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THE NEW BRUNSWICK ANGLICAN



A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

MARCH 2025

SERVING THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON

THE BUSY SEASON



RICHARD DENNIQUE PHOTO

The Rev. Maria Shepherdson baptizes Dwight Grant during a service in January at St. Luke's Anglican Church in Woodstock. The Parishes of Woodstock and Richmond had a very busy January with baptisms, confirmations, a visit from Archbishop David Edwards and a potluck meal together. See more about their activities on page 5.

Ludlow break-in proves costly

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

When chapel warden Darcy Beek went to turn the heat on at St. James the Greater Church in Ludlow on Saturday, Jan. 11, he found more than a cold church. There was plenty of evidence that someone had entered by brute force.

Darcy called the Rev. Neil Osiowy to report what he'd found and Neil spent Saturday afternoon with the RCMP, who arrived to begin an investigation that has included fingerprinting.

While the police don't often fingerprint public buildings, the fingerprints they hope to find would be in the vestry room which has fewer people using it.

"There was damage to the door, the door was forced open," said Neil. "They stole a \$995 home communion kit we use for going to the nursing home."

Two chalices, a one-litre bottle of Hermit wine, a Dyson stick vacuum cleaner and three chalice veils in red, white and purple were also stolen. Upon a closer look, Neil discovered other things were missing: a hand-carved picture that is impossible to value or replace, a silver host box, a pottery pot used at Easter and a microphone.

Perhaps the most expensive item is the damaged double door set, which has a replacement value in the thousands.

"It will cost \$3,941.06 for similar doors," said Neil. "It's sad what they did for something they'll get very little value for."

They'll have to wait four to six weeks for the doors, and in the meantime, have put plywood

Break-in continued on page 2

Lots to learn at Parish Officers' Day

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

It's been a long time since the diocese held a Parish Officers Day, but one is planned for April 5 at St. John the Evangelist church in Fredericton.

"We had a plan for a parish officers day before COVID hit," said David Peer, executive officer. "It was cancelled."

Vestries have changed membership more than once in the intervening years, and it's time

to equip everyone with the tools they need to fulfil their roles.

David gets a lot of questions that he hopes the event can help answer. Selling and renting out property is one example.

This will be Philip Shepherdson's first parish officers day, and he is helping plan it.

"It feels like there are resources in the diocese but people don't necessarily know they're there," he said. "We want to do a tour of the website and the re-

sources available there. If people knew where to look, they'd find it helpful."

He is focusing on three main topics: Safe Church, finances and shared ministry, and insurance.

"We need to revisit Safe Church," he said. "It's about raising awareness."

He also wants to help parish officers understand how both shared ministry and interest on investments are calculated.

For insurance, officers will

learn what's in their policies, among other things.

Information on the new cemetery policy will also be available.

"Hopefully people will leave with information they will find useful," said David. "It's like a reset since it's been a long time."

The day is specifically for parish wardens and treasurers. Incumbents are welcome as well. Lunch will be provided.

St. John the Evangelist Church is at 75 Main Street on Fredericton's north side. The building is accessible with plenty of parking available.

Break-in proves to be costly, inconvenient

Break-in continued from page 1

over the damaged ones. Parishioners, who were out of their church for two Sundays, will use an alternate door while they wait.

“It’s definitely an inconvenience, but these upriver folks are resilient,” said Neil. “Parishioners in the community are upset but they’ve been very supportive and understanding. Some have reached out to offer donations.”

Neil had a person report to him that they saw a vehicle parked at the church on Thursday or Friday night before the break-in, which Neil has passed on to the police.

The investigation is ongoing and the insurance company is processing the claim. Other clergy in the diocese have reached out to offer whatever spares they have to replace what’s been taken.



The vestry room was ransacked, but thankfully, no willful vandalism took place. Wine, two chalices, a vacuum cleaner, a piece of art and other items were taken. At right is the state of the door when chapel warden Darcy Beek discovered the break-in.

And Neil is thankful that other than the damage to the doors, there was not much in the way of wanton vandalism.

St. James the Greater, in the

Parish of Ludlow and Blissfield, is between Boiestown and Doaktown.



NEIL OSIOWY PHOTOS



The way forward — an act of becoming

COMMENTARY BY
KEITH OSBORNE

As we journey through the life of faith, we need to recognize the immense outflowing of righteousness and grace poured into our lives through the sacrifice and ministry of Christ in our midst.

One of the vital consequences of this lifestyle is that when situations arise bringing signals of something new occurring or something which requires our attention and action, we respond in a proactive manner.

May we in the future be so taken up and enamoured with this divine grace that we take the effort to stop and listen rather than simply drifting on and acquiescing to the status quo.

It is at these points in our journey that God is often speaking and we fail to catch the message if we simply drift and hope for the best.

By now, none of us needs to receive a warning that the challenges of decline and being marginalized by a society contrary to our way of being are threatening our very survival.

In the throes of our decline we need to ask ourselves some serious questions in regard to our being and doing.

|| We can ask, “What kind of Christians do we want to be?” There lies before us the choice of mediocrity, in which there is no passion, no risk and no growth. On the other end of the scale is the beckoning hand of God inviting us to another way of being Christian.

We can ask, “What kind of Christians do we want to be?” There lies before us the choice of mediocrity, in which there is no passion, no risk and no growth.

On the other end of the scale is the beckoning hand of God inviting us to another way of being Christian, not experienced by those preferring the broad and easy path.

If we choose to take this other road in which faith becomes more robust and concrete, we discover his power, wisdom and grace to grow the Church into a new age.

We can thus become more relevant and effective for his gospel in a rapidly changing world. This other course will involve fear, risk, danger, sacrifice, radical faith and passionate obedience.

The solution we seek is not so much found in professional training, cutting edge programs

and strategies, as it is in being all that we can be in Christ.

It means saying, “Lord, do with me whatever you wish.”

As Anglicans, our “Via Media,” or middle way, has provided us with a great sense of balance and led us into much truth.

It can also, however, become a place of safety in which we rest in complacency with no risk or need to be radical or passionate over our faith.

The world which lies beyond our walls is complex, dangerous and broken.

The stakes are high but the unmitigated love and power of Christ is the very force which will transform.

May this passionate desire so assail us and not let us go until we listen and respond to its godly demands.

The Rev. Canon Keith Osborne is retired and living in Fredericton.



DEADLINE for news and photos for the April edition of the New Brunswick Anglican is March 1. Send submissions to gmcknight@diofton.ca



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THE BISHOP'S PAGE

Out of darkness cometh light

Easter is going to be late this year. As you read this in early March we are in the first stages of Lent.

I don't know why but at this time of year my mind often goes back to the Middle Ages. Perhaps it is because the season would have been observed by most of the population.

It may be that in my mind's eye I am swept back into the monasteries and religious houses of Medieval England, where the monks and nuns would have doubled down on their lives of self denial.

I am sure it is just a romantic notion that I have of life in those days.

That was a time when life was very different to the way in which we live. The Church was dominant, for good or ill.

There are many residual pieces of that era that remain. An example is that the winter term at Oxford is known as Hilary after Hilary of Potiers, whose festival is on Jan.14.

I was recently reading a book called *The Literary Lives of the Inklings*. This was a group of Oxford intellectuals which includ-



ed, J.R.R. Tolkien. C.S. Lewis, Owen Barfield and Charles Williams.

They met regularly to critique each others' writing, but also to try to pick their way through the cultural and societal challenges which faced them in the years after the First World War and into the rise of totalitarianism across Europe and elsewhere.

