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Bishop of New Westminster to Retire

RANDY MURRAY

Diocesan Communications Officer and Editor of Topic

It was 2:10 pm on Tuesday, April 2nd when the Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham, Bishop of New Westminster gathered the staff in the boardroom at #580–401 West Georgia Street. When everyone present in the office that day was seated, he looked around the room and told us that he had decided to retire from his position August 31st, 2013. He said, “Easter is a good time to look forward to the gift of new life both for myself, and for the diocese.” He went on to say that he would be the Chair of the 113th Synod on May 24th and 25th as planned (it will not be an electoral Synod). And that he will ordain to the Transitional Diaconate two new deacons June 23rd, at Christ Church Cathedral, Dr. Alain-Michel Rocheleau who will be a non-stipendiary priest at St. Helen’s, Point Grey and Ms. Ka Hyun MacKenzie Shin who will begin a curacy at St. Stephen the Martyr, Burnaby, establishing a new ministry to Korean Anglicans.

Bishop Michael said he was particularly pleased to announce the creation of two new initiatives in mission as his final act of leadership—the previously mentioned Korean ministry and the other, a Filipino Anglican ministry to begin at Bishop Hill’s Memorial Church in Vancouver, under the ordained leadership of the Rev. Expedito Farinas. Both of these initiatives should be well underway later this year. Diocesan communications plans to feature stories of these new ministries in upcoming issues of *Topic* and on the diocesan website.

In Bishop Michael’s letter to the Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of BC and Yukon, the Most Rev. John Privett, informing the Archbishop of his decision, he said:

“In my almost twenty years in Episcopal orders—together with many others in this diocese—have borne witness in the Anglican Church of Canada to important principles central to the Christian Gospel. Our witness of faith frequently encountered strong religious opposition. Strangely, the secular world has been more supportive.

I am proud of many things, but most especially of the people in this Church, near and far, who recognized the necessity for progressive change and stood at our side. I am confident there are capable and gifted clergy in this diocese and beyond who can now take up its leadership.

I have served under outstanding Primates and Metropolitans. Every single one has had my loyalty and admiration. I thank them for their unfailing encouragement and wisdom, often in difficult times.”

After speaking to the staff, Bishop Michael handed me the material that I would now distribute. Following a few key

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

*“Easter is a good time to
look forward to the gift of new life
both for myself,
and for the diocese.”*

Bishop Michael Ingham

Bishop Michael at The Peace during the Centennial Celebration Eucharist at St. Stephen’s, West Vancouver on April 7th, 2013, five days after announcing his retirement.

For more Diocesan news and events visit www.vancouver.anglican.ca



Bishop Michael Ingham's Consecration, January 9th, 1994

LEFT On the left, Bishop David Crawley (then Bishop of Kootenay, who would become Metropolitan); behind him and slightly to the right, Archbishop Michael Peers (then Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada); centre, the newly consecrated 8th Bishop of the Diocese of New Westminster; moving right Bishop John Hannen of Caledonia (who was acting Metropolitan following the retirement of Archbishop Douglas Hambidge); on the far right, Bishop Jim Cruickshank of the former Diocese of Cariboo.

RIGHT The newly consecrated Bishop of New Westminster shakes hands with acting Metropolitan, Bishop John Hannen of Caledonia with a young Cara Ingham in the foreground. The service took place at St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church and was followed by a procession north on Burrard Street to Christ Church Cathedral.



We Need a Bishop with the Gifts of Courage, Integrity and Humour

JULIE H. FERGUSON
Diocese of New Westminster

High-profile retirement announcements were the news *du jour* in April 2013 and we had one of our own on April 2nd. Bishop Michael has decided to hang up his mitre on August 31st, after twenty years. News of his retirement roared through social media that afternoon and landed on page one of the *Vancouver Sun* the next morning. Yes, he's still newsworthy, but happily, this time more for his achievements than sensationalism. Bishop Michael has touched all of us in the diocese but also in the outside world, near and far. We share him with pride.

Michael Ingham came back to us in early 1993, relishing the prospect of becoming dean and rector of Christ Church Cathedral after four years as the Primate's Principal Secretary. Although he'd rubbed shoulders with many bishops during those years and learned much, Ingham had never considered the possibility of becoming a bishop in his early forties.

When Archbishop Douglas Hambidge resigned soon after Ingham's induction as dean, Ingham was nominated for the episcopate. He allowed his name to stand as one of the eighteen candidates and dutifully prepared his CV and responses to the diocesan profile and questions, but with little expectation. When asked what he thought our next bishop should be like, he said, "We need a bishop with the gifts of courage, integrity and humour." He also assured the committee that, if elected, he would seek another position after ten years or so, for everybody's sake, including his own. The Spirit had other ideas...

On September 25th, 1993, we elected him, a progressive bishop who was the youngest in Canada, to lead us into the twenty-first century. In his first message to the clergy and laity Ingham wrote, "I may not seek the safe places,

and I may try to push the boundaries outwards that will stretch us." His first few years unfolded quietly.

None of us can forget how both Christian and world opinion caught Ingham in the crosshairs over the issue of human sexuality and held him and our diocese there from 1998 to 2005. The blessing of same-sex unions "...was not even on my horizon [in 1993]," he said afterwards.

Ingham did not speak publicly in support of inclusion of gays and lesbians as full and equal members of the Church until 1996. After several bishops declined Integrity's invitation to speak in Toronto, our bishop agreed, thinking, "I should really [do this]. I'm supportive, so there's no point in being covert about it."

This was the turning point. Ingham did not go in blindly; he expected his speech to change everything: "And, yes, I knew what would follow." The press picked up the story and Ingham was front-page news for the first time in his life.

He predicted challenging years ahead and our momentous synods that he would have to handle. He braced himself as he allowed the motion to permit the blessing of same-sex unions to reach the floor of several synods.

The primate, the metropolitan, and the media attended the historic 2002 synod to observe the drama of intense debate on a new motion that included a conscience clause. When our bishop announced that 62.5% were in favour and gave his consent to the blessing of same-sex unions, synod erupted, some with delight and others with dismay. Eight parishes walked out in protest under the glare of TV lights. The Diocese of New Westminster had become the first diocese in the Anglican Communion to approve blessing same-sex unions.

Our bishop was praised and abused, supported and threatened. He handled it all with equanimity: "This is how the Holy Spirit moves along."

Ingham became a sought-after speaker and a media celebrity in the years from 2000 to 2005. For example, the *Vancouver Sun* named him the sixth most important leader in BC history, *Maclean's* named him one of the top three Canadians to watch in 2003, and the New York Times ran a full page profile.

Though Bishop Michael had planned to retire after ten years, he felt he couldn't leave us without finishing the job he'd begun. He guided our diocese through the tumult, supervised its healing once the issue had reached higher levels in the Church, and saw the lawsuit brought by the dissenting parishes concluded.

Undoubtedly, history will remember Ingham for being in the forefront of the reform, but we will recall his other accomplishments too.

Throughout his episcopate, our bishop enjoyed many aspects of his job and maintained his outside interests. Amongst his favourite ways to relax are reading, writing, golfing and travel. But we too have directly benefitted from his pastimes.

Many of us have listened to Ingham preach, a derivative of his reading and thinking. We've often heard his vision of the Gospel and what its imperatives are in our modern world. He preaches well, sometimes superbly. We'll never forget his sermon at Easter 2005—it drew a standing ovation from a packed Christ Church Cathedral and the transcript raced around the world via the Internet to much praise.

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



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Thank you!

Bishop of New Westminster to Retire

RANDY MURRAY
Diocesan Communications Officer and Editor of Topic

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strokes and some simple website manipulation, the whole world would know in minutes of Bishop Michael's decision.

This, the May issue of *Topic* had just gone into layout the day before on April 1st—so the Communications Committee of the Diocese was quickly rounded up via email. All committee members agreed that although by the time that this issue made it to readers homes, 98% of the readership would know of the Bishop's decision: it was **definitely** front page news.

I was able to contact author Julie Ferguson whose 2006 book *Sing a New Song: Portraits of Canada's Crusading Bishops* contains a substantial biography of Bishop Michael and asked her if she would be willing to write a brief overview of Bishop Michael's episcopacy for the May *Topic*. Julie enthusiastically agreed, researching and writing the 1200 word article available on page 2 of this issue in less than three days. Bravo, Julie!

Within days of the news release, a number of responses to the Bishop's announcement made their way to the communications office. Here are three:

Michael has been our spiritual leader for 30 years, since he was our parish priest at St. Francis-in-the-Wood. Michael is an amazing spiritual and intellectual force, and has demonstrated that rigorous thought and inquiry are not inconsistent with faith and our beliefs as Christians. That knowledge and his example of remarkable strength, grace and eloquence have brought great reassurance and strength to many of us in this secular modern world.

Valerie Casselton
Managing Editor, *The Vancouver Sun*

I want to congratulate the Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham for his many years of service to the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster. Last year, Vancouver Magazine listed him as one of the top 45 people who have made Vancouver better—I couldn't agree more.

Bishop Ingham has been a leader in inter-faith dialogue—a crucial subject for one of the most multicultural and religiously diverse communities in the world. His dedication and service to the people of Metro Vancouver will be missed, but never forgotten.

The Hon. Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia

Michael Ingham has been an intelligent and sensitive voice in the unfolding life of Vancouver. His work on interfaith dialogue has been a gift, and *Mansions of the Spirit* has offered thoughtful insight and direction in such a multicultural and multifaith city. His position on many issues of justice has been significant, and I think especially of his church's involvement in working towards right relations with Aboriginal Peoples. I admire his strength and wisdom in carefully and faithfully working to include gay and lesbian people as full members of the Anglican Church, including the offering of rites of blessing for same-gender couples. He has charted the way, despite much controversy, with decency and determination.

Michael will be missed in his role of bishop... but the path he has marked will continue to be well travelled, and I look forward to ever closer and rich relationship with our Anglican neighbours.

The Rt. Rev. Gary Paterson
Moderator of The United Church of Canada

An episcopacy of 20 years is remarkable and the Communications Committee of the Diocese of New Westminster and others are already at work planning an appropriate retrospective of Bishop Michael's many achievements during his ministry as bishop. As of this writing, the plan is to publish a multi-page feature article in the September issue of *Topic* as well as keeping readers up-to-date on developments through the website's news pages.

In the summer issue of *Topic*, due in homes in late July or early August, we will feature coverage of the 113th Synod



Bishop Michael preaching at the Centennial Celebration Eucharist, St. Stephen's, West Vancouver on April 7th, 2013.

of the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster, some early reports from "Joint Assembly" the gathering in Ottawa of General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, July 3rd to 7th and details about the process involved in preparing for an electoral synod.

With the help of the diocesan legal officers, diocesan communications will create a web page in the News Section of the diocesan website where details about the election process and information about candidates (when that information becomes available after August 31st) can be easily accessed.

That said, Bishop Michael will be our Bishop for the next five months, may we use that time to give thanks



The Bishop's Blessing at the St. Stephen's, West Vancouver Centennial Celebration Eucharist on April 7th, 2013.

for his extraordinary servant-leadership and to prepare ourselves through prayer and reflection for the interesting times that are sure to follow.

In closing I'd like to include the following text, which is from a plaque that hangs on Bishop Michael's office wall. It exemplifies the way in which he has been, and is, a bishop among us:

"For you I am bishop, but with you I am a Christian; one is an office, accepted; the other is a gift received. One is danger; the other is safety. If I am happier to be redeemed with you than to be placed over you, then I shall, as the Lord commanded, be more fully your Servant."

St. Augustine ✠

We Need a Bishop with the Gifts of Courage, Integrity and Humour

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Ingham's writing gift has given us *Rites for a New Age* (1986) and *Mansions of the Spirit* (1997), books that have helped define our faith, worship and personal theologies. (Hint: more please!)

Mansions of the Spirit flowed from Ingham's intense interest in interfaith issues that's rooted in his student days and flowered later as he traveled extensively and made friends with other faith leaders—the Dalai Lama for one. The book examines the different paths to God and Christian response to them through the lens of multi-faith neighbourhoods. Not surprisingly, it elicited criticism. "I cannot believe in a God who only saves Christians," he said in response.

Ingham's passion for the interfaith movement was rarely news, but it was and is most important to him. It drove his early involvement in the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), the Interchurch Interfaith Relations Committee, his attendance at the second parliament of the World's Religions, and more recently membership in the Canadian-African Bishops International Dialogue and the United Religions Initiative (URI), a body for world religions modeled on the United Nations. Ingham established URI's Vancouver chapter in 2000 explaining:

"In a world where religions are often seen as part of the problem, we hope to show that interfaith cooperation is possible to ease tensions."

