



## The Bishop's Charge

### The Thirty-Second Session (Part A) of the Diocesan Synod of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador February 25-26, 2022

#### Scriptural Theme:

*"Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering," - Heb. 10:23a*

I begin this Charge with prayer:

*Release the gifts within us, Lord  
That through fear or hesitation  
We have yet to acknowledge or use,  
That we might become the Church  
You always wanted us to be,  
A listening, caring, creative people,  
A healing, giving and praying people  
Filled with the Spirit of love and grace,  
Your living Body here in this place. Amen.*  
(John Birch, [www.faithandworship.com](http://www.faithandworship.com))

Grace and peace to all those watching this opening Eucharist for the 32nd Session (Part A) of the Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador. Wherever you are, I pray that our time together is a blessing.

Welcome to all delegates who are participating in this Diocesan Synod. It is indeed a different Synod. Synod comes from the Greek word for "assembly" or "gathering." Although dispersed throughout the Diocese and some outside the country, we are gathered together through online technology. Although this technology is the vehicle by which we gather, the Holy Spirit is the engine that moves us into action. Although we each are independent in our representation, it is the Spirit of God that speaks through us as a Church Family. May we prayerfully listen to the voice of the Spirit this weekend as we seek a way forward in being God's Church for God's People in 2022 and beyond.

While this online format is a different way of being Synod, I hope there are some still familiar aspects in our time together. This is also a two-part Synod with my hope we can have an in-person Synod pending COVID guidelines in the Fall. While this may seem unusual, we did this before when Synod prorogued in 1995, and our work continued in 1996.

## Anglicans and Change

My first Synod was in 1991 when I was the Youth Delegate for the Parish of Bell Island. It was held at the former Cathedral Parish Hall and Bishop Mate was our bishop. From my memory, we debated the restructuring of the Diocese and if we should have a bishop for Labrador, which led to the formation of the current Archdeaconry of Labrador. A few years later, we discussed the reorganization of the Diocese and the future of our parishes in light of the devastation of the Cod Moratorium in 1992. This led to the Synods mentioned above of 1995 and 1996, focusing on the reframing of the Diocese in Finance and Ministry. A few years later, we realigned the Diocese based on demographics which saw the amalgamation of some parishes into cluster ministries. Subsequent Synods, under Bishop Pitman's leadership, focussed on Diocesan renewal through the document *Living Our Faith in Action* and developing a Ministry Plan for our parishes. Most recently, we have been reimagining what we can look like as a Diocese with a renewed sense of being a Missional Church seeking to serve beyond the confines of our Church buildings and structures.

I apologize for the history lesson; it serves a purpose for us gathered today as Synod. In just my brief time as a member of Synod (thirty years or so), I have seen significant discussions on Diocesan restructuring, reorganization, reframing, realignment, renewal and reimagining. So, the point is, when we gather as Synod, expect to talk about change.

And change we have, perhaps more than ever before, since March 2020 with the arrival of COVID-19. While this change was not planned or expected, we managed as best as possible to navigate uncharted waters amid an unprecedented storm. We are not unlike those fearful disciples in our Gospel story when facing a furious squall that arose while they were sailing with a sleeping Jesus across the Sea of Galilee. As the waves began to swamp the vessel, the frightened followers shook Jesus awake in desperation, "*Teacher, don't you care if we drown?*" How could Jesus be sound asleep during their crisis? Of course, we know the outcome. Jesus calmly speaks to subdue the storm and the hearts of his disciples with the simple words, "*Peace! Be Still!*"

There has been much worry and fear in our world with this pandemic. Those trying their best to navigate the uncharted waters of the past two years have lost much along the way. As a Church, the essence of who we are has been challenged because we could not even physically gather as the Body of Christ. As a people, we remember those whose lives have been forever changed by losing loved ones due to COVID. We pray for those who have suffered or are suffering from the virus. Although it seems we are now learning to live with COVID, we must never forget the personal damage this pandemic has caused. As we emerge with restrictions relaxed next month, we should not soon forget that the impact of the pandemic will continue to affect the lives of many for years to come.

## Caring for Each Other

This brings me to how hard our clergy and lay leaders have worked during these past two years. They are tired. Many are struggling to deal with stresses well beyond anything expected. Some are questioning their vocation and their role in the Diocese. I know they are because, as Bishop, I have as well. I have been very public about my own struggles with

mental health and the need to go on medical leave last year. I am grateful, beyond words, to those who have shown love and concern for me. But we are all tired of COVID.

So, as Bishop, I ask that every parish through their Vestry or Parish Council give their clergy and paid lay staff some time to rest. I propose that all our current stipendiary clergy and paid lay employees be granted a one-week (seven full days) paid mini-sabbatical this year. This mini-sabbatical is in addition to their normal vacation time and educational leave. I will leave it up to the clergy and lay staff to determine what this mini-sabbatical will look like, as long as they can rest from their labours.

