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THE NEW BRUNSWICK

# ANGLICAN



A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

JANUARY 2025

SERVING THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON

## An abundance of blessings at the Deacon's Den

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Every Tuesday, a fleet of about 10 volunteers shows up at an out-of-the-way country church building ready to work. They dress warmly — there is no heat. They don't sip coffee — there is no bathroom.

No, the surroundings are not glamorous — but there are no complaints.

This group, led by the Rev. Brenda Fowler, a deacon in the parishes of Central Kings and Upham, operates the Deacon's Den, a thrift shop housed at Holy Trinity, Smithtown.

The *New Brunswick Anglican* visited after hearing about it at the 139<sup>th</sup> Session of Diocesan Synod in November.

The Deacon's Den is indeed out of the way. Housed at 1342 Route 860 in Kings County, it's an eight-minute drive from the Hampton Tim Horton's.

"It's kind of in the middle of nowhere," said Brenda. "I was a bit skeptical. Are people going to come? It's not in a town. There's not a lot of traffic here. All we have is just a sign out on the road."

But they do come, drawn by a quest for bargains, and buoyed by the fact the money they spend goes directly to people in need.

"Last Saturday, we made over \$1,000," said Brenda.

### REPURPOSING A CHURCH BUILDING

Holy Trinity hasn't been used as a church building in more than a decade, and what to do with it was on Brenda's and Archdeacon Rob Marsh's minds. Then came an epiphany in early 2022.

"A vision was laid out for me while I was on my way to Nova Scotia," she said. "The whole plan just became clear."

She knew what needed to be painted, and how to manage the



MCKNIGHT PHOTO

**THE REV. BRENDA FOWLER**, a deacon in the Parishes of Upham and Central Kings, in the main aisle of the Deacon's Den, a thrift shop in the Parish of Upham, which, over the past two and a half years, has funneled \$30,000 to people in need in the local community around Bloomfield and Hampton.

customer flow during a pandemic. She knew that the nave would be the sorting and pricing area, the old kitchen would be the seasonal and storage area, and the hall would be the actual

store.

Then she got to work making it happen, with the help of lots of volunteers. Barely two months later, it opened.

It's a rather low-tech enter-

prise. There is no database of inventory, no computer, no sales receipts. The prices are written on green painter's tape because it's cheap and it's easy for customers to peel off once they get

home with their treasures.

Early on, they realized the power of Facebook to draw in customers. Each Tuesday, Kim Rodgers uses her phone to take dozens of photos of items they want to showcase. Then over the next couple of days, she uploads them to the "Deacons' Den" page so people can see some of what's for sale. Then Kim makes a list, using pen and paper, of who has expressed interest in what.

They have more than 1,600 followers online, but Brenda remembers the euphoria when they reached 100.

"Every week there are new people," she said. "I'm flabbergasted."

As Kim takes photos, the crew unpacks, sorts and prices items in preparation for Saturday, the only day they're open.

Then at 9 a.m. on Saturday, the "open" flag goes up and a shift of volunteers arrives to manage sales. While they usually work a morning or an afternoon shift, but not both, Brenda is there all day.

"I call it my fast day," she said. "I don't eat or drink anything!"

### MONEY IN, MONEY OUT

The store has a huge inventory, and sells what you might expect: clothing and accessories, footwear, linens, décor and glassware, housewares, puzzles and games, toys, craft and pet supplies, books and seasonal items.

Prices are nominal, \$2 for tops, \$3 for sweaters, and so on. There are plenty of bargains, but that's only part of the story.

Donors like giving their excess household items because they know there is no middle man, no administrative fee or anything else that takes a chunk out of sales. Every bit taken in

Deacon's den continued on page 4

# Taking a closer look at “Alongside Hope,” aka PWRDF

As I began to think about what to say for this article, I decided to share some further thoughts about our new name for Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund, now **Alongside Hope**.

It’s been helpful for me to ponder on these two words, both separately and then what they might mean when put together.

I know it’s due to my age and focus of my early education, but I have long been fascinated by word types and what they represent. For example, is the word a noun, adverb, adjective, verb?

Sometimes knowing this can help to understand better what



is being communicated. So, let’s start with the word HOPE. It can be either a noun, as in “full of hope,” or a verb, as in “we hope for that which we do not see.”

So, in terms of the new name, it is also *both* a noun and a verb

as we work with partners both to *bring hope* and to *be hope*.

PWRDF has always worked with and through partners, and, of course, even though the name has changed, the work remains the same.

So, let’s consider the word ALONGSIDE. It also can be used in two ways, as an adverb, to expand upon the verb, as in “a parallel position;” or as a preposition, as in “in company with or in addition to.”

When put together, **ALONGSIDE HOPE** works in several ways. For instance, it can be: 1) we stand alongside our partners with hope; 2) our partners stand

expectantly beside us in hope; 3) hoping, we partner alongside others in Canada and around the world; 4) hoping, our partners ask us to participate alongside them to bring change in the world.

I am sure there are many more ways in which the work of **Alongside Hope** can be expressed; however, the new tagline says it all: *Anglicans and partners working for change in Canada and around the world*.

As I already said, the name has changed, but not the work, and is summed up nicely in this quote from the **Alongside Hope** website, “As we walk alongside

each of our partners, supporting, listening and sharing with one another, we embrace and embody the hope of a better world.”

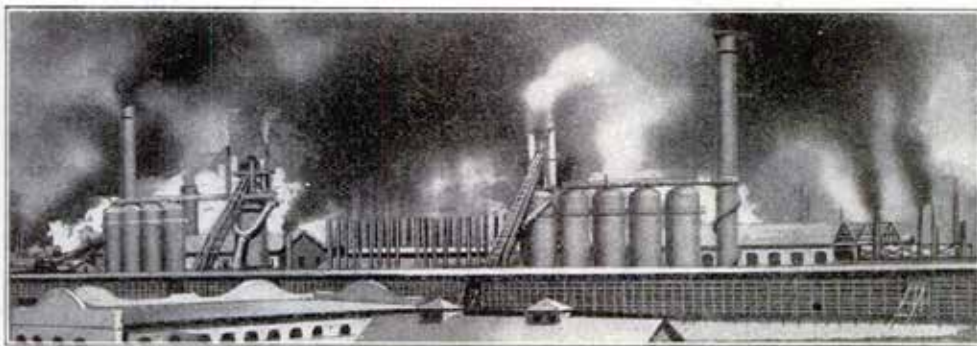
I will end with words from Janice Biehn, Communications and Marketing Coordinator, which shine a light on one way we can partner, coming alongside with hope.

Janice said, at the National Gathering on Nov. 14, “Not everyone can give but everyone can pray.” Let us pray with and for our partners and the on-going work of **Alongside Hope**. *Debbie Edwards is the diocesan representative in the Diocese of Fredericton.*

March, 1912

POPULAR MECHANICS

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The furnaces of the world are now burning about 2,000,000,000 tons of coal a year. When this is burned, uniting with oxygen, it adds about 7,000,000,000 tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere yearly. This tends to make the air a more effective blanket for the earth and to raise its temperature. The effect may be considerable in a few centuries.

**IMAGE AND CAPTION** from Popular Mechanics magazine (March, 1912) succinctly describing how burning coal causes what is now known as the greenhouse effect, and how it may affect future climate. *Courtesy of wikimedia commons.*

## Adopt a climate-friendly habit for the new year

“Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’”

Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we [did these things]? And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’” (Matthew 25:34–40, NRSV)

This passage in the New Year’s Day lectionary reminds us that even the little things we do to serve someone else are what Jesus would



do, even more so, it is doing it for Jesus.

