

# CONNECTION

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Anglican Parish of Central Saanich

Number 32



## St. Mary Church

1973 Cultra Avenue,  
Saanichton, BC V8M 1L7

### Worship Services

#### Sundays

9:00 am Choral Eucharist & Sunday School

#### Second Sunday

7:00 pm Evening Prayer in the style of Taizé  
(September-November)

#### Wednesdays

10:00 am Holy Eucharist  
10:30 am Friendship Coffee  
11:00 am Bible Study  
(no Bible Study July & August)

Office: 250-652-1611 Hall: 250-652-7942  
Email: [stmarys.saanichton@shaw.ca](mailto:stmarys.saanichton@shaw.ca)  
Web: [www.ParishCS.ca](http://www.ParishCS.ca)



## St. Stephen Church

7921 St. Stephen Road,  
Saanichton, BC V8M 2C3

### Worship Services

#### Sundays

11:00 am Holy Eucharist  
and Church (Sunday) School

#### Fourth Sunday

11:00 am Praise & Worship  
in the Hall

#### Tuesdays

11:00 am Prayer Group

Office: 250-652-4311  
Email: [St.Stephens.Church@outlook.com](mailto:St.Stephens.Church@outlook.com)  
Web: [www.ParishCS.ca](http://www.ParishCS.ca)



## September 2019

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**Pastor:** Rev. Lon Towstego

**Assistant:** The Rev. Dr. Brett Cane



[www.ParishCS.ca](http://www.ParishCS.ca)

Anglican Parish of Central Saanich

St. Mary Church

St. Stephen Church

# Dates to Note

Our Parish website – [www.ParishCS.ca](http://www.ParishCS.ca) – is the best place to keep in touch with what is going on, but here are significant dates to note for the next three months.



- **Sept. 8th:** Taizé-style contemplative service at St Mary at 7:00 pm.

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- **Sept. 20th:** Slide show of Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Ethiopia by Brett Cane before and after “Soup’s On” at St Stephen.

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- **Sept. 27th & 28th:** Diocesan “We Together” Conference. For details see: <https://bc.anglican.ca/events/we-together/2019-09-27>

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- **Sept. 28th:** Thrift Sale at St Mary from 9:30 – Noon. See bulletin for donation drop off and set up times.

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- **Oct. 1st:** Supper Eucharist with learning circle to follow at St. Stephen at 5:00 pm.

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- **Oct. 2nd:** Slide show of Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Ethiopia by Brett Cane at 7:00 pm at St Mary. (Dessert Evening)

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- **Oct. 5th:** “94 Calls to Action” Workshop at St Stephen from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. See bulletin for details.

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- **Oct. 6th:** Rev. Dr Martin Brokenleg is the guest preacher at both Sunday services.  
Taizé-style contemplative service at St Mary at 7:00 pm. (Change due to Thanksgiving Holiday on Oct. 13th)

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- **Oct. 10th:** Clergy Day at St Mary.

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- **Nov. 2nd:** Great Gargantuan Gastronomic Garlic Gala at St Stephen from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

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- **Nov. 10th:** Taizé-style contemplative service at St Mary at 7:00 pm.

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- **Nov. 17th:** Combined confirmation service at St Mary at 10:00.

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- **Nov. 23rd:** Holly Fair at St Mary from 9:30 to 1:30 pm.

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- **Dec. 7th:** Advance notice for the Saanichton Community Christmas and breakfast with Santa at St Mary.

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### What does it mean to be Disciples of Christ?

#### A word from our bishop about what discipleship is:

*"Discipleship is a call and response. It is a call to live in a way and to be shaped by a lifestyle. Jesus calls us to live in relationship to kingdom values. Central to these values are the beatitudes. The beatitudes shape and form us as we seek to live as disciples and make the world a fairer and more just place."* Please look to [bc.anglican.ca/news/a-season-of-discipleship](http://bc.anglican.ca/news/a-season-of-discipleship) for the full text of this message.

#### I offer a Word from God for us:

*"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"* Micah 6: 8.

#### A Word from Lon:

One of the joys of being your parish priest is that I am called to live on the ground in the moment by moment life of the parish, in worship, pastoral care, administration, meetings, events and in stewardship in all of its forms, time, talents and finances. At the same time and not at all less critical is to live in the place of the Visionary or a Carrier of the Vision. I/we are called to be in the here and now and in the dreams, visions and exciting

things on the horizon. We are called to joy, to fun, to celebration and to very serious matters and all that is in between.

It is so exciting to realize that Marian and I have been with you for a full year now. The Parish of Central Saanich is a very exciting parish and I am constantly amazed at the giving of Time and Talents that I see and experience. I feel very much supported by our wardens and our Parish Council members day by day. I also wish to thank our retired clergy friends, The Ven. Bob Baillie, the Rev. Dr. Brett Cane and the Rev. Lorry Harrison for all your prayers and support. I also offer thanks and encouragement to our Postulant for Ordination to the Vocational Diaconate, Trish Stock. Thank you, Trish, as you bring your skills and enthusiasm to the life of our parish.

As God's disciples called in this time and place we are stewards of our human resources, sacred volunteer hours that so many offer, of the land, this amazing place where we are at the foot of ÁUWEL EW /John Dean Park (pronounced Tlay-will-nook), which translates to "place of refuge." Look at the following link regarding this name change: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wGA5FY8-xE&feature=youtu.be>.

Our Parish Council, our Transforming Futures Team and our Stewardship Team are working hard and prayerfully together to bring you information and seek your input. One way we are planning to do this is with several Open House events. More details will follow.

This will help us all see and hear what we discern that God is saying to us about the next five, ten, fifty or even one hundred years of church in this place. We search for ways to reach out to, connect with and hear the larger community in which we are. We look to engage a younger group of people in creative and exciting ways that are relevant to them. We do this by respecting tradition and at the same time welcoming and encouraging new ways of being church in the community. We offer and encourage nuanced faith that is the breadth of what it means to be

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Christian and Anglican. Recognizing and taking seriously the questions of life and of faith that people have starts with good listening. We learn to walk together.

A keystone of who we are and have seen ourselves as for many years is that of learners and teachers. To learn more about who God is and what God asks of us is a key part of this. As part of the Region of Haro and of the Diocese of Island and Inlets (BC) we have amazing resources, friends and other Christians to walk with.

On Tuesday October 1 at 5PM in the St. Stephen Hall we will hold our first Supper Eucharist with Learning Circle to follow. It is my hope that the group gathered will then help to plan moving forward. We will look to keep the theme consistent then on Wednesdays at St. Mary in the Bible Study Time. Mark your calendars and await more details.

