



## Announcing A New Diocesan Ministry Initiative—Mobile Ministry Bus

Bishop Samuel Rose  
Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador

I am excited to announce an exciting new ministry initiative that our Diocese is undertaking.

As we all remember, the winter of 2022 was harsh, with many homeless individuals seeking refuge on our streets and open spaces. The Cheers & Jeers section of The Telegram shed light on the absence of warming centres in our province, particularly the City of St. John's. This prompted me to send a simple yet urgent email to city clergy with one line: "What can we do about this?"

Our city clergy met to discuss this challenge. From that conversation came the idea of a mobile unit supporting marginalized populations and people experiencing homelessness. Since that time, there have been several developments. At our request, Metrobus agreed to donate a bus from its retiring fleet for this purpose. Multiple conversations have occurred with potential community partners who decided this is a much needed asset, complementing existing programming.

The Mission Statement for this endeavour is: to provide compassion to street-involved individuals through a mobile wellness platform. We will form partnerships with other like-minded stakeholders and sponsors to provide integrated services. We aim to improve the well-being and quality of life of those in need, fostering a community where we



respect the dignity of every human being.

From our engagement with the community, we have determined that while homelessness is more visible in the downtown core, it is prevalent in every nook and cranny of our province, and people come from outlying areas to access services in St. John's. There is no part of our diocese that the homelessness crisis has not impacted. This mobile wellness platform will help meet the needs of people from all of our communities in Newfoundland & Labrador. We hope to provide coffee & tea, a simple hot meal, basic health care services, housing support, hygiene products, basic clothing items, etc.

For this initiative to succeed, it requires the active participation and support of every parish in our diocese. Whether knitting



*We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Carol Matthews for her generous donation of beautifully hand-knitted winter mittens and hats for our upcoming Ministry Bus project. Your kindness and dedication to helping others are truly inspiring. These warm items will make a significant difference for those in need. Thank you for sharing your talent and spreading warmth throughout our community. Left to right are Bishop Rose, Carol Matthews, and The Rev'd Fred Marshall. - photograph submitted by Bishop Rose*

mittens, making soup or muffins, pouring coffee, driving the bus, or contributing to the operating costs, every Anglican has a role to play.

In Matthew Chapter 25, Jesus reminds us that serving the least of these is serving Christ himself.

Our vision is a society where no individual is left behind or overlooked and where marginalized populations receive the care and support they deserve. Through our mobile wellness platform, we will strive to create a safe and welcoming space for street-involved individuals to access holistic services, build connections, and regain hope for a brighter future. Together, we envision a community where

wellness is inclusive and where every person is valued and supported on their journey to health and healing.

For more information, please contact:

- The Ven. Amanda Taylor: [stmarksrector@bellaliant.com](mailto:stmarksrector@bellaliant.com)
- The Rev'd Canon Gail MacDonald: [reverendgail@nl.rogers.com](mailto:reverendgail@nl.rogers.com)
- The Rev'd Fred Marshall: [fredmarshall@gmail.com](mailto:fredmarshall@gmail.com)

In Christ's love,  
Bishop Sam

### St. Paul's, Summerside

■ Photographs from life in the parish in the season of Advent and lead up to Christmas

⇒ 4

### A Life Entertwined

■ Burnsie Lawrence: a life in St. Jacques, and connections to her Church

⇒ 6

### Confirmation, Deer Lake

■ The parish celebrates four young people, and helps community with Christmas hampers

⇒ 9

### Journey Through Advent

■ Catwright youth put together Christmas stockings, and put on nativity play

⇒ 12

### Advent in Upper Island Cove

■ Updates from their busy Advent of ministry and community involvement

⇒ 14

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SERVANT WHOM WE CONSECRATE IN YOUR NAME



## Andrew Joshua Haggstrom ordained deacon in Grand Bay

The ordination of Catechist Andrew Joshua Haggstrom took place on November 14th, 2024, at St. Paul's Church in Grand Bay. Rev'd Deacon Joshua is in the Parish of Grand Bay. There were attendees from the three churches that make up the Parish of Grand Bay, as well as a large contingent from the rest of the Diocese of Western Newfoundland. Included with this article are a few of the pictures from this very special event in Joshua's ministry. There was a fellowship luncheon after the service.