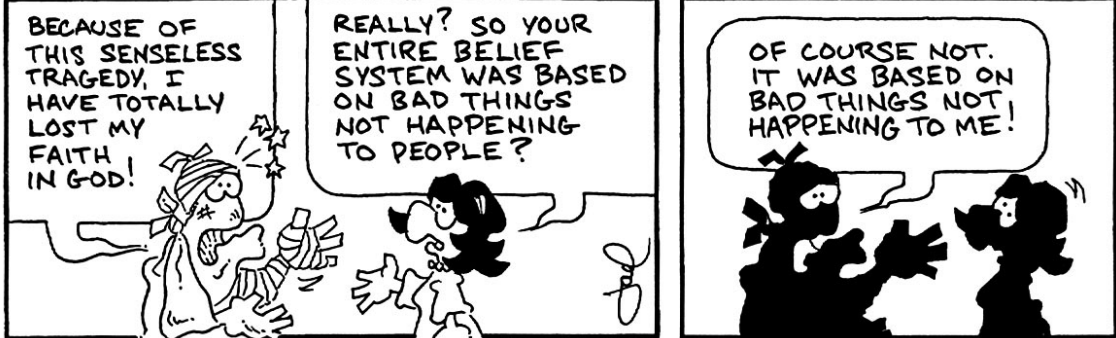
Our bishop brought us quite a package in 1993: ordinary, yet extraordinary; intellectual, yet intuitive, liberal, yet conservative; sensitive, yet tough; compassionate, yet no pushover; practical, yet romantic. These traits had fused into a philosophy and a multi-faceted personality that flashed fire on occasion but mostly glowed from within. The diocese came to appreciate them all in both the quiet times and noisy ones.

We have been blessed for twenty years with his "courage, integrity and humour" while admiring his strength in adversity and his servant-leadership. And we'll never forget his capacity to push the envelope and fight for change in the world with a steady, firm hand. *Deo gratias.* ✠

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Julie H. Ferguson is the author of *Sing a New Song: Portraits of Canada's Crusading Bishops* (Dundurn 2006), which includes a long biography of the Rt. Rev. Michael C. Ingham.

PONTIUS PUDDLE by Joel Kauffmann



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

compiled by Anglican Archivist Melanie Delva

- 40 years • 1973 The Rev. Jim Cruickshank joins the faculty of the Vancouver School of Theology.
- 30 years • 1983 Delegates of Diocesan Synod vote to provide a secure location and necessary funds for keeping of archival records.
- 15 years • 1998 The late Garth Walker, first Diocesan Archivist, is one of four Anglicans from across the country awarded the Anglican Award of Merit.

Recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal Around the Diocese of New Westminster

In 2012, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II marked the 60th anniversary of her accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada. To celebrate Her Majesty's 60 years of service to Canadians, the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal was created as a visible and tangible way to recognize outstanding Canadians from all walks of life. These medals provide an opportunity to honour exceptional Canadians for their contributions to their fellow citizens, to our communities and to our country.

Since late in 2012, diocesan communications has been on the "look out" for recipients of the award from among our diocesan family. There are still more Diocese of New Westminster folks who will receive their awards after this issue of *Topic* goes to press. We are aware, for instance, that the Rev. Lizz Lindsay, Deacon of St. Agnes, North Vancouver will receive the award for her outstanding outreach work

The Right Reverend Michael Ingham

Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster

The Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham served the Anglican Church for over 21 years and in 1994, was consecrated Bishop of the Diocese of New Westminster. He has served the Anglican Church around the world as an advocate for human rights, the environment and those living in poverty.

Michael Ingham was born in England, educated in Scotland and did post-graduate studies at Harvard and studies in Judaism at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. This led Michael to become a strong advocate for interfaith dialogue and a 21st century church, and he authored two books on these topics. Michael is a visionary and progressive thinker and a member of the United Religious Initiative.

Michael Ingham will be remembered by Canadians for his efforts to seek approval of blessings of same-sex unions by the Anglican Church, sparking international controversy within the Church itself. Despite extraordinary challenges, vilification and threats, he never backed down. In the end he was successful in having the Anglican Church in Canada approve and bless same-sex unions and in challenging the Anglican Communion leading in part to the World Anglican Church's *Windsor Report* and "Windsor Process."

The United Kingdom Daily Telegraph calls Michael Ingham one of the 45 most influential Anglicans in the world. In 2012, Vancouver Magazine named him one of the 45 people who made Vancouver better.

The Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts awarded the Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham, a Honorary Doctorate in Divinity, Honoris Causa, for his distinguished and faithful ministry in social justice. In conferring this award, the Rev. Dr. Ian Douglas lauded

in the community and her service to the Royal Canadian Legion at the Provincial Legion Convention Opening Ceremonies scheduled for May 26th, 2013, in Whistler. It is to that purpose that *Topic* plans to publish a follow-up article to this one, listing more recipients.

If you or someone you know has received the award, please let us know, by contacting the communications office of the Diocese of New Westminster at 604.684.6306 ext. 223 or by email rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca. We will require a summary of the citation and if possible a high-resolution image of the recipient preferably receiving or posing with the medal.

To start things off we will begin with the Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham's citation written by the Hon. Dr. Hedy Fry and presented, January 17th, 2013.



Bishop Michael Ingham with the Hon. Dr. Hedy Fry (MP Vancouver Centre).

Michael's commitment to God's mission of justice, compassion, and reconciliation in the Church and in the world and I quote: "You continually call the Church to work for Justice for those excluded and your reputation for speaking truth to power precedes you."

For his fearless commitment to truth, justice and his compassion for those excluded, for his pursuit of change in an institution, rooted for millennia, in conservatism and tradition, it is my privilege to award the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal to the Rt. Rev. Bishop Michael Ingham. ✚

The Venerable Ronald Harrison

Retired Archdeacon of the Diocese of New Westminster

As far as we here at diocesan communications know, Ron was the first member of the Diocese of New Westminster to receive the award. The presentation took place in Ottawa June 1st, 2012. Ron received the award from the Governor General's Office for his years of service to the Canadian Naval Officer's Association. ✚

The Ven. Ronald Harrison wearing his new medal.



Cheryl Tobias, QC

Parishioner at St. Thomas, Vancouver

In the photograph (*below*) we see Cheryl receiving the award from Bill Basran, Regional Director General of the Department of Justice, January 2013. Cheryl distinguished herself as lead counsel on the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, on significant Charter and constitutional challenges, and in her leadership in continuing legal education, trial advocacy and mentorship. ✚



The Very Reverend Peter Elliott

Dean and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver and

Dean of the Diocese of New Westminster

Peter received the award from Premier Christy Clark, February 26th, 2013. Peter was selected by the Premier to receive the award in celebration and recognition of his 19 years of leadership through his ministry as Dean and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral. During his tenure he has been and continues to be an advocate for Social Justice for all people through his commitment to Restorative Justice as an alternative conflict resolution method and his support and leadership of Christ Church Cathedral's compassionate service ministries to the poor and hungry of downtown Vancouver. ✚

Dean Peter Elliott (left) receives the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal from Premier Christy Clark (right).



Bishop Jim Cruickshank

Retired Bishop of the former Diocese of Cariboo and

currently a Parishioner at Christ Church Cathedral

The Rt. Rev. James (Jim) Cruickshank received the medal from Member of Parliament, the Hon. Joyce Murray in December 2012. Jim is the retired bishop of the former Diocese of Cariboo, among his many ministerial appointments in his career were: Dean and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral; professor at the Vancouver School of Theology; and early in his career in the mid-1960s he was the force behind the establishment of the Sorrento Centre. Jim received the medal based on a lifetime of advocacy for youth, women, Aboriginal people, LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) people, the marginalized and the disenfranchised. ✚

Bishop Jim Cruickshank receives his medal from the Hon. Joyce Murray.
PHOTO Patrick Tam



Grace Jong Eun Lee

Parishioner at Christ Church Cathedral

Grace is a musician, composer and performer dedicated to interculturalism. She is an accomplished player of the *Kayagum*, a Korean stringed instrument. Grace gives regular performances is a tireless promoter of her chosen art form and is a much sought after teacher. ✚

Grace (right) with Premier Christy Clark (left).



Recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal Around the Diocese of New Westminster

David Petitpierre

Parishioner at St. Stephen's, West Vancouver

David received the award in June 2012, from the 28th Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, the Hon. Stephen Point, whose term of office ended November 1st, 2012.

David joined the Royal Commonwealth Society in England in 1959. He has continued his membership since then in India and Canada. David joined the local Branch of the Society in 1968 and was a member of the Council for over 30 years. He has held every officer position including being President twice.

David was Chair of the national Royal Commonwealth society of Canada for two terms and continues as an Honorary Life Director. He is also Registrar General of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, managing a membership of 800 in 13 countries

David continues to press for the Canadian government to be even more involved in the leadership of the Commonwealth. He is a keen student of the Commonwealth and has stayed in 14 Commonwealth countries. ✦



David Petitpierre (right) receives his award from the Hon. Stephen Point (left).

The Reverend Margaret Cornish

Rector at St. Alban, Richmond

Margaret received the award in November 2012.

From the Governor General:

"Dear Margaret,

On behalf of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, I am pleased to award you the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, created to mark the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the Throne.

In granting you this honour, I thank you for your dedicated service to your peers, to your community and to Canada. The contributions you have made to our nation are most commendable and deserve our praise and admiration.

I wish to convey to you the heartfelt congratulations of your fellow Canadians, to which I add my own."

From Christy Clark:

"Dear Margaret,

I am very pleased to congratulate you on receiving the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

This is a great honour for you and a special way of recognizing all that you have done over the years to help build our province." ✦

The Rev. Margaret Cornish. PHOTO Larry Scherban (Camera ONE Photography)



The Reverend Randolph Bruce

Retired Priest of the Diocese of New Westminster

At the time the award was granted Randolph was Regional Dean of Burnaby, Rector at All Saints, Burnaby and had just completed a term as priest-in-charge of St. Matthias–St. Luke, Oakridge.

Randolph served the Anglican community and larger community for over 40 years. In 1987, he established a program for individuals suffering from addiction. He worked in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Randolph was a pioneer in making families with special needs feel welcome and supported in the Anglican community. He is currently in pastoral care ministry at St. Michael's Care Centre, Burnaby. ✦



Left to right: Raj Chouhan (MLA Burnaby-Edmonds), Peter Julian (MP Burnaby-New Westminster), Randolph and Burnaby RCMP Staff Sgt. Major John Buis.

George Cadman, QC

St. Agnes, North Vancouver and

Chancellor of the Diocese of New Westminster

George Cadman received his medal from North Vancouver MP, the Hon. Andrew Saxton on behalf of the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency the Rt. Hon. David Johnston.

George's service with the Kiwanis Foundation of Canada (Past President), his involvement with Kiwanis initiatives locally through the Kiwanis Club of Vancouver, his involvement with the Vancouver Board of Trade and his long service to the Diocese of New Westminster, including his current position as Chancellor, a position he has held for 25 years, were cited during the presentation. ✦



The Hon. Andrew Saxton (left), Bonnie Cadman (centre) and George Cadman (right).

St. Christopher's, West Vancouver Boasts Three Medal Recipients

HILARY CLARK

St. Christopher's, West Vancouver

St. Christopher's, West Vancouver, always a community involved church, was recently recognized in the larger community by the presentation of Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medals to three members of its congregation for their volunteer service to West Vancouver and to Canada.

Hilary Clark was given her award for work in health care, community college, and music. She was elected to the Board of Lions Gate Hospital and became its first female Board chair, leading the hospital through the political chaos of the abortion crisis, maintaining women's right to choice.

Upon retirement from Capilano College/University, she founded the Ambleside Orchestra of West Vancouver, and managed it for 20 years. A particular outreach was the initiation of a series of free band concerts in Carnegie Centre for the people of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

As a freelance writer, musician and opera lover, she created her own job reviewing the amateur and semi-professional opera productions for Opera Canada magazine, and manages to cover all of British Columbia. She also sings in St. Christopher's choir.

Bill Ireland was cited for his contribution to St. Christopher's as a Parish Trustee, and past Diocesan Registrar. He was a founding member of the West Vancouver Community Centre Services Society.

He has been very involved with the Canadian Forces as Past Honourary Colonel of the British Columbia Regiment. In this role he regularly participates in the church's Remembrance Day services, often giving the homily.

Over the years he has given hours of his time and professional training to various community arts and other charitable organizations. These include the Princess Louisa Society (a BC Park that is a nature conservancy equally funded by the US and Canada) of which he is a current director, the BC Cancer Agency of which he was the past board chair.

In other areas he has served as the past board chair of the Dance Foundation, that was instrumental, after 8 years of effort, in building the Dance Centre in downtown Vancouver. He also served on the finance committee of Science World.

Les Strike has been an active member of St. Christopher's for many years where he had served as Diocesan Representative for 10 years, and is currently in parish leadership at St. Christopher's.

He too served in the military, as an officer in the Royal Canadian Artillery, as well as the Royal Artillery, and the Royal Air Force (RAF) in the UK. He received the Canadian Centennial Medal in 1967 for service to the Nation.

His major love and one of his most important achievements has been with Scouts Canada, which involved 67 years of his life. Their teaching of service to one's country has obviously been well learned, as Les has also been a member of the Council on Drug Abuse, and chair of the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem Palliative Care Foundation. He cites many appointments and councils for both the Federal and Provincial governments, and profes-



St. Christopher's, West Vancouver recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medals Bill Ireland (left), Hilary Clark (centre) and Les Strike (right). PHOTO Deirdre Bell

sionally in industry as well.

Les is a Knight Commander of Justice of the Order of St. John, and has the Silver Acorn and Bar from Scouts Canada.

Bill commented, "Volunteerism is rewarding. I have received from it as least as much as I have given." Both Hilary and Les completely agree with him, and we all know that it is better to give than to receive! ✦

Episcopally Led but Synodically Governed

Wardens Training Day

RANDY MURRAY

Diocesan Communications Officer and Editor of Topic

The first Wardens Training Day to take place in a few years began right on time, 10 am, Saturday, March 9th in the lower level of the Hall at St. John's, Shaughnessy. Event MC, Glen Mitchell, Director of Stewardship and Planned Giving presented a brief overview of the day's agenda.

