

ANGLICAN LIFE

NEWSPAPER FOR THE THREE ANGLICAN DIOCESES IN
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR • A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

JUNE 2025



The Beauty of Small Churches

Bishop Samuel Rose
Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador



Confirmation at home due to illness

In a world that often celebrates the grand and the large-scale, there is a quiet, enduring beauty in the small churches that dot the landscapes of places like the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador. Recently, I had the privilege of revisiting the Parish of Southeast Labrador, a vast collection of eight congregations stretching from Lodge Bay to Cartwright. This parish was formed from the union of two historic mission areas: Battle Harbour and Cartwright. And it holds a special place in my heart. It was here, in 1998, that I began my ministry as a Catechist, and later, in 2001, served as Rector. Returning to these familiar communities reminded me of the profound gift small churches offer: a living reflection of the early Christian community, rooted in care, connection, and faith in Christ.

Small churches, like those in Southeast Labrador, embody a simplicity and closeness that call to mind the earliest followers of Jesus. In the Book of Acts, we read of believers who “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the

breaking of bread and to prayer” (Acts 2:42). These were not huge assemblies in large cathedrals but modest gatherings, often in homes, where faith was nurtured through shared meals, heartfelt conversation, and mutual support. Today, as I travel across our vast diocese, I see this same spirit alive in our small congregations. Whether it’s sharing a cup of tea in a parishioner’s home or offering prayer beside someone’s sickbed, these intimate moments weave a beautiful and resilient fabric of church community.

The beauty of these churches lies not in their size but in their capacity to care for one another in Christ. In a small congregation, no one is a stranger for long. Faces become familiar, stories are known, and joys and struggles are carried together. When a family faces hardship—be it illness, loss, or the challenges of life in remote Labrador—their church rallies around them. A casserole appears at the door, a visit is made, a prayer is said. This is the Body of Christ at work, each member supporting the other, just as Paul



Bishop Rose and the Rumbolt family, Mary’s Harbour

describes in 1 Corinthians 12:26: “If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it.” In these acts of love, small churches mirror the early Christians, who “shared everything they had” and ensured “there were no needy persons among them” (Acts 4:32, 34).

Visiting the Parish of Southeast Labrador, I am struck by the resilience of these communities. Spread across rugged terrain and often separated by miles of coastline, the eight congregations remain united in purpose and faith. They gather in humble buildings, weathered by decades of wind and snow, and yet these spaces are alive with worship and warmth. It’s a reminder

that the church is not defined by its architecture but by the people who fill it with their devotion. Like the early church, which thrived without ornate structures, these small congregations prove that faith flourishes where love and care abound.

There is a blessing, too, in the intimacy of worship in a small church. Hymns are sung by voices that know each other well, with prayers shaped by the community’s specific needs, and the Eucharist becomes truly a family meal. As a bishop, I find great joy in these visits, sitting with faithful people who welcome me into their homes and their lives.

See *SMALL CHURCHES*,
page 4

Make a Joyful Noise to The Lord

■ The Cathedral Choir from St. Martin’s in Gander performs at music festival

⇒ 5

The Future of the Church, and the Church of the Future

■ From St. John the Evangelist, Topsail

⇒ 7

Meadows Sunday School

■ Recent photo of the Sunday School at Holy Trinity

⇒ 7

New Resources to Help Parishes

■ News from Alongside Hope (PWRDF)

⇒ 9

The Latest from Anglican Life Columnists:

■ The Rev’d Amber Tremblett - *Two poems for spring and summer*

⇒ 5

■ The Rev’d Andreas Thiel - *Reflections from the Table*

⇒ 6

■ The Rev’d Canon Jeffrey Petten - *Feast of Love*

⇒ 8

■ Editor, Emily Rowe - *A Voice in the Wilderness*

⇒ 10

New Server in the Parish of Meadows



Left to right: The Rev'd Greg Loder (deacon); the Rev'd George Critchell; Chase, our new server; Shelly Loder (server) - submitted by the Rev'd George Critchell

Letter to the Editor

A Call for Reform in Anglican Church Governance

The recent challenges faced by clergy and parishioners at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist—and, more broadly, throughout the Diocese of Western Newfoundland—have once again brought into focus long-standing issues within the structure of the Anglican Church of Canada.