*-article and photograph by Eileen Keeping*



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

# A Truly Gaudete Sunday!

Article and photographs by  
Dr. Doreen Helen Klassen

On Saturday, December 14th, Dean Catherine Short, of The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Corner Brook, posted an invitation on the Cathedral's Facebook page for worship on the 3rd Sunday of Advent, and for "our 3rd annual 'Mingle and Jingle' as we continue the joy of Gaudete Sunday in a social gathering with lunch provided by vestry, a silent auction, and music and sing-along."

But it was no ordinary upstairs-downstairs Sunday. Instead, in her December 15th post after the service, the Dean wrote, "When the organist calls 90 minutes before worship is scheduled and

says it is 5 degrees in the church, you wonder what you will do. Thanks to the huge propane stove and a heater downstairs, we could quickly take the chill off the hall. The decision was made to pull out the downstairs piano, move everything needed for worship into the hall (the Advent wreath, the communion elements, service books, etc) that had been set for our annual Mingle and Jingle and rejoice! The furnace repairman arrived just before 10, did a quick fix so the Arthur & Eileen Churchill Hall began to warm up just about as quickly as our hearts!"

"Seventy-four people

enjoyed worship in a way that many said was reminiscent of days gone by. Once our souls were nourished a few quick changes were made once again and the hot soup, sandwiches, and desserts appeared to nourish our bodies."

The Dean began her post, saying, "The spirit and the joy of Gaudete Sunday was alive this morning." She ended with the comment, "My heart is filled with the joy and willingness to adapt that I experienced this morning." And one respondent posted, "That's what community looks like and how real community acts! Gaudete, indeed!"



## Celebration for Deacon Annie Rose

Article by Dr. Doreen Helen Klassen  
Photo by Dean Catherine Short

On December 8th, The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Corner Brook said thank you and farewell to The Rev'd Deacon Annie Rose upon completion of her internship, the final requirement for her Bachelor of Theology by Distance degree from Queen's College in St. John's. Annie (on the right

in the above photograph) is shown here with Donna Hicks and Deborah Howe, who together with Valerie Pretty and Dennis Porter, were assigned by Dean Catherine Short to be Annie's supervisory committee. Deacon Annie began serving the Parish of Isle aux Morts on January 1st, 2025.



Top photo: the "lunch table" was easily transformed into an altar; Bottom photo: Common Praise hymnals and Book of Alternative Services quickly appeared at each place setting



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# Advent at St. Paul's, Summerside

Left photo: The newest candidate in training for lay ministry, Ms Shelly Loder, at St Paul's Church, Summerside. Left to right: The Rev'd George Critchell, Shelly Loder, and Deacon Greg Loder.



Right photo: Members of the Loder family came together to light the candle of Joy during Advent at St Paul's in Summerside, December 2024



Below: A spirit filled service at St. Paul's ended with a blessing and the congregation going outside to light the outdoor memory tree.

- submitted with photographs by The Rev'd George Critchell





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ANGLICAN LIFE Newfoundland&Labrador



The Rev'd Canon Jeffrey Petten  
Columnist

# Ponder and Wonder

Now and then, when reading St. Luke's Gospel, the phrase that sticks out to me is: "But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 2:19). As this edition of Anglican Life will be released on the eve of the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord, the words of the birth narrative very strongly come to mind. As any parent is quite well aware, there is a lot of pondering and wondering in their lives as they ponder and wonder about their children. Mary was no different. She would have pondered and wondered as she watched Jesus grow up. Except in this case, Mary knew that there was something different about her child, and it came to fruition not only when Jesus began his earthly ministry in public but also from looking at his life—looking at his birth with the adoration of the shepherds, the



Presentation of Jesus in the Temple by Giovanni Bellini on commons.wikimedia.com

proclamation of Simeon and Anna, the visit of the Magi, and the turning of water into wine.

In her pondering and wondering, I am certain that the words of Simeon, in stating that a sword would pierce her own soul as well, came flooding back to her when

she stood at the foot of the cross, when she saw that Jesus was pierced, and the sign of death flowed as blood and water appeared. These are only the thoughts of a mother—thinking back on her life and the life of her son, and knowing that her child was different but yet, in his

humanity, was the same as one of us.

When I was growing up, there was one song which was popular in the 1990s, sung by Joan Osborne, entitled "What If God Was One of Us":

*What if God was one of us?  
Just a slob like one of us,*

*Just a stranger on the bus,  
Tryin' to make his way home?*

The thing about pondering and wondering is that, in the pondering and in the wondering, we come to the realization that God, in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, is one of us. Not only is God one of us, but he is trying to make his way home in us. In God trying to make his way home in us, he brings us closer to God in the process. That is what happens in the pondering and wondering of Mary. This is what happens when Simeon sees the child and makes such a bold statement of faith as in the Nunc Dimittis.

