

# ANGLICAN LIFE

NEWSPAPER OF THE THREE ANGLICAN DIOCESES IN  
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

A Section of the ANGLICAN JOURNAL

September 2020

## St. Peter's Celebrates 175th Anniversary

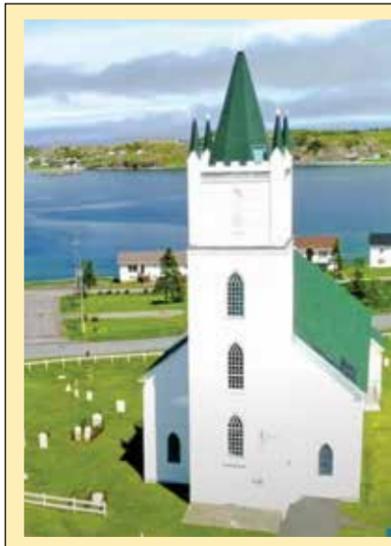
### Even a pandemic can't dampen the festivities in Twillingate

Article by The Rev'd Joanne Mercer  
Photos from the video of the service

On July 5th, 2020, St. Peter's Church in Twillingate marked its 175th anniversary. In the midst of a pandemic and with many restrictions, they found new ways to celebrate the past and look towards the future.



Rev'd Joanne



#### Planning

The planning committee had started to give up hope of being able to do anything much to mark this significant anniversary, but nevertheless they met online and began to explore what was possible. Instead of focusing on the COVID-19 restrictions,

the committee began to dream of what could be done using the internet and social media. Gerry Poirier, one of the wardens, had seen the amazing drone footage that Julian Earle had been posting on his Facebook page (Julian Earle Photography), and had a vision of beginning

the service with drone footage coming across the water and into the church. Others thought of how, with the internet, we could include people who had been a part of the parish and had moved away. A vision of a celebration including the wider community began to take shape.

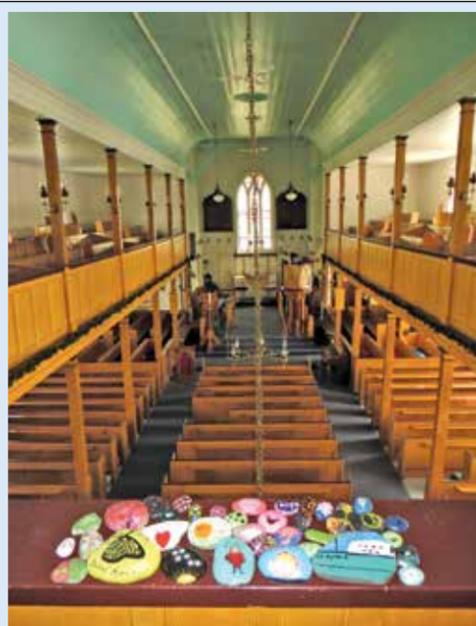


photo by Wilb Watkins

#### Including the whole community

Normally for an anniversary we would have some public celebrations—usually a garden party or reception. So the question was: how do we involve the whole community? As the name of the Church is St. Peter's—the rock—and rock painting is very popular in Twillingate, it was decided to

encourage the community to paint rocks – 175 of them! A video was created and the community facebook page was used to encourage participation, and by the time of the anniversary there were over 250 amazing rocks collected! After the anniversary the rocks are being picked and placed all around our province!

#### Bringing greetings

Former clergy were contacted, and many made short videos to send their greetings along to the congregation and the whole parish. It was

a great way to include folks who would never have been able to make it to Twillingate for the celebration.



Bishop Watton



Lily and Kamryn

#### Special worship

A special worship was planned and recorded over several days to ensure everyone's safety. Bishop John joined us as well as Licenced Lay Ministers, from our most senior to our newest. There was music by some who had played in the church as they were growing up and one piece from one of their daughters. One piece was by the Farley-Hall family, who summer

in our area, and others by members of our current congregation, Gerry Poirier,



Kathy Sheldon

Eleanor Manuel; and who could forget those young women, Lily Marie Watkins and Kamryn Kean. From the opening drone shot, through the readings, Rev'd Joanne's bravery in climbing the pulpit, Bishop John's rededication of our church, to the blessing by our Primate Linda Nicholls, and the singing of "This Little Light of Mine" accompanied by photos of people all over the parish

and the world shining their lights, the service was a celebration of a community gathered through time and space.

The celebration was picked up by VOCM news and shared widely. All of the videos connected with the celebration that weekend combined had over 10,000 views!!! Who says you can't celebrate a church anniversary during a pandemic?

You can use these links to our Facebook page and YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS--IQvyzKSFUIKWHzxalwg>

<https://www.facebook.com/anglicanparishoftwillingate/videos/>

# Be Bold And Be Courageous

The Rt. Rev'd John Organ  
Bishop  
Western Newfoundland

September has certain givens about it, and the uppermost among those is the return of students to school, which typically marks the start of another "year" of familiar routines.

September 2020 will not be quite the same as past Septembers. The pandemic will continue to mean change and adjustment even as schools reopen and another "year" begins. We will move into a "new normal" and things will be different.

Change, even positive change, is demanding. It takes time, patience, and practice to become familiar with new realities and new ways of doing things. Eventually we adapt, adjust, and become more comfortable and at ease with it all.

COVID-19 is a serious challenge, not only to our health and wellness, but also to our way of life. It is not to be taken lightly or responded to with half measures. It is a serious threat and constantly requires a serious response. Our Province of Newfoundland



and Labrador is confronting this virus with professionalism and expertise. Our government officials at all levels, including federally, are leading with skill and determination to effectively contain and eventually eliminate the coronavirus. As citizens we are exercising discipline and responsibility as we do our individual and collective part to keep one another and our wider community safe.

As Anglican Christians, we look to the future

with an eye on the past. Our ancestors in faith provide us with countless examples of courage and triumph as they joined their determined resolve to a steadfast trust in God to see them through difficult times. We are inspired and strengthened by their examples of fortitude and faith and, like them, we shall successfully pass through the challenges of this

global pandemic and arrive stronger and more empowered to build a better and more compassionate world.

September is still that "gateway" through which we enter a new round of organized life following the summer holidays. We will notice differences because of COVID-19, but with continuing discipline, responsibility, resolve, and faith, we will embrace the future that is God's and ours. We will not be anxious, but hopeful; we will not be worried, but

confident. Inspired by faith, informed by science, we shall overcome.

Life is at its best when we have love for God and love for neighbour. Life is far more creative and effective where heaven and earth meet and embrace each other. We are more than flesh and blood and bone. We are also spirit. We are made in the image and likeness of God. Every human being has a divinely assigned dignity that lifts him or her to a status of absolute worth and value. The diminishment of one human being diminishes all of us. The increase of the dignity of each human being increases the dignity of us all.

