



THE NEW BRUNSWICK

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APRIL 2021

SERVING THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON

MISSION IN MOTION: international



ERIC PHINNEY PHOTO

THESE SEAFARERS ARE CREW MEMBERS OF A SHIP LOADING POTASH AT THE PORT OF SAINT JOHN, heading to South America. Eric Phinney had just picked up an order of about \$1,000 worth of personal items for the whole crew of 21. These men came ashore to load the goods on their ship. Eric says they would not likely have been able to access goods in many ports in South America. The service provided in Saint John is doubly important as seafarers during a pandemic have little access to ports and many have no idea when they will be able to go back home or do any more shopping.

Seafarers' Mission, port partner on wifi project

BY SUSAN HUPPERT, NAMMA

For seafarers' welfare missions to do their job well, they need to be in close contact with seafarers. To respond to needs, they need first to listen to them.

Awareness of needs is essential as we care for others. But the

global pandemic and limited access to the Internet compromise the opportunity to hear from many seafarers.

Without the face-to-face contact traditionally available, the direct needs of seafarers pass by unmet in many ports. Thanks to forward-looking chaplains

like the Rev. Eric Phinney at Saint John Seafarers Mission, new avenues have developed in the New Brunswick port where he serves.

Phinney had an idea to enable those working at sea to have instant access to the outside world when their ships dock in the

Canadian port of Saint John.

"I happened to know people in the phone company and that some terminals desperately wanted to upgrade their internet service," he said.

The chaplain also knew the

Seafarers continued on page 2

"SHARING HOPE & HELP"

DIOCESAN NEWS



ERIC PHINNEY PHOTO

SEAFARERS AND VOLUNTEERS WITH THE SAINT JOHN MISSION TO SEAFARERS help load a ship in the Port of Saint John after a pick up at local stores for personal goods ordered by the seafarers. Portside wifi, with a landing page to help with ordering goods, is allowing seafarers to buy the items they need online while in port, and have them delivered to the ship.

Phinney: ‘With a little bit of effort, I can move mountains for these seafarers’

Seafarers continued from page 1

conduit was already in place for improved internet service. He contacted a terminal manager to discuss sharing an updated service benefitting the terminal and the ships near it.

“I negotiated the fiber optics and had it brought to the terminals and seafarers. It was a win-win for everyone,” said Phinney.

“I worked with our existing partners to get a strong, robust connection. With transponders situated near the docks we were able to expand our service to seafarers virtually.”

Today, as seafarers log onto the free internet, a landing page appears that offers the seafarers direct links to information about services that the local seafarers’ mission can provide. This provides direct access to immediate services they may need without cumbersome searching.

The landing page offers seafarers a place to create an account at Walmart to do online personal shopping and have much needed items delivered to their vessel by the Mission.

In addition, those engulfed by the isolating effects of their profession, now compounded by a global pandemic, can find emotional and spiritual support through easy access to chaplains from the webpage.

The ability to connect with families using WeCare, a pro-

gram addressing the wellbeing of seafarers at home and at sea, or WhatsApp and other supportive services, are easily accessible. Links to organizations or options directly benefitting seafarers are also provided.

The Port of Saint John is Eastern Canada’s largest port by volume. It handles an average of 28 million metric tons of cargo annually, according to its website. The Mission creates strong relationships within this global exchange, evident as the seafaring community is a focus of Port Saint John’s charitable giving through the Seafarer’s Mission.

“Considering the industry-wide crisis facing seafarers, Port Saint John recognized pier-side wifi was more relevant and important than at any time in the past.

“This meant that pier-side wifi became a top priority, and establishing wifi became a critical project Saint John designed to improve seafarers’ opportunities for social contact and a lifeline to home, family and friends while seafarers are in port.

“We also realized, given the technological, financial, and urgency of need implications, the Mission needed a helping hand to make this a reality,” wrote Chris Hall, vice president, Operations & Harbour Master, Port Saint John.

Other maritime ministries should take note of the work in Saint John. Perhaps they might

suggest an upgrade to the internet services for seafarers in their respective ports also.

However, to motivate others to do this is not just to figure out the technology, but we need to tell the story of why seafarers find an internet connection and the possibility to do some shopping so valuable.

“Most of the work is simple tasks that cost us little but make a huge difference in a seafarer’s life,” said Phinney.

The beauty of our mission work among seafarers is the opportunity to share their stories with the rest of the world. Giving voice to an unseen population is our gift.

Using the principles of developing genuine relationships, listening to and telling the stories of the seafarers’ lives, sacrifice and service and seeking a response from the hearers can lead to exciting benefits.

“What I love is the leverage effect,” said Phinney. “With a little bit of effort, I can move mountains for these seafarers.”

“We hear their stories, and we tell their stories,” he said. “It makes me feel good.”

Reprinted with permission. About NAMMA: With members in more than 50 ports around North America, NAMMA’s mission is to support those in maritime ministry with professional development, fellowship, and advocacy. <http://namma.org/>

Letters

to the editor

We welcome them!

Send yours to

gmcknight@diofton.ca

DEADLINE for news and photos for the May edition of the New Brunswick Anglican is April 1.

Send submissions to gmcknight@diofton.ca

THE NEW BRUNSWICK ANGLICAN

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The fullness of Easter

Once again as I write this, I am reminded that by the time you read it things could be very different from the way I think they are going to be by then.

It is March 1st and according to announcements made at the end of last week, at midnight on March 7th, we will be leaving the Orange level and entering Yellow.

It is my hope that for many of us, this will make a difference to the Easter celebration, but at this point it remains to be seen.

This year in the Revised Common Lectionary, there is a choice of two Gospel readings for Easter Day. The first comes from Mark and the second from John.

Mark gives a very brief description of what happened at the resurrection, whereas John goes into detail, highlighting many of the appearances Jesus made after he rose from the dead. Matthew and Luke also go into more depth than Mark.

Each of the Gospel writers emphasizes different things at the end of his account of Jesus' life and ministry. I want to draw on one from each, whilst reminding us that there is much



til they experienced them. Their fear is understandable because this is a new thing.

One reaction to anything new is the need to work out what is happening and how it applies to us. This was what the women were beginning to do as they fled the tomb on that first Easter day.

John provides many more insights into the events after Jesus's resurrection. One concerns the Apostle Thomas.

For whatever reason, he was not present with the other disciples on the evening of the resurrection when Jesus first appeared to all of them. His initial reaction was to doubt that it had happened.

He made various statements about what it would take for him to believe, yet when faced with the risen Jesus a week later, all of these melted away with the words "My Lord and my God."

One of the things Luke does is to literally take us on a different route, the road to Emmaus. Cleopas and his companion are unknowingly joined by the risen Jesus on their journey home from Jerusalem.

As they walk and talk, Jesus

sets himself into the context of the words of Old Testament and he is recognized in the breaking of the bread.

Here we see Jesus linked between the old covenant and the new.

Finally, in the Gospel of Matthew, the description of the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus is short, though longer than that of Mark.

The key insight here is the commissioning of the disciples by Jesus to take the Gospel throughout the world, that he will be with them to the end of the age.

Each of these insights shows us that this Easter, as with every Easter, we celebrate the fullness of the resurrection, which is something of infinite possibility.

David Edwards is
Diocesan Bishop of Fredericton.



Thoughts on [another] COVID Easter

I just reread what I wrote at this time last year — the last column before we were shut down due to COVID-19. How could we have seen what was about to happen?