Sabbatical comes from the word "sabbath" - the Biblical Day of rest. Although we have had three lockdowns in the past two years, it does not mean that our clergy and lay staff have stopped working. In fact, they have been called on for pastoral care more often in stressful situations brought on by the pandemic. As Bishop, my responsibility is to be the Pastor to the clergy and congregations. So I ask that our vestries and parish councils grant this mini-sabbatical as a pastoral response so that our clergy and lay staff be given the time they need to rest and renew. This has happened in other dioceses and churches, and this is something I know will be of benefit to those who take it.

In addition, I will engage with those with expertise in wellness, self-care, and mental health to assist in providing resources and days of awareness for the Diocese, which hopefully will help all those who need it. We are a family, we are responsible for each other, and when one member suffers, the whole family suffers. So, let's do better for each other and serve others as if we serve Christ himself.

## **Hold Fast**

The Scriptural Theme for this Diocesan Synod is "*Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering,*" from Hebrews 10:23a. Many of us have heard the phrase "Hold Fast NL" throughout this pandemic as a call for us to remain diligent and hopeful in the face of COVID-19. The Letter to the Hebrews encourages us to hold fast to the hope we have in Jesus Christ. Unlike the things which fade away when challenge or adversity threatens us, the one true constant that we can cling to is Christ - the foundation on which the Church is built.

We have been speaking of how the Diocese must change to meet the needs of a rapidly changing world for many years now and through various Synods. In May 2019, the Venerable Gregory Mercer began his ministry at Synod Office as the Diocesan Mission Archdeacon following the Synod of November 2018. Archdeacon Greg started to build a team to implement the missional plan of the Diocese. Plans and people were in place to begin this vital work only for everything to be put on hold less than a year later, in March 2020, by the COVID-19 pandemic. Like many other institutions, we went into survival mode.

Diocesan funds earmarked for implementing new missional strategies and restructuring had to be diverted to meet the immediate needs of assisting parishes through payroll support for our clergy and employees. I remember a few days after we went into lockdown, we received our first call from a Parish that they would need help in paying their clergy. It was that quick. We learned to adapt to closed church buildings with very little notice and moved to be an online faith community. Ministries in the Diocese such as the Mission Archdeacon, Resource Centre,

Lavrock, Hospital Chaplaincy and others were either ended or reduced. Almost half of our parishes could not contribute their Diocesan assessment, and the Diocese could not meet our financial obligations to the National Church. Parishes that usually had full-time stipendiary ministry made difficult choices in reducing to half-time or less for clergy. We had to sell our Diocesan office for over 40 years at 19 King's Bridge Road. This pandemic has challenged not only our Diocesan identity but ourselves as the family of God.

As a Diocese, we are indebted to the Rev. Christopher Fowler, who worked tirelessly, and with a pastoral heart to put together our Diocesan COVID-19 reopening plan *Many Members, One Body* and subsequently *The New Has Come* and all other guidance around gathering safely in our Church buildings. Despite her excellence and expertise in many areas of COVID-19, the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Janice Fitzgerald (who will be receiving an Honorary Doctorate from our own Queen's College this Spring), is not a liturgist. It was Rev. Chris who took the medical directives and language and reworked them into church practice. Because of his assistance, we continued offering pastoral services such as baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals in a safe way. Thank you, Christopher, for all you have done for us over the past two years.

Also, I thank all our clergy and lay leaders who worked tirelessly in ensuring that the protocols were implemented and kept all people safe when we gathered. Bless you, for your care and diligence in these past two years. We know there were challenges in offering online worship and maintaining safe spaces in our churches. Yet, God equipped us with the gifts needed to be the Church in COVID times. And we have learned much about what being the Church means when such an extraordinary crisis prevents us from living out our baptismal ministry in normal circumstances.

But COVID has changed us. As Bishop, it is clear to me that things will not be going back to the way they were before. We cannot go back because not only has the Diocese changed, but we also have changed as God's family. That is why, amid all this change and uncertainty, we are called to hold fast to the one that is certain and secure. We hold fast to Christ - the foundation on which the Church is built. When things we have grown accustomed to are suddenly changed or taken away, what do we have left except Christ on which our faith and hope are built? And when we hold fast to this hope "*without wavering*," we find strength and energy to do the impossible things we think we can't do ourselves. For with God working in and through us, we know that "*all things are possible to those who believe*." (Mark 9:23)

## **A Way Forward**

At this Synod, we will hear a presentation on the document, *A Way Forward*. This report is a snapshot of our current financial picture since 2016. I want to thank the members of this Finance sub-committee: Archdeacon Charlene Taylor, Chancellor Canon Brad Wicks, Mr. Gerry Beresford, Finance Officer Mr. Fred Dinham, Mr. Bruce Tilley, and Canon Elizabeth Barnes. Much work went into gathering this information, and I thank those who helped contribute to its creation. This information should not surprise anyone, especially if you are actively involved in parish leadership.

Before the pandemic forced us into lockdown and institutional survival, we were on course to implement the 2018 Report of the Commission on Parish Renewal and Viability entitled, *Surviving or Thriving: The Future of the Church in the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and*

*Labrador*. This important document was received and passed at Synod in November 2018, and work began in earnest in 2019. Of course, we know what happened just over a year later. I asked each delegate of this Synod to read this Report in addition to *A Way Forward*, as both are necessary companions on our journey together as a Diocese. To be clear, the pandemic did not shelve the Commission's Report and the work that had begun; it only paused it. As your Bishop, it is my full intention to keep *Surviving or Thriving* and the excellent work of Synod 2018 before us.

