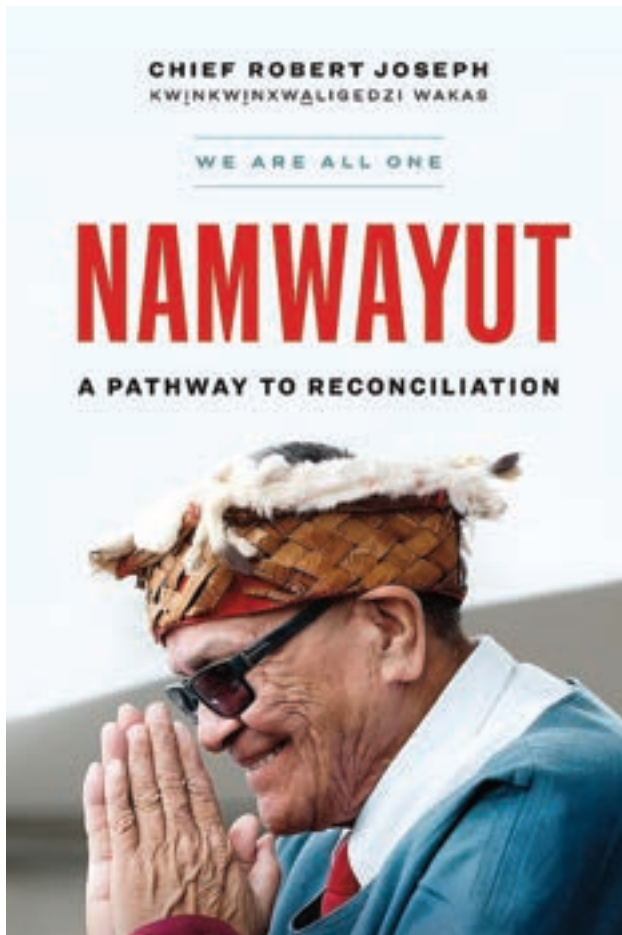
"St. John's is called to be a Spirited Community at the heart of Port Moody, transformed through the experience of the presence of Christ, and sent out to share God's Love."

And when it comes to celebrating the glorious diversity of God's creation and acknowledging the National Day for Truth

and Reconciliation, the Parish of St. John the Apostle, Port Moody:

"Honours the experiences of Indigenous Peoples, celebrate resilience and affirms the commitment that every child matters."

Here is a photo taken after the September 25, 2022 worship and submitted to *Topic* by Warden Ruby Ng. ✠



Namwayut
We Are All One | A Pathway to Reconciliation

Written by Chief Robert Joseph
Published by Page Two (September 2022)

SIDESPERSONS

COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THEIR ROLE

PEOPLE WHO KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS FROM THE SIDE AISLES

FRIENDS WHO ONLY ORDER CHIPS AT A RESTAURANT

PERSONS MADE UP ONLY OF SIDES

BACKING DANCERS FOR LITURGICAL ROUTINES

CartoonChurch.com

AROUND THE DIOCESE

St. Martin, North Vancouver Closing Eucharist

On Sunday, September 25, 2022, the faith community of St. Martin, North Vancouver celebrated Holy Communion for the final time as a parish. The parish will be merging with the Parish of St. John the Evangelist, North Vancouver located just a few kilometres south and west of the Windsor Road location in North Vancouver's Upper Lonsdale neighbourhood where the parish has existed for 122 years. There was a good-sized congregation present to participate in the Eucharist celebrated by



The children's talk. ALL PHOTOS Wayne Chose

Priest-in-Charge, the Rev. Mark Munn. Organist/Director of Music, David Millard as he has done for many years and with the participation of the St. Martin's Choir led the music of the liturgy. As worship concluded, the Rev. Munn led a Litany which concluded with this prayer:

*Loving God,
We offer you our memories of this place,
so dear to our hearts.
We offer you the memories
that we have heard
We offer you the memories
that we keep deep within ourselves.
Bless us all as we bring these memories
to mind and as we share our stories
in the coming days.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
who shared wonderful stories.*

On Saturday, October 1 with Bishop John Stephens present, the Parish of St. John the Evangelist hosted a lunch to welcome the members of St. Martin's. Coverage of the Welcome Lunch and information regarding the formalization of the merger are available on the diocesan website news pages and in future issues of *Topic*. ☩



The procession out with the Banner.



