

# ANGLICAN LIFE

NEWSPAPER OF THE THREE ANGLICAN DIOCESES IN  
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

A Section of the ANGLICAN JOURNAL

December 2020



## Bishop Geoffrey Peddle

1 January 1961 - 8 October 2020

Photo by Emily F. Rowe

# The Rt. Rev'd Dr. Geoffrey Ralph Curtis Peddle

## Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador

We are heartbroken to announce the sudden passing of our beloved Geoff – husband, father, grandfather, brother, servant, Priest and Bishop – but mostly friend, and above all, a child of God. His life and his work exemplified his favourite words from the Prophet Micah: “What does the Lord require of you but to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

Geoff was born in Bonavista and was a proud Newfoundlander and Labradorian – he loved both places and he was honoured to serve and minister as Priest and Bishop in Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador.

He is predeceased by his parents Ralph and Jean Peddle, sister Kathryn, brother-in-law Arch, in-laws Fred and Stella Hayter, and brothers-in-law David and Vince.

Leaving to mourn and to give thanksgiving for his life are his wife Kathy, son Adam and daughter-in-law Magdalena, precious

granddaughter Josefina, and son Benjamin. Also leaving to mourn are his brothers Gerry (Elsie), Leslie (Bernice), his sister Sandra, and their families, brothers-in-law Fred (Liz), Jim (Angie), Ray (Cathie) and sisters-in-law Marie (David), Elaine, Phyllis (Hubert), Doreen (Phil) and their families, as well as the Curda family in the Czech Republic. Also mourning his loss are his Synod Office and Church families, including fellow Bishops, Priests and Deacons, the parishioners throughout his beloved Diocese, and many colleagues worldwide. He leaves a wide circle of dear friends including Peter and Jan, Leslie and Sue, Dan, Cindy, Derm (Anne deceased), Andrew and Amy, Sam and Jill, Ed and Claudia, Jonell (Larry deceased), Hilda (Bruce deceased), Rick, and Sisters Elizabeth Davis and Geraldine Mason of the Sisters of Mercy Congregation.

Cremation has taken place. There is no visitation at this time and a funeral

service will be planned for when friends and family can gather. Please give thanksgiving for Geoff's life by taking the time to speak with a friend, to share a coffee, drink or meal together, enjoy a good book or a bad movie, or take a walk in nature – all the things Geoff loved. Be kind to one another. May there be many moments of grace for us all as we make our way through these bewildering and sorrowful days. Even though Geoff's light has changed- it is still everywhere and in every place.

Donations in Geoff's memory would be welcomed to any of the projects he supported: The Home Again Furniture Bank, The Food Sharing Association, Roots of Empathy, Godly Play Canada, or the PWRDF.

*This obituary originally appeared on the website for Carnell's Funeral Home at:*

[www.carnells.com](http://www.carnells.com)



Photo by Emily F. Rowe

ANGLICAN LIFE in Newfoundland and Labrador is the newspaper of the Anglican Church of Canada in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. A co-operative effort of the three Dioceses in Newfoundland and Labrador, it publishes ten issues each year with an independent editorial policy.

Anglican Life is a section of the Anglican Journal  
Editor:

Mrs. Emily F. Rowe  
3 Carpasian Rd.  
St. John's, NL  
A1C 3T9  
Email: [anglicanlifeNL@gmail.com](mailto:anglicanlifeNL@gmail.com)

Advertising Rates and other information may be obtained from:

The Rev'd Fred Marshall  
19 King's Bridge Road, St. John's, NL  
A1C 3K4  
Phone: (709) 727-4346  
Email: [fred.marshall@nljointcommittee.com](mailto:fred.marshall@nljointcommittee.com)

Paid Subscription Rates:  
Newfoundland and Labrador: \$15.00  
Outside the province: \$20.00  
International: \$25.00

Layout & Design by: The Editor  
Printed and Mailed by:  
Webnews Printing Inc.  
8 High Meadow Place  
North York, ON, M9L 2Z5

Individuals are responsible for subscribing to Anglican Life and for maintaining their subscriptions. Please let the Circulation Department at the Anglican Journal know of any address changes, or if you wish to get or discontinue getting Anglican Life.

New subscriptions, cancellations, & address changes should be sent to:

Circulation Department  
The Anglican Journal  
80 Hayden Street, Toronto, ON, M4Y 3G2  
(416) 924-9192 (O) (416) 925-8811 (fax)  
Email: [circulation@national.anglican.ca](mailto:circulation@national.anglican.ca)

Letters to the Editor:

Send to the Editor by email or post. Anglican Life does not publish letters from anonymous writers. Letters should not exceed 300 words, are subject to editing, and are published at the discretion of the editor.

Photographs:

Send to the Editor by email or post. If sending by email, please send as separate files, not embedded in other documents, and in the largest file size possible.

These policies were adopted by the Anglican Life Committee.

**ANGLICAN LIFE**  
NEWSPAPER OF THE THREE ANGLICAN DIOCESES IN  
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

# Christmas Pudding

Ashley Ruby  
Columnist

As this paper goes to print a whole month in advance of its publication, I often struggle to find words that I feel sure will remain relevant from the time I write them down to the time you read them. Our world is changing so very quickly as of late, making it even harder to know what will be true both today and tomorrow. While I was ruminating on this complaint, I thought of something much sweeter—Christmas puddings!



A traditional part of a Newfoundland Christmas dinner is the Christmas pudding. My grandmother often mentions, when she goes to make the pudding for us, how her father made the pudding when she was small. “He never had a recipe,” she says, “Just made it off the top of his head. A little of this and a little of that.” Many recipes call for a spoonful of cinnamon and a handful of raisins, baked or boiled into a denchy and delicious little pud, that adds a special spicy warmth to the meal. (The Newfoundland word “denchy” refers to something that is still moist and not over cooked). Many recipes, however, require the pudding be made well in advance and re-heated on the day of.

Traditionally, these puddings are mixed up on “Stir-Up Sunday”—the last Sunday before the season of Advent begins, when the words of the collect for the day begin, “Stir up, we beseech Thee, the wills of Thy faithful people.” After these long months

of sitting and waiting out the passage of the COVID-19 pandemic, and with no real end in sight, we all have a need to stir ourselves up. As the days blend into one another, Advent is a beautiful time to take the reins of the season and claim our time back by living liturgically and diligently marking the course time as it passes, with such little pleasures as mixing up the Christmas pudding on a special day.

These practices offer us several opportunities. Firstly, we are invited to deepen our knowledge of scripture and of the Anglican tradition by drawing our eyes to the passages traditions like Stir-Up Sunday derive from. Secondly, as we connect to the divine through the scripture, we are connected to the daily lives of our ancestors by participating in traditional practices that occur outside of church. And thirdly, we are invited to connect more within our family units (chosen family counts, too!) in little activities such as these in a time when our smallest circles have become integral. This experience illuminates personal and family ritual and devotion, and out of necessity, elevates them to a place of spiritual importance akin to the Eucharist. We have been sitting in a different kind of darkness for quite some time. Now more than ever we need to clear the gloom from our minds, dust off the mantle of our hearts, and prepare within ourselves a sufficient home where such a mighty guest may come. We should mark these days gracefully and joyfully, and not wish or worry them away. There is a peaceful joy to living in God’s time—especially when there is pudding at the end!



left to right: Josie Walters, Margaret Payne, Dale Decker, Dorcas Shears, Linda Parsons, and Cynthia Hynes.

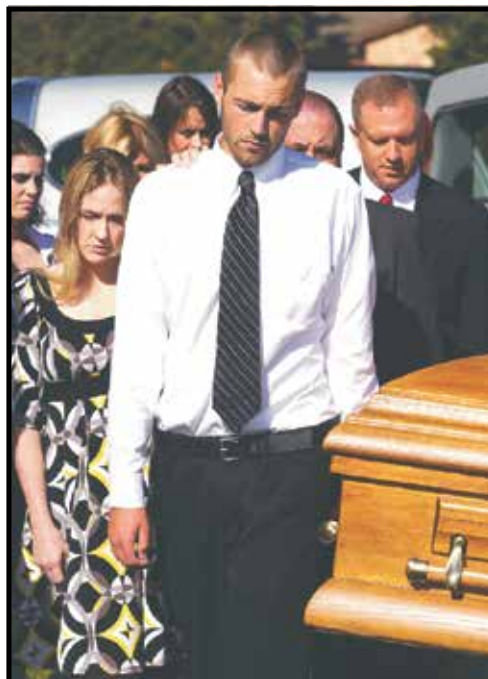
## Thanksgiving in Rocky Harbour

Article and photograph by  
Dale Decker

With COVID-19 not allowing St. Matthew’s, Rocky Harbour, to have our traditional Thanksgiving celebrations this year—a display/sale of goods and a jigs dinner—members of vestry decided to do something a little different to say “thank you” to those attending the Thanksgiving service Sunday, October 11th, 2020.

Pictured on the right is the table of packaged muffins for each family to take as they leave the Thanksgiving service. Pictured above are several of the ladies who helped make this treat possible.

Many thanks to all who assisted in any way. Happy Thanksgiving 2020!



### Important Facts About

## Meaningful Funerals

The funeral ritual has been a time-honoured tradition but as society changes there are those who question its necessity and purpose. So why do we have funerals? To get an answer to this question and insight respecting the funeral ritual please call today to receive your **FREE** copy of our new booklet on Meaningful Funerals.



722-2730 (Freshwater Rd)  
747-7740 (Mt. Pearl)  
www.carnells.com

# Bishop Organ's Christmas Message

The Rt. Rev'd John Organ  
Bishop  
Western Newfoundland

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2)*

There are times when darkness seems stronger than light; when there is more chaos than order; more sadness than joy, and more tragedy than triumph. The year 2020 seems to be such a time. It is, as Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, said of another year, an *annus horribilis*; and not just a bad year but indeed a terrifying year. COVID-19, the global pandemic, has brought the world its worst plague in a century, with millions of people infected and more than a million lives lost. Sadly, the stress and strain and darkness caused by this virus may have negatively impacted many others in ways hidden from us.

The Book of Isaiah spans a long and difficult period for the people of God in the Land of the Holy One. Darkness was the prophet's way of describing it—"the people walked in darkness." Day by day, and year by year, the land fell into "deeper and deeper darkness," until the kingdoms of the north and south were in ruins, the people sent into exile, and Jerusalem and her glorious temple burnt to the ground.