The Church is called to proclaim the infinite and all merciful love of God in Jesus Christ. God's love is for all people everywhere.

The Church is entrusted with this Good News. As the gathered people of God we are fed by Word and Eucharist and sent to express God's love to everyone, near and far.

It is essential that we gather in person as

Church and that we do so safely. It is important that we also use virtual means to gather to augment our overall gathering and effectiveness as the faith community.

The Church's mission is to share God's love and to be salt and light to the world God cares for so much. It is a mission that must be maintained and even extended. Though the Church is made up of imperfect human beings and only God is perfect, nonetheless we are called to give our best and to show forth God's love for all people.

Therefore, let us keep the Church strong and vibrant, faithful and serving.

Let us stand together, let us walk together, let us worship together, and together with God let us heal the world and make it a better and more loving place. Let us rid the world of COVID-19, and let us do all we can to renew the earth and build more just societies.

Let us not be anxious, but bold; let us not be worried, but courageous.

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

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Paid Subscription Rates:

Newfoundland and Labrador: \$15.00

Outside the province: \$20.00

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Layout & Design by: The Editor

Printed and Mailed by:

Webnews Printing Inc.

8 High Meadow Place

North York, ON, M9L 2Z5

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# Love Thy Neighbour As Thyself (Matthew 22:39)

## St. John's parish reaches out to their local community for pandemic relief

Article by Peter Stevenson  
 Photograph by Gail Dick

The Parish of St. Augustine's, in St. John's, has had a longstanding relationship with the Rabbittown Community Centre. The Centre's mandate is to work with local residents, and with public and private organizations, to ensure comprehensive solutions to problems that impact their families; and to provide opportunities and support in the process of individual and community capacity building to strengthen the community as a whole. Rabbittown has been one of the main recipients of outreach from St. Augustine's for years. We have provided them with the use of our commercial kitchen for their Community Kitchens program and hosted their After-School Program, their annual Christmas Dinner, and an after-school movie. In return, St. Augustine's has been invited to, and has participated in, many Centre functions. Members of Rabbittown have come to St. Augustine's to assist with various parish events. Lillian Lush, Executive Director, and Eddie Locke, Director of Programs and



contacted Eddie looking for assistance with food. The supplies (including yogurt, granola bars, soup, Kraft Dinner, tea bags, sugar, cereal, canned corn, etc.) were purchased and brought to St. Augustine's. There, Eddie and two women from Rabbittown came to the church and, practicing social distancing, put together fifty hampers. Next came distribution. Because most recipients of the hampers do not have transportation, Eddie delivered the hampers.

St. Augustine's was more than happy to assist others with resources made available to it. Assisting Father Anthony were parishioners Heather Read, who informed Father Anthony about the program, and Gail Dick, who helped with the shopping and provided the picture for this article. God Bless!

Services, have attended services and other gatherings to tell our congregation about their operation. St. Augustine's is also represented on the Centre's Board of Directors.

Partway into the COVID-19 pandemic, Food First NL offered grants to non-profit organizations to stock their food banks. Our rector, Father Rudolph

Anthony, applied to Food First NL on behalf of the parish, and St. Augustine's was awarded one of the grants. Given the relationship between St. Augustine's and Rabbittown Community Centre, Father Anthony reached out to Rabbittown, and advised that St. Augustine's would like to team up with Rabbittown and provide

food hampers to those in need.

Eddie Locke informed Father Anthony that he had the names of fifty families who had

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- 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



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# We Have Read The Articles—Now What?

Emily F. Rowe  
Editor

So how are you feeling about the “new normal,” as we’re calling it? Frankly, I’m feeling pretty confused and tired sometimes, and I suppose like many of you I’m longing for the days when we can just get back to doing things as we did before COVID-19 hit the world. But as much as I miss the way that some things were, I think that the pandemic has highlighted deep problems in our world that we shouldn’t want to go back to. There are many who are saying that our pre-COVID-19 existence should never have been considered normal, but rather that it normalized things like greed, the depletion of natural resources, working ourselves to exhaustion, hoarding, and inequity.

I was recently asked to participate in a listening group for the National Church, and was asked about what I was thinking about and talking about during the pandemic, both as it relates to church and also to everyday life. I took that chance to talk about the gap that has become all too obvious between those who can afford to be comfortable and connected right now, and those who cannot. It’s all fine to talk about online learning for schools, but not everyone can afford that kind of



A person holds a sign calling for the end of systemic racism at a peaceful Black Live Matter protest in June in Washington DC

Internet connection, and not everyone can afford a laptop or other device for all of their children. The same can be said for online church services. While online worship has allowed us to reach far beyond our parish boundaries—frankly to anywhere on the planet—it has also halted our ability to reach many

of the less affluent people in our own communities. There are both positives and negatives in the world of this pandemic.

Another thing that has come to light, or at least into sharper focus for many of us, is the systemic racism that exists in our society. It is not a problem that is only American—it’s



all too common here too, I’m sad to say. There was a story in June in our local CBC here in Newfoundland about racism within our community. There are people of colour who have experienced hatred and rejection right here in our home province. While that can be difficult for some of us to hear because we think that since we don’t act in an overtly racist way then we are not part of the problem, we need to understand and acknowledge the problems within our society. As followers of Jesus, we need to be better than that. We need to call out racism in our society, to actively fight against it, and to examine our own lives for ways to be and do better. We need to actively listen to people who are made to feel less, who are held back, and who live in fear. Raising awareness about racism is not a means in itself of correcting the injustice that

is built into our culture, and taking down a statue or changing the name on a building is just the tip of the iceberg towards real change. The goal is not to “not see the colour of a person’s skin,” but to see that person, honour who they are, become educated about their experiences, and work against the racism that holds them back.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, most of my conversations with those few people that I actually get to see include the phrase, “I read an article about...”. Many of us are spending time reading and trying to learn more. We learn about systemic racism. We learn about poverty. We learn about COVID-19, and how it will take a long time to come up with treatments or a vaccine for it. All of that is great, but as we learned from Spiderman: with great power comes great responsibility. Knowledge is that power, so what are you going to do about it? The world isn’t in stasis because of COVID-19, but rather continues to turn and to progress. Life is not on hold. What will you, as a member of Christ’s Church, do with the power of the new knowledge that you have gained?

