

The Sacred Journey has ended...or has it?

Catherine Pate

On Easter Sunday, Bishop Logan McMenamie and his walking companion and project manager for the trip, Wayne Stewart took the final steps of their 480km walk, ending at the chancel steps of Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria. But just as this journey began long before Bishop McMenamie took his first steps through Alert Bay, it will continue long after he's put away his neon running shoes and bright orange rain jacket, and those of us who make up the rest of the diocese are invited to come along for the rest of the journey. But first, we have to know where we've been.

What Does 577,700 Steps Look Like?

Bishop Logan was very clear, in setting out on this journey, that this is our journey; the first part—the walk from Alert Bay to Victoria—is one he took on personally as a penitential act for himself, but also on behalf of all of us in the diocese. But the journey won't end until true reconciliation between non-Indigenous and Indigenous peoples has been achieved.

Critics of the journey have wondered why another apology or a symbolic act like this walk is required; haven't we done enough? But the response to this question lies, in part, in the encounters between Bishop Logan and those he met along the way, and it lies in the encounters he didn't get to have with those unwilling or unable to participate.

Prior to starting the walk, Bishop Logan contacted all of the chiefs of First Nations communities with territories that lie within the diocesan boundaries to inform them about the Sacred Journey. From those approximately 15 nations along the walking route, the Bishop requested a meeting with their leaders prior to beginning the walk to explain the journey and to ask for their participation.

The Bishop had the opportunity to meet with representatives from eight nations prior to beginning the walk. Given the limited time for planning the walk (just over two months) the organizers were pleased with the number of First Nations representatives that were able to meet with the Bishop or who responded positively to his intentions.

This attention to protocol (a set of procedures for non-Indigenous people to follow that respects the culture and traditions of First Nations) was an important first step in paving the way for the journey and the building of relationships necessary for the steps that will follow the walk.



Bishop Logan is greeted by Dean Ansley Tucker and members of the Cathedral congregation as he completes his Sacred Journey on Easter Sunday

Photo: Catherine Allen

The Encounters

'Namgis First Nation

The Journey began in Alert Bay where the bishop participated in a church service held at Christ Church. He was then invited to a ceremony at the 'Namgis Big House (a gathering place used for both cultural and social events). There Hereditary Chief Dr. Robert Joseph, who is the ambassador for Reconciliation Canada, invited the Bishop and a translator to step outside of the Big House and to wait at the door. The Bishop knocked and four chiefs on the other side of the door answered in their own language. When the door was opened, the translator for Bishop Logan explained his request to enter their land. The chiefs officially invited him to the territory and into the Big House. Once inside the four chiefs paraded around the sacred fire and the Bishop joined them. Several dances followed and the chiefs dressed the Bishop in full regalia, and flanked by the four chiefs, the Bishop danced to the sound of the drums. Eventually, everyone gathered was invited up to dance around the fire. This was followed by a feast prepared by the community. Those who were at this event describe it as life-changing.

Port McNeill

On Monday, March 7 Bishop Logan was met in Port McNeill by a small group of confirmands and other Anglicans from Port Alice, Kingcome Inlet and Port McNeill. This group was made up of Indigenous and non-Indigenous folks, reflect-

ing the diversity found in that part of the diocese. In a community where racial divides are an every-day reality (as they are across the island), this coming together to honour and support the gesture being made through the Sacred Journey was a hopeful start to what would be a truly transformative and historical event in the life of the church.

The route from Port McNeill to Campbell River is sparsely populated, so many of these steps were taken in silent reflection. Each day, when the team (including a driver and the Bishop's wife, Marcia McMenamie, who accompanied the Bishop and prepared the food along the way) and any walkers who joined them, met to share their reflections on the day. And each day, the Bishop shared with the group a word that had been revealed to him in the walking. On these days the significant encounters were with creation and the walkers were provided with countless lessons they hadn't expected to find there.

"Today, many many waterfalls and large stands of alder trees, reminding us that the alder serves as holding place for others, a lesson from nature for parents and grandparents as we ponder our responsibility to our youth. As we rounded a corner of the route, we were confronted with a snow covered mountain, one of the highest on the island, a wonderful site reminding us of the majesty of God's creation."—Excerpt from "Wayne's Diary – Day 5, March 11" found on the Sacred Journey website.

On Sunday, March 13 Bishop Logan

was joined by a bus-load of twenty-five folks from St Peter's Anglican Church, Campbell River. Encounters like these ones (of which there were many) from fellow Anglicans who came out to show their support, prepare meals, share the Eucharist and thank the Bishop for carrying this collective burden on their behalf buoyed the walkers as they faced each new day.

As the walkers left Campbell River on Tuesday, March 15 a big blue pickup truck pulled off the road right in front of the walkers. Maureen Ritter from Black Creek stepped out and said, "I don't participate in organized religion," to which Bishop Logan replied, "That's OK, we're Anglicans ..." Maureen, who had heard of the Journey from others, had a background in helping victims of residential schools and wanted to meet and thank the Bishop for what he was doing.

