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# THE NEW BRUNSWICK ANGLICAN



A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

APRIL 2026

SERVING THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON

## RUNNING WITH PURPOSE

**MOTHERS' UNION WORLDWIDE PRESIDENT** (and Christ Church Cathedral member) Kathleen Snow, in blue, was joined by Darshan Singh, Sara Axtell and Anthony Pearlman during her 10K run in Bahrain in February. Kathleen has pledged to run fifteen 10K events all over the world to celebrate MU's 150th anniversary and raise money for their worldwide outreach programs. See the story on page 8.



▶ **MISSION IN MOTION: international**

SUBMITTED PHOTO

**DIOCESAN NEWS**

# Funds available to help Canadians in their time of need

*Alongside Hope - Anglicans and partners working for change in Canada and around the world.*

As I begin to write this article it occurs to me that Lent will be almost over and we will be shortly celebrating Easter when these words are read.

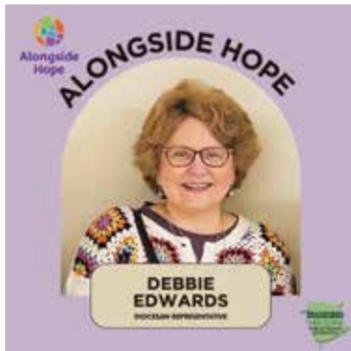
Easter is our annual reminder of the Pascal Mystery, that Christ has died, Christ is risen and Christ will come again.

We are Easter people; because Christ lives, we, too, live, set free and forgiven.

There are many ways to live our life in Christ; however, it comes down to the summary of the law: love God and love our neighbour as ourselves.

The ways to love are too numerous to list, but one of the ways is by giving, either of ourselves or through gifts.

Alongside Hope, as described



in the tagline above, works for change in Canada and around the world. Today I am going to focus on some of the work happening right here in Canada.

As Canadian Anglicans, we have two funds to donate to, which meet a variety of needs. There is the In-Canada Emergency Fund, which allows funding to be immediately available when natural disasters, such as floods or wildfires, occur.

The other fund is for Indige-

nous projects and programs, also here in Canada. Alongside Hope has been providing grants from \$5,000-\$15,000 to organizations working with Indigenous people across Canada.

A couple of these projects include Firetalk, which focuses on youth mental health and another which is helping the Metis reclaim their family ancestry.

Next month we will look at water needs and projects, also here in Canada.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the work worldwide of Alongside Hope. Please remember that I would love to hear about fundraising projects.

I am available to come to your parish and share current information about the work of this wonderful Anglican organization. Contact me at [deborah-collicott@gmail.com](mailto:deborah-collicott@gmail.com).



GATES OF ALE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

**SMOKE FROM A WILDFIRE** near Susies Lake and Bayers Lake Business Park is seen from Dunbrack Street at Washmill Lake Drive in Halifax, Nova Scotia on August 12, 2025. Wildfires are becoming a more common occurrence in Canada as drought takes hold, and Alongside Hope is there to help victims.

*Letters*  
to the editor

We welcome them!  
Send yours to  
[gmcknight@diofton.ca](mailto:gmcknight@diofton.ca)

## A ZANDER FAMILY AFFAIR!

**JAN. 11 WAS A BIG** day at St. Andrew's church in Newcastle/Miramichi. Three members of the Zander family, Chantel, Anastasia and Charlotte were baptised with the Rev. Wilfred Langmaid presiding. In this photo is Wilfred, and the father of the family, Dan, who was already baptised, with his wife and daughters. The Zander family recently moved to New Brunswick from Ontario. Wilfred is the former rector of St. Andrew's.



BRIAN RICHARD PHOTO

**DEADLINE** for news and photos for the May edition of the New Brunswick Anglican is April 1. Send submissions to [gmcknight@diofton.ca](mailto:gmcknight@diofton.ca)

**THE NEW BRUNSWICK ANGLICAN**

[www.anglican.nb.ca](http://www.anglican.nb.ca)

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# More than words

In this short article I am unable to do justice to the subjects I am going to discuss.

It is my hope that you will be inspired to look more closely and deeply at the thoughts I am going to write about.

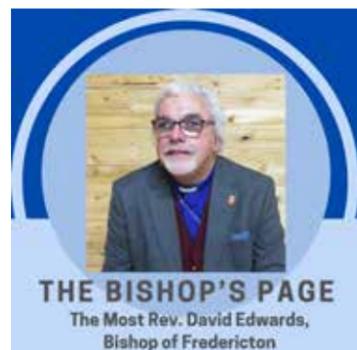
I am writing at the beginning of Lent. By the time you read this, the season will be approaching its end, and we will be heading for Good Friday and Easter Day.

As I have been reflecting during this important time in the Church's year, I have been increasingly led to think about some big words.

I don't mean long words; I mean words with a great deal of content. Those who have heard me preach since Ash Wednesday until the time of writing will have heard me say something like, "Lent is not a weight loss program."

What I mean by that is that it is easy to trivialize important things in our faith and thereby not get to the depth we are intended to reach.

Don't misunderstand me, I am as guilty as anyone of doing



this. There are many times I have prayed for a parking spot!

The words I want to touch on here are bound together by one overall word, love — particularly the love of God.

God's love is total, and we do nothing to deserve it. It is not easy to see this at times.

It is a love which wants to take us beyond ourselves, the conflicts and confusions of the now.

God's love points us to wholeness and peace in the midst of desolation.

How is getting to that place possible?

This leads us to another of the big words, reconciliation, which

happens at the cross. Jesus, the ultimate sign of the love of God, enables us to be brought into a new relationship with God because of his death.

The barrier which exists between us and God is broken down. God brings us to God through the action of God.

From that comes our responsibility for being those who bring reconciliation and not division.

In the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant, we find a man who has been forgiven much is unwilling to forgive his fellow servant very little.

It does not end well for him. We are called to consider how we are merciful and active in reconciliation.

The cross is also a place of justice. That which is misaligned with God's will, is dealt with there.

God's justice is perfect, dealing with all the injustices which have been perpetrated throughout history.

We can feel confident that in the future the complete justice of God will be seen, but on this

side of Christ's return, we are to be people who live justly.

The final word I want to reflect on is humility. By going to the cross, Jesus did not demand his rights, he did not insist on being first, but died to serve all of us.

To be bullying and demanding does not reflect the nature of God but rather it shows our broken humanity.

On Good Friday we see all of this and much more being worked out on the cross.

We are given the possibility of living a more God-centred life by accessing these God-given gifts.

Easter Day is the sign of the new life we are called to live.

