

Bishop
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THE DIOCESE OF QU'APPELLE *Anglican Church of Canada*

January 14, 2020

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As we journey together this year I pray that we, as a church, be enabled to find God even in unexpected places and in unexpected ways like the Magi did. It was encouraging recently to read 'The Grapevine' a collection of stories from people at St Mary's, Regina; stories of where they have witnessed God's presence in the pandemic of this past year.

Like the Magi, following stars and finding stables can be a common occurrence in both a human and a spiritual sense. Who among us has not at some time in our life fixed our gaze on some high and lofty ideal only to find it led to a stable and was nothing like what we had hoped for. Hundreds of examples could be given. Last year being one of them. The challenge is turning those stables, broken resolutions, or dashed hopes, into holy moments, places where truly God is found.

The Magi could have just dropped their heads and turned back home, like the ones on the Emmaus Road did, when their hopes were dashed. Rather, they entered the stable and, having entered, they knelt, paid homage, and offered their very best: gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

As we journey in faith, follow a star, and find a stable, we also need to look for God in that stable, and give our very best to him. For that is the glory of the gospel. That's why it is called Good News, for it transforms the stables of our lives - the coarse and the commonplace - into possibilities to encounter the sacred, the most Holy. The Herod's of this world don't get it, but the humble and the wise of every age do, for when they follow a star and find a stable they look for God – offer their very best and then tread a new path for God's glory, and not their own.

Your ministry here matters. Your words and your actions matter. Your faith and collective witness to the Lord matter. At this New Year I thank all of you who are offering your very best to God. Our clergy, lay leaders, carers, phone callers, intercessors, doctors, nurses, cleaners, emergency responders, carol singers, food outreach ministers, listeners, snow clearers and civil leaders. God bless you all for the gifts you offer in the stable of this pandemic. In the muck, disappointment, disillusionment, bereavement, and worry of these times, may you be blessed to discover that Immanuel, God is with you, the very Lamb of God, the Babe of Bethlehem.

Diocesan News

1. We report the appointment of Ms. JoAn Gunayon as part time Accounting Assistant. Originally from Swift Current, JoAn is now settled in Regina. She is equipped with excellent finance skills which she continues to develop. This month, JoAn will receive training from The Corner Office with regard to current finance software. She'll also be learning about the workings of the Synod Office and the diocese in general. JoAn will be in the office on Thursday and Friday afternoons. She can be reached at 306-522-1600 or by email at finance.dio@sasktel.net
2. Archdeacon Peter Boote is to retire at 65. His ministry as Archdeacon of the Archdeaconry of St Chad ended December 31st, 2020 and his parish priest ministry with the Chinook Parish concludes on March 31st, 2021. Peter now reverts to the title the Revd. Peter Boote. We thank God for Peter's faithful and much appreciated ministry both in the Chinook Parish and the diocese of Qu'Appelle. We pray God will bless Peter and Nico abundantly in their new life together and that they have a blessed retirement.
3. Sadly, I share the news that the Revd. Brian Ernest Woodrow died peacefully in the early hours on Saturday, January 9, 2021 in Calgary, AB, at the age of 86. Brian was born in Moose Jaw, SK on June 18, 1934. Studied for ordained ministry at the University of Saskatchewan and Trinity College, Toronto. 1970 Brian was ordained and ministered to three indigenous reserves at Punnichy, SK. 1971 St Mary's Kindersley. It was there he married, Evelyn Mary Schmidt and later moved to Claresholm AB. 1974 Grenfell, SK where Brian was appointed Regional Dean. In 1977 hospital chaplain at the Plains Hospital. In 1980 Brian became Hospital Chaplain for the Diocese of Saskatoon. In 1985 Brian became Director of Pastoral Care at Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary, AB. For the next nine years. On retirement, in 2010, Brian and Evelyn returned to Kindersley until 2018, when health issues deemed it necessary for him to move into an assisted living facility. A Private Funeral Service will be held on Friday, January 15, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. The service will be livestreamed at <https://vimeo.com/event/606832>
"Rest eternal grant unto him O Lord and let light perpetual shine upon him. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen".

Keep safe and God bless you all



+ Rob Hardwick