Qualicum First Nation

As described in "Wayne's Diary," the encounter with Chief Michael Recalma of Qualicum First Nation was "wonderful, glorious, precious, memory-making, spirit-filled." Chief Recalma gave Bishop Logan permission to enter the nation's traditional land and to stay. Onlookers said the experience gave them a humble pride in their church and that the Sacred Journey is a spark that will stimulate next steps on the path to reconciliation.

**See Journey
Pages 4 - 5**

Bishop Logan Writes

The mystery of traveling and silence



“One of the tasks of true friendship is to listen compassionately and creatively to the hidden silences. Often secrets are not revealed in words, they lie concealed in the silence between the words or in the depth of what is unsayable between two people.”

John O'Donohue
Anam Cara:
A Book of Celtic Wisdom

Imelda Secker was speaking to me the other day about the reality of God in creation. She said that when she was little it was so very clear that she could hear and see God in the birds and animals, and in the plants and trees.

She told me the story of how she had been told not to look at the leaves on the trees but to look at the spaces between the leaves. As I was travelling down Vancouver Island, the long periods of silence brought me to experience the beauty of creation on these islands in a variety of ways. When I was little, like Imelda, I had an appreciation of the presence

of God in creation. On the journey this was renewed for me. I began to look at creation again with the eyes of my heart.

Each day on the journey we would remind each other and those who might be travelling with us that we were travelling for long periods in silence. In the silence we asked the question: “What is God saying to us through creation?” The responses that we heard at the end of each day were so very encouraging as folk opened themselves up to God in creation.

It became apparent to me that we need to look deeper and beyond the obvious as we look at

creation and at our life of faith.

The second part of the journey that profoundly changed me was travelling with Wayne Stewart and Jim Holland. Wayne and I traveled together from Alert Bay. Jim joined us in Campbell River. The old adage that two is company and three is a crowd was not true in this case because the three of us grew into a deep friendship. It was a friendship that was not founded in long conversations and discussion but in the mystery of travelling and silence. As John O'Donohue said in the quote above, “in the silence ... and in the depth

of what is unsayable between two people,” only in our case it was three people.

We were on a pilgrimage together as we recognized the holy in creation and in one another. We were travelling through sacred space, in the land, into the holy within each of us, and into the holy of a friendship based and found in the silence between us.

May God be the road upon which you travel; the mountains on which you are tested and challenged; the well where you find healing and rest.

Bishop Logan

Sàmhchair

As we walk..
into mysterious silence
The smell of elk ever near with each step
into mysterious silence
The gurgling of streams in the air with each step
into mysterious silence
Mist kissing the face with each step
into mysterious silence
Snow gently falls and taps the head with each step
into mysterious silence
Branches crunching underfoot with each step
into mysterious silence
The lapping of lake on shore with each step
into mysterious silence
Eyes watching closely with each step
into mysterious silence
The wind connects all that lives with each step
into mysterious silence.

Written by Bishop Logan on his Sacred Journey

Coisrigte Slighe

A quest to seek meaning
to receive a vision of how to be.
In a land of towering trees,
mist laden lakes,
islands shaped as we are
by salt waves and wind.
We walk with the creator
to seek what we will become.
A journey of change and hope
eyed by dragonfly and eagle.
Trusting in the mystery
trusting in one another
trusting in hospitality
trusting the creator.

AT THE FIRE

we knew	as we hauled them inboard
we did not know	a wealth of silver
who it was	one of us knew
on the shore	and one of us leapt
were we sun-blind	into the sea
after the long night	to be there first
fishing for nothing?	to touch be known
and then nets full	at the fire
yet not breaking	of the Lord
under the weight	

Joanna M. Weston

The Bishop's Calendar

During the next few weeks Bishop Logan will be taking part in the following events:

May	
1	Emmaus - Retreat
2 / 3	ACW Annual General Meeting and Installation of Officers
6 / 7	ACPO
9	VST Convocation
10	Educational Trusts Board
12	EfM Grad in Parksville
15	St. Peter & St. Paul - Parish Visit with Confirmation
St.	Peter, Quamichan
16 / 19	Clergy Conference
22	St. Dunstan - 50 th Anniversary
28	Diocesan Council
29	Christ Church Cathedral - Ordinations

Personnel Notes

Appointment:

The Rev. Sandra Hounsell-Drover as interim Priest-in-Charge of St. Peter's Parish, Quamichan, effective April 1.

Deaths:

Annie Shepherd, widow of the late **Bishop Ron Shepherd**, died March 10.

Roy Fussell, husband of the **Rev. Elizabeth Fussell** (retired Deacon of the Diocese) died on March 15.

Our condolences are extended to their family and friends.

The Diocesan Prayer Cycle

Your prayers are asked weekly for

Bishop Logan McMenamie

and the following parishes:

May 1, Easter 6

St. Philip, Oak Bay

The Rev. Christopher Page, Incumbent

May 8, Jerusalem Sunday

Parish of Central Saanich

St. Mary, Saanichton

St. Stephen, South Saanich

The Rev. Rob Szo, Incumbent

The Rev. Gil Shoesmith, Deacon Assistant

May 15, The Day of Pentecost

St. John Gualbert, Port McNeill

The Rev. Tanya Packer-McKoen, Deacon-in-Charge

May 22, Trinity Sunday

Holy Trinity, Sooke

The Rev. Dimas Canjura, Incumbent

May 29, Pentecost 2

The Parishes of St. Columba, Port Hardy

St. John, Port Alice

June 5, Pentecost 3

St. Andrew, Sidney

The Rev. Philip Wadham, Interim-Priest-in-Charge



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Submissions:

News, letters and other articles are welcome. Please limit articles to 600 words and letters to 200 words. Submissions must include name and contact information of the author. Pictures must be at least 6" X 4" with a resolution of 300 DPI and in sharp focus. Clearly and accurately identify the name of all subjects as well as the person who took the picture.