I remind you of some key findings of the Commission:

- *Institutional Christianity is in decline*. Fewer people are attending church than ever before, and thus there are less resources to keep church infrastructure operational. The bottom line is that we do not have enough Anglicans, and we have too many buildings.
- *Sustainability is more than about money*. For any organization to be sustainable, it has to have a purpose and a vision. The old expression, "where there is no vision, the people perish," is valid for a reason. Churches (and I would include dioceses) preoccupied with maintaining their existence find it increasingly difficult to focus on mission and live according to their vision and values. The bottom line is that the more unmanageable infrastructure we have, there is less time and resources for mission.
- *Leadership is vital from both the laity and clergy*. Without leaders willing to work together and put mission and vision ahead of self-interest, the institutional Church will continue to decline. Christian Leadership should not be about asking, "What's best for me?" but, "What's best for my neighbour?" The bottom line is that if we are going to make all this work, it will take more than just the clergy or more than just the laity. It means working together, side by side, as we all follow where God leads us even in these uncertain times.

The recommendations of the Commission, which passed at Synod 2018, provided a solid framework to becoming a more missional Diocese and a more missional people. I know that mission, viability, and sustainability are loaded terms with different meanings for us Church folk. We can spend countless Synods debating what mission is and what being missional means, but perhaps there is a more straightforward understanding. In my search for how to guide us in the journey ahead, I thank Archbishop Michael Curry, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, who said it best, "*If it's not about love, it's not about God.*"

If all of our planning, decisions, actions, and strategies do not reflect God's love for this world, then we have ceased being God's Church. If it is about the leaky Church roof more than about the hungry person in the neighbourhood, *it's not about love, and it's not about God.*

If it's our concern to keep a parish hall open more than those people who are sleeping out in the cold, then *it's not about love, and it's not about God.*

And if it's just to keep a Bishop in employment while people on minimum wage or less have to use food banks to feed their families, *then it's not about love, and it's not about God.*

Our mission is not to maintain physical structures at the expense of human lives. Before COVID, we had plans to restructure the Diocese to free up energy and resources to engage more strongly in missional ministry and improve efficiency in operations. As I said, COVID paused this plan. As your Bishop, I ask us to pick up this vital work again.

## **Building the Team**

In two weeks or less, I will be announcing a new Cathedral Chapter whose work will be implementing our Diocesan Plan from 2018 and the outcome of this Synod 2022. Therefore, I am dissolving the current Cathedral Chapter and removing all titles and responsibilities from its members. I thank each person who has served faithfully since 2019 for their leadership and ministry in the Diocese.

To facilitate the change we will need, within the new Cathedral Chapter, I will be appointing three clergy to be Mission Archdeacons, one for each Territorial Archdeaconry. I am appointing three other clergy as Mission Canons of the Diocese to assist them. These Mission Archdeacons and Mission Canons will build teams of laity and clergy in their respective Archdeaconry to help get us back on track.

Once the new Cathedral Chapter is announced in two weeks or less, I will gather them together to determine the best route to take in each Archdeaconry in resuming conversations in the parishes around restructuring and mission in our Diocese. I am thankful that our former Diocesan Mission Archdeacon, the Venerable Greg Mercer, has offered to assist the new Chapter by sharing his experience and previous work, which, unfortunately, was cut short by the pandemic.

This new Chapter, along with the teams that are built, will help guide our Diocese in the way forward for the next three years, focusing on missional growth and viability. This will take a concerted effort. Some of you watching right now might be asked to be part of this Diocesan Mission Team to help build a future for this Diocese. If you are, you have been invited because someone sees gifts in you to help the whole Church. We need you. God is calling you to serve. Don't think you have nothing to offer because God has already given us everything we need to do the task. The Way is before us, there is a Plan to guide us, and God is with us.

I will be directing the Executive and Finance Committees of the Diocese to send quarterly reports to every parish keeping our whole family updated on our Diocesan finances and ministry decisions made to enable mission and ministry to continue. I am also requesting that every Vestry submits to the Executive Officer, Archdeacon Charlene Taylor, an entire cost inventory of the properties in their congregations. As Bishop, I want to know how much money we spend on maintaining our buildings and lands in the Diocese for 2021. I am seeking this exchange of financial information to assist us in our conversations around restructuring and improving efficiency both on the parish and Diocesan levels. I will be writing to each Vestry with more specific details about this inventory soon after Synod, but I request this information be forwarded by April 30, 2022.

I hope that when we reconvene as Synod later this Fall, we will hear updates on how the Diocese is proceeding in our conversations together. During the lockdown, I was delighted to see parishes share in worship and other outreach activities during the pandemic. We already have parishes that have joined together to share the ministry of a priest. And there are so

many different possibilities that await. I look forward to seeing more tangible examples of coming together as a Diocesan Family as we move forward in mission and ministry.