As I wrote that column, knowing it would be read just before Easter, it was focused on the differences between two philosophies on how to live your life and use what God has given you.

Exactly one year later, hopefully we are soon moving back to yellow. Provided there are no further upticks in infections, we can celebrate the Resurrection together, unlike 2020. Even so, there will be restricted numbers and no fellowship after the service.

Despite all the changes



Mike Briggs

we have seen over the last 12 months, some things have remained the same — the needs of those less fortunate.

I do see some signs of hope. I volunteer at the local food bank a couple of times a week. I started doing this when the lockdown started as I had spare time and they needed volunteers.

What we have seen is restau-

rants donating food they had in stock but could not use. We have been giving out some items that you would not normally see in a food bank. We even had to print recipes to help the clients out.

The last 12 months has given us all a chance to take a breather and contemplate all that really matters in our lives. A lot of us have not been able to see family, grieve at funerals of family or friends, even socialize after a church service.

This time should have helped us all to focus on what really matters. God is always generous, but we do not always recognize that, busy as we are in our lives.

Easter is a time of resurrection, rebirth and new life. I urge you to think anew on how you can best use the gifts God has

given you. How can they benefit others by furthering the work of the church either with talent, time or treasure?

I will close with a few verses from Psalm 4 which sums up what we have been through and how we overcome adversity.

6 Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord. 7 You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine and oil increase. 8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

I wish you all a blessed Easter.

Michael Briggs is the diocesan stewardship officer. He lives in Moncton.

PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS

MARCH 28
PARISH OF
MUSQUASH

APRIL 1
MAUNDY THURSDAY
RENEWAL OF VOWS
AND BLESSING OF
OIL, CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL

APRIL 3-4
CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL

APRIL 12-16
HOUSE OF BISHOPS
(ONLINE)

APRIL 18
CELEBRATION OF
NEW MINISTRY -
MINTO & CHIPMAN

APRIL 19
EASTERTIDE SERIES

APRIL 24
DECONSECRATION
OF ST. GEORGE,
UPPER GAGETOWN

APRIL 26
EASTERTIDE SERIES

APRIL 27
BISHOP'S COUNSEL

MAY 1
KINGSWOOD
UNIVERSITY
COMMENCEMENT
ADDRESS

MAY 3
EASTERTIDE SERIES

Job Opportunity

Qualified Parish Nurse
at CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL, Fredericton
Permanent part-time
position: 20 hours/week
Deadline: April 30, 2021
See website for details

Send resume and cover letter to:
Parish Nurse Search Committee,
Christ Church Cathedral,
168 Church St.,
Fredericton, NB E3B 4C9
(506) 450-8500
search@christchurchcathedral.com

• • •
christchurchcathedral.com

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Primate joins February Diocesan Council meeting

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Archbishop Linda Nicholls, primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, was a special guest at the Feb. 20 meeting of Diocesan Council.

After welcoming her, Archbishop David Edwards gave her the floor and she spoke about her changing role during the pandemic and the role of the national church.

Her usual role of weekly travel has changed a great deal in the past year. Instead she has been using Zoom to stay in contact with churches across the country, as was the case during the Council meeting. She offered her take on how the pandemic is playing out in the Church.

"When I pray, I see visual images in prayer," she said. "One image in John is of the vine being pruned. That's true of the Church and certainly myself."

She likened the process to bringing in her geraniums from the garage and pruning them back to almost nothing so they'll bloom large, beautiful and healthy this summer.

"I believe we're being pruned from our addiction to buildings," she said, adding sometimes a pruning takes too much, in this case, the Eucharist.

A blessing prompted by the pandemic, though, is the rediscovery of the Daily Offices and the renewal of that tradition.

"We've been stripped back to what is essential to meet God," she said. "Traditions are wonderful, but they do need periodic examination. Which are life-giving and which are barriers?"



COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE at the February Diocesan Council meeting that Primate Linda Nicholls attended. She is seen at far right, one up from the bottom.

NATIONAL CHURCH

Citing the structure of the Anglican Church of Canada, she said, "I have little or no authority. The authority rests at the diocesan level."

The creation of the national church was done to network and share resources. The work of the ACC centres on liturgy, connecting to ecumenical partners and sharing the stories from the dioceses.

There is also the continuing work of reconciliation with the First Nations community as they develop their own indigenous church.

The primate is also grieved by the racism she knows is present within the Church. She told Council members that every racialized priest she's questioned within the ACC has told her they have been discriminated against — in their church role — because of the colour of their skin.

"We can choose not to see," she said. "The challenge is to take the blinders off and listen deeply to the diversity of our church."

Human trafficking is another issue that deeply affects the primate. She spoke of a trip to

Zanzibar, Tanzania in Africa, one of the centres of the slave trade. An Anglican cathedral was built literally on the site of the slave market in the late 1800s in celebration of the end of the slave trade.

She noted that human trafficking did not end 150 years ago as she related the story of a high school girl living at home but also under the control of a pimp.

Gospel-based discipleship and climate change are other issues and interests during her mandate.

Q & A

She took questions from Council members, which mostly centred on pandemic effects.

On people from elsewhere joining Zoom worship: "We've understood ourselves as geographic parishes. I think that's disintegrated during COVID. The harder question is deepening community together."

On in-person fellowship: "Perhaps we really don't know each other — how we were formed in the gospel. We need to spend more time in intentional prayer together, intentional listening, intentional listening to God."

On trends developed during COVID: "When this started we expected some trends to deepen rapidly, and expected finances to quickly worsen. Some dioceses are facing great financial difficulties that are coming quickly."

"When things open up and the Church comes back to more normal patterns, will people come back? If all this online worship is available, what will they choose? And with these variants, will people be too afraid?"

The primate noted that when SARS was an epidemic in Southern Ontario years ago, there were some people who drifted away and others who never came back to the common cup.

"I do think 2021 will be a significant time, certainly to reconnect, especially with people we've met online."

She noted data showing many online worshippers are tuning in to multiple services and are not uniquely attached to any one parish.

Abp. David thanked the primate for her interest and attendance before beginning the business part of the Diocesan Council meeting.



DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Diocesan Council February highlights

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Diocesan Council met via Zoom on Feb. 20, marking one year since the last in-person meeting, which was held in St. George in February last year.

Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, joined the meeting and offered a message largely dealing with the pandemic and its effects. Afterwards, the business meeting began.

The Rev. David Peer, secretary of Synod, gave an update on the sale of buildings. Both the Synod office and Bishop's Court sales were completed in January and the Synod staff have moved into temporary accommodations at Cathedral Memorial Hall. Most staff are still working from home.

"We are currently investigating options," said David, adding that if the diocese ends up building on the vacant lot between the two sold properties, it would follow all diocesan procedures.

COMMITTEE & TEAM STRUCTURE

A team of three — David Peer, Susan Jack and Robert Taylor — have been studying committee and team structure within the diocese and gave a report.

"We want to make sure Diocesan Council sees this as a worthwhile investment in time and energy," said Susan. "It's not an easy task."

She suggested adding another two or three members for the committee and noted they are looking for feedback. The goal is to have a plan ready for council at its May meeting.