During what remains of Lent perhaps it is time to consider how these Godly qualities can be seen in us.

David Edwards is  
Diocesan Bishop of Fredericton.

## PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS

**April 2**  
**Maundy Thursday**  
**Parish of Richmond**

**April 5**  
**Christ Church Cathedral**  
**Easter Services**  
**(8 am and 10:30 am)**

**April 12**  
**Parish of Canterbury,**  
**Benton and Kirkland**  
**(service at St Mary's,**  
**Benton)**

**April 18**  
**Special Synod,**  
**Christ Church Cathedral**

**April 20-24**  
**National House**  
**of Bishops,**  
**Niagara Falls, Ont.**

**April 25**  
**Diocese of Western**  
**Newfoundland**  
**Episcopal election**

# Some thoughts on the Cross

When it comes to celebrating Easter, it's easy for us to jump ahead to Easter Sunday and Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

However, I think it's important to linger on Good Friday for a while and to reflect deeply on what Jesus suffered on the cross for us.

The cross itself was a means of execution. The Romans used it to inflict the cruelest, most painful and humiliating form of corporal punishment for the lowest criminals, i.e. slaves, foreigners, but not Roman citizens.

Public executions were not just used as a deterrent. They were also a form of entertainment, with the crowd and passersby hurling jeers and taunts at the victim.

It's important to understand, however, that Jesus was not a victim. He chose not to resist his arrest, even though he could have called on thousands of angels to protect him.

Instead, he laid his life down willingly, in obedience to his Father's plan of salvation. (See Matthew 26:53-54.)



The scriptures make it clear that God orchestrated the events to happen as they did.

We might wonder why he didn't choose a different time in history to send his son — a time when the Romans were not in charge and there was a more humane form of execution.

Perhaps he chose that specific time in history because the cruelty of the cross matched the evil of the accumulated sin of humanity against a holy God.

Crucifixions were not just physically gruesome events; they were also shameful. Yet this did not deter Jesus.

In fact, we are told that he scorned the shame that was

heaped upon him. Why? Because of the joy of accomplishing salvation for all who would put their trust in him. (See Hebrews 12:2.)

I'm sure the first century followers of Jesus understood the horrors of a Roman cross in ways we can't begin to fathom. Eventually, however, the early church chose the cross as a symbol of their faith in Jesus as their Saviour.

No doubt, they would wonder at our modern sanitized versions of the cross. They would also question turning the cross into an object of worship or a fashion accessory!

Still, the symbolism of the cross endures to the present day as a reminder of the depth of God's love and of the suffering Jesus endured for us. I carry a small wooden cross in my pocket for that very purpose.

As we celebrate Easter this year, let's also remember that Jesus has called us to take up our own cross and follow him.

We may well wonder what constitutes a "cross" for us. I think it's anything that requires us to make a sacrifice — to sur-

render to God's will no matter what it may cost us.

Whatever that is in our individual lives, may God use it to help us to die to ourselves and to live for Jesus.

As the Apostle Paul put it: "And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again." (2 Corinthians 5:15)

Thankfully, Jesus' death on the cross on Good Friday was not the end of the story. We are right to celebrate Easter Sunday — the day Jesus rose from the dead.

His resurrection is the ultimate triumph over sin and death. Because he lives, all who believe in him will also live forever.

*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.*

**140th Session of**  
**Diocesan Synod**

—  
**Special Session**  
**to consider the**  
**future of Christ**  
**Church Cathedral**

**Saturday,**  
**April 18,**  
**8:00 a.m. to**  
**(no later than)**  
**3:30 p.m. at**  
**Christ Church**  
**Cathedral**

**All are asked**  
**to be in prayer**  
**for a fruitful,**  
**blessed**  
**discussion.**



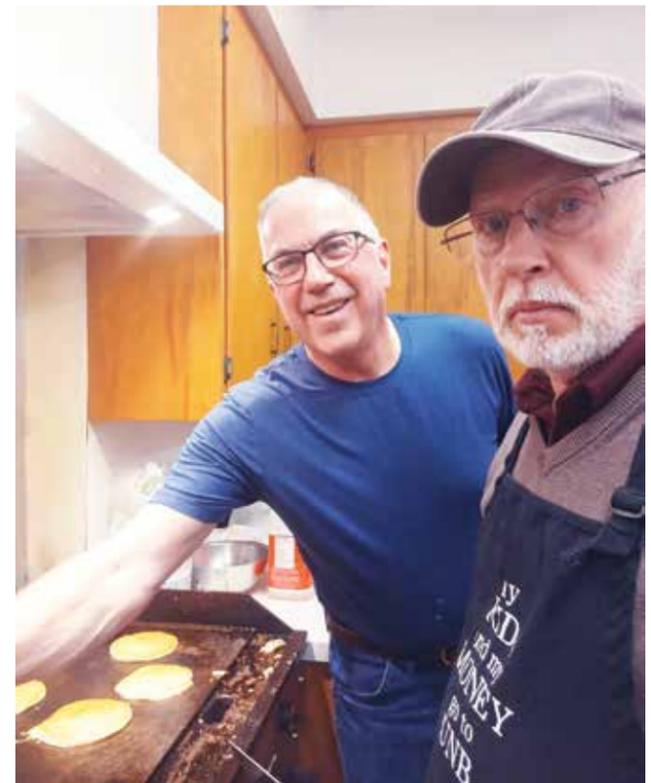
SHROVE TUESDAY



ST. MARKS PHOTOS - TAMMY SCOTT WALLACE



STEVEN SCRIBNER PHOTO



MARIA SHEPHERDSON PHOTO



ST STEPHEN PHOTOS - LYNDA DUPLISSEA

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** The traditional meal of pancakes, baked beans, sausage and cakes served at St. Mark's in Sussex Corner; Dale Reicker on the grill at St. Mark's in Sussex Corner; layreader Larry Graham with the Rev. Rick Robinson on pancake duty; Jocelyn Groom and Cecile Ruddock have the pie station covered in St. Stephen where close to 200 diners enjoyed their supper; Parker, Jennifer and Joe Johnston (right side) join Rose Mitchell, Brian and Suzy Cornish (left) every year for the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper in the Anglican Parish of St. Stephen. "The baked beans, sausages, pancakes and the homemade pies are the best in the county! That's why we are here every year." says Jennifer; Plenty of food and lots of diners were in play during the pancake supper at Trinity, Saint John.



MISSION & OUTREACH

# Mission in flight

## Hammond River church gathers to help monarchs in peril

BY JIM WILSON & CLEO CYR

Leaders of Holy Trinity Church located along the beautiful Hammond River in Kings County were pleased to host Jim Wilson, a long-time parishioner, along with members of the Saint John Naturalists' Club as they met for their annual packaging of milkweed seeds.