I look forward to these opportunities to “hear the wisdom in the room”. We will ask various lay people and various clergy and others to share at different times. Lay leadership and participation are absolutely vital in all that we do. We will also look to use video teachings from theologians such as NT Wright and others!

The rest of 2019 and 2020 promise to be exciting times in the life of the parish and of our larger church. I invite you to walk in unity with open hearts and radical hospitality! I pray for courage, the joy of Christ and the peace of God that passes human understanding be with each of us.

***The Rev. Lon Towstego***

PS I am saddened to report the untimely death of Carter Logan Bonsdorf, Grandson of Bishop Logan and Marcia; Son of Tanisha and Alan; brother of Declan. Please uphold the family in your prayers at this time. ***Lon+***

### **Diocesan News: Ordinations and more!**

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- The Ordination of Deacons + The Ordination of Matthew Humphrey to Deacon-in-Transition: Friday, September 20, 2019, 7:00pm at Christ Church Cathedral
- 
- The Ordination of The Rev. Dyan Davison to the Priesthood: Friday, November 1, 2019 @ 4:00pm at St. Mary the Virgin, Oak Bay
- 
- The Ordination of The Rev. Ruth Dantzer to the Priesthood: Saturday, November 16, 2019 @ 3:00pm at UVic Interfaith Chapel, Victoria
- 
- The Rev. Grant Croswell was received into the Anglican Communion from the Roman Catholic Tradition to Exercise his Vocation as an Anglican Priest on August 18, 2019.
- 
- The 94 Calls to Action Workshop. Presented by the Diocesan Reconciliation and Beyond Team: Saturday, October 5, 2019 from 9:30 am-4:00 pm in the Parish of Central Saanich at St. Stephen Hall. As Rev. Lon Towstego is one of the Co-chairs and presenters, please RSVP by email to [ltowstego@bc.anglican.ca](mailto:ltowstego@bc.anglican.ca) and or use signup sheets available at both St. Mary and St. Stephen. All of us are invited and encouraged to attend this diocesan event in our parish!
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- The We Together Pre-Conference Retreat; Speakers Pádraig Ó Tuama & Logan McMenamie: September 25 - 27, 2019 at Bethlehem Centre, Nanaimo. For more details and registration please visit the following link and or see Trish Stock as she is Chair of the Organizing Team: <https://bc.anglican.ca/events/we-together-conference/2019-09-27>
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*The team's goal is to seek input from the congregations on our way forward to our vision of Transforming Futures.*

**A**t the Annual General Meeting of the Parish of Central Saanich in Feb. 2019, a motion passed confirming the appointment of a Transforming Futures Team. What is Transforming Futures? It is about the vision of carrying the mission of the Diocese of BC forward with three main areas of focus; Faith in Action, Faith in Formation and Faith in Foundation.

The vision for this work began 2014 and was brought forward as the Vision Fund in 2015. The Vision Fund has provided seed money for over 50 projects across the Diocese, including project money for several undertakings in the Parish of Central Saanich, Soups-on and the Children's Summer Bible Camps. The next steps along the path that God has put before us is to recognize the generosity of God flows through us, as we gather our first fruits and grow and prosper together in His glory working on our own locally inspired Vision Project(s). The ultimate goals of Transforming Futures are to strengthen the Parish of Central Saanich, raise up and nurture, present and future leaders in our churches, while we work on reimagining what it means to be "Church" within our local communities.

The Transforming Futures team has been hard at work since March on the visioning and discernment processes of what projects may best suit our Parish and our communities. The team has met regularly (sometimes twice per month) and has reported back to Parish Council on our activities to date. We have been fortunate to have Brendon Neilson, the Diocesan Vision Animator, join us for several meetings as well as a short visit with Bishop Logan at our last meeting.

The team will meet later this month as we prepare project information for Open Houses at both churches in the Parish in September. The team's goal is to seek input from the congregations on our way forward to our vision of Transforming Futures.

After our Open House meetings, the Team will assemble the input from the congregations and work toward the production of a formal Transforming Futures Project presentation and fund-raising goals. These will be presented at a formal meeting of the Parish Vestry for approval.

On behalf of all Team members I wish to offer our thanks to both congregations for your patience and generous spirit as we work towards our transformed future.



## *An optimist by nature*



Great granddaughter Addy and Sybil

*“He was a great father.  
He made each of his  
children believe that he or  
she was his favourite!”*

A real Prairie girl, Sybil was born in Winnipeg in 1942. Her siblings included a twin sister who looked “totally different from me, slim and with olive skin” and a younger sister and brother. She first lived in an older residential area and remembers a number of neighbourhood women encircling a massive old heritage tree that bisected a nearby street. They stopped the city workers when they came to cut it down.

She feels blessed to have had a very stable upbringing within a loving family. Her father immigrated to Canada from county Tipperary in 1923 having been sponsored for a job at the T. Eaton Company by his uncle, Harry McGee who was one of the Vice Presidents. He worked for the company for 49.3 years, tenure almost unheard of these days. “He was a great father. He made each of his children believe that he or she was his favourite! He was a friend to many and just a lovely person.” Her twin sister, younger sister and Sybil all worked at Eatons during their high school years.

Her mother’s family, originally from Scotland, were Empire Loyalists who first settled in the Southern Carolina’s then moved to New Brunswick during the American Revolution in 1776. Her mother, a pragmatic, matter of fact person taught Sybil to never allow someone else to speak up for her. “Always stand up for yourself.” Her mom lead a school strike when the school board wanted to replace the high school’s beloved and competent principal with a relative of one of the school board’s members. The result was – the principal was reinstated.

When she was five, her family moved to Wildwood Park, a new residential neighbourhood that was developed in an experimental way, without busy through streets and with houses connected mainly by walkways. It became a close-knit, cohesive community with a diverse range of families and backgrounds. She loved growing up there and as an adult with her own family, became President of the Community Club.

Her family belonged to St. Paul’s Anglican Church and attended regularly. Sybil met her husband Ted there when she was 17 and he was 21. He had recently come from Northern Manitoba and joined the choir. Sybil thought, “He’s pretty cute” and decided to join the choir too. He was her Prom date at her high school graduation party, they were engaged when she was 20 and married when she was 21 in May 1963, with the choir singing at their wedding.

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## Parishioner Profile *continued*



Ted and Sybil, December 2010

After high school, Sybil began to work at the Bank of Montreal. After her marriage when she became pregnant, she was told she would have to leave as the bank would not allow pregnant women to work once they began to “show.” Her first child, Tim was a “honeymoon baby,” born nine months and 17 days after their wedding. “In those days, people counted!” One month after he was born, Sybil and Ted moved to the Pas for a job in career counseling with the Federal Government. His position was assisting people who needed extra help finding employment.