A group shot of all who were present at worship, September 25, 2022.

Clergy News Around the Diocese

The Rev. Stephen Laskey enjoyed a short interim retirement of less than a year as he has been appointed Priest-in-Charge of St. Mark, Ocean Park effective September 1. Stephen will be in post until the arrival of the next Rector.

The Rev. Roberta Fraser has been appointed Assistant to the Rector at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale. The Rev. Fraser succeeds the Rev. Christine Rowe who retired in May of this year. The Rev. Fraser was formerly Rector of St. Anselm's, Point Grey and served several parishes as Interim Priest-in-Charge, most recently a two-year (+) post as Priest-in-Charge of St. Anne, Steveston.

On September 28 it was announced that Bishop John Stephens appointed the Rev. Miranda Sutherland as Chaplain to the diocesan Anglican Church Women (ACW). ACW President, Kelly Bowman had this

to say about the appointment:

"I am delighted to have the Rev. Miranda Sutherland on board as ACW Chaplain for our diocese. I am looking forward to her support and spiritual teachings. I am positive that we will learn from each other since we are both new and it is going to be a wonderful experience ahead."

Rev. Sutherland contribute these words:

"I am happy and honoured to be the new Chaplain of the ACW of the diocese and I look forward to providing spiritual guidance and presence at this time. I also look forward to assisting President Kelly Bowman and the board, in sharing about goals and objectives of this great ministry, with the hope that more parishes will be encouraged to establish ACW groups as one of their ministries to the service of God"

Holy Trinity, New Westminster's Heritage Revitalization Passes Fourth Reading

On Monday, September 26, New Westminster City Council approved on fourth and final reading the necessary legislation to enable the revitalization of Holy Trinity Cathedral's physical resources. Third reading had taken place on June 30, 2022 and it has been an anxious three months wait for the Parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral.

In a note written after the approval, the Ven. Richard Leggett, Vicar of the Parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral had these words for diocesan leadership:

"This long chapter has come to an end and a new chapter begins on Wednesday, September 28. Conwest, our developer, and the members of our Property Development Committee will meet to begin planning the next steps towards the renewal of this place of help, hope and home. On behalf of the Parish, I thank you all for your wisdom and support."

The following information was supplied by Archdeacon Leggett on July 1, 2022, shortly after the third reading took place and was included in the 2022 September/October issue of *Topic*. We reprint it here for context:

The initial development goal is as follows:

Conwest Developments Ltd. and Holy Trinity Cathedral are proposing to redevelop, seismically upgrade, and restore the Holy Trinity Cathedral currently located on 514 Carnarvon Street and develop a 30-storey residential tower with a mix of market condo and secured market rental units. The project will provide a significant benefit to the neighborhood and

the City of New Westminster and delivers on several community objectives.

During the public hearing, disappointment was voiced at the inability to include the non-market rental housing that was a component of the original plan. BC Housing announced in June 2021, that it was able to fund only 20% of the projects for which applications were filed and HTC's application was not successful.

However, the revised project enhances community space making, including a significant commitment to the visible recognition of Aboriginal place in art and language, as well as a revised community use policy that prioritizes Aboriginal use of Cathedral facilities. ☩

More information about the redevelopment project is available at <https://514carnarvon.com/>



Community Invited to Benefit Concert at St. David's

SUBMISSION Elizabeth Murray, ODNW

"If I Were a Rich Man," I'd re-roof St. David's Anglican Church. Alas, the congregation do not have a *Fiddler on the Roof*, but it wishes it had! It does have talented vocalists who performed a benefit concert on October 8, to help put roofers atop the church's a-frame structure.

Parishioners Rosemary Gahr and Daniele Walker selected a variety of Classical and semi-Classical songs to entertain their audience at St. David's, Tsawwassen. They were accompanied by Paul Kemp, well-known Delta piano teacher and choral accompanist in churches, community choirs, elementary and secondary schools for the past 40 years.

Their repertoire of solos and duets included *Barcarolle* from *Tales of Hoffmann* which Rosemary and Daniele sang together.

Proceeds of this musical evening were added to a major fundraising drive under way at St. David's to finance extensive maintenance and upgrading needed to "fix the church building from top to bottom." A positive start in achieving a large contributory goal is already evident by receipt of significant donations of support from the

diocese of New Westminster, from Legacy Parish Trust Funds, and from parishioners' special giving.

