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THE NEW BRUNSWICK

ANGLICAN



A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

NOVEMBER 2025

SERVING THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON

Ordination feast



MCKNIGHT PHOTO

AN IMPRESSIVE SPREAD awaited parishioners, family and friends of the Rev. Rob Pitman at Christ the King Church in Saint John on the occasion of his ordination to the transitional diaconate on Sept. 28. Here Alice Hatfield is seen arranging food, while priests David Turner, Mike Caines and Greg McMullin are seen in the background. Read the story on page 8.

School land deal sees large influx of cash for Parish of Shediac

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

A 62-acre parcel of land held by the Parish of Shediac for 200 years has been sold to the Province of New Brunswick.

The deal, two years in the making, will see a new K-12 Anglophone school built on the west side of Ohio Road, next to Route 15 in Shediac.

It will replace the outdated and overcrowded K-8 Shediac Cape school and cut down on bussing to and overcrowding at Moncton high schools.

The purchase price was \$38,000 per acre, or roughly \$2.3 million, a huge influx of cash for the parish.

This sale has allowed the parish to donate \$100,000 to the Camp Medley pool project, which was announced at the camp's 80th reunion in May by warden Allen Partridge.

"With the rapid population growth in our province in recent years, many schools in southeastern New Brunswick are either at or over capacity," Education Minister Claire Johnson said in a news release.

"I am excited that a new school in the Shediac area will not only alleviate enrolment pressures in the short term, but will provide a modern facility that will serve kindergarten-to-Grade 12 students and the wider community for generations to come."

The new school, which will accommodate 930 students, will include a black box theatre with a stage, vocational shops, a library and two gymnasiums.

A total of \$105 million has been budgeted for the project, which includes \$25 million allocated for the current fiscal year. Initial construction was expected to start this fall, with



SUBMITTED PHOTO

FROM LEFT: PARISH OF SHEDIAC warden Allen Partridge, parish rector the Ven. Brent Ham, parish land administrator Vicki Welling; Moncton South MLA and Education minister Claire Johnson, Shediac-Cap-Acadie MLA Jacques Leblanc, and superintendent and CEO of Anglophone East School District Randolph MacLean.

the school expected to open in January 2029.

The 62 acres was part of a larger land grant originally given to William Hanington by King George III in 1784.

Hanington was instrumental in establishing the parish. He donated the land for the church, named it St. Martin's in the Woods after his London, UK church, and convinced the Crown to grant glebe land to support the new parish in 1828.

"I am tremendously proud of the way our parish and land office worked together to bring this deal to completion, despite the challenges that arose along the way," said parish rector and Archdeacon Brent Ham.

"The new K-12 school will be a true blessing for the entire community and represents a meaningful and purposeful use of the land."

"The financial resources gained from this sale will significantly strengthen our ministry, expand our outreach, and enhance the support we are able to provide to those in need."

Alongside Hope fundraising updates

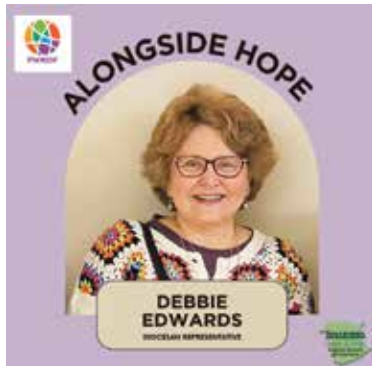
In my last *Alongside Hope* article I wrote about the Resilience Fund, which was created to help offset, in a small way, the cuts to projects sponsored by Church World Service in Kenya.

CWS is a partner of Alongside Hope and one of the several partners I and others visited in February. CWS had their funding cut in Kenya and around the world because the US and other countries have eliminated aid packages from their budgets.

I am pleased to say that the \$250,000 goal was met and then doubled by an anonymous donor. While this may not seem like a huge amount of money, it is heartwarming to know how Canadian Anglicans responded to help meet this need.

At the time of this writing, there is a new campaign called, “Coming Alongside Hope with Light.” This campaign seeks to raise \$150,000, which will then be matched.

These funds will be used to purchase 49 Solar Suitcases, for use in remote medical clinics in Madagascar and Mozambique.



Suitcases such as these provide light and medical equipment to support women as they deliver their babies.

While this campaign will be wrapped up by the time you are reading this article, I include it as an example of current fundraising.

The best way to know what funds are currently being raised is to visit the Alongside Hope website, www.alongsidehope.org and check out the “ribbon” at the top of the page.

It will provide information about the project, either ongoing or for a type of relief, and it will lead you to a page to donate.

On another note, if you can-

not make a donation, prayer for the situation is as necessary as funds themselves.

As Christmas approaches, please consider shopping for those on your Christmas list by purchasing life-giving items from Alongside Hope's World of Gift's catalogue.

Again, this is very easy to do; simply visit the website and use their easy-to-follow platform, or call 1-877-936-9199.

Tax receipts will be issued for individuals making purchases, but not if the purchase is from the parish or a group of people.

On behalf of the Diocese of Fredericton and Alongside Hope, I thank you for your generous support. The Diocese of Fredericton, I am pleased to say, is known to be a great supporter of World of Gifts.

Debbie Edwards is the diocesan representative for Alongside Hope, formerly PWRDF.

Letters to the editor

To the editor:

So often we just take for granted some things! Winning the awards from the Canadian Christian Communications Association is huge! Especially for so many times.

I treasure your faithful (and almost subtle) coverage at events and all the wonderful photos.

Thank you for all you do!

Blessings,
Cindy Derksen
Parish of Richmond

To the editor:

I enjoyed reading of Dr. John Philip Newell's visit to Christ Church Cathedral. The articles were inspiring and provocative.

There are deep interconnections between humans and nature. Just as the ancient Pre-Christian Celts did not frame humans as separate from nature, today modern science confirms this indigenous wisdom, showing us that our futures are intertwined.

Kevin Mann
Bathurst, N.B.



**DEADLINE for news and photos
for the December edition of the
New Brunswick Anglican is Nov. 1.
Send submissions to
gmcknight@diofton.ca**



www.anglican.nb.ca

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THE BISHOP'S PAGE

The season of All Saints

As you read this, we will be entering the season of All Saints, which begins Nov. 1st with All Saints Day.

It is a solemn festival which likely has its origins in the 4th century when Christian martyrs were honoured.

Until the 7th century, the celebrations were somewhat sporadic, until Pope Boniface IV put it on May 13th.

During the 8th century, Pope Gregory III moved it to its present date, creating a unified festival of All Hallows E'en (Halloween), All Hallows (Saints) Day and All Souls Day.

At the time of Gregory III, this ordering of a three-day event was to accommodate the ever-growing number of saints and martyrs of the Church.

It was also to emphasize the link between the church militant, here on earth, and the church triumphant, those who have gone on ahead.

Each year's All Saints Day causes me to reflect on the saints who have had an impact on my life. I have broadened the definition to that of Saint Paul.

In 1 Corinthians 1: 1-3, he



says that all who are sanctified in Christ are called to be saints. On that day I will recall with gratitude both St. Augustine of Hippo and St. Francis of Assisi, whose writings have shaped my faith, but I will also give thanks for others who have made a huge impact in my life.