As we celebrate the light of Christ in our lives on the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord, let us make room for God so that not only is God finding a way home, but we find our home in God as well.

## New columbarium installed for St. Paul's, Summerside



Myrtle Bennett, a 93-year-old parishioner, places the first urn—that of a friend—into the newly installed columbarium at St. Paul's Church, Summerside. This is believed to be the first congregation-owned columbarium of its size in the Diocese of Western Newfoundland. We are proud to embrace this modern addition to our church community. - submitted with photographs by The Rev'd George Critchell

# A Life Entertwined With St. Michael and All Angels', St. Jacques

Article by Hazel Hickey, Burnsie Lawrence, and Emily Rowe  
Photographs supplied by Burnsie Lawrence and Hazel Hickey

Emma Amelia Burns Lawrence, known to all as Burnsie, holds a unique place in the history of St. Jacques, Newfoundland and Labrador. Born on March 23, 1933, she is the oldest person born in the community and still living there today. Her life is a remarkable testament to the resilience, faith, and close-knit spirit of this small outpost town.

## Roots in St. Jacques

Burnsie was named Emma after her father's sister, and Amelia after a family nurse who may have assisted in her birth. After her baptism, her godmother, Hazel Young, affectionately added "ie" to her surname, and Burnsie became the name by which everyone knew her.

Her father, Albert Pope Skinner, born in St. Jacques in 1896, served as the sexton of St. Michael and All Angels' Church for 20 years (which was noted in the church register at the time of his death) before passing away at age 44 in 1937. Her mother, Louisa Scott, originally from Doctor's Harbour, lived to the remarkable age of 100, passing away in 1996. Burnsie's grandfather, James William Skinner (February 1851 - July 1927), and her father were both baptised in the same church where Burnsie

herself was baptised, married, and saw her eight children baptised and confirmed. Her great-grandfather, William John Skinner, is believed to have

been born in 1825 or 1826, and died in 1907, is also buried there, but without a tombstone.



The two photographs above show the exterior of St. Michael and All Angels' with original windows, tower, and "Welcome to our Bishop" sign

## A Church at the Heart of Life

The existing St. Michael and All Angels' Church building, standing for over 100 years, has a rich history. Archival records indicate that in 1891, plans were made for a "new and enlarged church," and by 1892, construction was well underway. By 1893, the structure was deemed "usable" in time for the Bishop's visit. The church was consecrated in 1898, the same year the Church of England Women's Association (CEWA) began raising funds for a stained-glass East window, which would take a year or two to complete.

By 1923, further improvements were made to the church's interior, including the addition of a reredos to the altar, repainting and panelling of the chapel, and the installation of a new carpet imported from England in the chancel. While the church interior remains largely the same, the carpet has since been replaced, and the ceiling was lowered when electric heat was installed several years ago.

The church once had a tower, which was removed and replaced with a cross, along with the original tower window. A photograph from the November 2024 issue

of Anglican Life shows the building after these changes, at a time when it was still heated by an oil furnace. Despite modifications, the main building retains the same number of windows, although the original ones have been replaced, and a chancel window has been removed. A photograph featuring the Bishop and The Rev'd Harold Brown captures the now-absent chancel window from the inside.

The cemetery adjacent to the church was expanded in the early 1960s, as evidenced by a photo of the Bishop consecrating the new ground. This image also shows the church before the removal of the tower and the chancel window. Another archival photograph highlights the original church windows.

Above the church porch, the bell remains intact. Traditionally, this bell was rung half an hour before services and tolled during funerals as a casket was brought in and out of the church. Records from 1939 state that the Bishop consecrated both the tower and the bell.

Over the years, the church's heating and lighting systems evolved. Initially warmed by coal

*Continued on page 7*

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stoves and illuminated by kerosene lamps, the building later transitioned to an oil furnace before adopting electric heat. Archival notes from late 1935 document the replacement of the old brick chimney with a concrete one to support these advancements.

A Bishop's visit for confirmation was a significant occasion, marked by the decoration of the churchyard with boughs lining the fence and an archway with a sign reading "Welcome to our Bishop," as seen in the photograph included with this article.

This blend of preservation and change reflects the enduring importance of St. Michael and All Angels' Church to its congregation and the community of St. Jacques.