Concert organizers were cautiously optimistic that the voices of Rosemary and Daniele will rise to the roof and help ensure a dry church nave for years to come.

As this concert is taking place after this issue of *Topic* goes to print, we will let everyone know how the evening went with a focus on the fundraising outcome. Please refer to the diocesan website news pages, the Diocesan E-News and future issues of *Topic* for more coverage. ☩



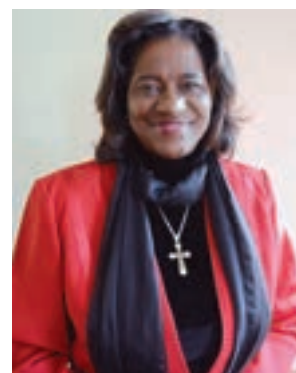
Rosemary Gahr and Daniele Walker rehearse with accompanist Paul Kemp. PHOTO Mary Horton.

The Rev. Bill Mok has been appointed Missioner in Charge of Chinese Language Ministry effective October 1, 2022. Currently there are negotiations that will lead to the Rev. Mok fulfilling this ministry

from a diocesan parish. Financial support will come through legacy funding from St. Chad's, Vancouver with additional support from the diocese of New Westminster. ☩



The Rev. Roberta Fraser. PHOTO Wayne Chose



The Rev. Miranda Sutherland. PHOTO Randy Murray



The Rev. Bill Mok. PHOTO Wayne Chose

Grieving in Our Community

NII K'AN KWSDINS (JERRY ADAMS)

St. James, Vancouver

There are so many ways of caring for one another during grieving and I had the privilege of re-learning that in my home territory of the Nisga'a people. I was part of how we took care of one another during a relative passing away in June. He was my brother Gary from our House of Sim'oogit Minee'eskw, Laxsgiik (Eagle family).

Initially I was getting stressed as I watched my brother slowly dying in his bed. He had asked for me and wanted me to be by his side during his last few days in this world. It was a sad and scary time for me because I did not let the process of dying be what it is—a part of the cycle of our short time in this world.

It took me a little while to feel and understand our people's way of living the cycle of life. I only thought about how bad it was and I was very saddened by my brother leaving our people. I let my grief take over my connectedness to my brother, and the importance of being there for him. My brother asked me to be there to be with him so we could feel our hearts as one.

What I had to unlearn was that in the mainstream society we tend to leave the family alone and let them be with their dying loved one on their own. In mainstream society, unless we are immediate family, we try not to disturb them during their grieving as their relative passes away. Very different from our Nisga'a way. In our way, lots of people gather together at this time.

Yes, I was very stressed for a day or two until I let the family strength into my heart and learned that we were all there together to support one another. It also gave Gary the comfort that his family was not alone and was being taken care of by the community, the greater family.

We were fed by the care takers from our community, we were prayed for, they sang songs and also, we heard and listened to stories about Gary—fun stories, sad stories and also stories of all the work did in our community and the Nisga'a Valley, as he was the priest for Aiyansh.

The most amazing part was that the grandchildren were a big part of the healing and grieving. They were not excluded, they spent a lot of time at their grandfather's side, and on his bed throughout the days. The children understood what was happening to their grandfather and from an early age they understood the reality that death is a part of our people's life cycle. They knew to be quiet, but they were given the space to play as well.



The late Rev. Gary Davis, Priest of Holy Trinity. ALL PHOTOS Nii K'an Kwsdins

Letting go in our community is very important and we understand that we cannot do this alone. The care that happened in Aiyansh while I was home was a re-learning that death is okay, and that I did not have to do it alone as the family and the community walk with us. My feeling of stress was let go once I understood the community love of the Nisga'a people. ✦



Holy Trinity Anglican Church at 11pm, June 8, 2022.



My brothers Terry and Fred looking across the Nass River to our old village.



Chief Minee'eskw and his wife Hilda. Chief of our Eagle House.

Letter to the Editor

PHILIP BARKER

Priest-in-Charge, All Saints, Agassiz

Bold and refreshing though it is to see *Topic* engage a book review on a controversial subject, no good deed should go unpunished.

In response to David Price's review (found on page 31 of the Fall 2022 issue) of Ilia Delio's latest publication, *The Primacy of Love*, I would say this to my friend and erstwhile predecessor as Vicar at All Saints, Agassiz:

I don't agree with Delio's highly questionable and sometimes frankly heretical theology.

