

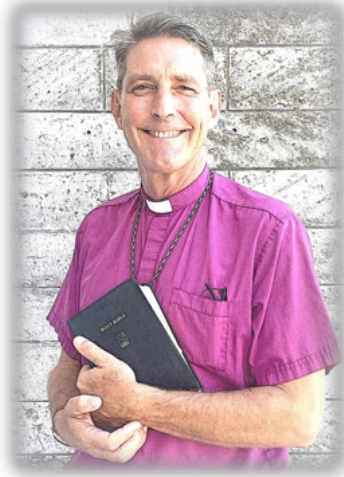
Bermuda's First Ordination of Locally Trained Deacons



Photo: Participating in Bermuda's first Anglican ordination to the diaconate of locally trained postulants, from left, Walter Carlington; Lorita Packwood, ordinand; Jennie Foster Skelton, ordinand; Wendell Dill, ordinand; Bishop Nick Dill and Archdeacon Andrew Doughty.

Inside:

- ***Focus on the parish of Christ Church, Devonshire***
- ***Ordination photos and abbreviated bishop's charge to the new deacons***
- ***Children's nativity and party for all children at the Cathedral***



Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?

By Nicholas Dill

*Bishop of Bermuda/Dean of
the Anglican Cathedral of the
Most Holy Trinity*

At 3 p.m. on Dec. 11, 2022, three Bermudian graduates of the Anglican Theological Institute of Bermuda processed into a full Cathedral. An hour and a half later, amidst cheers, tears, smiles and praises, they emerged as ordained deacons ready to serve and use their God-given gifts in new ways in the life of God's church.

“Perhaps those at the service of ordination or even those who interact with our new deacons will hear the word of God expressed in the popular song, “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky,” when he asks, “Whom shall I send?” and find themselves answering, ‘Here I am, Lord, is it I Lord?’”

As Lorita Packwood, Jennie Foster Skelton and Wendell Dill begin their role as assistant curates, we want to continually pray and support them as they minister amongst us. During the service, I had the opportunity to preach and to remind them and all of us of the context of the ministry – the struggles, pains but also the wonder and privilege. Based on the experience of John the Baptist, it was noted that sometimes it is hard to see God at work when we expect him to do things and our expectations are dashed, our prayers appear unanswered. In that

context we must continue to have faith.

We were also reminded that this ministry is to the lowest and least. The role of a deacon is the role of a servant. The first deacons waited on tables and administered to the poor. No ordained person ever rises above that calling – whether you remain as deacon or are ordained as priest or bishop. We must never get to that place where we feel that because of our title or the respect we are shown that we are more than a servant. Too many in leadership end up lording over the ones to whom they minister, rather than serving them. Even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.

But it will require of us the things spoken of by the Apostle James – patience – we will be bruised, hurt, taken for granted. Change is always a slow process – change in ourselves and change in others. You will not always be thanked or have your work noticed, so patience is needed. It is easy to grumble about others, their ongoing sinfulness, and resistance; to grumble that it costs too much and that you find yourself easily distracted by what may appear to be irrelevant things. It is easy to grumble when you feel like you are carrying the weight all on your own.

Cont'd on Page 3

Is it I Lord, cont'd

Be assured, the Lord is coming – he will resolve all things, so strengthen your hearts each day – by feeding on his word, by praying for his guidance and strength. And I say this to the three deacons – but I also say this to their families, to my fellow clergy, in fact to all of us: let us not become weary of well-doing because, as the Apostle Paul writes at the end of his chapter on the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15, our work in the Lord is never in vain. And to quote him from Ephesians, he is able to do immeasurably more than all you ask or imagine according to his power at work in the church.

So, as St. Augustine has said, pray as if it all depends upon God, work as if it all depends on you. Take time to feed yourself on the word of God and the sacraments – because you can only give out of the resources you have received.

Over this year, our deacons will continue to grow and learn, they will need time to reflect and the ability to step out in faith, to make mistakes, to take risks. They bring new perspectives and ideas. Let us learn

from them, encourage them, uphold them in prayer and work alongside them. And as we see their progress, perhaps there will be others who feel the call of God.

I believe there are many more out there in our churches and community who God is calling. Perhaps those at the service of ordination or even those who interact with our new deacons will hear the word of God expressed in the popular song, “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky,” when he asks, “Whom shall I send?” and find themselves answering, ‘Here I am, Lord, is it I Lord?’

If you find yourself drawn to explore the ministry, please speak to your minister, approach Canon Smith, our director of vocations, the archdeacon or myself. We’d love to explore with you what call God may have on your life!

Editor’s Note: For more on this ordination, please see the middle section, which intersperses an abbreviated version of the bishop’s charge to the newly ordained with photos of the event.

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This Month We Visit:

Christ Anglican Church
DEVONSHIRE

PASTORAL GREETING



This photo: the Rev. Jamaine 'Jay' Tucker and his wife, Konnie

By the Rev. Jay Tucker

Priest-in-Charge, Christ Anglican Church, Devonshire

“You just can’t make this stuff up!”

