

NORTHLAND

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OUR NEW VISION STATEMENT

The Diocese of Moosonee – called by God to live and proclaim the Gospel



Moosonee Clericus, 2014

Article by Richard Moore, Lay Reader, Holy Trinity, Cochrane.

Some philosopher once said that the only constant in life is change. As Christians and God's people, we know that is not true. Change is merely what we implement to ensure that the constants we know to be important may continue to be upheld. The Diocese of Moosonee is a good example of that.

This year's diocesan clericus meeting, that is, the gathering of the clergy for education and revitalization was a joyous expression and example of the changes that are happening in the Diocese of Moosonee, and our continuing commitment to living and proclaiming the Gospel of Christ.

Change? Yes, there were some changes. The meeting was organized by our new Archdeacon, the Venerable Deborah Lonergan-Freake. Our stay, reflecting the new 'lean and mean' diocesan budget, was a day shorter. There were new faces among the clergy. The principal speaker and

teacher, the star of the event and 'headliner', was not an import from somewhere else, but our own new bishop and archbishop, the Most Reverend Colin Johnson. And as speaker, he took the opportunity not to lecture the group on arcane points of theology or church administration but to allow those listening to get to know the small town boy who had become a world figure without losing his grace (no pun intended!). The Archbishop brought with him an affable and widely experienced priest and Canon from the Diocese of Toronto, Greg Symmes, who acted as our open, emphatic, and very hard working chaplain. Educational sessions were attended by as many as eight non-clerics, lay persons active in the ministry of their churches. Much was different!

But it was still the clericus of the Diocese of Moosonee and it was still a vital and smile inducing celebration

of the presence of Jesus Christ in the far reaches of Ontario and Quebec. The location, at Camp Bickell, with its magnificent view of God's creation and its friendly and dedicated staff, was the perfect setting for the kind of intensive learning and relaxed

Clericus continued on page 4.



The Reverend Norm Wesley found time for tea during a break at Clericus.

Healing

Article by Reverend Marilyn van Duffelen, Eastmain, QC



The Reverend Marilyn van Duffelen and Sadie were central figures at Clericus and the Healing Gathering.

Chief Edward Gilpin, at our Diocesan Gathering in Eastmain, Quebec said it was "a beginning." It was a beginning. It was even deemed a great success. What was different about this event? How could something so radically different be a success? In actuality, it was not a radical change, but rather a journey towards traditional ways of healing. Instead of workshops and guest speakers, we all participated in numerous sharing circles. Their titles were: "Forgiveness", "Parenting Issues", "Broken Family Relationships", "Healing Our Communities", "Residential School Healing", and "Christian and Indigenous Spirituality Walking Together". We used talking feathers. We shared the many ways we hurt, most of them associated directly or indirectly with the Residential School experience. We shared our desire to stop hurting, our desire to find some closure. We shared a need to learn a new of doing things so that the pain is not perpetuated into our children's and our grandchildren's future. We shared our desire to find solutions to our grievous social ills. We shared our perplexity, our need

Healing continued on page 4.





Bishop Tom Corston had the pleasant duty of ordaining the Reverend George Westgate in the presence of his family and new parishioners in St. John the Evangelist Church, Mistissini, QC.

Mistissini Ordination

Article by Bishop Tom Corston

The Diocese of Moosonee was fortunate this last spring to receive an indication that Mr. George Westgate and his family were interested in serving in a northern ministry. Following a preliminary meeting in a downtown Toronto restaurant with Bishop Corston, efforts began to appoint him to the parish of Mistissini. George, his wife Ann and two of their four adult children, Martha and Ben, moved north in two convoys in early June to take up the ministry of that busy congregation.

Both George and Ann are graduated of the Church Army and have served as parish evangelists in the Dioceses of Athabaska, Newfoundland and Labrador and in the Diocese of the Arctic. In the past 10 years the Westgates have been living in Toronto where George has ministered in a number of settings as well as working in the secular world. A couple of years ago, George decided to seek

ordination and entered Wycliffe College to work towards his new goal.