This was coming home for Ted, whose family lived there and had a cottage at Clearwater Lake, 25 miles away where family and friends tended to congregate. He was from a family of nine children, so there were a lot of people at family events! Daughter Lindsay was born in April 1966, keeping Sybil busy on the home front with two children. She found she enjoyed living in a small town where they made friends quickly through their involvement in church, Kinsman club and other local activities. Ted again sang in the choir. “It was a great community.”

Despite loving the Pas, Ted was offered a different position in his field with the Federal Government in Calgary, running a special program for marginalized people, who required employment assistance. They bought their first house, joined the local church and Newcomers Club. Sybil learned to play bridge and Ted began sailing lessons. During this time Sybil was “a stay-at-home mom.”

They were not in Calgary long before Ted was offered a job back in Winnipeg in 1967 as Manager of the Choices Program for Western Canada, a Federal Government program. Ted, with his Master of Social Work degree, worked his entire career helping those having difficulty finding useful employment. Stacy was born in 1970 with an A-typical Spina Bifida condition. It affected her mainly in the orthopedic and urinary areas. She was able to walk, albeit with some difficulty. According to Sybil, Stacy had an indomitable spirit and a loving nature. “Everyone she met, loved her. Stacy never let anything, or anyone stop her from doing what she knew she could do. She touched many lives.”

In 1975 when her children were sufficiently grown up, Sybil decided to re-enter the work force as a ward clerk at Winnipeg’s Victoria General Hospital. She then became the first woman life insurance agent for Manulife but found selling life insurance was not a good fit. She obtained a General Insurance License and worked part time for a number of years at a local office. In



Stacy’s Family; Hamish, Connor, Warwick and Stacy



## Parishioner Profile *continued*

1982 she was encouraged by Ted to take nursing at the Health Sciences Centre (HSC), something she had always wanted to do. After completing two credits at the University of Winnipeg she was accepted into the nursing program at HSC. She graduated in 1985 and worked for three and a half years on the Gyne/Oncology ward at the Women's Centre.

In February 1988 she went to a conference in Vancouver. "It was 9 above there, and 40 below in Winnipeg!" After some research, she and Ted decided that Vancouver Island had much more sun than Vancouver and would be a better place to live. Since their youngest daughter, Stacy was finishing high school, it was the perfect opportunity to make a change. They sold their house and moved to Victoria within ten months, moving to the Island in October 1988.

Tim, Ted, Stacy, Sybil & Lindsay, 2011



Lindsay and granddaughter Paige, 2011

They arrived at Swartz Bay ferry terminal on their way to Duncan. They stopped at St. Mary's church and saw Ken and Leslie Pedlow working outside, pulled over and asked directions to the ferry. Their first home in Victoria was on Bella Vista Drive, later sold to David Cooper.

Sybil worked initially at Victoria General Hospital. She then became the first RN Supervisor for Home Support for Peninsula Community Association, later Beacon Services. She found her "fit", loving the work in the small organization where there was good continuity of care for clients and a warm working environment. She left when Beacon Services became much larger and less able to offer clients the kind of continuity that Sybil valued.

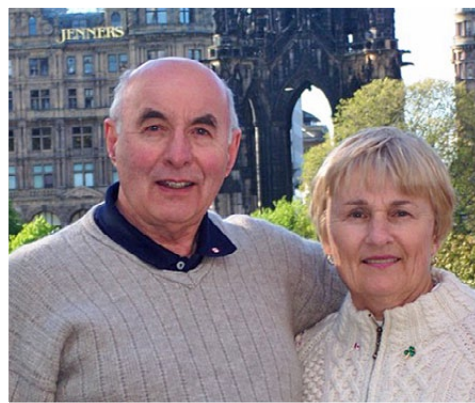
Her last job was quite unique and one she enjoyed immensely. She worked as a Charge nurse with the Victoria Chinatown Care Centre, caring for Chinese seniors from 1998 to 2008. Despite language barriers, she learned so much about the culture and was able to communicate by touch and warmth.

She and Ted remained involved with the Anglican church, first at Brentwood Chapel, then at St. Mary's in the early 90's, however while working in Chinatown on weekends often attended Evensong at the Cathedral. They also attended Holy Trinity for a number of years after she retired but returned to St. Mary's when Ted's health declined in 2015.

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## Parishioner Profile *continued*



Ted and Sybil in the UK, 2006

Sybil has lived a very satisfying life, enjoying her family and volunteering in a variety of ways. In Winnipeg she was one of the Founding Members of the Fort Gary Family Life Program, a non-profit organization that connected families with local programs. She was also President of the Wildwood Community Association and assisted in organizing the 40th Anniversary of Wildwood Park. Most recently she was on the Board of Directors for the South Island Centre for two years.

She and Ted sponsored a number of foreign students from Japan and China. Daughter Stacy followed suit by doing the same. Sybil loves to knit and estimates she has likely knitted over 200 children's sweaters and too many socks to count. She likes to read, particularly historical fiction and enjoys listening to classical music, walking and camping with her family.

Her life took a turn in 2008 when Ted was found to have cardiac disease and Alzheimer's disease. He had lived with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma since 1998 with no active impairment. Then in 2012 her twin sister died after a long bout of cancer. She was coping with this and the care of Ted, but then the worst blow of all happened. Her beloved daughter Stacy, who had overcome her disability with such grace, had married and had two "miracle babies," was diagnosed with cancer in 2015. She died thirteen months later at the age of 46 in February 2016, just three months before her dad Ted's death on May 16, 2016.

I was amazed while interviewing Sybil for this article that she seemed to be managing so well after so many recent losses. She describes herself as basically optimistic, and says her twin sister Susan, Ted and Stacy would want her to go on living a good life, so she does so in honour of them. She described the recent service burying Ted's ashes as a healing event. This was held at the family cottage just north of The Pas. Sybil's son Tim and daughter Lindsay plus a sister and brother-in-law buried the ashes at a spot they knew he would enjoy. In particular, Ted had loved rocks, so they found an unusual one and placed it on top.

Sybil feels fortunate to have a warm close family life. Son Tim and his wife Virginia moved to Brentwood Bay about a year after his dad and sister died to live close by. Her daughter Lindsay lives in Victoria. Three grandchildren, Paige, Connor and Hamish are all in their twenties and supportive of her. She sees her great-granddaughter, Adelyn Stacy Marie Gabriel (Addy), aged 17 months as Stacy's legacy. She is clear that the most important things for her in life are her faith, family and friends. We are fortunate to have such a strong, caring person in our Parish.