Jim Wilson is not only an avid birder, having verified over 400 bird species in New Brunswick over 60 years, but also a naturalist dedicated to the preservation of the monarch butterfly.

### MONARCHS IN PERIL

Milkweeds are the only plants that Monarch butterflies can lay their eggs on and have their caterpillars eat the leaves and successfully grow to become adult butterflies. The plants are crucial for reproduction.

Jim notes that the overall population of the monarch butterfly has been "grim" for decades, with a 90 per cent decline in the last 30 years.

While observing seabirds at Point Lepreau, he noticed that the butterflies were coming through the same area and possibly even migrating along the same route.

After attending a monarch butterfly tagging workshop in New Jersey in 2005, Jim brought the initiative back to the province, where he and the Saint John Naturalists' Club continue the work.

Monarch butterflies winter in Mexico and always leave Mexico at the same time in spring. The determining factor for when they arrive in Canada is weather.

The decline in the Monarch population led the Saint John Naturalists' Club to look at changing that trend by attempting to increase the distribution of vital milkweed more widely across New Brunswick.

Swamp milkweed has fibrous roots, so they won't spread like invasive weeds. While they are a major staple for monarch butterflies, Jim says they are also a big hit with other threatened insects — bees.

### PARISH HELP

The 24 volunteers at Holy Trinity, including a few friends of the Club, packaged 2,033 packets of swamp milkweed seeds, 2,000 of which will be distributed free of charge to gardeners and property owners across New Brunswick this winter by the provincial natural heritage organization, Nature NB.

The other 33 will be given out locally.

Swamp and Common milkweed are native plants to New Brunswick, but their distribution is limited to mostly the western half of the province. Jim notes that the objective is to widen the availability of swamp milkweed across New Brunswick as it's a perennial that can be successfully grown in gardens. To receive packages of milkweed seeds, contact Nature NB in Fredericton ([www.naturenb.ca](http://www.naturenb.ca)).

*Jim Wilson is a recipient of both the Roland Michener Conservation Award from the Canadian Wildlife Federation (2018) and the Order of New Brunswick (2019).*

*Cleo Cyr is a mission leader and parish nurse.*



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



ASHLEE-MARIE-UNSPLASH.COM

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** Parishioners and others gathered recently to package milkweed seeds for distribution in the province. Milkweed is the only plant monarch butterflies are able to lay eggs on; monarch on a milkweed plant; the seed packaging group; Cecile MacLeod, Jeannette Perry and Maureen Boone during the seed packaging event in the Parish of Quispamsis.



## Special Synod take a team to organize!

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Organizing a synod session takes a large team.

Both staff and volunteers are working to ensure the 140<sup>th</sup> session of Synod, a special session on April 18 to discuss the future of Christ Church Cathedral, is well-planned and well-executed.

Meetings began in January, after a late-November decision of Diocesan Council to go ahead

with the gathering, to be held at the Cathedral.

Several sub-committees are busy making their plans. They include worship (Dean Geoffrey Hall), resolutions (Chancellor David Bell), arrangements (Susan Dickie), agenda (Cheryl Jacobs and Archbishop David Edwards), technical support (Peter Jacobs and David Wilson) and communications (Gisele McKnight).

The planning team has been meeting monthly to discuss ideas and challenges. As questions arise, they are discussed and resolved.

Some of these include: Where do we put the screens? How many microphones? What's for lunch? How many people should we expect?

Some decisions have been made which will make things different for this special synod,

such as, there will not be a printed circular, and Communion will be distributed from the high altar in the style of Bishop Medley.

In the theme of keeping things simple, worship will be from the prayer and hymn books in the pew holders, featuring accompaniment by music director Thomas Gonder, a service of holy eucharist, noon-day prayers and possibly evening prayer, depending on the time the session ends.

Much of the direction of the day will come from discussions at the Greater Chapter meetings,

held in March.

What synod delegates can expect is a day devoted to one topic only — the business of how the Cathedral building will continue in the next few decades.

"I urge all synod delegates to attend the April 18 special session," said executive officer Cheryl Jacobs.

"Given the new costing estimates, in particular, the path forward is not predetermined. It is important we hear from all the parts of our diocese as we together seek God's will regarding this much-loved place of worship which belongs to us all."

# KCSE continues its work with widows in rural Uganda

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

In late January, the annual general meeting of KCSE — Kigando Community Support for the Elderly — heard that the efforts to assist elderly widows in Uganda has stepped up, most notably with daily deliveries of milk to 17 widows and a plan to include fresh vegetables and even chicken rearing.

“Milk has been a game changer,” said the Rev. Caleb Twina-matsiko, rector at the Parish of Pennfield, who heads KCSE. “It has significantly changed their lives health-wise.”

The women who Caleb and his team in Pennfield raise money for have no one to care for them, no income and no support of any kind. Medical care is not free and there are no government support programs.

They all live near the village where Caleb grew up.

“The men are the breadwinners,” he said. “When he dies, they are left with nothing — literally no income.”

## BEGINNINGS

For many years, Caleb was the headmaster at Bishop McAllister College in Uganda, which was run by the Rev. Paul Jeffries, a priest from New Brunswick.

After two visits here on behalf of the college, in 2018, Caleb, his wife, Hope Asiimwe, and their two teenaged children moved to the Parish of Pennfield. But in doing so, they left Caleb’s 99-year-old widowed mother behind.

Not long after arriving, Caleb had a crisis of conscience, and he believed he’d made a terrible mistake. That led to a visit back home, where Caleb recognized his mother’s physical needs, and used what he’d learned from visiting the elderly in their homes and in nursing homes here, to make her home more liveable.

“I put a toilet in. I put ramps around the house and railings around the house,” said Caleb. “I had people walk her around and people to get her meals. And I invited older women to come in and have tea with her.”

With his [now late] mother squared away, he and Hope began thinking of the many other widows in similar situations with no one to help care for them.

That was the beginning of KCSE. He found several like-minded parishioners and community members and formed



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Women share a meal after arriving for their gathering — a social, educational and emotional time for them; a volunteer gifts a chicken to an elderly widow; a group photo of one of the gatherings, with their take-home gifts on the table. At far right is the Rev. Canon Paul Jeffries. Paul was the rector at Bishop McAllister College and Caleb was the headmaster there for many years before immigrating to Canada. Now semi-retired at the school, Paul is from New Brunswick.

the charity, which received official status from the Government of Canada more than a year ago.