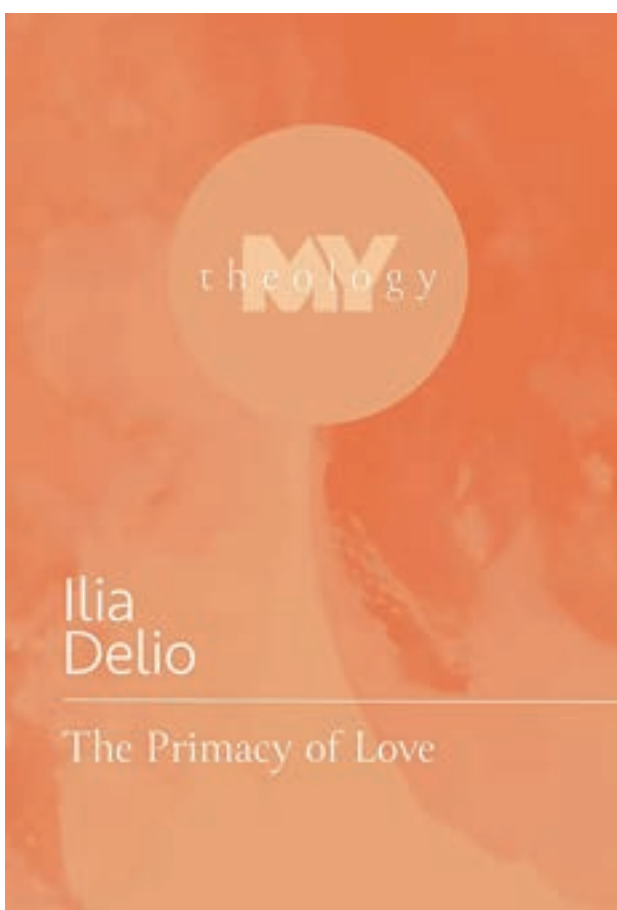
It is important to say that although I have ordered the book, I have yet to receive and read it, but I have read other books of hers, and those of Norman Carroll who grips tightly to her coattails, and the premise is very much the same in all—that "God does not exist as an absolute being with a separate existence, rather God loves in and through our love for one another." This is the essence of the *Christogenic* school that she espouses—and for which there is no scriptural support.

It is, of course, pure speculation, and just because she believes it, does not make it so—any more than the Flat Earth Society, which David Price was rightly so keen to dismiss in his critique.

Strange and incomprehensible phrases are lauded as pivotal without explanation; "Being is a never-ending conversation of potentiality into actuality." For a man who is a self-confessed metaphor addict, it is a pity that David doesn't help those of us less blessed with an understanding of the abstruse.

Delio strays into misunderstanding John Duns Scotus (I think) where David quotes her as saying, "The world is not created *ex nihilo*, out of nothing, the world is created *ex amore*, out of the infinite love of God." Are the two ideas really mutually exclusive? I think not.

She argues that Scotus' view on the reason for Christ is



The Primacy of Love

Written by Ilia Delio

Published by Fortress Press (Minneapolis, USA, 2022)

not sin, but love. In his treatise on the Immaculate Conception of Mary (which was not universally accepted) he argues strongly that Jesus' redemptive power was essential. That Christ was the pinnacle of the human/divine interface of creation *at the same time*, does not exclude the purpose of the Cross. If the redemptive power of the Cross is excluded, because "forgiveness is a gift of goodness to one another," and not of God to humankind, then we must ask what has become of atonement—and with it our Creeds?

Whilst I understand the urge to make theology "understandable" in modern terms—and grabbing at quantum physics is always going to appeal to some—I can only go so far. God, as I try to envisage him, (her, it,) is ultimately the prime source of energy, which can manifest itself in many forms, including human.

To do the latter, it would seem reasonable to have a *purpose* for so doing. If we just say that Jesus came to show us that He was God's final example of what a human being should be in terms of compassion and self-giving love, then we have once again missed the point, as we trashed, tortured, and discarded that example without learning from it. Wherefore, then, the Resurrection?

If, on the other hand, we accept that Jesus came to redeem us, then the process of forgiveness lives on through his resurrection.

My issues with Duns Scotus and Teilhard de Chardin (who Delio quotes endlessly), Omega points et al., are that they remain yet in the realm of fantasy—as does Ilia Delio and Norman Carroll's theology.