## **God's Family**

I know many people are wondering, "*Bishop, where are we going in this Diocese?*"

Well, I offer you a personal story to illustrate what I hope for us as a Diocesan Family. Several years ago, my wife and I had a discussion about asking her parents to consider sharing a house together. I remember Jill and I sitting down with them, and, to be honest, the first conversation didn't go as well as we had hoped. They weren't ready. And we didn't thoroughly think it through ourselves. But a seed was planted. Over time, we had more conversations about the pros and cons of sharing a home. There were the obvious cost savings of utilities and property taxes, but there were also concerns about our independence and bringing two families under a single roof. Would it work? What will I have to give up? But the more we talked and prayed about it, the more comfortable we became with seeing that what was best for us was to sell our homes and come together in a new house. So we did.

It didn't take too long before we realized that all the worries and concerns were nothing compared to the joy of being a larger family together. Yes, we both still maintain our own identities. We each have our own entrances. Sometimes, I have to turn down the TV because it's too loud. And, it's great to have only one snowblower and a Father-in-Law who loves to clear the driveway. But there are true blessings by being together. For family celebrations such as birthdays and holidays, we gather for a big meal and spend time together. But, the absolute joy for my wife and me is when our two teenage children can go downstairs to spend time with their grandparents. From their Grandma and Grandpa, our children are learning their family history and hearing the stories about their roots. They are learning from their Grandparents things that will help them grow into adults and, God willing, in the future, will pass this on to their children. You see, we didn't lose anything by sharing a home; we actually gained a fuller understanding of what being a family is all about.

That is my prayer and hope for us, my dear Diocesan Family. Some of us aren't ready yet. Some of us can't wait for things to happen. Some are uncertain about where God is leading us. So in our conversations as a Diocesan family, please let the love of God be our guide.

## **The Marks of Mission**

I am fully aware that this Synod will spend much of the time talking about ourselves and not the world's needs. I believe that if it weren't for COVID, we would be more focused on where God is calling us to respond, primarily modelled after the *Five Marks of Mission*:

- *To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom*
- *To teach, baptize and nurture new believers*
- *To respond to human need by loving service*
- *To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation*
- *To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth*

Despite COVID, our clergy and people did their best to ensure that the vulnerable were cared for through our Refugee sponsorship program and supporting food bank ministries. We continue to be blessed by the ministry of Home Again Furniture Bank, which, like many of us, found a way through the pandemic to deliver furniture to those in need. Our Hospital Chaplains exercised a vital frontline ministry, which often meant that they would be the only visitor in the room of a person in palliative care offering prayers at the time of death. We engaged others in worship and evangelism through an enhanced online presence in ways that were not possible before. I believe this digital ministry must continue in new ways and not be limited to sharing our worship services. I recently attended an online webinar on Mental Health offered by the Diocese of Fredericton, New Brunswick, which showed me the possibilities for our Diocese. These, and many other examples, show that although many things had to stop, our mission in serving God continued during the pandemic.

Yet, there are other examples of where we need to grow in mission and ministry as God's people. Our relationship with our Indigenous Relatives in our Diocese is one area I hope will become more intentional. I believe that starts by listening and including their voices in our conversations as a Church. To that end, I will be appointing an Indigenous member of our Diocese to serve as the first Canon for Indigenous Ministries in our Cathedral Chapter. I hope to be with our Church Family of St. Timothy's in Rigolet, Labrador, to share in prayer and worship on the *National Indigenous Day of Prayer* on June 21st. As a Diocese, there is much we need to learn from our Indigenous Relatives as we continue the path of reconciliation and healing in our walk together as God's Family.

In 2019, our Diocese moved closer to fuller inclusion of all persons with the passing of Marriage Equality, making Holy Matrimony available to all committed couples who seek the Sacrament. I pray that we continue to strive to be more open and welcoming of all of God's people. Another voice I pray that this Church should become more intentional in hearing and listening is that of the LGBTQI2S community. I am grateful to Sydney Brouillard-Coyle (Ney/Nem/Nir), the Co-Chair for Proud Anglicans of the Diocese of Huron, for reaching out to all bishops in the Anglican Church of Canada and advocating for full inclusion of the LGBTQI2S community.

As Sydney wrote: *"Many queer and trans people ask ourselves if God hates us because of who we are. This is something that I have struggled with ever since coming out - trying to understand how my faith and my identity can co-exist and even affirm each other. Thus, my hope is that we can work to create a church and society where no one ever has to ask themselves this question - a place where everyone can feel safe, loved, and affirmed for who we are."* ([www.proudanglicans.diohuron.org/about-us/pages/who-we-are](http://www.proudanglicans.diohuron.org/about-us/pages/who-we-are))

Sydney, and so many others, are calling for the Church to become more loving and affirming of all of God's people. I look forward to hearing from and partnering with the LGBTQI2S Community in advocating this important ministry in our Diocese.