The heart of this issue lies with the concentration of power in the role of the bishop. Both at the diocesan level and through synod voting procedures, this power dynamic sidelines the voices of clergy and laypeople. Despite being the ones most intimately connected with parishioners—the very lifeblood of the Church—these individuals have little real say in decision making.

This is not a truly democratic system.

It is a hierarchy that perpetuates control by a small minority, disconnected from the everyday realities of parish life. As long as this imbalance remains unaddressed, the church risks further decline—alienating its base, losing parishioners, and failing to attract new ones.

If the Anglican Church is serious about renewal, it must begin by sharing power. Bishops cannot continue to exercise veto power that overrides the collective wisdom of those working on the ground. Without meaningful reform, the Church's relevance—and future—remain in jeopardy.

Glynda Seaborn
Corner Brook, NL

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DEADLINES FOR FALL 2025:

September's print issue: 1 August
October's print issue: 1 September
November's print issue: 1 October

The earlier you submit your stories and photographs, the more likely they are to be included in the next issue of Anglican Life.

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ANGLICAN LIFE

NEWSPAPER FOR THE THREE ANGLICAN DIOCESES IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Tea, Treats, and Togetherness

Submitted with photographs by
Rose Noel

Our ACW at the Church of the Epiphany, McIvers, held a Sock Tea Party on Friday, April 4th, 2025. We had 18 ladies in attendance. It was a wonderful evening filled with games, fellowship, a cup of tea, and a delicious lunch.

This special event was part of a fun fundraiser where we filled a little sock for the church—adding one dime for January, two dimes for February, three for March, and so on up to December. We called it our Sock Tea Party, and got into the spirit by dressing up in hats and dresses. Tea was served in proper teapots, of course, making it all the more special!

This was our first event of this kind since 2019, and we're hoping to have many more in the future.

God bless!



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Small Churches

from page 1

Over a cup of tea, we talk about the weather, the fishery, and the hope they find in Christ. These conversations are holy moments and recall the fellowship of those first disciples who broke bread together and praised God. In a time when so

much pulls our attention away from each other and toward isolation, small churches are a testament to the power of community in Christ. They remind us that the kingdom of God is often found in the ordinary. With its eight faithful congregations, the Parish

of Southeast Labrador is just one example of this truth. Across our Diocese and beyond, small churches continue to shine as beacons of care, modelling the early Christian community in ways that are both timeless and deeply needed today.

As I left Southeast Labrador, I carried with me renewed gratitude for these small but mighty outposts of faith. They are a gift to our diocese and a living witness to the beauty of a church that cares for one another in Christ. May we all learn from their

example, cherishing the bonds that unite us and trusting that, in every cup of tea and every prayer, the Spirit is at work, drawing us closer to God and to each other.



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Make A Joyful Noise To The Lord!

Article and photograph by
Wendy Reynolds

Psalm 98: 4 says: Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

St. Martin's Cathedral Choir is a very integral part of worship in our parish as they lead our congregational in their singing on most Sundays. There is choir practice once a week from September to May with continual learning of new music for Christmas, Easter, special services; there are also weekly communion selections. As well, each year the choir performs at the annual Kiwanis Music Festival. The two selections this year were *Bless Us All* and *Agnus Dei How Great Thou Art*.

This year was particularly exciting as the choir was invited to perform at the Rose Bowl



Festival Highlights, and received a discretionary adjudicators award. What a privilege to share music ministry at Kiwanis, and with our community. And the award? It too

was shared, as the choir thought it fitting to give back to a cause that involved music and children, and chose to donate it to the music therapy program at

Princess Basma Center in Jerusalem.

Many thanks to our talented and dedicated leaders: to Leslie our organist/pianist, and to Susan our director.

But most importantly, Thank you Lord, for the gift of voices to make beautiful music, and the opportunities to freely share our music with others.



The Rev'd Amber Tremblett
Columnist

Two Recent Poems

As we move toward the end of Spring and prepare for Summer, I invite you to read some of my latest reflections on Creation and God:

Serendipity

When the forecast was wrong
on the day you watered the garden
And you found a dime on the ground
when it's been a couple months
With the sun now shining you determine
It's a fine day to hike the trail
And you find the blueberry bushes
ripe and ready to be picked
You gather them in your palms
And wish you had a bucket
In that moment your neighbour
walks up with an extra one in hand
Back home, the bucket calls from the counter
Begging to be emptied
into the crust of a blueberry pie
When your boss calls from the airport
The meeting's been pushed
A couple more days
You're not sure why things work out
This way—why rest comes
When you need it most
Is it serendipity
or God
You wonder
Why not both?