Submission Deadlines:

January issue - December 1
February issue - January 1
March issue - February 1
April issue - March 1
May issue - April 1
June issue - May 1
September issue - August 1
October issue - September 1
November issue - October 1
December issue - November 1

All material is subject to editing.

Volume 50, No 5

First resident clergyman of Comox District honoured with new headstone

The great-grandchildren of The Rev. Jules Xavier Willemar honoured their great-grandfather on Wednesday, March 2 with a new headstone for his grave located in St. Andrew's Anglican Cemetery, Courtenay. A dedication service was conducted by the Rev. Anthony Divinagracia of St. John's Church, Courtenay and was attended by Bishop Logan McMenamie and retired Bishop John Frame. Approximately 30 attendees including Willemar family members, local historians Lawrence Burns and Judy Hagen, and the community braved the blustery weather to honour the pioneer clergyman.

The Rev. Jules Xavier Willemar was born in France in 1842, and immigrated to Canada in 1867. Willemar, originally a Roman Catholic priest, arrived in the Comox Valley in 1871 as a missionary to the First Nations people. He later joined the Anglican Church and was instrumental in the building of St.

Andrew's Church in Courtenay, the oldest church in the Comox Valley.

For forty-two years, until his retirement in 1913, Willemar ministered to the area working out of St. Andrew's Church and providing services at Courtenay, Comox (formerly Steamboat's Landing), and Cumberland (formerly Union).

When time permitted, he would canoe to Denman Island for services. He would attend church meetings in Nanaimo, travelling the distance in two days by canoe then returning on the steamer Douglas which ran from Victoria to Comox every two weeks. He is credited with having major impact on the religious and social development of the Comox Valley. In 1871 he married Mary Isabel Munro and they went on to have five children. Rev. Willemar passed away in 1935 and is buried in St. Andrew's Cemetery behind the church he built.



Stopping for a picture following the dedication (L-R): Father Anthony Divinagracia, Bishop Logan McMenamie, Lawrence Burns, Penny Dennert (great-grand daughter), Alastair Hunting, Judy Hagen, and retired Bishop John Frame. Story and picture submitted.

St. Luke's, Cedar Hill invites you to join in cemetery cleanup

Barb Prescott

St. Luke's will again this year hold Cemetery Cleanups on the third Saturday of the month starting in April through to August. The cleanup mornings started on April 16 and will continue throughout the spring and summer on the following dates: May 21, June 18, July 16, and August 20. The cleanups are held from 9:00 – 11:30 am with a stop during the morning for refreshments and a chance to visit.

Many people in the community as well as those who attend other Anglican churches have connections to people buried at St. Luke's. We invite those with relatives buried in St. Luke's churchyard and those who don't but have an interest in local history, or simply wish to help beautify this historic churchyard, to come to one or several of these cleanups.

There are lots of ways to help



Photo: Barb Prescott

Workers busy at Cleanup - 2015

from cleaning headstones to weeding and cleaning graves. Bring your gloves, pruners, clippers, hoes, and scrappers. Water is available for cleaning monumental markers, but bring your own bucket and scrub brush. Please join us as we work to-

gether to tidy up St. Luke's historic churchyard.

For more information, visit St. Luke's website (www.stluke-svictoria.ca) or call 250-477-6741.

Barb Prescott is a member of St. Luke's Cemetery Committee, Cedar Hill

Diocesan Priest elected as Superior of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSJE)

Br. James Koester SSJE, who is a priest on leave from the Diocese, has been elected Superior of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSJE) in Boston.

Br. James Koester was born in Regina and received his M.Div. from Trinity College, Toronto. He was ordained in the

Diocese of British Columbia in 1985 where he served in parish ministry for five years before Joining SSJE.

Professed as a Brother in 1992, Br. James served in a variety of roles including Deputy Superior and Brother in Charge of Emery House; during his time

there Grafton House was opened for monastic interns, men and women. Br. James is the author of "Living in Rhythm, Following Nature's Rule" and is an avid gardener. He believes monastic communities have a vital role to play in the renewal of Jesus' teaching of the Way.