### A Life of Faith and Service

In 1953, Burnsie married John Thomas Lawrence at St. Michael and All Angels' Church. Together, they raised



Above we see the bishop consecrating the newly expanded cemetery in 1961; below we see the bishop and the rector



eight children, five boys and three girls, in their St. Jacques home. All were baptised and confirmed in the church, and several were married there, continuing the family's deep connection to the historic building.

From an early age, Burnsie was immersed in church life. Sunday services were central to her upbringing, whether held in her home town, or if there wasn't a service in St. Jacques, they would sometimes walk to Belleoram. She became an active member of the Church of England Women's Association (later the Anglican Church Women's Association) and served as treasurer for both the organisation and the church congregation for decades. The highlight was the Fall "Sale of Work," at which members displayed their knitting, crocheting, and embroidery work, and also their culinary skills with Church Suppers.

Her dedication extended to supporting

fundraisers and maintaining meticulous records. Burnsie stepped back from her treasurer duties only after a serious injury at age 80, but she continues to attend services and support church events at 91.

### A Legacy of Family and Faith

The Skinner family has deep roots in St. Jacques, with ancestors among the earliest settlers. Their family plot, situated near the church, serves as a reminder of their enduring presence in the community.

As the oldest person born in St. Jacques still living there, Burnsie embodies the spirit of a town where family, faith, and community are inextricably linked. Her life, interwoven with the history of St. Michael and All Angels' Church, ensures the legacy of both will continue to inspire future generations.

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# Alongside Hope

Anglicans and partners working for change  
in Canada and around the world

## PWRDF Becomes Alongside Hope News from Alongside Hope (PWRDF)

Article by Dr. Doreen Helen Klassen  
Alongside Hope (PWRDF)  
Representative  
Diocese of Western  
Newfoundland

For many people, the acronym PWRDF is virtually a tongue twister. Even clergy and PWRDF Parish Representatives often have difficulty saying the acronym or relating what the letters stand for. And what do we actually mean by the terms “Primate” or “World Relief and Development”?

As Anglicans, we refer to the head of the Canadian Anglican Communion as a Primate, but for many others a primate is a being in the wilds or a zoo. Even recently, the PWRDF office in Toronto received a letter saying, “If you are having difficulty locating primates, why not broaden your search category to include orangutans?”

And do the words “World Relief and Development” truly reflect how PWRDF works with others? Do we in North America have the answers to problems in the rest of the world? Is PWRDF only for others, or also for Canadians? We need to ask: Who is doing what for whom? And, is it *for*, or *with*?

As PWRDF Board Member, The Rev'd Cynthia



"Jesus und der Gang nach Emmaus" by Gebhard Fugel; from commons.wikimedia.org

Haines Turner wrote in last month's *Anglican Life*, “when you spend more time explaining the name than you do speaking about what you do, it's time to change it.” It was obvious that PWRDF needed a name that is easy to say and understand, and that expresses the way it actually works.

A Task Team established by the PWRDF Board to choose a more representative name concluded that the name needed to say that PWRDF works *together* with agencies around the world in the *hope* of creating “a truly just, healthy, and peaceful world.” The two most significant

terms that emerged from these discussions were “alongside” and “hope.”

These terms may be easiest to remember, if we consider their scriptural basis. “Alongside” emerged from reflections on how Jesus walked alongside two disciples on the road to Emmaus, disciples who recognized him when he broke bread and blessed it. And “hope,” was chosen because it reflects who we are called to be: a people of hope. As our baptismal covenant states: “There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us. One Lord, one faith, one baptism.” (from Ephesians 4:4-5).

The name has changed, but the ministry has not. Our new name, Alongside Hope, reminds us that we are Anglicans and partners working together for change in Canada and around the world as we express our love for God and our neighbours.

With thanks to The Rev'd Cynthia Haines Turner,

submitted by Doreen Helen Klassen

**CORRECTION:** In the January issue of *Anglican Life*, the column by The Rev'd Cynthia Haines-Turner mistakenly printed that the name change for PWRDF/Alongside Hope happened in 2023, when in fact it was in 2024. This error has since been fixed in the online version of the column. I am sorry for any confusion that this may have caused.

- E. F. Rowe, Editor



The Rev'd Amber Tremblett  
Columnist

## A Letter To The Church

Dear Church,

It's been a month since the start of 2025. You've slowly been settling into this new year. And by now, have probably discovered that, despite your best intentions, and your declarations of “new year, new me,” not much has changed. You are still just as messy. Your brokenness is still on display for the world to see. You have seen no miraculous shift in perspective. And our kids still seem entirely uninterested in what you have to say.