However, there is something hugely attractive about fairy stories that we are all but *compelled* to believe; remember how easy it was for Tinkerbell to die in *Peter Pan*, if you didn't scream that you believed in fairies? ✦

OPINION

Of Small Boys, Golden Doors & Great Cathedrals

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

Retired Priest of the diocese of Calgary; Honorary Assistant, diocese of British Columbia; former Dean of the diocese of New Westminster & Rector of Christ Church Cathedral

When I was a small boy, I was a member of a bible study group led by Mr. Turner, someone who was wise enough to know that while small boys get restless with study, they actually love stories. So, stories it was at Boys Brigade Bible Class every Sunday evening, and we loved it, and I have remained grateful to Mr. Turner ever since. Some of the stories are still deep in the memory banks of this now ancient retiree. Here are two of them. I think the reason I never forgot them is that there is about them a kind of magic. I'm not sure what it means to say that, but then, if we knew what magic

is, it wouldn't be magic, would it? "In the year 1675," began Mr. Turner, "anyone who would have been in the Ludgate Hill area of London would have seen a group of men breaking large stones. It seems that one day someone watching these men got curious and asked one of them what he was doing. The man in question put down his big heavy hammer and gave a rather blunt reply. He said 'Can't you see what I'm doing. I'm breaking stones.'" Probably the man included an expletive in that reply but in 1937, small boys were not expected to know certain words, and anyway it was bible class.

"The visitor to the hill went on and asked another man who likewise was wielding a big heavy hammer. He asked exactly the same question but this time the reply was a little more gracious. The man said, 'This is what I do to support my family, my wife and children.' Then the passerby approached the third man. Once again, he asked 'What are you doing?' This time the questioner actually got a smile, a weary one but, nevertheless a smile. Leaning on his mallet, the man looked all around the hill. Then he said, 'Well, I suppose you could say I'm helping Christopher Wren to build St. Paul's Cathedral.'"

A simple story a child could understand. However, it was, as wise adult readers of *Topic* realize immediately, something very important in human experience. It's about

having a sense of meaning about what we do, and the huge difference that sense of meaning can make when life sometimes becomes a bore and a slog and a burden, which it sometimes does.

Mr. Turner had promised us two stories, so we waited and were not disappointed. "Rabindranath Tagore," he began, then paused and waited for the wonder and romance and, once again, magic of that name to reverberate in our minds.

"Rabindranath Tagore is an Indian writer, and he once wrote a wonderful story called *The Golden Door*." Again, he paused. Absolute silence.

"Once," began Mr. Turner, "there was a poor man who lived in a small hut on the side of a great forested valley. Flowing through the valley was a fast-flowing river. One morning when the poor man got up, his eye was caught by what looked like a golden door on the other side of the valley. Excited, he decided to make the journey down to the valley floor, search for a ford across the river, then climb up the side of the valley to the spot where he had seen the golden door. The journey took him most of the day. At last, towards sunset, weary but excited, he approached the place where he had seen the golden door. When he found nothing more than a deserted shack rather like his own, its door and single window hanging half broken, he was deeply disappointed. Sadly, he turned away to begin the long journey home.

But no sooner had he turned than he saw, far across the valley, exactly where his own hut stood, a golden door, bathed in the light of the setting sun."

Once again one of Mr. Turner's stories taught a small boy something he would remember for the rest of his life, that it was important to realize that some wonderful things in his life can easily be taken for granted, and some things that seem very ordinary can shine with a beauty you could treasure for your whole life, and it would never fade. ✠



PHOTO moolfilm (iStock ID#139494188)



PHOTO moolfilm (iStock ID#139494188)

Tailfree & Tribe

HANNAH MAIN-VAN DER KAMP

St. David & St. Paul, Powell River

A piteous and repeated *piynk piynk* caught my ears in the garden in late August. First, I ignored it, but it was so insistent I had to investigate. Not far from me on a post was a young, white-crowned sparrow making its repetitious call. That's odd. This summer when the heat came on strong, the white crowned sparrows left for cooler mountain places. I missed their song which the male birds teach their male offspring. Without that teaching, the little males do not sing. This little one had somehow got left behind and it was easy to see why. It was missing its tail feathers. Probably due to an attack by a cat. Little *Tailfree* was left behind by its tribe. It's too risky to have weaklings in the flock. Predators find that attractive.

