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The Mustard Seed.

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A Note from the Editor

In one of those God inspired moments, the main worship services of the conference were held on the Friday and Saturday of the Pentecost ember days. Four times a year, during these "ember days", we pray for the whole ministry of the church: both those who exercise their ministry through their baptism, as well as those who exercise their ministry through their diaconal, priestly and episcopal vows. In my sermon at the final Eucharist, which took place on the Saturday ember day, I spoke of how my own vocation story started in that very place: I moved away from Fredericton in 1996 thinking that I had a vocation to be a church musician. God did call me to be



The Rev'd Matt Koovisk
Editor, the Mustard Seed

a church musician, but only called me to it for a short period of time (which does happen in vocations). It would be later that He would reveal to me that I was called to be a priest. Celebrating the Eucharist, "the source and summit of the Christian life", in one of the places that formed me, in one of the places my heart will always live, was a powerful moment, one that I will treasure for the rest of my earthly ministry.

We're about to enter into a time of discernment in our own diocesan life, a time where we pray for a very specific vocation: for somebody to be called to be the eighth Bishop of Brandon. That work will begin shortly, and I'm sure that the pages of the Mustard Seed over the next few months

will reflect that work that we will be doing.

But before we do that work of calling the eighth Bishop of Brandon, we need to pause and give thanks to God for calling Bishop William into our midst for a period of time. I'm sure that I can speak for many of us when I say that this Diocese is incredibly grateful for the work that he has done here. He leaves here after seven years of fruitful ministry, one where the Gospel was preached, disciples made, and saints equipped for the work of ministry. He has very much made his indelible mark on this place.

Fare well, Bishop William. Thank you for all you have done here, and may God bless your ministry in the Diocese of Ontario. Our loss is truly their gain.

Grace and peace,

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From the Archives: The Bishop with the Rev'd Anna Sproule, the Rev'd Matt Koovisk, and the Rev'd Chris Evetts on their ordination day in June 2017.



From the Archives: The Bishop with the (then) Ven. Don Bernhardt at St. Mary's, Virden on the Bishop's first episcopal visit in 2016.

A Word From Our (Departing) Bishop

This will be my last article for The Mustard Seed, as this will be my last column as I serve as your bishop. I have a great deal to say, but I am not sure I have the words to say it. Nevertheless, here goes:

Thank you. I came among you in 2016 as a southern Ontario boy who knew what rural Ontario was like, but had no idea of what rural Manitoba was like. I had little idea of what was awaiting me. You have been kind, generous and compassionate to me. You have taught me an entire Encyclopedia Britannica's worth of knowledge in the experiences I have had serving you. I have come to love this place and all these people, both north and south, and I give thanks to God for your patience and wisdom in teaching me how to do this job.

It has been my privilege to walk with you, to learn from you, to advocate for you and to tell the world about the wonderful dedication and ministry that I have seen in Brandon. I am in awe of the laity who keep our parishes working, the clergy who are preaching and visiting and working day be day to care for the people of God



The Rt. Rev'd William G. Cliff
7th Bishop of Brandon

in this place.

After 31 years of being ordained, I would like to observe that it is the nature of ministry that we are in a never ending cycle of beginnings and endings. Births and deaths, time turns on, and our lives change. I have imprinted on my mind many faces who are no longer with us - who have been gathered to Jesus and serve and praise him in his nearer presence. I give thanks for all of them too.

As I prepare to move to Kingston, Ontario, I wanted to take this opportunity to encourage you. The Diocese of Brandon has a great deal to offer to the whole church. We are living witnesses to a form of reconciliation and walking together that is a possibility in the church. We wait for each other.

We listen to each other. We bear one another's burdens. None of this is to say that there haven't been difficult times, there have! But the ability to bear with the crises and trauma of every day life are in fact a sign of the resilience and gospel love which we have for one another.