Bishop Michael was first on the agenda. He opened with a dedicated prayer for church wardens from the Church of Scotland prayer book. He followed the prayer by asking who in the group of 80+ participants were first time wardens. About 35% raised their hands. Bishop Michael thanked them for their service and for the service of the many in the room who have been long-time wardens. He stressed the importance of the leadership positions in their parish that they have accepted.

Bishop Michael went on to speak to those who have come from different denominational backgrounds. If coming from a Pentecostal or Baptist background, one might be used to a governance structure that is very much based on the decision-making of the congregation, a *Congregationalist Church*. Those with a Roman Catholic Church background come from a structure totally controlled by the ordained people at the top.

Episcopally led but Synodically governed, that is our church. Congregations are limited in the decisions they can make as they are governed by Synod; the chief governance structure of our church is Diocesan Synod, consisting of all the active clergy in the Diocese of New Westminster and 2 to 6 lay people elected from each diocesan parish proportionate to the size of the parish community. When people speak of the Diocese they are often confused; the Diocese is the parishes, the people, the membership, and the clergy. Gesturing to the room Bishop Michael said, "You are the diocese. The Synod office **does the work** of the diocese."

Parishes are created by a diocese, not the other way around.

Bishop Michael then briefly outlined the structure of the Anglican Church, locally, regionally, nationally and

globally and then he recommended that the wardens read the Canons of the Diocese particularly, Canon 14, which outlines the role of wardens. The Bishop then proceeded to read that Canon to the assembled group.

In summary he presented this list:

- Wardens**
- Responsible for the parish.
 - The care of the buildings.
 - Finances. Even if you have a Treasurer the Treasurer reports to the wardens.
 - The Spiritual life of the Parish.
 - The staff of the Parish.

The office of church warden goes back a very long time. In the New Testament the apostles appointed *Elders* to watch out for and care for the converts to the new faith. Elder has nothing to do with age it has to do with wisdom and experience.

From the Diocese of Edmonton website, Bishop Michael shared the section, "What Is a Church Warden" which is one section of their very comprehensive pages about wardens (<http://bit.ly/146uns3>).

Bishop Michael concluded his address by inviting wardens to "take your power and reign" and utilize the resources of the diocese. If an issue has arisen and you need council and support, please call the Bishop's Office and you will be able to schedule a meeting. As Trustees you have a fiduciary responsibility to care for the buildings and properties. The Bishop's Office and other Synod Staff are here for your support.

Tasha Carrothers, Ministry Assessment Process (MAP) Associate and Diocesan School for Leadership instructor facilitated the next item on the agenda.

Tasha's session was aimed at helping wardens to better understand the dynamics of small groups, because committees are central to how day-to-day parish work is managed. Using a model called "Group and Team Dynamics," which

is also taught in the Diocesan School for Leadership, she presented the idea that in order for a team to be productive, paying attention to personal relationships is as important as focusing on actual tasks. The model proposes that people need to feel safe to contribute their ideas and creativity; when this happens, there will be productive work on the actual task at hand. Wardens then turned to their neighbours and discussed their experience with dynamics on committees. Several excellent observations were offered, including the need to make sure that committee time did not become entirely social, and that very full agendas present a challenge. In closing, Tasha recommended perseverance and patience, saying, "We're not necessarily going to resolve stuff overnight."

Next up was the panel consisting of; Anglican Archivist/Diocesan Privacy Officer, Melanie Delva, Diocesan Business Administrator, Rob Dickson and Legal Assessor of the Diocese, Jennifer Dezell.

Melanie gave an overview of the kinds of materials held in the Anglican Archives located in the basement of the Vancouver School of Theology (VST) on the University of British Columbia (UBC) campus. The archives have been collecting material since 1861 and Melanie's focus in speaking to wardens was on *Parish Records* as it is the wardens responsibility to keep those records. Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and of course the Vestry records filled in by the presiding priest for every worship service. This is the tip of the iceberg as there are countless categories of records: organizational records, program records, parish histories, clergy and lay papers, architectural plans, blueprints, service bulletins and much more. Melanie advised the group that they as wardens can certainly take leadership in this work if they are keen to do it but if not, it is probably a good idea to find someone in your parish who would like to do it and adopt it as their ministry. Often Parish Administrators take on this role.

Melanie, as the Privacy Officer for the Diocese, next defined *Personal Information*.

All parish registers, membership rolls, financial records and correspondence are subject to the Privacy Act. Parishes are legally bound to protect the information. They must obtain consent to collect, use or disclose personal information.

Melanie then went on to share what isn't private information. If it is information on a business card or listed in

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The Synod Staff were all very much involved in the production of this event. The principal organizers were Glen Mitchell, Tasha Carrothers, Marnie Peterson and Bettina Gruver.

TOP LEFT Phil Colvin (Diocesan Youth Coordinator) and Rhiannon Hillis (Receptionist & Administrative Support) were there to register the participants.

TOP RIGHT Event MC, Glen Mitchell got things started right on time and kept things moving smoothly all morning and afternoon.

BOTTOM LEFT Bishop Michael's initial presentation had the wardens totally engaged. A great deal of information was shared during the 45 minutes that the Bishop spoke.

BOTTOM MIDDLE Synod Staff MAP Associate Tasha Carrothers. Tasha focused on sharing some information with wardens about working with small groups of people.

BOTTOM RIGHT Diocesan Legal Assessor, Jennifer Dezell and Business Administrator Rob Dickson respond to questions during the before lunch Q&A.





St. Stephen's, West Vancouver Warden, Neil Abramson waits patiently for his question to be taken.



Blue Ribbon Warden's Panel member Michael McKenzie of St. Philip's, Dunbar.

Episcopally Led but Synodically Governed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

the phone book, it is public.

The next section of Melanie's talk had to do with *Screening in Faith*, the necessity to have Police Record Checks and the assurance that those checks will only be seen by the Executive Assistant to the Bishop unless there is something flagged that must be communicated to the incumbent or other responsible person.

Rob Dickson began his address by urging wardens to be aware of official notices that come from all levels of government in the post and the need to act on them. "They may look like junk mail but they are usually very important."

Rob stressed the importance of paying attention to the permissive tax exemption administered by municipalities. Only the land on which the sanctuary sits is tax exempt, the other land is not: parish hall, parking lot, gardens, etc... The parish must apply and keep paper work in order and filings up-to-date in order to continue to receive permissive tax exemptions. Municipalities are not anti-church but they are extremely short of revenue as they have had costly responsibilities downloaded to them from senior levels of government over recent years. Municipal Hearings about changes in zoning and planning are important to attend as that may impact on church property and future uses of land and development.

When it comes to issues of third party liability, Rob suggested that wardens encourage their user groups to have their own liability insurance. The diocesan insurance supplier does have an instrument to supply coverage, so there is a fairly simple solution available. Rob commented that it is often a surprise to parishes that they don't actually have the authority to lease out property for a substantial period of time on their own. Diocesan Council must approve it and this goes back to Provincial Government Incorporation of the Diocese in 1893. If making a commitment for space usage one year or longer the diocesan governance must be involved. This also applies to leases that automatically renew every year.

Another important subject for wardens to consider is *Risk Management*. The people counting the collection on Sunday morning should not be the people taking the bank deposit to the bank. Having two sets of two people protects those charged with the tasks. Cheques should always have two signatures. Do not under any circumstances sign blank cheques. Rarely do cheques in a parish have to be signed in a panic.

Prepare in advance.

Rob then asked the wardens to open the October 2012 update of the Warden's Handbook prepared by Synod Office staff and highlighted some of the important information about the role of wardens in the handbook. Much of the information reinforced the information given by Bishop Michael in his opening address but with more details.

Rob encouraged the group to make sure they are getting financial statements, on a monthly basis. If they are not able to get that accounting done on a monthly basis please contact the Synod office. "If you do not have monthly statements you do not know what is going on in the operations of your parish."

Arrange to do an inventory. If there is a fire and everything burns to the ground, you need to have some records that are proof of assets. In Rob's experience very few parishes have done an inventory. When you add up linen, hardware, robes, books, furniture, the totals are of significant value.

Rob advised the wardens to think seriously about the ramifications of deferring maintenance. This usually produces problems down the line so although it may not be advantageous to the budget at any given time, "not getting things done can have serious consequences."

Since 1893, parishes have been required to have an annual audit. This was changed last year. If a parish has total revenue of \$250,000 or less they do not need an audit or a review, however financial reports must be forwarded to the Synod financial office. Parishes with revenues between \$250,000 to \$750,000 need to have a review done and submitted which requires the hiring of Chartered Accountants. Parishes with revenues over \$750,000 must have an audit.

Jennifer Dezell the Legal Assessor of the Diocese gave a very brief address about the fiduciary responsibility of wardens and when she was done the panel asked for questions from the floor.

Q & A

There was a wide range of questions. One of the more protracted conversations dealt with incorporated and unincorporated parishes. Bishop Michael came to the podium and gave a brief explanation; there are 9 unincorporated parishes in our diocese and a diocese like ours with so many incorporated parishes is very rare, certainly in the Anglican Church of Canada. In the Diocese of New Westminster incorporated parishes have the names of the Wardens/Trustees on the property ownership documents at the Land Title Office. Unincorporated parishes have the diocese named as the owner of the property at the Land Title Office. However, these incorporated parishes are incorporated under the initial Incorporation of the Diocese of New Westminster by the Government of British Columbia in 1893. They are therefore adjunct corporations, they are not independent.

The questions and comments from the floor covered a huge range of topics; from the issues of leases and how they are handled (and what comprises a lease that must be presented to Diocesan Council for approval), to the concept of establishing a budget meeting for the parish a month or several weeks before Vestry; to a number of questions about insurance and third party liability.

Program Coordinator Bettina Gruver closed off the morning session by answering questions about *Screening in Faith* and the *Sexual Misconduct Policy*.

The program staff of the Synod Office: Bettina Gruver, Marnie Peterson, Tasha Carrothers, Phil Colvin and Glen Mitchell were the principal organizers of the Warden's Training Day for 2013. They did an excellent job not only crafting the program content but arranging for a delicious lunch served by one of Vancouver's famous Food Trucks.

The afternoon session began with a *Blue Ribbon Panel* of experienced wardens.

Lois Gory

St. Hilda's, Sechelt

Lois gave a summary of her service as a warden since she began in church leadership at the age of 25. She asked the wardens in attendance some questions about how they came to be in their current position. Lois recommended having an Associate Warden on the parish leadership team, someone with experience who mentors new wardens.

Lois affirmed that being a warden is a ministry. Wardens

have been empowered by the Holy Spirit. A warden must be aware of their community and pay attention to the gifts of those around them in their community so others who have been empowered by the Holy Spirit may in time become more involved and their gifts utilized when it is time for new people to take over.

Don't let being a new warden "spook you," there is help for you from the Synod office and remember, "you have been empowered by the Holy Spirit."

Each of the three wardens had prepared a scenario to share with the folks attending the training day.

Lois's scenario was about Staff issues, the problems with hiring staff, working part-time, and the responsibility that wardens have as employers to ensure that the staff person is not working for hours beyond what they are being paid to meet their job requirements.

Janet Scott

Holy Trinity, White Rock

Janet outlined a brief summary of Holy Trinity's profile. This parish is on a very healthy path and has achieved vital and sustainable ministry. Janet was warden at Holy Trinity 2008 to 2009.

Janet gave a list of suggestions that new wardens can adapt for their communities.

Janet then went through a scenario that challenged her during her time as a warden when she was forced to make tough decisions about someone who had been a mentor for her but over time had become less effective.

Michael McKenzie

St. Philip, Dunbar

Michael returned to regular church attendance because he had young children and he wanted them to have the opportunity to participate in a faith life.

His entry into parish life was through the choir, followed by leadership in the choir and a quick progression to People's Warden.

Michael also described a human resources related case study and the challenges that dealing with staff issues brought.

That process went as well as could be expected and during the time when the problem occurred the St. Philip's leadership asked advice from other parishes in the deanery and everyone on staff pitched in with a satisfactory outcome as a long-term result.

With each warden on the panel focusing on Parish Officers as employers Rob Dickson returned to the podium to remind the group that the BC government has very specific rules and regulations governing employer/employee relationships. This prompted a discussion around what constitutes an employee and what constitutes a contractor.

Coincidentally, Lois, Janet and Michael are all medical professionals.

Those attending the workshop were extremely appreciative of the three warden panel, which got them in a good frame of mind to look at a Case Study, formulated by Tasha Carrothers loosely based on a situation that had arisen in

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Pastoral Kindness and a Spine of Steel

The Venerable Ronald Harrison's Retirement Dinner

RANDY MURRAY

Diocesan Communications Officer and Editor of Topic

The Rev. William Pike and his brother, the Ven. Andrew Pike were somewhat perplexed that there had been no diocesan wide event to commemorate the retirement of their friend and colleague the former Executive Archdeacon of the Diocese of New Westminster, former Archdeacon of Vancouver, former rector of St. Philip, Dunbar and St. Augustine, Marpole, the Ven. Ronald Harrison. Ron had retired after almost 42 years in ministry on December 31st, 2012.