*During the COVID-19 Pandemic, many churches have had to change how they worship and how they help their surrounding communities. Does your parish have a story about that for Anglican Life?*

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*November Print Issue - 1 October*  
*December Print Issue - 1 November*

# Apocalypse Now?

Ashley Ruby  
Columnist

Let's talk about the end of the world. The end of days. Life as we know it coming to an end. From a church perspective, this is often referred to as "the apocalypse". Which is in many ways ironic but it's a great start to understanding the world today.

The word apocalypse derives from the verb "cover" or "put a lid on." Why? Because the popular mental image of the end of the world was that the clouds of heaven would descend, engulfing the earth and suffocating the evil out of it, those who deserved it being reborn from the ashes of the judgment. Heaven? That's just the lid that suffocates the fires of hell burning here on earth.

Fast-forward a few thousand years, and enter twenty-first century plague life. We're stuck at home.



Photo by Benedikt Geyer from www.unsplash.com

We haven't had a hug in months and we're going more stir crazy than a bent wooden spoon. At a time when we desperately need the support of our fellow churchgoers, there ain't no church, there ain't no community, and there ain't nowhere to escape the threat. We try to keep going, try to stay motivated, try to educate our children without the help of the schools. But, as Yoda is reputed to

have said, in an amazing imitation of a motivational leader named Jesus, "do or do not, there is no try." Jesus put it differently—"take up your cross and follow me." It wasn't an instruction. It was a statement about making a commitment, not just to put in the effort but to make it happen regardless of cost or suffering.

But what have we really done? Complain. We've whined about social



distancing, made a big deal about staying at home and, perhaps worse than anything else, ignored the obvious guidance to simply have no contact with other people for a few months and wait for this to burn itself out. We've partied and protested ourselves into—wait for it—the apocalypse. The clouds are closing in. But where is the real threat coming from? It's not God tossing us to the fire. Just like in Biblical times, it's the conquering armies of aggression, intolerance, and stupidity. People marching on

the streets demanding freedom. I want freedom, too, but I'd like freedom from disease—freedom from death. Freedom from some guy insisting on his right to walk around and touch people and cough them into an early grave.

So how do we solve the problem with society? We take a page out of the Church's beautiful handbook on living a better life. We put a lid on it. We engage with the lesson of the apocalypse and tell the loud and angry among us to sit down and do just that. We've heard it in Sunday school and sermons and prayers and read it forever: Do unto others... Be subject to one another. Be at peace. Chill. Relax. Keep calm and pray. For once, your hopes and prayers aren't just helpful. They're the only answer we need.

## WHEN CHURCHES REOPEN FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

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**REMEMBER TO PHYSICAL DISTANCE**

6 feet minimum

**NO SINGING**

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**WEAR A MASK**

Masks help to protect your fellow worshipers from COVID-19

**UNDERSTAND WHO IS AT INCREASED RISK**

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# Is Church Failing at Conveying the Message?

Kevin Smith  
Columnist

Recently, I participated in a webinar on the subject of “Planned Giving in a Faith Organization,” which was sponsored by P.G. Growth, and featured speakers Janice Meighan and Rob Henderson. I thought I would share some of the salient points raised by these two experienced fund raisers.

First they mentioned there were approximately 85,000 charities in Canada and a recent year, saw \$9 billion contributed to these organizations. Of that amount, \$4 billion was allocated to faith based organizations: nearly 50% of all donations. This was distributed to the 24,000 churches, and 275 other organizations such as synagogues. The average annual gift was \$900 per household by weekly participants. Not insignificant!

A little history about charities: The Church was the original charity, and Queen Elizabeth I had the word “charity” written into law. Organized charities came about in the early 1900’s and the first tax receipt was issued in 1930.



image from www.unsplash.com by Kelly Sikkeema

Proceeds were used to address issues related to poverty, churches, and hospitals.

In recent years there has been a change from the traditional solicitation letter to the use of social media. In addition, there has been an increase of secularization and polarization with an increase of the cohort “spiritual but not religious.” They quoted well known researcher Reginald Bibby who suggests that the number of committed is shrinking. The bottom line, in their opinion, is that churches have not done a great job of bringing our message to this ministry



group. Combined with the increased competition for the charitable dollar, they felt that the faith community is facing an uphill struggle.

The speakers listed some of the challenges that churches are facing. First, the efforts to raise funds are mostly volunteer based—not the most

effective way. In addition, clergy tend not to talk openly about money. There are 2530 passages in the Bible that deal with money or material possessions, but it is the least talked about in the church. Attendance is waning, trust is diminishing, and buildings are albatrosses. Traditionally people give to churches out of a sense of duty or obligation. This too is declining. That combined with a lack of appropriate “thank you with tax receipt” has had a negative effect on support for the church.

In 2015, faith based groups received 31% of all giving but only 8% in wills went to the same group. That presents a major challenge.

However, it is not all doom and gloom. The speakers suggested a number of ways to meet the challenges: consider developing an endowment fund. Create clear policies on how the church will receive, invest and use legacy gifts. In terms of stewardship, the speakers stress the need to be clear and consistent

in demonstrating your needs. Preach/teach about money—don’t apologize. Ensure that you account for dollars spent, and thank, thank, and thank.

Finally, the speakers used a quote from a Wycliffe donor as to why he supported the College:

“I guess the simple answer is because I was asked.”

A side note: One rector told me that social media is not only being a great way to solicit for donations but also to tell the stories of the ministry that people’s giving enables. He told me that his parish has over 1000 people connected to their page and while they rarely ask for money through it, they try to share pictures and stories of the partnerships, projects and benefits that people’s generosity make happen.

*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*

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# Home Again Furniture Bank Has Many Reasons To Celebrate, Even During The Pandemic

Article by Maureen Lymburner  
Photographs from Home Again

It would be an understatement to say the events of 2020 have been stressful. News and conversations have been taken over with heartbreaking, and at times, overwhelming stories.

Life at Home Again has also been tumultuous, but we have had many reasons to celebrate, including:

- a record high one-time furniture donation from IKEA Canada.
- new and returning volunteers jumping on board to piece this furniture together.
- 300+ donors contribute to recent campaigns.
- committee members standing strong and ready to jump in as needed.
- local and international businesses offer financial and in-kind support to ensure that homes, and lives, will continue to be transformed by the addition of furniture.

After a short break, Home Again has resumed operations and continues to furnish homes with the furniture needed to stay at home with comfort, dignity, and safety. We know that with the support of volunteers, committee members, business owners, donors, and individuals like you, homes and lives will continue to be transformed.

I'd love to share with you the story of Doug, whose life has been positively impacted by the work of Home Again.

When I met with Doug, he welcomed me into his cozy apartment. We spent an hour chatting about the many ways his life had changed since moving into his apartment and receiving the furniture he needed.