“We started with five women,” said Caleb. “Then the demand came.”

## DEMAND FOR SUPPORT

Now the group supports 17 widows each month.

“The need is great, but that’s all we can afford,” Caleb told the board members during the AGM.

When they began, the cost was \$15 a month to support a widow. But Uganda is at the mercy of wildly inflated food prices, just as Canada is. Now that monthly support costs \$35, more than double.

That \$35 a month provides the necessities of life: food like tea, sugar, salt, rice, meat and corn flour; hygiene products like soap, toothpaste and a basin; basic needs like clothing, flashlights, kerosene, buckets and cooking pots; medical care and prescriptions; and a popular gathering three times a year with a feast, education and medical intervention, plus transportation to that gathering.

Still, KCSE is a modest Canadian registered charity, with an annual budget of \$9,114. A recent audit showed the charity is performing as it should.

It has one volunteer, Arthur, on the ground in Uganda. He does home visits and generally

makes sure things run as they should. There is a plan in the works to pay someone \$50 a month to take over for Arthur, whose work responsibilities have increased. Arthur would remain the supervisor.

## SUCCESS STORIES

Caleb spent much of the AGM describing the changes to the lives of women who were destitute.

On a visit home, a local leader drew Caleb’s attention to a widow who had fallen ill and was living alone.

“She was unable to sit or stand due to prolonged illness,” said Caleb, adding she spent every day lying on a mat on a

mud floor.

She was relying on a neighbour, who could barely afford to feed herself, for food. She had lost the use of virtually all her muscles.

With some medical intervention, paid for by KCSE, she is able to sit without support. While she will probably never walk again, her life is markedly improved, and she is buoyed by the concern and practical help she’s received from KCSE.

Another woman, Jolly, is improving after being attacked by her drug-addicted son. She was severely injured, including a broken arm, but is recovering thanks

**KCSE continued on page 7**

**KCSE**

**KCSE brings much-needed nutritional, medical, household support to elderly widows**

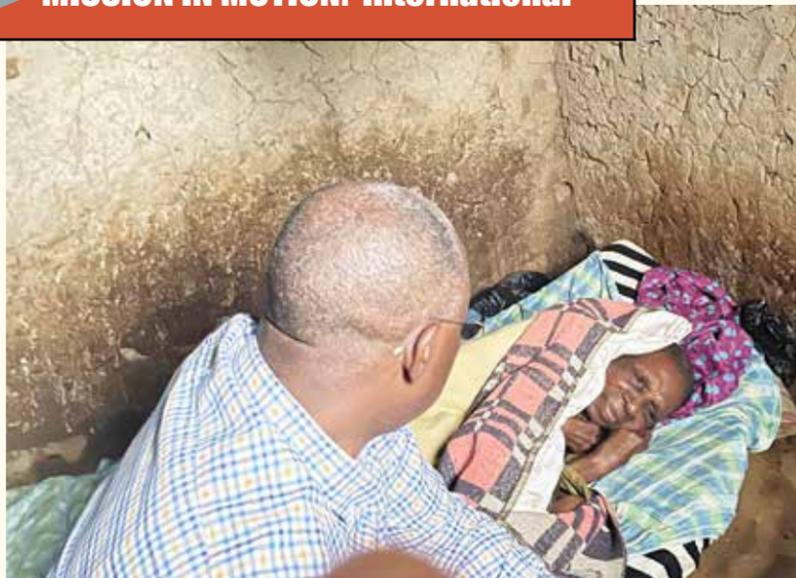


SUBMITTED PHOTOS



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Hope Twinamatsiko gives out items at a gathering; Life is lonely and sparse for widows in Uganda; members of the KCSE board: Betty Anthony, Laura Lee Carrier, Hope Twinamatsiko, the Rev. Caleb Twinamatsiko, Nicole Sangster, Sarah Norman; Caleb visits Veriria, severely ill, whom Caleb was asked to help last summer. 'This is how I found her,' said Caleb. She has recovered well with KCSE medical intervention.

**MISSION IN MOTION: international**



MCKNIGHT PHOTO

**KCSE continued from page 6**

to medical aid provided by KCSE. The women who are able make crafts such as baskets and mats. The supplies are provided by KCSE and are sold to provide the women with a small income.

**GATHERINGS**

When the women gather three times a year, it's a real celebration, said Caleb. The isolation and loneliness they experience vanish during these times together. "These gatherings bring such joy and enthusiasm to the women, sometimes so intense that

it becomes difficult to conclude the activities." Usually a doctor, nurse or both are in attendance to do health screenings: blood tests, blood pressure readings and so on. There is also a health education component, with lessons on basic hygiene and public health. As a result, the women have adopted new practices they've learned. The food they are now receiving has also helped improve their overall health. Caleb showed video and photos of the gatherings, including one where the women were singing to the camera.

"They are saying thank you, so this is for you," he told the board members. "This thank-you goes to all of you." **FUTURE PLANS** Caleb and the board are not content to simply continue what they're doing. At the AGM, Caleb proposed taking the recommendations of health professionals and including fresh foods as part of the monthly support. Vegetables and eggs are on his list. "I propose allocating \$18 a month per woman to buy these locally," he said. He outlined the benefits:

increased interaction with neighbours through food and money exchanges; enhanced community involvement and enhanced reputation of KCSE; better health; and help for impoverished vendors through the purchases. He's also learned that 11 of the 17 women they support are capable of raising chickens. "I suggest a one-time supply of chickens, valued at \$165 total, to enable them to begin adding eggs to their diet," he said. It will be a much-needed source of protein. All the proposals were accepted. How will the group pay for

these extra expenditures? They plan twice monthly fundraising dinners, one in St. Andrews and one in St. George. Caleb has a further, long-term goal: a facility where seniors can meet to interact and share, but also receive the necessary social and medical supports. He thanked the board, and quoted James 1:17: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress." **DONATIONS: Cheques to KCSE, 68 Route 778, Pennfield, NB E5H 2B4 OR E-transfers can be sent to kcseinc@gmail.com.**

# MU'S WORLDWIDE PRESIDENT IS ON THE RUN — FOR A CAUSE

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Mothers' Union worldwide president Kathleen Snow takes her role seriously.

The Christ Church Cathedral parishioner wanted to do something to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mothers' Union.

"We were talking about incorporating challenges into the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary," she said. "I felt, since I'm the worldwide president, I should do something."

In Britain and Ireland, the push is on to increase numbers by 150 members per diocese. A past worldwide president, Trish Heywood, and her husband are holding 15 lunches for people not familiar with MU.