They energetically took on the task of organizing a special night for Ron and decided that it would be fitting to hold a potluck dinner and testimonial at St. Philip, Dunbar. The Pike brothers received very positive response from St. Philip's Parish Administrator, Ann Richards and likewise from the rector, the Ven. John Stephens current Archdeacon of Vancouver. The date was set for Thursday, February 28th, 2013.

Invitations went out through the diocesan clergy and parish mail systems with the result, a crowd of over 100 people gathered at St. Philip's for a very special occasion, an informal tribute to Ron.

The evening began with some drinks, appetizers and conversation in the friendly confines of St. Philip's Fireside Room. Throughout that day and evening, William and Mary Pike, and Andrew and Judith Pike worked with the St. Philip Hospitality Group to put on a first class event.

Following a delicious dinner in the St. Philip Gymnasium/Hall it was time for a variety of speakers to take to the microphone. Co-organizer William Pike was first to speak. After giving some background relating to how the evening came to be, he thanked the hosts, the St. Philip's community and went on to read a list of regrets and congratulatory emails written by folks who were unable to attend.

The first guest speaker was the Bishop of the Diocese of New Westminster, the Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham who began by relating the events that took place 11 years earlier when he invited Ron to lunch to speak with him about the Executive Archdeacon position in the Bishop's



Roddy MacKenzie (left), Ron (centre) and event co-organizer the Ven. Andrew Pike (right) at dinner.

office. Bishop Michael said that Ron was incredulous; he kept saying that he was "the Rector of St. Philip, Dunbar" in a tone that communicated the message "I have a great ministry position why would I want to leave?"

But he did take the job. Bishop Michael shared with the audience that he felt that the atmosphere at St. Philip's was very cold toward him for quite some time afterward until they had warmed up to their current incumbent, the Ven. John Stephens. The Bishop characterized Ron's ministry style during his tenure in the Bishop's office as "pastoral kindness and a spine of steel." It was an extremely dynamic and stressful time in the Bishop's office and he closed with these words, "We faced extraordinary challenges over the past 10 years. There couldn't have been a better team assembled to work towards an open and inclusive church. Ron was key to that success." He closed by saying that he'd

just received a call from the Archbishop and Ron would be happy to know that the dual parishes of Spuzzum and Horsefly had just become available and that Ron could expect a recommendation.

The Bishop was followed by a succession of speakers sharing memories of their experiences with Ron. Andrew Pike spoke about the many times they had been roommates at clergy conferences where Ron's proclivity to keeping military order in both his surroundings and his sleeping and personal preparation routines could prove difficult for a less organized individual. Ron's colleague at the Synod Office, Business Administrator for the Diocese, Rob Dickson focused his remarks on Ron's need to immediately respond to people who have contacted him with a question or a need for his assistance. Rob said that his purchase of

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Can You Imagine? Can You Imagine!

CHRISTINE MAGREGA

Deacon, Holy Trinity Cathedral

It was the beautiful weekend of March 8th to 10th, 2013, when a group of parishioners from Holy Trinity Cathedral (HTC), New Westminster, gathered for a retreat at the Benedictine Westminster Abbey in Mission, British Columbia. The backdrop of mountains, spacious valleys and the mighty Fraser River added to the endless beauty of clear evening skies and a sunshiny Saturday. We were pleased to have Starr Allaby from St. Barnabas join us, a member of the Tri-Parish team from New Westminster.

We began our retreat with a lively social meet-and-greet Friday evening, followed by Compline and silence. Saturday morning we entered into the work of the retreat. Led with compassion and competence by the Rev. Canon Harold Munn, Anglican Mentor in residence at the Vancouver School of Theology (VST) and Interim priest-in-charge at All Saints, Burnaby, our focus was a discussion on the building project planned by HTC with regards to the future of our adjoining hall. We were appreciative of the Rev. Munn's knowledge, wisdom, leadership, humour and grace. The project seeks to preserve the historic Cathedral, replace the parish hall, install underground parking, and construct a high rise tower to help pay for the project. In the 154-year history of HTC it is the largest building project in the life of the parish and currently the most ambitious proposal underway in our diocese. Conversation focused on unexpected opportunities and changes that may arise as the project unfolds.

Organized into morning and afternoon sessions, with both large and small group work, the focal point was a passage from Luke 2: 41 – 51; the 12 year old Jesus leaving his parents behind after the feast of the Passover in Jerusalem and teaching in the temple. We unpacked the passage verse by verse to see how the grief, hopelessness, sudden awareness, amazement, anger, anxiety and enormous relief expressed by all players in this gospel account might parallel our feelings as we enter into this project. We shared our personal concerns of perceived losses such as "loss of familiar spaces," "reduced autonomy" and "loss of memorial trees" and then moved into imagining what a new building



Westminster Abbey, Mission the site of the retreat. PHOTO Chris Magrega



Enjoying a Sunny Break. TOP The Rev. Carole Neilson (left) and Gerry Stensgaard (right). BOTTOM The Rev. Chris Magrega (left) and Susan Stensgaard (right). PHOTOS Sybil Collett

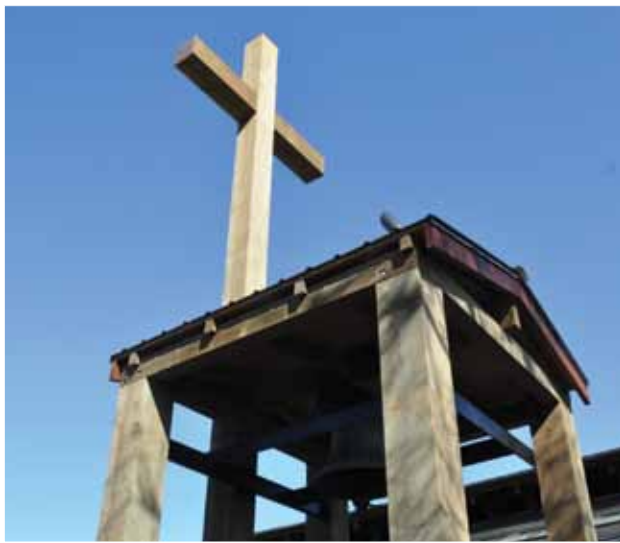


would offer our church family, the neighbourhood, the community and the city of New Westminster. We were asked to imagine a space that was more than a "financial deal" but a space that would witness our Gospel proclamation, a profound loyalty to God's call to do God's work and to be God's people in sharing the message of Jesus Christ.

Success of the retreat was due in no small part to the venue itself. The hospitality of the monks, the simple yet nourishing meals, the glorious chanting of the monks and the privilege of attending their services all added to the wonder of the weekend. A strong sense of fellowship and

camaraderie was felt and expressed by our group and we hope to make retreats of this kind an annual event in the life of HTC as we move forward. ♦

MIDDLE Session Group: Sybil Collett (left), Garry James (centre) and Archdeacon John Bailey (right). RIGHT Betty Macdonald (left) and the Rev. Canon Harold Munn (right, Retreat Leader). PHOTOS Chris Magrega



Beautiful During the Day but You Should See it at Night

The New Bell Tower at St. Helen's, Point Grey

Easter Sunday, 2013, is particularly memorable for the Parish of St. Helen's, Point Grey, as it marked the first time that the church bell was officially rung in the new bell tower. The ringing of the bell, calling people to the Easter Sunday Festival Eucharist took place at 10 am.

St. Helen's celebrated 100 years as a parish in 2012 and a large part of the centennial observance involved projects to improve and rejuvenate the church grounds and structures. A number of improvements, including new worship furnishings and a new wood floor in the chancel were done in the interior of the building last year. The next component involves exterior renovation and the bell tower is the first completed component of that project. Parts of the current plaza, fence and gardens are going to be removed and a more welcoming entry plaza created. The new plaza

will feature an open plan, new signage, and lighting, all geared toward directing attention to the church building's main entrance.

Parishioner Bob Carl who is part of the family business, Carlwood Lumber supplies high end timber to building projects around the globe including timbers used in the construction of structures for the gas and oil industry. Bob was the principal force behind the actual creation and construction of the bell tower project. The bell itself is nestled in the newly created structure but what really draws the eye is the Cross behind the enclosure consisting of a 30 foot piece of Douglas Fir hewn from one tree.

Bob completely refurbished the Bell mechanism as the wheel assembly had been bent in the fall from the tower as a result of a fire in the early 1970s. The previous tower was located on the same footings but was removed in the early 1990s as it was in danger of falling down. The railings and metal frames in the new tower are a design specifically engineered for this project and fabricated by LAB Industries of Coquitlam, BC.

When asked, the Rev. Scott Gould, Rector of St. Helen's was quick to credit the team of parishioners who arranged for the project fundraising and planning, giving special kudos to Bob Carl. "Bob took control of the project," Scott said, "he is a hands-on, get it done guy. He took responsibility for sourcing the lumber, treating and finishing the lumber, he sourced the lighting, arranged for the engineering, design and fabrication of the metal used in the project and he poured the concrete forms that support the structure."

In a brief conversation Bob had with diocesan communications he recommended stopping by and viewing the new bell tower after dark to get the full impact of the design when it is brightly lit. We think we will take him up on that offer in the very near future. Stay tuned for some night photos.

Check out the photos of the bell being rung for the first time in the new tower in the 2013 Holy Week and Easter photos section on pages 10 and 11. ✚



TOP LEFT The cross and the top of the bell enclosure.

BOTTOM LEFT The Rev. Scott Gould in front of the bell enclosure.

TOP RIGHT The bell.

BOTTOM RIGHT A model of the front of the church showing the open plan and direct visual access to the building entrance.

Pastoral Kindness and a Spine of Steel

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

a BlackBerry smartphone a number of years ago was "like giving crack to an addict." Now that he had the ability to be in touch 24/7 Ron would constantly have to excuse himself to answer messages immediately. According to Rob "there was always a red light blinking in his pocket."

The Ven. Stephen Rowe said that he always remembered the words of a friend of his who had recently been appointed Archdeacon. The newly collated Archdeacon said, "the worst thing about being an Archdeacon is that you can't ask the Archdeacon about what to do." Stephen went on to say, "But in our case we could always ask Ron and Ron would have the answers and his answers were always well thought out and extremely helpful."

After several more testimonials including a hilarious story by the Rev. Marilyn Hames concerning a trip that she and Ron took to a mining site, it was time for the Ven. John Stephens, Archdeacon of Vancouver, Rector of St. Philip, Dunbar to take the microphone. He wasted no time in inviting Ron and his wife Sandy to come up to the front where he presented them with a gift. Prior to the giving of the gift John let the assembled group know that he "is delighted that Ron is moving on." First of all he succeeded Ron as rector of St. Philip's and he had to hear over and over again all about "how Ron used to do things" and then he was appointed Archdeacon of Vancouver a position formerly held by Ron. Again he had to hear all about how Ron used to do things and quite frankly he has had enough and is delighted Ron has retired. This tirade was met with a great deal of laughter.

Then it was Ron's turn to speak and with Sandy at his side he thanked everyone who had spoken and who had contributed to the production of the evening's event. He reflected on his almost 42 years of ministry and assured everyone that he had thoroughly enjoyed his calling and his three principal appointments: Rector of St. Augustine

and St. Philip and Executive Archdeacon of the Diocese of New Westminster and that he was grateful to have served God's Mission. Then it was time to cut and serve the deli-

cious cake baked, iced and decorated by Mary Pike. The words on the cake offered a message of hope for a wonderful retirement, "Fair Winds and Following Seas." ✚

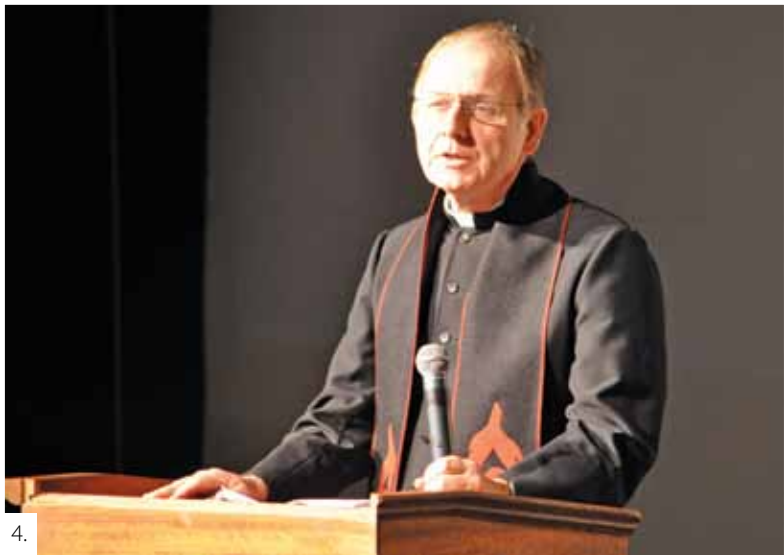
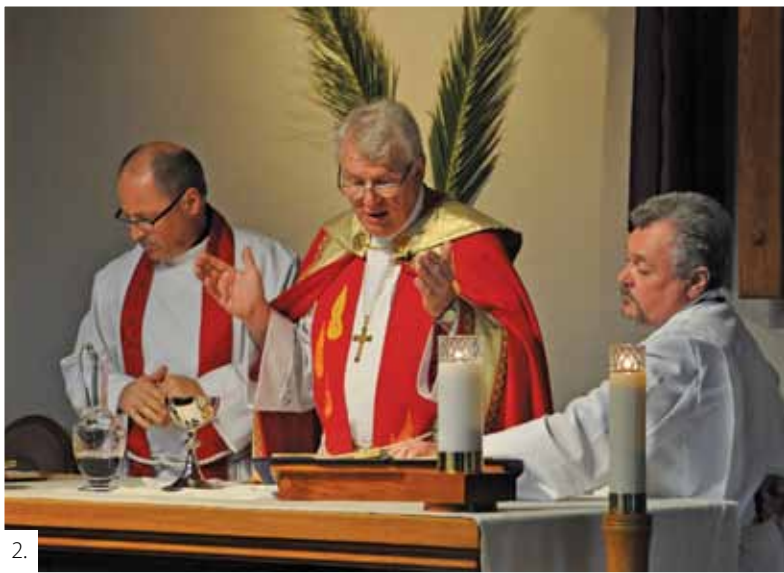


TOP LEFT Marilyn Hames story of Ron at a mining site drew big laughs.