The Bible does not provide easy solutions to difficult times. Indeed, scripture acknowledges that life is difficult and that there are often "dark times," and "deep hurts." The Book of Job in the Old Testament is an extraordinary testimony to human tragedy, loss, and suffering and that in tough times it is appropriate to ask tough questions. In the New Testament, Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, had to flee for their lives or risk harm from King Herod.

There are times of

darkness. There can be terrible years. 2020 is such a year and time. It is a year with a perfect number but it is not a perfect year. The darkness of COVID-19 is real. Our way of life can be threatened and even taken away. It is necessary to be



Photo by E. Rowe



Photo by J. Rowe

watchful and vigilant.

Into this darkness, and into all other moments and times of darkness, there is a light that shines and it is brighter than the darkest darkness. It is the light of Christmas! It is the light of love!

Out of the ashes of Isaiah's time there arose a new and unquenchable light. Into the darkness light broke through and a new day dawned. It was eternal light birthed by an everlasting Son:

*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named*

*Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)*

In Jesus there is light, said St. John, and the darkness has not been able to extinguish it:

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1:1-5)*

St. Luke tells us of the frightened shepherds and the calming of their fear:

*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11)*

The good news of great joy is the love of God in Jesus Christ and it is for all people everywhere; it is love that lightens the world and brings us to the eternal day. Christmas is the answer to the world's darkness; here begins a light force that will conquer all darkness, even the darkness of death. Easter's trumpets herald the song of the angels represented atop our Christmas trees. As our Lord said to the disciples, so he says to you and to me, "Love one another." (John 13:30) "God is love." (1 John 4:8) Love is light. Let the light of Christmas shine on you and let the love of God in Jesus' birth within you hope, joy, peace, and love, even amidst life's difficult and dark times.

+ John, Western Newfoundland



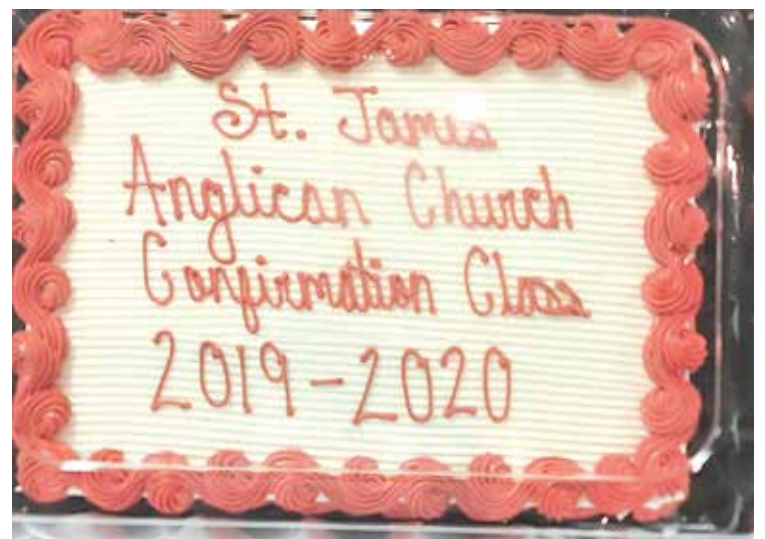
Left to right: Emily Edwards, the Rev'd Jane Allen, Cameron Mauger, Ava Strickland, Caleb Lane, Connor Lane, Johnathan Collier, Bishop John Organ, and Kiley Renouf

## Confirmation Held in Port aux Basques

Submitted with photographs by  
Lisa Brown

On Sunday, October 25th at 7pm, Bishop John Organ visited St. James the Apostle in Port aux Basques to administer the

sacrament of confirmation to seven confirmands. Congratulations and best wishes on your confirmation!



### Over 44 Years of Experience in the Blacksmith Trade

Specializing in:

- INTERIOR & EXTERIOR RAILING
- WINDOW SHUTTERS
- GRAVEYARD & CHURCH RAILING
- SURVEYOR RODS
- BLACKSMITH REQUIREMENTS
- CROWBARS
- GRAPNELS
- SHEET METAL IRON WORK
- HORSESHOE MAKING

FOR THE FINEST GENERAL & ORNAMENTAL IRONWORK, BEAUTIFULLY DESIGNED TO SUIT YOUR NEEDS.

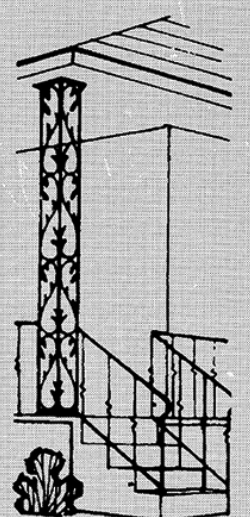
Contact our New Location:

**Coady's Metal Works Limited**

110 LIME ST., ST. JOHN'S, NFLD.

(Opp. McKinlay Motors)  
(Formerly Peter Pan Sales Bldg.)

Dial 753-0121 (Bus.) P.O. Box 971 437-6872 (Res.)



# Taking Comfort From Kindness And Passing It On

Emily F. Rowe  
Editor

The Christmas and Easter print issues of *Anglican Life* always have greetings from all three of the bishops from this province, but this year there will only be two. The Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador is in shock, and we grieve the loss of our bishop, Geoffrey Peddle. His sudden and tragic death has left a hole in the diocese and also in the province, as we lost a leader who championed many basic human rights, and felt a great responsibility to make the world a better place for all.

If you'll indulge me, I will share a memory of Geoff from the time of my job interview for Editor of *Anglican Life*. He encouraged me to apply for the position, and met with me in his office just before the interview. The interview itself was a bit intimidating: four bishops (as Bishop Young was the Joint Committee Officer at that time), three archdeacons, and me. I was the only woman, the only one not in holy orders, and the only one who was not a native Newfoundlander. Geoff talked to me beforehand,

saying, "I believe you can do this. I'm on your side—now sell it to the others." That was huge.

There were many times when Geoff made time to talk with me, and I always appreciated his kindness to me and my family. When we bought our first house, we invited him to do the house blessing; I know how pleased he and his wife, Kathy, were to be here with us that night.

Looking back through past Christmas issues of *Anglican Life*, I read two of Bishop Geoff's messages in particular that I want to quote. The first is from Christmas 2017, and in it he wrote about the Godly Play nativity figures. It was no secret that Godly Play played a huge part in Geoff's life, and he wrote about how Kathy loves the way that the sturdy wooden nativity figures are there in the Godly Play room, available for the children to handle and wonder about. He wrote about how many people and churches have nativity scenes with fragile figures that are out of bounds for children, but with these ones we can say, "This is for you! The Holy Family is your family!" And this

idea expanded to all of us, not just children: this Holy Family that we meet in the Christmas story belongs to us all—a wonderful mystery for us all to hold in our hearts as we look back on an event that happened more than 2,000 years ago.

Then in 2018, Bishop Geoff quoted Thomas Merton, who wrote that, "Christ is born in us today in order that he may appear to the whole world through us." Geoff wrote that whenever we show acts of love and kindness, Christ is born in the world. That's something that must always be true for those of us in the Church, even as things pivot and change.

Our Anglican Church is in a time of transition. As Advent begins, so does a new season for our faith; a season in which we know for certain that change is upon us. For a very long time, we grew and we grew, but now we have been in decline for most of my lifetime; the COVID-19 crisis has hastened us along our way. But I don't see this as "the beginning of the end" at all. We will see change—we see it already—and some of our old ways will end (or




are even ending now). But, as you will see our own Rob Cooke argue in this month's *Anglican Journal*, endings are always wrapped up in beginnings, and we can then discern where God is leading us. So often in this life, I have had family and friends who have reached the stage of life where they "downsize," and it can be for many reasons. Invariably, I have heard people say something along the lines of, "When it was time to move on, I realized which things were really important to me, and which ones had outlived their usefulness, and which I could let go of." I think that's where we are right now. We need to identify which things we need to keep, and let the other things go, because we

don't need them anymore.

The things that are really important are the things that then get passed down, and that stay with us for future generations. In the church, that is our faith and willingness to walk in the way of Christ. We have inherited so many wonderful things, and we will keep them as we continue into the future. Things feel very uncertain some days, but I have great hope for the future of our Church.

As we move forward, I will always be thankful to have had Bishop Geoff in my life, and in the life of my family. I fondly remember the kindness that he showed, through which Christ was born in the world. Let's pass down that kindness to the future, too.

**SMITH**  
INDUSTRIAL



**STOCKLEY LTD.**  
SUPPLIES

**DISTRIBUTORS FOR:**

- ✓ Domestic Commercial & Institutional Plumbing Fixtures
- ✓ Propane Parts & Appliances
- ✓ Fiberglass Modular Tubs & Showers
- ✓ Water Heaters
- ✓ Victaulic Fittings & Valves
- ✓ Steel & Brass Valves

- ✓ Oil Tanks
- ✓ Safety Valves
- ✓ Pressure Reducing Valves
- ✓ Gauges & Thermometers
- ✓ Manson Canada Ltd. Pipe and Duct Insulation
- ✓ Steel Pipe & Welding Fittings
- ✓ Stainless Steel Pipe & Fittings
- ✓ Copper Tubing
- ✓ PVC Pipe & Fittings
- ✓ Septic Tanks

P.O. Box 1387  
264 LEMARCHANT ROAD  
ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND

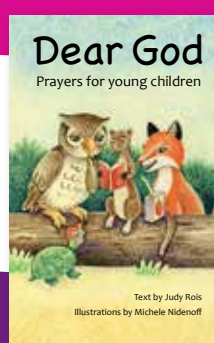
**PHONE: 579-0073**

**FAX: 579-1437**

## Anglican Life is on Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/anglicanlife](https://www.facebook.com/anglicanlife)

- more local stories
- links to parish online worship and prayer groups during the COVID-19 pandemic
- more stories from the National and International Church
- links the latest updates on our website



Receive a free festive stocking when you order a copy of *Dear God* (while supplies last).

[anglicanfoundation.org](https://anglicanfoundation.org)

ANGLICAN  
FOUNDATION OF CANADA



*Anglican Life welcomes the Rev'd Fred Marshall, Officer of the Anglican Joint Committee, as a guest columnist for the next few months. Rev'd Fred will be contributing a six-part series over the next six months. The series is entitled "What the Spirit is Saying to The Church," and were originally written for a course at Queen's College called Growing Into Faith.*

# What the Spirit is Saying to The Church

## Faith Focused Christian Education

The Rev'd Fred Marshall  
Guest Columnist

*"Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who maintains covenant loyalty with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations."*  
Deuteronomy 7:9

In their book "Passing on the Faith: A Radical Model for Youth and Family Ministry," authors Strommen and Hardel suggest eight essential practices required for a faith-focused Christian education with suggestions on what a congregation can do to enable each.