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

I have travelled long and far
Looking for the Kingdom you speak of
The stars watch me as I pray
For a way to describe the future you dream of

Then I held that grace-filled hand
In it the smallest seed I could think of
Watching it grow, I began to know
The something I've always been part of
Can I build my home in you?
Like the birds your son once taught of
Because in that tree, I've been set free
I have seen the Kingdom you speak of



The Rev'd Andreas Thiel
Guest Columnist

Reflections From The Table

There are many things that I appreciate about life in rural Newfoundland. One of them is the way community life naturally includes the church. As the local priest, I'm often invited to join various organizations for meetings or meals. I genuinely look forward to these gatherings—I wouldn't want it any other way. At the same time, I hope I never take this generous hospitality for granted.

Whenever food is involved, there's usually an expectation that "the minister" will offer the blessing. I'm always happy to do so. Still, I've sometimes wondered: what would happen if I tapped a random person on the shoulder and ushered them toward the microphone instead? (Did your blood pressure spike just a little?) It's a lighthearted thought, but also a reminder that every Christian—lay or ordained—should be ready to offer a word of thanks, whatever the setting.

Our Anglican tradition gives us a deep appreciation for the formal prayers of the *Book of Common Prayer*—and rightly so. But Jesus often spoke about the value of



Photo by Jorisvo from shutterstock.com: stained glass window created by F. Zettler (1878-1911) at the German Church (St. Gertrude's church) in Gamla Stan, Stockholm

simple, heartfelt prayer. He praised humility and warned against showy, performative religiosity (see Matthew 6:5). "Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven," he taught (Matthew 18:4).

So perhaps a table grace doesn't need to

be complex. Something as honest and simple as, "God, thank you for your goodness, and thank you for this food," might be just what's needed.

In the Ash Wednesday *Litany of Penitence*, we ask forgiveness for "our failure to commend the faith that is in us." Could a simple, sincere table grace—

spoken aloud, in public—be one small way to answer that prayer? Maybe even a way to encourage others to do the same?

Anne Lamott, in her delightful little book *Help, Thanks, Wow*, offers a guide to this kind of simple prayer. It's a great read for anyone exploring a more candid, approachable way

to speak with God—and a great pick for a church book group.

So, next time someone taps you on the shoulder, what will your table grace be?

Andreas Thiel+
Rector, Parish of Salvage

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The Church of the Future and the Future of the Church

Article by Lousie Smith
Photograph by Sharon Smith

It is difficult to comprehend that more than six decades have swiftly passed since the beginning of my worship at St. John the Evangelist Church in Topsail. For the first seventeen years, alongside long-time parishioners, we gathered in the original modest yet revered church—always welcomed by the familiar clanging of the proverbial bell.

Due to limited space at the time, a larger structure became necessary, and in 1974, the present building was constructed, consecrated, and opened for occupancy. As the years went by, I witnessed the arrival and departure of more than twenty priests—each leaving behind a legacy of unique and treasured memories.