Another past worldwide president, Lynn Tembey, plans to travel east to west in England, a total of 330 miles, to encourage the MU family and friends.

So Kathleen decided to combine two of her great loves: MU and running.

The 68-year-old has been running since just after her youngest child, now 38, was born — coincidentally the same number of years she's been an MU member.

## THE RUNNING BEGINS

In fact, Kathleen has already begun her MU anniversary project of running fifteen 10K runs in 15 different dioceses. She launched this endeavour with her husband, Tim, on Jan. 22 on the Nashwaak Trail in Fredericton. She was joined for part of the run by two local MU members: Sheila Staples of All Saints, Marysville and Michele LeBlanc of the Cathedral branch.

The second run took place in Bahrain in early February. She had been invited to attend the celebratory jubilee synod of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf. "It was an opportunity for me to have another run," she said.

While in Bahrain, she met with MU members and enrolled two new ones, bringing the total number at St. Christopher's Cathedral to 30. There has been a lot

of growth there, as the branch just opened in 2023.

While attending synod, she met a Sikh man who used to run marathons, though not for many years. But Darshan Singh was by her side during the Bahrain run. Joining them were Sara Axtell, her host during the visit, plus Anthony Pearlman, who works in communications for the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf.

The four chose to run laps around a fort on the gulf coast, all while people rode horses in the area, women in burkas cheered her on and 20 people from the synod and MU clapped as they ran.

An MU member found a finish line pennant which Kathleen ran through at the end, adding to the merriment. Then Darshan offered one of his marathon medals, which was hung on her neck. And five-year-old Gianna, the daughter of a MU branch leader, was at the finish line saying, "Well done, Kathleen!"

It was quite the spectacle, she said.

The third run took place just a few days after she left Bahrain, this time in London. She calculated a 10K run takes her about 70 minutes, so she mapped out her route, running within the confines of the Diocese of London, meaning staying on the north side of the Thames.

She began at Mary Sumner House, the international headquarters of MU.

"I put my hand on the door and prayed," she said, adding she ran towards Buckingham Palace, then circuits around several parks, including St. James, returning to Mary Sumner House just as staff were starting their workday.

"It was perfect timing," she said. "The staff were all out cheering me on when I came around the corner!"

## MORE RUNS PLANNED

Run number four was to take place in late March, during her visit to the UK for the installation of the new Archbishop of Canter-



MISSION IN MOTION: international

bury. Kathleen planned to run in the Diocese of Southwark, which is on the south side of the Thames in London.

"I'm going to start at the Southwark Cathedral," she said. "Members of the Diocese of Southwark MU will be there to cheer me on."

From there she will visit Wales in early April to attend a general meeting gathering, and will plan two runs in two Wales dioceses.

Kathleen, a retired nurse, will be in San Diego in May, helping to care for Tim's sister, who will be undergoing a knee operation. While there, she hopes to run in the Diocese of San Diego.

On the way home, she will stop in Ontario to visit her son, David, in Guelph.

"I'll be taking care of my two grandchildren, and I'll be running in the Diocese of Niagara around the 27<sup>th</sup> of May."

The travel just does not stop, because in June, she will fly back

to London for MU's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary service at St. Paul's Cathedral, and will visit the Diocese of Guilford, between London and Portsmouth.

"I'll be running there in mid-June," she said.

This July, Kathleen will visit another son, Eric, in Calgary, and will reach out to MU members for her run in the Diocese of Calgary.

In August, she and Tim will be in Guelph again for the birthday of their grandson, who will turn six. While in Ontario, she wants to run in the Diocese of Toronto. At some point, perhaps fall, she wants to plan a visit closer to home.

"I just have to run in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island!" she said.

At the end of September, MU will hold its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary worldwide gathering in Durban,

MU run continued on page 9



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



FROM LEFT: Michele LeBlanc, Kathleen Snow and Sheila Staples at the first of 15 runs, this one in Fredericton in late January.

- At the finish line in Bahrain, Kathleen Snow is wrapped in a pennant while she checks her time. With her are fellow runners Sara Axtell, Anthony Pearlman, and Darshan Singh, who are greeted by an MU member and her daughter.
- The staff of Mothers' Union came out to welcome Kathleen after she completed her 10K run in the Diocese of London.
- Kathleen touches the door of Mary Sumner House in London before her run there in early February.
- Kathleen enrolls a new member of Mothers' Union at St. Christopher's Cathedral in Bahrain.

## MU run continued from page 8

South Africa, where they expect 2,500 members.

"The communications director has visions of me running into the conference centre with 2,500 MU members cheering!" she said.

After the conference, she's off to Tanzania to visit MU members there, and of course, she plans a run in that African country.

"That will be the 14<sup>th</sup>," she said.

By late September, only one run will remain. She has plans to visit her brother in Redington Shores, Florida, and will plan her 15<sup>th</sup> and final run.

"We have MU members in Tampa, and I usually visit them when I'm there. They've invited me to run there."

So, to recap, Kathleen will run in five dioceses in Canada: Fredericton, NS & PEI, Toronto, Niagara and Calgary; five diocese internationally: San Diego, Florida, South

Africa, Tanzania and Bahrain; and five in the UK: London, Southwark, Guildford and two in Wales. "It's a busy year!" she said.

## A PASSION FOR RUNNING

Kathleen found five running partners in a fitness class at the YMCA almost 40 years ago.

"We all became very close friends," she said. "I call them my running buddies. We ran Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays after work. We were never really racers. We ran for the joy of it."

There are only two of them left, and they usually meet once a week. While training for her 15 runs, she's out a second time each week to build up stamina and distance.

"Part of the reason I love it is, when I run, I pray and I listen to praise music," she said. "I find the Holy Spirit always speaks to me."

What she enjoys about running in a new place, as she will many

times this year, is discovering the beauty around her and appreciating God's creation.

"It's a good way to see all the places," she said.

## MORE THAN JUST RUNNING

Kathleen isn't running 150 km all over the world this year just for fun, or even solely to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There is a higher purpose.

"I'm hoping to raise £10,000, approximately \$18,470 CDN," she said. "The goal is to raise awareness, but also raise money for the MU global programs."

Those programs include literacy; parenting; savings and credit; Away From It All, a caravan escape for families that cannot afford a vacation; and prison ministry, which has led to the formation of an in-prison MU branch in the UK.

"These are all run by MU members on the ground," said

Kathleen.

So for 2026, with Mothers' Union celebrating 150 years, Kathleen is doing what she can for the group she's been a part of since 1988.

"MU is a way of life, and running is a way of life for me too."