Many people and countries are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than we are.

The scale of the problem of our warming planet and the systems of consumption behind it can be overwhelming, and making changes in our lifestyle to reduce our impact on the environment may seem small and inconsequential, but perhaps we can liken it to giving someone a drink.

**Individual action:** Choose a new “climate-friendly habit” for this New Year, and then add another at regular intervals. For

example, take your own hot beverage mug to your favourite dispensary, carry a water bottle, reduce your consumption of meat or cheese, reduce the amount of pre-packaged veggies and meals you buy.

**Parish action:** Encourage parishioners to pick up a new climate-friendly habit for the New Year or pick a specific item and encourage all to do that one thing. Enable that one thing by looking for a bulk purchasing discount on an item to help, for example, reusable vegetable bags or shampoo bars.

**Resources** (links and more resources at [nb.anglican.ca/GreeningUp](http://nb.anglican.ca/GreeningUp)):

- The Most Important New Year’s Resolution for Climate ([newrepublic.com](http://newrepublic.com))

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



**DEADLINE** for news and photos for the February edition of the New Brunswick Anglican is Jan. 1. Send submissions to [gmcknight@diofton.ca](mailto:gmcknight@diofton.ca)



[www.anglican.nb.ca](http://www.anglican.nb.ca)

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**THE BISHOP'S PAGE**

# Living between the old and the new

Every year a friend from England sends me a calendar for the New Year. It hangs in my home office to the right of my desk.

I am very grateful for it as it shows the players from the Wolves, my favourite soccer team. Through it, I receive a little touch of "home" every time I look at it.

Although this year I will have lived in Canada for 27 years and it is really my home, there is a rootedness back in the UK too. I often feel that somehow, I am stuck between two worlds.

When Debbie and I watch programs (in the UK it would be programmes) on Britbox, I often find myself laughing at things she does not understand or catching references which she knows nothing about. And there are the accents!

On the other side of the coin, there are references and celebrities that I have never heard of, so



at times I am as at sea as Debbie is. All those years living here mean that I am no longer up to date over there.

There is a theory about the acquisition of a second language that suggests people who learn one can never fully speak it. It suggests that there is a "poetic" level to language that is only available to the native speaker. I think that, in the case of culture, there is a similar phenomenon.

Of course English is widely used here, and I can make

myself understood and generally understand. But there are times when I just don't get it.

When I was at Stone Church one of the folks there used to call me "Super Dave, Super Dave Osborne." I had no idea what he was talking about, so did not get the joke until it was "translated" by someone.

I think these ideas also apply to the Christian faith. I truly believe that everyone on this planet has a rootedness in God. To use the image from earlier, we understand God at the poetic level.

That being said, we function in a world and culture where God is not often referenced, and we learn new ways of communication and the old ones fall into the background.

Yet there are still echoes from our roots which call us to answer them. St. Paul would say that if we do so and become followers of Jesus, we then become

citizens of heaven.

The Holy Spirit who lives in us calls us and enables us to more fully understand the ways of God, so once again we experience change in the way we think and communicate. Some things fall away and are replaced.

All of this can be difficult. Our rootedness in God makes us reach out for God. When we encounter God, we are often uncertain about the new ways and ideas we find there.

As we enter this new year, let's consider how we are doing living between these ways of being and how much we are allowing God's Spirit to change us.

David Edwards is Diocesan Bishop of Fredericton.

## PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS

**January 1**  
New Year's worship and archbishop's reception (11 a.m.), Christ Church Cathedral

**January 5**  
St. John's, Parish of Oromocto and Maugerville

**January 12**  
Christ Church, Campbellton; Deconsecration of St. Mary, Dalhousie Parish of Restigouche

**January 19**  
\* St. Luke, Parish of Woodstock

**January 26**  
St. Michael and All Angels, Parish of Minto and Chipman

\* Confirmation

# Some thoughts on coping in the new year

As a new year begins, wouldn't it be nice if we could leave all our problems behind and start fresh? Unfortunately, life doesn't work like that. The challenges of 2024 follow us into 2025.

On a personal level, we do have the choice of making New Year's resolutions and, if we stick with them, we may see some positive changes. But what can we do about global problems?

As world powers jockey for domination and governments lean towards more right-wing policies, there's lots of uncertainty about the future. The situation is desperate for millions of refugees fleeing turmoil in their home countries. Nations, including Canada, struggle with what to do.

Added to the above is the daily news of wars, violence and natural disasters. It's easy to feel helpless.

David's words in Psalm 11 offer us a way to cope. He also lived in perilous times and was taunted by unbelievers, "When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (v. 3)

His response was to remind himself that God is sovereign. "The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord is on his heavenly throne." (v. 4a)

He also reminded himself



that God is not indifferent to what is happening in the world. "He observes everyone on earth; his eyes examine them." (v. 4b)

Above all, he reminded himself that "the Lord is righteous, he loves justice; the upright will see his face." (v. 7) In other words, God is on the side of truth and justice.

When I'm tempted to feel helpless, I remind myself of these truths. I also believe that God looks for people who will care enough about the world to pray for it.

In fact, Paul instructed us to pray for our leaders: "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

And so I pray, not because I think I'm any one special or have any power to make any differ-

**|| What do I pray? I pray for God's will to be done. I pray for peacemakers to succeed. I pray for God to frustrate the plans of leaders who plot evil. I pray for him to undermine terrorist groups.**

ence. I pray because God hears and answers prayer. He is the one who can make a difference in our world.

What do I pray? I pray for God's will to be done. I pray for peacemakers to succeed. I pray for God to frustrate the plans of leaders who plot evil. I pray for him to undermine terrorist groups.

I pray for God to raise up leaders with integrity who will govern with wisdom, justice and compassion.

I pray for countries to welcome refugees and offer them a chance to live in peace and safety. I also pray for Christians who are being persecuted for their faith, as well as for the governments that persecute them.

It's good that our Sunday liturgy leads us in prayer for leaders. It's even better if we carry that into our private prayers.

So, if the reader is looking

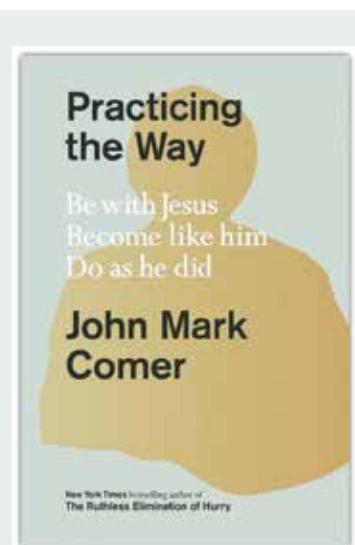
for a New Year's resolution, I suggest making a commitment to pray for leaders at home and abroad.

As a news junkie, I must be careful not to be overwhelmed by all the negative things happening, not just in far away places, but here at home as well.

To help steady myself in the face of both personal and global uncertainties, I turn to the words of another psalm: "I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken." (Psalm 16:8)

These are good words I hope to live by in 2025!

*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 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.**

Copies may be available from the Bishop's Office. The online Lenten study will focus on this book. More information to follow.