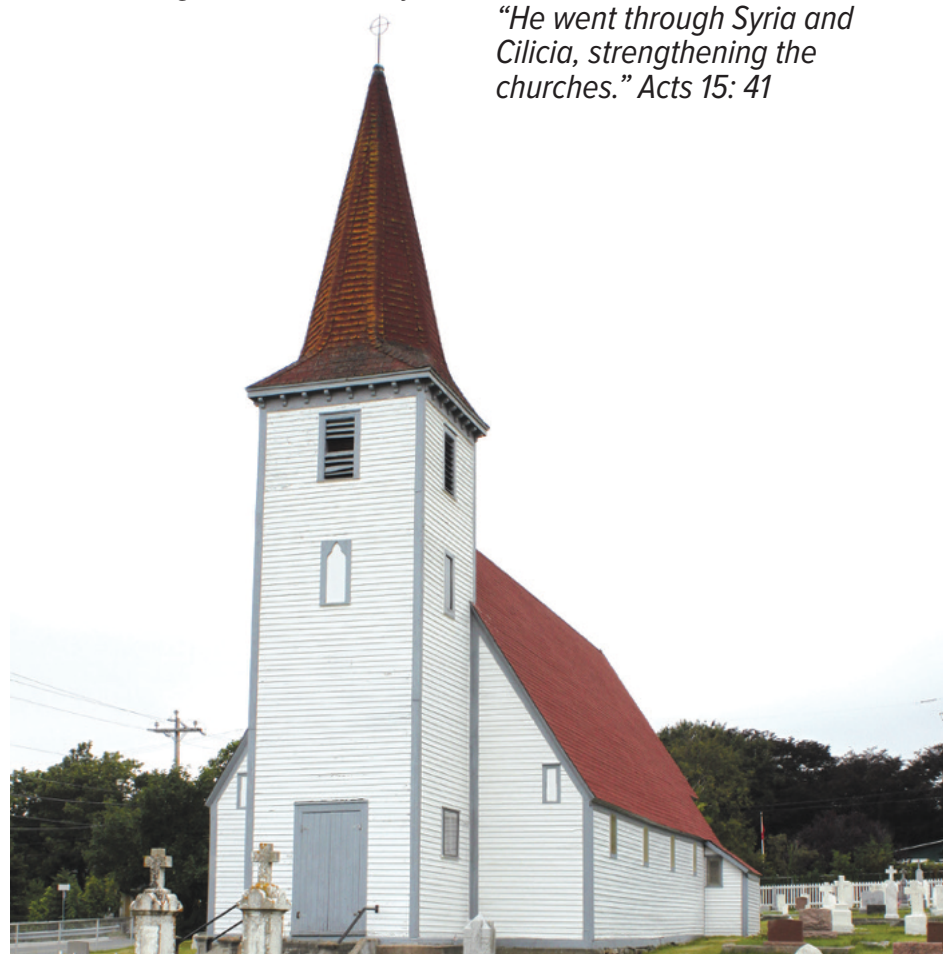
Perhaps most significantly, I have observed various changes over the years, particularly in the past decade. These changes have not been so much in liturgy, but rather in communication. Social media has accelerated the way information is shared. Yet despite these advancements, we are witnessing a generational gap in church attendance—a trend not unique to our parish in Topsail, but evident across Canada. This shift has not gone unnoticed by

our governing church body, which continues to reflect on the future of the Church—and the Church of the future.

We experienced a deep sense of disconnection during the COVID-19 pandemic—not only within our own congregation but also with neighbouring parishes—as online worship became the norm. It was during this period that the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador highlighted the importance of sustainability within the Church, leading to the creation of the Creation Care and Stewardship initiative. The Rev'd Jotie Noel was appointed as a Canon of this new mission, alongside three colleagues.

The congregation was informed of this fresh vision to broaden our Christian ministry, and a recovery plan was set in motion. Subsequent issues of Creation Care and Stewardship have reported encouraging progress. It appears that a welcome transformation is on the horizon for the Church—yet this in no way diminishes the depth and meaning of my personal spiritual journey at St. John the Evangelist over the past sixty years.

“He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.” Acts 15: 41



Sunday School in the Parish of Meadows

In the above photograph, we can see two lay ministers, Sheila Tucker and Ken Marche, at Holy Trinity Church in Meadows. They are working with a ministering to some of the Sunday School children. - submitted with photograph by the Rev'd George Critchell



Our name has changed. Our work stays the same.

PWRDF is now Alongside Hope

After two years of discernment and consultation, PWRDF's members* have approved a new name. Alongside Hope emphasizes themes of partnership, accompaniment, community and teamwork that have always exemplified the way we work.

With its tagline — Anglicans and partners working for change in Canada and around the world — Alongside Hope honours the legacy of PWRDF as an agency of the Anglican Church of Canada, and it will carry us forward into the future.

As we walk alongside our partners and many supporters, listening and sharing with one another, we embrace and embody the hope of a truly just, healthy and peaceful world.

Scan the QR code to view a video about our new name and read our list of Frequently Asked Questions, or visit pwrdf.org/our-new-name.

* The PWRDF Board of Directors, Diocesan Representatives and Youth Council comprise the voting membership.





The Rev'd Canon Jeffrey Petten
Columnist

Feast of Love

What is it that we mean when we tell someone that we love them? There are lots of four-letter words in the English language that people use a lot on a daily basis. Yet the most powerful word for a Christian to say is the word love. For our one word in English, there are three words in the Greek in which the Christian Scriptures (New Testament) were originally written. The word that Jesus used for speaking the word of love in all the times recorded is the word agape, meaning – Feast of Love.