Even though it is tempting to give in to discouragement, I hope you resist. I hope you resist hopelessness and instead accept and embrace the truth behind your circumstances: God is with you. The Church is the Body of Christ. Which means there is good to behold, even if it is hidden behind your hypocrisy and your mistakes.

My hope for you, the Church, this year, is that you would learn to bring this goodness to light, that your proclamation of the good news would not be shrouded by fear or a need for self-preservation but emboldened by a desire to show people the justice of Jesus.

My hope for you, the Church, is that you would be honest and vulnerable when admitting your flaws,



image designed by E. F. Rowe in Canva

and earnestly repent and seek forgiveness from God and also your neighbours.

My hope for you, the Church, is that the deepening of your relationships—with Christ and one another—would be at the centre of every single step you take this year. That your desire for reconciliation and unity would drive your ministry, and that the relationships you build would be evidence of the coming Kingdom of God.

Most of all, my hope for you, the Church, is that you'll still let me be part of you. That I'll keep belonging to this messy, grace-needing, grace-giving Body, that I'll find Jesus there, and continue preaching Jesus there for as long as God calls me to.

In hope and love,

Your member,  
Amber

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TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE  
CONSECRATED, LORD, TO THEE.



## Confirmation in Deer Lake

On the Feast of Christ the King, November 24th, 2024, Bishop John Organ visited the Parish of Deer Lake for the sacrament of confirmation. On that morning, there were four young people who reaffirmed their commitment of faith in Jesus Christ. Over the duration of the preparation, they were instructed on such things as the sacraments, the church year, and vestments, and one weekend, they gathered in the church hall and made communion bread for Sunday worship.

In addition to this, when the lesson about stewardship was instructed, each candidate was given \$5 to go and increase it to at least \$10. This

was based on the Parable of the Talents. From the twenty dollars that was given out, a total of \$191.35 came back. This money was then given to the Deer Lake Christian Aid Committee to use towards the cost of providing Christmas hampers for those in need during the Christmas season.

We wish to extend thanks to all those who made our celebration of the sacrament of confirmation such a beautiful occasion in the life of our parish.

-article by Canon Petten;  
photograph by Kara Lush



## Glorious Christmas at St. Peter's, CBS

Article by and photographs by  
William Lee

“Glorious Christmas” was a six-week personal spirituality programme, developed and facilitated by the Rev’d Dr Bonnie Morgan and parishioner Colleen Reid. By combining *Lectio Divina* prayer methods with art therapy techniques designed to quiet the mind, Glorious Christmas made space at a busy time of the year for profound and personal spiritual connections with the story of God’s Incarnation.

During weekly hour-long meetings, participants had time to quiet themselves and to hear the whole story of Christmas. This was followed by 30 minutes of silent time to reflect on the readings and make art in response. Next followed an opportunity to

share personal responses and a “Prayer Over the Gifts.”

Each week featured a different part of the Christmas story with a related artistic prompt. Starting with *The Annunciation* (Luke 1:26–38) and the prompt “Angel,” we proceeded through *The Visitation* (Luke 1:39–57) – prompt: “Adjoining Hearts”; *The Nativity* (Luke 2:1–14) – prompt: “Christ Child”; *The Adoration of the Magi* (Matthew 2:1–12) – prompt: “Your Own Star”; *The Holy Innocents* (Matthew 2:13–18) – prompt: “Transforming Tears”; and ended with *The Presentation in the Temple* (Luke 2:22–40) with the prompt “Dove.” Art materials were kept

simple: plain paper, adult colouring sheets, markers, crayons, and leads, with watercolour paint palettes and simple wooden ornaments available for those who wanted to use them during the last two sessions.

By combining scripture, prayer, and creativity, Glorious Christmas continued the Christian tradition of using art to express devotion. Art has been described as a “unique language of the soul,” and the programme reminded participants that the process of making art can be an act of worship: honouring and giving thanks to the Divine Creator, who has likewise gifted creativity to us.





Emily F. Rowe  
Editor, Anglican Life

# Candlemas: Old Traditions Through A Christian Lens

*If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,  
Winter will have another flight;  
If Candlemas Day be foul with rain,  
Winter is gone and won't come again.*

That's how the old rhyme goes. But here in Atlantic Canada, we know winter doesn't just pack up and leave in February—global warming or not. Over the years, Anglican Life has shared a few articles about Candlemas, one of the oldest Christian celebrations, but I think that it's worth revisiting and thinking about again.