They looked at the issues from a largely Christian point of view; Tolkien and Lewis were probably the most devout towards orthodox Christianity.

They reached back into the days of myth and legend to try to make sense of their present reality. In addition, works like Dante's *Divine Comedy* influ-

enced their thinking.

In general, they concluded that good would triumph over evil. This is most clearly seen in Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* and Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia*.

Yet in both of these stories, some of the protagonists are almost taken over by evil before good triumphs.

An example of this is found in the character of Gandalf the Grey in *Lord of the Rings*. He is killed in a battle with Balrog, an evil spirit being, but then sent back to Middle earth, re-embodied as Gandalf the White, to help the Fellowship of the Ring defeat Sauron.

Similarly, Aslan in *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe* is killed on the stone table, yet returns to lead the Narnians in their defeat of the wicked witch and her allies.

For many of our forebears, Lent was a period of physical transition from darkness to light. The short days of the winter are lengthening into spring.

Theologically it is a movement from the night of the tomb into the glory of the resurrection. Lewis and Tolkien used the

imagery at their command to have people engage with what we might call the hope of the Gospel, despite the darkness around them.

Both *Lord of the Rings* and *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe* were published in the years after the Second World War, as society moved from that darkness into what Churchill called "the broad sunlit uplands."

It was the victory of the light, or we might say good.

As we travel through this Lent, where there are so many wars and rumours of wars, let's remember previous generations have discovered that the "light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not understood it."



David Edwards is Diocesan Bishop of Fredericton.

PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS

March 6
Diocesan Council

March 9
St. Margaret's,
Lepreau
(Parish of Musquash)

March 12
Bishop's Counsel

March 16
Good Shepherd,
Cambridge-Narrows
(Parish of Cambridge
and Waterborough),
St. John, Gagetown

March 23
Mission Church at St.
Paul Rothesay
(Parish of
Millidgeville)

March 28-29
Diocesan Lenten
Retreat

March 30
Holy Trinity,
Nasonworth
(Parishes of New
Maryland and
Fredericton Junction)

March 31 - April 4
House of Bishops

We have an overconsumption problem

BY CHERYL JACOBS

These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. (Psalm 104.27-28)

When they were satisfied, Jesus told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." (John 6.12)



Protests against overconsumption in Rotterdam in 2020.



Thanks to God for the bounty of good things we enjoy, particularly in this beautiful and prosperous part of the world.

But more and more, humans are gathering more than they need, consuming more resources than are extracted, grown or produced.

We have an overconsumption problem. Sentient Media has reported that we currently "need 1.7 Earths to provide enough resources to match our consumption."

And consumption has been rising on a per capita basis, not just as a result of population growth.

This rate, however, is not spread evenly across the world as higher-income countries, like ours, consume much more than their share.

We are pressured to consume by our capitalist economic model and rapidly evolving technology to create, market and deliver stuff.

We constantly face an over-

whelming choice of stuff — for eating, for wearing, for playing with, and for supposedly improving our lives. It is difficult to resist over-buying.

Perhaps part of the issue is also our own scarcity mindset and lack of trust in our God who has promised to provide for us. As I write this, Canada is in a full-on panic over looming tariffs from the USA.

But, "the pressure to constantly consume is driving destructive resource extraction, pollution and waste, and contributing to the climate and extinction crises." (Jennifer Molidor, Senior Food Campaigner at the Center for Biological Diversity)

As one example, almost one-fourth of all land animals raised globally for food are never actually eaten. They die prematurely on the farm or in transit to slaughterhouses (a tragedy in itself), parts are wasted during production or go to waste in stores, restaurants and homes.

Given animal agriculture contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, this is a lot

of emission in vain. And food in landfills produces methane, further increasing the greenhouse gas problem.

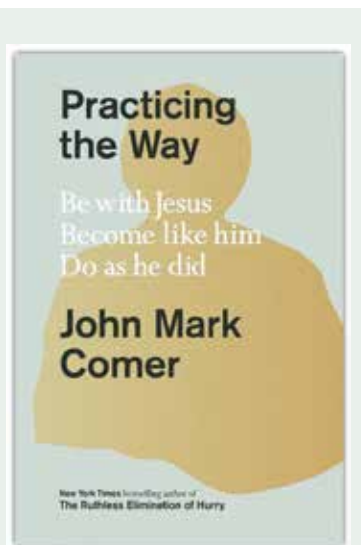
Individual action: Reiterating some of the R's for sustainable living: Rethink whether you are purchasing an unnecessary item or more food than you will eat; Refuse to look at unsolicited advertisements or to see a "best before" date as an expiry date; Reduce your consumption overall but especially of higher emission foods and products, and (yes, I've said it before) disposable containers and packaging.

Parish action: Talk together about the pressure to consume. Engage a Community Food Mentor from Food For All NB to discuss food security.

Resources (more at nb.anglican.ca/GreeningUp):

- How Overconsumption Affects the Environment and Health, Explained (sentientmedia.org/overconsumption/)
- foodforallnb.ca

Cheryl Jacobs worships at Christ Church Cathedral and is trying to live greener...



The Bishop's recommendation for a Lenten study book: *Practicing the Way: Be with Jesus. Become like him. Do as he did*, By John Mark Comer. The online Lenten study, starting March 12, will focus on this book.

DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY



BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

St. John the Evangelist Church in the Parish of Waterford has a commanding view, having sat atop a hill for 160 years. The country church is sturdy and well kept, and large by some standards, with 20 spacious pews, plus space for a choir.

“When I was growing up, most Sundays it was full,” said Marshall Fanjoy. “And there was a thriving Sunday school.”

A few generations ago, the village of Waterford was a bustling place, with two or three mills, a hotel, stores, a tavern, a boarding house and a harness shop.

Now though, there are no stores, and much of the traffic doesn't quite come into the village, instead stopping at Poley Mountain ski resort.

And on a Sunday morning for nine months of the year, there are between eight and 12 people in those 20 pews.

DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

As it was with most parishes, the pandemic has left a lasting mark, and people have not returned to church. Some are housebound, some got out of the habit, and others have died. It hit the small parish hard.

But it wasn't financial pressures that prompted a serious look at how to navigate the

future. The parish is financially stable, thanks to bequests, but the membership is elderly, and many can no longer serve on vestry.

How to find six vestry members and two wardens became the pressing issue, which led Marshall and then-rector Sean Davidson to brainstorm.

“Sean and I talked quite a bit, and I said, there's got to be some way,” he said. “He passed my concerns on to the bishop.”

Archbishop David Edwards and executive officer David Peer came for a visit in the fall of 2022.

“They had a look around,” said Marshall. “They wanted to make sure the building was still viable.”

The two came back with a plan that went to Diocesan Council for approval in December 2022. Under the Anglican Church Act, section 7.1, 2, Council requested that the Parish of Waterford's powers be transferred from vestry to an administrative board. That board is made up of Marshall as the administrator and three vestry members.

It's a pared down version of a parish vestry, and after two years, it's worked well.

“It solved the issue of getting officers, and it's allowed us to continue as a parish,” said Marshall. “That's important to



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS

LONGTIME WARDEN MARSHALL FANJOY at St. John the Evangelist church in the Parish of Waterford, near Sussex Corner. A change approved by Diocesan Council has allowed the parish to continue with a pared down vestry. It became a necessity when too few people were left attending after the pandemic.

us now as we don't know what will happen in the future.

“If we were to close our doors two years ago, we'd have been a burden to the Parish of St. Mark's, so we're still in the planning stage for the future.”