Shortly after the Westgates moved into the Mistissini Rectory (a home provided to the Diocese by the Mistissini Cree Nation), the whole family threw themselves into the new ministry and began to become acquainted with the community and their church family. George began to lead Sunday services and minister regularly at the local Elders' Centre and both Ann and Martha have been enthusiastically welcomed as helpers with the parish's Sunday School. Ann is a gifted and imaginative seamstress and crafts person whose talents have already been seen in the ministry of the parish. Martha is a graduate this spring in an Early Childhood Education program and has not only found a part time position in her field in Mistissini but provides assistance to both Ann and George in the new ministry.

With George's successful completion of the required ACPO (Advisory Committee of Postulants for Ordination) process, Archbishop Johnson agreed that George should be ordained to the Diaconate at the earliest possibility. In conversation with Assistant Bishop Corston the decision was made to offer George ordination in the Mistissini parish immediately following

the annual Diocesan Clericus gathering on Friday, September 12th.

Unfortunately, all of the James Bay clergy were busy with other important ministries and events so none were able to participate in the ordination. Their absence did not, however, dampen the enthusiasm of the event both in the Westgate family and the local parish. Bishop Corston was pleased to have the assistance of Dean Greg Gilson from Timmins, who stepped in due to the absence of the Regional Dean, as well as the Reverend Larry Armstrong who acted as Bishop's Chaplain. Joining us was retired United Church minister, the Reverend Bill Jones, a good friend of the Timmins Anglican community. Our special guest, who travelled with Bishop Corston, was Archdeacon Michael Thompson, the General Secretary of the Anglican Church of Canada. Archdeacon Thompson was enjoying a trip through the inland Quebec Cree Territory with the Bishop. We were so pleased that he readily agreed to be the ordination preacher. It was a celebration filled with joy, the only glitch being a hymn tune mix up as the Bishop attempted to lead the singing a cappella. Eventually, we managed to get it right! A number of the local leaders participated in the liturgy with read-

Mistissini continued on page 4.



Archdeacon Deborah listened to her colleagues at Clericus.

The Archdeacon's Message

Article by Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake

For many years now, I have tried to intentionally practice living with an attitude of gratitude. For no matter what is happening in my life or those of the people, parishes, and communities around me, there are always blessings for which to be thankful. In Matthew 5: 3-16, our Lord speaks of people or times in the lives of people, when they are particularly blessed. The word 'blessed' is repeated numerous times, and not always in reference to times of our lives when we might feel blessed. And yet, we are truly blessed by our whole lives, by all the people

who come and go in our lives, by our work, our daily circumstances and yes, even by the hard gifts that all of us experience from time to time.

When we live our lives aware that we are constantly being blessed, we are able to live as grateful Christians following the God who created us, and responding to God's love and bounty amply provided to us, by giving generously and happily of our time, talents, and treasure.

Reading further along in Matthew 5:3-16, we see ourselves described by Jesus as salt and light for the world. How

very blessed we are! Yet do we accept, embrace, and live as blessed people who are salt and light of the world? That's a pretty high standard.

As the people of God in this Diocese of Moosonee, we are 'called to live and proclaim the Gospel.' That is our Diocesan Vision Statement and it is God's call to each of us. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, let us take time to contemplate how very blessed we are and to remember that we have a mission field before us in the persons of our families, friends, neighbours, and communities. Let us joyfully live, proclaim and share the Gos-

pel with all. May you and those whom you hold dear have a blessed and peace filled Christmas season.



The Northland

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Moosonee Memories

Article by the Canon Greg Symmes, Diocese of Toronto



Christmas Moose

When I began my ordained ministry 30 years ago, my first parish was in Orillia, Ontario. I soon discovered that one member of the selection committee, Richard Clarke, was the son of a former Bishop of Moosonee, The Right Reverend Neville Clarke. Richard Clarke's mother was living only a few blocks from the church. Over the next

six years, I would spend time with Alice and hear her stories of life in the North and the wonderful people she and her husband knew and loved.