To contribute to Kathleen's fundraiser, visit this link: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/kathleen-snow-1>

Mothers' Union is a women-led, international Anglican movement dedicated to ending poverty, violence and social injustice in communities in the UK and around the world.

Active for 150 years, with over four million members in approximately 84 countries, it works with people of all faiths and none, transforming lives, strengthening families and communities, and advocating for meaningful change.

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**PARISH NEWS**



SUBMITTED PHOTO



LAURA KETCH PHOTO



**ABOVE & RIGHT:** The annual Mystery Auction and Desert Party was held at St. Luke's Church, Parish of Portland, on Jan. 31. The auctioneer was Canon David Barrett, and the runner was Kathy Ryder. Both are shown above. Delicious desserts were provided by various parishioners. Bidders were surprised, thrilled, and likely sometimes disappointed with their purchases — one never knows what they are buying. Vera Wood shows off the hat she purchased, and it turned out that it came from Cuba. This much-anticipated annual event was enjoyed by all, as we had great fun sharing our sometimes-hilarious purchases.

**TOP LEFT:** At St. Peter's in Fredericton, there is no progress in the police investigation that saw culprits steal the historic bell outside the church on Christmas Day. The parish did, however, get the remnants of the bell back from police. Where to go from here is undecided. "Vestry is not going to make any quick decisions as to the next step, if any," said Bob Matthews, sexton and parish treasurer.

**TOP RIGHT:** Archbishop David Edwards and the Rev. Christopher Ketch are seen here during the Celebration of New Ministry for Chris in the Parish of Lancaster. The celebration took place Jan. 25 at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Saint John West. The service was followed by a lasagna and salad supper in the hall. Chris will have a shared ministry with the Parish of Lancaster and the Parish of Kent. He will be in Saint John every second week leading Sunday services and Saturday bible studies. He has also arranged to have a joint leadership with the Rev. Jasmine and the Rev. Terence Chandra at Stone Church for youth group for both churches, having it at Good Shepherd on the Friday nights he is in Saint John.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

## HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

# Archbishop's pilgrimage to the holy land: 2026 edition

BY ARCHBISHOP  
DAVID EDWARDS

As many of you may remember, the Rev. Canon Vicars Hodge and I were planning a pilgrimage to the Holy Land before conflict broke out in the region in October 2023.

We have been working on developing a tour for when it seemed possible for pilgrims to return. As you will see from his letter below, Vicars has been advised that people are now returning to the Land of the Holy One.

We have decided to offer the possibility of a pilgrimage with some additional options this fall. As yet, costs and other details are not finalized, but if you are interested, please let me know via my email, [dedwards@diof-ton.ca](mailto:dedwards@diof-ton.ca) or Vicars directly at [www.trinitytour.org](http://www.trinitytour.org)

This is an exciting prospect and I hope some people will feel able to register.

David

### Update from Vicars Hodge:

Friends,  
I am writing to share with you an exciting plan that has been quietly taking shape — a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in **Fall 2026** — and to invite your expression of interest as I begin to discern the likely size of the group.

Tourism and pilgrimage in the Holy Land have now resumed. Many groups are already travelling there, with more planned in the coming year, particularly from the US and UK. Canadians, understandably, have been a little more cautious, which is why Fall 2026 feels like the right moment for us.

Carole and I will be leading this pilgrimage together with the Archbishop of Fredericton, David Edwards, and his wife Debbie.

This will be my eighth pilgrimage tour, and while I continue to learn each time, I now have a well-tested sense of how to shape a journey like this — which sites matter most, how to pace our days, which hotels and restaurants to choose, and how to work with excellent local guides and hosts.

We are anticipating a group of approximately 25–30 pilgrims from across Canada, and perhaps a few from the United States. I am arranging the itinerary details, and a professional travel agent will handle all air-



**PHOTOS SHOW** various scenes from the spring 2023 pilgrimage Canon Vicars Hodge led to the Holy Land.  
*All photos courtesy of Vicars Hodge.*

fare bookings.

Over the centuries, Christian teachers (starting with St. Jerome) have sometimes called the Holy Land “the Fifth Gospel.” The idea is simple but profound: when believers walk the places where the events of the Gospels unfolded — the hills, lakes, deserts, and cities where Jesus taught and healed — Scripture is heard differently.

Distances make more sense. Parables gain texture. Familiar passages take on new depth and clarity. Many pilgrims have testified that after praying and worshipping in these places, they return home reading the same Bible — but with newly opened eyes.

This insight also includes love for the people of the land — the

“living stones.” Pilgrimage is not only about ancient sites, but about meeting and praying alongside local Christian communities who continue to bear faithful witness.

Part of our journey will include opportunities to worship and interact with local believers. Their presence reminds us that the Gospel is not only something that happened long ago, but something still lived today.

Again and again, pilgrims say that encountering both the places and the people changes how they pray, how they read Scripture, and how they understand their own calling.

Here is the big picture of what is planned.

### A. Primary Pilgrimage — The

### Holy Land

**Oct. 21 – Nov. 2, 2026**

An all-inclusive, expertly guided pilgrimage to the most significant biblical sites — from Nazareth to Bethlehem, Caesarea to Jerusalem, Galilee to Jericho — with rich opportunities for worship, reflection, and encounter with local Christians.

Our pilgrimages include virtually everything except personal items, beverages, and airfare. All meals, guides, drivers, entrance fees, and gratuities are included. We return to Toronto on Air Canada’s non-stop flight on Monday, Nov. 2.

### Optional Extensions

**B. Jerusalem-at-Leisure Extension — November 2–4**

Remain two additional days in

Jerusalem at the Golden Walls Hotel. By then you will have enough familiarity with the Old City to explore comfortably on your own, while also being welcome to accompany Bishop David and me as we revisit significant holy sites that cannot fit into the regular schedule.

### C. Seven Churches of Asia Extension (Pre-Pilgrimage) — October 15–22

An optional pre-pilgrimage journey through western Turkey visiting the Seven Churches of Revelation and key early Christian sites, before continuing on to Israel to join the main group.

It will be a couple of weeks before final pricing is posted. When available, details will appear on [www.trinitytour.org](http://www.trinitytour.org).

“SHARING HOPE & HELP”

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**



SAVE THE DATE!  
**ACW'S  
 Quiet  
 Day**

- Sept. 9, 2026
- St. Mary's Anglican Church, Miramichi (former Chatham)
- Theme: Standing on the promises of God
- Registration (with refreshments) at 9 a.m.; service at 10 a.m.
- Tea, coffee, snacks and lunch provided in the church hall
- Easy access - wheelchair accessible



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In all cases, add a note with your name and address and specifying which camp in order to receive a donation receipt.