On February 2nd, Christmas is officially over. In medieval times, people believed that decorations left up after Candlemas might attract goblins! So, if

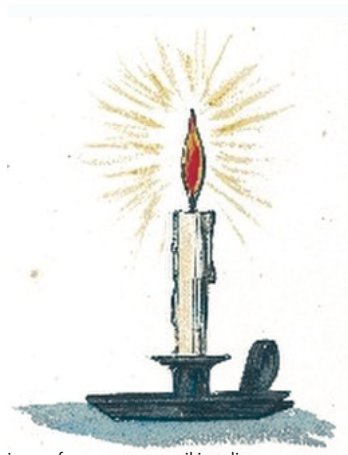


image from commons.wikimedia.org

your tree is still up, now's the time to take it down—just in case.

These days, we don't believe in goblins, and most people take their decorations down long before Candlemas. In fact, some folks are so eager to be done that their trees are out on the curb on Boxing Day! But goblins or not, it's worth remembering that

many Christian traditions are tied to older customs. Some people see this as a bad thing, but it's really a strength. The Church has always taken what's familiar and reshaped it through the lens of the Gospel.

Candlemas customs, like the blessing of candles, remind us that Christ is the light of the world. These rituals come from older traditions of lighting fires to push back the darkness of winter. In farming communities, Candlemas also marked the turning of the year—a time to prepare for the season ahead. Instead of fighting these connections, the Church embraced them, blending Scripture with everyday life.

In pre-Christian

England, February was a time for purification and seasonal change. The Anglo-Saxons celebrated Imbolc, honouring Brigid, a goddess of fertility and light. The Church lined up Candlemas with these traditions, focusing on Jesus as the light who shines in the darkness. Based on Luke 2:22–40, Candlemas celebrates Mary and Joseph bringing Jesus to the temple, where Simeon recognised him as “a light to lighten the Gentiles.”

All of this came to North America with settlers and is still part of the Anglican Church of Canada today. Such traditions remind us that the Church isn't separate from the world, but works within it—faith can make the ordinary

sacred.

Candlemas invites us to take some time and reflect during the dark days of winter—February is a short month, but a cold and dark one. It's a reminder that Christianity is not just about abandoning ancient stories and customs. By taking old traditions and connecting them to the message of Christ, Candlemas shows us how the light of the Gospel shines through every part of life, bringing warmth and hope to all who seek it. Whether through candlelight, community, or simple moments of reflection, this feast is important to keep, to inspire and remind us that even in the darkest times, light is never far away.

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# A Tradition Unexpectedly Created

## St. John the Evangelist, Topsail

Article by Louise Smith  
 Photograph by Sharon Smith

Here at St. John the Evangelist, we have several dates on the church calendar—both spiritual and some with secular connotations—that are recognized and celebrated throughout the year. Not least among them is our annual Christmas Holly Tea, which was showcased on December 14th for the fifteenth consecutive Christmas.

The Holly Tea arose from the ashes of the year-long celebration of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the first Anglican Church in Topsail—the old heritage building.

Each month that year, in 2010, was marked with a special activity or guest relevant to the successful worship and endurance over the decades.

After twelve months' duration, and to conclude things, we decided to have a once-in-a-lifetime finale. This was achieved by preparing a special luncheon, using our finest china, and serving it in an appropriately decorated environment while inviting friends from neighbouring parishes.



It was a proud year with a successful and pleasant ending.

As Christmas approached the following year, we kept receiving positive accolades about our previous presentation, which encouraged us to give it a second try—and the rest is history.

Consequently, it has grown exponentially since that trial beginning fifteen years ago, which started with a welcome, luncheon, door prize, and poetry reading.

I believe that what makes our Holly Tea stand out as so prominent and popular is that, right from the beginning, it took on a very personal persona.

We have many groups who reserve early, which results in full capacity long before the event begins. Some families return each year.

There is one family who has never missed an event. Faith Mallard came as a baby with her

parents, grandparents, and great-grandmother. This year, at fifteen years old, she helped our team serve the refreshments.

Each year, we endeavour to add to the entertainment to make it more conducive to all ages. This includes door prizes and multiple smaller prizes on tickets.

