

CONNEXION

CONNEXION
50th
Edition

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Anglican Parish of Central Saanich

Number 50



St. Mary Church

1973 Cultra Avenue,
Saanichton, BC V8M 1L7



St. Stephen Church

7921 St. Stephen Road,
Saanichton, BC V8M 2C3



March 2024

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Check your email or the Parish Website for service updates and changes. As health restrictions relax, please practice protocols that make you feel comfortable.

Worship Services

Sundays

- 9:00 am Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays

- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist

Worship Services

Sundays

- 11:15 am Holy Eucharist

Office: 250-652-1611

Email: stmaries.saanichton@shaw.ca

Web: www.ParishCS.ca

Office: 250-652-4311

Email: admin@parishcs.ca

Web: www.ParishCS.ca

Incumbent: Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

Honourary Assistant: Rt. Rev. Dr. Logan McMenamie

Associated Clergy: The Ven. Bob Baillie,
The Rev. Dr. Brett Cane
Rev. Paul Schumacher
The Rev. Canon Richard Stetson

Deacon: The Rev. Gil Shoesmith



www.ParishCS.ca

Anglican Parish of Central Saanich

St. Mary Church

St. Stephen Church

Dates to Note

Our website, www.ParishCS.ca, is the best place to keep in touch with what is going on

Please check the church website and other electronic sources for updates over the next three months. The following are the events which are planned at this time:

- **Sunday services** at St. Mary at 9:00 am. Sunday services at St. Stephen at 11:15 am. unless otherwise noted below.
- **Wednesday Eucharist services** at St Mary at 10:00 am with Bible Study following at 10:45 am. The Anglicanism 101 course continues up until March 20th and the 'Sermon Circle' study recommences on March 27th.
- **Wednesday, March 6th:** Saanichton Community Lasagna Dinner at St Mary's at 6:00 p.m. sponsored by the Saanichton Village Association.

Holy Week and Easter Season Services:

- **Tuesday, March 26th:** 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer at St Mary.
 - **Wednesday, March 27th:** 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service at St Mary.
 - **Wednesday, March 27th:** 5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer at St Stephen.
 - **Thursday, March 28th:** 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service of Foot Washing, Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar at St Mary followed by Stripping of the Altar at St Stephen.
 - **Friday, March 29th:** 10:00 a.m. Good Friday Stations of the Cross Walk from Centennial Park to St. Mary. For details see the bulletins and website.
 - **March, 31st Easter Sunday Services:** 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St Mary and 11:15 Holy Eucharist at St Stephen.
-
- **April 21st:** Bishop's Parish Visitation. Details to be announced.
 - **Saturday, May 25th:** Spring Fling at St Mary from 9:30 to Noon.

The 50th ConneXion!

CONNEXION 50th Edition

March 2024 marks the 50th edition of the ConneXion newsletter. The ConneXion first appeared in February 2012. At that time, co-editors Sandra Scarth and John Smith said: "Nothing can better exemplify our joint commitment to make our new Parish succeed than projects such as this, where we work together to communicate in a spirit of Christian fellowship."

Throughout this edition of the ConneXion you will find photos and descriptions of Parish events from 2012 onwards. We hope you enjoy this look back at the Parish of Central Saanich!

We acknowledge that we gather to worship on the traditional lands of the WSÁNEĆ and Coast Salish peoples

The Parish of Central Saanich gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance provided by the District of Central Saanich by way of its Permissive Property Tax Exemption Program

From the Pastor's Pen

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego



Who are our Associate and/or Retired Clergy?

I thought it good to tell you a little bit about who all the clergy listed on the front of our bulletins are. You see some of them regularly and others not so often for various good reasons. I will explain as I best can over the next few months with a short bio on each of them and an explanation of what they are doing within the diocese. I will write about two at a time.

The Rev Paul Schumacher

Paul is not retired! He is currently serving through an Interim Period at All Saints, Salt Spring Island. He and Lynn have an attachment to the Parish of Central Saanich. Lynn serves as a Lay Assistant and has recently joined our altar guild. She also serves as the Diocesan Representative for the Primates World Relief and Development Fund.

Paul and I met about twelve years ago when he and his wife Lynn moved from Central Saanich to my former parish of St. Peter and St. Paul. Very quickly Paul and I talked about his Ontario journey towards ordination and looked to restart it here. We were able to connect him to our diocesan process with various bishops. He was ordained a Deacon by Bishop Logan on December 12, 2017, and as a priest on June 29, 2018. He received special training in interim ministry and therefore, is in high demand from Bishop Anna.

Paul will remain connected to our parish as his home base and worships with us when not assigned to a parish by the bishop.

The Venerable Bob Baillie

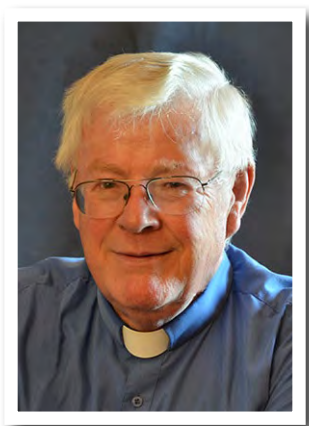
Bob has been a priest for many years and was ordained a deacon, June 16, 1991, at Christ Church, Victoria by Bishop Ron Shepherd and a priest on November 24, 1991 St. Alban's Prince Albert, Saskatchewan by Bishop Tom Morgan.