FOR THE FUTURE

this slow giving away of the past
one story at a time
handed like stones
laid in a path
each shining its own way
colours muted by starlight
gleaming through summer days
held in my mouth
licked and tasted
when rain and salt wash it
with stories new
and those not forgotten

Joanna M. Weston



CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL
CHRIST CONNECTING COMMUNITY

COMING UP AT CCC

BENEDICTINE SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Thursday, May 19, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
in the Chapter Room

IN CONVERSATION POTLUCK SUPPER

Friday, May 20, 6:00 pm
in the Chapter Room

SCREWTAP: A ONE-MAN SHOW

Freely adapted & performed by John D. Huston from the
ScrewTape Letters & ScrewTape Proposes a Toast, by C.S. Lewis
Saturday, May 21, 7:30 pm

HAYDN'S CREATION
with CapriCCio Vocal Ensemble
Friday, May 27, 7:30 pm

CCC SCHOOL & PARISH FAIR
Saturday, May 28, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

SUMMER ORGAN SERIES
Fridays, June 10, 17 & 24 at 7:30 pm

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The Sacred Journey continued from page 1

Nanoose First Nation

On Saturday, March 19 a feast was prepared by the parishioners of St Anne and St Edmond. 100 people representing six parishes and two First Nations were on hand. Here, the Nanoose elder, Barbara Barltrop thanked the Anglican Church for its support during a recent crisis. She went on to say, regarding the Sacred Journey, "This is the only church taking action like this, on an issue of such importance."

Palm Sunday was spent at the historic St. Anne's Church where an outdoor procession of palms and a confirmation marked the day.

Suneymuxw First Nation

On Monday, March 21 the hereditary chief of the Suneymuxw Nation, Willie Good and members of his family met Bishop Logan at Departure Bay, where Chief Good shared with the Bishop, in an emotional exchange, something of his experience as a residential school survivor, and then welcomed him to his territory and embraced him.

Penelakut First Nation

On Tuesday, March 22 elders Jill Harris and Val Bob joined Chief Brown of the Penelakut First Nation to meet the Bishop. In addressing the group of seventy, Bishop Logan read quotes from historical government and church documents, outlining the attitude of officials at that time toward what the documents referred to as "the Indian problem." He offered a sincere and emotional apology. Jill Harris responded graciously and asked for respect from the Bishop.

"The most poignant moment occurred during the gift exchange as Rev. Heather presented Chief Brown with a pewter replica of a dragonfly. In an emotional thanks, Chief Brown explained that [a close relative] had passed away a few years ago. The symbol that they remember her mother by is a dragonfly, something unknown to Heather when she obtained the gift. As the story unfolded, Rev. Michael said "more evidence of God's work," to which we all agreed." – Wayne Stewart, "Wayne's Diary – Tuesday, March 22." Taken from reentersajourney.ca.

Tsawout First Nation

When he reached the peninsula, one of the four bands from the region met with Bishop Logan. Accompanied by the National Indigenous Bishop, Mark MacDonald (who had set time aside to join the walk for two days), the Bishop walked to the edge of the Tsawout land, where Chief Harvey Underwood met the walkers and accompanied them back to the band office where a handful of other members of the Tsawout band greeted him. Again, stories of the emotions such an encounter places on the hearts of those being asked to forgive were shared, and once that pain and tension were named, a welcome was offered—yet another demonstration that reconciliation isn't easy



and a Photo Album of memories from the trip.

and requires both sides to be willing to give something up and risk trying again.

Maundy Thursday was spent with the clergy in a Blessing of the Oils service (a service in which the bishop sanctifies the oil used by clergy for anointing).

On Good Friday, Bishop Logan joined folks from parishes in Saanichton for an outdoor procession and stations of the cross, and then on to St. Michael and All Angels for a Good Friday Mass.

Songhees First Nation

On Holy Saturday, the Bishop walked to the Songhees Wellness Centre in Esquimalt where Elder Clarence (Butch) Dick greeted him and welcomed all Anglicans to visit the centre and to get to know the Songhees people.

After meeting with parishioners from St Peter and St Paul, Bishop Logan walked to the transitional housing centre in View Royal and then on to 'Super In Tent City' where residents who had been praying for the Bishop met him with drums and invited him into the sacred circle to dance.

Easter Sunday

Bishop Logan's Sacred Journey continued on Easter Sunday morning with a walk along Quadra Street from Athletic Park to the Church of St. John the Divine where he was greeted by the congregation. After a short talk to the congregation he put on his Benedictine robes and continued his walk to Christ Church Cathedral.

The Bishop's Sacred Journey ended on the steps of the Cathedral. There in a time of welcoming and prayers of thanksgiving for his safe journey Bishop Logan was greeted by Dean Ansley Tucker and members of the congregation. Following a number of short addresses by Alex Nelson and the Bishop, a number of gifts were exchanged and the Bishop and congregation went into the Cathedral to celebrate the Joy of Easter.

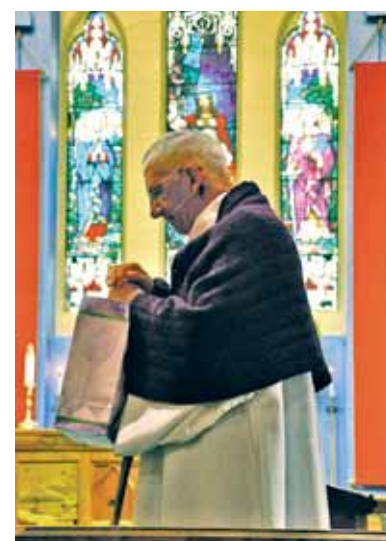
The Anglican Church

Almost everywhere from Campbell River down the island, Bishop Logan was greeted by fellow Anglicans, many of whom opened their "Big Houses" to the walkers and other community members for worship and hospitality.