Waterford and St. Mark's, in Sussex Corner, have been in partnership for many decades.

FUTURE

Marshall has some cause for optimism. The tiny village has grown by 65 people in the past few years. That has prompted the parish to plan a “meet your neighbour” night this year.

He knows a warm welcome awaits everyone because he felt

right at home when he started attending years ago.

“It was the way we were welcomed into the community that's kept us here,” he said.

As well, the leadership and structure of the three Sussex-area parishes have changed. Waterford, St. Mark's and Sussex now operate in a ministry partnership with Canon Paul Ranson and rector Dan McMullen heading the team.

“We're really excited to have Dan and Paul,” said Marshall. “They're enthusiastic, younger

and they have good ideas about ministry.”

Marshall has some advice for parishes facing an uncertain future.

“If you're meeting expenses and can contribute to ministry in your area, just because you are small, don't give up yet,” he said.

“There may be ways forward. Maybe take a step back, take some time, and make some plans. And never forget, by the grace of God we are all here.”



SUBMITTED PHOTO

CORONATION MEDALS IN CHARLOTTE CO.

RECENTLY, KING CHARLES III coronation medals were presented to residents of Charlotte County. They included Deputy Mayor Kate Akagi, Fire Chief Kevin Theriault and Archdeacon John Matheson, rector of the Parish of St. Andrews. Also receiving a medal was parishioner Sharon Tucker, missing from photo. Congratulations to all the recipients.

January a busy month in Woodstock area

BY MARIA SHEPHERDSON

Traditionally the month of January has been a fairly low-key affair in our churches as everyone recovers from Christmas.

This has not been the case in the shared ministry parishes of Richmond and Woodstock where three out of the four Sundays have seen baptisms and the remaining Sunday 19th a joint Parish Service of Holy Eucharist and Confirmation with Archbishop David Edwards.

The youngest for baptism was an infant and the oldest candidate in his 60s and ages of the newly confirmed spanned five decades!

Confirmation preparation classes have run bi-weekly since last May and the candidates prepared written cards for the Bishop, articulating their understanding of confirmation and why they wish to take this significant step now.

Layreaders from both parishes processed with the choir and clergy and sat with the Bishop to emphasize the gifts of all God's people in being part of a royal priesthood (1 Peter).

The rector encouraged everyone present to remember their own unique gifts to be used for God and in the service of the community.



ROBERT DENNIQUE PHOTOS



Layreader Colden Wetmore supported the Bishop as Deacon Chaplain, layreader Larry Graham, related to both adult candidates, and layreader emerita Bonnie Sparkes, read

the Lessons, and diocesan layreader Cindy Derkson led the Prayers of the People.

The candidates led the congregation in receiving their first holy communions

JAN 19, WITH Archbishop David Edwards in attendance, was confirmation day at St. Luke's in Woodstock. From the Parish of Woodstock: Georgia and Ella Porter, Blake Sharpe, Alexandra Lowe, Jennifer Graham and Dwight Grant were confirmed. From the Parish of Richmond: Sophia and Alexis Cullins were confirmed. Earlier in the month, Jennifer Graham, Dwight Grant, and Alexandra Lowe were baptised. This fabulous cake, specially commissioned by Naomi Sharpe, mother of one of the candidates, was cut by very excited young people and enjoyed by everyone.

and over 100 came forward to share in the Eucharist, with many more receiving blessings, or a chocolate as a foretaste of good things to come.

A potluck supper was held afterwards and a fabulous cake specially commissioned by Naomi Sharpe, mother of one of the candidates, was cut by very excited young people.

One took great delight in literally eating the 'Bible' and the 'Cross' and then drank from the 'cup,' while the others took home the doves made of sugar to remind them of their big day.

Gifts and cards from Mothers' Union, the ACW and the Diocese were presented at the end of the service.

Say Yes! To Kids registration now open

Registration for the Anglican Foundation of Canada's (AFC) 5th annual *Say Yes! to Kids* (SYTK) campaign is now open.

The 2025 campaign will launch on Tuesday, April 22 and close on Monday, June 30. All parishes, dioceses, and organizations seeking to partner with AFC are asked to register by April 1.

Participation will be limited to 30 teams and registration is on a first-come-first-served basis.

Teams will be asked to articulate a campaign goal and project focus at the point of registration.

Most costs associated with youth projects and programs, including staffing, are eligible.

SYTK is an annual fundraising appeal sponsored by AFC.

Launched in 2021 to encourage church-led pandemic recovery programs and initiatives, the SYTK movement has now provided \$755,000 in funding to more than 150 beneficiaries and fundraising partners for youth-focused ministry and outreach across the Anglican Church of Canada.

"The top three ministry impact zones have been faith formation, arts and education,

and outdoor recreation," said Scott Brubacher, executive director.

"It's wonderful to see the year-over-year impact as so many churches and dioceses are using SYTK to invest in youth retreats, Vacation Bible Schools, and part-time staffing to revitalize children and youth ministry programs."

Other impact zones include food security and poverty reduction, reconciliation, and health and well-being.

At the close of the 2024 campaign AFC surveyed past SYTK participants.

"Seventy-five percent of respondents told us they use

SYTK to create a sustainable revenue stream for an ongoing ministry and that it's an important source of funding for them," said Brubacher.

"We also heard how influential the AFC Angel Donor matching gift program has been to local campaigns.

"We are all very grateful to the lead donors who, over the past four years, have championed this cause with donations totaling more than \$100,000."

At the close of the 2025 campaign, teams will have secured a grant of 80 percent of the funds raised, including any matching gifts or leadership giving boosts provided by

AFC.

Campaign funds will be disbursed in August.

The 20 percent share that is retained by AFC will build up the Kids Helping Kids Fund to enable even more youth-focused grants across Canada.

Visit www.anglicanfoundation.org/apply/sytk to register today. For more information contact: Michelle Hauser, Development & Communications Officer, 1-877-354-6387 or mhauser@anglicanfoundation.org; www.anglicanfoundation.org

MY JOURNEY HERE



David Parsons

Retired bishop of The Arctic takes up residence in Hampton

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

We have a new bishop in the diocese, the Rt. Rev. David Parsons, and his wife, Rita. David retired from his role as bishop of The Arctic on Dec. 31, 2024.

The couple has three sons, two in western Canada and one in Hampton. That's where their four grandchildren live, so that's where they wanted to be. Not only did they find a house there, they found one on the same street.

So far this winter, David has been ice fishing every chance he gets with at least one grandchild. When he's not fishing, he's baking. Retirement is good!

EARLY LIFE

David was raised in Goose Bay, Labrador, while Rita is from Saskatchewan. In his life he has had many and varied roles: postal worker, youth leader, electronics technician, lumberjack, cab driver, door-to-door vacuum salesman, and in his own words, a "dope-smoking hippie."

After high school, David got a job with Canada Post and thought he was pretty much set for life with a good, unionized government job. But God had him earmarked for bigger and better things.

By his own account though, David took a very long and scenic route to the priesthood, kicking and screaming for much of the way.

Despite his life plans, David left Goose Bay and his Canada Post job in 1973 to join Canada World Youth, to meet his need for adventure.

After a year of travel across Canada and in Costa Rica, he came back to Newfoundland to take an electronics course, correctly judging that electronics would play a large role in daily life to come.

From there, he got a job with Canadian National Telecommunications in the Arctic. Rita was a supervisor at the same company.

His courting skills were a bit unorthodox, but successful. He showed up at her door with a loaf of fresh bread he had made.