## DEACON'S DEN



MISSION IN MOTION: community



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Maryann Kellar opens a box in the seasonal room; Kim Rodgers take a photo of an item for sale at her makeshift studio. Later she will post the photos on Facebook to illustrate what's for sale the coming Saturday; the Rev. Brenda Fowler puts out the OPEN flag each Saturday. Next to the flag is the new "Giving Tree" community pantry; sorting in the nave of Holy Trinity; Donna Belyea manages the book room, housed in the foyer of the church.

## Volunteers, shoppers, recipients all benefit from the Deacon's Den

Deacon's den continued from page 1

goes out to help people in need.

In the two-and-a-half years they've operated, they've given away about \$30,000.

"That's money this parish does not have," said Brenda. "We couldn't have helped those people without this place."

The majority of what they've given has been in the form of grocery gift cards, but they recently helped pay down an outstanding power bill, and even helped pay for a funeral. They give gas cards to people travelling to medical treatments like dialysis and chemotherapy.

They actively seek out those in need, spreading the word among their customers about what they do. And Brenda

keeps her eye on bulletin boards in the community, looking for fundraisers that might need a boost.

"We're starting to get quite well known," she said. "Right now we have lots of money and I don't feel we're reaching everyone."

### VOLUNTEERS

Many of the crew are parishioners, while some are friends, and at least two were shoppers who liked what they saw.

"I love to help people," said Maryann Kellar. "I'm retired and it gives me something to do. It's like Christmas here every day. You never know what's in a new box."

Recently, she definitely proved her dedication. She and Brenda reshingled the old kitchen section of the building before it could leak onto their

inventory.

Donna Belyea, a retired teacher, manages the book room, which is in the foyer. She enjoys the camaraderie of the group.

"We get a lot out of this," she said. "We're able to help people. It's good to be part of it. It's what we do."

Taylor Skinner, originally from Ontario, is new to the area, and he and his young family have just begun attending church in the parish. He's been the fix-it and carpentry guy and has proved his worth. He's a stay-at-home dad, and while Taylor's wife is on maternity leave, he as a few hours he can devote to the Deacon's Den each week.

It was his love of thrifting that brought him here, and his love of helping that has kept him coming back.

### BLESSING THE COMMUNITY

After hearing about the Fredericton Mothers' Union community pantries at Diocesan Synod, Brenda enlisted Tanner's help to build one at the Deacon's Den.

"We just put it up on the tree this morning," said Brenda, adding she hopes "The Giving Tree," as they call it, will alleviate, in some small way, the urgent need for food in the rural area.

It's been almost three years since Brenda's thrift store epiphany. And in that time, she, the crew and the recipients of their efforts have shared blessings too numerous to count.

"It has exceeded my expectations," she said. "I say that at least once a week! There are blessings every day."

Hearing from recipients is especially heartwarming. She reads thank you cards in church so that everyone can share in those blessings.

But Brenda has an even bigger hope for the Deacon's Den. She thinks parishes across Canada could launch their own thrift stores, repurposing unused buildings, recycling unwanted items, and blessing their own communities as they've done here in the Parishes of Central Kings and Upham.

"Part of the vision was this happening not just here," she said. "I could actually see the Anglican Church being known for its deacon's dens."

The Deacon's Den is located at 1342 Route 860 in Smithtown, just outside Hampton. Search 'deacon's den' on Facebook to find their page.

"SHARING HOPE & HELP"

# A clothesline meets winter needs in St. Andrews

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

For the last few winters, Paula Ross had been taking blankets to the homeless population in Saint John.

But the Charlotte County resident knew the needs in her own communities were also pressing.

“We really need something here,” she said. “St. George, St. Andrews — it hits close to home.”

So she contacted the mayor of St. Andrews, Brad Henderson, with an idea: a clothesline holding plastic zipper bags with items that could help marginalized and needy people cope with winter.

The mayor thought it was a great idea, but the question then became location. He suggested she contact Archdeacon John Matheson, rector of the Parish of St. Andrews.

Approvals in order, the clothesline was installed in mid November on the lawn between the parish hall and All Saints Anglican Church on King Street, just a block from busy Water Street where everyone who needs something can easily access it.

“Single parents, community college students, exchange students, seniors — it’s there for everyone,” she said.

She started with hats, mittens, scarves and hand warm-



PAULA ROSS PHOTO

**THE GIVING CLOTHESLINE** is strung between the parish hall and All Saints Anglican Church in St. Andrews. Anyone can access whatever they need in the zipper bags — gloves, scarves, hats, towels and so on. The public is encouraged to fill empty bags with donations as well.

ers, adding empty bags and clothespins so that anyone with donations could hang them on the line. The bags are important because they keep everything dry, she said.

The clothesline is accessible 24 hours a day, and if people want anonymity, they need only wait until supper time when it gets dark.

Within the first few days of the clothesline being installed,

she noticed someone pinned a jacket, thought John agrees larger items can be stored in the hall to keep them out of the weather. She also noticed someone had bagged and pinned a woman’s shirt, hand towels and a blanket.

Paula’s husband works for the Town of St. Andrews, so he’s out and about and gives her an early morning report on what’s been taken and what’s

appeared so she can keep track.

It’s clear others have already joined her efforts to make the winter season a bit more bearable for those least able to afford it.

“As soon as there’s an empty spot, it’s filled,” she said. “The word is getting out. It’s gone a bit crazy.”

CHCO TV and CTV have already visited to broadcast

stories about the clothesline.

Since the debut of the St. Andrews clothesline, Paula has gotten permission for and has installed a second one, this time in the community garden in St. George.

“It began with me asking, ‘how can I help somebody?’” she said. “Everything, everyone can make a difference.”

## AFC awards \$17,000 to Diocese of Fredericton in 2024

2024 was a strong year for the Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC) and the Diocese of Fredericton.

“AFC was pleased to approve two grants in 2024,” said Dr. Scott Brubacher, executive director. “Including \$5,000 to Camp Medley for their A/V project, and \$10,000 to the Parish of St. Mary, York for rectory renewal.

“We also partnered with the Diocese of Fredericton on Say Yes! to Kids to secure \$2,000 for camper bursaries for all three youth camps. As a result, grants since 2010 now total nearly \$295,000.”

“I’m impressed by the wide variety of grants made, both as to their scope and territoriality,” said Clyde Spinney, AFC’s

diocesan representative. “It is very encouraging to see that a full one-third of the AFC funding since 2010 in our Diocese has supported youth-focused projects.

“When we are generous, our generosity says to our younger church members that their vision and efforts count.”

In recent years, AFC has begun to shift the balance of funding to include more community-centred projects.

“Last November AFC’s board of directors launched a new Community Ministries Fund with an initial capital investment of \$2 million,” said Brubacher. “We are nearing the one-year anniversary of the establishment of this fund and can already see these seeds

bearing fruit through the efforts of community ministry champions across Canada.”

Peter Irish, who has returned to the AFC board for the second time, said he is “impressed with the way AFC is living into its mission by funding transformational ministry in the Diocese of Fredericton, but also right across the Anglican Church of Canada.”

As for what’s coming in 2025, Spinney and Irish, together with the AFC team, have begun planning for another Say Yes! to Kids campaign this spring.

“I was disappointed that only four donors contributed to the 2024 campaign,” said Spinney, “and I’d like to see us expand this support in 2025.”

Spinney acknowledges the popularity of traditional fundraisers such as church suppers and bake sales but believes a more ambitious effort is needed.