On behalf of Christ Anglican Church, Devonshire, and with real delight, I share this message of encouragement and thanksgiving.

Here upon us is New Year’s 2023, where the Lord is inspiring our participation in celebrations and commiserations. Indeed, we are glad to have thrived as a parish despite carefully navigating a health-penetrating COVID-19 pandemic. God has been so faithful.

However your experience unfolds, we invite you to believe with us that your “latter days are greater than your former days” (Haggai 2:9). Be gentle with yourself and offer that grace to others. Given your faith walk, it is our prayer that your presence is a spiritual witness of possibility.

Year 2023 Theme: *“You just can’t make this stuff up!”*

Theme Scripture: “I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well” ...*Psalm 139:14*

Theme Song: “Indescribable” (Laura Story)

Our theme is an effort to rally around as we organize for ministry. Annual themes started with homilies, then moved to off-the-cuff conversations about us, which turned into laughter. After the last few years, we are looking forward to a better, brighter and bolder grace in the Lord. Being authentic, we want to be more, give more and serve more for the glory of God.

Be encouraged.



THE ORGAN

Submitted by Mr. Larry Perinchief, Church Organist

The organ in the new or main church is a three manual *Renaissance Quantum* by the Allen Organ Company of Allentown, PA. The Quad Suite provides the versatility of four separate and distinct organs in one console: American Classic, Neo Baroque, English Cathedral and French Romantic. The specifications are comprised of unique pipe samples. Convolution acoustics have been applied to recreate a pipe organ sound. The Stops consist of: 14 Pedal Stops, 15 Swell Stops, 12 Great Stops, 12 Choir Stops. See *New Church article, Page 16*.



Christ Church, Devonshire

Birgitte (Bitten) Brodtkorb Dill Family Matriarch From Norway

Submitted by Mrs. Jan Swan

Bitten Brodtkorb (Dill) was born on June 12, 1936, in Sandefjord, Norway which is on the western shore of the Oslo Fjord, 100 kilometers south of Oslo. At the outbreak of World War II in 1939, her family moved to Holmestrand, a small seaside town closer to Oslo. In 1940, the Germans invaded Norway and her family were forced to move towards the mountains where her father's sister had a small cabin.

After a few months, the family moved back to Holmestrand where Bitten started her primary education in the cellar of the local church. Classes were at irregular times during the day to be able to accommodate everyone. Bitten attended high school in Drammen which was a 45-minute train ride away. Drammen is a larger city up the fjord (a long, deep narrow body of water) toward Oslo. The war times were hard and often her father went on his bike into the countryside to barter clothes for food from the farms nearby.

Bitten graduated from High School in 1955. Wanting to train as a physiotherapist, she had to spend six months as a nurse's aid in a local hospital. Afterwards, she decided to spend the rest of the year in Paris to better her French, being already fluent in English and having had to study German without much enthusiasm.

She started her physiotherapy training on returning home and moved to Oslo where she worked a while after graduation. In February 1960, while she was waiting for a much-wanted hospital job, she came to Bermuda to stay with old friends of her parents who had retired here. In March 1960, she met her future husband Nicholas Dill at a party. On Aug. 5, 1960, they were engaged. After a swift romance, they were married in Holmestrand, Norway on Dec. 10, 1960, with snow on the ground.

The Dills returned to Bermuda after their wedding. Bitten worked at King Edward Memorial Hospital for a while until her first child Karin was born in 1961. She then began to work part time at the hospital until her

second child Nicholas was born in 1963. Bitten continued to work with patients at their home until child number three, Patrick was born in 1968.

Nicholas Sr. and Bitten Dill attended Christ Anglican Church, Devonshire (aka Christ Church) along with their children every Sunday. Nicholas Dill Sr.

served on the vestry at Christ Church for over 20 years.

Their son, Nicholas, studied law in London and worked at Conyers, Dill & Pearman, the law firm co-founded by his great-grandfather Sir Bayard Dill.

Nicholas Jr. had always attended church but was not especially dedicated to the church. Eventually, being inspired by the faith of his older sister Karin, he became a committed Christian. During a visit to Nicholas' parents in London, Nicholas and Fiona shared the news of his desire to change his career path to the ministry.

Canon Thomas Nisbett had a great influence on Nicholas' journey in ministry. After working at Conyers, Dill & Pearman, Nicholas was ordained a deacon by Bishop Ewen Ratteray in 1997, served as priest in charge at St. John's Anglican Church, Pembroke and on May 29, 2013, Nicholas was installed as the 12th and youngest Anglican bishop of Bermuda.

Christ Church is grateful to the Dill family members who have served the parish for decades and continue to be a part in the life and stability of the church.



Photo: Bitten Dill, long-time member of Christ Church, Devonshire.

This Old Church

THE OLD DEVONSHIRE CHURCH



By Larry Perinchief

Church Organist, Christ Anglican Church, Devonshire

Old Devonshire Church was built in 1716. Presently, it has a seating capacity of about 270 persons. The layout is in the form of a *Latin cross*. Services were held every Sunday until 1851; however, funeral services continued until 1870.