I have mentioned the Rev. John Fletcher before. He was the rector of my home parish during the 18th century. He was one of the leaders of the Methodist Revival along with John and Charles Wesley.

His desire was to see people come to faith in Jesus, but in the rapidly industrializing region where he served, he also wanted

to see them cared for.

One of the main ways in which he did this was through the development of schools across the parish. These were for children and adults. Several of the buildings can still be seen today.

Fletcher's main influence on me was the linking of evangelism with social concern. In this he was like most Methodists.

Another important figure I recall on All Saints Day is Wilson Carlile, the founder of Church Army. His back story was that before ordination, he was a successful entrepreneur, mainly in the silk trade.

The Franco-Prussian War of 1870 crushed his business and nearly crushed him. During his depression, an aunt gave him a little book which led to him following Jesus.

He took his entrepreneurial skills into ministry with him. After he founded Church Army in 1881, he used many methods, including the exciting invention of magic lanterns, to proclaim the Gospel. Like Fletcher, he also cared for the poor. Church Army developed a major social work

arm under Carlile.

Finally, there is someone who few, if any, will have heard of, Captain Denis Oxley. Denis was what some might describe as a little odd and sometimes grumpy, but he was the first person I volunteered under on a Church Army mission.

Denis was selfless. He led the team on the beach, he cooked the meals, took daily devotions and prayed into the night. It was the first time I had seen a Christian leader up close, every day.

Denis also cared greatly for the poor. On several occasions during his life, he gave all that he had away to those in need.

These people, among others, are the ones I will recall on All Saints Day. I will remember them with gratitude for their example, knowing that I do not come close to following in their footsteps.

David Edwards is
Diocesan Bishop of Fredericton.

PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS

October 31 - November 1
Diocesan Discernment
Retreat

November 1
Deconsecration, Christ
Church Maugerville

November 3-7
House of Bishops

November 9
St. Michael and All
Angels, Minto;
deconsecration of
St. Augustine of
Canterbury, Chipman

November 16
Service of Installation &
Collation, Christ Church
Cathedral, 4 pm

November 23
St. Margaret's,
Fredericton

November 29
Diocesan Council

November 30
Archdeaconry of
Moncton, Lessons and
Carols for Advent

Showing up when it's awkward

I am sure that we've all had moments where we felt the nudge to reach out, speak up, or step in, but just didn't.

Maybe it was a neighbour going through something, and you weren't sure what to say. Maybe it was a tense moment at work, or around the family dinner table, and you stayed quiet to avoid stirring things up.

Or maybe you spotted someone at church who looked pained or burdened, and you hesitated, unsure of how to begin.

Sometimes the hardest part of living our faith is showing up when it's awkward.

Not when everything is planned and predictable, not when we have the right words or the perfect thing to offer, but in the messy, uncertain moments where we sense that presence matters more than perfection.

We live in a time when many are nervous about saying the wrong thing. We worry about overstepping, offending, or just not knowing how to handle a situation well.



And so, without meaning to, we pull back. We stay polite. We play it safe. We wait for someone else to take the first step.

But the gospel doesn't call us to play it safe.

Jesus consistently moved toward awkwardness, not away from it. He approached people others avoided. He noticed the ones who were easy to overlook. He engaged in difficult conversations and asked honest questions.

And through it all, he offered connection, not performance. There's nothing in the life of Jesus that suggests we need to

have things figured out before we step toward others. He didn't lead with polished scripts; He led with compassion.

Part of St Paul's letter to the Romans keeps coming to mind: *"Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep."* (12:15)

It sounds simple, but it's not always easy. It requires us to enter someone else's experience, to walk into their joy or pain without needing to fix it, solve it, or sanitize it. Just to *be there*.

And that kind of presence? It can feel vulnerable. It opens us up to uncertainty. We might not say the right thing. We might not get it all right.

But we're not called to perfection. We're called to love.

I recently heard someone describe a friend who had shown up for them in a difficult time.

They said, "She didn't have the answers. But she didn't flinch. And that was enough."

What a beautiful image of how love can work in real life: being present.

The older I get, the more I

realize that most people aren't looking for someone to rescue them.

They're looking for someone who won't look away — someone willing to stay present even when things are hard, unclear or uncomfortable.

This month, I invite you to reflect on where you might be holding back, not from indifference, but from discomfort.

Is there someone you've been avoiding reaching out to, simply because you're not sure what to say?

Is there a situation in your life where you've felt a nudge to check in, offer support, or just be present, but you haven't yet, because... well, it might be awkward?

What might it look like to show up anyway — to say, "I've been thinking of you" or "I don't know what to say, but I'm here."

What might it look like to start the conversation, or risk the silence, to lean in with kindness, rather than waiting for things to feel comfortable?

Maybe there's someone in

your life who's grieving and you're afraid to say the wrong thing.

Maybe it's someone you disagree with, and it feels easier to avoid them altogether.

Maybe there's someone who's been gone for a while and you're wondering if it's your place to check in.

Do it anyway. Show up anyway.

These are the moments when our faith becomes real. Not in the polished, scheduled parts of our lives, but in the in-between spaces, the unexpected phone call, the difficult visit, the quiet act of noticing.

Sometimes it's just about choosing to show up, even when it's awkward.

Because love — gospel-shaped love — shows up imperfectly. But it shows up. And sometimes, that's enough.

Shawn C. Branch is the diocesan Director of Mission & Ministry, supporting the missional life of the diocese and vocations.

CLERGY CONFERENCE

Clergy Conference is all about getting together

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

The diocese's annual Clergy Conference is held each September at Villa Madonna. This year's theme was "How are we living into the resources of the Kingdom?" The guest speaker was the Rev. Dr. Harry Gardner, vice-president of the Baptist World Alliance and president Emeritus at Acadia Divinity College in Wolfville, N.S.

The three-day meeting, held Sept. 22-24, featured not only teaching by Dr. Gardner, but time with Archbishop David Edwards, some recreation time and a kitchen party/open mic night.

Despite the name, the conference is open to more than just clergy. Postulants often attend, as do some lay ministers and retired clergy.

The staff of the Diocesan Synod office attended lunch on Tuesday to make sure all attendees knew them, had a chance to ask questions and get any information they might need.

Bishop David took the opportunity to thank the Rev. David Peer, who had been his executive officer until he recently retired. His words were met with a generous standing ovation.

While there, the *New Brunswick Anglican* asked several attendees what they enjoyed most about Clergy Conference.

The Ven. Perry Cooper (Parish of Chatham): It's great to be together. It's the camaraderie, to hear the laughter and good news stories. Dr. Harry Gardner is a gifted teacher. His material speaks to me.

The Ven. Rob Marsh (Parish of Central Kings): I like connecting with friends and making new friends. I have enjoyed the guest speaker, and his teaching makes me think.

Catechist Tyler McKenna (Parishes of Sussex, St. Mark's and Waterford): This is my second time here. If you're new and just starting out, you hear about who's who and what's what. Now I can put faces to names. I see everyone getting along here. It gives me hope for this diocese.