"I said, 'I'm going to have to marry you,' and two years later, we were married," said Rita. "I was a good Catholic girl. I thought I was going to go to hell when I married this Anglican boy."

Despite David's habit of attending church and talking to God, he considered himself a poor Christian. He loved to dabble in the unknown, the mysterious, the spiritual, the unexplained. He thought all that might be Godly, but he had no spiritual mentors to guide him.

Beyond that, he always had the sense that he was lost, that he would never reach heaven.

He sat in church one day with those feelings swirling in his head, when the priest looked at him and said, 'Something's the matter with you.'

His response: "leave me alone!"

EUROPEAN ADVENTURES

By 1979, Rita and David had left their jobs, flew to Europe and bought a camper van. They planned a tour from



MCKNIGHT PHOTO

RETIRED BISHOP of The Arctic David Parsons and his wife, Rita, at their home in Hampton. David had sourdough bread rising and baking on the day the *NB Anglican* visited.

BELOW LEFT: David, centre, sews his pants during a Sunday day off on the Melneck farm in Innisfree, Alberta where he worked one summer throwing hay bales.

BELOW RIGHT: Taken in High Prairie, Alberta in 1973, David is reenacting a scene from the 1972 movie *Boxcar Bertha*.



DAVID PARSONS PHOTOS



Crete to the UK and just about everywhere in between. But a strange series of events sent them home more quickly than they had planned.

There were many people doing the same European camping circuit, so they made many friends. One was a guy in Portugal who told David he was an atheist. While there, this man became very sick and David prayed for him.

"He was cured, and I was shocked that God answered my prayer," said David. "It was a strong, powerful moment, and I said, 'God, I want to join your army. I want to fight Satan.'"

It didn't take long for Satan to fight back. Shortly after, David was cooking supper in the van when Rita took very sick. David felt this unearthly message: 'you're going to fight me? I'm going to destroy your wife.'

"I was freaking out! Here I am under spiritual attack with nothing but the Lord's Prayer!"

He was so startled he couldn't even say it correctly, and then he began to question the reality of it all.

"Was this my imagination? Was I mentally unbalanced? Was it the dope? Then I heard, 'stop concentrating on evil. Concentrate on me.'"

Then all was still, the campground was quiet, and Rita was peacefully sleeping. But God had much more to say.

In the coming days, he heard many messages:

'David, you say you want to fight Satan. You don't have to. Jesus already defeated him.'

'You always knew this day was coming. It has arrived.'

'All you've accomplished is complete vanity to me. It means nothing.'

'This trip you are on is not

what I want. I want you to go tell everyone about me. In churches and outside them. Go home. Tell the priests, the bishops, the people to come to me.'

"It all made perfect sense, but what didn't make sense was how I was going to tell Rita," he said, adding the doubts began shortly after.

"I'm not a good Christian. I'm a dope-smoking hippie. You're going to have to get someone else."

But strangely, he began telling people about Jesus.

"People ask me when I was ordained. I was ordained in a van in Portugal!"

BACK TO NEWFOUNDLAND

In the meantime, Rita wanted to start a family. And after getting pregnant, her health demanded they give up the

MJH continued on page 7

MY JOURNEY HERE



DERWIN GOWAN PHOTO



DAVID PARSONS PHOTOS

FELLOW NEWFOUNDLANDER Archdeacon Perry Cooper chats with Bishop David Parsons (Diocese of The Arctic) and his wife, Rita, during Diocesan Synod in November at Christ Church Cathedral; The Parsons family in 1989 at Jackson's Point, Ont., a Salvation Army camp, with David, Rita and the boys: Davey, Matthew and Dustin; David in High Prairie, Alberta, the tall guy, back row left, "with head band, beads and cross, brown sweater and the moose hide moccasins which I made myself." While he looks every bit the hippie, he describes himself as "more of a Jesus seeker than a rebel or an anarchist;" David leads TEC, Teens Encounter Christ, at Camp Medley, probably in 1996.

My Journey Here: David Parsons

MJH continued from page 6

hippie lifestyle and get back to Canada.

They bought a house in Newfoundland, had three sons, and "lived in abject poverty for 10 years," said David, while the wrestling match between him and God went on.

"It was frustrating for me," said Rita. "He was always out there talking to people. But there were questions. Am I called? Which denomination? I told him I'll go wherever you want. Just make up your mind. But he couldn't."

While David spent a lot of time talking to people about God, he met lots of obstacles.

"Some people in the church

were on board, some were not," he said. "I was seen a wolf by some. A religious fanatic by others.

"Was I mentally unbalanced, or with God? I didn't want to be the guy from Mad Magazine with the sign that said 'The end is near' but I was."

It took a few epiphanies for David to find his direction, "but once I started, I didn't trust David Parsons one bit," he said. "I got rid of the drugs, the drinking to get drunk, the psychic stuff."

People suggested he join Church Army, now Threshold Ministries, but he resisted.

"Anglicans hate evangelism," he said.

CHURCH ARMY

He finally went to Toronto in the late 1980s to study with Church Army for two years. That is where things truly turned around and the life God had planned for him fell into place.

"Once we realized God was working in our life, we became an open book so that he could write his story upon our life," said David. "We started out as adventurers until God intervened in our lives and redirected our plans and the direction of our life."

After completing his studies, he served in Aklavik in the Arctic. Then they moved to Saint John for 10 years to run an 18-bed hospital hostel for

Church Army.

While in Saint John he also ran the Saint John Seafarers Mission and became the diocesan refugee co-ordinator. As well, he helped run TEC — Teens Encounter Christ — for the diocese for nine years, though he predicted he would be a terrible failure with teens. It turned out he was wrong.

From Saint John, the family returned to the Arctic, this time to Inuvik. In 2004 he was ordained, and in 2012, he was elected bishop of the Diocese of The Arctic.

"I was terrified," he said. "I didn't want to be bishop."

But Rita, and even one of their sons, had seen visions of David dressed in purple. It was

Rita who convinced him to let his name stand, so that if it didn't come to fruition, at least he'd know.

"It was God's will," said Rita. "I believe he's been faithful to the call."

Now in a new phase of their lives, they are perfectly content to spend as much time as they can with their grandchildren, who range in age from four to 11. They enjoy the outdoors and have discovered the trails around Hampton.

And for many days through the past two months, they've enjoyed fresh fish on the barbecue, a labour of love for David — both the catching and the eating.



Philip Shepherdson

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

You may know Philip Shepherdson as a quiet and serious diocesan treasurer. But there is another side of Philip. He's an adventurer who has visited an impressive number of amazing places in the world, including Mount Everest. He's also worked in finance all over the world.

LIFE IN NEW ZEALAND

All of Philip's great-grandparents left the UK and Ireland for New Zealand in the early 20th century. He was born in Wellington in 1965, the second of four children. His father was a builder, and later in life, worked in building construction stores. After that, his parents, Geoffrey and Pauline, bought a bakery, where Philip often helped out.

"I had a typical upbringing," he said.

In 1983 Philip began management studies at Hamilton University, graduating in 1988 with a major in accounting. Then it was off to an accounting firm in the auditing department, often auditing five-star hotels on-site.

After four years, Philip qualified, through exams, as a chartered accountant. But what might have become a quiet, stable career in New Zealand was not to be.

TRAVEL

"I got itchy feet," said Philip. "I decided I wanted to go off and do some travelling. I thought I'd go for a couple of years and then come back."