To add to the drama this year, a six-year-old boy sang two songs while being accompanied by his mother on the guitar. Faith also sang a solo, and, of course, we had our usual home-grown poetry reading.

Our sincere thanks to Shirley Glynn, who organised the whole show.

At the Holly Tea, we reach outside our parish,  
 To receive old friends and welcome new.

Exchanging greetings for a Merry Christmas,  
 And a Happy New Year too.

*Serve the Lord with gladness  
 Come before his presence with singing.*  
 - Psalm 100: 2

# Fraud Seminar Educates Our Seniors

## St. Peter's, Upper Gullies

Article by  
 William Lee

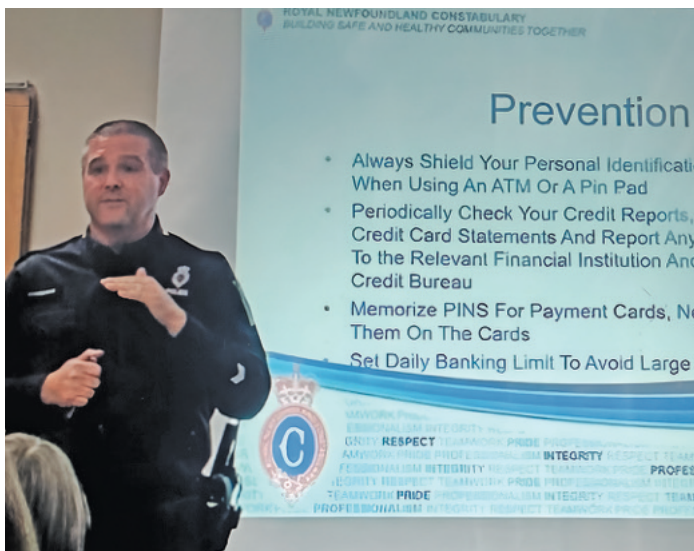
It was a very informative evening as Constable Fitzgerald presented a seminar on fraudulent activity, and how seniors are often the victims. Almost a full house of seniors from the congregation and community listened attentively, and were very inquisitive as well on

the topic. Great fellowship followed with tea, coffee, and finger food. Always be vigilant with respect to scammers.

St. Peter's in Upper Gullies would like to thank Constable Fitzgerald for his informative presentation that will assist in protecting our

seniors from fraud and other types of swindling and trickery.

This seminar was arranged by Gary Parsons on behalf of the Men's Service Club. Gary also provided the photos.



Above are a few pictures related to the seminar and the fellowship that took place after the seminar.



# A Journey Through Advent in Cartwright

Article and photographs by Barbara Mesher

These pictures are from the “Journey through Advent” Sunday school youth program from Cartwright. Here in Cartwright, one of our dedicated parishioners, Wanda Cabot, invited the youth and their families to meet each week during the season of Advent to talk about hope, peace, joy, and love. We did a craft each week, and we all helped put together a large puzzle and had lunch and fellowship.

During the first week, each child was given the name of a person living in Cartwright to whom they would deliver a stocking filled with goodies. Every day when the children opened their own Advent calendars at home, they also put an item in the stocking (for example, a picture they drew, candies, a Christmas card, or other small items). These were then delivered on Christmas Eve. They did this as their Christmas outreach.

On Christmas Eve the children took part in the journey to the manger as part of the Christmas Eve service at St. Peter’s Anglican Church.



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# St. Cyprian and St. Mary's Fall Sale and Kid's Nativity

Submitted with photographs by Ann Kannagara

The festive spirit was alive in Bell Island as St. Cyprian's and St. Mary's Church hosted their much anticipated Fall Sale on November 30th, 2024. This annual event brought together the community for a day filled with fun, fellowship, and fundraising. Following this, the church celebrated the holiday season with a delightful Kids Nativity on December 7th, 2024.



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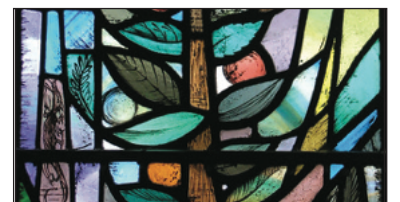
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# The Gift of Advent

Article and photographs by Nancy Lieff

During the Advent season, the promise of Christ's birth brings light and warmth. Keeping faith in communal response through the Advent of his birth kept the people of the Parish of Upper Island Cove (U.I.C.) actively burning those faithful candles of hope, peace, joy, and love from the beginning to the end of the month of December.