Hearing from the bishop is very special and very meaningful. When he's here, he's one of us. We see him as our father in God. He shares his wisdom with us.

The Rev. Canon Chris VanBuskirk (Parish of The Six Saints): The time of year is good and it's a good opportunity to connect with friends. It's always

thought-provoking. That's why I come.

The Rev. John Galbraith (Camp Medley director): Connecting with people is number one. It's always interesting. I always come a little apprehensive — do I have time for this? — but it's always good to be together.

Kurt Schmidt (director of young adult formation): Connecting and reconnecting is really wonderful. As one of a small number of non-clergy, I really appreciate the welcome. I certainly feel warmly welcomed and included. In our first two sessions, I found Harry put a lot of thought into them. He's sensitive to the various contexts people come with. He has an enthusiastic style.

I wonder if 'Clergy Conference' is the most accurate name at this point. It's lovely to have all the postulants here.

The Rev. Bruce Glencross (honorary assistant, Parish of Kent): What I like is getting completely away from the regu-

lar, from parish life, and being fed spiritually (and physically).

The Rev. Mike Caines (Parish of the Nerepis & St John): For me it's the fellowship and reconnecting with colleagues and friends, and getting fed spiritually.

The Rev. David Turner (Parish of Hampton): I'm the only paid pastor in my congregation so it can be a little isolating at times. But when I come here, I get a stronger sense of us all pulling together.

The Rev. Maria Shepherdson (Parishes of Richmond and Woodstock): The best bit is a chance to connect with colleagues. This is my second one and I really feel I'm getting to know people, given I don't see very many of them. I like the mutual support and getting to hear everyone's stories, even stories of struggling.

The opportunity to worship together is important, and it's important to me that those worship experiences aren't rushed, that there is a sense of room for

the Spirit.

And the best thing is having a clergy support dog! NOTE: She is referring to the Rev. Mary Anne Langmaid's new dog, Guppy, who was in attendance.

The Rev. Mary Anne Langmaid (Parish of St. George): I love Clergy Conference. I look forward to it every year. The coming together with our peers, the sharing — you feel you're not alone out there. I love the speakers. I always take lots back to share with my parish.

The Rev. Canon Chris Hayes (Parish of Salisbury & Havelock): I like the fact that it's putting us all together to have things happen, like ideas shared, good news told. A random phrase can trigger an idea. Through all this, it helps everyone realize no parish is alone.

The Rev. Harold Boomer (Parishes of Andover and Denmark): I just love the fellowship and companionship that takes place. Because we're so spread out, there's people here I only see once a year. It provides a learn-

ing environment that a lot of us haven't seen since school.

The Rev. Caleb Twina-matsiko (Parish of Pennfield): I like getting together with one another and sharing our experiences from our parishes and encouraging one another. It's refreshing, especially to know that what we're going through is almost the same throughout the diocese. It gives me a sense of hope and encouragement.

It's just once a year, but it's re-energizing. You not only benefit from the teaching by the special guests, but also the time we spend together, sharing our gifts and talents — and laughing.

The Rev. Dr. Harry Gardner, guest speaker: Because I'm new, I'm enjoying getting to know and understand the diocese. I am enjoying the individual stories. A conference like this reminds us we're not alone. There is a great sense of encouragement.

More photos on page 5



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The Rev. Andrew Horne, the Rev. Barb Haire, the Rev. Sharon Arbeau and the Ven. John Matheson at Clergy Conference; speaker, the Rev. Dr. Harry Gardner; best buddies the Rev. David Turner and the Rev. Mike Caines; the Rev. David Peer cuts a cake to mark his retirement from the diocese. He spent the past few years as the bishop's executive officer.

CLERGY CONFERENCE

Clergy Conference is all about getting together



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS



TOP ROW: The lunch line-up; the Rev. Mary Anne Langmaid and the Rev. Maria Shepherdson.
SECOND ROW: The Ven. Perry Cooper; the Rev. John Galbraith, the Rev. Canon Chris VanBuskirk and Kurt Schmidt; the Rev. Canon Chris Hayes.
THIRD ROW: The Rev. Caleb Twinamatsiko; the Rev. Bruce Glencross; the Ven Rob Marsh; Tyler McKenna.
BOTTOM ROW: Chris VanBuskirk, John Galbraith, the Rev. Paul Gwese and Caleb Twinamatsiko; the Rev. Harold Boomer.

ACW QUIET DAY

ACW Quiet Day hits the mark

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

The New Brunswick-Nova Scotia border was the backdrop for this year's ACW Diocesan Quiet Day, held at St. Mark's, Mt. Whatley, in Aulac on Sept. 10.

The Rev. Canon Kevin Stockall led the service of Holy Eucharist, with organist Sharon Cole and layreader Julia Lockwood. Darlene Hicks, Linda Fury and Julia were readers. In attendance were 26 ACW members from various parishes.

Kevin spoke on the passage from Luke 7:36-50, where a woman washed the feet of Jesus with her tears and anointed them with an expensive perfume.

Kevin explained the similarities of this story with the story of the Magi and Epiphany, and of the intended preparation of Jesus's body after crucifixion. He called the people involved in these stories the myrrh bearers.

"The challenge is to imagine the feelings as the women go to the tomb. They went with a deep and abiding sense of hopelessness," he said. "The only thing they can do at the moment is to faithfully care for his body."

"Jesus is dead. His ministry is over, yet their love for him doesn't end. The myrrh bearers get to be the first witnesses — the apostles to the apostles. They're given the amazing privilege of hearing the news first."

Modern day myrrh bearers are still in the business of caring for the body of Christ: the church cleaners, the readers, the altar guild members, the coffee makers and those who clean up afterwards.

"The Church now is different from the one when we grew up," he said. "There are negative things, despair and hopelessness. The death of the church is predicted."

"But death is not the last word, so we go about our work. We live in hope knowing the power of God to raise the dead. It's the same as those tasks the myrrh bearers did."

After the service, the guest speaker was the Rev. Wendy Amos-Binks. Retired and living in Riverview, she is an honorary assistant in the Parish of the Six Saints.

She, too, referenced the woman with the alabaster jar of perfume.

"She has no name," said Wendy. "All we know is she was a sinner from the city, and we can infer the worst. She would not have been invited to the

table of Simon the Pharisee. Yet she was there."

Somehow she slipped into the meal with her alabaster jar of perfume "and did something outrageous!" said Wendy.

She was overcome with emotion, bathing the feet of Jesus with tears and drying them with her hair.

"She felt drawn to him — a friend, a healer — and he noticed her," she said.

And while Simon was outraged over this breach of purity laws, Jesus had only hospitality, forgiveness and love on his mind. And his story of the two debtors illustrated who loved him more — the sinful woman or the powerful Pharisee.

Wendy ended the session by passing out a prayer card featuring the Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester to each woman.

Thanks be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which you have given us, for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us. Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

This 13th century prayer formed the basis of the 1970s hit song, *Day By Day* from the musical *Godspell*, which Wendy played.

*Day by day, day by day
O dear Lord, three things I pray:*

*To see thee more clearly,
Love thee more dearly,
Follow thee more nearly,
Day by day.*

Lunch was a selection of casseroles, salads and sweets provided by the people of St. Mark's. The \$200 offering was split between the Farraline Place carpet fund and the Port Elgin School lunch program.