Richard and I became friends and he took me on canoe and fishing trips. At one point he re-traced his father's canoe routes that the Bishop used to visit the parishes of the diocese. It was Richard who introduced me to the North

with all its beauty and charm.

Six years ago, the Reverend Cliff Dee was at a meeting of clergy in Toronto and asked if anyone would like to go to Moosonee and Moose Factory for a wedding in July. I quickly volunteered and asked a friend if he would like to go. Cliff got all excited and asked us to run some educational programs and since we were there

See Memories on p. 3





Bishop Tom Corston and Archbishop Colin Johnson enjoyed good weather at St. Paul's Church, Kashechewan as well as good fellowship with their fellow Christians.

The Archbishop Visits the Coastal Communities

Article by Bishop Tom Corston

On Monday and Tuesday, September 22nd & 23rd, Bishops Johnson and Corston visited the Parish of Kashechewan on James Bay's west coast. It was a visit that was supposed to have taken place in June but had to be postponed when so much damage was done in the community with spring flooding. This concluded Archbishop Johnson's introductory visits to the Diocesan communities on James Bay.

The introductory journey began in mid-June when he and his wife, Ellen flew to Chisasibi. Trinity Sunday was celebrated at St. Philip's Church, Chisasibi. The long and festive day began with the Archbishop meeting the parish clergy prior to the service of Confirmation. The bishops divided the administration of the 'Laying-on-of-Hands' for the 78 candidates. Following the 3 hour celebration, the Bishops and their wives were hosted at one of the numerous community feasts.

The next morning, after a short trip to the community of Wemindji, Canon Rod and Lisa BrantFrancis hosted the party in

their new rectory. Tours included a visit to a meechiwup where geese were being prepared for a family birthday - a real treat. The fresh evergreen laid on the ground and the roaring fire made one quite drowsy! The Bishops confirmed 27 young people at St. John's Church the next afternoon and partook of a huge feast in the local arena. Waistbands were becoming restrictive!

On Wednesday, we were hosted by Dr. Marilyn van Duffelen in the Parish of Eastmain on a day that became strikingly cold when the wind blew off the Bay dropping the temperature to a mere 4° C. Little St. Mark's Church was packed for the evening Confirmation service when 22 were presented. A highlight was the participation of the candidates in the liturgy - hopefully, the beginnings of a new Servers' Guild.

Waskaganish was the next visit on the tour where the Incumbent, Gladys Matoush, presented 6 children for Baptism. One young woman was presented for Confirmation which was held the following morning so that family members could arrive from other communities.

Unfortunately, the Archbishop was required in his 'other' Diocese so the Corstons bid them farewell at the Waskaganish airport before they carried on for visits to Pikogan for a Baptism and the enjoyable festivities for National Aboriginal Day. Finally, on Sunday, Bishop Corston officiated at the Golden Valley Church in Val d'Or before heading home for a short break.

The introductory tour continued at the end of June when the two Bishops, this time without their wives, spent the weekend in Moose Factory and Moosonee. The Reverend Norm Wesley was a superb host and provided a great treat in a boat ride to the mouth of the Moose River out onto James Bay. It was exhilarating and informative as Reverend Norm provided historic and geographic insights along the way. Saturday lunch was provided by the Select Vestry at Moosonee and then a feast was held by the Moose Factory Select Vestry in a huge tent with food prepared over an open fire on Saturday evening. We called it a day after a thorough tour of Moose Factory Island. On Sunday morning, the Bishops shared the Confirmation service in Moose Factory and then were rushed across the river to Moosonee for the same celebration but this time with

the added touch of helping Bishop Corston observe the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the Diaconate. Bishop Corston spent the summer of 1973 as a student intern in the Parish of Moosonee, so the parish was of huge significance.

Finally, in September, the Bishops made it to Kashechewan. Archbishop Johnson enjoyed being shown around the community and meeting some of the parish leadership. St. Paul's Church was filled for an evening celebration of baptism for 6 babies. A communication mix-up moved Confirmation to the following day but it was an uplifting experience for those who shared the service with 3 young men. This particular visit to Kashechewan provided the Bishops with a personal view of the village following the devastating effect of spring floods. It was good to see that many people had returned (although some still live in Kapuskasing) and that there was some building taking place as well as repairs being carried out to a number of buildings. It was a busy place to be.