## Outline & Highlights of my 2019 Spring & Summer Trip



Leading a retreat on the Riviera!

Library Staff



*Dear friends in the Parish of Central Saanich,*

**M**any, many thanks for all your prayers for me once again, during my major trip abroad this year – I was away for 99 days, April 20-July 27. I am going to follow a similar reporting format to that used in previous years.

### Outline of trip

I visited (or at least set foot in!) nine different countries, slept in 25 different beds, and flew on 21 different flights! The purpose of the trip was two-fold:

### Ministry

- Leading a retreat for Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Cannes, France (there was no Bristol Theological Colleges tour of the Holy Land this year)
- Preaching at and leading services for four Sundays at St. Matthew's Anglican Church in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, teaching for a week at St. Frumentius' Theological College, Gambella, Ethiopia, and speaking at the graduation dinner for the Geja Kale Hiwot Bible College in Addis.

### Touring

- Visiting family and friends in various locations in Canada and the UK/Europe
- A "spa holiday" in Morocco and sight-seeing trips (England, Northern Ireland, Sicily, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bulgaria and Switzerland)

### Highlights

**St. Matthew's Library:** I am happy to report that the St. Matthew's, Addis Ababa, Library Project our parish supports which serves children from the neighbouring shantytown is doing well. We contribute about a quarter of the annual funding required. Updated statistics are as follows: 800 children are registered with 100 visits per day in ordinary time and 150 during exams. They are served by two staff, Mihret (full time) and Ibrahim (half-time). The library is open 8-8, Monday-Friday. In addition, 20 children benefit from the daily breakfast program. A new dimension to the ministry this past year has been giving the children an opportunity to learn about what it means to follow Jesus. During my time in Ethiopia,

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## Cane's Corner *continued*



**Top:** Spa Hotel

**Above:** Devon cream tea – jam first or second?

the government shut down the internet during exams to avoid any distraction to students...an interesting tactic!

**Spa Holiday in Morocco:** I began my overseas journey with a week at a spa hotel in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains – an amazing deal, the seven ladies and I enjoyed a week of exercise, good food and spa treatments.

**Visiting and touring in Europe:** In the UK, I was introduced to the stunning beauty of Devon's north coast while spending a week at Lee Abbey, a Christian community and conference centre. Regular visits with family and friends were enhanced by the presence of my sister who came from Montreal to celebrate our aunt's 90th birthday in the Lake District. In Northern Ireland I was able to visit St. Patrick's burial site at Down Cathedral. My ninth visit to Sicily was again a delight, renewing acquaintances and enjoying my annual feasting on low-yeast pizza and many-flavoured sorbets. In Switzerland, my visit was augmented by a trip to picturesque Lucerne where I found I could buy a watch for only CAD\$92,000!

**Retreat in France:** Driving from the UK to southern France to lead a retreat for the Anglican chaplaincy of Holy Trinity, Cannes, gave me the opportunity to experience travel by car through the channel tunnel. You drive onto the train at the back end and keep on driving until you reach near the front; when your carriage fills up with cars, the doors close and after all are filled, you are then whisked to Calais in 20 minutes and drive off at the front. A day visit to Cannes to connect with scenes from

*continued on page 12*



Retreat site in Provence - Village of Flayosc



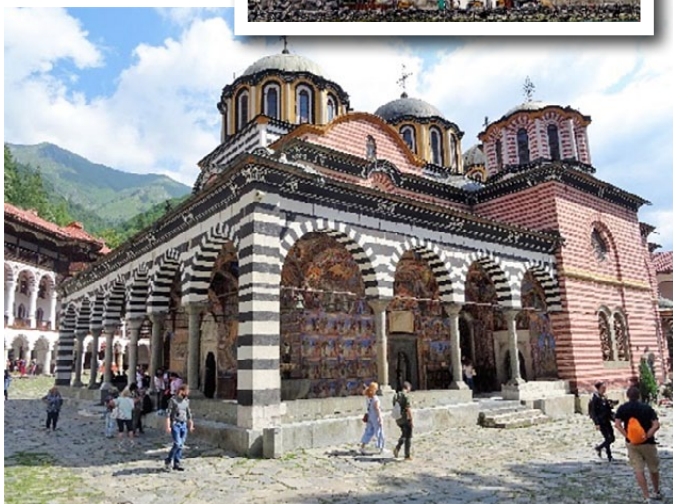


With some of the students  
in Gambella



Burj el Arab, Dubai

Rila Monastery



the movie, “Mr. Bean’s Holiday” was followed by a good time at the retreat in the beautiful hills above the Riviera in Provence.

**Ethiopia:** During my three+ weeks here I spent six days at our theological college in the western province of Gambella teaching the third and final intensive week of my “Anglican Studies” course. This year I had eleven ministerial students from six different ethnic groups learning about Anglican history, spirituality, doctrine and organization. A major “coincidence” occurred mid-week when, due to ethnic unrest, my teaching had to be readjusted by combining my last two days in one and teaching the material twice to two separate groups. Miraculously, the previous night (not knowing the situation), I had decided to prepare for both days. In addition, in previous years my flight back left early on the Friday afternoon but this year, I had a Saturday morning flight for first time thus giving me the whole of Friday that I needed to finish the course! Back in Addis, I took services on four Sundays and was also introduced to a group of Christian leaders who want to learn more about Anglicanism thus opening up the possibility of teaching my course in Addis next year.

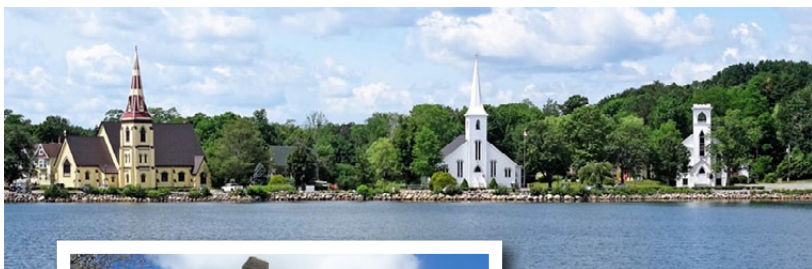
**Dubai and Abu Dhabi:** As a graduate architect, I was looking forward to visiting these two city-states in the United Arab Emirates with their amazing buildings. I was not disappointed! The two hundred+ skyscrapers rising from the desert in Dubai (including the tallest building in the world – the Burj Khalifa (829.8 m/2,722 ft) are a breath-taking collection of ingenuity and creativity. Abu Dhabi’s Ferrari (drive around a circuit in one) and Warner Bros. (one billion \$) theme parks are equally amazing. July is not the best month to visit, but I survived the 40+ degree heat!