**A Personal Christ** What Strommen and Hardel call, "The clear purpose of a Christian education is to help every person to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ." Helping others identify with a personal God lets them discover that God hears them and forgives them; that they have been in God's presence and have a sense of being saved and heard by God. Coming to know Jesus as Saviour and Lord has a life shaping effect. Many young people are troubled with faith related questions.

**Congregations do** Teachers of Christian faith must have a personal relationship with Christ. We must discover where young people are on their faith journey. Congregations can facilitate one-on-one faith conversations between adults and youth to discuss the questions, doubts, and uncertainties of their faith.

**Grace Orientation** Many people assume that "following the law" is the way to be accepted by God. Law orientation can lead to Christianity been interpreted as a religion of expectations, demands, or requirements. People misunderstand that it is not what they do, or have not

done, but what God has, is and will do for them. They tend to have self-oriented values, prejudiced attitudes, lack a sense of mission, and live outside a personal relationship with Jesus. Alternatively, grace orientation is based on believing what God has done and promises to do. An orientation of grace is an attitude of forgiveness and charity towards others and one's self.

**Congregations can** Teach the age appropriate concepts of grace at a level everyone can understand. Show God's reconciliation, forgiveness and acceptance made available through Jesus Christ. Encourage a spirit of openness and freedom and facilitate discussion to express doubts, concerns, and beliefs which help capture the spirit of grace and the meaning of acceptance by God. Focus on the enabling power of Jesus using prayer as a way of seeking his guidance and help encourage a grace orientation. Encourage interest in the bible for all ages to learn God's love.

### Pray with children

Children learn to pray best when they pray with their primary caregivers and experience prayer as a valued spiritual discipline.

**Congregations can** - Teach and demonstrate times for prayer: mornings, meals, bedtimes, and special occasions; types of prayer: acknowledging God's greatness, thanksgiving for blessings, requests for forgiveness, requests for healing; and different ways of prayer for families: in private, with others, at home, school, work, or nature.

### Moral Responsibility

Values and beliefs shape children's attitudes and behaviours. We need



Image by Monkey Business Images from www.shutterstock.com

a moral compass with respect to ethical and moral issues.

**Congregations can** Parents and congregations must be intentional in teaching the meaning of moral and social values. All Christians, especially those teaching, need to be aware that their attitudes, comments, and actions all communicate a value orientation that young people sense and cultivate.

### Welcome Ethnic Diversity

We need to welcome into our fellowship and friendship those who come from other cultures and ethnic groups. We need to understand how people of different cultures and ethnicity feel when they enter into our culture.

**Congregations can** Welcome people from other cultural and ethnic backgrounds with an intention to understand, respect and appreciate their ways and values. Develop an outreach plan.

**Youth in Service** - Jesus said "Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant." (Matthew 20:26 NRSV) The service mindset of those following the ways of Jesus stands in contrast to the mindset

of today's culture. There is a shift from serving others to "looking out for number one." Involving young people in service bonds the them with the congregation, enhances their understanding of mission and develops their sense of worth and significance.

**Congregations can** Develop service projects and service-learning activities with all ages included. Following a service project, take time to reflect on the activity. What was service received by others? How did it feel to serve others? Help others to live the way of Jesus and not just read about it.

**Mission Outreach** Give others the opportunity to learn about and to know Jesus. Invite others to be part of the Church community.

**Congregations can** Intentionally target individuals or groups who may be lost, eg.: at risk or underprivileged youth and adults, those in need or treated unjustly. Go out of your way to let them know they are loved. Don't mince words or water down the message of the gospel. Challenge them to take

responsibility for their behaviours and give them opportunity or direction to change their lifestyle and behaviours. Be willing to walk with them. Foster a sense of belonging by invitation to other events of the congregation and worship.

### Christian Rituals

Christian symbols and practices have always been important for relating the story of the gospel in congregations and homes. Grace at meals, bedtime prayers, celebrations of Christian festivals such as Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving all communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ. The rituals, traditions and behaviours of the family are essential in faith formation.

**Congregations can** Provide effective Christian education. Display Christian objects for all to see and where possible provide an explanation of their meaning and significance. Provide education on how these objects help in knowing God. Encourage, celebrate and educate about the Christian rituals, traditions and celebrations for use at community worship and at home.

In the next article we will look at pastoral practices for cultivating Christian Spirituality.

**What do the Scriptures say?** Jesus said "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." Matthew 22: 37

# Bishop Watton's Christmas Message

The Rt. Rev'd John Watton  
Bishop  
Central Newfoundland

I am a person who has always tried to give voice to things deep within me. My short list of ways to do that consists of woodworking, music, painting, writing, gardening, and mechanical tinkering. Now, even as I write these things and glance at the line above, I hear my inner voice asking, "How have you been doing with all that?" The last thing I need sometimes is the voice of reason coming from within my own consciousness, but I'll give an honest answer: not so good.

I am not saying my results are terrible, but, and I hope you can relate, my heart of hearts niggles at me, because I know I can do better, if I would only devote the time to practice, go slower, and be patient.

The trouble is, I have a lot of other things that I am responsible as a bishop, husband, grandfather, etc., etc. Oh yes: I have to get ready for Christmas too.

Often, I find myself longing to paint, for example. I get out my brushes and paint, grab a canvas, and get set up to work. I get to my table, and find that it is crowded with a bunch of other things that I have committed to,

but have left unfinished. More than once, I have just given up and put the brushes away.

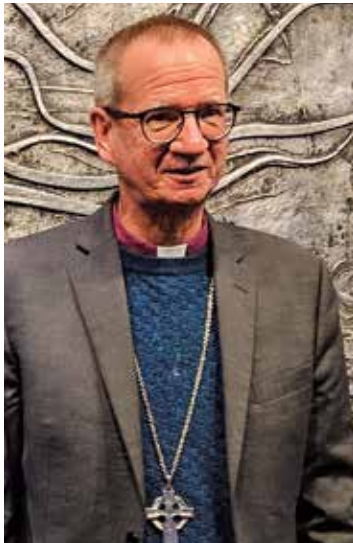


Photo by J. Rowe

Artists sometime refer to what happens when someone brings an overload of ideas to a canvas.

Unconsciously, they might add elements and colours to the painting which individually look great and give satisfaction while they are being painted, but when you stand back and look, sometimes there is just too much. There are too many elements—colours that don't work together; that is when a sense that you have wasted your time descends upon you like a cloud.

I deal with that by taking the canvas and putting it away until the confusing, upsetting, and frustrating thoughts fade away. It works. I have taken out old paintings, laughed a bit, considered the ways they could be fixed, and then enjoyed doing so.

COVID-19 has made it more complicated for all of us, hasn't it? Many of us go to our "craft tables" and find the things waiting there that we started but left unfinished. There they are. Some pretty important, and some that we just long to do because of the peace that working with them brings.

COVID-19 has been a crowded canvas for most of us.

Standing back though, for me, I have had many wonderful experiences with people through conversations about change and turmoil. Many conversations these days are getting right to the point. We are looking at the things which are most important in relation to personal well-being, family, finances, home and hearth, and our faith. It has been a wonderful experience for me to hear people ask, "Why is this happening?" and truly wait to hear if a brother or

sister has any insights to share. We are seeing the developing of community in ways which I believe are being blessed by God. People are sharing positive vibes, ideas, and true compassion. I can say that in the midst of witnessing COVID engendered impatience, lineups, short tempers, and fear. All these things are part of everyday life. God understood that, and loved us anyway. Loved us enough to join us in the midst of our crowded, confused canvas. It's time to step back and let the teacher show us how to fix our painting.

The Incarnation reminds us that God loved what we were, what we are, and is willing always to be a part of what we are going to become. Pandemics are nothing new, but this one has affected us more than any other. What we do, and the precautions we must take, are teaching us something about how blessed we are, and how difficult it must be for many others in our own country and throughout the world.

As Christmas draws near, I am asking God to help me take out my old crowded canvas and have another

look.

I am asking God to help me look for Jesus in places I have never looked before, or haven't looked in a long time.

And asking God to help me as a brother in Christ to encourage others to do the same, because when we find God in the midst of all that surrounds us, we can turn every concern, every challenge, every heaviness, into a celebration of our creator's presence.

My Christmas prayer for each of you, is that you will discover the presence of God in every moment of your life...even the tough ones. Because, if you do, if you can, then your canvas will be rearranged into something Beautiful Holy, and Blessed.

Philippians 4:8

*"... brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."*

May God bless you as you do, at Christmastide and always.

+John, Central Newfoundland

## Ordinations



The Rev'd Karen Loder was ordained a deacon on October 15th by Bishop John Organ at St. Paul's Church in Summerside (Parish of Meadows).  
Photo submitted by Karen Loder.



The Rev'd Charlie Cox was ordained a priest on October 28th by Bishop John Watton at St. Martin's Cathedral in Gander.  
Photo from the Facebook page of St. Martin's Cathedral.

# Meeting Your Kids' "Wants"

Allison Billard  
Columnist

Confession time: I struggle with meeting my kids' wants. The needs I have covered: food, shelter, clothing, a shower once in a while, homework as needed—we do live a more than adequate life by any standard.



But the wants get harder each year. They count up their birthday money and have to race off to buy something with it. We do our best to negotiate with them, to get them to consider different options: how are we going to use this thing you want; how long will it last; and on and on. Ultimately how they spend their little bit of money is their decision, but we try to shape that decision responsibly. We are not always successful. I have long adopted a "win some lose some" stance

on this, and counteract that by withholding about half of whatever money comes their way and putting it aside for them. They'll thank me later, right?

While both boys have a tendency to want everything they see, my younger offspring has a particularly strong fear of missing out on anything and everything. He labours long over any purchase, and is easily upset by all potential outcomes that don't result in getting all the things. I know that once the newness wears off they won't care about any of these things, but still I struggle. Birthdays and Christmas all fall in the latter half of the year, and waiting feels like forever to their young minds.

We don't give in all the time. We talk about the value of money—how some things cost a lot and some things only a little. We donate things that we don't use anymore. We talk about sharing the wealth and helping those in need all year long, and place a special emphasis on it this time of year. We ask that family and friends consider

other options than buying them all sorts of "stuff."

But then going to bed one night this happens:

A little voice says "Mama I really want (insert desired item); can we go to the store on Saturday and get it?"

Me: "Well little man, you have spent your birthday money. It will have to go on your list for Santa"

Him: "But Mama, can't you get it for me? Please? I want to get it before it's gone; if we wait too long it won't be there any more."