Initially, Doug said, his space was so empty that he kept his bike and boxes of artwork in the living room just to make it less echoey. He said that



with only a ceiling light, reading was difficult.

The days were long and lonely. Doug had friends but was too embarrassed by his sparsely furnished apartment to invite them over. He shared, "It is disheartening when you are forced to live alone and stay alone. Without anything to entertain, this is a problem. But now everything is different... I've got a life again and it has made all the difference."

This difference was apparent the moment I walked in the door. Doug's apartment looked and felt very much like a home, with classical music playing softly in

the background, his artwork decorating the walls, a guitar next to the sofa and paint brushes organized in mason jars on a ledge.

Doug said that when he received furniture from Home Again, his place suddenly came together and he felt more comfortable and happy. "It was a matter of feeling fulfilled that one area of my life is together."

The addition of a table and chairs meant that Doug no longer had to avoid his friend's request for art lessons, creating "an opening for closer relationships."



Doug's story is just one of many that highlights how furniture can transform a home, and a life. Now, more than ever, we know that home is the most important place in the world. You will help create homes for people like

Doug when you support Home Again.

The current pandemic means Home Again is unable to operate with our regular volunteer teams and rental vans. Instead, we work with professional movers to ensure that people still receive the beds, tables and other basic furnishings needed to live with comfort and safety. This has added significantly to our expenses and strains our small budget.

You have the power to provide comfortable and safe homes for vulnerable individuals and families throughout our region at the very time they are being asked to stay at home and distance. Your action is needed now to provide furniture to our region's most vulnerable. Please consider making a one-time or monthly donation to support please like Doug. Visit: <https://bit.ly/2k2FX4n>

For more information: [www.homeagainfb.ca](http://www.homeagainfb.ca)  
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“ Suddenly nothing made sense anymore... ”

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# 160th Anniversary For St. John's, Topsail

Poem by Louise Smith

Photographs by Sharon Smith

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1860-2020  
OUR CHURCH'S 160<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

As we celebrate our  
church's anniversary  
And proudly look back  
at the time it began  
We know our forebears  
faced many a challenge,  
To arrive where we  
now proudly stand.

2

We're older than our  
nation's federation,  
Preceded two world  
wars that were fought and  
won.

Our old church stands  
firm as a symbol  
That care taking was  
second to none

3

Rev. Charles Palairt  
from a rich background in  
France,  
Was the first priest we  
did embrace.

With a vision and  
foresight to plant roots in  
our midst,

A church building plan  
was soon put in place.

4

A dedicated group from  
right here in Topsail,  
Shared ideas for what  
had to be done.

Like deciding on a  
suitable size that might fit,  
Not just now but in  
years yet to come.

5

James Harvey, a  
carpenter from the town of  
St. John's

A skilled man at his  
trade, it was said.

He was engaged to do  
framework with the lumber  
that came,

From a sawmill over in  
Riverhead

6

It was on May 16 of the  
year that we speak,  
That a foundation was  
subsequently laid

By three local men who  
freely gave of their time.

They were Jim Hibbs,  
John Barnes, and Matthew  
Slade.

7

Exactly one year from  
day to day,  
After this project was  
debated.



Folks from Manuels to  
Topsail gathered to hear  
Bishop Field,  
As both church  
and church yard were  
consecrated.

8

The date was June 1861  
That marked a  
universal rite of passage,  
For the brave pioneers  
who blazed the trail,  
Leaving their mark and  
a strong message.

9

Rev. Charles Palairt  
was the catalyst  
Who moved all full  
speed ahead.  
His mission went  
beyond their spiritual  
needs,  
Improving the quality of  
life as he led.

10

He was followed by  
Reverends Hutchinson and  
Colley.

They served in total  
near 44 years.

In appreciation of the  
combined contribution they  
made,

The stained glass east  
window, in their honour, is  
shared.

11

In 1904, Rev. Temple  
found refuge in Topsail  
From his hardships in  
North Labrador.

But ill health intervened  
and cut his mission here  
short,

Limiting his capacity to  
serve anymore.

12

Rev. Netten's  
appointment just lasted six  
years,

During this assignment,  
his duties adjourned

But he carried on  
faithfully right up to the  
end,

Till his retirement was  
due and well earned.

13

Next came the arrival  
of a tall stalwart priest,  
With aspirations to  
adorn was his view.

When Rev. Pitman was  
here, improvements were  
made with much care  
And old accessories  
were replaced with brand  
new.

14

It was during his time,  
the women's presence was  
felt.

In the church where  
they took on the task.

To purchase an organ,  
a goal they achieved,

Through money raised  
by the teams sewing class

15

Sir Edgar, a merchant  
from the homeland he  
came,

To St. John the

Evangelist church he was  
loyal

But the best innovation  
he graced our church with  
Was when electric  
lighting replaced lamps of  
oil.

16

The late Becky Fowler

deserves a bouquet,  
For the funds that she  
left in her will

To build steps and a rail  
to enhance the old church,  
They've endured and  
are functional still.

17

Rev. Butler was placed  
in 1934,  
And served his term  
here till late 43.

He had the privilege to  
celebrate our 80<sup>th</sup> year,  
But soon after, he died  
suddenly.

18

Rev. Clench was then  
summoned to take over  
the charge,

A most interesting  
priest, so they claim.

When his wife passed  
away, with his duties he  
stayed,

Then he married Miss  
Earl, his old flame.

19

When we had Rev.  
Goodland, a parsonage  
was built,

As a home for the  
priest, it was called.

But before his mission  
was done, he fell sick and  
succumbed,

So Rev. Camp was then  
quickly installed.

20

Rev. Camp was more  
senior than most of the  
rest,

And served fewest of  
years, per my search.

When he finished his  
reign, Rev. Bradbrook then  
came,

As the last priest to  
serve our old church.

21

The old church  
sustained us for a century  
or more,

Till a lack of space  
became an issue each day.  
So expansion was vital  
to accommodate all,  
Hence, a new building  
was soon underway.

22

The new church was  
made ready in 1974.  
And consecrated within  
the same year.

Rev. Bradbrook finished  
his mission here on our  
new sight,

Guiding parishioners  
through the transition with  
care.

23

Rev. Tibbo was next to  
arrive on the scene,  
With a fresh vision that  
could quell any fears.

Strong communication  
skills did lighten his load,  
His incumbency lasted  
eight years.

24

Rev. Collett he came  
from up west Corner  
Brook,

With a persuasive tone  
to convey not subdue.

No need for loud  
speakers to hear in the  
back.

His voice just  
ricocheted off every pew.