Bob was rector of Holy Trinity, North Saanich for many years and he and his wife Barb joined us upon his retirement. He also served as interim in our parish. Many of you will remember him fondly from those days.

Bob was asked by the bishop and I as archdeacon, in an emergency scenario, if he could serve for a brief time at Holy Trinity, Sooke. It will be two years this June since that started. Bob is very well liked by the people of Sooke, and he enjoys them as well.

Bob's wife Barb is regularly active in the Parish of Central Saanich and therefore he and Barb are still members and part of the family. We see Bob at various events in our parish and sometimes at worship when he is not committed at Sooke. We thank him for his service at Holy Trinity, Sooke.

Blessings!
Lon+



Parishioner Profile: Lynn and Paul Schumacher

by Sandra Scarth



Lynn began her life in a small farming village in Quebec. She had a large extended family and was close to grandparents and great aunts. She thinks that those comfortable relationships helped her to decide eventually to pursue schooling which would lead her to volunteering and working with seniors. Lynn moved to Toronto to study and in her first marriage lived in a few different towns in southern Ontario.

Paul was born and raised in Kitchener Ontario where he too was close to his grandparents and extended family. Paul studied Dentistry at the University of Toronto and set up his first practice, at the age of 22, in a small town outside of Kitchener. He had a successful career until an injury in his fifties meant he had to stop practice. Fortunately, he had already sold his practice to prepare for semi-retirement. Paul is not one to sit around so soon discovered new talents in his son, Chris' engineering firm.

Lynn and Paul met at church in Kitchener-Waterloo when Lynn, recently separated, began to attend with her children. Both were on the Lay Readers team. Paul and his family eventually moved to another parish. They did not meet again until Lynn's priest suggested that Paul might be willing to let her borrow some of the textbooks she needed for her part time courses at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. What he had not mentioned was that Paul was, by then, a single father. The priest was a good matchmaker and a year and half later he performed their wedding ceremony in the very church where they met.

Paul has two sons. Chris was just graduating in Architecture and Jon was a newly minted paramedic when Lynn and Paul married. Lynn has a son, Dan, and a daughter, Sharon, who were both still in high school at the time. The four kids had many friends, so their home became a very busy place. Some friends also lived with them for extended periods.

Eventually all the children married and over

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Parishioner Profile *continued*



the years Lynn and Paul have been blessed with seven grandchildren. The oldest has just turned 26 and the youngest will be six this spring. Of the grandchildren, three, (two girls and one boy) live in Kitchener-Waterloo and four live in Greater Victoria (three girls and one boy).

Lynn's children both ended up in British Columbia for different reasons and at different times. Lynn and Paul made many trips to visit and fell in love with Victoria. Eleven years ago, Lynn and Paul moved to Victoria.

Paul had earned a Master of Theological Studies Degree at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary near the end of his career in Dentistry. Moving to this Diocese of Islands and Inlets provided the opportunity to become ordained as a Deacon and subsequently to become a priest. Paul then took courses which prepared him for work in Interim Ministry. He is currently Interim at the Anglican Parish (All Saints, Ganges, and St Mary's, Fulford Harbour) on Salt Spring Island.

Lynn was active in the Victoria Newcomers Club when she first moved to Greater Victoria. When her time there ended, she volunteered in the Parish of St Peter and St Paul as Warden, Treasurer, Lay Assistant, and Altar Guild Head.

If Lynn and Paul seem a bit familiar to you, it may be because they attended St Mary sporadically for a couple of years when staying in their 5th wheel on the Tsawout First Nation lands prior to moving to the Island. When they first moved to the island as permanent residents, they again were part of the congregation at St. Mary Saanichton. However, through a friend, they discovered that St Peter and St Paul, Esquimalt was a five minute drive from their home in View Royal and they moved to that parish.

Last spring Lynn and Paul moved to the Peninsula on Tsawout Territory at the end of Mt Newton. While waiting for their new house to be built they lived in their travel trailer. Lynn got a bit bored and began working as a cashier at Dan's Farm on Oldfield Road. She enjoys the people she works with and the people who shop at the store.



Paul is very happy that he is finally able to have his own workshop where they now live. The house was in place at the end of October and by the end of December he had started on his workshop/storage building. It is almost finished, and he looks forward to working with wood both to build things and to carve birds. Paul also has a couple of telescopes which he hopes to be able to use more at their new home where there is less light pollution than in the city. He will have his electric bike back from storage soon and be able to ride it again.

Lynn enjoys reading and knitting as relaxation. Currently she is attempting to learn how to paint with watercolours. As it gets warmer, Lynn will start riding a recently purchased trike.

Book Review: *Olive Again* by Elizabeth Strout

Review by Nancy Choat



This is the second book about the life of Olive Kitteridge; a follow up to the one written 11 years previously: and so Olive returns, in a sequel that's even better than the original. (It is not necessary to have read the first book, *Olive*, to enjoy this second one).

For Elizabeth Strout readers, the reappearance of Olive in the second volume of stories about the residents of Crosby, Maine is a continuing development of Olive's character in this period of her life, her losses, her shortcomings and her honesty.

Olive Kitteridge returns, crustier than ever and just as unapologetic as she was when she first appeared 11 years ago. The reader will enjoy moments of great hilarity, bewildering grief and blunt honesty that defies social norms.