The afternoon was set aside for a craft. Volunteers pre-made desktop storage containers for pens, scissors and other items, and the ACW women spent their time decorating them before taking them home.

FEEDBACK

Gwen McConnell: It's not quiet!

Fr. Stockall did a nice job of the Eucharist. The guest speaker was very organized and spoke well. The food was nice and different from the usual. And this was an interesting and useful craft.

Cheryl Young: I like the fellowship. It's a spiritual journey with like-minded people, and there's no stress.

Jill Stewart: There is nothing not to like. We get to meet friends and other ACW members. We had a wonderful service and the guest speakers are always terrific. The food was absolutely scrumptious and the craft was wonderful.



TOP LEFT: Virginia Tingley shows off the finished craft during her instructions to ACW members.



TOP RIGHT: The Rev. Wendy Amos-Binks during her talk to ACW members during Quiet Day Sept. 10 in the Parish of Westmorland.



FAR LEFT: The Rev. Canon Kevin Stockall during his homily.



LEFT: Parish volunteer David Ripley readies the lunch for ACW members.

SYNOD COMMONS

Advent talks are back in Fredericton

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

You cannot keep a good man down.

That good man is retired bishop Bill Hockin, and he is returning this December for yet another Advent series, with help from the Rev. Canon Albert Snelgrove, the Rev. Greg Geldart and organist Alice Boyd.

Bill led a series of Advent talks for many years at The Playhouse, and then the Crowne Plaza. This time, the talks will take place at Christ Church (Parish Church) in downtown Fredericton, where he and Albert are honorary assistants.

"I'm just trying to keep it alive," said Bill. "This is another crack at it. We have a desire for the church to be 'the soul of the city' and the Parish Church has the capacity to do that."

The title for this series is "Finding the Light of Christ in the Darkness of December," inspired by the song "Get Me Through December" by Natalie MacMaster and Alison Krauss.

The gatherings take place



MCKNIGHT FILE PHOTO

RETIRED BISHOP BILL HOCKIN during one of his Advent talks in 2019.

from 12:10 to 1 p.m. on Dec. 3 (Greg Geldart), 10 (Albert Snelgrove), and 17 (Bill Hockin). They will feature a 30-minute concert followed by a message from one of the three pastors.

"We're going to have professional music groups, among

them the Elm City String Quartet," said Bill.

The talks are free, but an offering plate will be out, with proceeds going to the Greener Village food bank in Fredericton.

Spring events in the Parish of Kingston

BY BARB MEADE

A lovely Loyalist themed tea was held at the Kingston Parish Hall on May 24. The hall was decorated in red, white and blue streamers and small Union Jack flags. Old pictures of Trinity Church, built in 1789, were on display.

Guests were treated to a lovely selection of sandwiches and sweets. Rector, the Rev. Douglas Painter, and some members of the parish were fashionably dressed in Loyalist attire.

On May 31 the Kingston Parish Hall hosted 55 guests who were with Nancy's Tours on a tour of the Kingston Peninsula.

They came from Moncton, Petitcodiac, Sussex and Saint John. They were treated to soup, sandwiches, and dessert made by the ladies of the parish.

Following their lunch, they were entertained by the Long Reach Kitchen Party Gang led by Sylvia Smith. A lot of singing, toe-tapping and clapping of hands were heard.

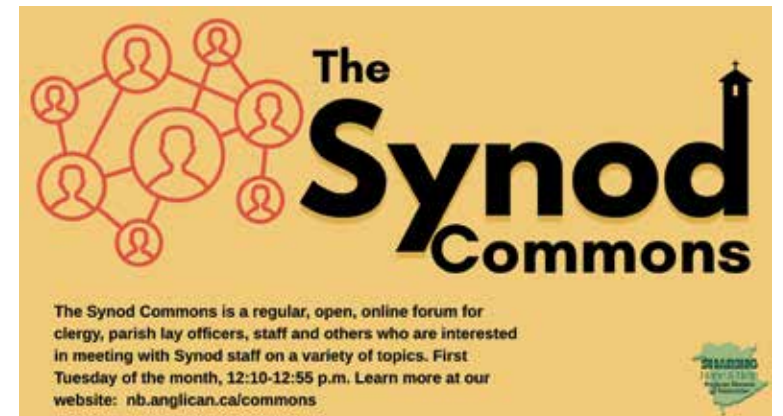
The travellers then enjoyed a visit to Trinity Church and the John Fisher Memorial Museum before they boarded the bus for home. It was a wonderful afternoon for all.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

ABOVE: The Rev. Douglas Painter and parish members dressed in Loyalist attire.

BELOW: Guests from Nancy's Tours spent the afternoon at the parish hall kitchen party.



Synod Commons will help keep parishes in the loop

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Cheryl Jacobs, in her position as executive officer, has devised a program to help share information with parishes.

"We are pleased to begin offering the Synod Commons — a regular, online open forum for clergy, parish lay officers and staff, and others who are interested," said Cheryl.

Starting out, a monthly online session will typically include a presentation and time for questions, said Cheryl.

"Questions can be on the topic of the day or anything else we will be able to answer — or get an answer for," she said.

Zoom sessions will be held the first Tuesday of the month

from 12:10 - 12:55 p.m. and will be recorded. The intention is to hold these sessions more frequently in 2026.

Planned topics for the new year are a Safe Church update, Annual Meetings, Annual Parish Returns, and CRA requirements.

Here is the schedule for the rest of 2025:

October 7: Overview of the Synod Website - what's there and what should be there

November 4: Shared Ministry Budget

December 2: The Director of Mission and Ministry Role

Visit the diocesan website for further information:

nb.anglican.ca/commons



Advent Retreat

The Diocese of Fredericton

December 5-6, 2025

Villa Madonna Retreat House, Rothesay NB

Retreat Leader:

Bishop Stephen Andrews

Retired Principal of Wycliffe College





All are welcome!

Pre-register by November 27.

nb.anglican.ca/Advent2025



Rob Pitman ordained to the transitional diaconate

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Christ the King Church in the Parish of Fundy and the Lakes was filled with parishioners and the family and friends of Rob Pitman as he was ordained to the transitional diaconate Sept. 28.

Christ the King is where Rob has spent the past 18 months studying and serving in preparation for this day.

Archbishop David Edwards presided and preached. Rob's presenters were the Ven. Leo Martin, the Rev. Canon Cathy Laskey, Linda Pitman, Christie Duplisea, Matthew Pitman, Joseph Duplisea and Brookelyn Pitman.

Acting as chaplain during the service was the Rev. Paulette Black. The litanist was the Rev. Terence Chandra. Readers were Rob's children, Christie Duplisea and Matthew Pitman, and the Rev. Ginny Wilmhoff. Rob's father, Charlie, vested him.

Servers were Tyler McKenna and the Rev. Jasmine Chandra. The crucifer was Jamie Beddow. Shawn Branch acted as masters of ceremonies and Susan Pitman was the pianist.

Rob spoke near the beginning of the service, sharing his history and his path to ordination.