Other important issues such as ecological and social justice, care for creation, homelessness, advocating for a just living wage, food security, working for peace, to name just a few, are ones that affect us as a Church and people. As the Marks of Mission remind us, we are responsible for God's world and to each other as God's people. May God give us the gifts we need to grow in love and service to each other, especially those whose voices are excluded or ignored.

## The Way of Love

I direct your attention to an excellent ministry resource from the Episcopal Church called *The Way of Love*. I often searched for new resources to help parishioners grow in their faith and discipleship when I was in parish ministry. A Bishop is the rector of a really big parish called the Diocese. As we begin conversations around mission and restructuring, finding a way forward is fruitless unless love is our intention and motivation. And that love has to start with each one of us.

Developed by Archbishop Michael Curry, *The Way of Love* is intended for Christians who wish to grow spiritually and deepen their love of God and neighbour. *The Way of Love* is a way of life. It is more than a program or curriculum; it is an intentional commitment to a set of practices. It's a commitment to follow Jesus through seven spiritual actions: Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, Rest.

To quote Archbishop Curry, "*The Way of Love* is designed to be spare and spacious, so that individuals, ministry groups, congregations, and networks can flesh it out in unique ways and build a church-wide treasure trove of stories and resources. By entering into reflection, discernment and commitment around the practices of Turn – Learn – Pray – Worship – Bless – Go – Rest, I pray we will grow as communities following the loving, liberating, life-giving way of Jesus. His way has the power to change each of our lives and to change this world." (<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love/invitation/>)

I encourage you to look at this resource and consider adopting it in your local setting. All of it is free and available online with study guides and videos that can be used for Bible studies, vestries, ACW and Men's Associations, confirmation classes, and so much more. You can search online for "Episcopal Church The Way of Love" for the website and access the resources. It can help guide us in our conversations and allow us to go deeper into the heart of God's love for us, for God's Church and the world.

In all that we do, as Archbishop Michael says, "*If it's not about love, it's not about God.*"

## Rest Eternal Grant Unto Them, O Lord

Attached to this Charge are the Episcopal Acts since the Synod of 2018. In it are the names of those who are or were part of our Diocesan Family and of those who have passed this life and are in eternal rest. Of course, many of these Episcopal Acts are those of Bishop Geoff Peddle. As a Diocese, his ministry significantly shaped us to where we are today. In one of his Pastoral Letters to the Diocese, not long after the Synod of 2018, Bishop Geoff wrote:

*"I expect that the good work we begin today will continue for many years into the future. Let us be thorough and responsible in building upon the foundation we have been given, knowing that there will be others to come after us who will build upon our work. It is vital for us to carry out our responsibilities now to the best of our abilities so that the church renovations we pass to the next generation are not shoddy or substandard but built to the highest standard. I remind you that the workers who built those magnificent cathedrals in Europe, and indeed our own cathedral, laboured for decades and sometimes for centuries in their work. Those who began construction were often not alive by the time construction was complete. But they laboured in*

*faith, knowing that the great enterprise in which they were engaged was worthwhile and would one day be complete, bringing glory to God and creating an appropriate home for God's people. And so today, even if we cannot see the endpoint of our work, for that ending lies in God, let us build knowing that we are the workers appointed for this age with skills appropriate to the task at hand."* - Bishop Geoffrey Peddle, Pastoral Letter, February 28, 2019)

Bishop Geoff left us a lasting legacy to build upon the foundation of Christ's Church, and we thank God for that. This evening, I am wearing Bishop Geoff's Pectoral Cross, a gift from Kathy and her sons Adam and Ben when I became Bishop. I wear this Cross in honour of +Geoff and his faithful ministry. While I deeply miss him, I take comfort that he is at peace in the nearer presence of his Lord and Saviour. In remembering +Geoff and all the faithful departed, we pray the ancient prayer of hope: "*Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. Amen.*"

I want to extend my deepest appreciation to the team at Church House, who have, like many, have had to adapt and change due to the pandemic, including moving to a new office last year. Their service to the Diocese is a vital ministry that has greatly assisted the Church in this transition. I thank them for their partnership in the Gospel: Gail Brittain, Elizabeth Crisby, Fred Dinham, Darrin Gosse, the Rev. Fred Marshall, and The Ven. Charlene Taylor. I also recognize the important work and ministry of our Chancellor, Canon Bradford Wicks and our Planned Giving Consultant, Kevin Smith, who both bring tremendous gifts to our Diocesan Family.

### **Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?**

After calming the storm, Jesus said to the disciples, '*Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith? And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'*' (Mark 4:39-41)

In our fears and hopes about the future of this Diocese, let us never forget that God is, and always will be, with us. May we trust that by following Jesus, he will lead us through this and every storm we face. May the Spirit fill us with love and enable us to release the gifts we possess to build the Kingdom.