“The Church should genuinely be ministering to the community, to those who could not otherwise afford to attend a Christian camp. We are one of the few dioceses in the country that is blessed with three camps” — Camp Medley, Camp Brookwood, and the St. Michael’s Youth Conference — “and there is so much more we can do to sponsor our community youth by partnering with AFC’s national campaign.”

Nationally, and for the past three years, AFC has awarded more than \$1 million in grants

across Canada.

“These grants are made possible in large part by an annual membership campaign,” said Irish. “I would like to invite everyone in our diocese — parishes but also individuals — to become a member of AFC. If you want to make a difference in the lives of the people in this diocese and elsewhere, why not join us?”

For more information on how to become a member, visit [anglicanfoundation.org/membership](http://anglicanfoundation.org/membership). If you would like to know more about the 2025 Say Yes! to Kids campaign in Fredericton, contact Michelle Hauser, AFC’s development and communications officer at [mhauser@anglicanfoundation.org](mailto:mhauser@anglicanfoundation.org).

## DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY



BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

By his own account, Rob Pitman has been wrestling with God for 25 years.

“I love serving, being able to help people,” said Rob. “But I’ve been doing ministry on Rob’s terms, not God’s terms. I ignored my calling.”

Not anymore. Rob is now a parish ministry student, at the age of 52, taking a two-year online program through Huron College called a Licenciante in Theology, and serving in the Parish of Fundy and the Lakes.

The ultimate goal is the diaconate, then the priesthood. But we’re getting ahead of ourselves. So is Rob.

“I’m doing the journey to priesthood backwards,” he said. “I’m doing my placement and my studies at the same time.”

#### DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

This novel approach, funded by the diocese, is another way of “Doing Things Differently.” It’s an approach that’s become a necessity due to dwindling funds, shrinking parishes and a lack of available clergy.

It’s an example of what Archbishop David Edwards spoke of in his recent charge during the 139<sup>th</sup> Session of Diocesan Synod on Nov. 2. He outlined how we must adopt new styles of ministry if we are to survive as a diocese.

Here is part of his charge:

*Historically in the Anglican Church of Canada, the standard of ordained ministry has been someone with a Master of Divinity, who has completed a three-year residential program at a recognized college.*

*I cannot think of a bishop anywhere in this country who thinks this is realistic for the future. It does not mean it will not happen for some, and thank God for that, but it is unlikely to be the norm. In fact, it has not been the norm for quite some time.*

*... What we will see emerging*

*are different types of ministers: priests, deacons, lay readers, evangelists, church planters, congregational developers, itinerant ministers. Apart from the priests and deacons, they will be lay and ordained. They will be stipendiary and self-supporting. They will be bi-vocational, part-time and full-time. Their training will be varied, and this is far from a comprehensive list.*

“I think we have to create different opportunities for different people who have different backgrounds and who don’t necessarily fit the ways we’ve trained priests in the past,” said Archbishop David in referencing Rob’s role.

“But once formed, they will fit into ordained ministry. Rob’s an example of that.”

So Rob is something of a pilot project as the diocese seeks new ways to prepare leaders. He is enjoying both his studies and his practical work in the parish. In the nine months he’s been there, he’s carried out traditional duties like pastoral visits, services at nursing homes, leading Morning Prayer and preaching.

But he’s also carved out opportunities that complement his personality: a coffee drop-in at St. Thomas in Black River, a community bonfire, using his outdoor propane fireplace, where the ages ranged from seven to 90 and the games were plentiful.

#### THE HISTORY OF ROB

Rob is a licenced carpenter and had a great job — until God nudged him. He left a union job paying \$21 an hour for a sexton job at St. Luke’s Portland that paid \$9 an hour. That was in 1999.

“I took the job at St. Luke’s to meet people,” he said, adding his role morphed into not only caretaker duties, but outreach as well.

He also worked as a community chaplain to ex-offenders in Fredericton and became a licenced evangelist in the diocese in 2016.



MCKNIGHT PHOTO

**ROB PITMAN** is on a path to ordination, but under the guidance of the Ven. Leo Martin and the Diocese, is doing it in a non-traditional way. Below, Archbishop David Edwards delivers his charge at the 139<sup>th</sup> Session of Diocesan Synod where he outlined changes to how leaders might prepare for their calling, much as Rob is doing in the Parish of Fundy and the Lakes.



DERWIN GOWAN PHOTO

He left St. Luke’s in 2019 to join Outflow Ministry where he eventually ran their men’s shelter. That role put him face-to-face with some very hard cases and a few violent and dangerous situations.

“I liked what I was doing at Outflow,” he said. “It was a hard role. Having to holler at a homeless person is hard, but I had to match the craziness.”

It was there he learned that the men he served wanted a father figure who occasionally yelled at them — for good reasons — because they had never had that in their lives.

“The men’s shelter taught me empathy on a whole new level,” he said.

At one point, Rob was managing the shelter and teaching carpentry on one of their projects. He’d check in with the shelter staff in the morning, teach carpentry most of the day, and check in at night, a demanding role that he loved.

But his body didn’t.

#### ‘MOVE YOUR FEET’

“After my hip replacement, I had the sense that life was changing,” he said. “I didn’t want to leave the shelter, but I had the sense that I was being called away.”

He sought advice, and was reminded of his own motto: Never ask God what he wants you to do unless you’re willing to move your feet.

“I heard loud and clear: ‘move your feet,’” he said.

In the meantime, sitting on a parish discernment committee, he wondered ‘is this where I’m supposed to be?’

It was months before he shared any of this with his wife, Linda.

“I had to make sure before I told her,” he said. “In all fairness, she married a carpenter, not a priest.”

“I said to Linda, ‘I think I’m being called to church leadership, to the priesthood. I need to do this.’ Linda said, ‘Yes, I know. I’ve been waiting for this conversation.’”

Even so, it took Rob another six weeks before he

approached the Rev. Canon Cathy Laskey, then overseeing discernment in the diocese.

Cathy’s take, according to Rob: ‘I’ve been waiting for this conversation for five years!’

And so, Rob is on a different path, not carpentry, not a shelter, but, at least for now, parish ministry. He still has to undergo a discernment committee and ACPO, but he feels he is where God has been leading him.

#### LEARNING CURVE

The parish welcomed Rob as it did the Rev. Dwight Stuart and the Rev. Paulette Black during their training.

But there’s been a learning curve. Rob came with experiences and habits, some of which were great, and some which needed to be finessed as part of his training.

“The obvious example is his experience with Outflow,” said the Ven. Leo Martin, parish rector. “Upon arriving at Fundy and the Lakes, Rob had to quickly learn that he was dealing with a different clientele. He was now ministering to two congregations mostly filled with seniors who are committed to Christ in belief and action.”

“On the flip side, parishioners had to look beyond his tough exterior to find the gentleness which he carries in his heart. He is bringing a renewed sense of mission to the parish.”

Leo is also concerned about something that weighs on virtually every member of the clergy: self-care.

“Rob is a self-declared perfectionist and this can sometimes lead to a sense that everything has to be perfect,” he said. “This can become an obsession which takes all of our time, and I cautioned him on that.”

How long will Rob serve at Fundy and the Lakes?

“That’s up to God and the bishop,” he said. “I want to go through all the right hoops.”

For now, he has two aims in mind.

“I can’t wait for my dad to see me ordained,” he said. “He’s been on this journey with me the whole way.”

And he hopes his story could be a catalyst for others who might be running from God, maybe serving him from the sidelines on their own terms, afraid of and ignoring the Holy Spirit’s nudges.

“I’d like to enable a few Robs in the pew,” he said.