Strout, who won the Pulitzer Prize for *Olive Kitteridge*, her first book about Olive, wrote that Olive forced her way back into her consciousness. Strout's stories form a cohesive easy to read novel that captures with humour, compassion and detail (sometimes embarrassing!), aging, loss, loneliness and love.

Most of us can relate to Olive and Strout's quote: "There's no simple truth about human existence; only wonderful, painful complexity" to which Olive responds: "Well, that's life. Nothing you can do about it."

I know that reading *Olive Again* gave me a greater appreciation of the variety of things that people deal with in life. My wish is that those who choose to read it will feel the same.

Cane's Corner: Cappadocia, May 2023

By the Rev. Dr. Brett Cane



Continuing the travelogue of my three and a half month journey which took me to five continents last past Spring and Summer, I have reached my time in Cappadocia in central Turkey. I spent seven days there exploring its unique landscapes and amazing rock and cave formations. (Most of the photos are mine but some are from the internet.)

I took a short flight from Istanbul and booked into a “cave hotel” in Göreme – the main focus for tourism in the region. The town of 2,000 sits at the heart of a network of valleys filled with eroded rock formations known as “fairy chimneys” and caves which have been hollowed out to create houses, churches, monasteries and underground cities. The whole area was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1985 and receives over 2.5 million visitors per year.

Eruptions of nearby volcanoes over 20 million years left a layer of soft tufa stone in the region which was eroded by wind and water, leaving tower-like shapes or a hard cap rock on top of pillars, forming the present-day fairy chimneys.



Unique landscape



Fairy Chimneys



From at least the 3rd century BC, people here realized that these soft rocks could be easily carved out to form houses, churches, and monasteries.

Camel” rock formation



Göreme Open Air Museum

I was able to take both of the popular tours – the red and the green – each of which focused on different areas of the region. The Red Tour covered the northern part with popular attractions and sights such as viewpoints (which hosted the inevitable souvenir shops), valleys, fairy chimneys, villages, castles, carpet and pottery workshops and the Göreme Open Air Museum.

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Cane's Corner *continued*



"The Nunnery"



The "Buckle Church", 10th century



Fresco of St. George



Exquisite carpets

The latter preserves some of the best of the rock-cut, frescoed churches for which Cappadocia is known. Around the 800's there were 120 to 150 monks in small monasteries in a very compact area and 15 churches and 11 refectories built in the 11th century are what remain. Some of them are richly decorated with colourful frescoes. Today, the Museum is Cappadocia's main attraction, with over one million visitors every year.

Around 1100 AD the area became Turkish with a minority Greek Christian population and remained as such until 1924, when the aftermath of the Turko-Greek war led to most Greek Christians (900,000) being relocated to Greece. The churches were no longer used for worship and open and unprotected and some were even used for agricultural purposes. In the 1970s interest in Cappadocia reemerged. Scholars came to analyze the cave churches and tourism increased and the Turkish Government took steps to preserve and market Cappadocia.



St. Basil's Chapel

The Red Tour included a visit to a Carpet factory with a great demonstration of how silk carpets are made – an amazing skill (and prices!) - along with a look at some live silkworms.

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Cane's Corner *continued*



This was followed by a visit to a ceramics factory where one of us (not me) got to have a try at making a pot!

Ceramic place-setting with donut-shaped vase designed to keep wine cool and easy to drink



Ceramic hot air balloons!



Uçhisar

Our final stop of the tour was to Uçhisar ("Rock Castle", which is what its name means), a natural castle of volcanic tufa, hollowed out and used as a fortress for centuries. Around 1,000 people once lived in the castle and still lived there up to the 1970's but had to be moved out for security reasons.



Ihlara Valley



Kaymaklı underground city



Rolling stone door for defense

The Green Tour day included the picturesque Ihlara Valley and one of Cappadocia's amazing underground cities. Kaymaklı underground city is one of the largest of 36 in the region and opened to visitors in 1964 after its rediscovery the year before. It has 8 floors and parts date from the 8th–7th centuries BC. In Roman times, early Christians expanded the caverns as did later Byzantine believers who used the city for protection from Arabs, Mongols and Turks down to the 20th century. Perhaps 3,500 people lived in the tunnels when the city was first created, including livestock with food storage rooms, wine or oil presses, and kitchen and living areas.

Cane's Corner *continued*



Homes in Göreme



Local Hamam



Fairy chimneys
still used as
homes



Wood fire
barbecue dinner

On the days when I was not on tour, I was able to spend time exploring Göreme and indulging in visits to the local Hamam (Turkish bath). The earliest homes in Göreme carved out of the rock were probably simple caves but by the 20th century most of the houses had stone rooms built in front of the caves for families to live in while the caves were relegated to stabling and storage. With the advent of tourism, almost all the old houses of the town were converted into boutique hotels by around 2015.



Cave houses converted into hotel

I had most of my evening meals out and enjoyed the price and quality of the wood Fire barbecue. I also took advantage of the opportunity to stock up on Turkish Delight!

Great variety of
Turkish Delight



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Cane's Corner *continued*



Turkish folk dancing

On the final evening I took the standard excursion “Turkish Night” in the nearby town of Avanos for an interesting supper and lively folk dancing. It was very crowded and quite loud, but people had a good time!

My next article will focus first on the following week of my journey which was a cruise from Istanbul in the Aegean and Adriatic Seas.