Let us hold fast to the confession of this hope without wavering and become the Church that God has always wanted us to be:

*"A listening, caring, creative people,  
A healing, giving and praying people  
Filled with the Spirit of love and grace,  
Your living Body here in this place."*

### **Hold Fast Anglican East Newfoundland and Labrador.**

Yours in Christ's love,  
The Rt. Revd. Samuel V. Rose (He/Him)  
Bishop  
Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador

**Episcopal Acts and Notifications**  
**November 12, 2018 – February 24, 2022**

**In Memoriam**

- The Rev. Sidney Payne – January 29, 2019
- The Rev. Canon Arnold Torraville – February 20, 2019
- Carrie Harding – mother-in-law, the late Rev. Peter Hammond – February 18, 2019
- Hazel Badcock – mother-in-law of the Rev. William Strong – March 7, 2018
- Enid Barrett – sister of Arch Young – April 10, 2019
- Bill Flynn – stepfather of the Rev. Nellie Thomas – April 27, 2019
- Eric Flynn - step-uncle of the Rev. Nellie Thomas – April 28, 2019
- William Earle – father of Deacon Robert Earle – May 14, 2019
- Marguerite Weir – mother of the Rev. Karen Donovan and sister to the Rt. Rev. Leonard Whitten – May 17, 2019
- Jeanette Taylor – sister-in-law of the Rev. Canon Sandra Tilley – May 27, 2019
- Maurice Pitman- father the Rev. Mary Meadus – August 19, 2019
- Katherine “Kay” Rodgers – sister of the Rev. Edward Samson – August 31, 2019
- Marjorie Loder – sister of the Rev. Jim Pollard – September 15, 2019
- Raymond Squires – father of the Rev. Eric Squires – October 9, 2019
- Frederick (Rick) Tessier- Anglican Prison Chaplain – October 15, 2019
- The Rev. Stella Mair Evans – November 5, 2019
- Marina Iris “Yvonne” Hicks -- mother-in-law of the Rev. Lisa Payne - November 7, 2019
- Roy Wareham -- husband of the Rev. Rowena Wareham and brother of the Rev. Alfred Wareham – November 13, 2019
- Robert Parrott – brother of the Rev. Fred Parrott - November 27, 2019
- Norma Marie Major – wife of the Rev. Canon Carl Major – December 1, 2019
- The Rev. Munden Waye – January 2, 2020
- Joan Kearley – widow of the late Rev. Rex Kearley – January 28, 2020
- Ethel Fowler – grandmother of the Rev. Christopher Fowler – January 30, 2020
- Arthur Roland Cuthbert Colbourne - brother of the Rev. Gerald Colbourne - February 23, 2020
- Kevin Payne – husband of the Rev. Rowena Payne - March 6, 2020
- Faith Nicolle – widow of the late Rev. Donald Nicolle and mother of the Rev. John Nicolle - March 7, 2020
- Art Squires - brother-in-law of the Rev. Canon Donald Morgan - April 4, 2020
- The Rev. Calvin Coates – April 22, 2020
- Edward Gerard Hogan - brother-in-law of the Rev. Keith Sheppard - April 28, 2020
- Esther Taylor – sister-in-law of the Rev. Canon Iliffe Sheppard and niece to the Rev. Canon Edward Keeping – June 20, 2020
- Ernest Budden – father-in-law of the Rev. Linda Budden - July 4, 2020
- The Rev. Edmund Chesley Lethbridge - July 11, 2020
- Georgina Jones - widow of the late Rev. Samuel Jones – August 27, 2020
- Janet Ann Hinton – daughter of the late Rev. Harold Hinton - September 16, 2020
- Maxfield Mate – brother of the Rt. Rev. Martin Mate - October 3, 2020
- Olive Rowena Cumby - mother-in-Law of the Rev. Linda Cumby - October 4, 2020

- The Rt. Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Peddle – October 8, 2020
- Wilson Hayward Williams - father-in-law of the Rev. Gail Williams. – October 12, 2020
- William (Bill) Strickland - husband of the Rev. Emeline Coffin-Strickland. – October 13, 2020
- Robert Wells - former Chancellor of the Diocese – October 28, 2020
- Evelyn Lethbridge – widow of the late Rev. Chesley Lethbridge – November 7, 2020
- Bella Gosse – mother of Commander, the Venerable Jennifer Gosse – December 5, 2020
- Violet Randell – sister of the Rt. Rev. Martin Mate – December 10, 2020
- Elizabeth Broaders - sister-in-law of the Rev. Jessie Broaders – February 13, 2021
- Michele (Pantin) Leboutillier – daughter of the Rev. Debbie Pantin – February 15, 2021
- Gordon Broaders - brother-in-law of the Rev. Jessie Broaders – February 16, 2021
- Rhodie Mercer – former Chancellor of the Diocese - March 7, 2021
- Carolyn Palmer – sister-in-law of the Rev. James Eveleigh – March 9, 2021
- John Edward Buffett – father of the Rev. Neil Buffett – April 12, 2021
- Eric Taylor – brother of the Rev. Canon Sandra Tilley – April 14, 2021
- William Abraham – brother of the late Rev. Charles Abraham and former Editor of Newfoundland Churchman/Anglican Life - May 15, 2021
- Gerald Horlick – brother of the Rev. Michael Horlick – May 22, 2021
- Frances Hallett – grandmother of Lorie and the Rev. Robert Cooke - June 24, 2021
- Harold Forward - uncle of the Rev. Roberta Woodman
- Jessie Cheater –wife of Arthur Cheater, former Diocesan Finance Officer - November 16, 2021
- Ronald Clarke – long-time Columnist for the Newfoundland Churchman/Anglican Life - January 1, 2022
- Robert Slaney - father-in-law of the Rev. Wayne Parsons - February 2, 2022