So, it was clearly lonely. I "pished" it, *pisssh pisssh*, and *Tailfree* followed me around wherever I went in the garden. I fed it some wild grass seed. Abandoned by its tribe, it was destined for owl food or raccoon appetite. The next day, no sight or sound of *Tailfree*.

Who/where is my tribe? In addition to my extended family and my neighbourhood, to what do I belong?

This summer I had an opportunity to worship with/in a Community Church. Non-denominational, friendly, they worship in an attractive building. I was so taken with the reverent and simple weekly communion. Not consecrated (not their theology) but very personal. I witnessed a diversity of gifts. Many members were involved in the worship in some way. I was touched by, and grateful for, this experience

In September, I returned to worship in my Anglican parish. That feels like "home." It's familiar. I'm mostly comfortable there. But I also recall the homilies I heard in the summer and some of them challenged me in good ways. Is my worship tribe where I feel comfortable or where I am challenged?

Hopefully, both.

There's nothing wrong with belonging to a tribe. It may be a universal longing to be identified as a member of a group, antidote to loneliness. It's not tribe that is a problem but tribalism (like all isms). For me it was refreshing and quite surprising to acquaint myself with another Christian "tribe."

Yesterday in the garden there was a different *cheep*. A young chicken landed in the yard, probably picked up from a local farm by an eagle who dropped it. It wobbled over to me. So domesticated, it stayed right by my feet. Solo bird, where did you belong? I don't know and I don't want to raise a chicken. I fed it. But I know what happens to lonely chicks. The eagle must have reapp-

peared. No little *cheep cheep* the next day.

A true community is the one that looks out for its fragile members. Who is the least among us? Someone who may actually be the greatest. What does "fit in" or "belong to" mean?

Not to push the ornithological extended metaphor too far, I need to be in a flock. I don't want to be in the eye of the vulture of loneliness. Some Sundays I am not comfortable because I am challenged. Other Sundays, it's the reverse. Like in all church communities, during my summer Sundays, I saw both strengths and weaknesses. Like in all parishes. ✠

Hannah Main-van der Kamp worships at St. David & St. Paul in Powell River. Stray birds get fed by hand in her garden.



PHOTO Emerson Estorninos (iStock ID#132581861)

Majesty | A Reflection | September 8, 2022

HERBERT O'DRISCOLL

Retired Priest of the diocese of Calgary; Honorary Assistant, diocese of British Columbia; former Dean of the diocese of New Westminster & Rector of Christ Church Cathedral

The parlour door, its lock and doorknob gleaming and often polished, was just off the farmhouse kitchen. It was always locked, the key above the door, to be taken down only for very special occasions. The rector's visit, a wedding or funeral or baptism in the family, Christmas dinner. And in the corner sideboard, the top drawer held the copies of the Daily Sketch, showing in many pages of photographs the events of the year 1936, the year, as it proclaimed, in which England had three kings. George V who died nobly, Edward VIII who abdicated shamefully and George VI who reigned faithfully. Such was my granduncle William's succinct history of that notable year, solemnly told to his grandnephew who was all of eight-years-old.

You might indeed think it strange that monarchist views permeated an Irish farm-

house, but then we were Church of Ireland. Even though all around us a new republic was forming, we prayed every Sunday "O Lord save the King," and when that good man died, worn out by the strain of the war, we took his daughter to our hearts and began to pray for her. Our parents would tell us of the day when she climbed up to a treetop lodge in Kenya, a 25-year-old princess, only to come down a Queen, having received the news of her father's death. And on that same day she promised to be faithful to us all for the rest of her life, which is exactly what she did, with a faithfulness and a constancy probably unmatched in the history of monarchy.

She came to visit Ireland many years later, a visit that included her meeting the man who had arranged the assassination of

her favourite uncle. She shook his hand as we would have shaken the hand of one of her most loyal subjects, and in that magnificent moment she had done more than all the politicians ever succeeded in doing to heal the pain and hatred and the tears of centuries.

The news of her death came to our house a few hours ago. About an hour later a friend sent some lines of an English poet Philip Larkin,

In times when nothing stood but worsened, or grew strange, there was one constant good: she did not change.

May she rest in peace and rise with Christ in Glory. ✠

St. Philip's Day at St. Philip's

LORNE MANWEILER

Rector of St. Philip, Dunbar; Regional Dean of Point Grey

On September 11, 2022, the Parish of St. Philip, Dunbar celebrated *Welcome Sunday*—the first Sunday after Labour Day when folks whose attendance might have been a bit less in the summer months were welcomed back from summer holidays and breaks. And another cause for special celebration, the day was focused on offering a more formal welcome to new members. There was a full church—and an enthusiastic crowd for this service.