CONNEXION 50th Edition

Looking Back...

May 2012



The second edition of ConneXion focussed on the 150th anniversary of St Stephen's. Norma Sealey provided a history of the church and its parishioners. A number of events were planned to mark the milestone, including The Homecoming Weekend, to be held June 1-3. Other activities coming up at the church included children's Easter Egg Hunt, the Spring Fair, outdoor services and an Old Fashioned Community Picnic.

September 2012



The arrival of our new Rector, Rob Szo and his family to the Parish was the big news in ConneXion Number 3. And in their report about our Parish to the Haro Regional Meeting, Lynn Fallan and Sandra Scarth said: “Our St. Mary's – St. Stephen's talks have been positive and productive, and we feel a renewed hope, excitement and anticipation about bringing our congregations together as one combined parish.”

September 2014

Narnia, the summer camp at St Stephen was judged to be a great success.



More on page 18

The Promised Land

By Greg Robinson

The Bible is not just a book but a library of books; sixty-six books actually, involving who knows how many authors and redactors that were inspired to record their stories and understandings of Yahweh. However, in spite of that there is a coherent narrative to be found in reading the Bible.

In the Scriptures, the theme of exodus is prevalent and as our understanding of God's revelation to us grows, the theme of exodus undergirds the whole narrative. Everyone is familiar with the exodus of the Jewish people out of Egypt, but the all-encompassing exodus is from sin through to a loving, just and peaceful world in the life to come. I suggest that the account of the promised land is one of the best ways to form a basis for our understanding of the entire narrative of God as told in the Bible, and how we fit into that story.

The idea of the "promised land" forms a very interesting and foundational part of both the Jewish and Christian story. It all started in Genesis where Yahweh gives (GEN 2:12) Adam the job of working the Garden of Eden and caring for it. Right from the beginning we can see a strong connection between the land and human responsibility for the land, and for the creatures on the land. Humans, as God image bearers, are to be His agents for the care of what He created.

The Garden of Eden then is the first glimpse we have of the concept of a promised land, along with a vocation that gives our lives meaning and purpose. The Garden of Eden is given over to Adam and Eve to live on, to care for, and to have as a source of food and shelter. They were, as are we, God's image bearers, charged with the job of caring for what He created. This then is the first version of the promised land given to the first humans by God.

The second version or encounter with the promised land is in Genesis 17:8 and later in Genesis 23:31. This is part of God's first covenant with the early Jewish people where God tells Abraham that He will give his descendants the whole land of Canaan. The boundaries of the promised land were then raised again in various books of the Old Testament including Numbers 34:6, Deuteronomy 11:24, Ezekiel 47:7 and Joshua 1:4. The Israelites have clung to that promise of the promised land over many centuries and through numerous battles, with overall minimal success.

Even during the Maccabean era which lasted for about 130 years between 167 and 37 BC there was considerable fighting between the various Jewish factions. It was during this period that the second temple was built. The dedicating of the temple is still celebrated by current day

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The Promised Land *continued*

Jewish people as “Hanukkah.” Today, many consider the current state of Israel as the fulfillment of the promise.

Jesus however expands that understanding of the Promised Land. The Old Testament has in various statements even made the claim that The Promised Land is not just on small piece of land in the Middle East but is the whole world.

Jesus often referred to Himself as “The Son of Man.” Jesus is clearly thinking of the “Son of Man” as written about in Daniel 7 where after being presented to the God, “the Ancient of Days” he is given dominion over all nations. Daniel in His dream is given this image. “He (Jesus, the Son of Man) was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”

In Mark 16 vs 15 the already resurrected Jesus gives this instruction to His disciples: “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”

“Go into all
the world
and preach
the gospel to
all creation.”

We can see that the early disciples followed that directive and did not feel restricted to the Jewish homeland but quickly spread out over the known world to take Christ’s message to not just the Jewish world, but to the whole world. The Promised Land can now be seen to be the whole planet. We are given a specific calling to reach out to all humanity spreading God’s love through word and deed, and even loving our enemy.

However, the narrative of the promised land doesn’t simply end with God’s Kingdom being spread to the whole world. It is so much more. Jesus called us to pray for God’s heavenly Kingdom to come to Earth as in Heaven.

In Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, he writes: Eph 1 vs 9-10, “He, (GOD) made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.”

The Jewish leaders believed and taught that God’s dwelling place on Earth was in the temple, and specifically in the “Holy of Holies.” This was where God’s heavenly dimension and our earthly dimension overlapped. The New Testament revised that understanding and announced that the unity of Heaven and Earth was in Jesus the Messiah, as well as in the hearts of His followers and in His church. As God’s image bearers we are to reflect His love into all of God’s good creation. This is in preparation for the time when God fully brings about the full

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The Promised Land *continued*

unity of His heavenly dimension and our Earthly dimension. We will see the renewal of all things in Heaven and on Earth and the eternal “Kingdom of God” will have been fully and eternally completed.

John writes in Revelation: “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. (For the ancient Jewish people, the sea was the symbol of evil.)

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. ‘He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Isaiah envisions a world fully renewed in that the following will be its characteristics. Isaiah Chap 11 vs 6-9: “The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

The infant will play near the cobra’s den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper’s nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”

Our role now is to live as Kingdom-of-God people, or as New Creation people, as Christ’s body on Earth. Jesus calls us to be the agents to do the work of bringing God’s Kingdom to Earth as in Heaven, until the time when God will complete the task. That is our purpose and what gives our lives ultimate meaning.