I believe the next steps for the Diocese of Brandon are healthy ones which will deepen our commitment to reconciliation, broaden our educational offerings and deepen the commitment to discipleship which is already active in our midst. I am proud that for the 7 years, 6 months and 15 days I have served you as the Bishop of Brandon, I have been a part of your lives and part of the tremendous changes we have made. Not to us, but to God be the glory. God has done great things in our midst and will do greater still if we keep to the right path and walk with one another in trust of his plan and his will. I ask your blessing as I go, and tell the friends and family over in Ontario about your wonderful souls and the joy of knowing you. God bless you all.

William: Brandon

The Mustard Seed

Publisher:

The Rt. Rev'd William G. Cliff
7th Bishop of Brandon

Editor (and Secretary of Synod):

The Rev'd Matt Koovisk
mustardseed@brandon.anglican.ca

Mail: The Tri-Valley Parish,
c/o Box 15, Virden, MB, R0M 2C0

Phone: 204-748-1379 (OFFICE)

The Mustard Seed is circulated ten times a year (from September to June), as a section of the Anglican Journal, to all supporting households in the Diocese of Brandon.

Contributions to the expense of the paper are normally requested each March but donations are accepted anytime. Changes of address can be made through your parish or directly with the Anglican Journal. Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Bishop or of the editor.

Deadline for submissions: the first of the month. *Please note:* All submissions are subject to editing for clarity, timeliness, appropriateness, or length. Submit writing to the Editor in Microsoft Word file format or in the body of an email. Photographs must be large, high resolution jpg files. Please ensure you have permission from parents or guardians of all minors who have their photos or names published in The Mustard Seed. If including a photo, please send a name of who took the photo along with it, so the Editor can give proper credit!

News from the Pews

SOUTH PARKLAND PARISH (ST. PAUL'S, DAUPHIN & ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, MCCREARY)
as submitted by the Rev'd Barry Nadolny

On Sunday July 30, twenty-five members of the South Parkland Parish gathered for an outdoor service of Holy Eucharist followed by a time of gathering and sharing of food at St. Michael and All Angels in McCreary. It was a wonderful time; plans are being made other times of celebration. We are thankful and in awe of God's creation and gifts.



Another Goodbye

In addition to our beloved Bishop departing, another well loved priest of this diocese has departed. The Reverend Jann Brooks, the Rector of Christ Church, The Pas, has tendered her resignation to the Diocesan Administrator, effective August 31, in order to take up a post as the Rector of St. Paul's, Caledonia in the Diocese of Niagara, effective September 20. During her time here with us in the Diocese of Brandon, Rev'd Jann was active within The Pas community, starting the

Teddy Bears' Picnic (which you can read more about in other places in this paper), as well as the Young Voices of the North podcast, and many other things, too.

Fare well, Rev'd Jann. You'll be missed here. Thank you for everything that you have done for The Pas and the Diocese of Brandon!



News from the Pews

THE TRI-VALLEY PARISH (ST. MARY'S, VIRDEN; ST. MARK'S, ELKHORN, ST. JOHN'S, RESTON & CHRIST CHURCH, MELITA)
as submitted by the Editor

It has been a busy summer for Fr. Matt: in May, he graduated with his (third) master's degree: this time in Theological Studies from Trinity College at the University of Toronto. He has no plans of returning to formal education in the near future! From June 25 through to August 26, Fr. Matt was also the chaplain to the Brandon Cadet

Flight Training Centre that ran out of Brandon University. In this role, he was responsible for the morale, welfare and spiritual needs of approximately 125 souls, which included course and staff cadets as well as adult staff. (Fr. Matt's photo on the first page is also from his time as cadet chaplain!)



Coverage of Sacred Circle and General Assembly will be in the October edition of *the Mustard Seed*!

Life at the Anglican Me



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Memorial Camp In Photos



The Rt. Rev'd William Cliff, 7th Bishop of Brandon (2016-2023) in photos

With the Bishop's departure to be the Bishop of Ontario, it only seems fitting to remember his time as Bishop of Brandon in photography. Here are some photos from the archives!