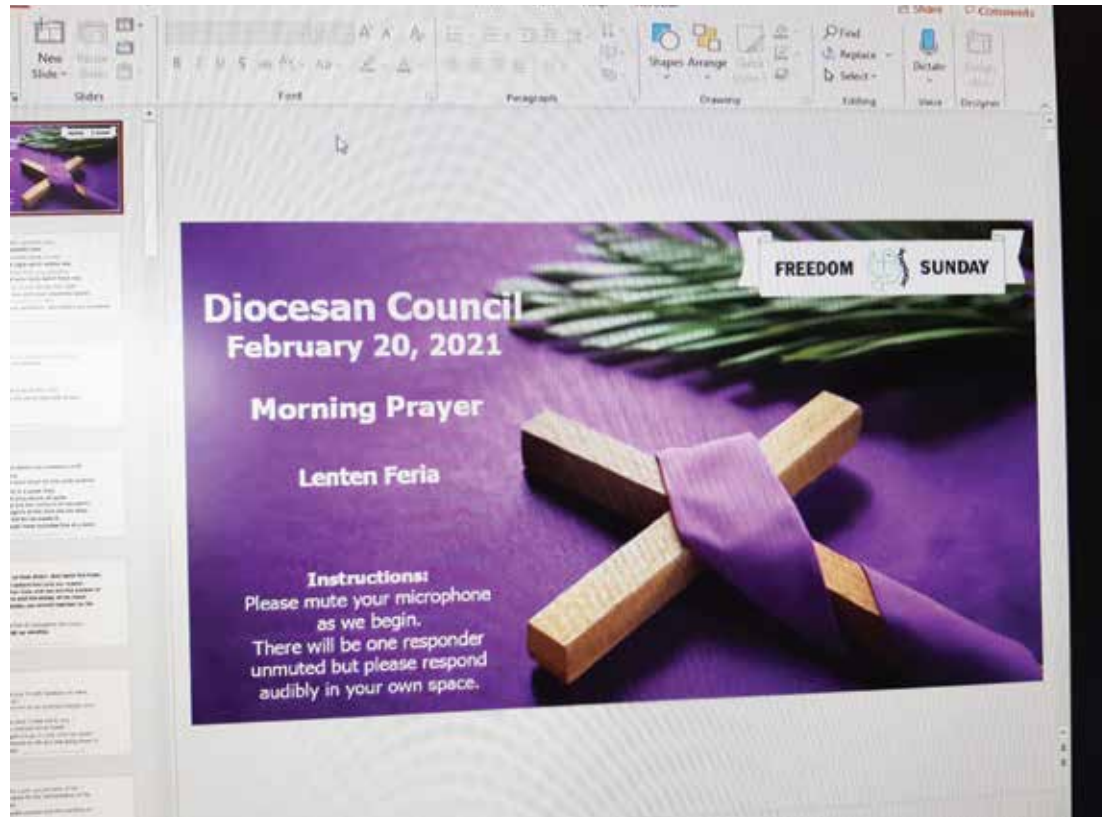
"When we met, we were looking at problems," said David. "But we discovered there's a broader discussion to be had: how do we fit the business to be done into our structures?"

CONSTITUTIONS AND CANONS REPORT

Chancellor David Bell outlined a motion regarding parish governance.

"In this diocese, each parish is a legal corporation, legally distinct from Synod and the bishop," he said. "In great measure they are autonomous."

However, his suggested motion would allow the bishop to



ABOVE, THE INTRODUCTION to Morning Prayer during the Diocesan Council meeting on Feb. 20. At right, members during the meeting.



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS

“When we met, we were looking at problems, but we discovered there’s a broader discussion to be had: how do we fit the business to be done into our structures?”

require the person(s) in charge of a parish to call a meeting of the parish corporation, and during a meeting, it would allow the bishop to chair it. Currently, a territorial archdeacon has the power to do this, but the bishop does not.

This motion, which was passed, is a recommendation to Synod, since it deals with a change to a canon.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Finance Committee chair Susan Jack reported on Shared

Ministry reductions. There were seven parish requests, totalling just over \$89,000. In the end, the total approved was \$36,691. Shared ministry reductions are granted to assist with temporary financial challenges.

Diocesan grants of \$47,160 were approved, going to the parishes of Pennfield, Saint John, Woodstock, Fredericton, Moncton and St. Andrews.

Council approved a motion to allow the Parish of Fredericton (Christ Church [Parish] Church) to apply for an

Anglican Foundation grant of \$15,000 for roof repairs.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer Heather Harris Jones noted that the diocese is faring better than some other dioceses and she is cautiously optimistic about the year ahead.

The Shared Ministry budget finished the year 2020 at 96 per cent, with \$48.9K outstanding. Heather feels the outstanding amount may drop. Shared Ministry goals at the end of January stood at 90 per cent.

In discussing the year 2020, Heather noted much of the savings were the result of a lack of travel and ability to hold events, as well as additional targeted savings. As a result of COVID-19, markets were tumultuous, with the investment portfolio basically breaking even.

ANGLICAN FOUNDATION

The Ven. Cathy Laskey brought forth a motion to ensure that every corporation become a supporting member of the Anglican Foundation, and as a Diocesan family, we are all supporting the Foundation's work. Membership would entitle a corporation to apply for funding in the future.

The discussion was deferred to the next meeting to allow time to work out the process and to prepare appropriate wording for a motion to put before the council.

DIOCESE OF HO MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC

Companion Diocese chair Robbie Griffin submitted a report saying that to access matching Rotary Club funds, the diocese needs to wrap up its fundraising by mid-March. The outstanding amount is \$25,000.

Archbishop David Edwards noted the diocese has not yet contributed to the project, and moved to donate \$5,000.

That prompted a discussion on how to ensure the entire amount was raised so as not to lose the opportunity to quickly move the project forward.

Lionel Hayter asked if it was possible to cover the entire \$25K and fundraise retroactively. Chris Hayes noted that if every parish contributed about \$300, the money would be raised. Several other members agreed with the idea of ensuring the entire \$25,000 was raised in some way.

The archbishop's motion was carried, followed immediately by a motion from Siobhan Laskey, which directed the diocese to write an appeal to the parishes and ensure the project receives the funding it needs. That motion was carried.

The next meeting of the Diocesan Council will take place May 29.

IMMIGRATION

Permanent residency for Twinamatsiko family

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Permanent residency means a great deal to the Twinamatsiko family in the Parish of Pennfield. It makes life more secure for all four of them. But it is the children who will benefit the most.

It's been two years since the parish rector, the Rev. Caleb Twinamatsiko, applied for the status that would allow them to remain in Canada. He, his wife, Hope, and their teenagers, Treasure and Trust, received the welcome news Feb. 18.

"We have been waiting, and it is a big relief," said Caleb. "Now we are here, and we are happy here."

That means no more visas, expiry dates and worries about where they will live and for how long. But easier access to education is the greatest impact.

The teenagers have been in Canada on student visas, and while they could work, they were considered international students. So when they both graduated from high school last June and were accepted to post-secondary education, it came with huge potential costs.

At New Brunswick Community College, where Treasure was accepted, an international student pays \$9,468 per year in tuition, in contrast to a resident student, who pays \$3,380.

At Mount Allison University, where Trust was accepted into the Faculty of Science, tuition for an international student is \$18,490, while a resi-



MCKNIGHT FILE PHOTO

THE TWINAMATSIKO FAMILY at home in Pennfield: Back - Caleb and Treasure; front - Trust and Hope.

dent student pays \$9,165.

"We just didn't have that kind of money," said Caleb. "We were worried, but the children understood."

In their Ugandan culture, children go straight on through their educational steps, and to stop could mean losing their spot. So that took some understanding to realize the best course of action would be to stay home, work and wait

for the designation that would cut those fees by thousands of dollars.