25

Now for a huge  
change, there came a shift  
in the age,

Of the next priest that was put in our midst.  
 A lively 40 year old, Canon Hynes broke the old mould.  
 As clapping hands to brisk hymns was the gist.  
 26  
 During his time here in Topsail, a giant project was planned.  
 With stained glass windows, the nave to restore.  
 Engineered by our warden, Bob Dawe, at the time.  
 Dedicated to those gone before.  
 27  
 Fr. John came on board with much prowess,  
 Conveying lessons in such simple style,  
 But his departure was abrupt and so sudden,  
 That Rev. Sandra filled in for a while  
 28  
 Then we had the honour to have Rev. Bellamy,  
 Who provided a restorative boost for one year.  
 An experience that will linger forever,  
 Along with his guidance in spiritual care.  
 29  
 He was assisted by Rev. Sheppard  
 And together, we owe them so much,  
 Not to mention the privilege of meeting  
 Both their wives, who were always in touch.

30  
 Rev. Parsons then graced our congregation.  
 With a crescendo voice, taken right from the top.  
 No trouble to hear, from the front to the rear.  
 During sermons, you could hear a pin drop.  
 31  
 Now what can I say about our priest of the day.  
 Well she's young with fresh talent to share.  
 And with the mission approach, sky's the limit to broach,  
 Her novel projects engineered with much care.  
 32  
 Rev. Jolene is faced, with once in a lifetime to embrace  
 The corona virus that has plagued the whole world.  
 But our congregation is blessed with one of the best.  
 Conducting services through facebook, unfurled.  
 33  
 There's been 20 in all who have answered the call.  
 Each with their own special gifts stood the test.  
 With its ups and its downs, the church always rebounds,  
 That's our ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST.

# A Spiritual Retreat

The Rev'd Michael Li  
Columnist



Somebody has mentioned to me that practicing physical distancing is like attending a spiritual retreat. Perhaps the global pandemic lockdown is giving us a kind of retreat, a chance to come apart and rest awhile. Throughout the ages, the Christian tradition has understood retreat to be an important part of spiritual formation. We set aside time for God.  
 At a retreat, there is normally space for rest, reflection, or prayer in the schedule, and a lot of solitude. There should be less theological speculation and human interaction than simple instruction in prayer and protected space to practice. We need unhurried time. Very often we are afraid we will be wasting the time of those who come. But what we need most is time and space to encounter God. Free-time blocks provide the opportunity for us to listen to God.  
 In order to help us to a successful retreat, it will be wise for us to put away our smart phones, stop checking our e-mail, and listening to our text pings. In fact, no phone, no internet and no television

for 48 hours can work wonders. At a retreat, we are given the opportunity to worship, pray, and focus our attention wholly on God's Word. We come to the throne of God's grace and peace. We want to be changed by God from the inside out. We need to see what God is doing in our own lives.  
 Jesus frequently withdrew to solitary places to pray (Luke 5:16). A retreat is where Christians can cut loose from their daily "doing", and get away alone to be with God. This time away will entail prayer, Bible study, and other reading, but it will also include meditating on what we are reading. It will include walks or other forms of exercise. It should include time enjoying and appreciating God's creation. It is a time of plenty of rest and sleep.  
 It is good for us to get

away from normal activities and responsibilities. God wants us to spend quality time with him so that our lives and ministries are the overflow of that relationship. God wants our relationship with him to grow, not just our skills or knowledge. We can be in a quiet place where all our senses are open and ready to listen to God.  
 God should be the real Conductor of any retreat. At any retreat we desire that God can use us in serving him. To an outsider, a retreat can look suspiciously like we are being lazy. After attending a retreat, we may not come back to our church with binders full of new things to do. We may not have new programmes to implement. Instead, we have spent a few days with God, letting him spend time with us.  
 Fifty years later, I still have fond memories of my first retreat at Wycliffe College, an Anglican Theological College in Toronto. Every year, students and faculty celebrate the beginning of a new school year with a retreat in September. Long live all spiritual retreats!

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## New Labyrinth Blessed by Bishop

Photograph and story from  
The Cathedral's Facebook page

On 21 June, Bishop Geoffrey Peddle visited the lawn below the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in St. John's in order to bless the newly made labyrinth. Bishop Peddle asked for God's peace for those who

walk the labyrinth, and for serenity.

People who are in the area are welcome to walk through the labyrinth any time.

## Transforming Our Conflict

The Rev'd Jonathan Rowe  
Columnist

As I read the Gospels, I try to look through a series of three lenses that match the way people responded to Jesus in his earthly ministry. First, I look for what is attractive in a passage: what in this story might make me want to drop everything and join the crowds of people following Jesus through Galilee? Next, I look for what is troubling: are there elements of what Jesus is saying or doing that would turn me against him, or make me say that he's asking for too much? Finally, I look for what could transform me and the world around me: if I really believed in what Jesus is offering in this passage, how might it make me more generous or compassionate? This disciplined approach to the Gospel doesn't need a theological education—anyone can use it to dig deeper into the scriptures and allow them to have an impact upon our lives. This can be part of the way we not just read them, but 'read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them.'

In the Gospel lesson appointed for the first Sunday in September, it seems like Jesus is offering pretty straightforward advice for how to deal with conflict. I like simple answers, because I know how to follow a step-by-step process. If I've got a grudge against you, we ought to work it out one-on-one. But if that doesn't



work, my next step should be to bring a friend or two to help me reason with you. Finally, if even that doesn't work, the whole Church gets involved. But there's more to the gospel than just this.

If I feel like I've been wronged by you, but you feel like you're the innocent victim, who's to say who's right and who's wrong? Is my rounding up two friends to help me confront you going to be taken as harassment? Are we setting up a scenario where the whole church is divided and taking sides over every real and imagined slight and argument? Or what happens when unscrupulous people use this simple plan to marginalize and exclude folks that they disagree with? Can this really be the kind of peace and love that Jesus is trying to offer us?

I think there's a way out of this dilemma when Jesus says 'if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.' We tend to

“If all my efforts at reconciliation fail, I ought to become even more relentless in my attempts, with almost missionary-like zeal.”

read this as 'treat them like outcasts,' but we forget that Jesus was particularly known for spending time with tax collectors. We forget that Paul understood his mission was to bring the good news specifically to the Gentiles. Jesus is not telling me to use my grievance with you as an

excuse to shun an exclude, but as a reminder of how important reconciliation is. If all my efforts at reconciliation fail, I ought to become even more relentless in my attempts, with almost missionary-like zeal.