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**The  
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 Commons**

The Synod Commons is a regular, open, online forum for clergy, parish lay officers, staff and others who are interested in meeting with Synod staff on a variety of topics. First and fourth Tuesdays of the month, 12:10-12:55 p.m. Learn more at our website: [nb.anglican.ca/commons](http://nb.anglican.ca/commons)

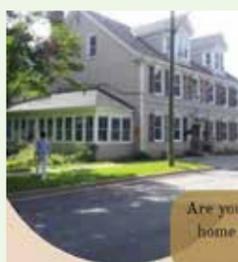


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- Special events
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- Parish picnic
- Special services
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Send your large format photos (with captions) and articles to the editor: [gmcknight@diofton.ca](mailto:gmcknight@diofton.ca)



AROUND THE DIOCESE



SUBMITTED PHOTO

PARISH NEWS

**ABOVE:** The Ash Wednesday Service held at Trinity Anglican Church in Saint John saw more than 30 in attendance for the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion, including a few from out of town visiting for medical appointments. We were all encouraged as we prepared to enter Lent to reflectively look inward to what we might change to align just a little closer to the will our Lord has for each of us as we continue this journey we call life.

**BELOW & RIGHT:** St. Andrew's Church in Newcastle celebrated its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025. The anniversary date was actually July 25, but the Service of Celebration was delayed until Sept. 21 because of the Archbishop's schedule. Archbishop David Edwards led a wonderful service with Canon Sandy MacPherson assisting, and we were happy to have Debbie Edwards with us for the service and potluck that followed. Archbishop David blessed a new cross that was made by the Rev. Rose Steeves for the occasion. The cross was placed in a prominent position in the church nave to be enjoyed for years to come.



PETER GADD PHOTOS

# Practicing Resurrection *Life, not despair, has the final word*

Easter Sunday is one of the most joyful days in the Church's year. The greeting "Christ is risen, He is risen indeed – Alleluia!" rings out with confidence and hope.

Churches are filled with light, music, and celebration.

But once the lilies fade and the decorations are put away, a simple question remains: What does resurrection look like in ordinary life?

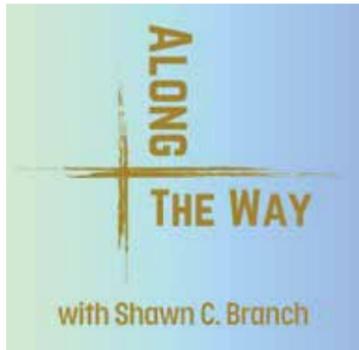
For many people, the days following Easter do not feel dramatically different. The same responsibilities remain. Work continues. Relationships still require attention.

Financial pressures, health concerns, and personal struggles do not disappear. The world does not suddenly become easier because the Church has celebrated the empty tomb.

Yet the Christian claim is not merely that resurrection happened once in history, but that it reshapes how we live now.

If Christ is risen, then new life is possible even in the midst of unfinished stories and unresolved tensions. The challenge is learning how to embody that hope in practical ways.

Resurrection is not denial of difficulty. The events of Good Friday are not erased; they are



transformed. The risen Christ still bears wounds.

In the Gospel accounts, Jesus does not return with triumphal spectacle. Instead, He meets His followers in very ordinary settings. He speaks Mary's name in a garden. He walks alongside discouraged disciples on the road. He prepares breakfast for friends by the sea. He enters a locked room and offers peace.

These encounters suggest that resurrection life unfolds not only in dramatic moments, but in daily choices.

Practicing resurrection may begin with something as simple as perseverance. It can look like continuing to invest in a strained relationship rather than withdrawing.

It can mean offering forgive-

ness where resentment has taken root. It may involve restarting a healthy habit that has been neglected, or seeking reconciliation instead of allowing silence to harden into distance.

In congregational life, resurrection practice can be seen in parishes that choose hope over decline narratives.

A small congregation trying a new outreach initiative, even after previous attempts fell flat, is practicing resurrection.

A church that opens its hall to community groups, not for recognition but for relationship, reflects the life-giving hospitality of Easter.

A volunteer who continues to visit someone who rarely responds is embodying steady, patient hope.

Resurrection faith also shapes how we respond to discouragement in the wider world. In a culture often marked by cynicism and division, choosing generosity becomes a concrete expression of Easter hope.

Refusing to participate in destructive speech, advocating for fairness in the workplace, mentoring someone younger, or simply showing up consistently in one's community are not small acts.

They are ways of declaring that life, not despair, has the

final word.

The early Church did not persuade the world of resurrection through argument alone. They lived differently. They shared their resources. They cared for the sick and the vulnerable.

They gathered regularly, even under pressure. Their common life became evidence of their conviction that Christ was alive.

The same invitation stands before the Church today.

In practical terms, this may mean asking intentional questions during the Easter season:

- Where is new life trying to emerge in my circumstances?
- What conversation needs to be revisited?
- Who might need encouragement this week?

• What step toward reconciliation or renewal is possible now?

Resurrection does not require dramatic gestures. More often, it requires steady faithfulness. It asks believers to trust that small, life-giving actions matter. A thoughtful note, an apology offered without qualification, a commitment kept, a seed planted, a difficult task undertaken again — these become signs that hope is not abstract but embodied.

Spring itself offers a fitting metaphor. Growth is gradual.

Much of what changes happens beneath the surface before it is visible. The Christian life follows a similar pattern. Practices of prayer, kindness, patience, and courage may seem modest, but over time they cultivate communities marked by resilience and grace.

Easter proclaims that death does not have the last word. Practicing resurrection means aligning daily choices with that truth.

It means living as though renewal is possible, even when circumstances suggest otherwise.

As the Church continues its journey beyond Easter Sunday, the invitation is not simply to celebrate resurrection, but to participate in it.

In homes, workplaces, parishes, and neighbourhoods, believers are called to reflect the life of the risen Christ through steady acts of hope.

In this way, the resurrection becomes more than a ritual celebrated once a year. It becomes a pattern of living, 'along the way,' one faithful step at a time.

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

## NEWS FROM MCADAM



MARGARET LAKING PHOTOS



**LEFT & MIDDLE:** Parishioners, family and friends gathered after the Christmas church service on Dec. 21 at the Parish of McAdam hall for a Christmas dinner. Here Frank Carroll and Frank Poirier carve the turkey, while in the middle photo, Rochelle Lee Adams contemplates the dessert selections. Rochelle lives in Perth Andover and was in McAdam visiting her mother, Laurel Smith, over the Christmas holidays.