The Bishop preaches at the ordination of Barry Nadolny, Leon Morehouse and Dr. Paul Shore in the fall of 2021.



The group shot after an ordination at Church of the Messiah, Opaskwayak Cree Nation in 2019.



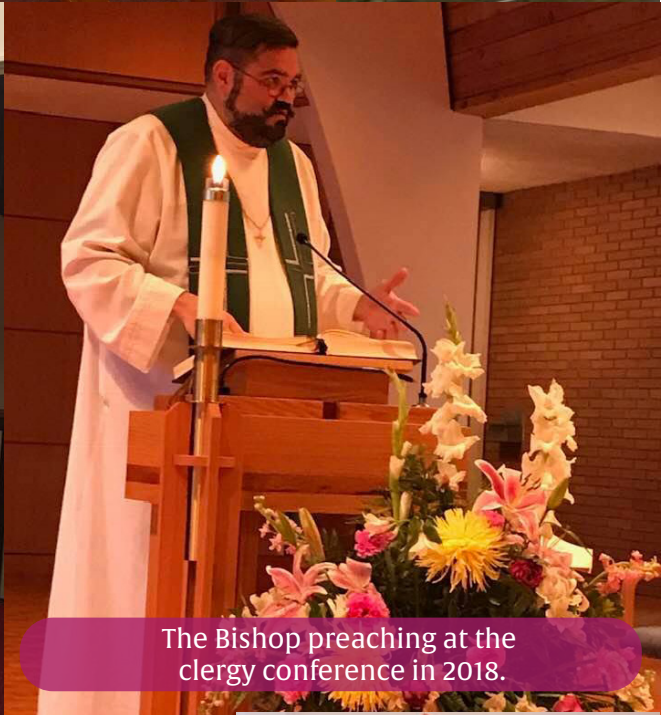
The Bishop listens to the choir rehearsal while attending a newly consecrated bishops' course at Canterbury Cathedral in 2017.



The Bishop speaking to the gathered youth at the Survival Weekend held at AMC on Thanksgiving weekend 2022.



The Bishop before his first Easter Vigil as a bishop in 2016.



The Bishop preaching at the clergy conference in 2018.



The Bishop was present at the consecration of the Bishop of Qu'Appelle in 2022.



The Bishop enjoys a light-hearted moment at the Diocese of Niagara's Synod in 2019.



The Bishop moments after his consecration and installation as Bishop of Brandon in 2016.



The Bishop and the Rev'd Chris Evetts after his ordination to the priesthood in 2017.



The Bishop with Dean Peter Wall (left) and Dr Angus Sinclair (right) during a trip to Churchill in 2018.



Teddy was a frequent companion of the Bishop during his trips. Here, he is about to cross Cedar Lake in 2016.

News from the Pews

CHRIST CHURCH, THE PAS *as submitted by the Rev'd Jann Brooks*

On June 25, Christ Church, The Pas held their second annual Teddy Bears' Picnic. It was a huge success with over 200 guests attending (which is 100% more guests than they had in 2022). They had all ages groups from infants and to toddlers and young families to mebers of the podcast "Young Voices of the North" as well as the Fur Queen and court volunteering. There were games (where every participant won a prize) to face painting, to a medical tent for teddies where real doctors and nurses fixed teddies needing care. They had a bouncy castle and plenty of hot dogs, hamburgers, cake and cookies and popcorn, which were all provided at no charge to participants. The entire day was free of any cost as a way to support families of all kinds to enjoy a wifi-free old fashioned picnic day together.



ST. JOHN'S, KELWOOD *as submitted by Lillian Kien* *(with information from the Rev'd Garry MacDowell)*

On July 16, 2023, the Rev'd Canon Joy Ruddock, a former Bishop's Messenger, and long serving priest of the Diocese of Brandon, went to St. John's, Kelwood to sign copies of the booklet about her life. On August 13, following the Sunday service at St. Mary's, Brandon, Canon Joy signed more copies of this booklet for well-wishers.