Next Steps

And that's where the story continues. The work has just begun. There is more tea to be drunk, time to be spent, apologies to be made, and forgiveness to be offered—generation after generation—until healing has permeated every nation, every church, and every individual spirit that has been destroyed by hatred, fear and oppression—for Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike. You are invited to join Bishop Logan for the next steps, in your parish, in your home and in your community.

Catherine Pate is the Communications Officer for the Diocese.



The Photos of the Journey were taken by Julie Domville, Syd Langhelt, Bram Ryan, Catherine Allen. The graphic is by Siarra James. Pictures are not identified nor cutlines used in order to publish more pictures. E. L.

'Amazing Journey' Day Camp 2016 planned for July 4 - 8

Barb Prescott

St. Luke's Parish, Cedar Hill and Lutheran Church of the Cross are again planning a Summer Day Camp. This year's camp will take place mornings during the week of July 4 - 8 in the hall at St. Luke's Anglican Church, 3821 Cedar Hill Cross Road.

We invite children throughout the Diocese born in 2005 to 2012 to take part in the 2016 Amazing Journey Camp and join us as we learn about superheroes in the Bible and in our own lives. We'll be singing and dancing, making crafts, playing games and listening to Bible stories. It all adds up to one exciting week!

Registration fees are \$30 first child / \$25 second child / \$20 third child. Early Bird Registration Fees until June 3 are \$10 less per camper. As part of our June 3 Fantastic Friday, we will have an Early Registration Evening in the hall at St. Luke's from 4:30 - 6:30 pm.



Craft time at last summer's camp

Photo: Barb Prescott

More details about this camp and the Early Registration Evening will be sent out in the Diocesan mail out and by e-mail to parish offices. Registration forms will be available by e-mailing the Camp e-mail: amazing4kids16@gmail.com and from St. Luke's website (www.stlukesvictoria.ca).

We also welcome teens and adults who would like to assist with this camp. Please contact St. Luke's Church Office by e-

mail (st.lukes@shaw.ca) or call 250-477-6741 if you are able to help in this way. To get an idea of the fun we had last year, view the pictures from the 2015 Amazing Journey Day Camp posted at the Image Gallery of St. Luke's website (www.stlukesvictoria.ca/imagegallery.htm).

We hope to see your children or grandchildren (or you as a volunteer) at The Amazing Journey Day Camp this summer!

A fly on the wall at Diocesan Council

Bob Gill

The March meeting of Diocesan Council took place at the parish of St. Peter, Comox. The newly installed Rector's Warden, David Moore, very hospitably introduced us to his parish. This busy parish has been active in the Comox Valley since 1891. They moved to their present site in 1933, and the present Church building dates to 1939.

The Church hall, named for former Canon Corker, is home to an extensive array of parish and outreach activities, including Bible study groups, a lending library, community groups, two refugee sponsorship programs, a food bank, and a pastoral care group.

The congregation numbers well over 200 adults, together with a number of teens and children. In addition to regular Sunday worship services, the parish also offers a "5:40 express" contemporary Eucharist on Saturday evenings, that is well attended.

In accordance with usual practice, Council participated in a Bible

study. As March 3 marked the anniversary of the massacre of four RCMP officers at Mayerthorpe, Alberta in 2005, the study was taken from Jesus' teachings at the last supper: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command." (John 15:12-13) Council reflected on the different ways that we can devote our lives to service and thereby show our love for each other.

Bishop Logan reported to Council on his final preparations for the Sacred Journey, including meeting with local leaders in anticipation of his re-entry into their territories, with permission. His plan following the Council meeting was to go on retreat for the weekend, in further preparation for the Journey.

The Bishop also reported on plans to reconfigure the layout of the Synod Office on Vancouver Street, to make himself more accessible, and to create a means for per-

sons seeing him to enjoy a greater level of privacy when warranted.

Council heard a detailed response to the Diocesan Vision from the Asset Manager, outlining how the ongoing stewardship of the Diocese's assets can contribute to implementation of the Vision.

Council addressed the upcoming Synod, planned for Nanaimo for April 22 - 23. Bishop Logan shared his ideas for the Bishop's Charge to this Synod. Further, it was decided to meet once more as a Council before Synod, primarily to hear the report of Rob Waller on the Vision Fulfillment study that he has been conducting.

The meeting wrapped up with Council members acknowledging the ways in which they felt the presence of God in their deliberations, and we then closed with the Grace. As usual, formal minutes of the meeting are available on the Diocesan website.

Bob Gill is Vice Chancellor of the Diocese and a member of the Parish of St. Mary the Virgin, Oak Bay.



PWRDF Aid to Syrian Refugee Camps

With some 25,000 Syrian refugees now starting new lives in various Canadian communities, it is easy to overlook the desperate plight of almost five million Syrian refugees left in camps surrounding Syria, in Turkey (2.6 M refugees), Iraq (245,000), Jordan (638,000), Lebanon (1.1 M), and Egypt (119,000), not to mention possibly as many as 10 million Syrians displaced within their own war-torn country. Unfortunately, these countries are all relatively poor, and can ill-afford to feed, clothe, and house their own people. For comparison, while the GDP per capita of the U.S. and Canada exceeds \$50,000, the equivalent GDP per capita of these five middle east countries range from \$3000 to \$10,000 per capita. In essence, these countries are incapable of maintaining the present refugee camps, with more arriving daily from Syria.