PARISH NEWS

It happened in Bright



CRYSTAL GILMORE PHOTO

**ABOVE:** A beautiful Thanksgiving service was held at All Saints Anglican Church in the Parish of Bright on Oct. 13, and as always, the building was adorned with the beauty of the harvest. We all have so much to be thankful for.

**RIGHT:** Our fall outreach was a great success. Many hands were busy making sweet breads and Christmas swags which were delivered to 52 people. The recipients were very happy to have been thought of. It also made all our hearts full. In the photo, from left: Pam Hyson, Violet McLaughlin, Margaret Cole and Lois Poore



CRYSTAL GILMORE PHOTO

MISSION IN MOTION: community



LOIS POORE PHOTO

Lancaster news



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

**ABOVE:** On Nov. 3, Archbishop David Edwards visited the Church of the Good Shepherd, Parish of Lancaster, for two special reasons. He presented Margaret-Ann Reid a Layreader Emerita Certificate for her years of devoted and faithful service as layreader at St. Jude's, St. George's and St. Jude's, and the Church of the Good Shepherd. We are thankful for Margaret and her dedication to that role. **RIGHT:** We were pleased to witness the confirmation of Rudolph Stephen (third from left) and Ralph Stephen (third from right). With them are their parents Evelyn and Rahul, Father Keith Joyce and Archbishop David Edwards. Congratulations to Rudolph and Ralph and prayers for many blessings as they continue on their faith journey.

## ARCHDEACONRY REPORTS

## ARCHDEACONRY REPORTS

# Archdeaconry reports

As presented at the 139th session of Diocesan Synod, Nov. 2, 2024

*Editor's note: one of the highlights of Diocesan Synod was the recounting of the many examples of community outreach in each archdeaconry, organized by mission and ministry director Shawn Branch. This is the very long list!*



DERWIN GOWAN PHOTO

## MISSION IN MOTION: community

### Archdeaconry of Woodstock

#### Parishes of Richmond & Woodstock

- The Rev. Maria Shepherdson is leading the parishes in what she calls REAP, or Reconnect Enable Actively Provide. It is an initiative that brings the pre-COVID congregation back into the fold, teaching the community what the Anglican church has to offer, actively supporting the entire membership, and providing for the needs of the elderly, infirm and less fortunate.
  - Community drop-in at St. John's in Richmond Corner each month, encouraging interdenominational discussions.
  - Trinity Church in Hartland has begun opening its doors for public tours.
  - St. Mark's in Jackson Falls is the site of weekly summer services.
  - Parishes have already established a program at Tim Hortons which allows those without the resources to eat and drink.
  - Support of food banks in Woodstock and Perth-Andover, with members on each board.
  - Contributions to in-school meal programs and high school bursaries.
  - Support of Sanctuary House women's shelter in Woodstock.
  - Support of Pennies and Sparrows outreach in Saint John.
  - Widespread support of Camp Brookwood, which provides local children with a summer escape in a Christian environment.
  - Support for students at Bishop McAllister College in Uganda.
- #### Parish of Wicklow Wilmot Peel and Aberdeen
- WWPA operates the Winter Clothing Giveaway, providing new-to-them warm clothes at no cost.
  - Christmas outreach: the purchase of toys, groceries, gift cards, gas and necessities to help alleviate the pressures of the season.
  - "We've got your back," an initiative at WWPA to send backpacks filled with food home with children from school.
  - WWPA supports the Imagination Library, which provides free books to children throughout Canada and the U.S.
  - The Rev. Bob LeBlanc's dedication to AA,

as a pastor, mentor, sponsor, and friend.

#### Parishes of Andover and Denmark

- Work year-round to gather footwear and clothing, hygiene products, coffee and whitener, that are delivered on a regular basis to food banks and shelters. Each winter they gather Tim Horton's coffee cards and drop them off at the same time as the clothing.
  - Support of the Southern Victoria Christmas Cheer fund and the Richelieu Club in Grand Falls.
  - "Change the World" - a paint can in each of our four churches for pocket change only, raising a total of about \$1,000 a year, with donations going to cancer support groups, the Upper Valley Autism Support Group and last year, the Elk's Club to purchase a set of pediatric hearing aids for a young family without the resources.
  - Dinner Church, after 18 months, has been firmly established in two completely different congregations, New Denmark and Andover. They are not only attended by members of our family but members of the community, who share in the Holy Eucharist, the fellowship and the prayer, and do not come to regular church services. The Rev. Harold Boomer: "It has surpassed anything I could have imagined and become a blessing."
  - Parishes up and down the Valley support our first responders.
- #### Parish of Madawaska
- Lenten Sock project: a sock that acts as a vessel to collect money each day of Lent as a home prayer offering with emphasis on gratitude. On Palm Sunday the socks are placed in the collection plate, the church matches the offering, and all is donated to PWRDF.
  - Operation Eyesight: This is based on congregation birthdays. When a birthday is mentioned in church, on the first Sunday of every month, that person is required to pay a quarter for every year they are celebrating, and it easily adds up. The money is used to assist those in need of cataract surgery, corrective lens and other subsequent eye maintenance.
  - Support for Summer Literacy Camp, a safe place for children to receive tutoring with reading and literacy, encouraging them to read to attain goals, at the Edmundston Public Library.
  - Throughout the deanery, support of PWRDF

projects, recently purchasing solar powered chicken incubators, health care for women, school supplies for children, and livestock for new farmers.

### Archdeaconry of Moncton

#### Parish of Kent

- This year the Parish of Kent celebrated 140 years of ministry and mission and to mark the occasion a nature trail was created for the whole community to enjoy.
  - The parish also blesses the wider community with church suppers, by supporting area schools, and through delivering Christmas boxes to needy families.
  - We also do our best to respond to particular needs in the community as they arise and in recent years have offered a grief support group, family ministry events, and have made lap quilts for nursing home residents.
- #### The Parish of Shediac
- We own and operate our own not-for profit daycare which provides much-needed childcare to the families in our community.
  - We also hold events such as an annual Vacation Bible School for 65 kids each summer.
  - Other youth events: chocolate bar bingo, apple picking outings, Saturday morning breakfast at Christmas with Santa, and a Trunk or Treat evening each Halloween.
  - The last couple of years we have partnered with the local elementary school to grow pumpkins in the pumpkin patch which has been a big success. The students come to our parish hall and learn all about gardening and then plant them in the community garden next to the school. The students return in October and are rewarded with their own pumpkin to take home to carve for Halloween.
  - We are lucky to have this wonderful partnership with the school right across the road from our church and we are able to financially support their breakfast program, and provide support for their programs such as new school sport uniforms. Each winter we send over mittens, gloves and scarves to help keep them warm.
- #### The Parish of Sackville and Dorchester
- The parish reaches out to students at Mount



GARY BARETT PHOTO

Allison University in variety of ways. These include hosting reading and discussion groups during Epiphany and Holy Week; offering choral and organ scholarships through the Music Department; and student assistance at Sunday liturgies.

- The Parish is looking forward to hosting the 2024 Atlantic Theological Conference at St. Paul's in Sackville and St. Ann's in Westcock.
- "Coffee in the Woods" program is a simple intergenerational initiative held on Wednesday mornings. Folks gather in the cozy and beautiful Parish Hall of St. Ann's Church for coffee, tea, refreshments and fellowship. This community outreach is a gathering point for companionship, support, good news sharing, and mutual enjoyment in our communities.