That then sums up the narrative of the Scriptures as seen through the concept of the Promised Land. We can see all four stages from firstly “The Garden of Eden,” secondly a small piece of land in the Middle East, thirdly the whole world, and ultimately the Promised Land will become all things in Heaven and on Earth, under the reign of the Servant King, Jesus of Nazareth.



Parish of Central Saanich Annual General Meeting

by Ken Pedlow

The Parish of Central Saanich held its Annual General Meeting on Sunday, February 25, 2024, at 12:00 pm following both a 10:00 am joint service at St Mary and a potluck lunch. It was chaired by the Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego. 47 parishioners were in attendance according to the Registrar and a quorum was declared. The Agenda, Committee Reports, Financial Reports and Budgets were presented as per the packages distributed to parishioners electronically the previous week. An amended page 28 of the report was distributed at the meeting.

The meeting opened with prayer and a land acknowledgement. Lon reviewed procedural matters, indicated that no questions had been submitted prior to the meeting and requested that people with questions during the meeting should make use of the handheld microphone available. This was followed by prayers for those who had died over the past year. David Cooper requested an addition to the agenda regarding a status report on the parish governance issue raised at last year's AGM. The minutes of the previous AGM were approved.

The meeting then dealt with the process of appointment and nomination of the 2024 parish representatives. The Parish Leadership Team for 2024 is as follows:

Rector's Wardens: Lynda Clifford (St. Stephen) and Ian Stuart (St. Mary)

People's Wardens: Robert (Bob) Buchanan (St. Stephen) and Ken Pedlow (St Mary)

Council Members: Lynn Fallan and Judi Clark (St. Mary)
Terry Hartley, Sandra Scarth and Gary Moss (St. Stephen)
Jacob Shoesmith (Youth Representative)

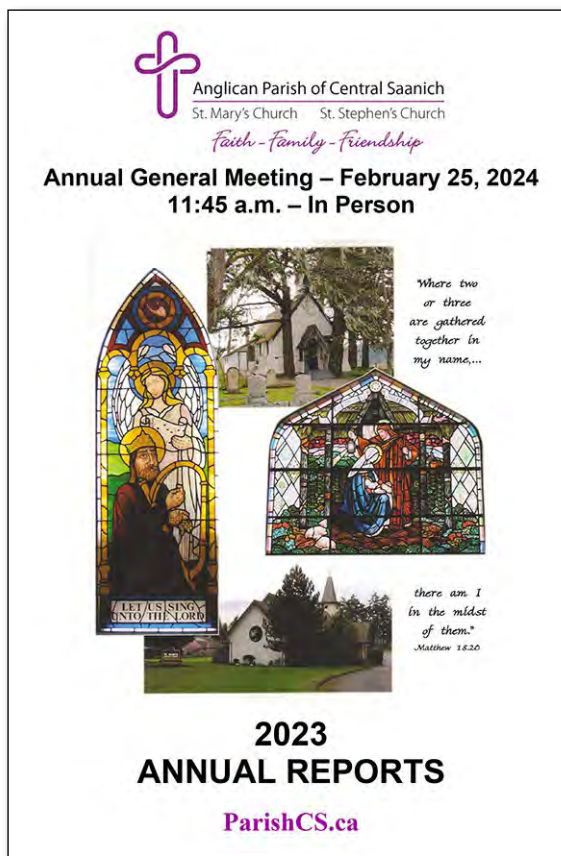
Synod Delegates: Karen McColm (St. Mary)
Don Wilson (St. Stephen)
Ken Pedlow (alt)

Parish Treasurer: Ken Pedlow (Acting)

The Envelope Secretaries are Lynda Clifford (St Stephen) and Judi Clark (St Mary).

The Financial Reviewers for 2024 are Don Wilson (St Stephen) and Karen McColm (St Mary).

The non-financial reports and the outreach motions for each church were reviewed and accepted as presented.



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Parish of Central Saanich AGM *continued*

“*It was felt that much thanks was due to the parishioners for their generous support of the parish during 2023.*”

The second half of the meeting was spent reviewing the 2023 finances for the St Stephen cemetery, the Parish of Central Saanich joint account, the St. Mary financial statements, the St. Stephen financial statements and the 2024 budgets for each entity. The Cemetery Custodian, Howie Kolson, presented information regarding plans for the cemetery in 2024. Some comments and questions were raised and were answered by representatives of each entity. Questions and concerns were raised about the use of the two ways of presenting the 2024 budgets for each church. After some discussion, the vestry voted to stick with only the format which showed a proposed deficit for each. The financial statements and budgets for both churches were passed. It was felt that much thanks was due to the parishioners for their generous support of the parish during 2023.

Lon addressed the issue of the governance review of the parish by saying that a number of steps have been taken to bring the two churches closer together from where they were 14 years ago and that this gradual approach would continue. The structure and operation of the parish is one primarily for the parish itself to determine without undue direction from the Diocese.

During the meeting, expressions of thanks were extended in writing in the information package to many who have worked so hard this year to administer the parish including the parish clergy, wardens, parish council, office administrator, music leaders and the many parishioners who undertake a wide variety of tasks to keep the operation of the parish functioning effectively. Thanks were extended to David Cooper as he retires from Parish Council and to Deb Butler retiring as People's Warden at St. Stephen.