Because his grandparents had English passports, Philip qualified for a "right to remain" permit and went to work in London, eventually for worldwide management corporation Ernst & Young.

Looking for a new adventure, Philip asked about posts in the Middle

East, where income was tax-free. Instead they had a vacancy in Libya.

He accepted the offer, which turned out to be a major turning point in his life.

It was 1994. The Americans had been kicked out by dictator Moammar Gadhafi, but the Brits and Italians were still there. It was a wealthy, oil-rich country, although ruled by a brutal dictator.

The four Ernst & Young employees, all men in this male-dominated society, rented a villa and hired a personal assistant and a cook. Life was good.

It was in Libya, a most unlikely place, that Philip met his future wife, Maria, at a darts league. She was there on a teaching contract.

"I had just done a trip through Egypt, Jordan and Petra," he said. "I showed her photos of my trip."

SPIRITUALITY

They became a couple and later decided to head back to London. But before that, Philip had a six-week trip planned to Africa, so off he went.

He visited a game reserve in Kenya, admiring the lions and hippos.

From there he travelled to Zimbabwe, Victoria Falls, South Africa and Malawi, where he contracted dysentery.

"When I came back, Maria said I was skin and bones," he said.

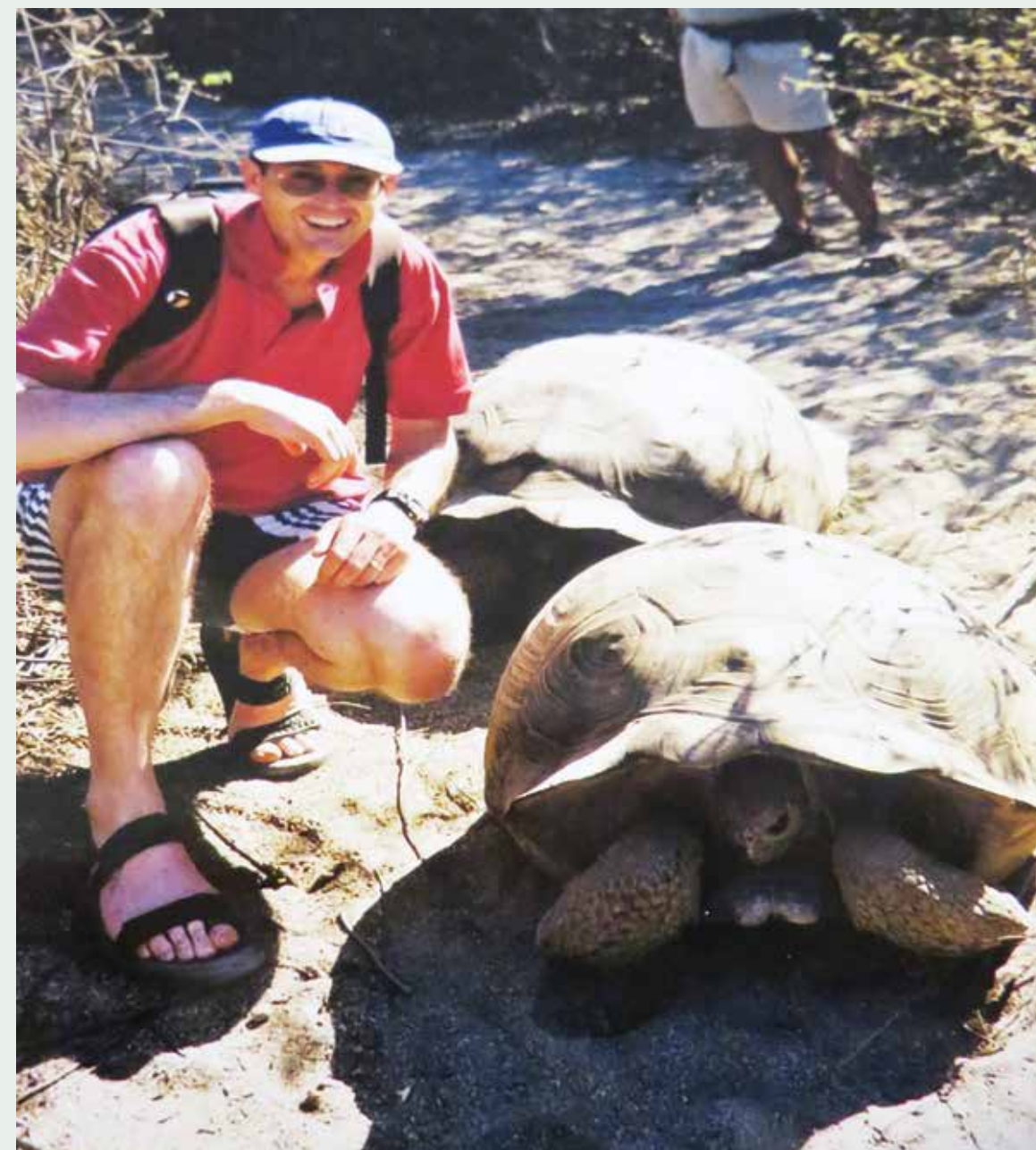
While in Tanzania, he left his tour group and decided he'd like to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. He joined a climbing group which made it to the 5,895-metre snowy summit.

"Spiritually, I've always gotten a lot out of mountains, more so than other places," he said. "I feel closer to God."

Philip's family was a mix of Catholic and Anglican and he was exposed to both, as well attending a Baptist and a Methodist church, depending on where they lived and what was available.



PHILIP SHEPHERDSON PHOTOS



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Philip and a climbing companion reach Everest Base Camp in Nepal; Philip with a Galapagos Islands tortoise in 2003; Philip and a hiking companion in Africa at the equator in Kenya; Philip during a recent Diocesan Council meeting; Philip shot this photo during a safari at the Masai Mara reserve in Kenya in 1995; Maria and Philip in costume at a Steampunk/Goth festival in the UK.



MCKNIGHT PHOTO

"There was a period between high school and university that I didn't go to church, but when I met Maria, she had a strong faith," he said.

MARRIED LIFE IN ENGLAND

Philip and Maria were married in 1995 at a church called St. Martin in the Field, which Philip describes as Maria's spiritual home. Born a Catholic in Ireland, Maria had discovered and embraced Anglicanism, though her family did not approve and did not attend the wedding.

The couple settled into married

life, Maria in the education field, and Philip working for Halliburton in the internal auditing department. They bought a house in Wimbledon, but for three years, Philip was barely home to enjoy it.

His work took him to Nigeria and Gabon in Africa, Norway, Russia, Scotland, Houston, Texas and all around the UK.

"In our first year of marriage, Maria said 'I saw you two weekends.'"

The accountant with travel and adventure in his blood was having a bit too much travel. However, together

they were able to visit Philip's family in New Zealand, as well as Peru and the Galapagos Islands.

LEAVING LONDON

At the turn of the century, two things were apparent: they'd had enough of the pace London demanded, and Maria was hearing God's call on her life.

"By 2001 we'd done six years in London," said Philip. "We wanted a different quality of life, so we opened a map."

Philip got a job in Bristol with Atkins, a civil engineering consultant

group, and Maria was hired as the head teacher for a Church of England primary school.

"We bought an old farmhouse, and we joined the local Church of England church," said Philip.

It was here that Maria came to terms with what God wanted for her — fulltime priestly ministry. She was ordained a deacon in 2007, a priest in 2008 and continued to serve in the Bristol area.

As Maria moved on to an incumbency in Avebury, Atkins was acquired by SNC-Lavalin, and Philip's

travel began once again, this time to the Middle East: Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and Eastern Saudi Arabia.