Repeat ad nauseam until he falls asleep. You'd think it was the crown jewel and not some set of cards he'll probably trade away in a few days. I know someday his focus and determination will serve him well; we all just have to make it that far.

But this is also the boy who tries to make everyone feel better, cheering up kids at the 'flu shot clinic, giving his toys away to little kids on the playground, and coming to get water and snacks for his friends who are hungry.

Maybe it's not so bad, after all.



## Outreach To Children in Bonavista

### "Adventures with God" offered online to reach children during pandemic

Article and photograph by  
Debbie Ryder

Children's ministry has become quite challenging in recent months, not to say that it was particularly simple before! Without face-to-face contact with the children, we have had to put on our thinking caps and step "outside the box."

Before the dreaded COVID-19 pandemic, our church offered Sunday School each week with a few small children but our main ministry to children happened at our midweek after-school "Kids Klub". We would see about 26-28 kids each Thursday. Since the shut down of activities, we missed seeing these children. Our hearts were heavy that we could not provide them with spiritual guidance.

So, instead of just sitting back and doing nothing, we decided that we could reach out to the children in some way. Over the summer we sent goodie bags, delivered to each child in our programs, and made contact with them.

We also started up our "Adventures with God" online ministry for kids. With this video we have a particular theme with a message and a couple of songs that the children can sing to and do the actions. We also included a skit or puppet show of some sort.


So far, we have had two productions with a third in the works.

To check out our videos you can go to "Bonavista Anglican Christ Church Parish" on YouTube and see the "Adventures with God" titles. We welcome anyone that wishes to use these for their children's ministry if they would like.

Churches have reopened at a "new normal" with restrictions. Kids within church are few and far between, so we have to reach out to them in some other way. Another way that we can improve connection with kids that do come to services and sit with their families, is to have a "children's time" within the service with a kids song or puppet presentation. This can be done at a particular point in the service. Individual plastic bags with colouring sheets, crayons, crafts, and snacks can be passed out at the service as well.

The Holy Spirit has guided and directed us in this endeavour and we know there will be further plans for us with this.

Children are a most important part of the Lord's work here on earth and we need to give them Jesus. We pray for the hearts of children to know him!




**ANGLICAN**  
FOUNDATION OF CANADA

**Generous People are Everywhere**  
an illustrated book for young people ages 8 to 14  
text by Judy Rois, illustrations by Michele Nidenoff

What is generosity?  
What does generosity look like?  
Are generous people happier?

[anglicanfoundation.org](http://anglicanfoundation.org)



## Helping clients achieve their goals.

Taking the time to understand your unique needs.



**Wealth Management**  
BMO Nesbitt Burns

**The Harnum Group**  
Cabot Place, Suite 390  
100 New Gower Street  
St. John's, NL A1C 6K3

Tel: 709-724-7327  
Toll Free: 1-800-776-0077  
[rick.harnum@nbpcd.com](mailto:rick.harnum@nbpcd.com)  
[david.harnum@nbpcd.com](mailto:david.harnum@nbpcd.com)  
[www.bmo.com/nesbittburns](http://www.bmo.com/nesbittburns)

BMO Wealth Management is the brand name for a business group consisting of Bank of Montreal and certain of its affiliates, including BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc., in providing wealth management products and services. © "BMO (M-bar roundel symbol)" is a registered trade-mark of Bank of Montreal, used under licence. © "Nesbitt Burns" is a registered trade-mark of BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc. BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Montreal. If you are already a client of BMO Nesbitt Burns, please contact your Investment Advisor for more information.

Member - Canadian Investor Protection Fund and Member of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada



# Retirement From Cemetery Committee

Submitted with photograph by  
The Rev'd David Burrows

On October 20th, 2020, Mr. Doug French retired as treasurer of the Anglican Cemetery Committee, a position that

he held for twenty years. He is pictured above on the left, with his retirement plaque, right after having given an elbow bump

rather than a the more traditional handshake due to COVID-19 restrictions.

## Save Money Plus Earn AIR MILES®!\*

### When You Combine Your Home & Auto Premiums



Every month, you can save up to 20% when you combine your home and auto insurance, without compromising on coverage. The more you combine, the more you save. Add your cabin, rental property, ATV, and snowmobile for additional savings. Call for a free quote and start saving today.



## Steers insurance

[steersinsurance.com](http://steersinsurance.com)[1-877-4STEERS](tel:1-877-4STEERS)[steers@steersinsurance.com](mailto:steers@steersinsurance.com)

\*Certain conditions apply. Full terms and conditions can be found at [www.sagroup.ca](http://www.sagroup.ca) ©2009.

# The Good News Of Christmas

The Rev'd Canon  
Gerald Westcott  
Columnist

There is Good News that Christians everywhere are preparing to celebrate. As we enter into the Advent season of watching and waiting for the Coming of the Lord, the Church calls us to withdraw from the business and noise of the society around us. The Spirit invites us into the silence and stillness of our inner room. It is from this place of our spiritual heart where we have eyes to notice the divine life of love that is within us. The Incarnation of God in Jesus of Nazareth is what we celebrate at Christmas. This is the Good News. And there is more Good News. God is incarnate in each one of us, and in all of creation.

In our depths, in that place within us where we share in the divine image, we are at one with God, and can never be separated from God. This is more Good News of the reality of the unity of the Holy Spirit. "Nothing can separate us from the Love of God revealed to us in Christ Jesus our Lord."

This is the truth, and my prayer and hope is that this evolving unitive experience will keep us going into the struggles and uncertainties of tomorrow.

I'm writing this article at the end of October for our December issue of Anglican Life, and I'm still in the process of grieving the death of Bishop Geoff Peddle. It is my prayer that this tragic loss, with all the losses we experience throughout our lives, will, in time, find its way into the healing comfort of life in Christ, "where every pain will be taken away."

Geoff's ministry, as a parish priest, Provost of Queen's College, and as the Bishop of the diocese, has left a significant and



positive impact on many people both inside and outside the church. This is the gifted legacy he has left for us to continue to build upon.

He has also left us the invitation to open up more fully to the realities of mental illness that affects every family in so many different forms. My family is affected by mental illness, and if not now, at some point so will your family. Nobody is immune, and there should be no shame. Even in our pain, even when we can't realize it, God, who is our life, never abandons us. Moving forward, as individuals, families, and as a church, it is time for us to become more vulnerable about our vulnerability.

There is Good News for us to celebrate at Christmas. As Christians, we celebrate the Incarnation. The truth that Christ is here with us in our lives as they are. Christ is here in us as we bear the pain of living. Christ is here as us in and through our love for one another.

# Honouring 50 Years of Service

Article and photograph by  
Patricia George

A Celebration service, held at St. Mark's Church, Shearstown/Butlerville, on October 4th, 2020 brought praise and glory to God, but also celebrated and honoured organist Violet (Saunders) Holmes in anniversary (to the day) of 50 years of service of bringing music to God's House. Presentations of flowers, by vestry secretary, Della Parsons, and a certificate, by Fr. Paul Thoms, commemorated the event. A most special audio file message, sent by Archbishop Stewart Payne, was delivered over the microphone, bringing congratulations to Violet and salutations to Fr. Paul and the congregation

of St. Mark's. This was especially significant, since 50 years previously, he had been the rector of the parish and had issued the invitation for her to play in the church. The message, and once again hearing the voice from of our "Rev'd" Payne of long past years, warmed the hearts of all in attendance.

The leadership Violet provided, in bettering the worship to God through music, was exemplified in a myriad of ways over the 50 year period. She led the fund-raising efforts for the purchase of the first electric organ; was key in bringing the first piano; organized and directed both junior and

senior choirs, along with the purchase of new robes to outfit all. The need for dressing space for two choirs and for the storage of robes led to the excavation of the church basement and construction of the church hall. She created and oversaw the delivery of a Christmas Carol Service that brought drama/costumes, scripture and a mixture of old-time and contemporary music

together, and it would become a tradition and focal point of celebration in Christ's coming. In commemoration of the building's 100th anniversary and celebration service in 1998, Violet wrote an original song, aptly titled "One Hundredth Anniversary Song," to relay the history. All this, while being lead organist for countless services,

weddings, funerals and more. On behalf of Fr. Paul, and the St. Mark's vestry, and congregation of Shearstown/ Butlerville, I offer congratulations and extreme gratitude for her dedication and service to the worship of God and Christ Jesus.

God bless!



Left to right: Bill Seymour (warden), Della Parsons (secretary), Violet Holmes (organist), Fr. Paul C. Thoms (rector)

# The Radical Message of The Virgin Mary

The Rev'd Cynthia  
Haines-Turner  
Columnist

Will it be good to get back to normal? No, this is not a reflection about COVID-19—there are many, fine reflections available, including "A message of hope from the Primate" by the Most Rev'd Linda Nicholls (found here in case you haven't seen/heard it: (<https://www.anglican.ca/primate/a-message-of-hope-from-the-primate/>)). But the pandemic has gotten me thinking about "normal" and what it is we want to reclaim or recover when we speak of getting back to normal. There are some things about pre-COVID that would be great to do again—like gather with families, or travel, or accompany (unrestricted) those who are sick and dying. But there are other things about "normal" that are not, and never were, all that great. In a world where there is much injustice, COVID-19 has only exacerbated the problems. People are