TOP RIGHT Sandy and Ron cut the cake.

BOTTOM LEFT Ron thanks everyone for coming.

BOTTOM RIGHT Archivist Melanie Delva shared some stories of her conversations with Ron over the years.





Holy Week & Easter

Around the Diocese of New Westminster

1. At Holy Trinity, White Rock, next to the Rev. Neil Gray, we see Jack Harris from Calgary who was visiting his grandparents and doing the important ministry of holding the Hosanna banner on Palm Sunday.

2. The Rev. Brian Vickers (left, rector), Bishop Michael (centre) and Kim Campbell (right) during the Eucharistic Prayer at St. Anne's, Steveston on Palm Sunday, March 24th, 2013.

3. Bishop Michael greets a parishioner at St. Anne's following the worship before the Palm Sunday luncheon.

4. St. Cuthbert's, Delta took part in an ecumenical Good Friday service at North Delta Senior Secondary School. In this photo we see St. Cuthbert's incumbent, the Rev. Al Carson leading the Solemn Intercession.

5. Members of the Praise Band from Living Hope Christian Fellowship led the music in worship at the ecumenical Good Friday service at St. Cuthbert's, Delta.

6. St. Cuthbert's Choir Director, Tony Houghton sang an *a cappella* version of *Were You There*.

7. At The Anglican Church of the Epiphany in Surrey the Good Friday Eucharist is followed by plentiful offerings of Hot Crossed Buns. Here we see Carol Williams demonstrating the proper way to bite a buttered Hot Crossed Bun.

8. After the Hot Crossed Buns at Epiphany it's time to clean and decorate the church for the Easter Vigil on Saturday night and of course Easter Sunday worship. Here we see Ellen Swindells carefully cleaning the Altar.

9. A hundred congregants gathered on the rock at Caulfeild Park for an ecumenical Easter Day Sunrise Service led by the Rev. Janice Lowell and the Rev. Angus Stuart (far left) of St. Francis-in-the-Wood. PHOTO Phil Colvin

10. In this issue of *Topic* you will find a feature article on page 9 about the new bell tower at St. Helen's, Point Grey. The bell was rung in the new tower for the first time at 10:10 am on Easter Morning, March 31st, 2013. The first to ring the bell were the organizing team.

11. The second group to ring the St. Helen's bell were the children of the parish.

12. St. Faith's Church in Southwest Vancouver is a beautiful location for an Easter Sunday service on a bright sunny morning in early spring. The sanctuary is gloriously filled with light by the sun streaming through the large south facing windows. Here we see the Rev. Dr. Richard Leggett preaching his Easter Sermon.

13. The passing of The Peace at St. Faith's.

14. St. Chad's in Arbutus/Point Grey also celebrated a Baptism at the Easter Sunday Eucharist. Here we see the Rev. Paulina Lee (second from left), assisted by the Deacon, the Rev. Katherine Yeo (left) baptizing Grace AiXing Karki (centre).

15. The Ven. Dr. Ellen Clark-King read a story about three animals: a mouse, a cat and a dog that paralleled the Gospel story of the Angels in the empty tomb. The story is over and the puppets and their operators receive some well-deserved applause.

16. In this photo we see arguably the most popular puppet at Christ Church Cathedral, Maggie the Mouse and her friend, the Rev. Chris Dierkes.

17. At the 8 am Easter Sunday Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral there were two Baptisms. The children of the parish look on while Dean Peter Elliott with the assistance of Deacon, the Rev. Dixie Black blesses the water.

Easter Blessings to ALL in the Diocese of New Westminster!

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Topic and the Anglican Journal Will Produce a Summer Issue for 2013

Due to the General Synod meeting, "Joint Assembly" July 3rd to 7th in Ottawa, there will not be a June issue of *Topic* and the *Anglican Journal*.

The mid-July printing deadline for the summer issue will enable the *Anglican Journal* staff to report fully on the events of Joint Assembly.

The deadline for submissions to be considered for the summer issue is May 24th, 2013.

The summer issue of the *Anglican Journal* and *Topic* should arrive in homes late July/early August.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

In early March, the Bishop's office and the communications office received the results of the annual **Anglican Journal Appeal** and diocesan communications is delighted to announce that the Diocese of New Westminster continues its generous support of the *Anglican Journal* and *Topic*.

Readers in the Diocese of New Westminster donated \$30,585, which is a very similar amount to the totals given in 2011 and 2010. Administration costs and National Church Staff Allocation are

a little less this year so *Topic* and the *Anglican Journal* have more of the pot to apply directly to the cost of producing the publications. After expenses, the *Anglican Journal* and *Topic* each received \$10,395.85.

The **Anglican Journal Appeal** is scheduled for September 2013, so please consider a gift when that envelope falls out of the paper in a few months. Your generosity ensures that we can "continue the conversation" from coast to coast to coast.

• ASK Friendship Centre Seniors Soon To Ride In Style •

SUBMISSION Christine Stardom (through Richard Leggett)
Director of ASK Friendship Society

Thanks to our friends at St. Mary's and St. Faith's, our local Anglican Churches, we have been able to place an order for a new twenty passenger bus! We started a fundraising campaign in 2011 for our Friendship Wheels project and our local Anglican Churches were the first to support us. Their confidence in our service inspired us to solicit donations from the community at large and to apply for the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program. We were successful in securing grant funds of \$22,532 that topped up our Vehicle Replacement Fund allowing us to place our order in November 2012.

ASK serves community dwelling seniors with chronic health challenges. For many of our participants, this is the only outing of the week. We improve health and mood



The new bus for the ASK Friendship Centre.

by helping housebound individuals to feel more connected to the community. Our Registered Charity is committed to improving quality of life for community dwelling seniors and their caregivers. Having suitable transportation will go a long way to helping us meet our goal. ✚

• Goodbye to the Nonagenarian Cherry Trees in Chilliwack •

The faith community of St. Thomas, Chilliwack thought about it for a few years. They pondered it. They considered the dangerous condition of the old cherry trees on the church property and the heavy shade they created over the Memorial Garden. And so they had to come down.

BC Hydro had taken responsibility for pruning the trees in recent years to keep the branches from interfering with electrical wires. The leadership of the Parish in regular consultation with the congregation concluded that keeping the 90+ year old trees now in extremely poor health was a safety and security issue and there was strong agreement and financial support from the community to go ahead with removal.

In the first image we see the tree closest to the church entrance (the other tree is located 30 feet to the left of the tree in the images) as it looked in February 2012. The other four photos chronicle the removal of

that tree on March 5th, 2013.

St. Thomas' rector, the Rev. John Sovereign is looking forward to better weather when the Memorial Garden will be bathed in sunshine after decades of shade. He is also enjoying the clean, healthy look of the grounds now that the trees are removed but he does admit that it seems that "something is missing." ✚

TOP LEFT The two trees photographed in February 2012; following a pruning by the BC power utility authorities.
TOP MIDDLE LEFT & RIGHT The branches are removed.
TOP RIGHT Removing large pieces of the tree trunks by truck.

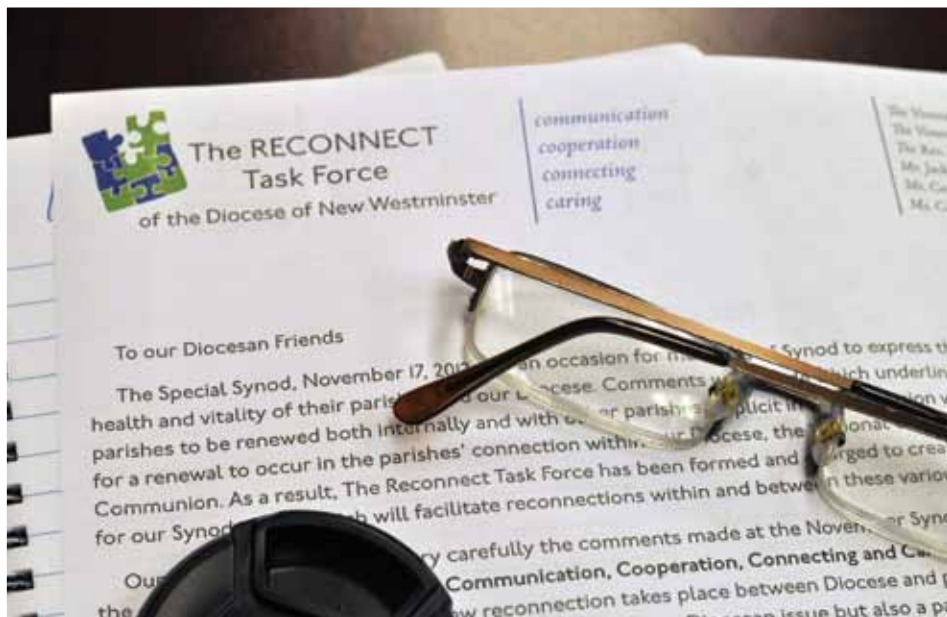
BOTTOM LEFT Grinding out the stumps.
BOTTOM MIDDLE Repairing the Lawns. The Lawns were repaired by Valley Outdoors, on the left is the son of St. Thomas' rector, the Rev. John Sovereign, Bradley Sovereign and on the right John's son-in-law, Jamie Finlay.
BOTTOM RIGHT The tree is gone.

PHOTOS John Sovereign



AROUND THE DIOCESE

• RECONNECT Task Force Chair Visits the Synod Office •



TOP The RECONNECT Task Force document. BOTTOM John Stephens relaxes before beginning to ask the survey questions.

The RECONNECT Task Force of the Diocese of New Westminster is a group appointed by Bishop Michael consisting of: the Ven. John Stephens (chair), the Ven. Douglas Fenton, the Rev. Faun Harriman, Mr. Jack Blachford, Mr. Cameron Gutjahr and Ms. Carol Tindall.

At the Special Synod, November 17th, 2012, members of Synod highlighted a strong desire for parishes to be renewed both internally and with other parishes. The thread that ran through the written comments and the words spoken at microphones was a wish for renewal to occur in the parishes' connection within our diocese, the National Church and the Anglican Communion. After studying these comments they identified four key areas: *communication*, *cooperation*, *connecting* and *caring*.

The Task Force assembled a brief survey to be filled out by Parish Councils and Church Committees in the community. They are seeking answers formulated by

the group, not from individuals. The Task Force hoped that parishes would put the survey on the agenda as part of their March 2012 meetings.

This survey will help constitute recommendations that the RECONNECT Task Force will develop and bring to Synod in May 2013.

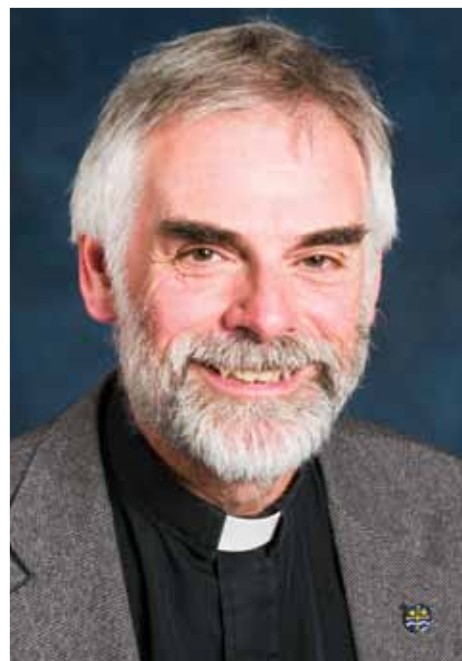
On March 13th, 2013, the Chair, the Ven. John Stephens visited the boardroom of the Synod Office at 401 West Georgia and administered the survey to the Synod Office Staff. It took about 45 minutes to discuss the two *communications* questions, two *cooperation* questions and the *connecting* and *caring* question. Synod Staff members were engaged, open and interested as they discussed what they could improve to strengthen the relationships between parishes and the Synod Office.

There will be more coverage of the results of this survey and the recommendations by the Task Force in the Summer Issue of *Topic*. ✠

• Goodbye Paul! •

The Rev. Paul Strudwick, Incumbent of the Parish of St. Alexandria, Port Coquitlam, priest-in-charge of St. Columba, Pitt Meadows, Regional Dean of Westminster and Chair of the Communications Committee has given notice to the Bishop and to the Parish of St. Catherine's that he has accepted an appointment in the Church of England. His last Sunday with St. Catherine's will be May 12th. Paul's exact destination cannot currently be divulged due to details that need to be completed as part of the process of moving from one country to another for work. Paul did share with diocesan communications that he will be considerably closer to his elderly parents who live in England and that proximity was among the reasons for the move. We will keep you updated on his appointment.