Rob described growing up in a family that always looked out for its neighbours.

"My parents taught us to help others, or in the words of my mother, 'go see if you can help so and so,'" he said, adding that always came with the understanding that you took nothing in return.

Several years ago, he left his well-paying union carpentry job to take the job of sexton at St. Luke's Portland, in order to meet people he wanted to help.

"I wanted to do ministry on my own terms," he said.

His path included study at Thresh-old Ministries, St. Stephen's University and Huron College, and work at Out-flow Ministries in their men's shelter and as a carpentry mentor.

"Most importantly, though, was Mom and Dad taking me and my brothers — sometimes kicking and screaming — to church. The experience made me a better person."

Rob described the past 18 months

at Fundy and the Lakes as a lot of fun with people who have been generous and loving, even when he messed up.

"I look forward to what God has in store," he said.

In his sermon, Bishop David opened with this statement: "Rob, it's about time!"

He focused on hearing the call of God, as referenced in the reading from John 1:47-51.

"Jesus calls his disciples, both individually and corporately, but he calls," said David. "Remember that the call isn't just for those of us who wear a bit of plastic around our necks. Each of us is called to a ministry. It will look differently depending on who we are."

David told the story of his friend, a hairdresser, who found Jesus in her 40s. From then on, Sandy wove Jesus into many conversations with her clients.

But her husband didn't accept her conversion and the marriage broke up. She discovered he had taken out a second mortgage on their house without her knowledge, an act that left her destitute.

She lamented the fact that she had no money to give to the church, but told David of her plan to give free haircuts to those in need in her town. "Ten per cent of my haircuts will be free," she told him.

It was David who suggested that

God might be directing her to ordained ministry. She felt she was not clever enough, while David assured her that was not a prerequisite.

So in her 50s, she was ordained, and went on to run a prison ministry for many years.

"The impact she had in her town was remarkable," he said. "She lived what she believed. She lived what she was called to do.

"None of us is exempt from the call."

David cautioned that while listening to God is paramount, listening to others is vital as well. It is they who might make the suggestion of a particular ministry, thereby confirming

what God has already been saying.

He recalled another instance where a woman moved to a sheltered living complex for people, usually seniors, who need a low level of care. It was a friend who said, 'why don't you just visit the people there?'

That became her ministry, "and it's as important as my call," he said.

"Today we gather to celebrate with Rob and his response to the call," he said. "But remember that everyone in this room who is a follower of Jesus is also called."

At the conclusion of the service, everyone gathered in the basement for fellowship and refreshments. Bishop David presented Rob with his certi-

ficate of ordination and his licence to serve in the Parish of Fundy and the Lakes.

Rob thanked everyone for coming, with a special word to the Ven. Leo Martin, who has been his mentor for the past 18 months.

"Thank you for putting up with me!" he said.

A NOTE FROM ROB

My ordination was an emotional time. Making an oath to commit yourself to serve the church and the promises made carry a lot of weight, and prior to the service, I spent a lot of time reflecting on the questions that were asked in the service.

In one way these questions are similar to the questions in the Catechism that I made when I was nine years old. However, Holy Orders carry a bit more weight, and this fact wasn't lost on me leading into Sunday.

It was also emotional because my mom wasn't here, having passed on in Glory in 2021. I carried a picture of her in my shirt pocket throughout the day.

Sunday was a very special day, not just for me but for the parish and my family. It was nice to have them all play a part in the service and to have my Dad vest me as I was icing on the cake.

The reception after the service was fantastic. I often hear the words,

"we're too old to do..." and then the folks do what they do best, they turn out en masse and make things happen.

This is one of the things I love most about this parish. They are fantastic people and hard workers in God's kingdom.

For now, I will continue to serve here at the Parish of Fundy and the Lakes and take care of the day-to-day duties of the parish while Archdeacon Leo is away on sabbatical.

What I know for now is that I am here until the end of the year and I am happy to be here.



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS



DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Diocesan Council highlights

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Camp Medley was the venue as members of Diocesan Council met Sept. 27. The day began with a Eucharist, with music by the Rev. Rob Montgomery and a short homily from Archbishop David Edwards.

In this Season of Creation, David cited the Psalm read in the service, Psalm 121.

"This psalm was radical when written," he said. "The Jews were in the Promised Land, surrounded by pantheistic people — people who worshipped God in nature."

But verse 1, "I lift up my eyes to the mountains — where does my help come from?" points beyond the hills to high places.

"Our help comes from the one who made the high hills. We don't worship nature, but he who made nature," he said, adding it's still necessary to honour God's creation.

Bishop David welcomed Jim Knight as the new chair of the Finance Committee, and visitor Robbie Griffin, chair of the Companion Diocese Committee.

The Diocese received a letter from the Anglican Healing Fund for Japanese Canadians which seeks to address abuse by a priest of Japanese heritage, in the internment camps of the Second World War, where people of Japanese descent were incarcerated. It was agreed that the secretary accept their request to speak to Council at an upcoming meeting.

A letter from the Canadian Bible Society was received, with them thanking parishes for their financial support.

Threshold Ministries has received a \$15,000 grant from the Anglican Foundation of Canada for upgrades to their kitchen.

BISHOP'S REMARKS

Bishop David brought council up to date on the ongoing measures to address long-term building issues at Christ Church Cathedral. The City of Fredericton has agreed to put a member on the board of the proposed foundation that would operate the cathedral.

"The Cathedral congregation will be invited to discuss their needs and the foundation's to see if both visions are compatible," he said.

The city noted having a councillor on the board would not imply endorsement.

Regarding education of postulants, Bishop David noted there is the traditional path of the Masters of Divinity degree, but also another path called the Licentiate in Theology diploma offered at Huron University in London, Ont.

"Recently, largely due to [mission and ministry director] Shawn Branch, some will go on this path rather than the MDiv," said Bishop David. "We have established a relationship with Huron College."

The bishop noted the late Rev. Wally Corey and the late Rev. John Sharpe took this path when the licentiate option was more common.

The Synod has obtained a subscription for this program, and now, units are also available to layreaders and anyone who wants to access them.

"Our Guinea pig we used to

test this program is Rob Pitman, who will be ordained tomorrow," he said.

A lack of clergy is a continuing challenge, and some parishes are responding by forming relationships with nearby parishes to share clerics.

"Those relationships are continuing to build," said Bishop David. "I was in Sussex two weeks ago and they are blossoming."

He noted the parishes of Bathurst and Restigouche are also developing a relationship.

"This [shortage] is an obstacle we will face, perhaps until the Huron program bears fruit."

Shawn noted he is mentoring 15 people who are exploring a call to become priests, deacons or leaders in lay ministry.

Bishop David indicated he is appointing Cheryl Jacobs to the position of synod executive officer on a permanent basis with the retirement of David Peer. A motion was passed to make

Cheryl secretary of synod.

"I cannot think of a better person," said Bishop David.

The position of bishop's secretary will be posted soon.

SYNOD COMMONS

The new program called the Synod Commons came about because Shawn happened to mention something similar taking place in other dioceses, said Cheryl.