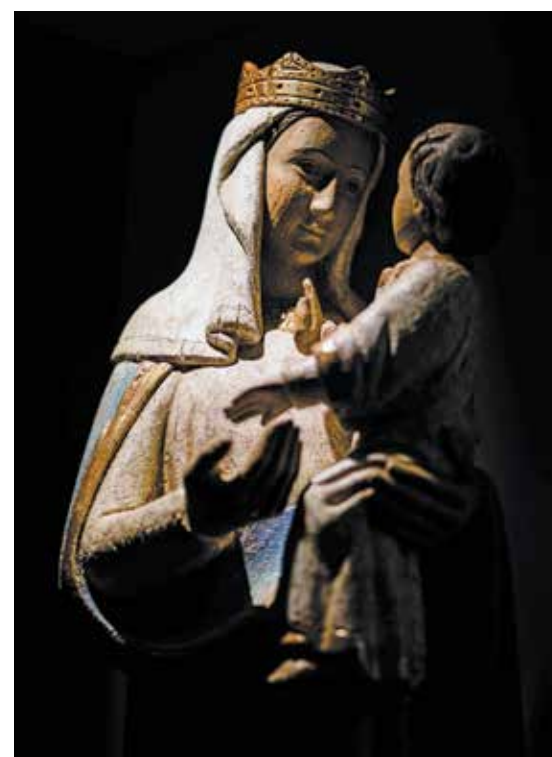
facing unemployment, poverty, food insecurity, increased anxiety, and more. Our PWRDF partners have experienced extra challenges in already difficult situations. Although the pandemic has heightened the injustices in our world, they have been with us for a very long time, and I would argue they are not normal, nor are they of God. We look to scripture for a very different view, particularly in this great season of Advent, when each week we hear messages of hope and promises of justice. One of the most radical of those messages is found in the Song of Mary. A radical message by a radical woman. Mary, seen in the traditional art, is a demure, submissive woman—almost passive—a quiet, modest woman, with eyes looking downward. Yet, in reality, when we encounter Mary in the gospels, we see a courageous,

outspoken woman who expressed a prophetic vision of the kingdom of God that sounds a lot like the vision that Jesus would proclaim in his ministry. This Advent, the vision of the prophet Isaiah is read by Jesus when he went to the synagogue, a vision of "the year of the Lord's favour." It was a vision that, like Mary's, was revolutionary. Obscured by the familiarity of saying the words so often over time, we can easily miss their impact—"he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant, ... from now on all generations will call me blessed"—this from a young woman having a baby outside of marriage in a culture that regularly stoned such women. "He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their



hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty." Here is a vision of a world where might and power do not rule but where there is justice for everyone and where everyone is valued. That is not our "normal." Equating "normal" with "good" is actually viewing

life from a position of privilege. It is also missing the prophetic call to imagine, and work towards, a different world—one promised by God "to Abraham [and Sarah] and their descendants forever."



Statue of Mary and Jesus; photo by Grant Whitty on [www.unsplash.com](http://www.unsplash.com)

# Welcoming A Retrieve

## St. John the Evangelist, Topsail

Article by Louise Smith  
Photograph by Sharon Smith

During this calendar year of 2020, we had been forced, for safety reasons, to deviate from the freedom previously enjoyed on this great adventure called life.

Fear of contracting the coronavirus had suddenly necessitated the cessation of regular functions, including church related activities.

It was seven months ago, back in March, that our ACW ladies assembled in the church hall, where we eagerly planned the regular spring fundraiser of a hot roast beef dinner, to be cooked by the men of our parish.

After each member was assigned to her regular duty, and bathed in closing prayer, all hands departed to await the next phase of preparation.

Little did we suspect that lurking in the shadows was an imminent buffer that would manipulate and eliminate what we had just painstakingly put together. And within a week, all anticipated functions were put on hold with a strict lockdown.

The following months saw us experiencing the various levels of

quarantine, with each plateau affording some, but limited movement.

Today, October 23rd, our ACW ladies, for the first time since that spring day of March 10th, earned the liberty to gather in our meeting room.

There, appropriately masked and all safety measures in place, we participated in our long awaited fundraiser in the form of a lasagne dinner takeout.

Also joining us in this effort were the choir and vestry members, where the camaraderie knew no parallel, and where together, we harmoniously packaged the dinners on time for the appointed pickup.

While great pride was taken in the safe preparation for the public that day, we were also overwhelmed with gratitude that the interaction with our church family could be once again restored.

*Though I have stolen nothing,  
I still must restore it.*  
Psalm 69:4



On the left: Sandra Squires (front), and Fanny Carter  
On the right: Louise Smith (front), Geraldine Cake, and Gertie Cross



Photo by the Rev'd Canon Paulette Bugden

Front Row: Ms. Sabrina Short, The Rev'd Canon Paulette Bugden, Ms. Irma Moores

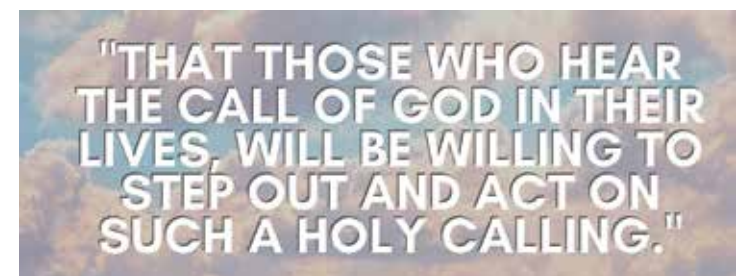
Middle Row: The Rev'd Dcn. Vernon Short, The Rev'd Dcn. Marie Smith, The Rev'd Dcn. Cynthia Haines-Turner, The Rev'd Canon David Russell, Mr. Ed Humber.

Back Row: The Rev'd Canon Jeffrey Petten, The Venerable David Taylor, The Rev'd Dcn. Terry Loder, The Rev'd Dcn. Arthur Kinsella, Dr. Carmel Doyle.

# Diocese of Western Newfoundland Holds Discernment Retreat

Article by  
The Rev'd Canon Jeffrey Petten

From 30 September-3 October, 2020, the Diocese of Western Newfoundland held a discernment weekend for those who feel that they are called to the priesthood. This year because of the precautions and the rules concerning COVID-19, the annual ACPO Conference normally held within the Ecclesiastical Province could not be held. Our Bishop, The Rt. Rev'd John Organ, issued an invitation to Dr. Carmel Doyle of Queen's College to come and lead a retreat of discernment, and invited a number of clergy and laity of the diocese to be part of the interviewing process. The group of those doing the interviews were: The Rev'd Canon Paulette Bugden, The Rev'd Canon Jeffrey Petten, The Rev'd Canon David Russell, Ed Humber, and Irma Moores, along with Dr. Doyle. Those who at this time who are discerning a call to the priesthood are: The Rev'd Dcn. Cynthia Haines-Turner, The Rev'd Dcn. Arthur Kinsella, The Rev'd Dcn. Terry Loder, The Rev'd Dcn. Vernon



Short and his daughter Sabrina Short, and The Rev'd Dcn. Marie Smith. To the recollection of those present, it is the first time in the discernment process in the diocese that a father and daughter were present in answering the call of God in their lives at the same time. Also present as a resource person, and the person making sure we were keeping the rules of social distancing was The Ven. David Taylor, Executive Officer and Examining Chaplain of the diocese.

In her talks, Dr. Doyle pointed out the significance of the fact that in the call of Abram it was to land "that I will show you," emphasizing the point that those who are called do not necessarily know where they will end up by answering such a call. She also pointed out the significance of

the world literally turning upside down for the call of Mary to be the mother of the Son of God. For those who do answer the call of God in our own day, it literally can turn our world and our lives upside down from what we know to be the "norm." Those taking part in the interviewing process felt the presence of the Holy Spirit, and in making recommendations, it is now in the hands of the Bishop to make decisions.

It is the prayer of those who were present and the prayer of our Bishop that those who hear the call of God in their lives, will be willing to step out and act on such a holy calling. If you are a person who is having such a call and you do not know what to do, please reach out to your own parish clergy as they know fully well what it is to be called by God.

# Keep Awake

The Rev'd Jonathan Rowe  
Columnist

Our Gospel readings take us on a strange journey during the four Sundays of Advent. The story they tell seems to be backwards. On the first Sunday, we see Jesus warning his disciples about a darkened sun, falling stars, and cosmic upheaval. But these are surely meant to be signs of the end of things. They're not what we're expecting at the *beginning* of the Church's year, and certainly not the Christmassy message that others expect at this time of year.

On the second and third Sundays, we rewind to just before the beginning of Jesus' ministry, to the arrival of John the Baptist. First he is shown to be the one preparing the way of the Lord. Then, despite his rising popularity, he is shown refusing the praise and attention that properly belong to Jesus. I have always enjoyed the way John presents this. While

Jesus will repeatedly say 'I am... the light of the world... the bread of life... the way, the truth, and the life...' If Jesus is the human incarnation of the great 'I AM', John is the great 'I am NOT.'



On the fourth Sunday of Advent, we go back even further in time, to the story of the angel bringing Mary news that she would give birth to a son who would be the Son of God. There's not a lot much earlier that you could go in the Gospel story than this. First we hear something late in Jesus' ministry, then parts that happened just before he started getting

attention, and finally what happened before he was even born. Is this how we expected to prepare for Christmas? I would almost rather first hear the story of an angel coming to Mary, then the one about an angel to Joseph, then about getting ready to go to Bethlehem, so that the story gets told the way we expect to hear it.

However, filmmakers often tell stories in unexpected ways, and sometimes when they do, it's so that we can see something new in a familiar story. What happens if we embrace this non-linear storytelling and see what it might show us about a story that we hear year after year?

Jesus starts us into this season by talking about the unexpectedness of the coming of the Son of Man, and the warning to be watchful, alert, and ready. Then we cut to John the Baptist, telling the people, 'this is what it means to

get ready, to prepare the way of the Lord.' Then in his conversation with the religious leaders, he talks about how our expectations can be wrong, and how the one who is coming is someone who we do not know—an arrival we're unprepared for. Then finally, we come to Mary, to the mother's womb that God had prepared to make ready the way of the Lord. Only Mary is completely unprepared for this news—at first she can't imagine how this could be!

The backwards story we hear over these four Sundays is the story of people completely unprepared for what it means to have God come into their midst. It's the story of God's people Israel, completely unprepared for the coming of the Lord, despite the warnings and encouragement of the Law and the Prophets. It's the story of us, often shocked

and startled by what God is doing in our midst, even when we're told to get ready.

It's a story that comes to a climax in the Christmas story. Only when we've reflected on being ready and unready, can we be ready to hear the story of God being born in a world completely unprepared for him—a world so caught up in its own concerns that there wasn't even room for him in the inn. We are excited to hear the good news of Jesus born in a stable, but we have to admit that we're not as prepared as we could be to have him born in our hearts. No matter how much we are warned, we can never be fully prepared. But that doesn't excuse us from the call to get ready. What Jesus says to the disciples, he says to us: 'Keep awake.'

**Thinking of writing for Anglican Life?**  
**Your submissions help to fill the paper with Anglican Church news from across the province of Newfoundland & Labrador. Send your photographs (largest size available, please) and articles in for publication in our next issue!**

**Upcoming Anglican Life Deadlines:**  
**January Print Issue - 28 November**  
**February Print Issue - 2 January**  
**March Print Issue - 1 February**

**[anglicanlifenl@gmail.com](mailto:anglicanlifenl@gmail.com)**

**HOUSEHOLD MOVERS AND SHIPPERS LTD.**

- ◆ Local, Long Distance and International Moving
- ◆ Free In-Home Survey and Guaranteed Estimate
- ◆ Complete Packing and Unpacking Available
- ◆ Replacement Cost Protection Available
- ◆ Licensed, Bonded and Insured
- ◆ Safe Secure Storage
- ◆ Auto Transport

**709-747-4222**  
19 Clyde Ave - Donovan's Industrial Park - Mt. Pearl  
Areas outside St. John's  
**1-800-563-8080**  
[stjohns@hmmovers.ca](mailto:stjohns@hmmovers.ca)

  
[www.householdmovers.ca](http://www.householdmovers.ca)

Children's Wish  
Our Customers are "Moved" by Our Service

**ANGLICAN FOUNDATION OF CANADA**

*Proud to be Canadian*  
**Hope Bear**  
has a new sweater!  
Available for purchase  
on the AFC Store.