*Rest Eternal, grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. Amen*

## **Appointments**

- The Reverend Linda Cumby - Parish Administrator for the Parish of the Holy Cross effective January 1 to March 31, 2019
- The Ven. Samuel Rose - Commissary to the Bishop, Diocesan Executive Officer, Registrar and Secretary-Treasurer of Synod – January 17, 2019
- The Ven. Julie Brace - Territorial Archdeacon for the Archdeaconry of Labrador – January 17, 2019
- The Ven. Gregory Mercer - Diocesan Mission Archdeacon - January 17, 2019
- The Ven. Josiah Noel - Territorial Archdeacon for the Archdeaconry of Trinity-Conception-Placentia - January 17, 2019
- The Ven. Charlene Taylor - Territorial Archdeacon for the Archdeaconry of the Avalon - January 17, 2019
- The Ven. Roger Whalen - Diocesan Archdeacon and Rector of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist - January 17, 2019
- The Rev. Canon Dr. David Bell - Canon Theologian and Chair of the College of Deacons - January 17, 2019

- The Rev. Canon Edward Keeping - Hospital and Institutional Chaplaincy - January 17, 2019
- The Rev. Canon Amanda Taylor - Ministry to Children and Youth and Vocations – January 17, 2019
- The Rev. Canon Sandra Tilley - Congregational Development - January 17, 2019
- The Rev. Canon Gerald Westcott - Christian Spirituality - January 17, 2019
- Canon D. Bradford L. Wicks Q.C. - Chancellor and Diocesan Solicitor - January 17, 2019
- The Rev. Canon Dr. Leslie J. Francis - Honorary Distinguished Canon - January 17, 2019
- The Reverend Canon Iliffe - Relief Hospital Chaplain - January 17, 2019
- The Reverend David Pilling - Hospital Chaplain for St. Clare's, Miller Centre/DVA, Pleasantview Towers, and Waterford Hospital - January 20, 2019
- The Rev. Linda Cumby – Priest-in-Charge (Rector) Holy Cross, February 18, 2019
- The Ven. Ron Lee – Diocesan Archdeacon – February 24, 2019
- The Reverend Jolene Peters - Mission Dean of Conception Bay South and Northeast Avalon – February 28, 2019
- The Reverend Jonathan Rowe - Mission Dean of Mount Pearl/Goulds, – February 28, 2019
- The Reverend Christine Lynch - Mission Dean of Conception Bay North Central and Conception Bay North – February 28, 2019
- The Reverend Eli Evans - Mission Dean of Trinity Bay and The Isthmus– February 28, 2019
- The Rev. Irving Letto - Diocesan Archivist – April 1, 2019
- The Ven. Charlene Taylor – Acting Executive Officer – May 1, 2019
- The Ven. Gregory Mercer – Mission Archdeacon – May 1, 2019
- The Rev. Gail MacDonald – Priest-in-Charge – St. Thomas – May 1, 2019
- The Rev. Khaliah Kinkead-Dawkins – Vicar Missional, Cathedral – September 1, 2019
- The Rev. Eric Squires – Priest-in-Charge, Parish of Torbay, - July 28, 2019
- The Rev. Gail MacDonald – Rector– Parish of St. Thomas – September 22, 2019
- The Rev. Lisa Payne – Rector – Parish of the Holy Trinity – October 6, 2019
- The Rev. Neal Buffett - Priest-in-Charge - Parish of the Living Water - January 1, 2020
- The Rev. Beverly Buffett - Deacon-in-Charge - Parish of the Holy Spirit - January 1, 2020
- The Rev. Mark Nichols – Diocesan Creation Care Animator - January 1, 2020
- The Rev. Dale Careen - Deacon-in-charge – Parish of Bell Island - May 1, 2020
- The Rev. Christine Lynch - Priest-in-Charge (Rector) - Parish of Bay Roberts/Coley's Point - September 1, 2020
- The Rev. Darren Bell - Priest-in-Charge - Parish of the Upper Island Cove -September 1, 2020
- The Ven. Sam Rose - Diocesan Administrator – September 29, 2020
- The Ven. Sam Rose - Bishop Elect-November 28, 2020
- The Ven. Charlene Taylor - Diocesan Executive Officer and Episcopal Commissary - January 1, 2021
- The Ven. Gregory Mercer - Interim Priest-in-Charge - Parish of St. John the Evangelist, CBS – January 3, 2021