Since before graduation, Treasure has been working at the local grocery store, and he continues there. Treasure's job at a local fast-food restaurant disappeared due to COVID-19, but she used the money she'd saved to buy a computer and used the time to take on-

line high school courses to better prepare for university. She recently got a new job at a second-hand boutique.

"We can now plan the education of the kids," said Caleb. "It's not simple, but we think we can work on it now."

The preparation for the residency application included an English proficiency exam Caleb had to take, and confirmation of Caleb's earnings. The Multicultural Association of

Charlotte County helped with the steps.

The two-year wait included medical exams, plus Treasure's signature and approval, since he had turned 18 in the meantime. And while uploading the online application, some vital information did not reach the Department of Immigration, slowing the process by months.

Since arriving in the province in March 2018, the family has had great praise for their new parish.

"The church at Pennfield has been home for us," said Caleb. "The way we found them — they are still like that. They are loving and caring. Even our neighbours who don't go to our church care a lot for us."

"People are good. The church is coming along very well. We are really happy. I want you to know this."

Caleb is also thankful to Archbishop David Edwards for his support from the beginning.

"He has helped us in every way possible," he said. "He's taken risks for us. The entire diocesan staff has been helpful. We thank God for them."

If all goes as planned, in September, Treasure will be a student at NBCC in St. Andrews in the industrial electrician program. Trust will be at Mount Allison in Sackville, and plans to live with Mari Robertson, long-time friend of the family and of Bishop McAllister College, where Caleb and Hope worked before coming to Canada.

WANTED

The NB Anglican is always looking for your parish news: baptisms, confirmations, picnics, VBS, concerts, special guests, dinners, fundraisers — all your special events. Let your parish activities be a blessing and an inspiration to others! SHARE! Send photos and articles to gmcknight@diofton.ca



The NB Anglican is looking for people to feature in the series called **My Journey Here**. If you're from far away, but worship and live here in the diocese, contact us! gmcknight@diofton.ca

AROUND THE DIOCESE

An arduous trip for a tiny but important reason

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Since mid-January, the Ven. Perry Cooper and his wife, Kallie, have endured two full days stormbound in isolation in a North Sydney motel.

Then there was “the roughest ferry passage we’ve ever had” to get to Grand Falls-Windsor, Newfoundland & Labrador. And upon arrival, they immediately went into two weeks of isolation at an Airbnb.

Then there was the wait — a long wait, as it turned out — to welcome Edward Terence Matthew Blackwood, 7 pounds, eight-and-a-half ounces, born Feb. 12.

“But he was worth it,” said new grandfather Perry, of their first grandchild.

Edward and mom Victoria, the Coopers’ daughter, spent extra time in the hospital due to some complications, including a weak sucking reflex. Perry saw his grandson briefly, noted a full head of red hair, but had not even held him.

“People were asking me for photos,” he said. “I told them ‘We’ll get some when we see him again.’”

Their son-in-law, Jeffrey, is the rector at the Parish of Windsor-Bishop’s Falls. He spent a week at the hospital with his wife and baby son, and in fact, once in, was not permitted to leave.

Such are the rules of



SUBMITTED PHOTO

IN THE FAMILY BUBBLE IN NEWFOUNDLAND: Jeffrey Blackwood, Victoria Blackwood, Edward Blackwood, Kallie Cooper and Perry Cooper.

COVID-19, which, after the Coopers arrived in NL, went completely out of control in the province, with hundreds of new cases in the St. John’s area after a very quiet winter.

The Coopers finally had the new family back home in the rectory Feb. 18. Now they are doing what they came to do: “provide support for Victoria and Jeffrey,” said Perry.

“Because of the limited number of people associated with this bubble, we are confined to the grandparents, mom and dad and baby,” he said.

While new dad Jeffrey dotes on mother and son, Nanny and Poppy are keeping the household running.

“Kallie and I take care of the housecleaning, grocery shopping, cooking,” he said. “We’re

doing what we came to do and just enjoying the little fella.”

So why go to all this trouble during a pandemic?

“Because Edward is our first grandchild,” said Perry. “We haven’t seen Jeffrey and Victoria for about a year and a half because of the pandemic.”

They decided to take on the winter travel, plus the protocols, precautions and self-iso-

lation to be with their daughter at such an important time and to meet the grandson named after Perry, his grandfather and great-grandfather.

But what about the Parish of Chatham, where Perry is rector?

“My parish was very supportive,” said Perry. “They encouraged us to go. It was an enormous relief, but hard for me — to be given permission to do that.”

But he need not have worried. He left his parish in good hands, to the Revs. Ted and Ed Quann; parish administrator and warden Claire Fracker; and warden Bill Tracy. The Rev. Sandy MacPherson has been providing sacramental services.

“They’re supportive and capable, a good team of people,” said Perry, adding he has been conducting Zoom meetings from NL and is in contact every day, phoning parishioners and making sure all is well back in Chatham.

Kallie, who works for the federal government, has also working from ‘home’ during her time in NL.

“We are where we need to be and it’s been a blessing to be here,” he said. “We’re very grateful for the support of the parish.”

As of press time, the Coopers planned to take the ferry crossing back to the Maritimes on March 6.

Synod office update

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

With the sale of the Synod office building and Bishop’s Court complete, and Synod staff working from Cathedral Memorial Hall and/or from home, the next step in finding a new Synod home continues.

“We’ve hired a company to do a feasibility study on building a new building on the lot with the intent of co-occupation with the Cathedral,” said

the Rev. David Peer.

The lot David mentioned is the newly created space on Church Street between both buildings that were sold.

The challenge of the feasibility study will be identifying what each group wants, including potential future needs, and finding a way to continue should each group not get all they were hoping for, said David.

“These are big decisions, and not ones made in isolation,” he said, adding that each group has wants that might not be included because of costs and other limitations like space.

He compared it to fitting seven pounds of potatoes in a five-pound bag.

“The important thing is

what five pounds do you want.”

David is looking for efficient and high utilization of space, something that is likely to impose on both groups.

“We’ll have to manage expectations of what we get and how we would work together,” he said.

There are many questions still unanswered: how much would it cost; what do we want; when might it begin. At the same time, David does not want to give anyone the impression that a building is now being designed for the vacant lot.

“This is still the early stages.”

He expects the feasibility study to be finalized sometime in March.



MCKNIGHT FILE PHOTO

BISHOP’S COURT, ABOVE, AND THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OFFICE, next door at 115 Church St., were sold in mid-January. Staff not working from home are housed in Cathedral Memorial Hall for the time being while a new, permanent home is sought for the Synod office.

MY JOURNEY HERE



DAVID EDWARDS

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

He is the Most Rev. David Edwards, bishop of the Diocese of Fredericton; and Metropolitan of the Province of Canada, which comes with the title of archbishop.

But he'd really rather be known as David.

How he got to New Brunswick is a winding story of God's hand on his life that began in 1960. David was born at the Wolverhampton Women's Hospital at 10:30 in the evening. His father did not turn up until the next evening.

"He worked all day. That's how they did it back then," said David, adding that his father still lives in the house David was brought home to as an infant.

David is an only child, born to Jack and Doreen who were in their 30s. His father spent most of his career as a caster in an iron foundry, though he served in the Royal Air Force near the end of the war, and in the post-war period in India and Singapore.

His mother learned to drive in the Land Army, an organization of women who worked the farms while the men were at war. She's 95 now, suffering from dementia, living in a nursing home. Jack is 92, and visits her twice a day, every day.

CHILDHOOD

David's father didn't go to church. His mother went occasionally.