  
[anglicanfoundation.org/store](http://anglicanfoundation.org/store)

**Go where life takes you, but plan ahead.**

As a free spirit, you rarely look back. But you should look ahead - especially to protect your loved ones when you're no longer there. All it takes is a little preplanning.

Decide now on the funeral options and funding arrangements that best meet your needs. You'll lessen the burden for those who are left behind.

To learn more, call the number below. We'll send you a free Wishes and Memories Planning Guide. We'll also provide you with a no-obligation consultation.

So make your plans, today. Then follow your path wherever it leads.

**FILLATRE'S FUNERAL HOMES**  
Preplanning  
Crematorium  
Chapel  
Monuments  
Flowers

**634-0077 • 1-888-868-6800**  
During your most difficult times... we are here to serve you.

Corner Brook • Deer Lake  
Stephenville Crossing • Burgeo  
Port au Choix • L'Anse au Loup  
Happy Valley • Goose Bay

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

**ANGLICAN LIFE**  
NEWSPAPER OF THE THREE ANGLICAN DIOCESES IN  
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

- more stories from around the three Anglican Dioceses of Newfoundland & Labrador
- links to our Facebook page and the Facebook pages of the three Dioceses and the Anglican Journal
- PDF copies of back-issues of Anglican Life
- stories and photographs unique to the website, and not published in print



**[WWW.ANGLICANLIFE.CA](http://WWW.ANGLICANLIFE.CA)**

# EFM Graduation Sermon, October 18, 2020

## Archbishop Stewart Payne

Thank you Rev'd Tanya for your welcome and the invitation to preach here today. In recent years we have come to highlight, and emphasize more and more, the ministry of the whole people of God, the ministry of all the baptized. Various attempts are made in parish life, by self-educating and programming to help us all realize the gifts that God has given us and how we use them in ministry, in love and service to God and neighbour.

The Education For Ministry Program (EFM) is a worldwide, adult, lay training program of theological study by the School of Theology, University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee and managed in Canada from Kelowna, BC, by EFM Canada, containing studies of: the Hebrew Scriptures (our Old Testament); the New Testament; Church History; Theological and moral choices.

Judy Parsons and Ann Marie Turpin, All Saints' parishioners, completed the four year EFM program in May of this year, but because of the COVID pandemic, had to delay the graduation exercise until today in this Service of Holy Eucharist. Inevitably then, a theme of my sermon is the ministry of all the baptized.

The idea of ministry can be seen to stem from the Hebrew Scripture, "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all mind, with all thy strength (Deut. 6:5). Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself (Lev. 19:18). That was the focus of Jesus' life; he highlighted it repeatedly by word and deed; he lived it, even to the cross.

Our first reading today, Exodus 33, gives us a small snapshot of Moses in his leadership role, in his ministry role, leading the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt, to the promised land. Moses had been affirmed again and again, in his divine calling and

had felt the presence of God in their midst, leading the way, protecting and directing them. In fact, all through the journey there is a running conversation between God and Moses. Yet in our first reading, Moses, for whatever reason, is going through a difficult time and feels bereft of God's presence and cries out to God for a sign. "Show me your ways so that I may know you and find favour in your sight. Show me your glory, I pray," (which means, let me see you). In the midst of that struggle, Moses was again affirmed:

"My presence will go with you. (My face you will not see) I will do the very thing you have asked; for you have found favour in my sight and I know you by name."

It is not uncommon for people, in dark times of hardship, difficulty, loss, and distress, to long for a sign of God's presence, to want to see God's face and have the assurance of God's presence and love. As with Moses, so with us, we are given the assurance of His presence. God is always and ever with us even when we feel His absence. Jesus is really and truly present and the Holy Spirit strengthens us. The beautiful Holy Communion hymn comes to mind, "O God unseen, yet ever near, thy presence may we feel and thus inspired with Holy fear, before thine altar kneel."

In our Gospel reading today, Jesus looks at the coin presented to him with the image of the emperor imprinted upon it and responds to the question regarding the paying of taxes to the occupying government of Rome. "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's." In other words, Jesus is advising them to meet their civic responsibilities and obligations; by all means, pay your taxes. Jesus then adds, "Give to God the things that are God's."

Jesus knew well that as the coin bore the image of the emperor, so all humankind bears the image and likeness of God, regardless of colour, race, or creed. We are His; God's very own. What is it that belongs to God and how do we give back to God? Everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We give back to God not simply by meeting our civic responsibilities but by using the gifts and talents, our time and energy in love and service, in ministry, to God and to one another. God wants to dwell in our hearts by faith and be with us always. God loves each one unconditionally and longs for our response in love and service to God



*Pictured above are two EFM graduates, Ann Marie Turpin and Judy Parsons (holding their certificates). In front are the rector of All Saints' (Corner Brook), the Rev'd Tanya White and Archbishop Stewart Payne*

and neighbour.

In our second reading, Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, in their ministries, commend the Thessalonians for doing just that, giving to God what is God's, in the power of the Spirit, not simply in word but in deed, by example, serving the true God through Jesus Christ.

In the Episcopal Church, USA Catechism, the question is asked and the answer is given.

Q - Who are the ministers of the Church?

A - The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests and deacons.

Q - What is the ministry of the laity?

A - The ministry of lay people is to represent Christ and His Church; to bear witness to Him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given to them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the World; and to take their place

... see **EFM** on page 17

“Suddenly nothing made sense anymore...”

**We Understand...**

...we know that at times like these you have to deal with your emotions your own way...in your own time. But when it comes to taking care of the details and just listening...we're here.

Call on Barrett's.

We understand what you're going through. When you need us, we're there for you.

**BARRETT'S**  
FUNERAL HOMES LTD.

328 Hamilton Ave. St. John's - 579-6007  
73 Commonwealth Ave. Mount Pearl - 364-1937

# Remember the Sabbath—Keep It Holy

The Rev'd James Spencer  
Columnist

*"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."* Exodus 20:8-11

It seems these days that my memory has been failing me. Perhaps it is a symptom of my getting older, and the old grey matter is not firing like it once did. More likely it is to do with the sheer number of things on my plate in this pandemic-confused world. Day-to-day ministry has been filled with so many concerns, procedures, and complications that it can be quite hard to keep it all

organized in one's head. And in amongst all that is the vital need to remember to "keep it holy"—to remember why we do what we do, and who it is who



guides and empowers us.

Facing this challenge, I find myself realizing that this is the very trial faced by much of our modern world, not only today, but for many years now. Our lives got busier and busier. So many things called out to demand our attention. The world kept speeding up, and everyone had to run to keep pace.

And in the midst of all that, it happened: we lost the Sabbath Day. There were those that championed it. There were those who opposed it. But

in the end, we all accepted the change and moved on. The younger generations now perhaps could not even imagine that there had once been a day in every week that the shops closed, that the local world stood still, and everyone was allowed a moment to breathe in unison.

I remember I didn't concern myself much with it at the time. I was in high school, so all I saw was the convenience of stores being open on Sunday. I did not think about it much more than that. Maybe a lot of people didn't.

I'm sure that the government did. After all, Sunday had been a day when no one bought things: an entire day each week of no sales tax. I'm sure many white-collar offices were pleased that it didn't really affect them unless they wanted it to. And the church, struggling already under the pressure of the world's break-neck pace of change, looked on sadly, as suddenly people had to go to work instead of going to church, and so

church became that much less a part of life.

But now I look back and realized how much was lost. I look at that 10th verse of Exodus, chapter 20, and see that the value was not in having "the day off," but rather it was having "the day off" *together*.

"...thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates" It was about community! That holy and precious thing which in many ways has been lost in everyone's mad dash to live their own lives. Where once we could stop for a brief few hours, visiting family and friends, knowing that, for the most part, everyone was going to be home—now it has become about what *I* do on my day off; how to get the most value out of my *own* time? Even within one family, everyone ends up struggling to schedule time together, when it used to be *guaranteed*!

We forgot the holiness

of being at rest together.

The experiences of recent months have made me afraid that we could be headed even further down that path: that separation and isolation may lead us even further away from that sense of community that we once enjoyed. But these months have also given me hope, that maybe people have begun to realize what was lost, and have a hunger to get it back. We *need* each other. We need to know that we are there for each other. That we are part of something bigger and greater than ourselves.

Take the steps we need to in order to be safe. Work together to get rid of this virus. But afterwards, *please* return to community, as much as we can. That will heal many of the things which no vaccine can cure. It is how God meant us to live. Remember it, to keep it holy. Amen.

## Ride For Refuge in Eastern NL—Cape Spear to The Anglican Cathedral

Article and photographs by  
Emily F. Rowe

On Saturday October 3rd, the Rev'd David Burrows and the Rev'd Jonathan Rowe braved the weather to ride their bicycles from Cape Spear (the most Eastern point in North America) to the Anglican Cathedral in St. John's as part of this year's Ride For Refuge in support of PWRDF.

In spite of high winds and a rainfall warning, the two priests made the 16.4 km trip in good time, and were both very pleased to have helped to raise money for smallholder farmers in rural Uganda.



# Magical Light

Ronald Clarke  
and Melanie Clarke  
Columnists

When I was a young boy, the Christmas season didn't begin quite as early as it does these days. Advent came before Christmas, and for four weeks, we all attended church and listened to the Bible stories about the coming of the Christ-child. Each Sunday, the minister would light a small candle—representing the light coming into the world when the Christ-child was born. As a little child, this was very exciting to me and my friends! We all knew when the candles had been lit four times, that “Sandy Claus” would appear. We had no concept at the time of the Christ-child. Christmas Eve would come and we all would go to bed excited! In the morning, Christmas morning, the front room had a tree up! It was decorated with little handmade ornaments and it looked like nothing I had ever seen in my daily life! In my old darned-up sock would be the biggest apple I could imagine! “Sandy Claus” would have also left me a new book! I felt like I

had the biggest treasure!