- The Rev. Fred Marshall - Interim Priest-in-Charge - Parish of New Hope, St. Paul's Goulds – January 3, 2021
- The Rev. Barbara Boone - Deacon in Charge – Parish of the Good Shepherd - January 15, 2021
- The Rev. David Burrows - Territorial Archdeacon of Avalon - March 1, 2021
- The Rev. Canon Gerald Westcott - Territorial Archdeacon of Trinity/Conception/Placentia - March 1, 2021
- The Rev. Canon Iliffe Sheppard - Priest-in-charge - Parish of the Holy Spirit - March 18, 2021
- The Ven. Josiah Noel – Priest-in-Charge - Parish of the St. John the Evangelist, Topsail, CBS - May 1, 2021
- The Rev. Roberta Woodman – Interim Priest-in-Charge - Parish of the Holy Trinity - May 1, 2021
- The Rev. Betty Harbin – Interim Priest-in-Charge - Parish of Spaniard's Bay - May 3, 2021
- The Ven. Charlene Taylor – Diocesan Administrator - September 1, 2021
- The Rev. Amber Tremblett – Deacon-in-Charge - Parish of Lake Melville - September 1, 2021
- The Rev. Debbie Pantin – Deacon-in-Charge - Parish of Holy Trinity - September 15, 2021
- The Rev. Scott Winsor – Priest-in-Charge - Parish of Upper Island Cove - October 1, 2021
- The Rev. Christopher Fowler – part-time Assistant to the Diocesan Administrator - October 1, 2021
- The Rev. Paul Thoms – Priest-in-Charge (Rector) – Parish of Port de Grave and Parish of St. Mark's, Shearstown/Butlerville (shared ministry) – January 1, 2022
- The Rev. Ken Penney - Priest-in-Charge - Parish of Spaniard's Bay - January 10, 2022
- The Rev. Donna Mercer, Priest-in-Charge - Parish of the Good Shepherd - January 15, 2022
- Mr. Peter Chalker - Diocesan Archivist - February 8, 2022

### **Ordained Deacon**

- The Rev. Neil Coffin – April 28, 2019
- The Rev. Dale Careen – March 2, 2020
- The Rev. Amber Tremblett – August 29, 2021
- The Rev. Debbie Pantin – September 21, 2021
- The Rev. Derrick Sheppard – December 11, 2021

### **Ordained Priest**

- The Rev. Lisa Payne – December 13, 2018
- The Rev. Beverly Buffett – March 3, 2020
- The Rev. Dale Careen – January 24, 2021

## **Ordained Bishop**

- The Rt. Rev. Samuel Rose – December 15, 2020

## **Church Consecrations**

- The Epiphany Church – January 6, 2019
- The Resurrection, South River - September 26, 2021
- St. Cyprian & St. Mary, Bell Island – October 3, 2021

## **Church Secularizations**

- St. Augustine's, New Perlican – February 7, 2019
- St. Luke's, Winterton – October 1, 2020
- St. Luke's, Placentia – October 19, 2020
- St. George's, North River – April 24, 2021

## **Dedication of Columbarium**

- 2019 Columbarium and 2020 Columbarium, Forest Road – October 15, 2019
- 2021 Columbarium, Forest Road – September 1, 2021

## **Resignations**

- The Rev. Scott Winsor – December 31, 2018
- The Rt. Rev. Cyrus Pitman – June 30, 2019
- The Rev. Jolene Peters – December 31, 2020
- The Rev. Beverly Buffett – January 15, 2021
- The Rev. Dale Careen – September 20, 2021
- The Rev. Emeline Coffin-Strickland – October 31, 2021
- The Rev. Robert Cooke – December 31, 2021

## **Retirements**

- Mr. Peter Chalker, Diocesan Archivist – December 31, 2018
- The Rev. Mark Nichols – June 30, 2020
- The Rev. Canon Sandra Tilley – December 31, 2020
- The. Ven. Gregory Mercer – April 30, 2021
- The Rev. Irving Letto - Diocesan Archivist – May 31, 2021
- The Rev. Nellie Thomas – August 31, 2021

## **Completed Contractual Appointments**

- The Rev. Ron Lee – April 30, 2020
- The Ven. Gregory Mercer – April 30, 2021
- The Rev. Roberta Woodman – September 15, 2021
- The Rev. Linda Budden – December 31, 2021

- The Rev. Betty Harbin – December 31, 2021
- The Rev. Barbara Boone – December 31, 2021

### **Inductions**

- The Rev. William Strong – Rector, St. Peter's, Upper Gullies – January 20, 2019
- The Rev. Gail Coley-Macdonald – Rector, St. Thomas' Church – September 22, 2019
- The Rev. Lisa Payne – Rector, The Holy Trinity – October 20, 2019
- The Rev. Randy Lockyer – Rector, St. Philip's – December 1, 2019
- The Rev. Linda Cumby – Rector, Holy Cross – September 12, 2021

### **Clergy entered the Diocese**

- The Rev. Eric Squires – July 28, 2019
- The Rev. Judith Squires (Deacon) – July 28, 2019
- The Rev. Neal Buffett – January 1, 2020
- The Rev. Beverly Buffett – January 1, 2020
- The Rev. Roberta Woodman – May 3, 2021

### **Clergy left the Diocese**

- The Rev. John Sparkes (Deacon) – January 21, 2019
- The Rev. Neil Coffin (Deacon) – November 1, 2019
- The Rev. Kenute Francis – April 12, 2020