The Installation of Officers was scheduled for both services on March 3, 2024.

As the meeting drew to a close David Scarth asked about funding to erect a marker commemorating Black pioneers buried at St Stephen. This is being dealt with by the Cemetery Board and is in the process of being implemented.

Thanks were extended to the Rector for his leadership over the past year.

The meeting concluded at 1:06pm with a prayer from Rev. Gil Shoesmith.

Thank you, Padre

By Bishop Logan



In one of the parishes I served in this Diocese of Islands and Inlets, I was honoured to get to know The Rev. Dr. Douglas Kendell. Dougie, as I called him, had served in World War 1 with the Black Watch. By the time of World War 2 he had become the chaplain to the Montreal Black Watch. Dougie had said to me one day “Logan, you will have many titles in your life but the one that will mean the most to you will be Padre.” This title is given from the heart from a ship’s company, an army unit, air squad or the RCMP. The importance of having a padre attached to a unit can never be underestimated because it brings a whole new dimension to the group.

When living on Howe Street in Victoria we had neighbours in a couple named Bert and Betty Cowan. Bert was a retired RCMP officer. He was a part of the retired group of RCMP veterans in Victoria. I was then the serving Bishop of this Diocese. He asked if I was interested in it, or if I knew someone who might be interested in becoming the chaplain to their unit. I suggested a young clergy of the diocese who did an admirable job until he had to move out of the area. It was after that the work passed on to another diocesan clergy who was Lon Towstego.

On Thursday December 7, 2023, I was honoured to be invited to a luncheon at Colwood Golf Club in Langford. It was the Christmas gathering of the retired RCMP officers and the International Police Association. I was invited by The Venerable Dr. Lon Towstego and The Rev. Gil Shoesmith who both serve as chaplains to the organisation. Gil is a retired RCMP officer and a serving deacon in this diocese. Lon is an active parish priest and an archdeacon in this diocese. At the event Lon was being honoured with the gift of a stole. The stole was an amazing piece of art which included RCMP badges, RCMP tartan and First Nation’s designs. A stole within the church has a number of symbols but the one I particularly like is that of being yoked to Christ. The image is that of two oxen yoked together and sharing the load that they carry. We are not alone in ministry for Christ is with us enabling, encouraging and assisting in the bearing of burdens. The symbol also applies to the group that the chaplain ministers with. They are also yoked together bearing the loads and the burdens. It is obvious that is how the RCMP

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Thank you, Padre *continued*

“... the title of Padre is given from the heart from a very grateful people.”

veterans see Lon's role with them. When gathered we could watch Lon's quiet presence touching many and offering care. This past year has been a difficult time for the group with many losses of members and situations that have needed pastoral care. Lon's ministry at these times impacted many. He walked with them supporting, encouraging and consoling. Because of the importance of this work, they gave Lon the honour of "Veteran of the Year". He was given a trophy that depicted a mounted officer on horseback. Lon's name will be inscribed on a plaque along with those who had been honoured before him.

As I sat at the luncheon and watched Lon ministering to this group of RCMP veterans two things came to mind. The first was the importance of work for clergy outside the parish. We are not called to be administrators or building superintendents as clergy. Our call, primarily, is the care of folk. It is a call to offer pastoral care. Yes, we do this within our parish settings but when we are participating with a group outside of the congregation and with those of various faiths or of no faith we are about a very important piece of work. We are doing what I believe God has called us to do. Second, was how much these folk appreciated and honoured Lon's presence. I feel that sometimes in the church our ministry is taken for granted unless one experiences it first-hand at times of illness, death or crisis. We do not become clergy for the accolades or praises, but it is good for the soul when we receive recognition outside of the organised church.

Dougie was correct. We can be called Deacon, Archdeacon or Bishop but the title of Padre is given from the heart from a very grateful people.

CONNEXION
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Looking Back...

December 2015



An account of the first Wine Fest, held on August 29, 2015, was featured in the year-end edition of ConneXion.

More on page 22

Around the Parish

by Ken Pedlow

The past three months have been another busy and eventful time in the life of the Parish. Here are some of the highlights during this winter period.

On Saturday December 2nd, Cooper Hall at St. Mary was full of excited children as the annual Saanichton Community Christmas/Pancake Breakfast/Photos with Santa Event took place. There was a much bigger attendance than in the year before and the fire truck with its ladder extended at the entrance to the parking lot was a huge draw.

On December 7th the **Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego** attended a Christmas gathering of the retired RCMP officers and the International Police Association. As a chaplain of the group, Lon was honoured as “Veteran of the Year” and received a trophy. He was also gifted a beautiful new stole which he subsequently wore at church. See Bishop Logan’s article in this issue for further details on this event.

On Saturday December 16th the Victoria Gilbert and Sullivan Society put on a concert of Victorian Christmas Carols at St Mary. **Michael Denton** and **Rachel Moss**, members of the parish, are heavily involved in this group and despite some health issues on the part of the choir members it was a great success.

On Saturday December 23rd the Vox Humana Chamber Choir succeeded in putting on the Child’s Christmas in Wales by Dylan Thomas presentation at St. Mary. The past few years have not been kind to this event due to Covid and weather-related cancellations. This popular event has been greatly missed during this time.

The Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services in the parish were well attended and it was nice to have the weather cooperate for once by keeping any snow where it should be on the mountains.