"I was sent to Sunday school every Sunday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.," he said.

He joined youth group as a teenager, but it was a simple prayer in his community's library that changed the course of his life.

David, 15, had joined the camera club, which had a membership of three. His first meeting was in the library, and one of them suggested they begin with a prayer — a prayer that continues to guide David some 45

years later.

"I felt I was surrounded by a big ball of light," he said. "That was my conversion experience. Was it God? No question."

He never went back to the camera club, but the experience of that day has lasted a lifetime.

"I never really wavered," he said. "Whenever I think 'are we just doing something that doesn't make sense?' I always go back to that incident. If God was real then, he's real now."

UNIVERSITY

At 16, David was introduced to evangelism, and those who know him would say it still burns deeply within him.

"I went on a beach mission with Church Army," he said, adding from then on, he volunteered, got to know Church Army officers and was heavily involved. That's where he met Janet, his wife of 37 years.

At 18, David moved out of his family home to attend university, earning a combined honours degree in English and history. In 1981 he and Janet got married, and he attended Cambridge University for a post-graduate certificate in Education. By 1982, he was a teacher.

But did he really want to be a teacher?

"I wanted to be a lawyer," he said. "God wanted me to be a teacher. I was very convinced of that. I thought I'd be a Church Army officer."

In his early 20s, he submitted an application for ordained ministry. "I felt fairly confident that I was called to Church Army ministry, but I wanted to test the ordination track," he said, adding that many, including his home rector, had suggested he consider ordination.

But the answer was a resounding no. You have not suffered enough, they said.

"They were right," said David.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Janet & David at a Threshold Ministries (formerly Church Army) event in Saint John in 2016; Debbie and David on their wedding day in 2020; David in the UK in two photos; David and Janet early on in their marriage.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



MCKNIGHT FILE PHOTOS

In yet another God moment, the ad was never supposed to have been published in the British magazine. It was for a post in Canada: principal of Church Army college. On his own, the British chief secretary had slipped the ad in his paper.

David and Janet flew to Toronto in the fall of 1997 to attend the national conference of Church Army. David had the interview and got the job. They went home and prepared for a temporary move to Canada in the spring.

Before accepting the job, David visited Church House in London and sought advice on leaving the UK and the Church of England. How long was too long? When should they return?

He was told that three to five years is considered good experience. Beyond that, you're out of the loop.

"So I came for three years," he said.

Janet was prepared for that. Even his parents were prepared to let their only child go for three years. But a great deal took place in those three years.

The college was moving to Saint John, and the first job was to facilitate that. There was a lot of work to do — from scratch, really.

"If Janet hadn't been there, nothing would have happened!" said David, giving his late wife a great deal of credit for the success that saw the college open in September 1998 with four students.

"Ultimately, by 2001, we had about 20 students," he said.

By then they had a faculty of four: George Eves, Reed Fleming, Janet and himself, plus adjuncts like former parish development officer Dr. Ken Neilson. Current PDO Shawn Branch was a student there in 2001.

But his three years was up. Stay or go home?

During those three years, David had immersed himself in the deanery. He had been providing Holy Communion at St. James on Broad Street. Then in 2000, Bishop Bill Hockin asked him to help look after Stone Church in uptown Saint John during a vacancy.

By 2001, his time limit, "I had a sense of a call to Stone. I even talked to Bill about it. But I really didn't think I should leave Church Army at that point."

Bishop Bill offered him the post. They worked out the division of time between the college and the church. Then in 2005, he left the college and became the full-time rector at Stone.

"I couldn't have wished for a better parish," he said. "They are Godly people. But by 2011, somehow I knew I was leaving. I sensed that the Stone journey was coming to an end."

He took the job of parish develop-

My Journey Here continued on page 10

SHROVE TUESDAY

Pancake supper delivery a success in Woodstock



MISSION IN MOTION: community

While COVID-19 prevented us from hosting our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, it was decided that, as part of the ministry of the Pastoral Care Team, we should do something to reach out to those who have been shut in.

It was only possible because of the dedicated team of cooks and drivers who provided a pancake supper to shut-ins from our congregation. Shrove Tuesday was a stormy day, so the pancake preparation and deliveries were postponed until Wednesday and were then delivered to grateful recipients.

A huge thank you to our dedicated volunteers:

In the kitchen — Ann & Jon Tait, Jean Collicott, and Nancy English.

Delivery drivers — Pat & Blair Whitehouse, Andrew Brown, Barb Belyea, Don Niles, Lynne Slipp, Marilyn Sherman, Richard Dennique and Jon Tait.

Psalm 100:2 "Serve the Lord with gladness!"
In the photo: Ann Tait, Jean Collicott, and Nancy English. Photo by Jon Tait.

My Journey Here — David Edwards

My Journey Here continued from page 9

ment officer until 2014, when he was elected bishop.

BISHOP DAVID

"Nobody ever wants to be bishop," he said. "I was willing to do whatever God called me to do, but I recognized this would be a very difficult task."

In preparation for a decision, he went through 10 weeks of discernment, including a spiritual director and a retreat, to come to the point of letting his name stand. On the day of the election, "I was surprised, but at peace."

In 2020, he was asked to serve as an archbishop of the Anglican Church, but what would life have been like had he never come to Canada?

"If I'd stayed where I was, I'm pretty sure I'd have been a parish priest for the last 30 years and that would have been fine. I've always enjoyed parish ministry."

JANET

Janet always hoped to return to the UK. Even so, she was happy to come to Canada because the plan was not permanent.

"But she was always open to the leading of God and she had a sense that God was leading us," said David. "Was she always happy with it? No, but

she accepted it."

Janet fell ill in late October, 2018. She was taken to the hospital that night by ambulance, and within four hours, tests revealed what doctors believed was inoperable cancer.

It was sudden and shocking, and the news was devastating. She died two weeks later.

"I've always said the way Janet died was how a Christian should die," said David. "It made a profound impact on me. I'm not sure I could have been so matter-of-fact about it."

"She cried at times, but she was never angry. She accepted that this was the next stage for her."

"I was never angry either, but very sad, and I continue to be sad. You don't spend 40 years of your life with someone and not miss them."

"We were able to talk about our lives together and resolve anything that was unsaid."

COVID & THE PRESENT DAY

David and Debbie (Collicott) were married only a couple of months before COVID-19 put a stop to so much of normal life. Usually David would have been on the road most days of the week and every Sunday. Instead, he's been home for much of the pandemic.

"The blessing of COVID-19 has been that Debbie and I

have been able to spend time together. We've had the opportunity to work on being married. We've discovered we are compatible, and we are developing family life."

This sort of family life is quite new for David. As an only child with no children, becoming a step-dad and step-grandad has been a change, but a welcome one.

"It's good. We were over at Christy and Josh's yesterday," he said. "It's good to play with the children. Getting to know them. Grace and Isaiah are very sweet children."

"It's fascinating to watch the kids grow, watch how they work things out. The things they say and do. Yes, I enjoy it."

Even so, David is feeling the pandemic-imposed distance from his parents and he misses home. As soon as travel is permitted, he will plan on a trip to the UK.

"Dad always operates on the basis of 'do what you're going to do' but he'd like me to be home."

On the journey that has led him to New Brunswick, he can't point to any regrets.

"Was it worth it? Of course it was," he said. "God led us here. We've sought to follow the will of God as best we can — Janet and I, Debbie and I — and we still do that."