For whatever reason, we certainly know how to feast. I have never attended a function of the Church in which food was involved and there was nothing left over. I think that we certainly got the notice to feed five thousand and have twelve baskets of leftovers! Yet the thing that the world could certainly use a feast of in this moment, probably more so than any other



Photo by Emmanuel Phaeton on unsplash.com

time in history, is a feast of love. A feast of love could set aside a lot of the dull and morbid things we hear about in newscasts. A feast of love is something that we could all do with, and the best part about it is that we do not have to worry about calories or weight gain. A feast of love, once we take part

in it, is something that is not only life-sustaining but also something that is life-giving. So, the question is, how do we love? We know it is easy to love the people we like, the people who make us happy to be around. But how do we love those that we do not like? How do we love those people who

have done us harm? How do we love those people who know how to irritate us the most? The answer to that question is to love like Jesus. As the Emeritus Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Michael Curry, stated: “God’s love is everywhere, in all things, and that includes you.”

As we have just

celebrated the best event ever in the history of salvation, namely the resurrection of Jesus, Jesus shows the world how to love when he asked Peter three times the question, “Do you love me?” Three questions of love to cancel the three times of denial. Even in the moments when Jesus was deserted, lonely, imprisoned, hungry, thirsty, naked, sick on the cross, in a post-resurrection moment of tenderness and compassion, Jesus shows how to love those who have treated us wrongly. We are to feast in such love. Not saying that it is easy, because after all, in the love that Jesus shows, it is shown with wounds, and it is in such wounds that we see love at its finest. If Jesus can love with his wounds, then we can love with our wounds as well. Yet, it will take time; but once we take the time to adjust to the wounds, we too can, and will, feast in love.



Holy Week and Easter preparations at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist

Holy Week was, as always, a busy and meaningful time for the Altar Guild and its dedicated supporters at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in St. John’s. From changing hangings and veiling crosses to arranging the beautiful Easter flowers, there was much to do—and everyone rose to the occasion. The cathedral looked as stunning as ever. Well done, team! - *submitted with photographs by Emily F. Rowe*

New Resources to Help Parishes Help Alongside Hope

Article by Canon Deborah Pantin
 Alongside Hope (PWRDF) Representative
 Diocese of ENL

To increase awareness and mark its new name, Alongside Hope has a number of new resources available for free to parishes. Colourful folders have been created, containing leaflets explaining the various areas in which Alongside Hope works, such as Creation Care, Health and Healing, and Humanitarian Response. These are wonderful to have displayed on your welcome table throughout the year or to use when you designate an Alongside Hope Sunday, which we certainly hope you will do sometime in 2025. To make that day even more successful, there are also letter-size posters, bulletin covers, placemats, bookmarks, and envelopes—in other words, everything you need to highlight the amazing work of Alongside Hope! The number of free resources available to each parish annually is quite generous, but if you need more, they are available for a nominal fee. Find them on the website: <https://alongsidehope.org>. Under Get Involved, just click the yellow Resources box. The green box, Worship and Devotional, has liturgies for a special Alongside Hope service of Holy Eucharist or Service of the Word that even includes a sample sermon. All you need to do is schedule your Alongside Hope Sunday. It could centre on the worship service itself, or you might consider a special meal or other event to raise the profile of Alongside Hope in your parish.



Aside from special Alongside Hope Sundays, there are other ways to help. Some Confirmation classes decide to designate the loose collection at their Confirmation service for Alongside Hope. Other ideas include donating the proceeds from one stall at the parish Spring Sale or Fall Fair to Alongside Hope, or hosting a concert in support of our work.

As the Alongside Hope tagline says, our name has changed; our work remains the same (and one of the new leaflets explains how we chose the new name). With USAID's recent exit from the Aid and Development sector, the work of other agencies, like Alongside Hope, has become that much more challenging as we try to help fill the gap left by such a wealthy partner. In last month's column, you read about the new Resilience Fund which seeks to do just that. A very generous and anonymous donor has recently offered to match donations made to the new fund until June

30th, up to \$250,000. That's a wonderful incentive to donate now rather than later. And, as always, donations to Alongside Hope's equity in the Canada Foodgrains Bank are always matched 4:1 by the Government of Canada. It is always a win when donations are doubled or more. For those who like to see exactly what their donation will be used for, the ever-popular World of Gifts is open year-round for your convenience.