As a little boy, the Christmas season seemed magical, even in a poor outport where most were barely surviving. As I grew to be a teenager, the Christmas season didn't seem to be less magical, but it took on a more religious nature. I imagine that all “people over a certain age” had a similar experience to



mine growing up in rural Newfoundland. As much “fun” as Christmas was every year in my little outport, for me, it became more profound as I came to realize the religious significance of the blessed season.

As many of you know, I have been writing articles for the Anglican Churchman for over 40

years. That's 40 articles about Christmas! As you can imagine, I've probably said it all about Christmas and yet, every year I get excited about the coming of Advent and the arrival of the Christ-child! This year, I'm more excited than usual as I think our broken world needs the Christmas season more than ever!

This year, 2020, has had few redeeming qualities. It's been a year of disasters, division, pandemic, death, destruction, disappointment, and despair. Most people worldwide are longing for the end of 2020! Now more than ever, the world needs the feelings created from the anticipation of the coming of the Christ-child.

The coming of the Christ-child fills our world and our lives with hope! The birth of a child gives us a chance to start anew. If we have made mistakes in the past, a new life gives the opportunity to change our behaviour—to clean the slate and strive once more to be better people. The little new life

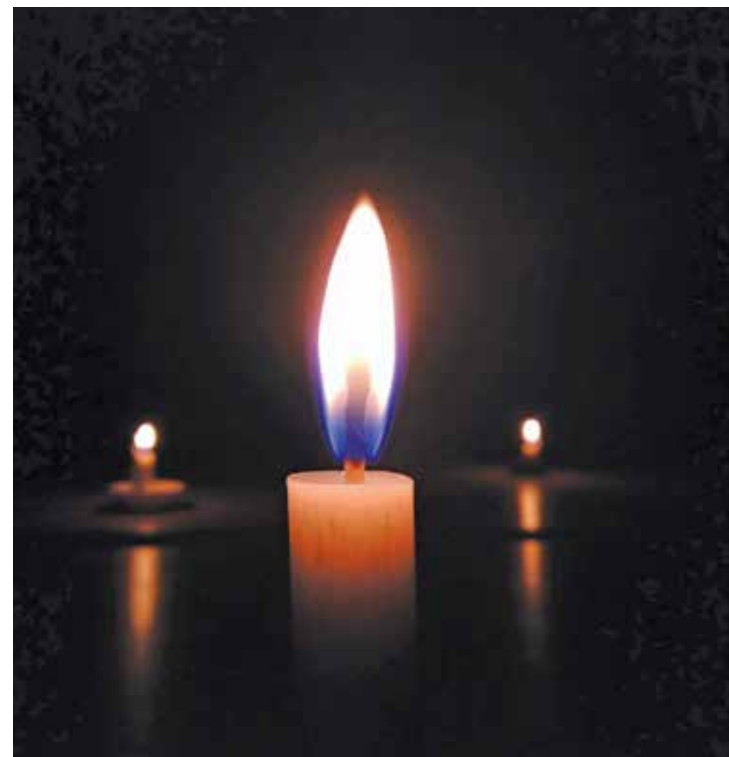


photo by Zae Zhu on unsplash.com

is innocent and helpless and needs all our help to survive. The birth of the Christ-child should give us the reboot we all seem to be needing after such a disastrous year. In such dark times, try to remember the gift our Father gave each and every one of us! The birth of Jesus Christ allows the “light of the world” to once again shine bright for all to see!

This year, more than any other year in recent memory, please allow the “light of the world,” Jesus Christ, to enter your life—let him spread that light through you to those you love and help heal the wounds this year has created in our world and our souls!

God bless you all and have a blessed Christmas filled with light!

## Donation to St. David's Church, Pasadena

Submitted with photograph by  
Woodrow King

Stewart Foote Jr. and his family made a second donation in the last few months to the St. David's Anglican church cemetery in Pasadena. The Foote family made the donation of a marble sign in honour of their father and mother (Stewart Sr. and Florence) who were great contributors to the old St. David of Wales church.

The new sign will replace the old obsolete one that has served its purpose over the years.

Standing in for the picture are Stewart Foote Jr., Rev'd Amy Richter, and Rev'd Joe Pagano.



# The Anglican Foundation of Canada

## We are here for you, through good times and bad

Article by The Rev'd Canon  
Dr. Judy Rois  
Photo and image courtesy of AFC

At AFC we love, more than anything, to say *Yes!* and to help our parishes *imagine more*. The Foundation has been saying yes steadily and unfailingly—through good times and bad—for more than sixty years.

In the Dioceses of Western Newfoundland, Central Newfoundland, and Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, we have said *Yes!* to more than \$450,000 in grants and loans for your parishes. The vast majority of this investment has been in buildings and programs. These have included the building of a new church on Bell Island, construction at St. Michael and all Angels' in St. John's, and accessibility renovations at St. Mark the Evangelist in St. John's. AFC's commitment to theological education has resulted in bursaries totalling \$66,000

at Queen's College, and for three consecutive years, AFC gave \$30,000 to Queen's College to create a Diploma in Ministry Program in three sites. In Central NL, AFC has funded a number of church interior restorations and an innovative program to revitalize rural ministry. In Western NL, AFC disbursed a grant and a loan to assist with the construction of a new church hall in the Parish of Bay St. George, Robinsons.

This past May, in spite of the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis and the impact on AFC's investment portfolio, we said *Yes!* to the columbaria garden at St. Philip's Parish in Portugal Cove called: "Creating a Lasting Legacy."

For nearly ten years now as Executive Director of the Foundation, I've had a front row seat to some of

the Canadian church's best ideas: the ministries and programs parish visionaries might undertake if only they had some strategic funding to help them get started. Knowing what I know about the innovative and compassionate character of the church, nationally, I cannot help but feel hopeful about the future.

Please be assured that AFC will continue to be a force for stability: we have been there and will continue to be there no matter what the future may hold. In order for AFC to remain strong and vibrant, however, I am asking those who can continue to partner with us to do so. If you are a member I ask you to renew your membership. If you have never been a member of the Foundation before, please accept this invitation to pay-it-forward.

The social and economic



impact of COVID-19 on people and communities will undoubtedly give rise to compassionate and innovative responses on the part of our churches. To those currently discerning how to meet a real and pressing need in their communities—faithful leaders in your dioceses among them—we want to respond as generously as possible.

Join us and help AFC continue to be able to say *Yes!* to the dreams and aspirations of the people and parishes in your dioceses, and to so many more across the country.



To donate to the Anglican Foundation of Canada visit our website, at: [www.anglicanfoundation.org](http://www.anglicanfoundation.org).

## Walk of Hope in Central Newfoundland

Article by Emily F. Rowe  
Photographs from the Diocese of Central Newfoundland's Facebook page

On October 24th, Bishop John Watton and the Diocese of Central Newfoundland, participated in a Walk Of Hope, together, in different communities across the diocese. On a personal note, Bishop John wished to offer thanks on the occasion of the ten-year anniversary as a cancer survivor, and also to use the walk as a powerful symbol of hope, faith, and thanksgiving. A statement from the diocese said, "In this time of uncertainty and change, the Bishop is asking each parish to participate in some way to unite our Diocese in prayer and action." People were invited to join Bishop Watton (who was walking in Gander), or hold their own events from 8am until noon on

the 24th. Donations, made as an outward sign of support, were accepted by the Diocese of Central Newfoundland, to be used for various forms of outreach to those in need of a helping hand in times of illness or need through the Friends of the Bishop Fund.

There were many participants, and a few are pictured here; these are photographs that were posted on the Diocese of Central Newfoundland's Facebook page.



Gander's walk was briefly joined by a moose



Parish of Garnish



Parish of Gambo



Parish of Catalina



Bishop Watton

# 2020: The Year That Was

Kevin Smith  
Columnist

December is upon us and with its arrival comes colder weather, the winter solstice, and the start of the holy season of Christmas. But, it is also a period of downtime, when hopefully we have an opportunity to think about the past year and how we might make some improvements in 2021.

Let's think back over the past 12 months.

The year began with a vengeance with a snowstorm that literally had disastrous effects.

The editor for the Newfoundland Herald wrote:

*"There's a very famous quote from Charles Dickens' novel A Tale of two Cities that reads, 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness.'"*

*Well, Newfoundlanders embraced that quote and then some, turning a 90-plus cm snowfall and an imposed State of Emergency into something that created FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) through the rest of the province and the country. The unprecedented snow that fell, accompanied by the out of this world wind gusts, created blizzard conditions and essentially shut down the Eastern section of the island. Folks who had to dig their way out of their homes found the humour, and created the best of times, out of a very worst of times situation."*

Then on March 2nd, I underwent knee surgery

and that literally shut me down for 6 weeks, during which the rest of the province endured the pandemic at its worst. Hobbling around my house with the aid of a cane and/or a walker gave me a real appreciation for those who use these instruments full time. In time I was able to return the cane and the walker to the Red Cross, who so kindly lent them to



me.

By the time I recuperated and was able to get out and about, the pandemic had ordered all churches to shut down and no public gatherings were permitted. Visits to seniors' homes and care facilities were not allowed, which meant that many elderly residents had no contact with the outside world.

For me, the task of getting my message out was a challenge to say the least. Yes, I have my monthly column in Anglican Life which helps, but personal visits were outlawed. Rev'd Robert Cooke assisted me by asking me to participate in an online Facebook discussion about planned giving. I also made some phone calls to shut-ins.

Finally, the passing of our Bishop, Geoffrey Peddle, was a real shocker to everyone, but it shook

me to the core. I was deeply saddened by the news as Bishop Geoff was one of my ardent supporters. He believed in what we have been trying to accomplish, and encouraged me continually. Bishop Geoff really strove to incorporate the church into many of the province's social agencies such as Safe Harbour and Home Again Furniture Bank. He will be greatly missed and my condolences go out to Kathy and family.

And now as December sets in, COVID-19 is still with us, and a vaccine is still not available.

Fortunately, churches are open again, albeit with limitations. However, I have been encouraged by rectors who have reached out to their congregations in ways they never thought about before. The internet has become a powerful tool for the church too.

Finally, as I commenced my 21st year in the ministry of planned giving, my wife Kay and I, would like to wish you a happy Christmas season with your families. Please take time to appreciate all the many gifts we have, and realize that we are indeed blessed despite all the negatives that continually surround us.

*"God gave us memory so that we might have roses in December."*  
-James M. Barrie

*Kevin Smith is a gift planning consultant for Anglican East NL. He can be contacted at 709 739-5667 or by email: kevin.smith709@gmail.com*

## ... EFM continued

in the life, worship and governance of the Church.