I ought to be persistent like the widow in the

parable, demanding justice from an unjust judge, but not for the sake of easing my own grievance or making you suffer. My efforts towards reconciliation should be motivated by the same love for you that Jesus showed in coming close to the most marginalized people, the people no one else wanted to come close to. My efforts should be motivated by the same zeal that drove Paul to 'become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some.' This kind of approach transforms my grievance from a simple transaction—something you owe me, a debt to be paid off—into an opportunity to love others with the kind of love that Jesus has.

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Staff from the Diocese of Masasi in Tanzania are able to screen families for fever with newly acquired fast read thermometers.



Women use their scarves as face masks and practice physical distancing while lining up to receive supplies with partner UBINIG in Bangladesh

# A Little More Good News

## News from PWRDF

Article by Sheila Boutcher  
PWRDF Representative,  
Diocese of Central Newfoundland

Over the last few years, your PWRDF Diocesan Representatives have often written about the All Mothers and Children Count (AMCC) program. Our goal is to share the good news about the work PWRDF is doing on your behalf. That is why AMCC has had us so excited. AMCC ran from 2016 to 2020; it concluded on March 31st. You may recall this program was valued at over \$20,000,000 with the Government of Canada, via Global Affairs Canada, contributing approximately \$17 million and you, through PWRDF, contributing the balance. This was the largest grant ever given to PWRDF and I'm sure you remember the 6:1 matching grant ratio that allowed us to buy lots of seeds, farm animals, farm equipment, medical equipment and even build dispensaries and secure clean drinking water, through the World of Gifts Christmas campaign. The following is a big picture "report card" of what AMCC was able to accomplish working with partners in Burundi, Mozambique, Rwanda and Tanzania:

- Increased food security from 6.1 months to 8.4 months of the year
- Increased the number of pregnant women attending antenatal care visits with a health care professional from 45% to 70%
- Live births attended by a health professional increased from 64% to 89%
- Mothers and babies receiving post-natal care within two days of birth increased from 24% to 92%
- Women using modern family planning methods increased from 38% to 53%

In addition to ongoing project monitoring, an audit is performed at the end of each program. I am pleased to report that there were no recommendations for changes to how PWRDF manages projects. PWRDF got a good report card too! This leads me to my second piece of good news: a COVID-19 extension to this program. The Government of Canada has awarded PWRDF a \$1,980,000 grant to extend work with our AMCC partners. The funds will support these vulnerable communities through the COVID-19 crisis. The grant includes a 6:1 match for a total project budget of approximately \$2.3 million.

When the coronavirus was declared a pandemic, Global Affairs Canada invited several organizations to submit proposals for a COVID-19 response. PWRDF's proposal was among 10 that were accepted. The funds will support our partners as they work to ensure physical distancing, access to clean water, soap and disinfectant, acquisition of PPE and dissemination of reliable health information. This 12-month extension will allow our partners to maintain the important gains in food security and maternal, newborn and child health that have been made via AMCC. We are truly blessed to have such dedicated and capable staff and your unwavering support as we all navigate this "new normal." Thank you!



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*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

## How did we get here?

Article by  
The Rev'd Fred Marshall

*"One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." Psalm 145:4 (NRSV)*

As a (Baby Boomer) son and father, I often get questioned by my (Silent Generation) mother as to why her (Gen X) grandchildren and (Millennial) great grandchildren do not regularly go to church. As a parish priest, I have had many conversations with faithful churchgoers with the same concern.

Over the next several months I will offer a series of articles which I pray will take us on a journey of discovery which may help us learn about and understand each other and how the Holy Spirit is working in each of our lives and calling all of God's children to be members of the Body of Christ.

Our understanding and experience of God and Church are very much influenced by the world events, customs, and the traditions in which we grew up. These factors effect our lives, our Christian formation, our beliefs and the lens through which we see other people and the world. The period in which we were born has much to do with who we are on our life's journey. The Centre for Generational Kinetics suggests that a generation is "a group of people born around the same time and raised around the same place." This group or generation tend to have similar characteristics, preferences and values.

There are some who say that to label a group of people as a specific "generation" is simply nonsense however, those in the marketing, research and consulting worlds invest significant amounts of resources to



Photo by Rod Long from www.unsplash.com

understand the habits and needs of different age groups (generations) and what makes each group somewhat distinct. This "distinct" quality spills over into many parts of our lives including our views of Church and God. Saint Paul writes, "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:4 - NRSV).

What defines a generation?

Born before 1924 you are known as the Greatest Generation. You experienced the Great Depression and the Second World War. You recall the terror of D-Day and great joy of V-E Day. Church is an important part of life.

Born between 1925 and 1945 you are known as the Silent Generation. Due to the low birth rates during the depression and war you are a smaller generation. It is not likely you fought in World War II but may have relatives who did and you appreciate their sacrifice. You entered your adulthood during a post-war economy with good and steady jobs. Some of you blame God for all the bad that has happened in the first half of this century.

Born between 1944 and 1964 you are known as a Baby Boomer. This generation is so named due to the spike in the

birth rate following the Great War. You were born in a time of better education and you entered your adult years when the economy was booming and families grew up in new subdivisions. You experienced effects of the Sexual Revolution, the Women's Rights Movement, the Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War. You are part of a very large group which holds great influence to this day. If you went to church it was most likely because your parents made you go. However, for most, going to church didn't stick.

Born between 1965 and 1983 you are known as Gen X. You are the children of the Baby Boomers whose "free" parenting style was much different than their parents' was. You started your career later and with hopes to retire earlier. You grew up with Nintendo and Michael Jackson. According to a 1999 Barna survey cited in the article "Boomers, Gen X, Gen Y, and Gen Z Explained" on the website Kasasa.com, you are more likely than your parents to attend church, read the Bible and pray.

Born between 1984 and 1998 you are known as a Millennial. Minivans with "Child on Board" stickers were popular and family time was

important. In trying to get a better education, you will likely live at home with your parents for a longer time than previous generations. You grew up in the new world after 9/11. You are called the "Me" generation. You have a mistrust of older people and institutions, including the church. Derek Thompson of The Atlantic, in his article "Elite Failure Has Brought Americans to the Edge of an Existential Crisis," suggests that you are three times more likely than your Baby Boomer grandparents to say that you don't believe in God.

Born between 1999 and 2015 you are known as Gen Z. You grew up with social media, mobile devices and Netflix, and are the most "connected" generation. You are growing up in a very racially and ethnic diverse society. You place your trust in brands such as Apple and Google with a strong product history, however, you have little patience for inefficient and poor service. You have high student debt as you enter the workforce, and will therefore likely delay a wedding and purchasing a home, according to the article "Boomers, Gen X, Gen Y, and Gen Z Explained." You are more likely to value community involvement, be more tolerant of others and

stand up for economic and social injustice according to Derek Thompson of The Atlantic. Spirituality is important, however, you are not likely affiliated with a church or even interested in religion, as your parents did not show you the way.