The U.N. predicts that \$8 billion is required to provide emergency support to displaced Syrians during 2016. There are many NGOs providing funding to alleviate the suffering in these camps, including our own PWRDF, working through Action by Churches Together (ACT) and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Up until March 1, Canadian Anglicans had contributed over \$580,000 to this effort, which is being matched by the Canadian government, a total of \$1.16 million. Despite this, and despite countries such as Canada adopting some of the refugees, these NGOs can no longer keep up with the needs of the refugee camps, so that starvation, thirst, and inadequate housing are very real threats in these camps. Why else would families risk their lives in over-crowded, dilapidated boats on the Mediterranean Sea, or walk hundreds of kilometres across deserts to reach safety such as in the accompanying photo?



Photo: Submitted

Appalling conditions suffered by fleeing Syrian refugees.

Matthew's Gospel (Mt 2:13-15) relates how Joseph was warned in a dream to take Mary and Jesus and flee to Egypt as refugees, for King Herod felt threatened by Jesus and wanted him dead. This story has been repeated many times throughout history as refugees are forced to flee from dictators in their own country. Syrians are the latest victims, fleeing from violence perpetrated by Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad, along with some two dozen different militant groups, including the Syrian army, ISIS, Kurds, and various other Muslim factions.

The numbers of Syrian refugees involved are horrendous, and reflect the fact that this crisis has surpassed all previous records for refugees from one region of the globe. The refugees are the innocents in this desperate struggle being played out in Syria. The Canadian government has helped sponsor some 25,000 Syrian refugees to date. Please consider writing your MP to request our government to help provide more monetary aid to the refugee camps, because NGOs alone cannot provide all that is needed.

If you would like more information about Syrian refugees and PWRDF, go to <http://pwrdf.org/>. For additional information, or if you would like a presentation in your parish, contact the PWRDF Diocesan Representative, Geoff Strong at geoff.strong@shaw.ca or 250-710-8011.

Creation Matters Committee

Geoff Strong

To help Anglicans grow closer to creation and the creator, the Diocese of British Columbia formed the **Creation Matters** committee as part of its new Vision early in 2015. Like the Trinity, **Creation Matters** is distinct and unified with Justice Matters and Reconciliation Matters committees.

Humans are part of creation, and we make huge impacts on ecosystems through climate

change caused by our burning fossil fuels, and farming, fishing, urbanization and logging. Our mission is to *inform and inspire members of the Diocese of B.C. to appreciate, respect and responsibly care for God's gifts of the Earth and all life.*

Creation Matters succeeds when we inform and support all Anglicans to be better stewards of creation. Creation is particularly rich and beautiful on the Pacific

Coast, and we network with faith and environmental neighbours with common goals.

Creation Matters has 5 objectives:

- 1 Educate Anglicans and support parish and community activities about creation care
- 2 Bear public witness to creation by honouring Christian traditions, local and First Nations' knowledge, and science
- 3 Reduce our personal and institutional carbon footprints,

and assist people affected by climate change

4 'Green' our church properties and operations

5 Understand the compatibility of religion and science.

Creation Matters works within our environmental covenant with the creator – Genesis 2:15 (*The LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to work it and take care of it*) and through the Fifth Mark of Mission (*to strive to safeguard the*

integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth).

Creation Matters meets about 10 times annually. Geoff Strong of Duncan (geoff.strong@shaw.ca) and the Rev. Wally Eamer (wallyeamer@gmail.com) co-chair it and report to our Bishop.

All Anglicans are welcome to join **Creation Matters** and attend our meetings – just contact Geoff or Wally. We are always available for discussion or presentations on **Creation Matters**.

Reflections

Calvary

We had come to Jerusalem in January, 1993 knowing that we would be there for almost four months, an academic term in the life of St George's College. My responsibility was to travel around the area with groups of clergy from many places in the Anglican Communion, linking various places with the gospel passages where they are mentioned, and suggesting ways in which their preaching might feature these places.

You will understand how and why I treasure those few fleeting months in my life. However, as with everything in life, the time came for it to end. There came a Sunday afternoon when we had all our things packed, ready to leave on the following morning. We had between two and three hours before the evening meal. How would we spend these last hours?

The decision was not difficult. We would walk down from the College,

along Nablus Road to the Damascus Gate. Entering the old city we would go into the labyrinthine network of streets that forms the Souq until we would suddenly turn into the open area that fronts the entrance to the huge Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Entering, we would stand for a moment at the slab of stone where long tradition says that Joseph of Arimathea and others anointed Jesus' body for burial. We would then climb a flight of stone steps to the place where we wished to spend our last afternoon in Jerusalem.