Bishops, priests and deacons are all part of the "Laos," the whole people of God and they too represent Christ and His Church. By virtue of their ordination they have specific ministries of a pastoral, sacramental, and administrative nature.

The question to all of us is not whether you are called but to what. What is the function at this particular time and in this particular place?

John Westerhoff and Carolyn Hughes co-authored a book some years ago, "On the threshold of God's future" In the book they have much to say about lay ministry. "Ministry takes place in the normal flow of our daily routines. It involves an attitude we bring to everything we do and a way of living wherever we are. Ministry is the responsibility and privilege given to all Christians, not just the few who are ordained.

There is one ministry, the ministry of God working through each one of us, as homemakers, engineers and nurses, salespersons and labourers, pastors and bus drivers," (I can add, fisherfolk and fish plant workers and the list goes on and on to include everyone). "Each of us is called in Jesus' Name to serve God's people and God's world in every moment of our lives, wherever we find ourselves. Ministry is performed as we express concern, no matter what the cost; as we respond to another's need with no strings attached; as we embrace the sufferings of others by being present to them."

There are many different ministries

exercised in the Church gathered and in the Church dispersed the rest of the week, to name a few.

The ministry of hospitality at home and in Church.

The ministry of music, the ministry of song, the ministry of greeting/welcoming.

A listening ear, an encouraging word, a helping hand, showing love and compassion for another in need, the sick, the lonely, the disabled.

St. Teresa of Avila says it best, "Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours; yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on all the world; yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good; yours the hands with which he is to bless us now."

COVID-19 restricts much direct personal contact in many cases now but much can be done by telephone and through the social media networks.

The ministry of prayer is a ministry we all share in, not only in our regular worship together but in our personal prayer times; not in word alone but in the lifting up of people and situations to God from the deep recesses of our hearts, thanking God and asking that His will be done.

Many years ago during a parish visit the Rector and I called at the home of an elderly bed ridden lady. We sat by her bed, shared some thoughts and prayers. As we were about to take our leave she said, "At night when I see the lights going out in the houses around, I get ready for bed. I say my prayers and I remember you in my prayers every night." Here was a person who could no longer turn over in bed without help but continued to have a very vital prayer ministry. At that moment I felt I was standing on holy ground.

Enjoy your ministries to the full. In the words of the late Archbishop Michael Ramsey, of Canterbury, "May it be said of you, not so much that you spoke of God cleverly but that you made God real to people."

LET OUR EXPERIENCE WORK FOR YOU.

Toll free  
1-855-786-7114

MOORES  
&  
COLLINS

LAWYERS

Douglas Moores, QC  
Richard Collins, BA LLB

CONNECT WITH  
YOUR CHURCH  
ONLINE

THERE ARE LOTS OF OPTIONS!  
CHECK OUT YOUR PARISH'S  
WEBSITE, OR THEIR  
FACEBOOK PAGE. WE ALSO  
LIST MANY ON ANGLICAN  
LIFE'S FACEBOOK PAGE.



## Christmas Quilt in Port Aux Basques

Submitted with photograph by  
Lisa Brown

The ACW of St. James' Church in Port aux Basques are selling tickets on a "Christmas Quilt." This quilt was donated to our ACW by the Rev'd Kay Knott. Rev'd Knott was a resident of Port aux Basques, but since her

retirement from being active clergy, is now living in Nova Scotia, but she continues to support her home church of St. James'.

In the picture are Diane Hewitt on the right, and Rev'd Kay Knott on the left.

## New Lay Readers at St. David's, Pasadena

Submitted with photographs by  
Woodrow King

St. David's Anglican Church parishioners in Pasadena were so pleased to have two young spiritual lay readers in training presiding over their Morning Prayer service on October 18th, 2020.

Being a part of a two-point parish necessitates the need to maintain a committed group of volunteers who are willing to step in, and fill an integral role while the parish priest ministers to the second church.

Megan King, who is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Social Work degree along with some religious study at M.U.N., has been well known for her roles in various capacities at St David's.

Cape Ray native Sabrina Short, who recently moved to Pasadena, is well equipped to play the role of a lay reader. She has a Bachelor of Religious Studies degree, and is currently doing her Masters of Theology at Queen's College in St John's.

Sabrina also comes from a religious background, with her dad, Vernon, being the Deacon-in-charge of the Flower's Cove parish.

Both ladies did a commendable job at the service, and were warmly received by parishioners following the service.


We also give thanks to the Rev'd Amy Richter

and the Rev'd Joe Pagano for their determination in finding such capable people to assist with our ministerial needs, and widening our committed group of lay readers.

It is a huge breath of fresh air to current lay readers, and a welcome sight to see when youthful leaders come forward and help alleviate the workload for some who have spent many years in the capacity as a lay reader.

Many positives occur when any branch of ministry expands.





ANGELICAN LIFE

ADVERTISE WITH ANGLICAN LIFE

# Your ad could be here!

**what do you get advertising with us?**

- OUR PAPERS REACH ALL OF NL AND BEYOND
- WE ARE PUBLISHED BOTH IN PRINT AND ONLINE
- SHARED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

**reasonable rates contact us today**

The Rev'd Fred Marshall  
Officer, Anglican Joint Committee

mail to:  
fred.marshall@nljointcommittee.com

phone:  
(709) 727 4346

# Merry Christmas Everyone!

## News from PWRDF

Article by Sheila Boutcher  
PWRDF Representative,  
Central Newfoundland  
Photograph by PWRDF

Given that this is the last issue of Anglican Life, and therefore also the last PWRDF article, for 2020, I felt it was appropriate to reflect on the things that I am thankful for:

- I am thankful for PWRDF: that the Anglican Church of Canada has provided us with this vehicle by which we can answer God's call to love our neighbour as ourselves.

- I am thankful that PWRDF programs are designed and targeted in such a way as to realize the maximum benefit from gifts donated.

- I am thankful that our programs, and those of our partners, are comprehensive, designed to address global issues in a holistic and sustainable manner.

- I am thankful that many of our programs include educational components, which facilitate people learning to provide and care for themselves, their families, and/or their

environment into the future.

- I am thankful that the staff and volunteers of PWRDF, and those of our partners, work tirelessly to care for the world's most vulnerable people.

You will find evidence of many of the things that I have mentioned in the initiatives identified in this year's **World of Gifts** campaign:

- **Food Security** is addressed through programs that supply livestock, seeds, tools, and training as well as emergency food, when needed. We participate in some of these initiatives directly with international partners, and others by way of our membership in the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, whose goal is for a world without hunger.

- **Clean Water** is addressed through wells, climate change mitigation, water delivery systems, and techniques to retain the

scarce rain that falls in short rainy seasons.

- **Health-related** initiatives, such as those under the extension to the **All Mothers and Children Count** program, which is helping people stay safe in the face of a global pandemic.

- **Indigenous** programs to support disadvantaged individuals through business support programs to help them regain or retain their culture, and mental health initiatives targeting **at risk youth**.

- Programs that support victims of violence, hatred, and abuse.

- Support for those in refugee camps, including education, self-reliance training, and addiction mitigation work.

Since I'm sure we are all suffering from COVID-fatigue, I believe it is sufficient to acknowledge that this disease has



*Seeds and agricultural education program in Zimbabwe*

changed the world for all of us and move on to look for what God is calling us to do in the midst of it all. I ask you to please consider adding PWRDF to your Christmas Gift List this year. I know of one family whose siblings, instead of exchanging gifts among themselves, will chip in and "Buy the Whole Farm!" Another grandmother I know talks

to her grandchildren about PWRDF, they get very excited about giving chickens, goats, and piglets to those who have very little—she makes this one of their Christmas gifts.

May God richly bless you this Christmas season as you continue to bless others! Thank you!

## Synod Office For Sale As Diocese Faces Financial Deficit

Article and photograph by  
Emily F. Rowe



The Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador has decided to sell the property that is currently housing synod office, the diocesan resource centre, the diocesan archives, and the Home Again Furniture Bank. The decision comes in the wake of a loss of income, mostly due to the COVID-19 lockdown and six-month closure of parishes throughout the diocese. A letter published on the diocesan Facebook page projects an income deficit of almost 48% for 2020, which is about \$670,000. The diocese receives 93% of their income from parish assessments, and in the financial crunch that has resulted from COVID-19, many parishes have been unable to meet their commitments.

As a result of this loss of income, the

diocese began the process of exploring possible property that could be sold, and this included some vacant property as well as synod office. This is "an emergency response and must not be considered lightly as it only provides a band-aid solution to a hemorrhage situation." A strategic plan will soon be put in place by the diocese to address the many financial struggles within parishes, and these will include building closures and possible staff layoffs. In October, Archdeacon Sam Rose oversaw the closures and deconsecrations of two churches within the diocese: St. Luke's in Winterton (October 1st), and St. Luke's in Placentia (October 19th).

## ADVENT ACTIVITIES - December 2020

Fight for a cause that Jesus would support

Give a small gift to someone

Use a centreing prayer to hear God's voice

Set aside time and place to listen to the Holy Spirit

Read Luke 3:7-18

Study the life of Jesus written by scholars

Invite someone to discover part of God's beautiful Earth with you

Bring lunch to someone who doesn't get out much

Read Luke 21:25-36

Encourage someone with kind words

Invite someone to share coffee and conversation

Do a secret act of kindness

Bake/buy cookies or muffins and share them with friends, co-workers, or anyone in need on the street

Listen for God's voice in music

Re-read and study the Gospels this month

Read Luke 3:1-6

Watch a film version of the Gospels

Read Luke 1:39-45

Reconcile with someone you've been estranged from

Read Luke 2:1-20

Share your Christmas feast with someone!

Inspired by the book, "Surprise the World," by Michael Frost

Design by Gisele McKnight

# ANGLICAN LIFE

A Section of the Anglican Journal

**NEWSPAPER OF THE THREE ANGLICAN DIOCESES IN  
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**

**YES! I enjoy reading Anglican Life, and wish to make a donation to support its work:**

- ☐ \$25
- ☐ \$50
- ☐ \$100
- ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment**

- ☐ Cheque
- ☐ Credit Card:
- ☐ Visa
- ☐ Mastercard
- ☐ YES, I wish to receive  
an Income tax Receipt, Charity  
Reg. No. 107020232 RR0001

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail Your Gift To:

Anglican Life  
19 King's  
Bridge Road  
St. John's, NL  
A1C 3K4

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry (Month) \_\_\_\_\_ (Year) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_