With the passage of time, alterations have been made as a result of the liturgical changes and a growing population. On Sept. 25, 1767, the east door was closed and the communion table was placed there and railed-in forming the altar. The largest addition to the church was made in 1830, when it was decided to add 20 feet to the southern wing.

Another distinguishing feature is a three-tier pulpit. Although we have no conclusive proof that it was in the original church, our record reflects the Rev. George Whitefield preached from this pulpit on Sunday, March 20, 1748.

It is said that the antique seven-branch chandelier came from the Dutch Island of St. Eustatius sometime in the 1800s.

The rood screen is one of the most striking features of the church. Its design of the Heart and Fleur de Lys emblems of *love* and

purity are adorning characteristics.

Silver belongings that were gifted to the church consist of a silver chalice and two patens. The cedar arm-chairs were placed in the chancel in 1904. The organ came from St. Paul's Church in Halifax, Nova Scotia sometime around 1824. The current organ is electronic made by the Rodgers Organ Company.

In 1844, the rector at that time received a deputation of coloured people expressing the inconvenience which they experienced

through want of room in the church; they offered to construct, at their own expense, a gallery in the south wing. This decision was turned down, which resulted in the decision to build a new church. For many years, the old church was uncared for until restoration was carried out in 1903.

An arsonist attempted to obliterate Old Devonshire Church on Easter Sunday, March 29, 1970. Due to an explosion, fire charred





More on the new Christ Church, Devonshire on Page 16.

and shattered remnants of the edifice. The following items were salvaged from the fire: communion table, two cedar armchairs, cedar chest which contained church records, five of the seven brass chandeliers, silver cross on the altar and the three-tier pulpit.

Regular Sunday Morning Services were held in the old church every fourth Sunday of the month.

In later years, like any old building, maintenance work needed to be carried out. The last third of 2022, saw this come to fruition. Some flooring was restored and recarpeted, the cedar work was refinished, the walls were painted and many of the pews were realigned.



Helena Active With Boys Brigade

EMMA HELENA ANN BRICE (nee Simmons)



**By Ruth Tucker
and Sharon Dublin**

Sharon is pictured

Helena Brice was born to Reuben and Emma Simmons on February 18, 1924. Helena was the first child and had two siblings, Jean and Effie. The family lived on Watlington Lane in Devonshire. Helena is the last remaining member of her immediate family.

The Simmons family attended both (old and new) Christ Anglican churches on Middle Road, Devonshire wherever the services were held. Helena also attended the Lefroy Sunday School. The superintendent was Richmond Lambert. The Sunday school was located between Jubilee Road and Parson's Lane, Devonshire. The building was known as The Elliott School, where Helena was a student.



In Sunday school, children were taught bible verses which they had to recite some of the time and the catechism – much like today's Sunday school curriculum. Lefroy Sunday school had many functions during the time when Helena attended. Some of the functions included Sunday afternoon concerts, children's fashion shows and, from time to time, the Sunday school partnered with St. Monica's Sunday school to enjoy many activities together.



Above: Helena Brice leading Boys Brigade during an event.

Below: Helena Brice, seated centre with Boys Brigade.

One of the situations that is memorable to Helena about Christ Anglican Church was the separation of the Black and White parishioners. The pews were numbered according to family. These pews had to be paid for by each family and this is where members of the family sat whenever they attended church services. There was very little church activity. The White choir only sang at the 11 a.m. services, while the Black choir sang for Evensong at 7 p.m., when most of the Black members of the congregation attended.

The highlights for Helena regarding the church were St. Matthias Guild's anniversary services and the large groups of young people being confirmed. Most of the young people were 12 and older. Ironically, Christ Anglican Church did not organize picnics. Instead, the Lefroy Sunday school had very large family and friends' picnics held only on a Thursday afternoon. Back then, businesses closed half day on Thursdays. The Sunday school usually went to Fort St. Catherine's Beach, St. George's.



In 1963, she started the second company of the Boys Brigade of Christ Anglican Church. During her time with the Boys Brigade, she led the group on several learning experiences, locally and abroad. At home, the boys spent a week in training at Ports Island. At the culmination of the week, the group hosted a very festive event for family and friends (picnics and brigade tournaments were organized). This closed out the camping week.

She was the matron of Devonshire Rest Home for over 20 years and a member of The Orchid Charity Club. She is a life member of both the St. Matthias Guild and the Guild of The Good Shepherd.

Helena Brice has served Bermuda well. Her certificates of honour include:

- The American Institute of Practical Nursing Certifi-

Cont'd on Page 15

Historic Ordination

First Ordination to Diaconate of Island-Trained Ordinands



This Section: Excerpts from Bishop Dill's Ordination Charge and Event Photos. The new deacons are: Lorita Packwood, Jennie Foster Skelton and Wendell Dill.