We do wish Paul and Kate every blessing as they prepare to leave and take up a new ministry in another part of the Anglican Communion. ✠

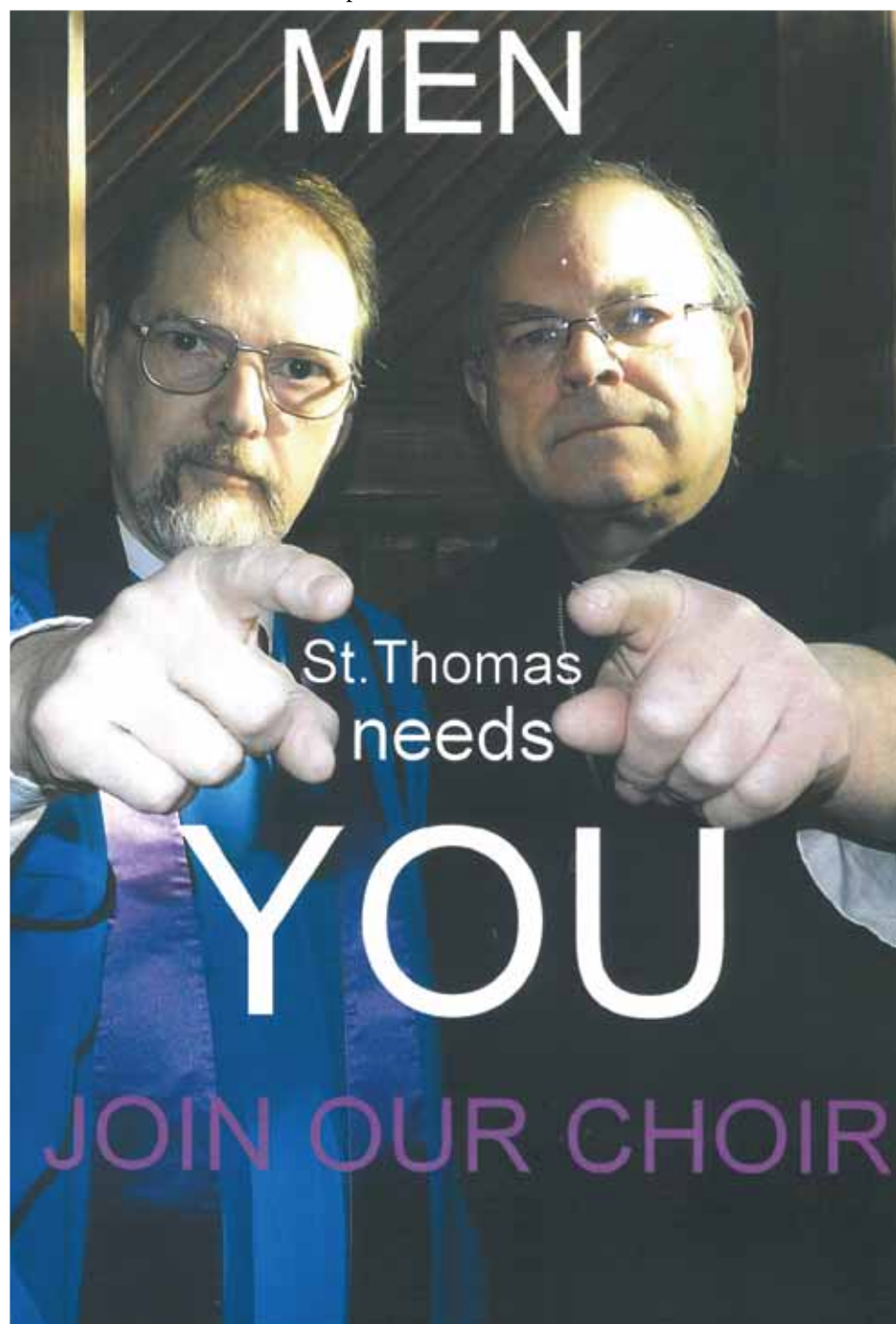


The Rev. Paul Strudwick. PHOTO Wayne Chose

• WE WANT YOU! •

While we are on the subject of St. Thomas', Chilliwack, it seems that the rector and director of music have come up with a

very direct recruitment technique to bring more men into the choir, the old fashioned, Recruitment Poster seen below. ✠



• Thank You Bettina! •

On page 2 of the April issue of *Topic*, we published a retirement story about the Synod Office's Program Coordinator, Bettina Gruver. Bettina has graciously agreed to delay her departure from the Synod Office through to the end of May. Bettina will be the Acting Administrative Assistant to the Bishop until the Rev. Eileen Nurse returns to work. Bettina began this job April 9th and she will work Tuesday, Wednesday

and Thursday. Come June 5th, there's an airplane ticket with her name on it that departs that day. We'll wish Bettina *bon voyage* as full-on retirement begins.

On February 28th, Bettina and Senior Staff received an email message from Synod Staffer, the Rev. Matthew Johnson, sharing some of his thoughts about Bettina and her ministry. He agreed to our sharing his thoughts on Bettina with *Topic* readers.

Hi Bettina

An email can't adequately express the appreciation of many of the clergy, for your work on the ADR* file over the last years.

You maintained a high level of discretion in matters that somehow had to be communicated to prospective representatives.

I believe the work of the ADR Process to this point has had numerous positive outcomes, and have been one of a number of ways toward reconciliation.

Thanks for this, and for your other achievements in resourcing this diocese in so many different ways, throughout your time at Synod Office.

Your old colleague in ministry,
Matthew

**ADR refers to Alternate Dispute Resolution an option for resolving claims of sexual and physical abuse at residential schools. It is a process, which is inquisitorial, not adversarial. ✠*



Bettina enjoys her retirement party with a beer.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Book Launch in Powell River •

The Rev. Dr. Adela Torchia, priest-in-charge of the Parish of St. David and St. Paul in Powell River was present March 21st, 2013, at the Powell River Campus of Vancouver Island University to launch her newly published book, *Gandhi, Ecology & World Religions*. There were 33 people in attendance to hear Adela talk about the process of writing, to hear her read some passages from the book and to gather and share conversation and refreshments.

The book is for sale on amazon.ca but as

it is priced as a textbook, the current price is quite high. Diocesan communications has purchased a copy and will be glad to loan it to interested readers on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call 604.684.6306 ext. 223 or email rmurray@vancouver.anglican.ca for more information.

Congratulations Adela! ✠

LEFT A portion of the crowd at Adela's book launch.
RIGHT Adela reads from her new book.

PHOTOS Warren Wiley



• Celebrating with the Karen Refugees •

SUBMISSION Wilna Parry • St. Clements, North Vancouver

Kler Taw and his family really believe in celebrating birthdays, but it looks very different from the birthday parties I hosted when our children were small!

On March 23rd Joanne Graham and I attended a two hour long "birthday celebration worship service." Ehtanay turned 5 and the Canadian addition to the family, Juliana, is turning 2. One of the nieces also had her 20th birthday and was included in the celebration. The children were present (and quiet) throughout the service.

We arrived at Kler Taw's house to find the upper floor packed with *Karen* friends and family. Everyone was seated on mats on the floor; towards the back wall was the coffee table, loaded with 3 cakes, a vase with flowers, the Bible and a hymnal in the *Karen* language. Joanne and I were (thankfully!) invited to take a chair behind the table, alongside Pastor Thein and his wife Lu Lu, who led most of the two-hour proceedings.

In his homily, Pastor Thein compared the *Karens* to the Israelites fleeing Egypt: they also fled the cruel oppressors in Burma, spent years in refugee camps (like the Israelites in the wilderness before entering the promised land). God then brought them over the big ocean in an airplane (he said God did not require that they get their feet wet) where they settled into a new land, Canada. It was not without many difficul-

ties but God looks after them, is true and as He preserved the Israelites, He has a purpose for the *Karens* living here—to be a light to the nations.

Kler Taw spoke about his desire to visit Burma in 2015: his father, now 90 years old, and some siblings still live there and he has not seen them for many years. He asked for special prayers regarding this dream of reunification with his family of origin.

The children lit candles on the cakes. A special birthday song was sung after which they blew out the candles.

After closing prayers, we were invited downstairs where the family had laid out a sumptuous feast. It was a good day. We felt honoured to have been included in what was clearly a very significant event in their lives. The families also repeatedly thanked the parishes for supporting them in their journey.

Should you wish to write them a postcard of encouragement (they love receiving mail), here are the addresses:

Kler Taw and family	Lu Wah and family
6251 – 141A Street	9841 – 127th Street
Surrey, BC V3X 0B2	Surrey, BC V3V 5L1 ✠



TOP Ehtanay (left), Eh Moo Si (back centre), Juliana (front centre) and a niece (right) checking out the three cakes.

BOTTOM LEFT Ehtanay (left), Eh Moo Si (centre) and Juliana (right) blowing out candles. BOTTOM MIDDLE Eh Moo Si and Juliana. BOTTOM RIGHT Kler Taw with Karen flag in the background.



AROUND THE DIOCESE

• Stewardship Blog Spans the Country •

SUBMISSION Glen Mitchell

Growing Good Stewards is a new stewardship *blog* for conversing, learning, networking and imagining the future among Anglicans and friends who strive to be Good Stewards. The idea grew out of a national dialogue on stewardship convened by the Anglican Church of Canada in October 2012. I was asked to take up the role of convener with the task of coordinating the launch of the *blog* and regular contributions of the country-wide team of writers who have agreed to participate.

With the help of the Rev. Jesse Dymond at General Synod, we began by deciding to have *Growing Good Stewards* hosted on *The Community*—the Anglican Church of Canada's *blog* website for a wide variety of topics of interest to Anglicans. The writers created three broad categories or themes to guide our writing. We will be offering content to develop parish stewardship

teams. There will be content for individuals who are striving to be Good Stewards and content is planned for resourcing mission and ministry.

THE FOUNDING TEAM OF BLOGGERS

Ms. Liz Cullen

*Stewardship Mentor,
Diocese of New Westminster*

The Very Rev. Kevin Dixon

*Dean and Rector, St. Paul's Cathedral,
Diocese of Huron*

Mr. Peter Misiaszek

*Director of Stewardship Development,
Diocese of Toronto*

Glen Mitchell

*Director of Stewardship & Gift Planning,
Diocese of New Westminster*

Mr. Alex Parsons

*Diocesan Stewardship/Planned Giving Officer,
Diocese of Saskatoon*

Mr. Kevin Smith

*Regional Gift Planning Consultant,
Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador*

The Very Rev. Peter Wall

*Dean and Rector, Christ's Church Cathedral,
Diocese of Niagara*



The team of *bloggers* will continue to "grow" as new writers join the team and you engage in the conversations. Welcome to *Growing Good Stewards* and please join in the online conversation. I look forward to "hearing" you there. You'll find us online at www.thecommunity.anglican.ca. ✚

Glen Mitchell

• Pathways to Peace •

A Public Talk with Ruth Patterson

This event will take place May 24th, 2013 at 7:30 pm at the "Old" Auditorium at the University of British Columbia (UBC, 6344 Memorial Road). Join *L'Arche Greater Vancouver* and *Vancouver School of Theology* as they welcome Ruth Patterson, OBE (Order of the British Empire), the first woman to be ordained in Ireland and Director of Restoration Ministries, an interdenominational organization seeking to promote peace, reconciliation and healing.

Admission is free; however, tickets must be reserved in advance. Freewill offering will be taken. For more info and to reserve tickets call 604.435.9544 or visit our website at www.larchevancouver.org. ✚

• Bishop Michael to Receive Honourary Degree •

This June, Bishop Michael will be one of seven of a total of ten recipients of Honorary Doctorates from Simon Fraser University (SFU) for 2013. The other three recipients will receive their degrees at the Fall Convocation event. Please refer to the diocesan website at www.vancouver.anglican.ca for more information. ✚

• St. Cuthbert's Tuesday Music Outreach Ministry •

SUBMISSION Anne Scanlon

Sharing the Good News in singing of hymns at Northcrest Care Centre, a local residential facility providing long term care for seniors, has been the goal of a dedicated group of parishioners, who for the past 8 years have lead residents in the singing of hymns. The group meets regularly on Tuesday mornings at Northcrest and engages the residents with music and the singing of old familiar hymns. Many can no longer lend

their voices to song but their faces reflect that they are being reminded they are still children of God and valued members of society. The singing of hymns is concluded with a short scripture reading and prayers. Eucharist is also celebrated on the 4th Tuesday of the month. ✚

Left to right: David Hughes, Coleen Metcalfe, Chris Goater and Leona Sidoni at the piano.



In celebration of the 100th anniversary of
THE PARISH OF ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR

you are cordially invited to

AFTERNOON TEA

IN THE STYLE OF
"DOWNTON ABBEY"

Saturday, June 1st, 2013

A footman will assist you to your table where white-frilled maids will serve you gourmet teas and a selection of sandwiches and scones, with preserves, clotted cream, and fresh-baked desserts. The live music and door prizes are not to be missed! Period costumes, hats, and fascinators are most definitely welcome!