In 2015, Archbishop Johnson will make his first visitation to the Quebec inland parishes as well as to the communities of the Watershed Deanery. Hopefully, Bishop Corston will be able to join him in these visits. Stay tuned!



The Reverends Lisa and Rod BrantFrancis hosted Archbishop Johnson and Bishop Tom Corston during their visit to Wemindji, QC.

Memories continued from page 1.

could we celebrate Sunday morning, one at Moosonee and the other at Moose Factory. Bishop Patrick Yu, and my wife and I went to Moose Factory and Moosonee for five or six days. We loved it. We met so many wonderful lay readers and generous people.

When Archbishop Johnson began to offer his gifts of oversight for the Diocese, I went to him and told him of my love of the North and my

interest in the Diocese of Moosonee. This fall, as the Archbishop met with the leaders from the parishes, he asked me to accompany him as the chaplain and look after worship so the clergy could come and be refreshed and not have to plan the worship. I was delighted to attend and very much enjoyed meeting the dedicated leaders of many parishes.

I was struck with their commitment and dedication. I learned of

some of the challenges in parishes and the vast distances covered to offer services. I heard about parishes struggling to respond to shrinking numbers at Sunday worship. Some parishes are trying things like Messy Church and other types of activities to respond to people's needs.

I was also struck by their positive attitude. No one grumbled at their situation not lamented their challenges. There was an eagerness to

search out and respond to new ways of being the church and serving people.

I must say I returned to my parish of St. Timothy's, having been renewed by such dedicated and committed leaders.

I will continue to pray for the Diocese of Moosonee and the leaders of the parishes. May God continue to bless you with strong leadership and dedicated faithful members.

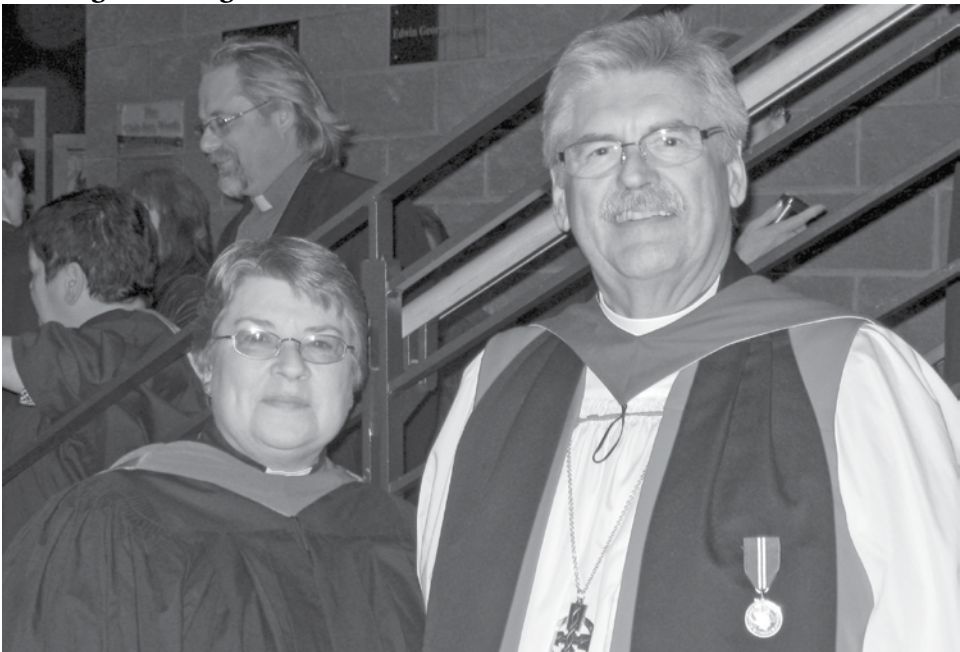




Reverend Valerie Isaac proved that she could blow Pentecost bubbles with great skill.