**Bulgaria:** Arriving in Sofia, the capital, immediately after visiting the cities of the UAE was no let-down. To stay in the centre of a pedestrian-friendly city where I could walk to all the major sites was most pleasant. Roman ruins abound and day trips to the enchanting city of Plovdiv and the stunning Rila monastery were most worth-while.

**Canada:** As always, I take advantage of flying east to connect with family and friends in the rest of the country. This year, I spent Easter in Edmonton before going on to

*continues of page 13*

## Cane's Corner *continued*



**Top:** The three churches of Mahone Bay, NS

**Above:** Mill in Lower Slaughter, Cotswolds

Montreal. On the way back, I flew to Halifax for a family wedding and spent time with friends there and in New Brunswick. I discovered that this is a wonderful way to minimize jetlag by coming home in two stages!

**“Coincidences”:** In 2017, I reported on three encounters that were amazing coincidences –

this past trip, there were eight! All involved being in a particular location at a precise time – another spot or minutes before/after, they would not have happened.

- Three involved unexpected encounters with family or friends in England
- Two involved meeting Canadians with whom I had a connection - Montrealers in the Cotswolds and a lady from Saanichton in the Lake District
- In Gambella, pre-arrangements anticipated unforeseen readjustments due to ethnic unrest (see above)
- The final two involved getting an unexpected ride from a stranger in

Addis and Ethiopian friends of mine meeting up in Cannes the week before my retreat with the organizers and realizing they knew me in common!

As in 2017, my only conclusion to the meaning of these amazing encounters is that God wanted to let me know he is in loving and wise control in the midst of all the complexities of life in general and my travels in particular!

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### Slide Shows

Once again, my intention is that people will have opportunities to hear more about my trip by seeing slide shows in the coming months. They include the following:

- Dubai and Abu Dhabi (with Ethiopia update)
- Bulgaria and Switzerland
- Morocco, France and Sicily
- England and Northern Ireland

A showing of the first will take place before and after “Soup’s On” at St. Stephen’s on Friday, September 20 with a repeat performance at St. Mary’s on Wednesday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m. (desert evening). I am also most willing to do semi-private showings as well!

Looking ahead: I now approach a full end of Summer and Fall, including visiting and ministering near home and further afield in North America - I will be in the US (including speaking in Florida) and Montreal at the end of October.

Thanks again for your many prayers through which I was able to minister effectively on my “grand tour” and be kept safe!

Yours in His service,

**Brett**





## *T'was The Week Before Day Camp*

T'was the week before day camp, and all through the parish,  
Folks scrambled to prep, for a week kids would cherish.  
We welcomed a team from "Crosstalk Ministries",  
Annie, Melina, and Miguel, all good things come in threes.

The local team got involved, leading songs and fun games,  
One small challenge of camp was remembering names!  
This was because, of the kids, there were forty,  
Some were quiet and calm, some were loud and more sporty.

We started the day with bible story presentations,  
Then followed with a snack, and "child friendly" libations.  
Then off to devotions, in groups we would scatter,  
Reflecting on the stories through journals and chatter.

Lunchtime was a break (for both kids and adults).  
To have freedom and fun, were desired results.  
After lunch, we would meet and break into small groups  
All the leaders had stations and rallied their troupes.

Dancing, and crafting, and even some baking.  
It was definitely worth all the mess we were making.  
After a large group game, it was now time to pray,  
To thank God for the fun that was had on that day.

A big thank you to all who signed up and helped out,  
We couldn't have pulled all this off well without,  
Your time, expertise, and the energy you shared  
To show the kids and their families we cared.

Although the hall and grounds were left a little messed,  
To spend time together, we felt truly blessed.  
We hope all involved felt the presence of Jesus,  
And learned more about him, how through loving eyes, he sees us.







On Saturday, August 10th, 2019 the Peninsula Wine Fest was held from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm on the grounds of St. Stephen's Church. Despite cloudy and showery weather conditions the event was a great success and the 230 attendees had a good time, sampling products from the vendors on site and participating in the variety of activities available. This year there were six wine merchants in attendance: de Vine Wine & Spirits, Parsell Vineyard, Roost Farm Winery, Sea Cider Farm & Ciderhouse, Sheringham Distillery and Symphony Vineyard. Finger Foods were provided to visitors and Katies Food Truck, Level Ground Coffee and the Charles Dickens Liquor Shoppe were on site. There were 12 roving artists also participating, as well as a large silent auction display. Tours were offered at the old Church and Cemetery, vintage cars were on display from the Old English Car Club and live entertainment was provided by the Jeff Wall Band.

Many thanks go out to the many individuals who worked so hard to make this event a success. Our Parish members were assisted this year by many parishioners from the other Anglican and Roman Catholic churches on the Peninsula. Support also came from the Central Saanich Volunteer Fire Department, Thrifty Foods, Save On Foods, and St John Ambulance.

The proceeds of the event (\$10,700) will support the Saanich Peninsula Hospital and Healthcare Foundation, the Mount Newton Centre Society and the ORCCA Dental Clinic Society.







The annual Blessing of the Animals service was held on the afternoon of Sunday August 11, 2019 on the grounds of St. Stephen's Church. As usual a large variety of pets were brought to this event by their owners (or guardians).

The Outdoor Service included, music, prayers and readings from scripture and each animal received a Personal Blessing and a signed Blessing Certificate. Along with the Parish of Central Saanich, other participating churches included Holy Trinity and St Andrew's Anglican Churches and the Saanich Peninsula Roman Catholic Parish (St Elizabeth's and Our Lady of Assumption).

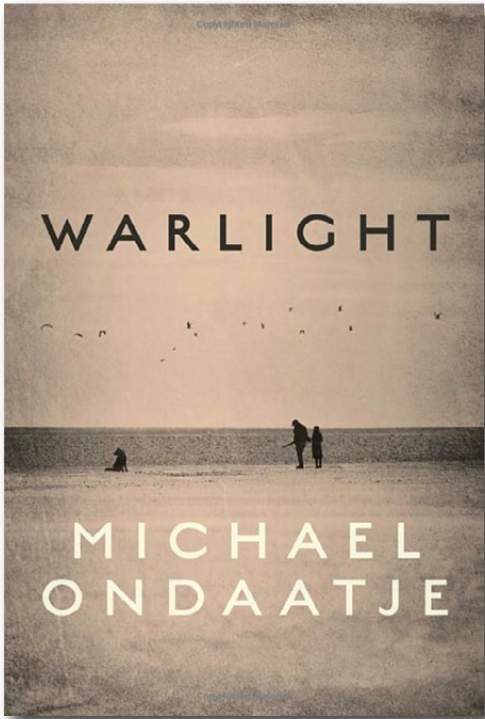
All donations received were to go to the Victoria Humane Society.