**RIGHT:** After the Jan. 25 service at St. George's Anglican church, the congregation gathered to partake in the first potluck of 2026. It is a time always enjoyed by the participants as their culinary efforts are tested and never found lacking. At the potluck table: Cathy Beers, the Rev. Arnold Godsoe, Sonny McIntosh and Chris Little.

MUSIC COMMENTARY

# Surprise U2 EP provides prospective — especially in Lent

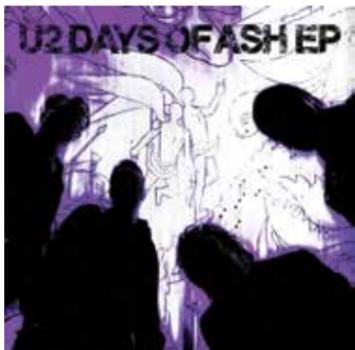
As Wednesday is a penitential sort of day, so it was rather surprising that U2 fans received a sort of gift on that day — an unannounced EP of new music by U2.

It's a six-track collection, aptly titled, *Days of Ash*. It is a sobering sort of album, which shines a light into some dark corners of the world, using particular events to bring to mind larger issues at play for countless people.

U2 has never shied away from speaking out against injustice in the world. While such things are usually deemed as not the realm for rock stars, U2 has spoken out, in part, through their continued involvement and support for Amnesty International, Greenpeace, and Bono's founding work with the ONE campaign and (RED).

That being said, this is not a political album (though some may read it that way); it is an album that calls for love to triumph over hate, and justice to rise over injustice (though some may not read it that way).

Sadly, we live in such a polarized world that a great many feel the need to stand firmly on



one "side" or the other of a given topic.

Dear Reader, I wonder if U2 is not seeking to erase such divisive lines. Let's get to the music, so we can each decide.

The first song, "American Graffiti," was written in response

to the killing of Renee Good in Minnesota earlier this year, who Bono described as, "A woman committed to nonviolent civil disobedience whose family then had to face the further indignity of her being described as a domestic terrorist." [*Propaganda* magazine, Jan. 26, p. 14].

This song is the hardest-sounding song on the project, with Edge's guitar crunchy, and grinding out chords to the steady pulse of the bass and drums (yes, fans... Larry Mullen, Jr. is back!).

"The Tears of Things" borrows its title from a book by the same name by the Franciscan friar Richard Rohr. The song imagines the statue of David as the singer, being carved out of marble by Michelangelo, who would witness so much suffering in addition to joy.

In the book, Rohr suggests that the Old Testament prophets had to find a way to push through their pain and rage at the great injustices around them, ending up in tears. U2 shows this through David's words in the song.

Other songs tell stories of tragedies around the world, in-

cluding the killing of 16-year-old Sarina Esmailzadeh in Iran, by the Iranian "morality police" — that's "Song of the Future."

Awdah Hathaleen was a Palestinian man killed by a violent Israeli settler in his own home on the West Bank, Gaza, as remembered in "One Life at a Time."

Perhaps the most heart-wrenching song and achingly beautiful track on the album is not a song at all, but a poem called *Wildpeace*, spoken by African artist Adelo, and set over an arrangement of synth strings and drums.

It reads, in part, "A peace without the big noise of beating swords into ploughshares, without words, without the thud of the heavy rubber stamp: let it be light, floating, like lazy white foam... Let it come like wildflowers. Suddenly, because the field must have it: wildpeace."

Finally, as hope always has the last word, this small musical project ends with the more upbeat and uplifting song, "Yours Eternally."

It was written in honour of Ukrainian combat medic Taras Topolea. Bono wrote of him, "he

and his friends were so upbeat about life and had this dark sense of humour and defiant spirit that we love about the best rock 'n' roll music, a kind of force of personality that defies the times we're in."

The song is energetic, forward-looking, and somehow channels hope into the sound of the group playing together.

Dear Reader, my editor is about to cut me off. I could write much more, but space does not allow.

This is not an EP to instil guilt in its listener, but more a desire for justice everywhere. If you've read this far, thank you for hearing my thoughts, but more importantly, go listen for yourselves.

The best music makes us feel, think, and yearn for something more, something bigger, something better.

God is all over this project, as you might be able to discern. A blessed Lent to you all!

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

**TWO MINUTE INTERVIEW**

**Donna Beek, archbishop's secretary, Army Reserves veteran, Silver Cross Mother, doctoral candidate**

**Favourite book of the Bible** - Romans  
**Birthplace** - Trenton, Ontario  
**What you love most about God** – His omnipresence.  
**Favourite place on Earth** - Iona Abbey. They call this place a "thin space" between heaven and earth.  
**Farthest you've been from home** - Kandahar, Afghanistan. Had the experience of visiting during the Afghan War and while there, also experiencing a rocket attack and small arms gunfire.  
**Favourite meal or dessert** - Barbecued steak, baked potato, side salad and creme brulé.  
**Biggest fear** – Not finishing all my longer-term projects before I die.  
**Hidden talent** – Detecting more about a person than they tell me.  
**Favourite movie or book** – Movie: Braveheart; book: the 29 volumes of the Early Church Fathers/Patristics.  
**Your hobby** – Continuing education, reading, writing, research, embroidery, knitting, painting/drawing.  
**Three things always in your fridge** – Milk, orange juice, cheese  
**Favourite sports team** – Toronto Maple Leafs (although I can't understand why!)

**Episcopal Announcements**

**The Rev. Canon Chris Hayes** has been appointed rector of the Parish of Fredericton (Christ Church Parish Church), effective June 1.  
 He leaves the Parish of Salisbury and Havelock after 14 years, where he has been rector, as well as regional dean for the Deanery of Shediac.

DIOCESAN  
**ACW AGM**

St. Andrew's church,  
 Petitcodiac

**Theme: Unity in Christ**  
 Watch for the April edition of  
*Launching Out* for more details.

**Tuesday, May 5**  
 One day only  
 No banquet  
 Cold plate lunch

SUMMER CAMPS IN THE DIOCESE

# Summer camp fun awaits!



Five weeks of camping for ages 5-12. Make memories, have fun! [campbrookwood.ca](http://campbrookwood.ca)



Seven weeks of camping for ages 6-16. Fun, food, friendships! [campmedley.ca](http://campmedley.ca)



Diocesan Choir School July 9-12 - singing, fun and friends! Ages 14+ [choirschoolnb.com](http://choirschoolnb.com)



St. Michael's Youth Conference Aug. 17-22 for ages 13-19. Learning, recreation, friendships that last a lifetime! [smyc.ca](http://smyc.ca)