MCKNIGHT FILE PHOTO



SUBMITTED PHOTO

ABOVE, THEN BISHOP DAVID during the 2019 Ash Wednesday service at Christ Church Cathedral; At left, David on Sept. 9, 1986 on his first day at the Wilson Carlile College of Evangelism (Church Army) in Blackheath, London.

ASH WEDNESDAY



Creative approaches to a COVID Ash Wednesday



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT:

In the Parish of Upper Kennebecasis, the folks in Apohaqui had a drive-through imposition of ashes. Here the Rev. Dr. Chris McMullen and Bev Floyd are pictured. Dan McMullin photo

In the Parish of Havelock and Salisbury, the imposition of ashes looked different this year! Here, a Q-tip was dipped in water, then dipped in ashes, and applied to either the forehead or the back of a parishioner's hand (their choice). A fresh Q-tip was used for each person. Chris Hayes photo

In the Parish of Westmorland, they took a new and innovative route. The Rev. Lidvald Haugen-Strand described it this way: "We responded to the concerns about the imposition of ashes by giving out slips of paper to each participant and asking them to reflect on sin, anger, resentment, and misunderstanding in their lives and how it impacts their relationships with others.

"When the time for the imposition of ashes came, they placed their paper into a bowl as I said the statement usually used in imposition. The papers were covered by ashes to signify that, through the death of Christ, we are set free from sin and death."

The photo shows layreader Julia Lockwood and Lidvald with a parishioner. Greg Martin photo

At All Saints' Anglican Church, Keswick Ridge, Parish of Bright, Archdeacon John Sharpe said the words, "Remember, you are dust, and to dust you shall return!" while organist Mary Lou Price signed herself with the cross. Eugene Price photo

Ashes ready to be imposed in the Parish of Riverview. Julian Pillay photo

BEYOND THE DIOCESE

An update from Uganda

Bishop McAllister College reopened, construction going well

BY PAUL JEFFRIES

Greetings from all of us at Bishop McAllister College and Anglican Seminary! We reopened on Jan. 18 with just under 200 students, the finalists in their respective sections.

While we continue to face a few challenges, things are actually going quite well. We have received good news this past week. The Ministry of Education has given the green light for all students to return to school.

It still won't be quite back to normal as the different classes have their returns staggered over the coming months to avoid overcrowded conditions and congestion.

So over the next few months, we still won't have everyone at the same time. I believe this will work very well, at least for the students.

Schools have been instructed to not have exams which take up a considerable amount of time each term, but instead to concentrate on teaching new material so students catch up to where they should be in the syllabus.

Teachers will need your prayers, as while this staggered format will work well for students, teachers will lose much of their normal vacation time that follows each term.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



MCKNIGHT FILE PHOTO



AN OVERVIEW OF THE BISHOP MCALLISTER COLLEGE CAMPUS; the construction site of the MDD building (music, dance, drama); and the Rev. Canon Paul Jeffries, rector of the college. Paul is originally from New Brunswick.

While the calendar for the entire year hasn't been released, I expect it will take us into early 2022 so that the students are completely back on track.

On another note we have made a little progress on the music department in 2021, due

to a few donations and pledges, which is quite encouraging.

We have been able to lay the foundations for the keyboard lab and MDD building (music, dance and drama). The choral rehearsal room has also taken another step from the first ring beam to the second ring beam.

One step at a time!

We are excited about the progress, even these small steps. Our hope is to roof the choral rehearsal room this year if all goes well. Things are beginning to look up! "To God be the Glory!"

I can't tell you how much we

appreciate everyone's support for so many years. With your help we are truly making a difference. May God continue to bless and keep you!

The Rev. Canon Paul Jeffries is rector of Bishop McAllister College & Bishop McAllister Anglican Seminary.

Holy Land Pilgrimage
WITH CANON VICARS HODGE AND BISHOP TERRY DANCE

RESCHEDULED TO FALL 2021
Still time to sign up!

Sept. 24-Oct. 6, 2021
You're invited to join the group for the spiritual adventure of a lifetime. Walk where Jesus and his disciples walked and meet the people of the land that brings Bible stories to life. For full information: www.trinitytour.org

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MINISTRY DURING COVID-19

News from Northern Maine

Calvin's Chapel a godsend to U.S. parishioners

BY FRAN BEDELL

Calvin's Chapel, across the international border from the Parish of Madawaska, has been in existence now for eight months. It used to be my garage, now renovated and in use for God's purposes.

The people on the U.S. side haven't been to St. John the Baptist, Edmundston for a whole year— ever since the border closed. If Bishop David hadn't given me permission for the chapel, they would have been all this time without a place to worship. Talk about wandering in the desert, except the desert is snow!

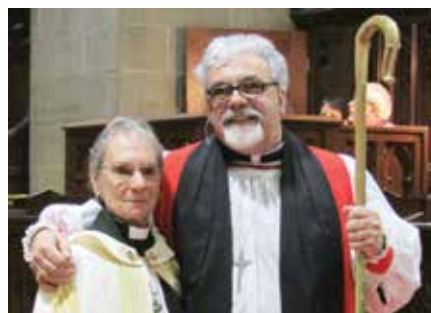
The chapel has taken on a community 'air.' During Advent, Mike brought a creche, Art made an Advent wreath, and Lois provided proper colored table coverings.

Our organist, Irma, records the music and Michele coordinates all the music into the worship service. Judy provides all the hand sanitizer and Lorraine keeps the chapel clean.

They are already discussing what we'll do for Holy Week and Easter. Michele bought some stained glass wall decals, hung them, framed them and now we have stained glass!

Occasionally, Irma works with Lisa to provide special music. John provided the chairs, as well as a propane heater for comfort. He is the person who converted the garage.

It looks like we'll celebrate our first anniversary in the chapel before the border opens. The faithfulness of these parishioners is amazing. Most



MCKNIGHT FILE PHOTO



MICHAEL CORBIN PHOTOS

CALVIN'S CHAPEL DECORATED FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS, and with its new "stained glass" windows. At centre, the Rev. Canon Fran Bedell with Bishop David Edwards when Fran was installed a Canon of the Cathedral in February 2017.

have never missed a service.

While I'd rather we be all together, this has been an experience that has shaped us in ways unimaginable.

Christmas Eve was memorable. It was so humbling to worship at the manger in a garage. It brought home the simplicity of God's gift to us. It gave a whole new meaning to the Bethlehem scene.

Can you imagine what Holy Week will be like! Wow!

Having an international congregation is not the easiest because we are bound by two sets of laws and requirements. It has also been difficult for the people in the church proper as I have only been allowed to cross the border on Sundays and only to be at the church building — and they check!

We had to postpone our annual meeting three times because of Red level, then lockdown, then Red again, so the church was closed for five weeks. Thank God for the chapel.

Our annual meeting was part Zoom, part in person. That was an interesting experience!

Because I reside in Maine, I am required to send the

Episcopal bishop of Maine an annual report of my ministry, so this year I mentioned the chapel — another way of doing international ministry!

God willing and 'the creek don't rise,' we'll all be together again one day.

The Rev. Canon Fran Bedell is the deacon-in-charge in the Parish of Madawaska and the regional dean of Woodstock.

DIocese OF FREDERICTON WEEKLY
ENEWS

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ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON
Clergy College 2021 Update

Due to the on-going situation with COVID-19 the 2021 Clergy College is postponed to June 2022 stay tuned for updates

PARISH NEWS

Welcome



SUBMITTED PHOTO

THE PARISH OF RICHMOND hosted Archbishop David and Debbie Edwards on Feb. 14 at St. John's in Richmond Corner, where the photo was taken, and Holy Trinity in Hartland. Here they are pictured with warden Pat Margison at right.