## Warlight

by Michael Ondaatje



### About the Author:

Philip Michael Ondaatje was born 12 September 1943 in Colombo Sri Lanka (Ceylon). He emigrated to Montreal Canada in 1962, studying at Bishop's University in Quebec for three years and his final year at the University of Toronto where he received his BA 1965 and then went to Queen's University in Kingston where he received his MA in 1967.

His body of work is legend among readers all over the world with some of his notable works including:

The English Patient; In the Skin of the Lion; Running in the Family; and Anil's Ghost.

His notable awards include The Booker Prize; the Governor General's Award for Poetry, The Giller Prize, and the St Louis Literary Award.

He has been a poet, fiction writer, essayist novelist editor and film maker and is an Officer in the Order of Canada recognizing him as one of Canada's most renowned living authors.

### About the Choice

My book club chose this book for our May meeting. We had previously reviewed "The English Patient" and had attended the movie as well.

There have been several reviews of this new novel by Michael Ondaatje all referencing its intrigue, betrayal, war torn cities and unexpected outcomes.

It's not a book to be read in a hurry, so settle in for an afternoon or two (or a couple of evenings) to absorb the rich detail, the intricate story with its twists and turns and the nuances with a measured approach to significant moments and events.

### About the Book

In London near the end of the war in 1945, Nathaniel 14 and his sister Rachel, 16, are left in the care of the lodger, an enigmatic figure named Walter, who the children name The Moth. The Moth seems to have a group of associates that are a motley group of eccentric, mysterious adults, including an argumentative Russian, a geographer named Olive Lawrence and a man known as The Darter.

The parents have announced that they must go to Singapore for a year, and although the children don't seem to miss their Father, they feel abandoned by their Mother who takes much time with the children to pack her steamer trunk for leaving. It is only later that the children find the steamer trunk in the basement fully packed. Nathaniel, the narrator, wonders where his Mother is and even more, who she is and why she would leave her children behind with a cast of mysterious strangers. They all seem to be harbouring secrets, ulterior motives and other lives. This is a story about spies, but little about spying. It is an inward glance, a tragic awareness of life's everchanging frame that comes with growing up and the recognition that memory is a construct of the older self, looking back.



The children have been sent to a private school but very soon they run away and come home to The Moth who negotiates their day program with the School and so they once again are living and surrounded by the odd mix of characters. The Darter imports Greyhounds to England for the purposes of illegal gambling and ferries explosives by barge from Waltham Abbey Royal Gunpowder Mills into Central London. Nathaniel assists with these activities and becomes quite attached to The Darter. He in return helps Nathaniel to find work in a restaurant, where Nathaniel meets a girl named Agnes and when Agnes accuses Nathaniel of not wanting to introduce her to his parents, the Darter stands in for his absent Father. Likewise, The Darter helps Rachel when she develops epilepsy and teaches Nathaniel how to deal with symptoms.

### Quote

“Mahler put the word *Schwer* beside certain passages in his musical scores. Meaning “difficult”, “heavy.” We were told this at some point by the Moth, as if it were a warning. He said we needed to prepare for such moments in order to deal with them efficiently, in case we had to take control of our wits”. It was a strange warning to be given, to accept that nothing was safe anymore. “*Schwer*” he’d say with his fingers gesturing the inverted commas, and we’d mouth the word and then the translation, or simply nod in weary recognition. My sister and I got used to parroting the word back to each other “*schwer*.”

After the year was up and there was no sign of his parents, Nathaniel begins to suspect that he is being followed, and that his Mother may even be in England somewhere. One night while out with Rachel and The Moth, all three are attacked by men who have been following Nathaniel for some time. When Nathaniel awakes, he and Rachel have already been rescued and he briefly has an opportunity to speak with his Mother who implies that giving up the children was part of a deal she made to ensure their safety. The Moth is dead after their attack and the children are separated and rehomed with Rachel going to a boarding school in the country and Nathaniel attending a boarding school in America.

In 1959 Nathaniel, now an adult is recruited by the Foreign Office to help in a mass censorship of post WW2 espionage activities, known as “The Silent Correction.” His personal reason for accepting this position and the work assigned was to look for traces of his Mother. Through the stealing of files and the access to documents he discovers how she was active after the war and how she met her demise. He had a distant relationship with his sister Rachel although he did learn that she had a son, Walter named after the Moth.

This was not the only information that Nathaniel discovered about his former life and associates from his past, but I would spoil the ending if I told you anything more.

A.S.H Smyth wrote in *The Spectator* that Ondaatje is at his best when writing about awkward, quiet types and those with a precarious tilt, and characters, particularly narrators with dodgy memories as noted in the quote from Nathaniel Williams the narrator in *WARLIGHT*: “I know how to fill in a story from a grain of sand or a fragment of discovered truth”

*Sources: Wikipedia, The Guardian, Good Reads, Geri’s Book Club*



## *What Makes a Good Hymn and Why Does it Last?*

**A**s I write this, commercial radio and television have just finished a week of remembering the Woodstock Music Festival of summer 1969 held in Upstate New York. While I was living in Montreal, a mere five hours' drive from the festival site, at that time I did not attend. Not that we missed much as the contemporary TV news and pop radio kept us well informed about the outlandish events which transpired.

Nostalgia! What is it about music that seems to capture our senses; that holds us in reverence of certain songs or groups that have performed over the years? In my teen years the "Classics" were by Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman and Paul Whitman. Currently the popular musical nostalgia is for "The Golden Age of Rock and Roll" a fact we in this parish are well aware of with our own 12 O' Clock Rock band doing the hits of the 50's, 60's and 70's!

And that brought me to wonder why certain church hymns seemed to hang on, retaining their appeal and popularity, not just for 40 or 50 years but for many centuries. As more and more people are writing and producing Christian music, what elements help keep church music viable over the years.

Consider any number of hymns from our own Common Praise that you might know that have been in regular congregational use. Some of the tunes in that book come out of previous collections of hymns dating from as far back as 1524 (#5, *Geystliche Gesangk Buchleyn*).

The first element that contributes to longevity is that the melody or tune is easy to sing for the average person. Oft-times, the basic melody came from folk songs of the community in which the hymn writer lived. That's because these were musically artistic and memorable, by that I mean, something which can stick in your memory.