Obviously, the work of development and aid requires financial resources—and lots of them—but Alongside Hope also relies on your prayers and your participation. While each of our three dioceses has a Diocesan Alongside Hope Representative, they need parish reps to help promote the work and raise awareness at the local level. If you would like to know more about this opportunity to be part of the Alongside Hope team, please contact Doreen Klassen in the Western Diocese, Debra Gill in Central, Deborah Pantin in Eastern

NL, or speak to your rector. The larger our team is, the greater impact we can make. You can make a difference!

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Emily F. Rowe
Editor, Anglican Life

A Voice In The Wilderness

At the end of this month, the Church will be celebrating John the Baptist—cousin of Jesus, and the last of the Old Testament prophets. For many years, I called the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in St. John’s my home church—one of the first buildings I saw when I landed in St. John’s in 1997 on my first visit to the province. So it wasn’t difficult to decide to make my final editorial of this academic year centre around John the Baptist—what we know about him, and what we can learn from him.

I’ve always known about John: “Prepare ye the way of the Lord!” We had the Godspell soundtrack when I was a kid, and I used to listen to it a lot. That’s the title of the opening track, and I loved it from the moment I first heard it. It’s uplifting! It’s hopeful!

Isn’t hope what we all need? What we’re all searching for? Hope is the light at the end of the tunnel that we all fight towards, even if it’s a faint glimmer. For Christians, that light is Jesus. The light of Christ is *never* dull or dimmed. But we are all human, and the things of



Saint John the Baptist by El Greco, 1600 - 1605, public domain from commons.wikimedia.org

this world get in the way and can cloud our sight-lines. But the light is never far, and John the Baptist is there, shouting, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” (John 1:29).

And when John sees Jesus and proclaims him to be the Lamb of God, he does what he’s been doing all along: he baptizes his cousin. Sure, he initially says that he should be the one being baptized by Jesus (Matthew 3:14), but Jesus disagrees, and so begins Jesus’ public ministry. This connection to Jesus through our baptisms allows the author of Romans (6:4) to write: “We are therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that ... we may too live a new life.”

John is not a comfortable kind of figure. Matthew describes him as wearing clothes made of camel’s hair and eating locusts and wild honey. Something about John makes me think of an off-the-grid life of today—calling us all to change our consumerist ways, abandon oil and gas, and “get ourselves back to the garden,” to quote the amazing Joni Mitchell. John was never afraid to be who he was called to

be—unapologetic in his decision to speak out for what he believed in, and for the laws of God. In fact, the choice to speak up for his beliefs eventually cost him his life.

John the Baptist never stopped pointing to Jesus. His own fame and followers never distracted him from that mission. At university, I was introduced to *This is the Record of John*, an anthem written by the English composer Orlando Gibbons. The text is taken from John’s Gospel, 1:19–23, in which priests and Levites are sent to question John the Baptist about who he is. John outright denies being the Messiah, never wavering and never tempted to take all the fame for himself. John describes himself simply, saying, “I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord.”

John the Baptist reminds us that our calling isn’t always to be comfortable, but to be faithful—to prepare the way, even when the path is unclear. We are all encouraged to lift our eyes to the light, to listen for the voice in the wilderness leading to Jesus.



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Ordinations

The Rev'd Annie Rose ordained a priest in Isle aux Morts



On April 11, Bishop John Organ ordained the Rev'd Annie Rose to the priesthood in Isle aux Morts, in the parish of Isle aux Morts, Margaree, Foxroost. - photographs from Bishop Organ's Facebook page.

The Rev'd Dr. Bonnie Morgan ordained a priest in Upper Gullies



On April 29, Bishop Samuel Rose ordained the Rev'd Dr. Bonnie Morgan to the priesthood in St. Peter's Church, Upper Gullies- photographs from the Diocese of ENL's Facebook page.

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As I prepare for our summer break, I want to take a moment to thank you—our faithful readers—for your continued support, encouragement, and contributions to Anglican Life throughout these past ten months. Your engagement, whether through subscribing, writing, making financial donations, or simply reading and sharing, has meant so much to all of us who put together this paper. We're pleased to see our subscription numbers and website views steadily growing, and we're truly grateful for the community that makes Anglican Life thrive.

Wishing you a restful and blessed summer—we look forward to returning in September!

Emily F. Rowe, Editor, Anglican Life

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