There will be two sittings:
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. ✚ and ✚ 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
by Reserved Seating only

Cost is \$25 per person
and bookings must be pre-paid by May 24, 2013

RSVP by phone or email to Mrs. Colleen Butterley
604-788-3637 ✚ cbutterley@gmail.com

Cheques can be made out and mailed to "St. Stephen's Anglican Church"
Cash/cheques can be taken at the church office
between 9:30 and 1:30, Monday-Friday

9887 Cameron Street
Burnaby, BC V3J 1M3
www.ststbby.ca

• Strawberry Tea •

St. Stephen's, West Vancouver Centennial
A Centennial Strawberry Tea Party!

LOCATION St. Stephen's, West Vancouver
885 22nd Street

DATE & TIME Saturday, June 22nd at 3 pm

It will be quite a formal affair, women will wear hats and gentlemen are asked to wear jacket and tie.

For more information regarding admission and event details please contact the Parish Office at 604.926.4381. ✚



A Little Peace and Joy

MARY JANE MUIR
Diocese of New Westminster

On January 11th, I saw this online:
“Hallmark partners with UNICEF, which works in 190 countries and territories to save and improve children’s lives, providing health care and immunizations, clean water and sanitation, nutrition, education, emergency relief, and more. Create a holiday card that focuses on peace, unity, and joy all over the world—your card could be featured in a boxed collection, and a portion of sales will go to UNICEF.”

My friends are always telling me I should design a card for UNICEF but I never saw a way to submit designs nor did I ever think UNICEF might consider my work since they have world class artists and I don’t consider myself in that league. But this was probably my one chance to at least try. I jumped into the project. I started with sketches of skating children in my morning journal. I researched contemporary winter outdoor fashion. I discovered protective helmets are the trend in skating and sledding gear. I got out my watercolours. I scanned washes into my PC. I used my tablet for drawing on my computer screen. I worked into the wee hours of January winter mornings. Finally, after many revisions, I had a finished design. I held my breath, clicked the enter key and sent it flying off in cyberspace to Hallmark just in time for the January 24th deadline.

On the morning of February 4th, Hallmark posted a notice on their Facebook Contest page. They would be calling the top five winners at 1 pm Central Time which I assumed would be 10 am Pacific Standard Time. At 10 am, just in case, I hung out near my landline phone. Like a kid waiting for Santa. But of course nothing happened and soon it was 10:30 am. By 10:45 am I had to tell myself to “Get Real” and I accepted the fact that my card wasn’t a winner. When I am discouraged I tend to get hungry. Today, I would have an early lunch. I put soup in a pot on the stove and fed the dog. I told her I hadn’t won and not to feel discouraged and she looked at me sympathetically with her huge brown Shih Tzu eyes.

The soup began to boil and the phone rang and Maggie began to bark. I thought “Oh great, another telemarketer.”



Mary Jane Muir’s winning UNICEF card design.

I checked the call box on the screen and read “MISSOURI.” Could it be Hallmark?

The cheerful voice on the phone asked for me by name. “Mary Jane,” they said, “Your design is our first place winner! The UNICEF team and the Hallmark team agreed. Your card was *The One*. We love it!” My soup boiled over, Maggie was barking, and I started jumping up and down and squealing with delight like on those awful shows where people win cars, or camping gear for fishing trips. I realized I was on speaker phone and my exclamations were repeating back to me and I could hear the Hallmark team cheering and clapping. I was thrilled.

I spent the rest of the day phoning family and friends. It was a day of joy. Something to cheer us up through those long grey days of February.

Hallmark’s UNICEF & You cards will become available in July in Hallmark Gold Crown stores across Canada and the US. It is wonderful to know there is a place for my

illustration where it will benefit UNICEF and children of the world.

There is a link to the card image on my *blog* at <http://maplepancakes.blogspot.ca>. ♦

.....

Mary Jane Muir was the Liturgical Artist at Christ Church Cathedral from 1981 to 1985. She is a member of Children’s Writers and Illustrators of British Columbia (CWILL BC, www.cwill.bc.ca).

*Since retiring from the Vancouver School Board she has been exploring poetry, writing and ways to use software to create digital illustrations for children’s books. She is presently working with CWILL BC on a June fundraiser, *The Walking Read*, to benefit BC’s Children’s Hospital (<http://cwillbcvents.wordpress.com>). Editor*

.....



With the Synod Staff taking the lead everyone stayed behind to help pack up and clean up. Many, many thanks again to the Rev. Fr. Michael Fuller and the people of St. John’s, Shaughnessy for sharing their space for the Warden’s Training Day.

Warden’s Day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

our diocese. After the document containing the case information was distributed to the group, they were asked to break into small groups and discuss the case for 20 minutes. At the end of the 20 minutes a dozen wardens offered their comments and possible solutions. The results were that there is very rarely only “one solution.”

The day finished with an extended Q&A session with Bishop Michael.

Bishop Michael began his Q&A segment by introducing two items that had not been discussed. Bishop Michael informed the wardens that the Synod Office does not make policy; policy is made by Synod. This is an important issue when parish assessments are discussed. They are discussed frequently and wardens need to be informed about the process and the mechanisms available. The formula for parish assessments is set by Synod and Diocesan Council sets the annual budget, which is Synod when Synod is not in session. It is not within the Synod Office staff’s authority to grant deductions or changes to assessments. Relief

can be sought through the Grants and Loans Committee, a diocesan standing committee with the authority to look at financial issues and make recommendations to Diocesan Council.

He went on to add that, as a diocese, we have incredible opportunities to develop property in new and exciting ways. Bishop Michael would like to see a department of paid professionals in the Synod Office whose responsibilities are the development of property in ways that will benefit parishes, the diocese and generations to come.

Once the Q&A was concluded everyone stayed behind to help the Synod Staff and the St. John’s, Shaughnessy hospitality people pack up the tables, chairs and other items used during the day.

By all accounts the first Warden’s Training Day held in four years was a resounding success. Much was shared, much was learned and people who have accepted the responsibility of leadership from around our diocese made some new connections and some new friends. ♦



For assistance, please call:
Glen Mitchell
Stewardship & Gift Planning Director
(604) 684-6306, Ext. 218
gmitchell@vancouver.anglican.ca

Giving New Life Make it Your Legacy

A bequest in your will to the Diocese of New Westminster is an ultimate act of stewardship and a tangible expression of hope for the future. Consider titling the value of your estate, or creating an endowment as your legacy gift.

A Journey of Justice & Reconciliation

LYNNE SHOZAWA, JOY KOGAWA AND GREG TATCHELL
JC-VCC representatives at CoGS

On March 14th, 2013, the Council of General Synod (CoGS) spent an hour receiving a RELINQUISHED presentation from the Japanese Canadian - Vancouver Consultative Council (JC-VCC) and deliberating on a motion to address injustices to Japanese Canadian Anglicans. At the end, a bronze RELINQUISHED *Memorial Plaque* was presented to Archbishop Fred Hiltz, as can be seen in the photo. Holding it high, he said that a prominent place would be found for it in the national office.

The JC-VCC theme of the evening was *A Journey of Justice & Reconciliation*, highlighted on the attached iconic photo of the Dedication Service of the Japanese Church of the Ascension, April 7th, 1935, two weeks before Easter Sunday.

In a spiritually moving address to the three JC-VCC delegates (Lynne Shozawa, Joy Kogawa and Greg Tatchell), the 40+ delegates of CoGS, and the unusual presence at CoGS of observers supporting the JC-VCC, his Grace stood in solidarity with Bishop Michael's 2010 apology, framed the journey of justice and reconciliation in the theological context of darkness and light, and addressed the historical racism at the core of this serious injustice.

During his address, the Primate presented the JC-VCC with a signed copy of the resolution which had just been passed unanimously, stating that CoGS:

1. Acknowledges the injustices experienced by Japanese Canadian Anglicans at the hands of our Church during and after WWII; and confesses the error of our ways.
2. Expresses its gratitude for the activities of the Japanese Canadian - Vancouver Consultative Council (JC-VCC) and the Diocese of New Westminster, which since 2008 have braved to tell the truth about a long, hidden story of racism at numerous levels of our Church, including the naming of the 1,500 Japanese Canadian Anglicans who were exiled in 1942.
3. Supports the 2010 apology made by Bishop Michael Ingham for the sale of Japanese Congregation Churches in the Diocese of New Westminster in 1949.
4. Recognizes that deep-seated historic racism continues as a source of pain to Japanese Canadian Anglicans across Canada, and commends every effort in the interests of healing and reconciliation.
5. Recommends that the Council of General Synod study the Episcopal Church's Asiamerica Ministries (EAM) to explore ways of our participation in it.
6. Encourages the dioceses of the Anglican Church of Canada to be mindful of the growing multi-cultural membership of our Church, to celebrate that diversity, and to enhance partnerships in common ministry.

The Archbishop pointed out, "This is a sign to the whole church to acknowledge sins of the past and expresses a desire to be continually reconciled."

On behalf of the JC-VCC, Lynne Shozawa (born in the Kootenay camps in WWII) responded to the Primate's deeply moving address as follows:

"On behalf of the JC-VCC we wish to extend our gratitude to CoGS and to the Primate for scheduling our concerns into their very busy agenda. By doing so, Japanese Canadian Anglicans are assured that an injustice has been revealed and acknowledged.

This marks just the beginning for us. We are heartened by the church's promise to be with us on the road to healing and reconnection with those we lost.

We and all Japanese Canadian Anglicans remember with love the Missionary workers and clergy who followed us to the camps. They were the face of the church. We are grateful to these few who were so faithful to their calling that they inspired within us a similar commitment to this day.

This is our story, our small memorial, to remind us to see what we do not see, and to care for the least among us, whoever we may be."

With the last sentence, Lynne and Joy Kogawa (exiled to the camps as a 6 year old child in 1942) presented the primate with the RELINQUISHED *Memorial Plaque* (highlighted in the March *Topic*). Many of those present—JC-VCC delegates, observers, and CoGS delegates—were deeply moved by the Primate's many pastoral touches that evening. Included amongst those present was Archdeacon Jim Boyles, former General Secretary of the Anglican Church of Canada, (whose contributions were acknowledged by both the Primate and the JC-VCC team), who introduced the three JC-VCC delegates to CoGS before their presentation. Several participants in the CoGS meetings subsequently told JC-VCC members that the RELINQUISHED hour



Lynne Shozawa (left) and Joy Kogawa (right) look on as the primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz holds the plaque up high.
PHOTO Joshua Harrower



Japanese Church of the Ascension on April 7th, 1935. PHOTO JC-VCC



Holy Trinity Anglican Church in downtown Toronto. PHOTO Joshua Harrower

"We are heartened by the church's promise to be with us on the road to healing and reconnection with those we lost."

Lynne Shozawa

had been the most memorable moment of their four-day weekend.

25 Years Later

For the Japanese Canadian Anglican (JCA) participants, Archbishop Fred Hiltz's National Words of Acknowledgement to JCAs in 2013 are at the same level, and of the same significance, as Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's National Words of Acknowledgement to Japanese Canadians in 1988, 25 years earlier. It would be hard to exaggerate the transformative, reconciling effect the Primate's words and actions will have on the remnant of the original 1,500 JCAs, as it is socialized and memorialized with them in the months ahead. In the context of the title of the JC-VCC's March 14th, 2013 presentation (and the title of this article), *A Journey of Justice & Reconciliation*, he thus marked the transition from the five-year *Justice* phase of the journey to the beginning of the *Reconciliation* phase of the journey. "It marks the beginning for us" was how Lynne Shozawa articulated this in her response to the Primate.

Upon the return of the JC-VCC delegates to Vancouver, per resolution 5 above, invitations were received from the General Secretary of the National Church, Michael Thompson, to attend the EAM Conference in San Francisco in June. At least three members of the JCA community will be attending.

A second immediate effect of CoGS took place March 19th, 2013, when the *Anglican Journal* and the *Episcopal National News Service* (ENS) both carried an article on the RELINQUISHED story, *'Injustices' Toward Japanese Canadian Anglicans Acknowledged*, written by *Anglican*

Journal staffer Marites N. Sison. The JC-VCC highly recommends this article as the most succinct, balanced and literate summary of the RELINQUISHED story yet to appear publicly.

Reconciliation

The morning of the day after CoGS, the *Reconciliation* phase was officially started. Hosted by the Rev. Sherman Hesselgrave and Holy Trinity Anglican Church in downtown Toronto (host of many of the 1988 activities), the reconciliation journey began with 35 to 40 supporters of peace and justice (many of whom can be seen in the accompanying photo). Musical accompaniment by the newly installed Order of Canada recipient William Aide ended with Chopin's Etude in A flat Major, *The Harp*, which he dedicated to reconciliation. After lunch and a question and answer period, the event concluded with the presentation of a second JC-VCC *Memorial Plaque*, this time to the Rev. Warren Wilson of Toronto's St. Andrew's Japanese Canadian Anglican Congregation. It was presented with the hope that an appropriate location of prominence could be found for it in the Diocese of Toronto. In what was becoming the RELINQUISHED flourish, Warren hoisted the plaque over his head in tribute to the Primate's actions 16 hours earlier.

Similar events are planned for Vancouver, most especially the dedication of the English and Japanese RELINQUISHED *Memorial Plaques* at Holy Cross Anglican Church, on Holy Cross Day in September. Diocesan Communications will be reporting on this event. ✦

OPINION

Breaking the Silence • Issues of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Conference

MARGARET CORNISH
Rector, St. Alban, Richmond



TOP Andrea Mann (left), Jonathan Cornish (centre) and the Rev. Margaret Cornish (right) holding the Canadian Football League's Most Outstanding Canadian for 2012 trophy.