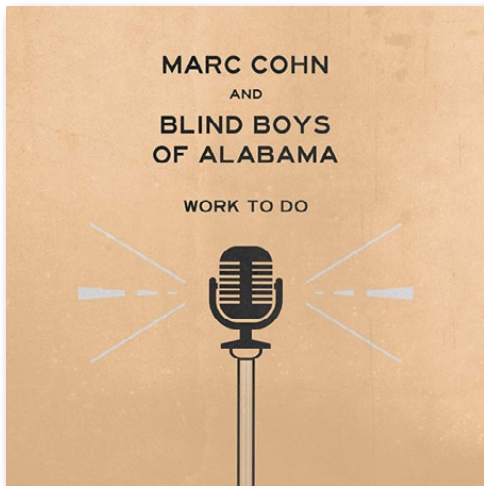
Neither of these attributes, of necessity, dictates simplicity as many of our well-loved hymns were based upon melodies and harmonies composed by such greats as Giovanni da Palestrina (1525-1594. #212), J. S. Bach (1685-1750. #196, #198, #514, #622), Jean Sibelius (1865-1957. #540) and Gustav Holst (1874-1934. #122).

The second element for longevity is that the words have deep emotional resonance. If the poetry of the hymn fails to tell something the hearer cannot profoundly recognize as personal or awesome, I doubt a congregation will want to sing it repeatedly. And repeated exposure is the third element which brings about a deeper connection to the hymn.

But above all, to be truly a Christian classic, the song or hymn must tell us something we need to remember about the character of God. Who HE is; What HE does; Why HE loves and cares for us, as individuals and as a world. There are many church songs which tell us what we have done or are doing or will do for God but those that are truly classic are the ones which we use as praise to God for how HE is changing and perfecting us as HIS beloved creatures.

## Work to Do

by Marc Cohn &  
The Blind Boys  
of Alabama



“**W**ork to Do” is both the name on the cover and a song within this newly released album. Judging by how much I enjoy listening to their amazing music, The Blind Boys of Alabama, most definitely have much more to do. These gospel titans, as Rolling Stone magazine praises them, have already toured for eight decades.

Meeting at the Alabama Institute for The Negro Blind while all around nine years of age, they sung for the first time together in the school choir in 1939. At the time there was little future or hope for blind Afro-American boys in the Deep South. It was the days of Jim Crow. One day if lucky, they might be making mops and brooms. Instead, their history saw them through the days of the Civil War, Civil Rights, World War II, the moon landing, Vietnam, and the fall of the Berlin Wall. Their transcendence continued on throughout racism, world tours and performances at the White House. They have won five Grammy awards among others.

Only one of the groups original members, Jimmy Carter, has survived. Clarence Fountain died from diabetes last year at the age of 88 years. Jimmy is currently supported by three other blind singers, Eric “Ricky” McKinnie, Paul Beasley and Ben Moore along with back up musicians. This album is a result of their collaboration with music legend Marc Cohn who is best known for his gospel influenced mega hit “Walking in Memphis”. It is a wonderful and seamless combination. The album features a number of new songs, both studio recorded and live. Included is the gospel standard “Walk in Jerusalem”.

There are a number of songs which gave me the chills as I moved and swayed around my kitchen fueled by that powerful gospel sound. “Work to Do” must have been written both in deference to their loss of loved ones and in response to the age-old question “Why am I still here?” My biggest surprise, however, was hearing their band leader exclaim “You all want to hear Amazing Grace! O.K. Hit it! Hit it!” Then, surprised I seemed to be hearing the first few chords of “House of the Rising Sun”. I realized that in fact, I was! Very appropriately in some ways, they have put the poetry of Amazing Grace to that early American Folk song, House of the Rising Sun made famous by Eric Burdon and the Animals. It works, beautifully. Goose bumps are guaranteed.

On another level, I urge you to search the darkly fascinating history of the hymn Amazing Grace which was written by a slave trader turned Anglican preacher and poet.

The Blind Boys of Alabama have remained throughout the decades true to their gospel roots. Their music is foot stomping, electrifying gospel. What a great album with which to enjoy the softly diminished warmth of summer, as we drift into fall. Highly recommended, Amazon has the CD for \$15.62.



**W**e truly have been blessed with a wonderful summer here on the Peninsula. Except for some wet sprinkles on the day of the Wine Festival (Saturday, August 10) most of our days have been sun sun sun! Below are some of the happenings that Margery and Nancy were able to hear about and would like to share with you.

Back on June 1st, the Parish entered a float in the annual Brentwood Bay parade that starts from Bayside Middle School and winds its way through Brentwood Bay. It was a good way to start off the summer and was a fun time for participants to get out and meet community members. Then, on July 1st, **Rachel Moss** did her magic again, organizing a float for the Sidney Days parade, (the fourth one!), once again proving that we are Friendly Inviters as we become well known to people outside the Parish.

Along with the well-attended Luke Street Day Camp in July, the 4th Peninsula Wine Fest, and the ever popular Blessing of the Animals, which followed the next day, these three events held on the beautiful grounds of St Stephen, seemed to dominate the Parish's activities for the months of July and August. While there are write ups elsewhere in this newsletter about the Camp, the Wine Fest and Blessing of the Animals, there was a moment at the Wine Fest that must be shared with our readers. On the morning of the Wine Fest, **Susan Doyle** from St Andrews brought **Mohammed** and **Reem** (Syrian refugees) to help her set up the Silent Auction. The most memorable event of the day happened during the set-up when Susan, Reem and Mohammed went up to one of the Artisan booths and the woman asked Reem where she was from. She replied "Syria" at which point the woman and her husband hugged both the children and told them how sorry they were that their people were suffering so much. She explained that they were from Israel. Susan said she could see how shocked the children were that Jewish people were being so friendly with hugging them. The expression on Reem's face was priceless. It was the first time they had met a Jew. The Jewish man said, "We are all humans and we all worship the same God" and then they all hugged each other again. The kids were amazed and smiling from ear to ear. And that, dear readers, is how we welcome and greet new people, regardless of race, religion or background!



Reem and Mohammed

**Men's Breakfast:** The men of St. Andrew's in Sidney have started what could become a monthly breakfast gathering for men of the Peninsula and invited us to come to their next occasion on Monday, May 27th at 8:30 am. About six men from our parish of Central Saanich attended that first breakfast, during which the 25 men there felt we should meet regularly. They are now meeting on the fourth morning at 8:30 am each month. Each morning has a short devotional time. At the July breakfast **Lon** was the speaker. He spoke about the upcoming 94 Calls to Action Workshop taking place in our parish Saturday October 5 at St. Stephen. It is brought

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## Around the Parish *continued*

to us by the Diocesan Reconciliation and Beyond Team of which Lon is a co-chair. It prompted good discussion. In August, **Greg Robinson** led the group discussion. Special connections and contacts are being made at these get togethers. For instance, it was the one in July that the co-chair of Wine Fest, **David Stewart** met **Don Rodgers** from Holy Trinity. Don became the site manager for the Wine Fest.