Ecumenical partners



ANN DEVEAU PHOTO

NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH has been helping the Christ Church Cathedral's outreach efforts for the past 12 years by donating time, food, clothing and funds. Rev. Kelly Burke (at right) brought a cheque to outreach committee chair Penny Ericson (at left) to continue NMU's longstanding support of the Monday morning drop-in. This partnership is greatly appreciated! Fifty-two people received \$10 gift cards for supermarkets plus a well-stuffed goodie bag on Feb. 22 from volunteers such as Susan Colpitts (seated). The next event will take place March 29, pandemic restrictions permitting.

10 years

Kids Helping Kids

Say Yes! to Kids

Since 2011, AFC's Kids Helping Kids Fund has granted over \$100,000 in support of the health and well-being of Canadian children. AFC has heard the growing concern about COVID-19's potential long-term impact on youth. We want you to be part of our visionary response. Help us say Yes! to initiatives that address emerging realities for children in a post-pandemic world. Make a 10th anniversary gift to the Kids Helping Kids Fund and say Yes! to kids.

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to support safe labour and birth.

Learn more in the April Anglican Journal or visit
pwrdf.org/solarsuitcases2021

CAMP MEDLEY!

SUMMER 2021

<p>Boys & Girls 1 (ages 6-10) July 4-9</p> <p>Boys & Girls 2 (ages 6-10) July 18-23</p> <p>Boys & Girls 3 (ages 6-10) Aug. 8-13</p> <p>Welcome to Camp 1 (ages 6-9) July 4-7</p> <p>Welcome to Camp 2 (ages 6-9) July 18-21</p> <p>Day Camp Destination - for the whole family July 24-31</p>	<p>Junior Teen 1 (ages 11-13) July 11-16</p> <p>Junior Teen 2 (ages 11-13) Aug. 15-20</p> <p>Senior Teen (ages 14-16) Aug. 22-27</p> <p>campmedley.ca</p>	<p>Girls Camp (ages 6-10) Aug. 1-6</p> <p>Girl Boss (ages 12-15) Aug. 1-6</p> <p>Girls Adventure 1 (ages 12-15) Aug. 8-13</p> <p>Girls Adventure 2 (ages 12-15) Aug. 15-20</p> <p>Boys Adventure 1 (ages 12-15) July 18-23</p> <p>Boys Adventure 2 (ages 12-15) Aug. 15-20</p> <p>Medley Makers (ages 12-15) July 11-16</p>
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MUSIC COMMENTARY

Apollo LTD declares “Nothing Is Ordinary. Everything Is Beautiful”

In popular music, it can be hard to be a light-hearted, bouncy kind of group without being written off as either not serious enough, or downright irreverent to the things one sings about.

It's also hard to make music that doesn't seem overly one-dimensional or forgettable.

Enter Apollo LTD, a pop band making a pop album, but one with lots of different shades of style.

This is Apollo LTD's first full-length album, having released an earlier EP in 2019, *Out of Body*. Now, their new album *Nothing is Ordinary. Everything Is Beautiful* should bring them plenty of attention for their great sound.

Musically, the group can be likened to an early MercyMe, Paper Route, Sidewalk Prophets, or (a slightly lighter) Imagine Dragons.

However, this duo has a lot more going on than tricky beats and synth hits. This is a



full album that can show you something new with every listen. There's a lot to listen to, and many styles on this record to hear.

On this album you'll find a bit of rap with a pop chorus (“Good Day,” with the Social Club Misfits), bright pop songs with a punch (“Tears To Diamonds,” and the great tune, “Rulers”), a 70s-esque gospel-tinged tune (“Sunday Morning Feeling”), and a light-rock infused tune (“Just What I Needed,” maybe the best song on the album, and “Heart Believes”).

The song styles are well-mixed from start to finish;



there is no weaker second half, as is so often the case with many other projects.

Jordan Phillips and Adam Stark, the duo that is Apollo LTD, have a great ear, and a great sense of how to write and record a great tune.

My one major disappointment with this group (and with too many others, sadly), is that though they consider themselves a Christian band, recording on a specifically Christian centred-label, the lyrics are terribly watered down, and do not say much about Christianity.

In the lyrics there is mention of need and longing, or searching, or being in need of help, but the lyrics only answer with “Love” or “You” in response.

We can infer that God is the focus here, but God is not explicitly mentioned anywhere, either as God, Lord, Almighty, Jesus, Holy Spirit — nothing.

For example, this is from the song, “Patient:” “But right now I'm restless / I need You because I'm anxious / I've done all I can / It's all in Your hands...”

Some of these songs could just as easily be written about a best friend, a boyfriend/girlfriend, or even someone the singer greatly admires.

The focus of the lyrics is lost when the songs can be so questionably interpreted. One could wonder whether the writer is embarrassed by their faith, seeking high record sales and plays, or something else altogether.

I don't believe the writer is

simply writing poetically here; if you mean God, then say so!

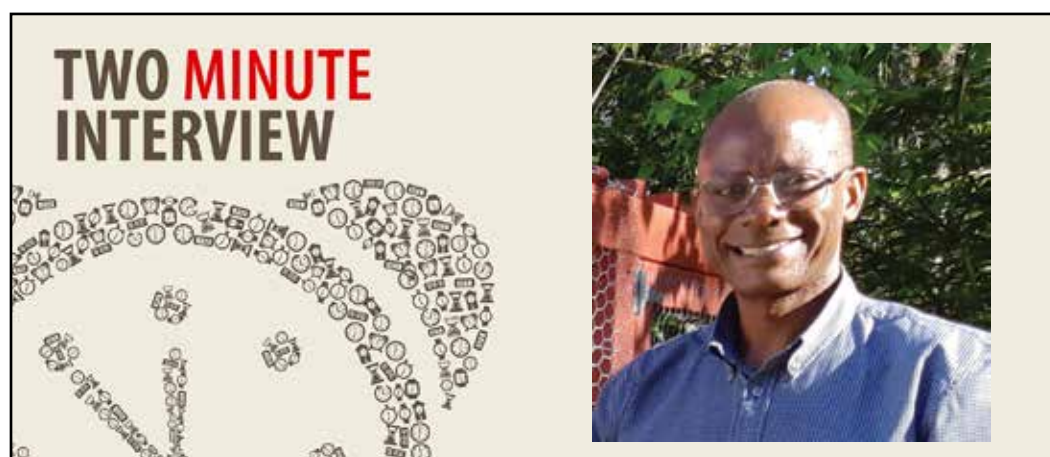
Overall, I give Apollo LTD fantastic marks for musician-ship and creativity in their music; at best, an average score for lyrics; and an outright failing grade for speaking of their Christian faith.

If judged on the songs alone, the listener could not discern whether the writer was Christian or not.

It can be disheartening for a listener who is looking for both good music and a faithful message in a single recording act, but finds one and not the other. Such a combination should not be that hard to find, yet that is sadly the case all too often.

Enjoy Apollo LTD if you like the kind of music; just don't expect them to speak to you spiritually.