"I looked after a team predominantly in Bahrain," he said.

EVEREST BECKONS

You might call it a mid-life crisis, but Philip had a dream he could not shake — a trip to the base camp of Mount Everest in Nepal. He didn't want to climb the highest mountain in the world. That would cost too much money and take too much time. But he did want to get close.

He took three weeks off and climbed Kala Patter, at 18,180 feet, with stunning views of the Himalayan mountains, including Everest.

"I needed to recalibrate and get my spirituality back," said Philip. "I was able to just stop, be in nature. You couldn't do anything else but be in the moment."

He enjoyed it so much, he returned in 2019 to do it again.

"For me it's a spiritual thing," he said, adding he was buoyed by the fact that the first person to climb Everest **MJH continued on page 10**

MY JOURNEY HERE



PHILIP SHEPHERDSON PHOTOS

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Philip and a climbing companion arrive at Namche on their way to the Everest base camp in Nepal; Philip at the Horombo climbing hut during a climb of Mount Kilimanjaro in 1995; Philip atop the Uhuru peak (Kilimanjaro), the highest peak in Africa at 5,895 metres; the famous Machu Picchu in Peru. Philip and Maria visited in 2003; Philip with his grandparents, Mildred & Herbert Shepherdson, at his university graduation in 1988.



Philip, Maria are looking for some Canadian adventures

MJH continued from page 9

and get back down safely was Sir Edmund Hilary, a fellow New Zealander.

"I knew what I was getting myself into," he said of the second trip. "It was less exhausting. I found it much easier."

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

In 2019, Philip was made redundant, so he moved into consultancy work, opening his own company. He provided financial services to a call centre, a freight distribution company, a veterinary practices company, a German machinery firm and a care home.

By the time Philip was

working for the care home, Maria was applying for the rector position in the Parishes of Woodstock and Richmond in New Brunswick.

During the summer of 2023, they spent a day with Archbishop David and Debbie Edwards, who were in the UK on vacation. It was a chance for each to check out the other.

By late fall, the move to New Brunswick was in the works, but Philip was left with the question of his own career.

He knew he could work because of Maria's work permit, but opportunities were scarce, and doubt began to creep in.

Just as they questioned this major life move, Archbishop

David called to tell Philip of an opportunity with the diocese. The treasurer had left; might he be interested in applying for the job?

"It was a whole series of God incidents that told us it was meant to be," said Philip. "Why did these doors open? You can't say it wasn't God!"

So the couple began to disassemble their life in the UK and prepare for a new adventure in Canada. They arrived in Fredericton Feb. 27, one year ago.

That first day was a blur: they flew in from Toronto, picked up a rental car, followed the archbishop to the diocesan office, did some paperwork,

went out to lunch, met the diocesan team, went to Service Canada for more paperwork, bought two mobile phones, and set out, in a snowstorm, for Richmond, near Woodstock.

"We had two suitcases each," said Philip.

Their container of goods arrived in good time and they were able to unpack quickly.

"We feel we've settled in very well," said Philip. "We both feel we're doing something worthwhile. It's been a good move. We hope and pray we're making a difference in people's lives."

Philip has joined the Rotary Club in Woodstock, having

been a member in the UK. In the past year they've visited Prince Edward Island, Maine and Newfoundland.

"We'd been to Canada twice before, and we said if we'd ever get back, we'd hire an RV and tour the country," he said. "Then all of a sudden, this opportunity comes. We never, in our wildest dreams, thought we'd have this fantastic opportunity to explore Canada. We want to make the most of it."

Their next adventure is a trip to Ottawa and Quebec this spring. Cape Breton is also on their list. And they may get the chance to host family, as Maria has a niece and nephew in Vancouver.

Some thoughts on prayer

I've been thinking a lot about prayer lately. Thousands of books have been written on the topic, so anything I say in this column will just barely scratch the surface.

Perhaps the reader is familiar with ACTS as an acronym for distinct types of prayer, where A stands for adoration, C for confession, T for thanksgiving and S for supplication.

I'm thinking of the last one, supplication, which refers to making a request or plea for something we need.

Hebrews 4:16 encourages us to come to God with our needs: "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Prayers for help come in all shapes and sizes. They can be long and formal or short and conversational. They can even be simply a word like "help!"

Prayers can be personal when we come to God with our own needs. Or they can be for others, when we intercede



for our family, friends, and neighbours, or for our leaders, country, world, and so on.

I've been blessed and challenged by the Apostle Paul's intercession for others, especially for the churches that he helped form. His epistles record several of these prayers. Here's one example:

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his



NATHAN DURLAO ON UNSPLASH.COM

glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe." (Ephesians 1:17-19)

Paul's prayer focuses on several areas where he wants these Christians to grow: in their knowledge of God, in their understanding of the hope and eternal inheritance God offers them and in their experience of God's power at work in their lives.

My prayers for others pale

Prayers can be long and formal or short and conversational. They can even be simply a word like "help!"

in comparison! So much of my intercession for others revolves around their physical needs, especially for health issues. While those things are important, I'm learning also to pray for people's spiritual growth, asking God to do His deep work in their lives so that they mature in their faith and experience His love and power in greater measure.

I'm grateful that prayer is an integral part of Anglican liturgy. Such prayers are important in leading us in all the elements of prayer mentioned above — adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication.

I also appreciate the beauty and simplicity of just naming people and holding them before the Lord. He knows what they need far better than I do!

Still, Paul's example of intercessory prayer challenges me to pray specifically for people's spiritual needs. Of course, people's most important spiri-

tual need is to believe in Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

Prayer for this is highlighted through *Thy Kingdom Come*, a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. Personally, I don't limit this just to 10 days a year!

Believing in Jesus is the first step. Maturing as a disciple is a life-long journey; hence the need for intercessory prayer for spiritual growth in ourselves and in our churches.

Nancy Stephens, originally from Blackville, served with OMF International for over 30 years, including 12 years as a missionary in Thailand. Now retired, she resides in Fredericton and worships in the Parish of Douglas and Nashwaaksis.

The Aha! moment: Holy fear

COMMENTARY BY
DEBBIE EDMONDSON

During my third intensive week for spiritual direction training at Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, I was listening to a lecture being given on the Holy Spirit, entitled "Encountering Soul."

The lecturer gave an illustration of how sometimes when we encounter soul, in our exuberance, we try to capture it, and like a frightened little bird, it flies off.

I found the way the instructor described it funny, and I kind of chuckled to myself.

Then, I couldn't stop finding it funny. I was overtaken with the need to laugh. Of course, I couldn't laugh, so I tried to control the urge — which made it worse.

I had my hand over my mouth, and it was so overpowering, my shoulders were shaking and tears came into my eyes and ran down my cheeks.

This caused the person beside me to share in the mirth (although, she had no idea



GARY BARFITT PHOTO

The Rev. Debbie Edmondson, who loves to laugh, sometimes at the wrong moment.

what was so funny), and then the person beside her noticed.

Soon the whole row and two people behind me were noticing and sharing in the smiles and giggles.

Thankfully, the class ended and I got up and left as soon as I could, even more grateful that the instructor had not even noticed!

Later, in a conversation with one of my mentors, he posed the question on whether my laughter was an involuntary defense response. That was an

aha! moment for me.

Earlier, in the same week, during a Lectio Divina meditation, the question that manifested with me was "Why am I so terrified?" At the time, this was puzzling to me because I thought, "Terrified?! I'm not terrified of anything."