### Pot Luck Suppers



What we're hoping will become a regular event to bring parishioners together, in a friendly informal way, a Parish Potluck Dinner was held at St Stephen on Saturday June 29. The organizers for these Pot Lucks are **Karen McColm** for St Mary and **Lynda Clifford** for St Stephen. For this last Pot Luck before a summer break, people were asked to bring picnic style food along with their own dishes and cutlery to make the clean up easy. About 30 people enjoyed a huge selection of food and rather than participate in any games (which was the original plan), they seemed to prefer to just sit around in groups, chatting to one another! A sign of good camaraderie. Thanks to **Charlotte Nichols** and **Terry Hartley** for the set up and clean up. Not sure when the next Pot Luck will be held but we're sure Karen or Lynda will keep us informed.

### News from St. Mary

The ever-popular Spring Fling held in May managed to bring in a total of almost \$3,000. Maybe it's the smell of the hot dogs cooking along with all the fixings that the wardens cook up on the barbecue that attracts so many.

**Joy and Nick Hunter** have been busy people this summer. Prior to spending a couple of weeks on Hornby and Bowen Islands, they were in Vancouver attending concerts featuring Herbie Hancock and the great Paul McCartney in early July. Then, Joy officiated at their daughter's wedding, held on Jericho Beach on what Joy described as a perfect summer day. When asked how it went, Joy grinned from ear to ear, saying: "It couldn't have been more perfect!" Sounded ideal! Congratulations Nick and Joy.

### News from St. Stephen

A simple celebration for **Doreen Harrison** was held following the service Sunday July 21 honouring Doreen for all the many ways she had contributed to St. Stephen over the years. Word has it she was surprised and thrilled.

A few weeks ago, **Margaret** and **Tony Pollard** had a ride on the chair lift to the top of Mount Washington; a big thrill as they thought they would never do that again! Which proves that age has no barriers when it comes to having some fun!

**Don Wilson** has harvested all his garlic and word has it there was a huge amount. We guess we can expect another successful garlic extravaganza, eh Don.



We must also announce that Don and Susie Wilson are proud

*continued on page 23*



## Around the Parish *continued*

grandparents to Leo. Congratulations to the proud parents and Susie and Don!

**Bob and Charlotte Nichols** have been harvesting veggies for Soups On. We should be able to taste the results in another few weeks!

The vegetables along with the colourful Dahlias in the St Stephen garden seem to be having a bumper year. And we are hoping that Lady Di (**Diana Abbott**) can have a little break from mowing now the grass is not growing so well.

**Gary Stubbs** was seen painting the picket fence in front of the cemetery. Gary is very diligent with the grounds care, it seems. Although **Tracy Stubbs** was recently mourning the loss of her mother, Margaret Wilkinson, there was some joyful news with **Krista**, Gary's and Tracy's daughter announcing her engagement!

**Mike Sealey** has had a successful knee replacement and **Jackie Kolson** has recovered well from surgery.

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## Travels

So many parishioners took to travelling this past spring and summer we know we have missed several. However, here is a sampling of who we know for sure spent some time away from home:

**Alison and David Stewart** flew to Montreal and Ottawa to be with family in early June and are flying to France in September for a month. They'll no doubt be checking on the wines along with the food! I guess they didn't have enough tastings at our Wine Fest!

**Cathy Quicke**, along with her aunt enjoyed an Alaskan cruise earlier this summer.



The Pedlows and family at a wine tasting

And the **Pedlow's** actually took a vacation out of Canada! The family (including Michael, Leslie and Ken) drove to Oregon to visit family in July. Leslie said it was the first International holiday they've had since they were married. So, what are you going to do for next year's vacation, you two?

**Lon and Marian Towstego** are travelling overseas for three weeks beginning August 19, starting off with staying at a retreat in Ireland. **Lindsay Pedlow** and **Derek Aason** left for Ireland the week prior.

And that's just a sampling of the travelling we "heard" about. We love to hear about where people have been or are going on vacation so be sure and let us (Margery or Nancy) know of any such news.

## Recipe Page

### Carrot Cake

This recipe was submitted by **Judi Clark**



#### Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 1-1/4 cups drained, crushed pineapple
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups grated carrot

Sift flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt and cinnamon into a large bowl. Add sugar, applesauce, oil and eggs and beat hard by hand for one minute. Add carrot, pineapple and nuts and beat to mix. Grease a 9 x 13 inch baking pan. Pour batter into pan and level. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 35 to 45 minutes until skewer inserted in centre of cake comes out clean. Cool in the pan on a wire rack. When cool, frost with the following:

#### Cream Cheese Frosting

- 1 250 gram package of cream cheese at room temperature
- 2 cups of icing sugar (or more for desired consistency)
- 1/2 cup butter at room temperature
- 2 tablespoons of lemon juice OR 1 teaspoon vanilla

Beat cream cheese and butter together with mixer. Gradually add in icing sugar and lemon juice. Blend and spread over cooled cake. Enjoy!

## Anglican Parish of Central Saanich Directory

**Pastor: Rev. Lon Towstego** 250-208-9949 [ltowstego@bc.anglican.ca](mailto:ltowstego@bc.anglican.ca)

#### Parish Council: Ex Officio

#### Rev. Lon Towstego

**Rector's Wardens:** St. Mary  
St. Stephen

**Ian Stuart** (St. Mary) [istuart1@mac.com](mailto:istuart1@mac.com)  
**Greg Robinson** (St. Stephen), [gregoryrobinson@shaw.ca](mailto:gregoryrobinson@shaw.ca)

**People's Wardens:** St. Mary  
St. Stephen

**Derek Osman**, [derek.osman@shaw.ca](mailto:derek.osman@shaw.ca)  
**Lynda Clifford**, [lgcliff@shaw.ca](mailto:lgcliff@shaw.ca)

**Members:** St. Mary  
St. Stephen

**Karen McColm, Ken Pedlow**  
**Allan Carlson, Terry Hartley**

**Synod Delegates:** St. Mary  
St. Stephen

**David Stewart, Ken Pedlow (alt)**  
**Don Wilson, Sandra Scarth, Greg Robinson (alt)**

#### Rev. Lon Towstego's Schedule

Tuesday's at St. Mary Church (250) 652-1611  
Friday's at St. Stephen Church (250) 652-4311  
Wednesday's, Thursday's: Communion, Study and Parish Visits.

**Leslie Pedlow** is at the St. Mary's office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 12:30

**Bob Quicke** is at the St. Stephen's office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 to 1:00 and on Fridays from 9:00 to 2:00