She developed a survey, and is building a schedule of sessions that will help inform parish officers and anyone interested on topics likely to impact their roles, like finance and administration, mission and outreach and Safe Church.

Each session will feature a presentation and time for questions on the topic of the day or any other topic, as time allows. Each one will be recorded.

The plan for the rest of 2023 is to have a monthly, online session. In 2026, she hopes to

expand it to twice monthly, on Tuesdays during the noon hour. The first session was set for Oct. 7.

"It's another channel for communication," said Cheryl.

SAFE CHURCH

Chancellor David Bell presented changes to the Safe Church regulation (4-4).

"Our existing Safe Church package is 120 pages long," he told council. "It was like writing a symphony! This is a rewriting of the regulation which applies specifically to Anglican corporations. The new language is a little more clear and emphatic."

The changes apply to all employees as well as certain volunteers, and focus on training.

Much conversation ensued over the vagueness of the existing policy and the forms that require filling out, as well as questions regarding specific situ-

Council continued on page 11



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Archbishop David Edwards and secretary of synod Cheryl Jacobs; Jim Knight, Philip Shepherdson and the Ven. Rob Marsh; Cheryl, at left, works on a motion during a break, with the Rev. Canon Gerry Laskey, Mike Briggs and Robbie Griffin at right; Bishop David in the lunch line.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS

**LEFT:** The Rev. Rob Montgomery leads worship during the meeting of Diocesan Council on Sept. 27 at Camp Medley.**RIGHT:** Companion Diocese chair Robbie Griffin gives an overview of the Diocese of Ho Vocational/Technical high school, proposed to be built on diocesan land in Ho, Ghana. The high school, focusing on the trades, would give Anglican children a chance to attend school after Grade 9 and would make them job-ready upon high school graduation. There is a severe shortage of skilled tradespeople in Ho, and nowhere for Anglican children to get that education.**Council continued from page 10**

ations.

"I'm not saying for a moment we don't need Safe Church," said Dean Geoffrey Hall. "We need help with how to implement it."

"We're trying to care for kids," said Rob Montgomery. "This is an act of caring for each other — a common goal of keeping people safe."

The amendments to the regulation were passed, though the date of implementation is up to Council once the whole package has been revised.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Jim Knight shared items from the Finance Committee report, noting grants to parishes are under utilized this year.

The Finance Committee agreed to renew the lease of 116 Princess Street (Catapult Café) in Saint John for an additional period of 10 years for \$1 per year, with Outflow Ministry continuing to cover occupancy and any additional building upgrade costs subject to final lease agreement being received.

The committee approved renewal of the lease of 50 Broad Street (Beacon Cove youth care facility) in Saint John for an additional three years for \$1 per year.

The committee recommended

that the Archbishop approve renovations of approximately \$1,142,000 to Trinity Hall (Parish of Sussex) and grounds for the purpose of leasing space to the Sussex Christian School for the establishment of a 40-space daycare. The Province will fund 80 per cent of this cost.

The committee recommended that the Archbishop approve a lease by the Parish of Riverview of portions of their hall to Young Explorers Youth Centre Inc. for the purpose of establishing a 30-space daycare.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Philip Shepherdson announced a better than expected year in 2024, which included a surplus. He attributed this to a higher return on investments.

"We delivered a very, very good year last year," he said. "Our investment portfolio is doing quite well in spite of the market volatility we've been seeing."

Council adopted the Financial Statements for 2024 as provided by the external reviewer.

Philip indicated the year-to-date August results are performing better from a revenue perspective and the expectation will be to deliver to full-year budget while expenses will likely overspend. This is mainly due to a diocese loan forgiveness to a

parish. However, some savings in expenses will help offset this.

Philip noted that Camp Brookwood exceeded its budget in 2025, because of fewer campers and the cost of having co-directors.

"They've had a tough year," he said.

By contrast, Camp Medley has had a good year with revenue still coming in from rentals.

"The work they've done has allowed them to extend their season," he said.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Rev. Julian Pillay was asked to leave the room as council members dealt with a motion to approve him to the board of governors of the Atlantic School of Theology, subject to AST approval. The motion passed.

COMPANION DIOCESE COMMITTEE

Committee chair Robbie Griffin was on hand to bring council up to date on a proposed project for the Diocese of Ho. There are only two high schools in Ho, a Catholic and a private school. Very few Anglican children go to high school.

There are 34 Anglican elementary schools in the Volta region. Most students leave school in Grade 9.

"They're in a situation we were in 200 years ago," said Robbie. "They are desperate to join the 20th century — not the 21st century — and trying to move forward."

An Anglican vocational-technical school for the city of Ho, on diocesan land, would see about 800 students attend, with about half of them in dormitories.

There is a severe shortage of tradespeople in the country, and country's curriculum would see students ready to enter the workforce upon graduation.

The school would teach auto mechanics, masonry, carpentry, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, fashion and cooking. An architect has already been hired and has produced a plan.

The buildings, in a campus style, would be built of concrete because of the damage termites would do to wood. \$100 buys 125 concrete blocks or 11 bags of cement, he said.

Robbie is investigating sources of funding, and was at the council meeting to get the go-ahead to begin fundraising for the project.

After much debate, council passed two motions. The first was that Diocesan Council approve the recommendation of the Companion Diocese Committee to begin fundraising

in this diocese and elsewhere towards the Ho Vocational/Technical School project.

The second motion was for the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton to accept donations for the school project from Canadian sources and issue receipts.

CAMP MEDLEY POOL PROJECT

The multi-million dollar pool project for Camp Medley was before council.

Council passed a motion to approve the signing of a contract with an architectural firm to provide the construction plans for the pool pending a review of the contract by knowledgeable members.

This step is being taken because the firm has time to do this now and this would make it construction-ready when the funds are in place. Just under \$1.2 million, or 40 per cent, has been raised so far, including \$500,000 from the Diocese.

NEXT MEETINGS

Council will meet next on Nov. 29, likely at Camp Medley. There is an online meeting scheduled for March 5, 2026, with in-person meetings scheduled for May 30 and either late September or early October.

CAMP BROOKWOOD



**Summer 2025 at
Camp Brookwood**
6 weeks • 78 campers aged
5-13 (some returned for a
second camp) • 8 staff •
4 counsellors-in-training



▶ **MISSION IN MOTION: children**



AROUND THE DIOCESE

Historic bible finds a new home

BY BRENDA SMITH

Ladies at St. Peter's, Fredericton, while clearing out some cupboard space, discovered an old Bible dated 1881 and donated to the parish in 1941 by the Allen family.

The Bible is beautifully illustrated in large desk format with leather binding which is in need of some repair.

A member of the congregation proposed that the Bible be donated to the New Brunswick Military History Museum for their Quiet Room, and the Museum has indicated it would be pleased to receive the donation.

A letter was prepared to accompany the Bible on its trip to the Military Museum.

Excerpt from the letter:

A thing of beauty, it need



FROM LEFT: Randall Haslett, warden Sharon Vickers, and the Rev. Canon Elaine Hamilton of St. Peter's, Fredericton with the found bible that is now at the New Brunswick Military History Museum at CFB Gagetown.

not to be hidden on a shelf but displayed elegantly in a public place.