Invariably when I've tried to relate this story, someone always says, "The Bible tells us to fear not, etc. etc." Thank you. That's helpful. The end.

But it's not the end, and I have resolved that I am going to explore this and try to share what and how this experience was so meaningful to me. So, back to my aha moment.

I thought about laughter as my defence mechanism. Yes, it is a conscious choice I will make to laugh when I'd rather cry, or make a joke to divert attention from something unpleasant.

But this was different, and my friend had identified it precisely. It was an unconscious response to something that I found terrifying. What though? The Holy Spirit? Wow. Really?

That left me to wonder why. After all, I have been taught, told and instructed since childhood to "Fear not!" Put your

big girl panties on, take a deep breath and hold firm. God is with you. OK.

I discovered I was not alone. The shepherds were terrified at the appearance of angels announcing the birth of Jesus, the disciples were terrified when they heard a voice from a bright cloud saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him."

There are several other places where I found references for being terrified.

The Psalms are full of references where Fear is good, and actually comes from God.

• *Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him.*

• *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*

• *But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him*

• *Happy is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways. and more.....*

In that classroom on that day, when I was overcome with giggles and trying to repress them, what had I encountered? My own vulnerability? In a word, yes.

When I truly felt that I was being called to an ordained ministry, that was more than

frightening. I truly believed that I'd lost my mind and was having some kind of mental breakdown.

When I realized I wasn't, that was even more frightening, and I cried. Not just sobbing and sniffing, but huge, wailing, breathless sobs, like I was mourning, and then, I surrendered.

Fear not. It means surrender. It means shields down. It means defences at rest. It means allowing vulnerability so God can be at work in us, to break us open.

Fear Not means Holy Fear — intimacy with God. Stepping into that sacred space is to stand in the presence of something clearly greater than ourselves and beyond our very senses.

We either surrender to the beauty and the exquisite pain, or pull our protective shield over our vulnerable centre — to feel either awful, or awe-full. AHA!

The Rev. Debbie Edmondson is a deacon serving at Christ Church Cathedral and is the Fredericton hospital chaplain, as well as a spiritual director. She continues to explore the fear of the Lord.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

TWO MINUTE INTERVIEW





Marshall Fanjoy, warden, Parish of Waterford

Favourite book - James

Birthplace - Born at home in Urney, N.B.

What I love most about God - He loves unconditionally

Favourite place on earth - New Brunswick has everything

Farthest you've been from home - Slovakia

Favorite meal and dessert - Steak, baked potato, good red wine

Biggest fear - Losing sight

Hidden talent - Good on the barbecue

Favourite movie or book - *Lonesome Dove*

Your hobby - Gardening

Three things always in your fridge - Oranges, eggs, milk

Favourite sports team - Detroit Red Wings



GRAND MANAN PILGRIMAGE

DATES

16-19
May
2025

LOCATION

Grand Manan
Island,
NB

PURPOSE

Journey
of
Faith

**FOR YOUNG ADULTS
AGES 19-30**

**A NON-DENOMINATIONAL
CHRISTIAN EVENT
WITH ANGLICAN FLAVOUR**

ABOUT THE PILGRIMAGE

Join us on a spiritual expedition to Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick. Connect with the Divine through the island's breathtaking landscapes & hospitable residents. Strengthen your bonds with fellow pilgrims through shared experiences, reflective conversations, and opportunities for prayer & worship together.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

To discover, explore, connect & grow

Costs & Logistics

Limited spots available ~ Register by Sunday 30 March ~ Online prep sessions begin Sunday 6 April ~ \$20 registration fee covers all travel expenses (including ferry passage), food and lodging costs.

To Register

Visit nb.anglican.ca/Pilgrimage2025



Questions? Contact Kurt Schmidt
Director of Young Adult Formation
506-259-3711 / kschmidt@diocftr.com



Farmer Marluz Suarez of ECLOF, Colombia

**Our name has changed.
Our work stays the same.**

alongsidehope.org

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.



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



Auprès de l'espoir
Anglicans et partenaires œuvrant pour le changement
au Canada et à travers le monde

SAVE THE DATE!

Clergy Spouses' Retreat

May 1-3, 2025

Villa Madonna

Make plans to join friends for a weekend of worship, learning, fun and fellowship.
Speaker: Kristy Short
Theme: "Our Belovedness in Jesus"





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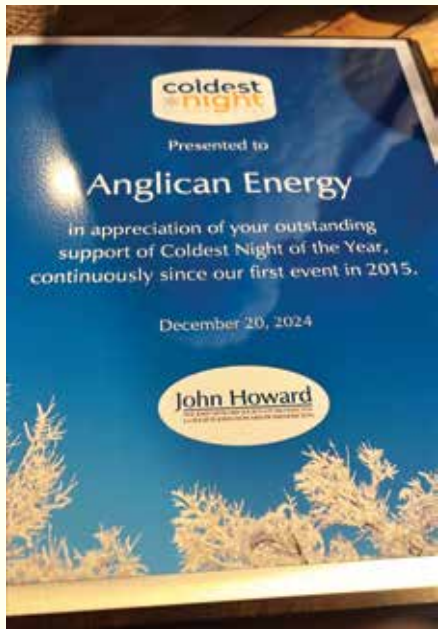
AROUND THE DIOCESE

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE



SUBMITTED PHOTO

ON DECEMBER 20TH, the congregation of St. Luke’s Church, Saint John, joined with Winnie Rice in celebrating her 100th birthday. This was her fourth birthday party that week! Winnie came to Canada in 1947 as a War Bride and as a veteran of the Second World War. She and her husband and infant son first went to Sudbury, Ontario, and after a few months moved to Fredericton where they lived for a year, then settled in Saint John where they had three more sons. Winnie was soon raising her four boys all alone. She worked in a box factory for a time and then worked at the school board for 13 years. Winnie then worked as a commissionaire at the Medical Arts Building for 18 years, a job she loved. Winnie lives in her own apartment and is active in the community. She is a faithful member of St. Luke’s Church and is very involved in Branch 69 of the Royal Canadian Legion. You must call before you visit, otherwise you are not likely to find her at home! Winnie’s latest claim to fame is that she appeared on the cover of Bricklin Magazine, a publication for owners and lovers of the Bricklin, after the 50th anniversary celebration of the Bricklin was held in Saint John in August of 2024. When asked what her secret to a long life was she replied, “Walking; having lived through the war made me stronger; and my faith in God.” Winnie is seen here with the Rev. Canon David Barrett.



IN DECEMBER, diocesan director of mission and ministry Shawn Branch attended the launch event for the 2025 Coldest Night of the Year walk in Fredericton. He was surprised to learn that the diocesan team, Anglican Energy, is the only team to have walked every year since the first walk and has raised just under \$30K for the John Howard Society of Fredericton. He was also pleasantly surprised by the giving of a plaque to mark the occasion. Thanks to all who have supported the team over the years and to those teams that have launched in the other walks around the province. Shawn is seen here holding the plaque.



SHAWN BRANCH PHOTOS

MISSION IN MOTION: community



DAVID PARSONS PHOTO

DURING A CONFIRMATION service at St. Paul’s in Hampton on Feb. 2, there was a reunion of sorts. There were four Church Army (Threshold Ministry) members in attendance. That warranted a photo opportunity. From left: Retired Bishop David Parson (Diocese of The Arctic), Archbishop David Edwards, the Rev. Deborah Cochran, who serves in the Parish of Hampton, and Deborah Kantor.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

A MEMOIR
HAROLD LEE NUTTER
 VI BISHOP OF
 FREDERICTON AND METROPOLITAN
 FOREWORD BY
 DAVID KEANE RICHARDS

It Remains for me to say

IT REMAINS FOR ME TO SAY,
 Memoirs of Harold Lee Nutter,
 Sixth Bishop of Fredericton

Recently reviewed by the Prayer Book
 Society of Canada, and the *Church Times* in London.