By the Rt. Rev. Nicholas Dill

Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Bermuda

I know that it is not lost on any of you that this is an extraordinary moment in the life of the Church and for the future of our church in Bermuda.

Since becoming bishop, I have had the privilege of ordaining two others – the Rev. Paul Dean – who has returned to Bermuda for today and who walked alongside Jennie Foster Skelton in her early journey towards this day; and the Rev. Jamaine Tucker, the first Bermudian to be fully funded and supported by the



church through his training and then return here as a deacon and assistant curate and now the incumbent at Christ Church Devonshire.

Both of these Bermudians received their theological education outside of Bermuda from other institutions, but the three to be ordained today have been trained locally through the Anglican Theological Institute of Bermuda, affiliated with St. Mellitus College, London. Their training has been over three years – the first two resulting in a certificate of theology and ministry, after which they were licenced as lay readers, and this last year a diploma in our ordination course.

It is also historic in that two of the three are women. This is a first for us. All three are a reflection of our community and of our church. The road to today has not always been easy – but they have been accompanied by a host of people from both within and outside of the Anglican Church of Bermuda. ... My heart

Historic Ordination *Cont'd from Page 9*

is full of gratitude to the God who calls and enables.

It has been touching and inspiring to receive letters testifying to their characters – whilst none of them are perfect, with much yet to learn, all have been wholeheartedly commended; their progress, maturity and growth in Christ noted; their commitment to the Gospel and the church celebrated and their lives at home and in the community exemplary in different ways.

I ... want to acknowledge their families – spouses and children who have had to endure the long nights of essay writing, disrupted weekends of placements, seeing their partners grappling with theology and also working within an institution which often doesn't understand, fully support, makes demands, moves at a snail's pace, is sometimes unkind, confused and expecting her leadership to be perfect, always available, able to absorb every crisis with grace and humour – and who seem to ignore the cost of leadership on the whole family.

To you, I want to give particular thanks. There may be

times when you wonder what's happened to them and to ask, why are they doing this – and in the case of our three deacons why are they doing this for free? Treasure in heaven is all very well... but ...

The truth is, however, that all disciples of Jesus Christ are called to follow him and to service – all disciples have a ministry. ...

Our readings for today contextualize the ministry – the struggles, pains but also the wonder and privilege.

Come with me, if you will, deep into a first century dungeon. It is most likely that John the Baptist ... had been imprisoned in the notorious fortress of Machaerus, east of the Dead Sea on the border of Israel – held there by the despotic king Herod (as recorded in Matthew 4:12). ... He was there for about two years in one of the most heavily fortified military fortresses – high on the hill top. It was a confinement which must have been very hard for the wandering hermit-like and last Old Testament prophet.

John's whole life since his conception was dedicated



to preparing people for the coming of the Messiah. His elderly parents were of the priestly caste – his birth miraculous. His cause was to be a forerunner, a herald of the coming of God’s great deliverer and judge. He preached in the wilderness to all who would listen to prepare themselves for that coming and it culminated in that moment when the Holy Spirit told him: “Here is the one.” And he baptized Jesus in the Jordan river. Job done!?

Or was it? Whatever John expected from the Messiah, Jesus was not what he had expected. Instead of taking up his pension as he retired from his work, we find this greatest prophet arrested and imprisoned. Whilst there, he is wondering about the one who he was proclaiming ... Perhaps he had expected Jesus to come to his aid, to form an army to march on the fortress, or at least to do something? But no – he was hanging out with the ones to whom John had preached repentance.

Rather than inspiring the leadership, there was rising opposition even from the Jewish establishment – a sense of disappointment and even opposition to the kingdom that Jesus was supposed to be inaugurating. Sometimes it is hard to see God at work when we expect him to do things and our expectations are dashed, our prayers unanswered.

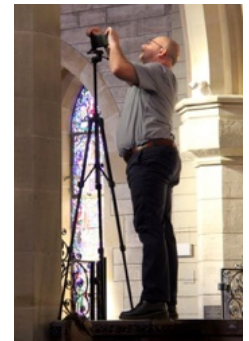
The signs of the kingdom that Jesus brought in were not about winnowing forks, battles and judgement – at least not yet. They were about healing, for-

givenness, restoration of sight to the blind. In his response to the question, “Are you the one,” Jesus replies and draws on the expectation of God’s coming that the prophet Isaiah had spoken of ... He was indeed the one, and his ministry and purpose was glorious and freeing – and challenges those who would doubt him to have faith. As it says in Isaiah’s prophecy: “Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.”

Jesus is not angry with John for his questions. In his ministry, John bore witness to Jesus, now Jesus bears witness to him! And he commends him in the highest possible language as the greatest! Service to God may bring with it persecution and suffering. God may lead us to places and people that we don’t want to go to, but in doing so, we step into the shoes of Jesus and other saints – here in the steps of John the Baptist – the greatest prophet. Later, when Jesus’ own disciples complain – “Lord, we have given up everything to follow you,” he does say, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for my sake and for the gospel’s sake, but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.”