It also needs some care and attention since it has suffered

from age and regular use over many years before it was discreetly retired.

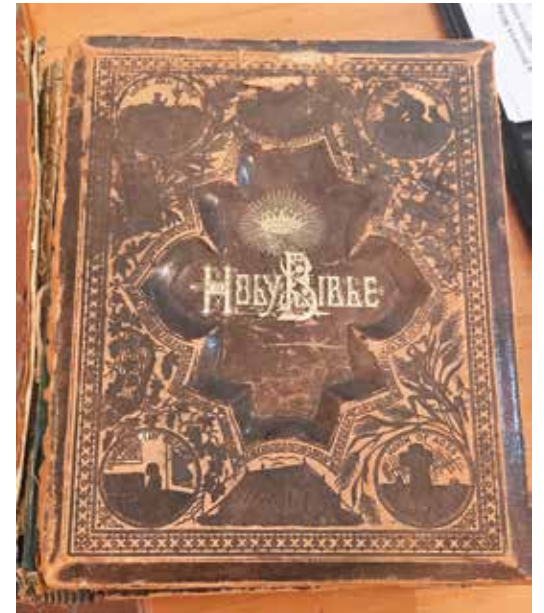
For these reasons, we are entrusting it to you in the

conviction that you will give it the respect and reverent care it needs and deserves."

With our best wishes, The Vestry and congregation of

Saint Peter's Church.

The bible is now with the New Brunswick Military History Museum at CFB Gagetown.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

THE REV. CANON ROD BLACK during the dedication of the Paschal candle in the Parish of Bright Sept. 28.

Remembering Canon John Sharpe

It has just been a bit over one year since our dear friend and faithful priest Canon John Sharpe suddenly took sick, was hospitalized and passed away. We all still miss him very much.

We miss his reliable presence in our parish and community; the interest he took in our lives, the support he offered to so many in times of difficulty, his laugh and his mischievous twinkle in his eye.

This past summer the Sharpe family and friends gathered in his home province of Newfoundland for a memorial service. Over 100 people attended.

Cynthia, Joanne and Perry, JT and Jo, Austin and Maddie all travelled from New Bruns-

wick. The service held in John's home church and community of St. Philip's, and was conducted by the rector, the Rev. Randy Lockyear, assisted by the Rev. Shirley Gosse, a cousin of John's.

The majority of John's ministry was in New Brunswick, but Newfoundland was always very close to his heart. John counted friends everywhere and it was most appropriate that a memorial service take place at St. Philip's among those friends and family who were unable to travel to NB at the time of his passing.

At the regular Sunday morning service at All Saints' Parish of Bright, on Sept. 28, the Rev. Canon Rod Black dedicated a new Paschal candle in memory of Canon John.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Some thoughts on Jesus' words – 'I am the Vine'

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

Jesus spoke these words to his disciples to help prepare them for his departure.

His disciples were familiar with the imagery of vines since they lived in a land where grape vines abounded.

They would also have known that in the Old Testament Israel was often referred to as a "vine." (See Isaiah 5; Hosea 10.)

The priests were given the responsibility to nurture and care for Israel, so that God's people would bear godly fruit as a testimony to the nations around them.

With this background in mind, I understand Jesus' words as a paradigm shift away from Israel, as the vine and bearer of the "life" of God, to himself as the True Vine (v. 1).

What Israel had failed to accomplish, God would now do through his Son and through his followers, the branches.

Keeping with the image of a



vineyard, Jesus explained that God is the gardener who tends the branches through careful pruning. Dead wood is cut out and even healthy branches are pruned to promote more vigorous growth.

Fully aware that Jesus was not giving them a lesson in horticulture, the disciples perhaps wondered what was coming next!

But Jesus reassured them that they were "already clean because of the word I have spoken to you" (v. 3).

The Greek word for "prune" also carries the meaning of "clean." God, the heavenly gardener, had already been cleansing their lives through the ministry of Jesus in their midst.

I'm more familiar with apple trees than grape vines. I grew up on a property with several apple trees and I know that when an apple tree puts down its roots to find water and absorbs sunshine through its leaves, it will grow and produce apples in season. Why? Because that's what it was created to do.

There is a lesson here for us. When we believe in Jesus, we are created anew to bear fruit for his glory. The key to spiritual fruitfulness is to put our roots down into the Word of God and to walk in the light (i.e., obey its commands).

I think that's what it means to "remain" or "abide" in him.

When we do that, we will experience God's work as he prunes out the things in our lives that are not glorifying to him and produces his own fruit in us and through us.

Jesus also said, "If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit" (v. 5).

There is a certainty here that is so liberating!

We are not left to stress and strain and work ourselves into spiritual contortions to some-

how make ourselves more holy or effective as Christians. That approach leads to pride, exhaustion or even despair.

Depending on our own resources and strength is futile, for as Jesus warned, "apart from me you can do nothing" (v. 5).

That's a startling statement! What about all the accomplishments of people who are not Christians?

I don't think Jesus meant that only believers are capable of doing good things. After all, God is the Creator, and all people owe their existence and their gifts to him.

So, in a sense, any good that is accomplished is really from God, whether or not the producer acknowledges him.

Yet, Jesus' words remind us that living apart from him leads to nothing of eternal value. If our hearts drift away from Jesus and we follow our own agendas, then the things we do are as nothing in his sight.

But if we remain rooted in him, there is the promise that he will produce his fruit in and through us.

According to the Gospel of

John, Jesus spoke these words to his disciples sometime after the Last Supper and before his arrest.

He was fully aware that his disciples were about to desert him. Not a very promising start for the church!

But Jesus' promise is trustworthy. He is the True Vine, and he promised that he would bear good fruit through his followers, the branches.

The annals of history record the fruit produced through countless Christians who have reflected Christ's character in their lives and accomplished much for his Kingdom.

Like them, may we too "remain" in Jesus and cooperate with the pruning work of the Father in our lives so that his Spirit will produce much fruit for his glory.

Nancy Stephens, originally from Blackville, served with OMF International for over 30 years, including 12 years as a missionary in Thailand. Now retired, she resides in Fredericton and worships in the Parish of Douglas and Nashwaaksis.

Quilt fundraiser from 1915, memorable birthdays in the Parish of McAdam

The story of the quilt fundraiser

BY MARGARET LAKING

Some memories are extraordinary as well as priceless. And, for some, to have seen and held this bit of history is amazing.

Trying to come up with money-making ideas is never easy for any organization, and a church isn't any different.

But, back in 1915, the Junior Girls of St. George's Anglican Church in the Parish of McAdam managed to do just that.

A quilt has held appeal through the ages, so why not?

The quilt is made up of seven blocks in length and six blocks in width equaling 42 blocks on the quilt.

Each block has a circular pie shape with a name in the middle of the block — perhaps one of the adults who helped to make the quilt, or estimated the number of pie shapes that should be

around each block to make the quilt.

There are 10 names around each block in the pie shaped spaces.

Each person paid ten cents (some a bit more) to write his or her name on a block.

Each Junior Girl embroidered her own block and had the privilege of putting her name in its centre.

Originally the blocks were tied at the corners with a small red ribbon bow.