Long before the towers of Canterbury stood above the fields of Kent, and long before the Dome of the Vatican dominated Rome, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre stood here as witness to the imperial instincts of Constantine and the piety of his mother Helena. In the fourth century she had come with all the authority of

her position and title to seek for the sites of the death and resurrection of Jesus. What she encountered – doubtless to her surprise and joy – was the local Christian community who had carefully preserved the memory of where the Lord had been crucified and the location of the tomb from which he had been raised.

When Helena found the sites sacred to Christian memory, she brought to bear the vast resources of her son's empire to build this massive shrine over them. Ever since, this huge church has been the focus of memory and pilgrimage for most of the Christian world, certainly for Orthodox, Catholic and much Anglican memory.

We climb the flight of stone steps and find ourselves in a small highly ornate and dimly lit chapel. The focus of the area is the altar. Here, hour after hour, day after day, year after year, pilgrims come from far and near.

Having been here a number of times, we know that on one wall of the chapel there is a stone ledge that can serve as a seat, so we sit and watch as people do the simple actions that we ourselves have done in this place. We watch as people drop to one knee, sometimes making the sign of the cross. We watch as a parent lifts a child to kiss the icon near the altar and then kisses it themselves. We watch as pilgrim after pilgrim kneels on the floor before the altar, then moves forward underneath it and extends an arm down through a small opening to touch a rock beneath.

No ordinary rock, this is the top of an outcrop of rock that rises from the floor of the stone quarry that lies far beneath this great basilica. Into the top of this outcrop the upright of our Lord's cross would have been embedded. Here the crosspiece that he had carried from the nearby city gate was



Herbert O'Driscoll

fastened. Here our Lord died.

This is where we wished to be on our last day in Jerusalem. When it looked as if the last pilgrim of the day had passed through, we stood and moved to the altar to do again what we wished to retain as a lifelong memory. Taking turns, we knelt on the floor, stooped under the altar, leaned forward, and extended an arm into the small opening until we could feel the hard surface of the rock.

So much pours into the mind at such a moment that words fail to be able to do justice to what is experienced. We get up, turn, cross the chapel to the stone steps and leave. Yet there is a sense in which we have never left this Holiest of places.



St. Paul's, Nanaimo Prayer Shawl Ministry knitting shruggies

St. Paul's Prayer Shawl Ministry is a group of women who turn their love of knitting and crocheting into a prayer ministry for the benefit of members of our community and nationwide.

Lena Donkersley, Activity Aide at Dufferin Place made a generous contribution of yarn to St. Paul's Prayer Shawl Ministry. In return we knitted the ten shruggies for Dufferin Place residents. The soft yarn encompasses the excess weight and pulls it off into a sleek looking arm without straining or discomfort. The fitted cuffs add warmth and comfort. Thanks to Carol Shaw for her design of the *shruggy*.

At a recent Choral Eucharist Service, the Rev. Justin Cheng blessed the *shruggies*.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets to pray, share, knit or crochet. Our motto is simple: "We love what we do, and do what we love." We would love to have new members join us on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at one to three o'clock at St. Paul's, Nanaimo. Bring a project, bring a friend or just come for coffee.

Showing the finished shruggies are (L-R): Donna Lee Criss, Yvonne Oliver, Chris Appleton and Lena Donkersley.

Photo: Syd Langhelt

Tomorrow.....

I am submitting this piece after experiencing two recent events here in Victoria:

1 The Easter morning arrival of Bishop Logan, completing his Lenten walk of friendship on behalf of us all with Vancouver Island Elders

2 The April 1 performance by the Royal Winnipeg Ballet of Going Home Star -- Truth and Reconciliation

These two unique, creative events are marking for me wonderful expressions of actual remembering, forgiving, and making a new story.

I am thankful for The Spirit's voice to me/us in these events. My prayer is to hear the truth with courage to reconcile; to see/walk a new path together.

Kay Dila

Royal Hall hushed/silenced
in the dimming light
Elders beat angry drums
warning of stories to come

Stage holds Dancers
in confined spaces
in traditions of Ballet

Audience gasped, wept,
remembered
those who know/knew

Those who didn't, like I don't,
tried to understand/repent
wept too

Royal Hall burst
into standing ovations
touched minds/spirits in
awe

Again Elders' drums beating
warnings
warning us out into a warm/
different night

How will Canada's Peoples
wake tomorrow.....



Photo: Michael Zastre

Procession crossing from Church of the Cross to St. Luke's

Palm Procession at the Crossroads

Barb Prescott

Lutheran Church of the Cross and St. Luke's Parish, Cedar Hill, neighbouring churches at the crossroads of Cedar Hill Road and Cedar Hill Cross Road, celebrated Palm Sunday together again this year with a palm procession between the two churches.

Members of both congregations met at 10.00 am at the Church of the Cross. Worship started with the Liturgy of the Palms and the blessing of palms, coats and blankets.

The two congregations then joined together in a palm procession crossing Cedar Hill Road and Cedar Hill Cross Road to St. Luke's. Saanich police helped stop traffic as the two congregations crossed the intersection to continue the service at St. Luke's.

The blankets and coats collected were donated to the patrons of **Our Place Society**.