Many hands made this day happen. Here are just a few.



Ordination



By Wendell Dill
Deacon at Pembroke Parish

The year 2017 started with 13 people from all different backgrounds on the spiritual journey of their lives. I never imagined that on December 11, 2022, I and two other original St. Mellitus students would be ordained as deacons in the Anglican Church of Bermuda.

This turned out to be a momentous occasion, as we were to be the first to have this honor bestowed on us. All other clergy have had to be trained overseas before being ordained in Bermuda. There was also history made as two of the ordinands were women and this is the first time the Anglican Church of Bermuda has ever ordained women in its 400-year history.

The year of study as ordinands has been the most challenging time of my life. It appears we had to cram three years of university theological study into one year. This resulted in a complete change in lifestyle. Sacrifices had to be made that had an effect on not only my personal life but that of the lives of my family members as well.

The retreats that started on Friday nights and ended on Sunday nights, along with writing thousands-of-words essays, leading worships services, writing theological reflections and giving presentations took me to different levels of anxiety never imagined. To be honest, there were many times I just wanted to walk away from it all. The encouragement received from Canon Ant Pettit and the team of spiritual and academic tutors and the chaplains as well as the leaders for the sessions helped to make this worthwhile.

Although we attended every session, wrote all the required essays, led the services, we were still not sure if we were going to be accepted as candidates to be ordained in December. BUT we never gave in to the temptation to give up. Satan threw everything in our paths to try and dissuade us, ***But our God never gave up on us.***

On November 18, 2022, I received a letter from Bish-



op Nick Dill which stated in part, the following:

Dear Wendell,

I am writing to congratulate you on the forthcoming completion of the Diploma in Christian Theology and Ministry ordination course of the Anglican Theological Institute of Bermuda (formerly the St. Mellitus College Affiliate: Bermuda). It has been an intense time for you and your fellow ordinands – and it has been a joy for me to interact and oversee your progress under the guidance of Canon Ant Pettit and his team. Accordingly, it is my intention to ordain you as a deacon in the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity on the 11th of December 2022 at 3 p.m. and to license you as an assistant self-supporting (non-stipendiary) curate to the parish of Pembroke, under the supervision of the Rev. Bryan Haigh as your training incumbent.”

To say the service at the ordination was unique is an understatement. The support shown to us on the afternoon at the Cathedral from the clergy to our individual family members is one that will never be forgotten and will always be held dear to my heart. When the bishop laid his hands on me, there was a feeling that was and still is indescribable. Even though I felt this joy for myself, I was even more overjoyed and proud of both Jennie and Lorita for completing their journey into this new ministry. At the end of the service, I was approached by a member of the congregation who said, “Aren’t you glad it’s all finished?” My reply was:

“IT’S JUST STARTING!”

Is it Now?

“Can we put him in now? Is it now?” the little girl begged.

In her tiny hand she held a figure of Jesus in the manger. She so wanted him to be in that nativity scene. She could hardly wait. Around her, on the time-worn floors of St. Peter’s Anglican Church, were two classrooms of young children. Most barely contained their questions and excitement. I was telling the story and placing the pieces as they came up in the tale. At this point, we were exploring the idea of ‘shepherds.’ The little girl tapped my knee again. “Is it now?” she asked. “Soon, not yet,” I replied.

“Who knows what a shepherd is?”

Hands waved eagerly. “I know! It is a big mean dog,” said one. A discussion of dogs, sweet and mean, ensued before we got back on topic. I realized that these children had rarely seen real sheep. Are there any in Bermuda? This Canadian has not seen one here.

Earlier, when the patient teachers herded the little ones in, I asked how many had been in a church before. Less than half raised a hand.

“Why are there ‘t’s everywhere,” asked one, while another, peeking into a box pew, wondered if those beds were for people to sleep in. “Maybe during the sermon?” I thought.

Of course, they knew more about Santa than shepherds. Now they were fascinated with the thought of people who lived outdoors. We talked about the angels and another discussion began about who had angels on top of Christmas trees and who had stars.

“Now, is it now?” she asked again. “Yes, now.” I pointed to the stable. Reverently, she laid the piece in place, lingering a moment. The children grew quieter.

Some of the St. George’s Preparatory Primary School students knew the story,

but for some, this was unfamiliar.

Maybe they heard it before, but had overlaid it with Santa and presents. Still, for others, it was a new story and it enchanted them in a way many of us miss in our familiarity.

We, too, have overlaid the story of Christ’s birth with ideas of family dinners, gifts and trees, and Christmas programs with bathrobes and towelled heads, crooked wings and slippery halos over the wide eyes of tiny angels. The profound love of God that flows from the Christmas story cannot be contained in a few words on the page and we find ways to speak it.

Still, the sweet girl carefully clutching the Jesus figure was a lived parable of the spirit of Advent. “Is it now? Can we see him in the stable NOW?”

What if our most anxious waiting were not for the family to arrive, or for the candles, and tree, and carols, but for Jesus himself to shelter in the humble stables of our hearts? What if I could be like the children gathered around my knees, caught up in the wonder of the story of God’s love.