When finished, it was sold to Mr. Walter Williams for \$5. The money was used for the rectory fund.

The quilt was then owned by William's granddaughter, Ann Garrett, who passed away July 1st, 2024, at the age of 90.

The quilt is now the property of St. George's.



THE CHANCE to ensure your name lived on was a bargain at 10 cents for this quilt fundraiser from 1915.



MARGARET LAKING PHOTOS

TWO DEVOTED ANGLICANS, Sylvia MacDonald and Virgil Reagan, share a birthday cake to celebrate their 92nd and 95th birthdays, respectively. This happy event took place May 25 at St. George's in the Parish of McAdam.

MUSIC COMMENTARY

The music serves the text in Parry's hymn

There is a hymn that is well known to some, called, "Dear Lord and Father of All Mankind" from the 1938 hymnbook, which is featured in the more recent 1998 Common Praise hymnbook as "Dear God, Compassionate and Kind"

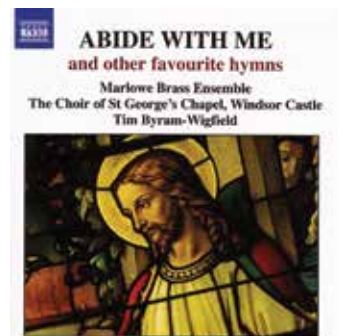
(Why the difference? Let's just sum it up as "changing with the times" - don't get me side-tracked on THAT topic, Dear Reader!).

It is beautiful hymn (text by John Greenleaf Whittier), and is most often paired with the beautiful melody, called *Repton* (composed by Charles Hubert Hastings Parry).

In one space, its text presents what could be a challenge to choir directors, though many have seen and understood, and therefore rise to said challenge.

And what exactly is this challenge, this conundrum? Is it a secret word mystery worthy of a Dan Brown novel? Is it the gnostic knowledge by which we gain true wisdom beyond that of our peers?

Is it the secret to untold riches that could fund the pool project



at Camp Medley? No... nothing of the sort (*sigh*).

But before it is revealed, we must make sure we're all on the same page.

It is a common practice in hymn singing amongst choirs to make the last verse of a hymn

the most proclamatory — and therefore loudest — of all the verses, so as to build some sort of musical "drive" towards the end of the hymn.

The unwritten rule is that the text dictates the music (especially if it is Scripture-based text).

In the case of this quieter, more reflective hymn, that push should be a little more understated, for the hymn is really a prayer to God for forgiveness, to follow Him, to know God's love, to remove stress, and to give us peace (rendered as "calm"), as the verses reveal.

For our purposes, let's look at the last verse of the hymn:

Breathe through the heats of our desire

*Thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;*

Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,

*O still small voice of calm!
O still small voice of calm.*

Side note: I'm going to throw a wrench into things. The musical "effect" I'm about to talk about is found in several record-

ings of choral renditions of this hymn, but one I am specifically referring to is a recording by the Choir of St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, conducted by Tim Byram-Wigfield, from an album entitled, *Abide With Me and other favourite hymns*.

If you can find a recording online, it would be helpful for you in reading this article.

Now the conundrum: with this hymn, a choir cannot do what they do with most hymns and end on the loudest, most proclamatory, strongest note when the final line of text here is "O still small voice of calm!"

It won't work! The music would betray the text, rather than serve it.

Instead, Byram-Wigfield does what others have done before him: he has the choir and organ crescendo (get louder) over the middle two lines of the last verse, so that the loudest part is the phrase, "earthquake, wind and fire."

Then the choir is suddenly quieter — calmer, you might say — for the final repeated line, "O

still small voice of calm."

If you listen for it, it can add greatly to the value and impact of the hymn.

Many choristers are likely reading this and saying to me, "No kidding! Duh! This is rather obvious! Why write a whole article about it?"

But not every person experiences this when not all choirs are sensitive to this.

Additionally, when we are in the midst of services in our churches (big or small) and there are other things happening at the time, we don't always notice these important details.

I hope it helps you to experience more out of hearing, and singing, hymns, when you can think about how the music might serve the next in ways such as is explained here.

Next month: Advent and Christmas music!

The Rev. Canon Chris Hayes is a musician as well as a priest serving in the Parish of Salisbury and Havelock.

Episcopal Announcements



The Rev. Isabel Cutler has resigned as Deacon at Christ Church Cathedral effective in October, in order to step back from formal ministry.

The Rev. Maria Shepherdson has been appointed a Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, effective Oct. 14, and Archdeacon of Woodstock, effective Oct. 15 for a three-year term. Maria is incumbent in the parishes of Richmond and Woodstock. The services of Installation and Collation will take place Nov. 16.

At the same Nov. 16 service, **the Rev. David Peer** will be installed as an honorary Canon of the Cathedral. Chancellor **David Bell** and mission and ministry director **Shawn Branch** will be installed as lay Canons of the Cathedral.

The Ven. Rob Marsh's term as Archdeacon of Kingston and the Kennebecasis has been extended by one year, to Sept. 30, 2026.

Cheryl Jacobs has been appointed Executive Officer and Secretary of Synod on a permanent basis.

Archbishop David has authorized **the Rev. Marian Lucas-Jefferies**, canonically resident in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, to officiate in this diocese, particularly with the Parish St. Margaret's, Fredericton.

The Rev. Canon Kevin Borthwick will retire from his roles as priest-in-charge of the Parish of Campobello and the Parish of Saint Stephen, with missionary duties in the Deanery of St. Andrews, effective Dec. 31.

TWO MINUTE INTERVIEW



The Rev. David Smith, priest-in-charge in the Parish of Grand Manan

Favourite book of the Bible — Philippians

Birthplace — Moncton, N.B.

What you love most about God — God's grace through his son

Favourite place on Earth — 16 Seaside Lane, Grand Manan N.B.

Farthest you've been from home — Kenya

Favourite meal or dessert — Blueberry pie

Biggest fear — Letting people down

Hidden talent — It is so hidden I don't know what it is

Favourite movie or book — *What's So Amazing About Grace* by Philip Yancey

Your hobby — working out in the gym, golf, hiking, hockey

Three things always in your fridge — Blueberries, our dog Buddy's dog food, margarine

Favourite sports team — New York Rangers, Toronto Blue Jays

PARISH OF GRAND MANAN



ESTHER SMITH PHOTOS



Summer fun
in Parish of
Grand Manan



IT MIGHT SEEM like the Parish of Grand Manan spent the summer celebrating! On July 6 they held the parish picnic at Anchorage Provincial Park. Both churches came together for this event.

By July 12, the strawberries were plentiful enough to hold a Strawberry Tea at Covert Hall in North Head. This was organized by the Women's Guild from the Church of the Ascension.

Picnic photos:
Top left: Olivia and Stella in costume for the picnic.

Top right: Chris Cameron, in blue, helping the kids play a game.

Middle left: A large crowd enjoyed the festivities.

Middle right: Nathan Chinchillis dons a magnificent hat for the picnic.

Festival photos:
Bottom left: Marilyn Cronk and Joan Brown during the prep work for the strawberry festival.

Bottom right: Kirk Cheney greets diners at the strawberry festival.