#### Parish of the Six Saints

The Parish of the Six Saints is the newest parish in our Archdeaconry and there are many wonderful things happenings as these congregations grow together in both fellowship and service.

- Each month there is a special parish service followed by a pot-luck lunch and usually an "outbound" event which is an adventure out in the wider community. These events are wonderful for promoting Christian fellowship and friendship within the new parish.
  - A special community building project is the young adults group which tries to meet every two weeks, usually for a meal and gospel-based discipleship program. We recently enjoyed an overnight retreat to Camp Medley. There are approximately 15 young adults in this program, of whom half are newcomers to Canada.
- #### The Parish of Salisbury and Havelock
- In Petitcodiac, the Parish saw a need amongst young kids for an activity that was affordable and not necessarily athletic.
- Our elementary school aged kids' dances (grades K-2, then 3-5 later that evening) started almost 10 years ago and continue today at the parish hall at St. Andrew's. We host between 135-150 kids twice a year for a \$2 admission fee, and also feature canteen services (everything under \$1), prizes throughout the night, and more.
  - We've been thrilled to hear kids identify the church as "theirs" from time to time, and relationships have been made stronger through the

years by this welcoming event.

#### The Parish of Riverview

- This past year, one of the goals of the parish was to develop and equip people for ministry. We had a special course through which 12 people were trained in evangelism and discipleship.
- We also launched the Parish Mission Fund, and through this fund, we were able to send three kids to Camp Medley and support various other projects.
- We held a youth summer camp with soccer and indoor games.
- We also work with a local organization that provides food to kids.

### Archdeaconry of St. Andrews

#### Parish of St. Stephen

- Annual Christmas concert for the community, with funds going to Near and Far project. Near: "We've Got your Back" backpack program with the local food bank. Far: Bishop McAllister College school fees for children.

#### Parish of St. Andrews

- Ecumenical harvest celebration at St. John's Chapel of Ease.

#### Parish of Grand Manan

- Messy Church
- Blessing of the Animals

#### Parish of Pennfield

- Annual "Walk Through Bethlehem" live nativity program for the community. For some, this is the only place they will hear the Christmas story.
- KCSE - Kigando Community Support for the Elderly, an international project that benefits elderly widows in the rector's hometown who have no supports. Money raised here goes to provide basic necessities and includes a gathering of widows every few months.

#### Parish of St. George

- Community closet for those in the community needing clothing and winter coats.
- In 2020, it looked like the parish might have to close. After much prayer and the will to "let



GARY BARETT PHOTO

**FAR LEFT:** Susan Jack, Archdeacon Rob Marsh, the Rev. Rob Montgomery and Archdeacon Perry Cooper wait to deliver their archdeaconry reports. **CENTRE:** The lunch crowd at Cathedral Memorial Hall. **ABOVE:** Mike Briggs, Ben Bourque and the Rev. Canon Jon Lownds, at right, greet synod members at the registration desk during the 139th Session of Diocesan Synod.

go," they took the advice of the archdeacon and contacted the Department of Social Development. This resulted in the creation of The Hub. The Hub is a reworking of their building as the focus for community events and activities. These have included a seniors' expo, family literacy event, community Christmas party, tie dye run event, Brilliant Labs computer program, and much more.

- The parishes also support Camp Medley, the Fundy Region Transition House and the Seafarers' Mission.

### Archdeaconry of Saint John

The Archdeaconry of Saint John includes the parishes of Saint John, Coldbrook, St. Mark (Stone), Fundy and the Lakes, Millidgeville, Lancaster, Portland, Nerepis and St. John.

- As with most parishes in our Diocese, we support groups who support others. Examples include PWRDF, Outflow Ministries, Christmas Exchange, Beacon Cove, Camp Medley, Seafarer's Mission. That support includes cash donations, fundraisers, sponsorships, and the gathering of toiletries and small gifts.
- Helping our unhoused citizens is a huge and growing issue in the uptown area. Stone Church is primarily involved in helping, due to their location. They offer laundry facilities, drop-in cafés for warmth and nourishment several days a week during winter. They also collect and give out clothing. A few years ago, they operated as an Out Of The Cold Shelter during the winter months.
- Welcoming our neighbours has spurred us to action, with such programs as breakfasts, coffee drop-in and meals (sit-down or take out). We've offered classes in ESL and learn to cook.
- Providing assistance for food security is a given. We prepare lunches for a high school students, offer emergency food pantries and contribute to Christmas baskets.

Reports continued on page 10



## ARCHDEACONRY REPORTS

# Archdeaconry reports

Reports continued from page 9

- Other initiatives: Emergency gathering place, walking track, Sunshine Play Park, community choir, Alpha classes, chess club, youth groups, neighbourhood bonfire, community concert.
- Feeding students: Gift cards for local restaurants are often used. Here are some observations from this endeavour:
  - It's more than a gift card for a simple meal
  - When the student receiving it needs multiple assurances that the gift card is valid, and he won't be embarrassed trying to use it because any gift card he has ever received has already been used or never validated. The student is in awe that someone found him worthy of a "real" gift card.
  - When the student receiving it has never made their own purchase anywhere and is delighted for the first time ever, to choose, purchase and enjoy a meal in a restaurant. That gift card has given that student a sense of independence, confidence and empowerment.
  - When the gift cards are handed out to several students from different grades who don't know each other, and they decide, on the spot, to go as a group to enjoy a meal together. The gift cards and subsequent meal forged a bond between students who might never have met otherwise.

## Archdeaconry of Chatham

### Archdeaconry of Chatham

- Last year, parishes in the archdeaconry raised money for a solar-powered well in Africa. Each parish was asked for \$500, but together, they raised enough for two wells. This was led by the Rev. Paul Gwese in the Parish of New Bandon.
- Each parish supports food banks in their communities

and various Christmas initiatives for the needy.

- In 2024, three priests, Gerry Laskey, Thomas Nisbett and Perry Cooper, formed a team to walk in the annual Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser to help alleviate homelessness. They came fourth in fundraising. Their team name: The Maffia (Miramichi Anglican Frozen Fathers In Action).

### Parish of New Bandon

- The parish holds a year-round bottle drive, with proceeds to support Nelson and Kara Mejia's ministry in Honduras.
- Toonies for the north, supporting clergy and ministry in Canada's arctic region.
- The parish sings carols to the community at Christmas, and gives out cookies.
- Annual VBS
- Birthday cards sent to community members.

### Parish of Bathurst

- St. George's Closet in the basement of the church. It provides inexpensive or free clothing and household items.
- Lunches for the community on holiday long weekends
- Milk program at the volunteer centre next door.

### Parish of Newcastle-Nelson-Hardwicke

- Bargain Boutique, offering clothing and household items at a fraction of the usual price.
- Hope Café every Friday, offering food and beverages to whomever comes in.

### Parish of Derby and Blackville

- Support of women's shelter
- Food hampers for the sick and shut-ins
- Soup's On free community lunches offered seasonally in conjunction with other partners
- Advent projects that support homeless shelters in Newcastle and Moncton, and have purchased three full farms through PWRDF.

### Parish of Chatham

- Monday drop-in provides a free hot meal to upwards of

## MISSION IN MOTION: community



GARY BARFITT PHOTOS

50 people a week. They do a bible reading and prayer, and for some, it is the closest they come to hearing the gospel.

## Archdeaconry of Kingston & The Kennebecasis

This is a quick snapshot of mission activity across the Archdeaconry and in no way comes near to covering the many projects and causes that each parish is involved in. All parishes support PWRDF.