Eventually, it was time to leave and they trooped out politely, each saying thank you. I wanted to thank them. “A little child shall lead them,” the Scripture says. These little children led me into a new experience of Advent waiting that day.

“Is it now, Jesus? Can I see you now?”

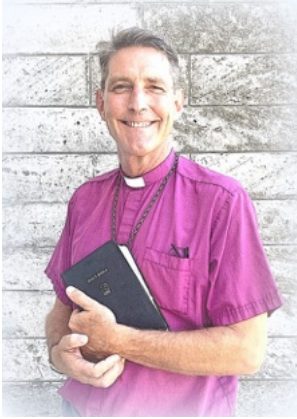


By the Rev. Marie Loewen
Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. George’s Parish



Agents of Reconciliation

Our Call in New Year



By Nicholas Dill

*Bishop of Bermuda/
Dean of the Anglican
Cathedral of the Most
Holy Trinity*

“I want to encourage each of you to live out the new creation that you are in your relationship with God and ,secondly, to be a peacemaker/ reconciler.”

A new year has begun. Although just another date in the diary, it does awaken in us the possibility of something new. As believers in a creative and redemptive God who regenerates and transforms and resurrects, every day should be greeted as a new day, a new start with him. But a new year gives fresh impetus to that desire. May I encourage each of us to consider growing our faith this year in new and old ways.

For me, it is my hope in the Church that we will act on more fully the challenges of last year presented during the Bishop’s Charge (see the December edition of Anchor), but in particular the challenges of building relationships between us and of reaching out to those who are missing. Based on our recent survey we see how at the communion table we are a diverse and yet committed people, reflecting in many ways (except in terms of age) the cross-sections of our community. We have weathered the storms of our complicated history and are still together – not perfectly, for sure, but the greater the diversity, the greater the challenge to live out the truth of the Gospel that in Christ we are part of the one body.

Over Christmas, I spent the entire time in bed with COVID. It was quiet, humbling and reflective. Apart from the tender ministrations of my family, it has presented time to rest, read, pray and binge-watch a series on the life of Jesus known as, “The Chosen.” This is a very different kind of production, absent much of the sentimental representation of Jesus and his disciples.

All of the Jewish characters are of Mid-

dle Eastern and African origin. What the producer has done is skilfully highlight the complexity of those who Jesus called to follow him and what a complicated risk that took in a deeply divided society.

He takes similar risks today in calling us to join him – and give us a unique calling outlined by the Apostle Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians. Here is an excerpt from chapter 5:

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

The year 2023 presents us with the challenge of firstly being reconciled to God ourselves, and then being **agents of reconciliation** by pointing people to God and also by living at peace with one another. As the Anglican church, we have a responsibility and an opportunity in our own divided and lost communities to be the agents of reconciliation.

On the back of that challenge and as Lent draws near, I want to encourage each of you to live out

Cont’d on Page 15

Bishop, cont'd from Page 14

the new creation that you are in your relationship with God and, secondly, to be a peacemaker/reconciler.

During Lent, we will be learning together about the habits of being a reconciling disciple and church as we study the Archbishop of Canterbury's course, "Difference." It has implications not just for any racial difference but for all areas of tension and disagreement where reconciliation may be necessary.

To help us, we are also hosting a visit of Canon Sarah Snyder, formerly the Archbishop of Canterbury's reconciliation adviser, but now chair of The Rose Castle

Foundation, which provides, amongst other things, training in peacebuilding and reconciliation to diplomats, the next generation of leaders from participating universities, religious groups and seminarians. On Feb. 19, she will be in Bermuda speaking to our government and hosting a training for facilitators for the Lent course and anyone else who might be interested.

May 2023 see ourselves better equipped to bring the good news of God's love to the people of Bermuda, and more willing to go out and bridge the divides that Christ died to tear down.

Helena Honored and Loved by Everyone

Cont'd from Page 8

cate from New York University School of Health Nursing

- Queen's Certificate, Badge of Honour
- Boys Brigade Certificate of Honour
- The Ministry of Community and Cultural Development's Certificate in Recognition of Outstanding Service to the Community



Helena Brice being honoured by The Hon. Wayne Scott during his tenure as Minister of Community, Culture & Sports.



Helena married Junius Brice in December 1952, and was blessed with one child, Shirley Jerratt, who is married to Denton. The couple had two sons, the late Denton Jr. and Dewight, who married Jonae. They have two children, Jada and Ethan – the pride and joy of their great-grandmother.

At this present time, Helena Brice still has the mind and endurance to care for her animals, mainly ducks and geese. Her day is spent beautifying her yard and garden by planting and clean-

ing around her property.

Her joy is caring for her cat and dog pet companions. Everything Helena Brice has done throughout her life has been done with love, respect, thoughtfulness and generosity.

She is a jewel to the whole of her beloved Bermuda and is cherished by all who know her.