Channeling the great hope of the joy to come, a Christmas Teatime, Bake Sale, and Sing-along was hosted by St. Peter's Vestry on the first Sunday of Advent. Below St. Peter's Church proper, the Reverend Pearce Hall was at jovial capacity. It was alight with the smells of baked goods for sale—and goods to share among friends. Amid these delicious scents were vibrant sounds from the songs of the season. All gifts were shared freely: the traditional Christmas cakes, desserts, time spent in service, and, of course, the music as enjoyable and plentiful as the baked goods themselves.

The second weekend of Advent saw the Town of U.I.C., in partnership with both the Anglican Church Assistance Association (A.C.A.A.) and St. Peter's Church, open the annual "Jingle Fest," a week long event of Christmas festivities held in the town. Each year, these



community groups and townspeople gather in front of St. Peter's Church, and a countdown to lighting the Christmas Tree ensues. The crowd then gathers in the Reverend Pearce Hall to enjoy further band selections of the Christmas season. It is often heard that this town tradition marks the beginning of Christmas in many hearts, and indeed a sense of peace can be felt around the Christmas tree as the glow from the lights is seen on the faces of children and adults alike. In neighbouring Bryant's Cove, the congregation of St. Andrew's welcomed the peace of the Christmas season during their Lessons and Carols service.

Gathering steam, the third week of Advent marked the Children's Christmas Pageant, St. Peter's Lessons and Carols service, and, later that week, The Sounds of Christmas Concert held at St. Peter's Elementary School. Many parishioners joined together during the morning service to watch the St. Peter's Sunday School Children, the Junior Auxiliary (J.A.), and the Church Lad's Brigade (C.L.B.) perform their Christmas concerts and returned that evening for a deeply moving Lessons

*Continued on page 15*

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and Carols Service. In its second year, The Sounds of Christmas Concert is a benefit Christmas concert presented by a group of talented local musicians. Entrance to the concert is paid in the spirit of giving and humility: a non-perishable food item for the local food bank or a free-will monetary donation. One remarkable feature of this concert was the presentation of the 75th Confederation Service Medal to our very own Rev'd Howard Crane for his outstanding contributions to the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Congratulations to Rev'd Crane on this remarkable achievement—your parish is so proud of you! Before moving on to the final week of Advent, it must be noted that during a Christmas sing-along for the students at St. Peter's School some days later, the monetary donations collected at the concert were presented to leaders of the J.A., C.L.B., and St. Peter's School Breakfast Program by the Sounds of Christmas committee with matching donations from the Town of U.I.C. itself. It is true that it is in the giving that we truly receive, as a feeling of joy in the fellowship of St. Peter's School amid interconnected community groups was palpable to all.

At last, the final week of Advent, marked by the candle of love and the birth of Christ, was among us. On Christmas Eve morning, some two hundred and forty parishioners joined together for a Family Eucharist and Children's Nativity Drama starring the children of Sunday School, who told the story of Jesus' birth through story and song. A similar



number of people returned that evening for St. Peter's Carol Service, during which St. Peter's Choir—joined by former choir director and special friend, Rev'd Arch Young—gave us a stunning evening of Christmas music ministry. The Parish of U.I.C. held its annual St. Stephen's Day service at St. Peter's Church on December 26th in partnership with the A.C.A.A. and Brass Band, followed by their traditional parade to St. Peter's School for continued music selections. To cap off quite a full month in the parish, a service was held on the last Sunday of the month at St. John the Baptist Chapel with the theme "mugs and muffins." Hosted by St. Peter's Vestry, it was

a relaxed atmosphere, where muffins, coffee, and tea were provided and enjoyed in fellowship during morning prayer.

To conclude, the Advent season of a parish is busy, and preparations must be in sync with Advent liturgy. But what keeps the oil of said liturgical communal response going, my friends, isn't the muffins. It isn't the music, or the concerts, or the candles, even. Now and always, the oil that keeps it all going is about the communal embodiment of the love of Jesus. May we move through each worship and each day grounded in word, thought, and deed by this truth—the true gift of the season.



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# An ACW Visit With Christmas Music

Submitted with photograph by  
Lisa Snow



The ACW ladies of both Fogo and Deep Bay had a night of Christmas carols and readings with residents of Riverhead Manor and Harbourview Apartments. The residents all enjoyed the music, readings, and the visit. Let's give thanks for the true meaning of Christmas: the birth of our saviour. Wishing everyone a blessed holiday season!

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