### Parish of Rothesay

- Afterschool program for children 12 years and up.
- Seniors' coffee time
- Soup ministry

### Parish of Gondola Point

- Coffee hour
- Breakfast program
- Support for Bishop McAllister College, Uganda
- ACW sock program

### Parish of Renforth

- Long time support of the Seafarers' Mission
- Monthly meals delivered to Outflow Ministries

### Parishes of Sussex, St. Mark's and Waterford

- Annual Living Manger dramatic presentation
- Syrian cuisine dinner to help bring family members to Canada
- Organize group to help with local community projects, barn raising
- Freezie Fridays - giving out frozen treats in the park during the summer months.

### Parishes of Hammond River and Quispamsis

- Book club
- Coffee club, including game time

- Tai chi
  - Healthy you
  - Grief support group
- ### Parish of Kingston
- Afterschool gaming club
  - Bible study
  - Prayer shawls
  - Seafarer's Mission
  - Kingston food and clothing bank
- ### Parish of Hampton
- High school hot lunch (with Central Kings & Upham)
  - Hampton Food bank
  - Bishop McAllister College
- ### Parish of Upper Kennebecasis (Apohaqui and Bellisle Creek)
- Sussex Sharing Club
  - Outflow Ministries
  - Elementary school hot lunch program
- ### Parish Of Central Kings and Upham
- High school hot lunch (with the Parish of Hampton)
  - Council of the North
  - Local food basket
  - Beacon's Cove
  - Deacon's Den thrift store

## Archdeaconry of Fredericton

Here is a sampling of some of the ways that we have been blessing and caring for the people in our communities throughout the Archdeaconry of Fredericton.

### Parish of Cambridge & Waterborough

- Parishioners are involved in Soup for the Soul
- They invite community members to regular tea gatherings, which is really about outreach and fellowship.

### Parish of Bright

- Parishioners deliver gifts to members of the community throughout the year, including Christmas swag.



**LEFT:** Mission and ministry director Shawn Branch introduces the speakers giving the archdeaconry reports. **ABOVE:** All diocesan staffers were on duty during synod, including Susan Dickie.

- They deliver food and meals to shut-ins.

### Parish of Fredericton Junction

- The Parish holds a once-a-month Sunday service at White Rapids Manor in Fredericton Junction for the residents.
- Parishioners volunteer at the Senior's Community Centre in Tracy one day a week as outreach to the community.
- Some of the ladies, in addition to making baby blankets for baptisms, are involved in a Prayer Shawl Ministry which has a broader focus toward the surrounding communities.

### Parish of St. Peter's

- Hosts an annual Service of the Blessing of the Animals. This is important because for many people, their pets are their family.

### Parish of Ludlow and Blissfield

- We host an annual "Breakfast by Donation," with all proceeds going to the food programs in our three area schools. This month will be our fourth such event. Through the radical generosity of those who have supported this breakfast, two years ago we raised \$2,500, and last year we raised over \$3,500.
- Monthly service at the nursing home in Boiestown with music and lay reader participation.

### Parish of Douglas and Nashwaaksis

- With three other churches in the neighborhood, St. John the Evangelist supports the Student Hunger Program at Nashwaaksis Memorial School (across the street from the church). Lunches are prepared and delivered

Reports continued on page 11

ARCHDEACONRY REPORTS



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Ecumenical guest the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Stevenson, United Church of Canada; Archbishop David during his charge; the Rev. Caleb Twinamatsiko during a presentation; the Rev. Paul Gwese speaks on a motion; chancellor David Bell speaks on a motion; one of many volunteers, Alex Pope; Janet Mahar speaks on a motion. Photos by Derwin Gowan and Gary Barfitt, with thanks for their time and talents.

# Archdeaconry reports show willing hands throughout the diocese

Reports continued from page 10

one Wednesday morning per month.

- Martha's Pantry is a food cupboard stocked with donations from the congregation and used for needy families or individuals. It is run by volunteers and operates every second and fourth Tuesday morning of each month.
- Under the Tent — St. John's is the Northside host location every Wednesday afternoon from 3-5 p.m. Under The Tent is an inner-city outreach to the homeless and less-advantaged in Fredericton. The group of volunteers operates on the premise of unconditional love, with the intent to encourage people to dare to dream again, to have hope and to have a goal. Each week, Under the Tent hands out coffee, tea, hot chocolate, nutritional shakes, various food items, clothing, blankets, and other necessities specific to living rough (such as toilet paper, soap, deodorant, towels, blankets,

cushions, and sleeping bags), while providing friendship and much needed information for housing and community services.

**Parish of Marysville**

- Parishioners volunteer once a month to help pack between 150-200 backpacks of non-perishable food for students to take home to their families for the weekend.
  - The Parish has a drop-off box for people to leave their recycling bottles and cans. All the monies collected are donated to the Student Hunger Program through the Fredericton Community Kitchens Inc. Last year, \$9,000 was given to help address student hunger.
  - Parishioners volunteer weekly at York Care Centre, taking residents to hair appointments, and assisting residents that require help to get to and from a weekly church service in the facility. Attendance is usually more than 60 people.
- Shared Ministry of the Parishes of Marysville and St. Mary (York)**
- Visitations, portering of

residents and assisting with monthly Anglican services at York Care Centre, Pine Grove, Paradise Villa, and Neill Hall.

**Parish of Gagetown**

- Community cupboard which is for giving and receiving food to address food insecurity issues
  - Host fall turkey dinner
  - Involvement in "Christmas in the Village"
  - Treat Boxes; Wheels to Meals (driving people to community meals)
- Parish of Fredericton (Christ Church (Parish) Church)**
- Friday morning drop-in
  - Pantry program
  - Community meals delivered to needy
  - Cornerstone Housing Project – built on the Parish's property with the support and financing of the United Way, is a four-unit apartment which provides subsidized housing for recently homeless people.
  - Christmas Santa at nursing homes
  - The rector and lay readers have monthly services at four nursing homes in Fredericton

• The Church Closet is in the church basement and provides inexpensive (or free) clothing for anyone in need.

**Christ Church Cathedral**

- Pause Table is a relatively new and innovative form of community outreach at UNB. Mothers' Union members are among some of the groups involved in this ministry to students at exam time. Volunteers provide free food, beverages, a listening ear, and conversation to give UNB students a break from studying.
- The Cathedral's monthly Monday Outreach Program seeks donations such as hand warmers, toilet paper, canned meats, winter boots, long underwear and sweatpants to help people in need in Fredericton. On the last Monday of each month, guests receive canned goods, sandwiches, fresh fruit, muffins, juice and other goodies, as well as a \$10 gift card from a supermarket or city transit tickets. Guests may also choose items such as toiletries, towels, donated footwear and used clothing.

The need is great in the city, and in the winter months, the program helps approximately 70 individuals each month.

- The Mothers' Union has installed a food cupboard on the northeast corner of the Cathedral green. This is the third one of its kind in and around Fredericton. These food cupboards are readily accessible. On the cupboard it reads: "Take what you need, give what you can."
  - Weekly service in the chapel at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital, organized by Eva Morton and the Rev. Debbie Edmondson. This service relies on the combined efforts of lay readers from Anglican churches in Fredericton.
- Something to note:** A number of parishes have drop-off boxes in their churches to collect non-perishable food products for the local food banks. Parishes have identified the various needs in and around their communities and have nurtured smaller communities of hope through food, fellowship and prayer.