Although the Feast of St. Philip is celebrated in the Anglican Church of Canada in tandem with the Apostle James, son of Alphaeus (aka James the Less) on May 1, the feast day was transferred because the readings for the day are particularly meaningful and missional. The specific focus was on the First Reading, *Acts 8:22-26*, Philip heading out into strange and unfamiliar places, meeting interesting and unfamiliar people, teaching the Gospel and baptizing as Christ's missional means of growing the Body of Christ. The theme of the service was *Come and See!*

The Processional Hymn is a parish favourite—hymns bouncing and strong, energetic singing. During the procession, parishioners brought forward ribbon banners emblazoned with the name/title of a ministry or group of the parish—these little banners were placed in a vessel before the altar as a way of offering our work and ministry to the community and, of course, offering ourselves and our work back to God in gratitude for the gifts God has poured (and continues to pour) into this congregation. These ministries and groups are listed below.

Represented Ministries & Groups of St. Philip's

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Altar Guild | Lay Readers |
| Centering Prayer Group | Livestream Team |
| Chapel Task Force | Memorial Garden |
| Choir | Neighbourhood Ministry |
| Christian Education Groups | Outreach Committee |
| Christmas Fair | Parish Council |
| Coffee Hour | Parish Picnic |
| Communications | Parish Staff |
| Counting Team | Pastoral Care |
| Differently-Abled Ministry | Photographer |
| Endowment Fund | Property Committee |
| Envelope Secretary | Refugee Care |
| Fellowship Committee | Rummage Sales |
| Flowers Guild | Stewardship |
| Greeters | Synod Delegates |
| Healing Prayer Partners | Treasurer |
| Intercessors | Trustees |
| Jones Girls | Vestry Clerk |
| Lay Communion | Wardens |
| Administrators | Unknown Saints! |

During the *Children's Chat*, both familiar and new families came forward and, with the rector and parents and grandparents together, blessed the children's backpacks and prayed a blessing on their school year. A new Confirmation class approached the rector with a formal proclamation at the reception after the service, pledging their commitment, attention, and participation in classes as long as the rector promised to take them on a trip to Disneyland as a Confirmation retreat. The Jury is still out on that request... 😊

We welcomed 18 new members on September 11, 2022, and in addition commissioned our refreshed and rebooted Altar Guild and Pastoral Care Guild. Both these groups have grown over the past year, are fully engaged in various sorts of formation and study and have a renewed sense of purpose and mission.

Following worship, a whipped cream and chocolate mousse cake was cut in celebration of the Feast of St. Philip; the young adults of the parish cooked hot dogs and served ice cream and other goodies for all who came. Lay leaders, the parish caretaker, Pat Brandon and parish manager, Tiffany Ho organized a Ministry and Volunteer Fair, during which folks could circulate amongst tables laden with displays to become better informed of ministry, event,



Rector of the parish, the Rev. Lorne Manweiler celebrating on *St. Philip's Day*. ALL PHOTOS & CAPTIONS Derek Simpkins



Rev. Lorne speaking to Harper Hadden.



Linda Simpkins in conversation with Moira Bryans, Mary Pollock and Jocelyn Gardner.



Heather checking out the Altar Guild table following the service.



Through the balloons, Barry Smith explaining the role of "Sidesman" to Kathy Schretlen. A portion of the "reward donuts" are visible on the right.



Diana Bragg, ODNW at the Altar Guild table.

education, and service opportunities in the parish. A list of brand-new sidespersons was achieved but required the lead sidesperson to hold all the reception's donuts hostage, releasing them only in ransom for a named phone number on the sidesperson sign-up sheet. A couple of five-year-olds signed up to be sidespersons, perhaps not realizing how much their donut actually cost them!

It was a very, very happy, Sunday, and a great way to come back together, to gather around the Gospel, and to reconnect and be inspired for service, community, and ministry. ✚



Organist and Director of Music, Michael Murray with partner Sheryl MacKay share a laugh.

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

DEADLINE FOR TOPIC SUBMISSIONS

November 25
for the January 2023 issue

Please email Randy Murray at rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca

All contributions are appreciated

• EDITOR •