Diocesan Officers 2023

Bishop: the Rt. Rev. Nicholas Dill

Archdeacon: the Ven. Andrew Doughty

Chancellor & Chair Canon Law Reform committee: Robert Alexander

Registrar: Sonia Grant

Synod Treasurer: Campbell McBeath

Synod Secretary: Juanae Crockwell

Chairman of BCS Business Committee: Chris Brown

Synod Finance Committee: Bishop Nick Dill

Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC): Colin Blades

Director of Training and Discipleship: Canon Ant Pettit

Director of Vocation and Ministry: Canon Jerry Smith

Director of Youth and Children: the Rev. Bryan Haigh

Director of Mission and Evangelism: the Rev. Gavin Tyte

Safeguarding, BCS Secretary: Canon John Stow

Chair Racial Justice Committee: Senator Joan Dillas-Wright

Synod Standing Committee: Bishop, Archdeacon, Canon Stow, Canon Pettit, Marie Symonds, Rosemary Matthews, Stephanie Matthews

“New” Christ Anglican Church



**By Rosemary
Matthews**

Warden

Christ Anglican Church, often described as, “The little church with a big heart,” is the third parish church erected in Devonshire. As a result of the emancipation of slaves in 1834, the old church became too small to accommodate the increased number of parishioners in the church.

Hence, Blacks labelled, “coloured people,” at that time, petitioned the leaders of the church to erect a gallery in the southern transept, which they were willing to pay for. After a meeting of the freeholders and parishioners held on April 17, 1844, the extension proposal was rejected on the grounds that the construction of the old church was too weak to support the new addition. To resolve the problem a new committee was formed to discuss the idea of building a new

church. In March 1845, the committee accepted a plan drawn by the architect Mr. George Grove. He was the same architect who designed Gibbs Hill Lighthouse. It was estimated that the new church would accommodate 500 persons.

The building committee, fortified with surplus funds, private donations and a disposal grant of 400 pounds from the legislature in 1844, then had the arduous task of finding an appropriate plot of land on which to construct the new church. There was discussion about the plot of land west of the old church. A deputation of the building committee, consequently met with Richard Wood to discuss the pur-

chase of the said property. On June 13, 1846, Mr. Wood gifted the property by deed poll to the then rector of the parish.

A few months later, a collaborative celebration was held for laying the cornerstone of the church. This included, the chairman of the building committee Henry Robinson, and the Rev. Mantach, chaplain of the Atlantic.

The interior of the church walls has been constructed from Bermuda Limestone, and the roof is made of limestone slate supported by pitch pine rafters. The church was fortunate to restore the roof of the new church in 1969, because the rafters had started to disintegrate.

One cannot enter the western end of the church or walk into the middle aisle from any area in the church without viewing the beautiful scenes of the three stained-glass windows, strategically positioned above the altar. These windows were donated by prominent Devonian families, in memory of their deceased loved ones: the Hon. Thomas Newbold Dill, Annette Cox and Henry Joseph Watlington.

Another key feature of the church is the octagonal baptism font, which formerly stood in the middle of the aisle under the gallery in the old church. The dark grey veined marble font is alleged to have come from the King of Prussia mines in Pennsylvania.

Similarly, there are two small cedar desks with attached stools that fold under the desks. They are situated in the sacristy. Lay reader, George Leon Burt requested his brother-in-law, Iford Nesbitt create them in honour of his deceased parents Edward and Inez Burt.





The Cathedral held a day of children's activities and pageant, with all from the diocese welcomed to participate. Horse rides, crafts, snacks and a dress-up pageant were all due to the hard work of Sunday school teacher, Melody Parris, left.



By Bishop Ewen Ratteray

We were all greatly saddened to learn of the death of the Rev. Canon Jeffry Bradford Smith on Nov 29. He was residentiary canon of the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, Hamilton, Bermuda, from 2004-2007.

Canon Jeffry succeeded Canon Keith Wassall as canon residentiary several months after the resignation of Canon Keith in 2004. After advertising both locally and abroad I met with and interviewed Jeffry in London during that summer, while Jennifer and I were on vacation.

Though he was quite different from Canon Keith, being much more reserved in manner, yet he seemed the right fit for the post, and so it proved to be the case. To be honest, my relationship with Jeffry was not as close as that which I enjoyed with Keith. However, we still got along and were able to work together very amicably. Our differences were more about style and matters relating to liturgy, but these differences we were able to resolve without rancour. And we were able to build a workable relationship.

In my experience I have found that it isn't necessary that people who work together have to be exactly alike. If they are, that's a recipe for disaster; it is far

better that they complement each other and we did!

Though an American with a strong love for the land of his birth, strangely enough, he was also an Anglophile, with a great appreciation of the English way of life, having spent some years there. That was something which we had in common. So, it was no surprise that he went to the north of England where he served in a couple of parishes once he left Bermuda in 2007. And when he retired, he remained in that region of the United Kingdom. Having worked 'up north,' myself, I can fully understand his reasoning. People in that part of the country are rather special, once accepted by them, you're in for life!