Those who wish to pick up a copy of this booklet on Canon Joy's life can obtain one through the St. Mary's, Brandon church office at 204-727-3393. There is no cost to this booklet, although donations to the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund in honor of Canon Joy would be greatly appreciated!



ST. JAMES', RIVERS *as submitted by Kathy Roberts*

In June, Pat Wood coordinated a cold plate supper for the parish. In July, members of St. James' deliver Meals on Wheels to residents of Rivers. This has been their assigned month for many years now. The meals are prepared in the hospital kitchen and are delivered to homes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This July, the Ryalls, Allans, Carters and Roberts were on the roster for this very important ministry in Rivers. In addition to all this, a new sign for the parish has been made by Tom Ryall. Les Wood took the time to install it on the church property. A photo of it is below.



Anglican Communicators Meet in Fredericton (and online) in June

Text & Photos by Margaret Glidden, President of the Anglican Editors' Association



For a moment at the start of June, as I listened to the pump organ being played in St. Mark's Chapel-of-Ease at King's Landing in Fredericton New Brunswick, I thought about my Anglican roots ensconced in prairie churches thousands of kilometers away.

Countless moments, like singing "Come Down, O Love Divine" in a little Maritime church, are the gifts of coming together with members of the Anglican Editors Association (AEA) at our annual conference for encouragement, inspiration, strength and friendship.

This year, members of the AEA, an association of 21 editors and 3 associate editors from dioceses across Canada, met in person at Christ Church Cathedral Memorial Hall and virtually on Zoom. We received an update on the circulation of our publications by Alicia Brown and Joe Vecsi of the Anglican Church of Canada. From Tali Falkins, editor of the Anglican Journal, we heard about the challenges of publishing controversial content.

Many editors also manage communications for their dioceses, and as such can be writers, editors, photographers, graphic designers, web and social media managers. Therefore, we were also given the opportunity to learn about video production from Mark Hauser, communications officer and Dialogue editor, Diocese of Ontario. We uploaded our video of the grand, Gothic Christ Church Cathedral and Mark produced one seamless clip while demonstrating several video editing programs.

Some of us were brought to tears by a poem by 12 Neighbours community founder Marcel LeBrun who leads an initiative to provide housing and support for people who have been beaten down by life and can no longer see their own self-worth.

We heard about the potential for sharing content and reaching a wider audience from Brian Bukowski, web manager for the Anglican Church of Canada,

who has helped several publications join the national digital news platform anglicannews.ca. *The Messenger* will be launching on the platform soon (in addition to *the Mustard Seed*, which can be found at brandon.anglicannews.ca).

We further explored creating digital content with Giuliana Grillo de Lambarri, a student in the Journalism program at St. Thomas University, and editor of the on-line publication *The Aquinian*.

Throughout the conference, our host Gisele McKnight, whose publication *The New Brunswick Anglican* was recently awarded first place in the general excellence category by the Canadian Christian Communicators Association of which the AEA is a member, shared her tips and tricks for writing and editing.

After participating in Evening Prayer at St. Mark's, we enjoyed a banquet with members of the Fredericton diocese at the King's Head Inn. Archbishop David Edwards, whose self-proclaimed *raison d'être* is "mission," said as communicators of the gospel we must find ways to connect with people over what is important to them.

It is not uncommon now for people to be unfamiliar with the gospel message.

"Unless we can relate a new piece of knowledge to something we already understand, we tend to kick it out of the way," he said. "And so, as we think through how we communicate with people, where are those hooks to at least start a conversation and then, perhaps, the gospel message can be entertained?"

Members of the 2023 AEA Executive are Margaret Glidden, President; Fr. Matt Koovisk, Treasurer; Gisele McKnight, Secretary, Janice Biehn, Conference Host; Emily Rowe, Member-at-Large.

God willing, the 2024 AEA Conference will be held in Toronto next spring.





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