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



The Rev. Caleb Twinamatsiko, rector of the Parish of Pennfield, and new permanent resident of Canada

Favourite book of the Bible – The Gospel of John

Birthplace – Ibanda, Uganda, Africa

What you love most about God – God loves me as I am

Favourite place on Earth – Bunyonyi - Kabale (Western Uganda)

Farthest you've been from home – Canada

Favourite meal or dessert – Millet, fish and groundnut sauce

Biggest fear – Snakes

Hidden talent – Playing soccer

Favourite movie or book – Movie: *The Gods Must Be Crazy* (by Jamie Uys)

Your hobby – Playing musical instruments

Three things always in your fridge – Water, fish, oranges

Favourite sports team – The Uganda Cranes

Episcopal Announcements



The Rev. Lidvald Haugen-Strand's appointment as interim priest-in-charge in the Parish of Westmorland is extended a further year, until July 31, 2022.

The Rev. Jeremy Boehr has

been appointed part-time incumbent in the Parish of Millidgeville. Jeremy and his family now live in New Brunswick, but prior to this, he served as rector of the Parish of Nipawin and Arborfield in the Diocese of Saskatchewan.

HOW SHALL WE FORGIVE? Re-discovering His way through

A 5-week Eastertide series on forgiveness and reconciliation featuring the Most Rev. David Edwards, Archbishop of Fredericton and Metropolitan of Canada; and the Most Rev. Mark MacDonald, Canada's first Indigenous Anglican Bishop. Q & A follows each presentation. All are welcome.

**When? Monday nights at 7 p.m.
on Zoom – April 19-May 17
Watch for more details soon!**

THE ARUSHA CALL

The Arusha Call to Discipleship

Leading like Jesus

The World Council of Churches' Conference on World Mission and Evangelism met in Arusha, Tanzania, in March 2018. From this meeting the more than 1,000 participants, who were all regularly engaged in mission and evangelism, issued the Arusha Call to Discipleship.

At our own national church General Synod in 2019, resolution A-129 was passed that we affirm the Arusha Call; encourage bodies within the General Synod to integrate this call into the guiding principles of baptismal living for the shaping of national ministries; and commend the Arusha Call to dioceses for study and inclusion in their considerations of evangelism, witness and discipleship.

For one year, Spiritual Development Team members and others will offer reflections in the New Brunswick Anglican on the 12 points within this call. This is Call # 9, written by Cole Hartin.

We are called to be formed as servant leaders who demonstrate the way of Christ in a world that privileges power, wealth, and the culture of money (Luke 22:25-27).

Power, wealth, and a culture of money — these are all seductive enemies.

When we encounter Jesus, and are grafted into his body in Baptism, we learn, however haltingly, that our Lord laid aside his power in love.

This is evident in the event of the Incarnation itself, when the second person of the Holy Trinity entered into human life by the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary.

The one by whom all things were created stepped into creation, entered a life of obscurity and poverty, and took on the toils that we all know too well.

He gave himself to be crucified and buried, and this was followed by the great mystery of his descent into hell. There is no lower place to go.

At pivotal points in his life, moreover, the seduction of

power reasserted itself to our Lord, in the form of Satan's temptation in the wilderness, but also in the disciples' constant calls for him to topple their enemies.

Topple their enemies he did, but not with political revolution or agitating for better representation in a corrupt empire, but in obliterating their sin, and taking it on himself, destroying it in his body, and rising to new life.

In Luke 22:24-30, when his disciples disputed who among them was the greatest, Jesus reminded them that true greatness lays aside the fight for privilege and status and takes the form of a servant. Jesus reminded his disciples that he, their teacher and messiah, was willing to be their servant.

How can we learn to lead like Jesus? How can we find greatness in serving, in laying aside the desire for power and wealth?

As I said, these are seductive and cunning enemies.

Who has power and wealth in our society? It is easy enough for us to spot those who wield the most of both. They stand at the intersection of technology and culture.

The top executives at Amazon, Microsoft, Apple, Facebook, and perhaps those in the film industry, are ready examples. Not only do they have inordinate wealth, but also the ability to communicate with vast swaths of the population (in their own homes!) by means of phones, computers and televisions.

No one in human history has had such a far-reaching ability. And most of us are enmeshed in these systems of wealth and power as we purchase their products, using them for good or ill.

We resist the draws of power and wealth not by shunning the wealthy and powerful, however, but by ordering our own lives in the way of Jesus. This takes time, patience, a local community, and an openness to grace.

There is nothing less conducive to attaining power

We are called to be formed as servant leaders who demonstrate the way of Christ in a world that privileges power, wealth, and the culture of money (Luke 22:25-27)

CAROLYN V ON UNSPLASH

The text of the Arusha Call:

As disciples of Jesus Christ, both individually and collectively:

- We are called by our baptism to transforming discipleship: a Christ-connected way of life in a world where many face despair, rejection, loneliness, and worthlessness.
- We are called to worship the one Triune God—the God of justice, love, and grace—at a time when many worship the false god of the market system (Luke 16:13).
- We are called to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ—the fullness of life, the repentance and forgiveness of sin, and the promise of eternal life—in word and deed, in a violent world where many are sacrificed to the idols of death (Jeremiah 32:35) and where many have not yet heard the gospel.
- We are called to joyfully engage in the ways of the Holy Spirit, who empowers people from the margins with agency, in the search for justice and dignity (Acts 1:8; 4:31).
- We are called to discern the word of God in a world that communicates many contradictory, false, and confusing messages.
- We are called to care for God's creation, and to be in solidarity with nations severely affected by climate change in the face of a ruthless human-centered exploitation of the environment for consumerism and greed.
- We are called as disciples to belong together in just and inclusive communities, in our quest for unity and on our ecumenical journey, in a world that is based upon marginalization and exclusion.
- We are called to be faithful witnesses of God's transforming love in dialogue with people of other faiths in a world where the politicization of religious identities often causes conflict.
- **We are called to be formed as servant leaders who demonstrate the way of Christ in a world that privileges power, wealth, and the culture of money (Luke 22:25-27).**
- We are called to break down walls and seek justice with people who are dispossessed and displaced from their lands—including migrants, refugees and asylum seekers—and to resist new frontiers and borders that separate and kill (Isaiah 58:6-8).
- We are called to follow the way of the cross, which challenges elitism, privilege, personal and structural power (Luke 9:23).
- We are called to live in the light of the resurrection, which offers hope-filled possibilities for transformation.

This is a call to transforming discipleship. This is not a call that we can answer in our own strength, so the call becomes, in the end, a call to prayer:

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of life in all its diversity and beauty. Lord Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, we praise you that you came to find the lost, to free the oppressed, to heal the sick, and to convert the self-centred. Holy Spirit, we rejoice that you breathe in the life of the world and are poured out into our hearts. As we live in the Spirit, may we also walk in the Spirit. Grant us faith and courage to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus: becoming pilgrims of justice and peace in our time. For the blessing of your people, the sustaining of the earth, and the glory of your name. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

and wealth than setting aside Sunday morning for worship, prayer, and fellowship.

There is no better way to resist the temptations of the world than to read Scripture and pray together, bleary-eyed, in the morning or before bed.

But here's the rub. Even our desire for God can devolve into a desire for power. Discipleship, the means by which we follow Christ, can become misguided.

We might follow the steps

of a disciple in order to get a handle on God, to have some leverage in bargaining in our prayers for more financial blessings, or we might use our position in our church to agitate for our own agenda.

The tools that God gives us in our path toward holiness can be co-opted as another means to secure power over God or over his Church, so that we miss the focus we had when we began.

Thankfully, by his grace,

God can even use our paltry aims and questionable means for his ends. True discipleship, then, requires us not only to turn to Jesus over the temptation in the world, but to sacrifice our own attempts to make our lives acceptable to God. True discipleship begins and ends with us calling out to our Master, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner!"

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