Born after 2016 it appears you will be called Gen Alpha—at least for the time being. You will be the best educated and most technologically advanced. Many of you will grow up in living arrangements without both your biological parents. You will most likely be impatient, however, you will care about more issues than your previous generations. Hopefully you will find the Church as a place of happiness and service to the community and the world.

A disturbing fact cited in the article "Why Generation Z's Distorted View of God Matters," by Dale Hudson, is that as a whole, each generation has moved farther away from the church and is less likely to be affiliated with any religion. However, all generations are not abandoning "faith" as much as the "institution of the Church".

I wonder what effect this pandemic may have as we experience people of all generations coming together to help and support one another?

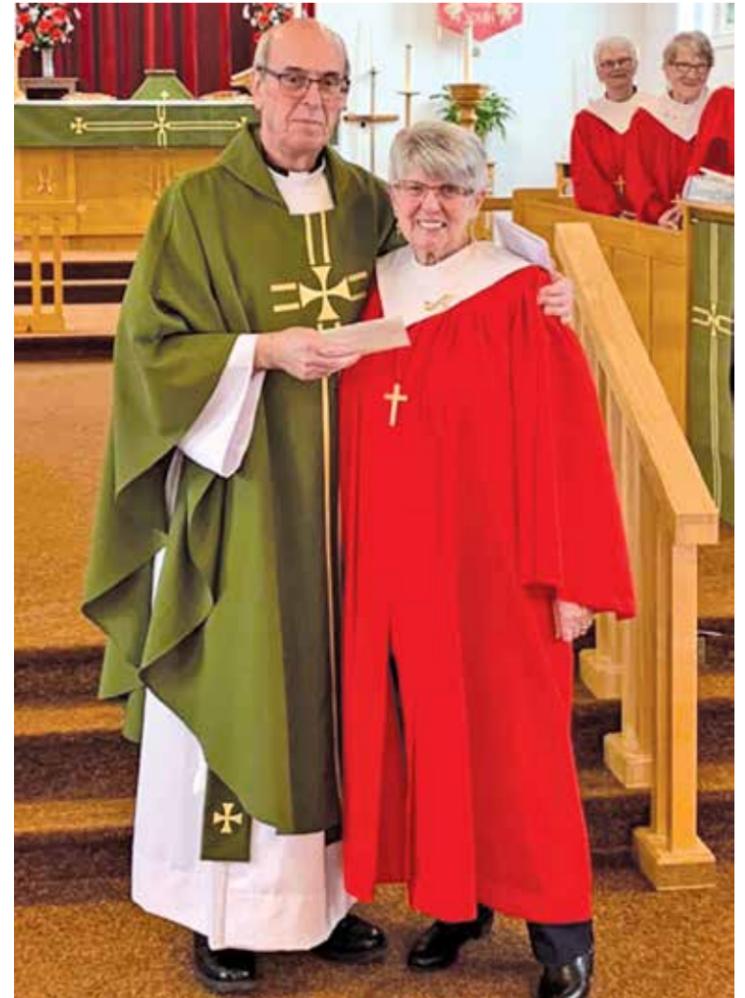
The good news is that there is an abundance of help available to enable us to understand, appreciate and support one another our spiritual journey. In the next article, we will look at "Where we are today."

What does Scripture say? The Apostle Paul wrote, "for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith." Galatians 3:26 – NRSV



# 50 Years as Organist and Choir Director Celebrated

Submitted by Lynn Jensen  
 Photograph by Christian Carter



*A presentation was made to Mrs. Ada Vallis in recognition of 50 years of dedicated service as the organist and choir director at St. Bartholomew's in Harbour Breton. The presentation was made by the Rev'd Roy Simms.*

## Blessing Bags From St. Peter's Church

### News from Upper Island Cove

Article and photograph by  
 Christine Brazil

With the isolation and stress this worldwide pandemic is causing our lives, our rector, the Rev'd Christine Lynch, challenged our parish to "think outside the box" with how we can be "Church" during these uncertain times.

We—Christine Brazil, Cindy Dobbin, and Abby Trask—thought, "how can we let our parishioners know that, even though we can't meet to worship as a church family, we still care

about them and are here to assist in any way?"

With Rev'd Christine's support and encouragement, we decided to compile "Blessing Bags" and inspirational painted beach rocks, which we would deliver to unsuspecting parishioners' homes. Each week since the beginning of June, we draw two parishioner names out of a hat. We then shop specifically for those

parishioners to compile shopping bags of goodies. Included with the Blessing Bag is an inspirational painted beach rock, spiritual literature, and a card letting them know we are thinking and praying for them.

The response has been so overwhelming from the parishioners receiving the Blessing Bags, and just as important, gratifying for us who are providing them.



THEY NEED YOUR HELP!

**CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FOOD BANK**

DURING THE COVID19 PANDEMIC, MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE NEEDING HELP TO MAKE ENDS MEET. PLEASE REACH OUT TO YOUR LOCAL FOOD BANK AND FIND A WAY THAT YOU CAN HELP.



Hope Bear is taking COVID-19 very seriously. Lots of physical distancing and staying at home.

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**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.

# An Even Fresher Start

Dr. David Morgan  
Columnist

*“Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.”*  
2 Corinthians 5:17 RSV



Although spring is the season that we associate with new life, there is something special about September. Students return to classes and we all settle into a fall routine. Maybe, last year, you got tired of your bowling league, or you discovered that the church committee you joined wasn't quite what you thought it would be. And maybe your kids never really took to playing

the ukulele, despite the weekly lessons. Well, September has rolled around again, and you get a chance for a fresh start.

Unfortunately, there are a lot of people in a lot of circumstances who could really use a “fresh start” this September, but likely won't be getting one. Here are just a few examples.

Victims of intimate-partner abuse.

Victims of elder abuse.

Orphans.

Most refugees.

Victims of sexual exploitation.

Victims of racism.

People who are victims of hatred and discrimination because of their gender identity or sexuality.

People with disabilities,

who still can't access many public spaces or participate in many public events (including worship).

People living in poverty.

People with addictions.

People with mental health struggles.

Children who are being bullied at school.

Adults who are being bullied at work.

Now, just because these people might not get a fresh start in September doesn't mean their circumstances can't be improved. That's where your fresh start can help. As September unfolds, ask what you can do as part of your new fall routine to improve the circumstances of those who won't be getting a fresh start. Here's a few ideas.

Go for coffee with a friend that you think is being abused by their partner. Build a relationship

that might help them make the break when they are ready.

Donate to Kids Help Phone or the Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.