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**Christmas bazaar**



EVA MORTON PHOTOS



**THE ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**, Fredericton, Christmas Bazaar was held Nov. 23, with great participation from volunteers and great success.

**LEFT:** Carol Jones at the industrial mixer.

**BELOW LEFT:** Cynthia Gullison, Pat Brown-MacKenzie and Donna Bartley making pies.

**BELOW RIGHT:** Ruth Lawrence and Sharon Cote.





It's time to get sewing (again!)


MORE LUNCHES MEAN MORE LUNCH BAGS! HELP US BY MAKING SOME SIMPLE DRAW STRING BAGS!

FOR MORE INFO AND DETAILED PATTERN REACH OUT TO BONNIE AT INFO@ICYM.CA

Handcrafted funerary urns celebrating the beauty of the lives they hold

by Judy Blake



 GALLERY78

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**Parish news**



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**NOV. 24, STIR UP SUNDAY**, is celebrated at St. Peter's in Fredericton each year. After the morning service, members of the congregation took time to "stir up" cake batter which had been prepared by Diana Graham. Diana will bake the fruit cake and provide the congregation with pieces to take home Christmas Eve. This old tradition emanates from the BCP Collect for the Sunday prior to Advent: "STIR up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord." Amen. Here Donald Gruchy gives the batter a stir.



LESA LOWERY PHOTO

**ST. JOHN'S IN THE PARISH OF WATERFORD** is no longer "the church with the crooked cross." Thanks to everyone who worked on this Nov. 4 repair, and for those who organized it.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**THE PARISH OF WESTMORLAND ACW** held their Christmas tea and sale on Nov. 16 at the parish Hall in Mount Whatley. It was a huge success with support from the community and the Parish of Sackville. Events like this require all hands on deck!



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**IN EARLY NOVEMBER**, the lamp posts lining the path to the parish hall in St. Andrews were adorned with bright red poppies in preparation for Remembrance Day. Barb Vottero, Mary Janet Clift, Sylvia Anderson and others worked diligently to make hundreds of poppies. A wonderful project and a job well done! Thank you to Blaine and Dave and whoever else assisted with the installation. Near the street: Barb Vottero and Sylvia Anderson. At the ladder: Mary Janet Clift, Blaine Phillips and David Lord.

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**



**The Rev. Brenda Fowler, deacon in the Parishes of Upham and Central Kings, creator and organizer of the Deacon's Den**

**Favourite book of Bible** - Acts. I love how the Holy Spirit empowered the Apostles and how much they changed.

**Birthplace** - Windsor, Nova Scotia

**What I love most about God** - That He loves me even when I don't deserve it.

**Favorite place on Earth** - The beach

**Farthest you've been from home** – Hawaii

**Favorite dessert** – Cheesecake

**Biggest fear** - That my family doesn't embrace God

**Hidden talent** – Carpentry

**Favorite book** - Mystery novels (I can't choose just one)

**Hobby** – Landscaping

**Three things always in my fridge** - Eggs, lactose-free milk, margarine

**Favourite sports team** - If I have to choose a team it would be Canada's national figure skating team, but I appreciate all figure skaters world-wide.



**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.

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**Camp Medley staff applications are due Jan. 17**  
**LIT applications are due Feb. 28**  
**Too young? Be a camper – new friends, new experiences, the best way to spend the summer of 2025!**

**CAMP MEDLEY!** [campmedley.ca](http://campmedley.ca)

**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](mailto:kschmidt@diofton.ca)

MUSIC COMMENTARY

# Those sneaky Magi! Epiphany resides in many Christmas carols

Depending on postal strikes and your own holiday schedules, it may be almost Epiphany (or spring!) when you're reading this.

Epiphany is the short season between Christmas and Lent, most known for the appearance of the Magi to visit the young Christ child, but also for references to Jesus revealing the kingdom of God to the people.

The Magi, those mysterious, little-known and lesser-understood figures of Matthew's Gospel, are better known, thanks to the questionably eponymous hymn, "We Three Kings."

We don't know that they were kings of anything, or that there were even three of them. Just the same, they have captured the imaginations of many a composer of music and text.

But seek ye first the... hymns of the Magi. They are there. One only has to begin to sing "We Three Kings" to know exactly what it's about, and their legend forms the rest of the hymn.

Each get a name and is associated with a gift they bring. The hymn belongs to them.

However, did you know that "The First Nowell" is also a hymn almost exclusively for



the Magi? Have a look at it — verses 3, 4, and 5 are all about them and their journey to see Jesus (and maybe v. 2 as well).

Another example is "As With Gladness Men of Old." All four verses in the *Common Praise* hymnbook tell the Magi's story. This, too, is a hymn just for them.

But it doesn't end there. Many other hymns for Christmas also make mention of the Magi within the texts of their verses. Any idea of how many?

I counted six others in the *Common Praise* hymnbook, in the Christmas section (which, it should be noted, is titled, "Christmas/Epiphany").

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" features them in verses 3; "On This Day, Earth Shall Ring" speaks of them, also in verse 3.

The lesser-known, "All Poor Folk and Humble" uses verse 1 to reference the Magi.



**THE JOURNEY OF THE MAGI** by Stefano di Giovanni (1392–1450). Tempera and gold on wood, From the Maitland F. Griggs Collection, Metropolitan Museum of Art

Let's complete the list - "Earth Has Many a Noble City" features them in verses 3 and 4. "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy" has them in verse 3 (what is it with Magi and verses 3?). And finally, "O Come, All Ye Faithful" sets a verse 5a to be sung at Epiphany, making mention, of course, of the Magi.

However, it is important to note that many facets of Jesus' story are alluded to within the text of many hymns: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, or any other setting.

It is one of the great accomplishments of good hymn text writing to incorporate

one particular part of Jesus's story with the great view of his entire public ministry, and his identity as Jesus the Christ.

He as a baby in the manger is the Son of God, the Saviour of his people. The 12-year-old in the temple will continue to challenge the Jewish authorities.

Sing the hymns. Enjoy them. Think about the words. They say a lot. A perhaps belated Merry Christmas to you, and a blessed Epiphany season too!

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

## Verses from "The First Nowell"

2 They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far, and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

3 And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest, and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

According to Wikipedia, *The First Nowell* is a traditional English Christmas carol with Cornish origins most likely from the early modern period, although possibly earlier.



**SAVE THE DATE! May 24**

**Friends of Camp Medley, come celebrate 80 years!**

Join former staff and campers for a day of fun, featuring a church service, live music, memorabilia, food, and so much more! The event will raise money for the camp's much needed new pool.



Do you have a favourite memory, camp story or photo you'd like to share as part of the celebrations? Send them to: [friends@campmedley.ca](mailto:friends@campmedley.ca)

**CAMP MEDLEY!**  
[campmedley.ca](http://campmedley.ca)



**SAVE THE DATE!**

*Clergy Spouses' Retreat*

**May 1-3, 2025**

Make plans to join friends for a weekend of worship, learning, fun and fellowship



## CAMP MEDLEY

# Camp Medley

## POOL & STORAGE FACILITY PROJECT



### 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](http://www.campmedley.ca/donate)
- E-transfers can be made to [finance@campmedley.ca](mailto: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 Gagetown E5M 1N7

**TAX RECEIPTS ISSUED**

[campmedley.ca](http://campmedley.ca)

[director@campmedley.ca](mailto:director@campmedley.ca)