The start of the new year saw **Joanne Lambert** begin her time as the Church Musician at St Mary and as part of the music team at St. Stephen. Joanne has extensive experience in Anglican worship having spent over 30 years as the music leader at Holy Trinity, North Saanich. She has already begun the development of an ensemble/choir at St Mary and so far, has been very well received by the congregation. Welcome, Joanne!

The parish was sad to hear that **Marian Towstego’s** sister,

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Parish members seen at the Victorian Christmas Carol Concert



Judy Rowell, passed away on December 31, 2023. Lon officiated at the funeral which took place in Vancouver on January 22nd.

On Sunday January 14th the funeral for **Mel Townley** was held at St. Mary. Mel's son, **Jim Townley**, has had a long association with St Mary as part of the various Saanichton business community events hosted by the church. Mel's wife **Barbara Townley** has become a new member since the funeral, and it is great to have her as part of the congregation.

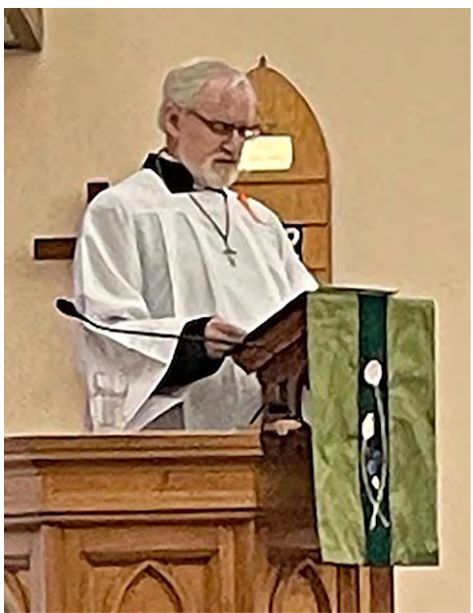
The church services on January 21st were disrupted by the recent heavy snowfall. As St. Stephen was inaccessible due to snow the decision was made to hold just one service at 9:00 a.m. at St Mary. Parishioners had to make their way through a slushy parking lot to attend as arrangements to clear the lot were not made in time.

A dessert evening/slide show took place on January 24 at St. Mary's church hall. The **Rev. Dr Brett Cane** presented his photos of Cappadocia and his Aegean Cruise last year. A good time was had by all as usual. See Cane's Corner in this issue for more details.

On January 28th our Parish Priest, Lon, had to go to Galiano Island as part of his duties as Regional Archdeacon. The plan was to have morning prayer services for a change at each church. The 9:00 a.m. service, at St Mary, was led by **Ian Stuart** and went off without a hitch. The planned 11:15 a.m. service at St. Stephen, to be followed by a potluck lunch, was not so fortunate. Heavy rain the previous evening had washed out a part of Mt Newton X Road right at the driveway into St. Stephen creating a sinkhole. Initially access to the church was blocked in both directions and the decision was made to cancel the service but it soon became possible to access the church from the Saanichton direction and people slowly arrived as phone messages went out from those already in attendance. Eventually the informal morning prayer service took place at 12:00 noon with 17 in attendance led by **Ken Pedlow**. This service, now known as "Sinkhole Sunday", turned out to be a great success and it was followed by a most enjoyable potluck lunch. Thanks to all who overcame the challenge of getting there. Sometimes life makes it difficult to worship as we would wish so it was nice to see the positive response of those who made the commitment to attend under difficult circumstances.

On February 10th a large number of Central Saanich parishioners drove up to The Anglican Parish of St. Phillip,

continued on page 21



Ian Stuart at Morning Prayer

Around the Parish *continued*



The ordination of Leslie Flynn

Cedar to attend the ordination of **Leslie Flynn** to the Sacred Order of Priest. Leslie was a theological intern at our parish a couple of years ago and she was very pleased to see so many of us attending the service which was held in such an historic locale. The beautiful and meaningful service was followed by a wonderful lunch reception in the church hall.

On Tuesday February 13th the parish held its Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at St Mary. A delicious meal of pancakes and sausages was prepared by **Ian** and **Daniel Stuart** and **Gary Dawson**, with the assistance of many others helping with setup and clean up. It was a great lead up to Lent.

February 14th saw Ash Wednesday services at both St. Mary and St. Stephen, and both were well attended. The symbolic placing of ashes from the previous year's palm crosses on the foreheads of those in the congregation who wish it is always a very moving event.

After a break in December, men's breakfasts have taken place at St. Stephen on Saturday mornings at 9:30 in both January and February with a wonderful selection of breakfast items prepared by **Gary Moss** and **Ian Stuart**. On January 27th the speaker at the breakfast was **Frank Woods** talking about the work of the Justice Van Society which provides a mobile service to Victoria's street community, offering food, supplies, support and encouragement to this population. On February 24th **Anthony Hendricks** of St. Andrew's, Sidney was the speaker talking about his draft personal theological manuscript which is being developed based on his own journey of faith. Discussion and input followed his presentation.

Two study options have been made available to the parish during the start of 2024. The first was the Invite, Welcome and Connect book study based on the book by Mary Palmer. A small group of people from both congregations met at St. Stephen, under the leadership of the **Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego** to explore ways to improve our parish's evangelism and pastoral care to newcomers.