Sponsor a child or orphan in another country through one of the many organizations that facilitate such sponsorships.

Start or join a conversation in your parish or community about sponsoring a refugee to come to Canada.

Volunteer for the Safe Harbour Outreach Program (SHOP) (to support sex workers in NL) or download and print some of their posters to put up in your community.

Attend a Pride or LGBTQ+ event, even if you don't identify as LGBTQ+.

Reflect on any racial biases you might have, and start eliminating them.

Offer to install some hand holds in your church's washrooms.

Volunteer at your local food bank.

Stop judging people with addictions. Breaking free from addiction is not as simple as simply choosing to do so.

Listen to your friends and family when they are telling you about their struggles, and don't be afraid to encourage them to seek mental health support. (While you're at it, take some time to think about whether you could benefit from mental health support yourself).

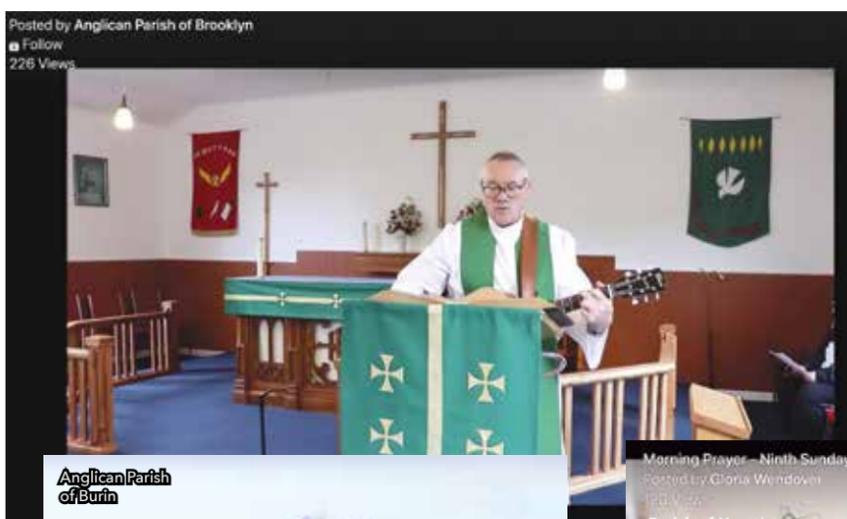
Find out when the anti-bullying day is at your local school and wear a pink shirt too.

When you see someone being bullied in your workplace, speak up (or do it anonymously through your Human Resources department).

Now is your chance. Think big. Make your September “fresh start” about more than just you.

For more information and resources on social justice, check out the website: [www.kairosCanada.org](http://www.kairosCanada.org)

## Summer Online Worship From



# Church

Ronald Clarke  
and Melanie Clarke  
Columnists

2020 has been a very strange year! In Newfoundland, more specifically in St. John's, the year began with a huge snow storm which led to a state of emergency for ten days! Just when we seemed to be coming out of that disaster, COVID-19 hit our province. It's hard to believe the turmoil of this year. Millions of people have the new virus and half a million have died so far. Everyone is now preparing for a second wave. It all seems very grim!

I was born in 1929 in the middle of the Great Depression. In our little community, most families barely had enough to get by. Families were very large, most had at least five children, and many generations lived together: grandparents, parents, children. Everyone had to work together in order for all to survive. Neighbours looked after widows and the elderly. If a man was sick, the other men in the



Photo by Debby Hudson on www.unsplash.com

community did his chores as well as their own to ensure his family didn't go hungry. The sense of community was strong and powerful.

Another sense of community was shown towards the church. This building was the core of our community. Early Sunday morning, a parishioner went early to put the fire in for the service. He would make sure the driveway wasn't icy or snow covered. He turned on the lights, set out the hymn books, and dressed the altar. On top of his weekly work

to make sure his family survived, the church was also a responsibility which he gladly took on for his spiritual family. Keeping the church going was as important as his children as far as he was concerned.

On Sunday morning every member of the community went to the service. Every child returned after lunch for Sunday School, and then everyone returned after supper for the evening service. The church services signalled the beginning of the work week on Monday. The services centred the



people of my community, and made the hard week ahead just a little less burdensome. With our faith, God would see us through the next week no matter what came up, and we would rely on each other to get through the difficult times.

Unfortunately, during this pandemic, we haven't been able to worship as a community. The services online have been wonderful, but I miss the friendly faces, the conversation and the feeling of togetherness. Hopefully, by the time you read this, our services have resumed in our physical churches, and

that feeling we have been searching for will return. Hopefully, we will be sharing communion with each other and exchanging the peace of the Lord, in person!

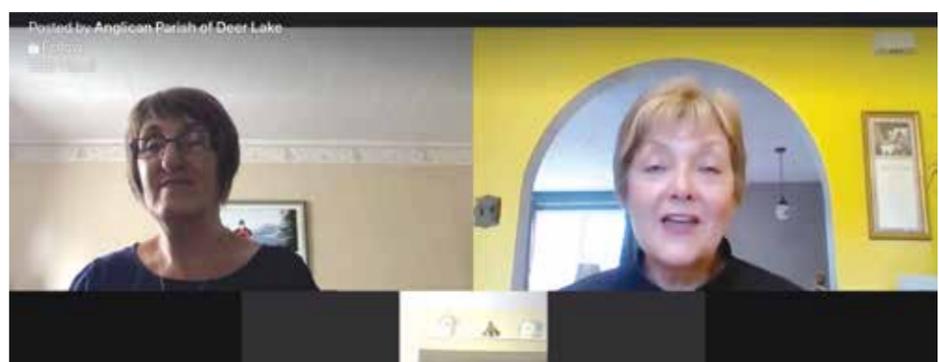
For those of us who have seemed a little adrift during this pandemic, I want to restate that in time, this too shall pass. Being a Christian is understanding that with God and Jesus Christ, *anything* is possible! As difficult as 2020 has been so far, I'm positive that our Lord's love will see us through! Patience and prayer are required now more than ever.

Your church is a touchstone for your faith! It's the place that gives you peace and love and friendship and kindness and...just about everything you need to deal with these difficult times. Return to your churches this fall and let the Lord our maker come more fully into your heart!

God Bless you all!

## Across The Three Dioceses

*These photographs were copied from their respective parish's public Facebook pages*



**IT'S A SHAME...**

There are so many subscribers who did not confirm their subscriptions to **Anglican Life**. There are so many great submissions this month, and every month, and without getting their papers many people won't get to read them. We have stories about church anniversaries, some good news from The Primate's Fund, and photographs of special times of worship throughout the province of NL. There are lots of reasons to read **Anglican Life**.

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