WOMEN'S FALL WEEKEND

Camp Pringle
October 21 - 23

*Forgiving and Forgiven -
the Dance of Reconciliation*

Facilitator: The Very Rev. M. Ansley Tucker
Spiritual Director: The Rev. Canon Nancy Ford
Leader of Music: Diane Bell

Registration Forms available at your parish office
(Registration deadline October 12)

Cost: \$165.00 - sharing
\$200 for single room
(\$50 cancellation fee)

Please note: For contact/info only:
Brenda Dhaene: (250 748-7183) birish@shaw.ca
OR Pat Coward-Walker: patcoward@me.com



St George's Family Fun Day!

Saturday, May 28
10.00 am - 2.00 pm

Fun for Everyone in the Family - Even the dogs!

We will have:
A Bouncy Castle
Lots of Games
Kid's Crafts
BBQ for the whole family
Dog Show



AND goodies.....
Cakes, Cookies and
Bake Sale!

St George's Church
3909 St Georges Lane
Maynard and Cadboro Bay Road
Cadboro Bay

COME RAIN OR SHINE!

We will move indoors to the gym if it rains!

Come to Sorrento Centre this Summer

for a Course on environmental justice



THE CLIMATE IS NOW:

Climate Science and Christian Witness
Monday, August 1 - Saturday, August 6

Discover how scientific facts on climate change and scripture are entirely compatible. In this course, the science is condensed to the simple and scripture expanded to meet it. Learn how/where global warming is already creating havoc on Earth, and how/why we can and must individually contribute to the obvious solutions.

The course is led by co-chairs of the Diocesan Creation Matters Group on Vancouver Island, the Very Rev. Ken Gray and Dr. Geoff Strong. Ken has previously taught courses in music and liturgy at Sorrento, and is the newly-appointed Dean of St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral in Kamloops. Geoff has over 50 years experience as an atmospheric/climate scientist, and is a Christian education leader at St. Peter's Church, Duncan where he developed a bible study called *Questions of Environmental Stewardship Theology* (QUEST), on which this course is based.

Course fee: \$260

For information on accommodations and meals, or to register, go to <http://www.sorrento-centre.bc.ca/>.
For more details, contact Ken (grayinthehouse@shaw.ca) or Geoff (geoff.strong@shaw.ca).

Anglican Women Faith and Fellowship Gathering 2016

Leaders of Courage



Serving in Faith

Monday, May 2; 9.00 am - 8.00 pm
(Bring a Brown bag Lunch - Dinner included)
Tuesday May 3; - 9.00 am - 2.00 pm
(Luncheon included)

St. Mary of the Incarnation,
4125 Metchosin Road, Victoria, BC
ALL ARE WELCOME

Guest Speakers:

Daryth Patten - Pilgrimage of Faith
Linda Avis - BC Hospital Auxiliary Volunteers
Jane Morley - First Nations Reconciliation Work
Muriel Brakefield - Faith Thro' Depression, & Abuse,

Cost: \$70.00 (includes 2 meals and handouts)

Registrar: Canon Barb Coleman
Either: b52coleman@shaw.ca or 1-250-748-9830

"Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong."

1 Corinthians 16:13



South Island Centre
for Counselling and Training
Since 1975

3821A Cedar Hill X Road, Victoria, BC
(At the Old Rectory of St. Luke's Church, Cedar Hill)
We offer affordable Christian counselling for many different concerns, including relationships, grief and loss, spiritual direction, trauma, anxiety/depression, and many more.

Contact us at:
250-472-2851 or info@southislandcentre.ca
Visit our New website at:
www.southislandcentre.ca

Church of the Advent

510 Mount View Avenue
Colwood

(across from Colwood School, off Sooke Rd.)



Saturday, May 7
9.00 am - 2.30 pm
BBQ LUNCH!

Lutheran Church of the Cross &
St. Luke Cedar Hill present

AMAZING JOURNEY DAY CAMP JULY 4-8

Calling all super heroes...

Mornings
9 am to Noon

3821 Cedar Hill X-Road
St. Luke's Activity Centre



Elementary & Preschool Program

\$30 first child
\$25 second child
\$20 third child

For info or to register contact amazing4kids16@gmail.com

"PLANTS and MORE" ANNUAL SALE



St. Michael and All Angels Church Grounds
4733 West Saanich Road
Saturday, May 7
10.00 am - 1.00 pm

SAMPLE OF WHAT YOU WILL FIND

Outside

- Flowering Hanging Baskets;
- 8 Flowering Pots
- Tomato plants; Dahlia tubers
- Bedding plants; perennials; Heritage plants
- Rhubarb
- Shrubs

In the Upper Hall

- Pots, Garden accessories, vases
- Strawberry-themed items of all kinds! Gardening Books
- Tools

Refreshments and Food concession

(in the parking lot)

- Egg Mc-Michaels',
- donuts, muffins,
- coffee and more

Proceeds support the Woman's Guild and Children's Community Charities

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE SALE!

CHURCH OF THE ADVENT STRAWBERRY TEA

& CRAFT FAIR

(free admission, free parking, barrier-free access)

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2016
10 AM TO 3 PM

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE

Shortcake & Tea - \$6.00
Under 5 yrs. - FREE*
(*includes beverage)



Bake Table Craft Tables

Church of the Advent
510 Mount View Avenue
(opposite Colwood School)