Price \$28. Available from the Synod Office and
 Westminster Books in Fredericton.

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The Diocese of Fredericton

Lent Retreat

March 28-29, 2025
 Villa Madonna Retreat Centre, Rothesay NB

Retreat Leader:
Kurt Schmidt
 Diocesan Director of Young Adult Formation &
 Cathedral Director of Christian Formation

All are welcome!
 Register: nb.anglican.ca/Lent2025
 Registration deadline is March 20th.

SAVE THE DATE!

ACW
 Annual Meeting
 Thursday, May 8
 Fredericton

Watch for more information coming soon

Handcrafted funerary urns
 celebrating the beauty of the lives they hold

by Judy Blake

GALLERY78

MUSIC COMMENTARY

Not your typical blind man's hymn...

It's one of those classic hymns of the church, regardless of denomination, that many life-long churchgoers remember learning in childhood.

"All Creatures of Our God and King" has a beautiful message, beautiful imagery, and its beautiful melody and chorus of "alleluias" can barely keep the singer or listener from looking skyward.

Many a choir have recorded it (Wells and Salisbury Cathedral choirs come to mind), as well as many a praise group (David Crowder Band) and solo artists. Maybe we could call it a truly universal hymn. But how did it come about?

Many know that the text of this hymn is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, who is also credited with putting together the first Crèche (Nativity) scene.

Francis was a son of a silk merchant and therefore lived in relative wealth; he had a rather rambunctious childhood, yet cultivated and then lived out a great love and concern for the poor and suffering.

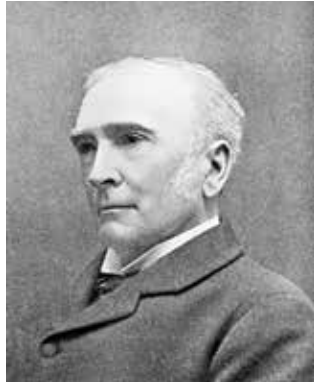
He shunned the material things of the world for a life of poverty, began repairing local chapels and churches, and gathered like-minded people around him.

His Order of Franciscans grew and grew, and his life was devoted to expanding and maintaining the work of the various chapters of this Order. This is the man who wrote our hymn being considered here.

In spite of its many references to beautiful natural imagery, such as "bright burning



St. Francis of Assisi, fresco from Italian chapel; William Draper



sun and golden beams," "you clouds that ride the heavens aloft," and others, Assisi was virtually blind, and unable to tolerate daylight by the year 1225 when he wrote this.

He wrote of his memories, and perhaps of what he hoped to see again.

"All Creatures of Our God and King" is also known as "Canticle of the Sun" as well as "Song of All Creatures." Based on meditations of Psalm 145 (and some of 148), the text of this hymn simply summons all of nature, all living things, to praise God.

That's the story of the text, but what about the music? Enter one son-of-a-shoemaker-turned-Anglican priest William Draper. Educated at Keble College, Oxford, Draper

translated/paraphrased Assisi's text for a Pentecost Children's Festival in Leeds, England, around 1910.

The "alleluias" that are such a strong part of the music were not present in the original. Draper made that musical decision to include them, and what a great one it was.

It binds all verses together as a kind of chorus, which calls so many aspects of nature to praise: the sun and moon (st. 1); wind, clouds, and light (st. 2); water and fire (st. 3); the earth and its produce (st. 4); all creatures (st. 5).

No wonder this hymn is beloved by so many, and continues to be a part of worship throughout God's Church.

With so many versions, styles, and ways to sing this hymn, there are many ways to enjoy it.

My favourite, Dear Reader? The aforementioned version by the David Crowder Band, from their *Illuminate* EP of 2003. I believe others could add their own favourites to the list.

The Rev. Canon Chris Hayes is a musician as well as a priest serving in the Parish of Salisbury and Havelock.

All Creatures of Our God and King

1 All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voices, let us sing: alleluia, alleluia!

Bright burning sun and golden beams, pale silver moon that gently gleams, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Great rushing winds and breezes soft, you clouds that ride the heavens aloft, O sing now, alleluia!

Fair rising morn, with praise rejoice, stars nightly shining, find a voice: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Swift flowing water, pure and clear, make music for your Lord to hear, alleluia, alleluia!

Fire, so intense and fiercely bright, you give to us both warmth and light, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 Earth ever fertile, day by day unfold your blessings on our way, O sing now, alleluia!

All flowers and fruits that in you grow, God's glory let them also show: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

5 All you with mercy in your heart, forgiving others, take your part, alleluia, alleluia!

All you that pain and sorrow bear, praise God, and cast on God your care: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6 And even you, most gentle death, waiting to hush our final breath, O sing now, alleluia!

You lead back home the child of God, for Christ our Lord that way has trod: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

7 Let all things their creator bless, and worship God in humbleness, alleluia, Alleluia!

Praise God the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Episcopal Announcements

Archbishop David Edwards has appointed the **Rev. Debbie Edmondson** as chaplain at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital in Fredericton for a one-year period, with the possibility of renewal, beginning Feb. 1.

With regret, Archbishop David



Edwards has accepted the resignation of the **Rev. David Peer** as executive officer of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton and secretary of synod, effective Sept. 30, in order to retire.

Support for youth

Do you know of a young adult from your local (church) community who is undertaking a post-secondary program somewhere in the diocese?
Or perhaps someone who has recently joined the workforce and is struggling to stay connected with other young persons of faith?

If so, please feel free to put them in contact with **KURT SCHMIDT**, the diocesan Director of Young Adult Formation. Just as good, you could let Kurt know about them so that he can reach out to them himself.

Kurt's role and responsibilities are to provide support and formation for the young adults of the diocese — in whatever contexts of work and/or study that they find themselves. A combination of online and in-person structures of support are available and ongoing. And plans for another young adult pilgrimage may even be afoot!

Contact Kurt: 506.259.3711 (mobile) or kschmidt@diofton.ca

AROUND THE DIOCESE



The pool story

When our current pool was first built, they told us, “if we’ve done everything right, you’ll get 30 years out of it.” That was 60 years ago. Now, we’re ready to start a new adventure that will allow us to expand our reach and bless our community in new way.

Something for everyone, even the community!

The new pool design accommodates the whole community—campers to seniors, families to water sports teams, a space that all can enjoy, from the local community and beyond, with climbing wall, water toys, beach entrance, shallow pool, 25 meter lap pool and full bathroom facilities.

Storage facility

As Camp Medley grows, so too does our need for a dedicated maintenance space. A new building will allow us to securely store new program elements (such as peddle go-carts and our new RC car race track), maintain our boats in good condition, and work on new projects too!

PROJECT COSTS

Pool: \$2.45 m; storage facility: \$350,000. TOTAL: \$2.8 m

How to donate:

- www.campmedley.ca/donate
- E-transfers can be made to finance@campmedley.ca. Please include your name, email address, and designation for funds (“pool development”) in the message box.
- Mail cheques to: Camp Medley, 168 Gunter Hill Rd., Upper Gaagetown E5M 1N7

TAX RECEIPTS ISSUED

campmedley.ca

director@campmedley.ca