The second study was Anglicanism 101 which is still underway on Wednesday mornings in Cooper Hall at St. Mary. It is led by the **Rt. Rev. Dr. Logan McMenamie** and our Priest, **Lon**, and is aimed at teaching us more about how our Christian faith is expressed through Anglican Liturgy and Praxis. This group comprises a broad spectrum of individuals from both within and outside the parish.



Recipe Page: Orange Kiwi Bread

Submitted by Nancy Choat

I was given a bag of 12 kiwis along with this recipe for Christmas. I decided to try it and it made 2 loaves. To ripen the kiwis, I left them on the counter for 3 weeks and they ripened nicely. Leaving them in the brown bag with an apple would speed up the ripening. Because slices of kiwi bread tend to be bland tasting, I serve it with a coulis of raspberry or fruit sauce. Ice cream would also be good! This bread freezes well.

Ingredients

- 2 cups of all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup of salted butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 2/3 cup white sugar. Brown sugar would add to the flavour
- 1 cup (6) peeled and mashed kiwis

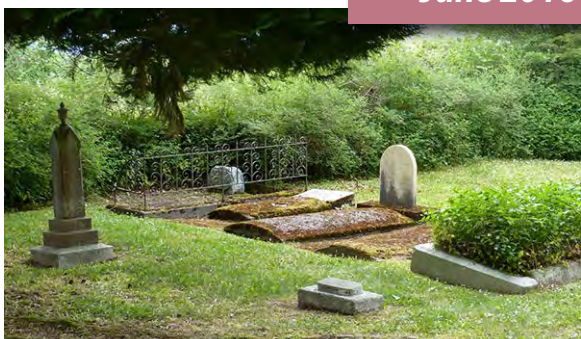
Directions

- 1) Preheat oven to 350 and grease a 9 by 5 by 3-inch loaf pan. My loaf pan was stainless steel.
- 2) Combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt and set aside.
- 3) In a large bowl, cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. (for about 5 minutes at medium speed using an electric mixer). Stir in the mashed kiwis. Fold in the dry ingredients, stirring ONLY until the mixture is completely moistened. It will be on the dry side.
- 4) Spoon the batter into the loaf pan and bake for 50 minutes.
- 5) Cool for 10 minutes on a wire rack. Remove from pan and continue cooling.

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Looking Back...

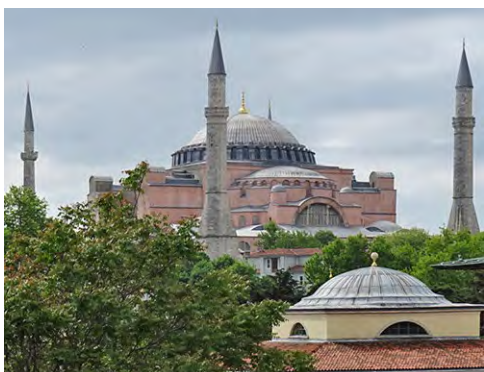
June 2016



A photo from
Stories of
St Stephen's
cemetery

The long-running series “Stories from St Stephen’s Cemetery”, by Ruth MacKay and David Scarth came to an end, with the passing of Ruth. The following issue of ConneXion saw the beginning of Brett Cane’s travel stories, which continue to the present time. The June ConneXion also included an account of the baptism of several parishioners at Island View Beach.

Left and below: Photos from
Brett’s first travelogue



Baptism at Island View Beach



More on page 23

September 2017

The third annual Wine Fest included a special guest, Her Honour Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of BC, shown in the centre of the middle photo below.



November 2017

Many changes occurred in the third quarter of 2017. Pastor Rob Szo left the parish and John and Sue Smith relocated to Campell River. Ken Pedlow became Editor of ConneXion and Sandra Scarth took over doing Parish Profiles.



March 2019

Saturday, February 2, 2019 witnessed the celebration of a new ministry at the Parish with the induction service for our Rector, Rev. Lon Towstego. Some 150 people attended the service and enjoyed refreshments and conversation in the hall after the service.



A Word of Thanks

Thank you to all who have contributed to the ConneXion over the years, including editors, writers, photographers and the technical expertise of John Beresford. This parish newsletter could not exist without the participation and cooperation of so many. We are always looking for material from new contributors so if you have anything you would like to see in future issues please contact me. Thank You!

Ken Pedlow 250-656-6302 ken.pedlow@shaw.ca

Anglican Parish of Central Saanich Directory

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego 250-208-9949 ltowstego@bc.anglican.ca

Parish Council: Ex Officio

Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

Rev. Gil Shoesmith

Rector's Wardens: St. Mary
St. Stephen

Ian Stuart, istuart@parishcs.ca

Lynda Clifford, lgcliff@shaw.ca

People's Wardens: St. Mary
St. Stephen

Ken Pedlow, ken.pedlow@shaw.ca

Robert (Bob) Buchanan, rjbuchanan6201@gmail.com

Members: St. Mary
St. Stephen

Judi Clark, Lynn Fallan

Terry Hartley, Gary Moss, Sandra Scarth

Youth Representative:

Jacob Shoesmith

Synod Delegates: St. Mary
St. Stephen

Karen McColm, Ken Pedlow, (alt)

Don Wilson

Leslie Pedlow is primarily at the St Mary's office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm.

At the St. Stephen Church office, **Lon Towstego** will be in the office on Fridays from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon.

Please call or email your respective office for the most up-to-date information on their availability and access to the office.