Bishop Tom Corston and Canon Cliff Dee joined many others in the Diocesan Healing Gathering in Eastmain.



Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake and Bishop Tom Corston at the Convocation.



Lay Readers Lesley Curtis and Diane Thompson of St. Peter's on-the-Rock, Kirkland Lake, brought some of their infectious joy and laughter to Clericus.

Bubbly Pentecost

Article by the Reverend Valerie Isaac, St. Mark's Church, Kapuskasing.

Pentecost in Kapuskasing was just a little different this year. Instead of going through the service as usual, Reverend Valerie Issac decided to shake things up a little. During the sermon, the Reverend Deacon Anne Stenabaugh was distributing bubble containers and Reverend Valerie stopped mid-sermon to get everyone on the move.

Mistissini continued from page 2. ings, prayers, and in the translation of the ordination sermon. The whole service was filmed in order that family and Toronto friends might be able to see it.

Following the service, the parish provided a reception in the parish hall during which congratulations and gifts were provided. Both George and Ann expressed to the gathering their happiness at the event saying that it could not have been done better.

On Sunday morning, St. John's Church was packed as the now Reverend George Westgate presented 16 young people for Confirmation in a joyous celebration. Canon Cliff Dee also presented two young women who drove the three hour journey from Nemiska to Mistissini. Again Archdeacon Michael Thompson

So outside we all went - except for a couple of seniors - and blew bubbles! It was a beautiful Sunday morning and the congregation had more than one on-looker stop by to ask what was going on. It was a beautiful way to celebrate Pentecost and even the bigger kids in the congregation had fun. It was lovely to see everyone out on the front lawn of the church.

was the preacher. Following the service, the parish again hosted a community feast. At the feast, two huge cakes were presented, one to the Confirmation candidates who helped Bishop Corston in sharing it with those present and a beautifully decorated second cake was presented to George, suitably inscribed welcoming him as Mistissini's new minister and congratulating him on his ordination as well as wishing him a 'Happy Birthday' as that too was part of the weekend's events! George, somewhat emotionally, thanked the congregations and again expressed his pleasure in coming to Mistissini.

Mistissini is a wonderfully busy parish and we wish them all well as they continue the good work with their new Rector and his family.

New Doctor in the Diocese

Article by Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake

At the Convocation of Sudbury's Thorneloe University, Bishop Tom Corston received an honorary degree of Doctor of Sacred Theology in recognition of his years in rural and northern ministry. Archdeacon Anne Germond introduced him as Convocation speaker, noting Bishop Tom's courageous leadership

of the Diocese of Moosonee through our transition. In his address, Bishop Tom encouraged the graduating class to make the most of their education and their lives to positively affect those around them. He entertained the audience with tales of his own early education and stories of people and events from Moosonee's past.

Healing continued from page 1.

to understand the whys and wherefores. We shared our brokenness.

We listened. We listened to the stories in our circles. We respected the pain and the need to express it. We waited when a speaker paused, overcome by pain. We listened respectfully to the silence of those who could not speak. We received validation of our experiences. But above these things, important as they are, we also opened our hearts,

for it is with an open heart that the Holy Spirit enters and comforts us. It is once we open our hearts that Jesus has the opportunity to break our stone hearts and restore them to soft flesh again. It is with open hearts that we can see our parents, children, grandparents, sisters, and brothers, all our relatives, once again in the light of Christ. It is with open hearts that we can give and receive forgiveness. And so the healing.

Clericus continued from page 1.

fellowship, that is the essential mix at this event. There was solid education, as clergy and laity gave serious thought to missional ministry, and its potential impact on church health. The clergy of the diocese, who often labour in isolated and difficult circumstances, are still those same people whose dedication to their calling amazes visitors to the diocese. The problems are met and consid-

ered and conquered in the course of an ordinary day's work are still there - that's the nature of our world. But the smiles and the laughter and the hugs that are exchanged are still the signs of the deep faith and love that these people of the cloth share with those who share their world. Much remains the same and as Martha (not the biblical one) says, "that is a good thing." We are blessed.