To this day there are many in the Cathedral congregation and beyond, who remember Canon Jeffry with great fondness, and are thankful for the ministry he exercised during his three years among us. He was a good man, a faithful priest who gave his all in the service of the God he loved.

We offer our love and sympathy to Barbara and the family on their sad loss and we pray that Jeffry may rest in peace and rise in Glory.

+ Ewen

By the Rev. Paul Dean

Canon Martin Ashworth had a wonderful ministry working within the Church of England and the Diocese of Bermuda. It was a ministry spanning some 58 years. I first met him whilst he was rector of St. Anne's, Haughton and we remained friends from that day until the day he died.

Canon Martin was a man of prayer, with the daily office and Eucharist at the centre of his spiritual life. He was a good listener and could be relied upon for sound impartial advice. He will be remembered for his kind, gentle manner and his ability to bring resolution to difficult circumstances.

He had an eye for beauty and had a way of seeing things in a creative light. Whilst working in the Diocese of Manchester, Martin was a member of The Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches, a ministry eminently suited to his particular gifts. Those gifts were evident in his time in Bermuda. The wooden paneling behind the altar and the credence table in the Bishop Brown Chapel, were originally the old organ console. Martin could see a different use for this and as such was the organ console

repurposed into a new reredos.

At his Requiem Eucharist there were at least six of us who had been ordained as a direct result of Fr. Martin's encouragement.

Fr. Martin will be remembered for his kind gentle ways together with his loving pastoral care for the people he served. Below is a record of his service from May 30, 1941 to Nov. 20, 2022:

1964: May 24, ordained deacon by Bishop William Greer

1965: June 13, ordained priest by Bishop William Greer

1964 – 1971: assistant curate of William Temple, Wythenshawe

1971 – 1983: rector of St Anne, Haughton, Denton

1983 – 2006: vicar of St Margaret, Prestwich with St. George, Simister

2007- 2009: acting canon residentiary, The Cathedral of The Most Holy Trinity, Hamilton, Bermuda.

2009 – 2022: canon emeritus, Bermuda Cathedral

Here, There & This and That



Pictured: Lessons and Carols service at the Cathedral, Dec. 18, led by the City Singers and with readers including special guests, Governor Rena Lalgie and Mayor Charles Gosling.



Briefs:



Bishop's Note:

Please join me in sending prayers and support for Canon Ant Pettit and his family at the loss of his lovely mum

Wendy who died on January 6. Ant, Ruth, Sam and Ben have flown to the UK to be with his father David and brother Paul and his wife Joelma.



Wendy, with her husband, David

Wendy and David had been to Bermuda a number of times and she will be fondly remembered by all who met her. We praise God for her confident faith and trust in the Lord Jesus, who is the resurrection and the life, and for the presence of God's comforting Spirit watching over and guiding the family through their grief.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory and may the whole family know the everlasting arms of our Saviour carrying them through this time.

The Rev Harold Lockett, who has been serving the parish of St. James in Somerset, and has most recently helped facilitate the temporary joint venture with St. Anne's in Southamp-

ton, will be leaving the island at the end of January. The diocese and the parishes are grateful for his faithful and tireless service.

The vestries of St James Somerset and St Anne's Southampton have agreed to share resources for the time being and look for a priest in charge who will serve both faith communities until there is a time when they can stand on their own once again. Archdeacon Andrew Doughty is facilitating a newly formed search committee that has begun the task of filling this vacancy.

Leadership of Holy Trinity, Hamilton and St Mark's, in Smith's parish have renewed their commitment to continue to work together in mutual support and ministry.

Bible study for those who work or live in Hamilton or want to attend a noon hour bible study rather than drive in the evening: beginning **Monday, Jan 30**, we will begin a study affectionately called, "*Egypt to the Promised Land*," following the journey of Moses and the Israelites from captivity to the Promised Land, with particular emphasis on how our journeys often mirror this historic one.

It will be held in the nave of the cathedral from 12:15 to 1 p.m. Bring your lunch, your coffee and a spirit anxious to grow.



Welcome to The Anglican Diocese of Bermuda

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Diocesan Officers

The Rt. Rev. Nicholas Dill, Bishop

The Ven. Andrew Doughty, Archdeacon

The Very Rev. Canon Dr. Jerry Smith, Canon Residentiary

Robert Alexander, Chancellor

Sonia Grant, Registrar

Campbell McBeath, Treasurer

Juanæ Crockwell, Synod Secretary and Executive Assistant to the Bishop

Notice regarding The Anchor

The Anchor is a monthly publication. It comes out in the second week of the month, with submissions due the first day of the month in order to provide time to edit, design and print.

We are appreciative of those who get material in earlier than deadline. We encourage photo submissions. Please make sure photos are not of low or extremely high resolution and come with permission from those who are in it. Please also include information as to the subject and the people in it with names correctly spelled.

For further information, e-mail Marjie, editor, at ms.scribbler@gmail.com, text (441)-525-4733, or contact via WhatsApp.