BOTTOM Jonathan Cornish and one of his Moms, the Rev. Margaret Cornish.

The following article was originally written by Margaret as the "Rectors Notes" for the pew bulletin for Palm Sunday, March 24th, 2013, to give context to her congregation for her absence that morning. Topic has asked Margaret to write a follow-up piece describing the event and her participation for publication in a future issue. Editor

Where is the Rector this Palm/Passion Sunday? I am speaking at the 16th Annual *Breaking the Silence Conference*, hosted by the University of Saskatchewan. The University of Saskatchewan College of Education sponsors this event and is the longest running conference of its kind in Canada. The focus this year is on the sports world, and Physical Education teachers, coaches, individuals and teams from athletic programmes across Canada have been especially encouraged to attend. The name of the 2013 Conference is: *Cleaning it out! Removing homophobia from the Locker Room and Beyond* and it will focus on — through guest speakers, panels, workshops and videos — finding justice and equality on and off the playing field. I will also be celebrating and preaching at St. Andrew's Seminary on the University's campus on Palm Sunday morning. My son, Jonathan Cornish, will be the featured Guest Speaker the Friday night of the Conference.

It all started with an article the *Globe and Mail* printed just before the Grey Cup game last year (read the article at <http://bit.ly/14sU06W>). Jonathan (the Canadian Football League's Most Outstanding Canadian) spoke of his Moms with great respect and love. Many more articles and programs followed in Canadian newspapers and on radio.

People were being made aware that the Rector of St. Alban Anglican Church, Richmond was married to a woman, and that gay clergy married to same-sex partners is not that unusual in the Anglican Church of Canada. People were also getting their heads around the complete openness and respect with which Canadian Male Athlete of the Year, Jon Cornish spoke of his Moms.

Through this publicity, Jon and I were invited to be Guest Speakers at the 2013 Conference. Previous speakers include: Bishop John Shelby Spong, Olympic gold medalist Mark Tewkesbury and Svend Robinson, MP Vancouver/Kingsway.

How times have changed! Or have they? With the support and encouragement of the Russian Orthodox Church, the government of Russia has recently passed legislation making it a criminal offence to 'promote' homosexuality. And in Uganda the churches are promoting terrifying hatred toward gay and lesbian people. The Ugandan government, which is heavily influenced by the country's 85% Christian majority, is actively looking at whether to bring in capital punishment for homosexual behaviour. "Those who are ready to kill those who are being homosexual, hands up!" cries one preacher, according to Roger Ross Williams' documentary, *The Gospel of Intolerance*. I preached at a Memorial Service at St. Paul, Vancouver, for Ugandan activist David Kato, who was murdered, January 26th, 2011, for promoting gay rights.

Christianity continues to do great damage to gay and lesbian people. I am deeply grateful to the leadership of Bishop Michael and this Synod, grateful to be part of the Anglican Church of Canada and grateful to be part of the community of St. Alban, Richmond, where, like the story of God's people through history, change is accepted and the Spirit continues to break through to renew and transform.

I have a poster on my wall that does not let me forget Margaret Mead's dictum, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." ✠

A Meditation on the Role of the Holy Spirit

ALLAN KERR
Retired Priest of the Diocese of New Westminster

"And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him."

Matthew 3:16

The dove reminds us of the time in the Old Testament when Noah sent out two birds from the ark — the raven and the dove. The raven did not return as it fed upon dead carcasses. But the corruption of the earth was offensive to the dove and it returned. What a beautiful picture this gives of the descent of the Holy Spirit on our Lord Jesus Christ during his baptism in the River Jordan. The Spirit was observed "as a dove" and remained (or rested) on Him (John 1: 34).

In Old Testament times, the Holy Spirit went to and fro looking for someone with whom the Spirit could "remain," but no one worthy was found. The Spirit came upon men and women in a temporary way and when the purpose had been achieved the Spirit returned to heaven. In the New Testament however, we read that the Spirit came upon Christ, the one in whom God was well pleased and remained on Him. This was the turning point in history. We see the purity of the Spirit beautifully represented in many emblems of scripture. But perhaps most clearly is the one I am writing about presently: the dove, a bird that symbolizes purity.

Also we are told, the fruit of the Spirit is gentleness (Galatians 5: 23). The Spirit produces gentleness in us because the Spirit is gentleness. Think for example how gently the Holy Spirit worked in bringing about the conception of the Son of God in the womb of Mary (Luke 1: 26–38). How much of the gentleness of the Holy Spirit is found in our lives today? "Help us to put our roots down deeper into you so that more of the Spirit's fruit may be seen in us."

Swift of wing — a dove's wings are in fact its main strength. It can fly for many days so that birds trying to pursue it are unable to overtake. The Holy Spirit is swift, there is no overtaking of the Spirit, never at a loss what to do the Holy Spirit attends to the needs of the people of God. The Spirit prays with us in our praying, assists us in our inadequacy, comforts us in our sorrow, cheers us in our despondency, guides us in our difficulties, and fortifies us when our faith is weakened.

The dove has fixity of purpose. When drinking from a stream it keeps its eyes fixed up the stream, and does not raise its head until it has finished drinking. The same



characteristic can be seen also in the way the dove chooses a mate. A dove is a symbol of chastity because it lives in the strictest of monogamy, never desiring another mate.

These characteristics of the dove reflect the nature and qualities of the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is love. Though deeper and more real, how constant and consistent is the love of the Holy Spirit for us. The Spirit delights in us, may we also delight in the Spirit.

Doves are social in habit and although they remain inseparable from their mates,

they love to be with others. The Holy Spirit takes pleasure in the society of the redeemed. When we conclude the last part of *The Grace* we say "the fellowship of the Holy Spirit" be with us. The Spirit delights to be with the people of God. When in prayer before God we must pause more and listen to the Spirit's voice if we are to participate in the life and purposes of the Spirit. The Spirit loves us and lives for us, and the more we begin to realize what the term "Fellowship of the Spirit" is all about, the better we will be. ✠

A Dazzling Coat of Colours

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale

PHIL COLVIN
Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator



The cast: Brothers (front right), children's chorus and the two leads working together to rehearse one of the big numbers from *Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat*, under the direction of the Rev. Andrew Halladay (back left). PHOTO Wayne Chose

You're invited to come to a new production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, which is being performed at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale, at the end of this month. A cast of children, young people and adults from across the diocese will present the beloved first musical from Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. This musical follows the story of Joseph in Genesis and features songs such as *Any Dream Will Do* and *Close Every Door*.

Behind the production is an intergenerational diocesan arts ministry. Over the past five months, Anglicans and non-Anglicans have been gathering twice a week in a church setting to be creative together. They've spent a lot of time rehearsing the show, but more exciting, they've been building a community, which supports, cares and helps each other to build their gifts and talents. This is the second year of a diocesan musical arts ministry. The first expression of this ministry was *Godspell* in 2012. The hope of those who've been involved both years is that it will continue to grow, develop and move around the diocese.

Godspell was produced by Christ Church Cathedral with the show directed by the Rev. Andrew Halladay and the music directed by the Rev. David Taylor. Andrew and David are back directing *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, and this year's partners are St. Mary's, Kerrisdale and the Diocesan Youth Movement. For the directors, *Joseph* feels like a natural progression from *Godspell* and a good fit for St. Mary's: "*Godspell* engaged with a particular demographic," explains Andrew, "the performers were all in their early twenties. This year we wanted to engage a wider group of people, and we wanted to produce something which fit with the priorities of our host parish, which is interested in full family ministry between children, young people and adults. *Joseph* is a perfect intergenerational ministry."

Since January, the large cast has gathered in different combinations for rehearsals. There is a children's chorus and an adult choir. There are also the actors portraying Joseph's eleven brothers, and a group of female singers and dancers who have christened themselves the *La La La Ladies*. And, of course, there are the two leads: Joseph and the Narrator. The call for auditions went out to churches and secular sources. The cast for *Joseph* is a mix of committed Christians who've never sung and danced before, alongside professional actors who love the show but have never stepped into a church. Cameron Gutjahr, whose first exposure to being

a musical performer was in *Godspell*, is playing the role of Joseph. For Cameron, being Joseph alongside amateurs and professionals typifies what has made this experience exciting. "Last year was my first experience of any of this and now I'm the lead up next to Claire Rice [playing the Narrator] who is a professional actor. But the great thing is that we bring what we bring and we can help each other. She helps me with the performing side, and I'm able to encourage her. It's nice to have that support from someone who knows what they're doing."

As the production date nears, the team can see the threads of the community tying together in exciting and unexpected ways. "At first [the groups] felt very separate, which was frightening," remembers David Taylor. "As it's come together it's been exciting. We're putting a puzzle together without a square frame; without edges." Helping to put together that puzzle has been Christie Manners, the *Joseph* stage manager, who had a great experience as a cast member in *Godspell*: "There is a sense of family, spirit and creative mentoring which resonates with my own call to theatre. The major difference with the *Joseph* community is the broad spectrum of experience and gifts, in part due to the inclusive and intergenerational nature of the project... This community develops bridges with our artists and our church communities. The response and support and commitment has been remarkable, clearly this theatrical endeavor meets a need."

Joseph was first performed in 1970, so David and Andrew felt challenged to make sure it has something to say to an audience forty years later: "Musicals are often re-launched, but they're often not re-interpreted. It's the same way as how when you speak about the Bible, you have to read the original context but then make it relevant to what's going on in the culture around us."

To find the framing story for *Joseph* at St. Mary's, Andrew and David looked to the intergenerational challenges in our own churches: "There's a new priest at a church, the Narrator, and she wants to engage the people in a church differently. Her strategy is to have different groups working together to tell this story. She particularly wants to engage the younger members of the parish while not alienating the older ones. So adults might appear to be in the roles of authority figures while the young adults appear to be jealous brothers. The children love Joseph

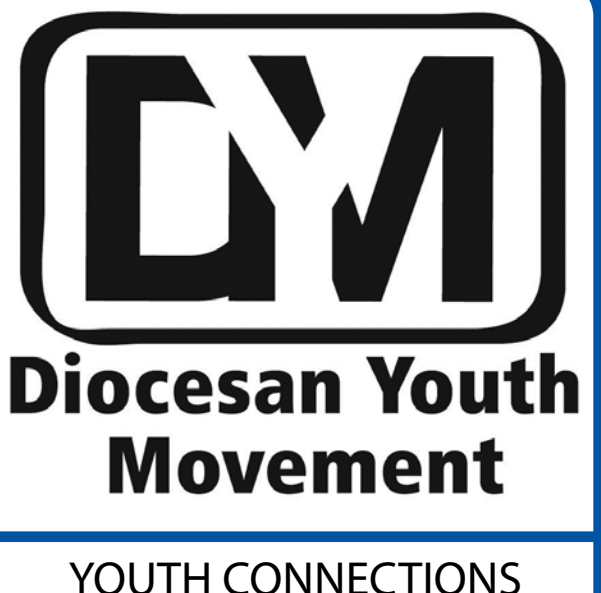
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Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

DATES & TIMES May 29th at 7pm
May 30th at 7pm
May 31st at 7pm
June 1st at 2pm and 7pm

LOCATION St. Mary's, Kerrisdale
2490 West 37th Avenue

Tickets are available now, either in advance or at the door, contact josephstmary@gmail.com. Tickets are by donation and profits will go to support Family Ministries at St. Mary's, the ministry of the Diocesan Youth Movement and future diocesan musical productions.





Diocesan Youth Movement

YOUTH CONNECTIONS

News & Events for Youth in the Diocese of New Westminster

youth groups
For Parish Youth Groups go to <http://tinyurl.com/DNW-Youth>

contact
Diocesan Youth Coordinator Phil Colvin
pcolvin@vancouver.anglican.ca
604.684.6306 ext. 225 (Wednesdays and Fridays)

A Dazzling Coat of Colours

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale

PHIL COLVIN
Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator

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and he has the presumptive arrogance of the young. He alienates his closest allies at the beginning of the show, and finds out that may not be the best idea. It's when he starts helping people that his fortunes begin to change. He needs to learn to work with the adults, and the adults need to learn that things will be done differently. And that's okay." For David, who in his role of Associate Priest at St. Mary's, Kerrisdale is responsible for ministry with families, that's an important message, "and not just for the young to hear. Churches are filled with many gifted people, young and old. But they need to work with each other."

As the cast and crew enter their final rehearsals, there's a lot of hope that the ministry will continue in future years with new parish partners. David sees exciting pos-

sibilities beyond benefits to individual parishes: "These projects help connect the diocese together. Parish-llbased ministries and diocesan based ministries connect together on a really fun and energizing project." And for Cameron, the most exciting thing about the story of *Joseph* is seeing it reflected in the Church around him. "It's such a good way of bringing people together who wouldn't normally connect. I'm a member of St. Mary's and we've seen lots of excitement from the cast but also from parishioners volunteering behind the scenes. Lots of people around the diocese want to be involved and are making relationships and friendships, including people whose first exposure to the Church is this show. All these good things happen and you get to put on a show at the end!" ✚

TOP LEFT The Rev. David Taylor (left) helps members of the children's chorus with their dance steps.
TOP RIGHT Member of the Joseph children's chorus.
BOTTOM Cameron Gutjahr as Joseph surrounded by the children's chorus.
PHOTOS Wayne Chose

