

In conversation with ...

Our delegates who attended General Synod

Special insert section: Pages **5-8**



I HAVE CALLED *You* BY NAME



NIAGARA ANGLICAN



A section of the Anglican Journal

A Gathering Place and a Sounding Board for the People of the Diocese of Niagara – Since 1955

SEPTEMBER 2019



Editor completes his second season

Editor, starting with the preparation for and publishing of the October 2011 *Niagara Anglican*.

In making the official nouncement, the diocesan press release read, "Hollis has served in this role with distinction and dedication since 2011. His contribution to the life of our diocese has been characterized by creativity, faithfulness and a deep commitment to telling our stories at parish and diocesan levels well. We are grateful for his ministry over the years and wish him every blessing in his role as Interim Pastor at St. Luke's Palermo."

In his first *Niagara Anglican* as Editor, he engaged "In conversation with ..." himself. Over the years he would employ this method of communications as a very effective conversation discourse.

To the comment, "sounds like you have a huge task ahead of you", he responded, "If it depended on me alone, I would probably feel overwhelmed, but I am part of a talented team of people who are committed to employing their skills to continue and further enhance the communication goals of the whole Diocese. Likewise, we hope that people in parishes

throughout the Diocese will accept ownership of the paper and website, and will critique, contribute and support these and other communications media. In essence, we are responding to and fulfilling the commission Jesus gave to his disciples (and us) to bring God's good news to people everywhere. After all, that is the mission and ministry of the Church, and that is our focus as well."

After ministering as an ordained priest in Toronto Diocese and two of the three Newfoundland-Labrador dioceses, Hollis came to Niagara Diocese when he retired (the

first time) in 2007.

Being Editor provided him with unique opportunities to get to know Niagara and make a contribution to the life of the church through print and other media.

Hollis wishes to thank the hundreds of people—staff colleagues, writers, contributors, board members, volunteers, advertisers and others—who have made his journey as Editor more than one could ask for or imagine.

Read more about Hollis' seasons as an Editor of Church papers in his HOLLISTORIAL on page three.

After eight years as Editor of the *Niagara Anglican*, the Reverend Hollis Hiscock completed his ministry as editor on August 31, 2019.

After being appointed by Bishop Michael Bird in August 2011, Hollis began his work as

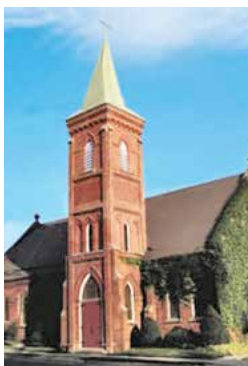
Hurrah. We did it!

MAREEA LINDSAY

We at St. Paul's Jarvis did it ... with a lot of hard work from our 22-25 regular parishioners, especially our 10 member Women's Club and our 12 PTA (Part Time Anglicans) members.

We call upon them all the time to help us do our church suppers, Lions Club's dinners,

See WE DID IT Page 2



Facility to meet the needs of church and community

In June, the ground was broken to begin construction of the facility which will eventually house the parish of All Saints Hamilton. Parishioners, as well as representatives from Niagara Diocese and the project's developer, attended the historic event.

The new fully accessible church unit is being constructed for the congregation of All

Saints as part of a multi-story condominium complex situated at 15 Queen Street South.

The multi-purpose space will also meet the needs of the church and community in ways that are much more consistent with ministry in the 21st century.

Consistent with the trend toward mixed-use neighbour-

hoods, the church exterior will be reminiscent of a storefront, showcasing the work of local artists and providing a valuable community asset for our ministry and the work of our community partners.

Nearly two decades ago All Saints Church was damaged in

See ALL SAINTS Page 2



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We did it! Parish pays off debt

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

plant and bake sales, one stop shop and bake sales, band concerts, yard sales and High Teas, catering (weddings) and all the other fund raisers we do.

We have, after only six and a half years, paid off our debt of \$80,000. to the diocese.

While paying this debt we also rewired and insulated the church and put in three new furnaces in the church and Sunday School.

We are very grateful to the diocese for their ongoing support and patience while we paid

off this money.

It seemed an awful large amount of money, but by working together—steady and sure—we were at last successful.

We would like to tell other churches with debts that they too can do it.

Now we can just sit back, enjoy church life and relax. *Like that will happen!*

Mareea Lindsay is a member of St. Paul's Jarvis.

All Saints breaks ground on new facility

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



an earthquake.

In 2009 ongoing structural and safety issues forced the congregation to find a temporary meeting space, as it worked towards a redevelopment of the property that included permanent meeting and worship space.

Parishioners from All Saints Hamilton joined Bishop Susan and Rector Ronda Ploughman for the ground-breaking ceremony for the facility which will house

Photo: Bill Mous

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Letters

St. John's Stewarttown

Just received my June *Niagara Anglican*.

Thank you for doing such a great job on displaying St. John's history and anniversary celebrations.

It is more than I could have asked for or imagined!

Barb Mansfield, Stewarttown

Belize connection

I read with interest your recent article about St. Simon's mission trip to Holy Cross School in San Pedro, Belize (Niagara Anglican, March 2019).

We are parishioners of St. Matthew's Anglican Church in St. Albert, Alberta and my wife, Heather, was the very first volunteer there, helping to open the school in the fall of 2006.

For many years we supported the School while at Holy Trinity Church in Yellowknife. We had annual working trips there, organized a mission trip in 2006 and fundraised extensively for the food program and advocated for the school. We have since branched out to supporting other Anglican schools in the country.

It is great to see churches in your Diocese reaching out into the Mission field and engaging your youth in

promoting Christ's work.

Rick Leslie, St. Albert, Alberta

OOPS

Please make a correction in your next edition regarding your article from EDITORS LOOK TO THE FUTURE (page 11) Summer edition:

"Editor Mark Hauser of Ontario's *Dialogue* (not Ottawa's *Crosstalk*) was elected President of AEA (Anglican Editors Association) ..."

Diana Duncan-Fletcher, Carrying Place, Ontario

Correction

I know it was months ago, but I'm just catching up on my reading of the paper tonight.

A picture in the "Blasts from the Past" feature has an incorrect name. It's the Reverend David Blackwood, not Blackwell.

I was not a parishioner of that church, but I attended Canterbury Hills for most of the 70s.

Margaret Martin

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Coming October in the Niagara Anglican:

- ∞ REVIVE – an update
- ∞ ONE THING – exciting happenings
- ∞ A rich journey – experiencing parishes
- ∞ Much more



HOLLIStorial

My seasons as Editor

I LOVE being an Editor.

It is fascinating to witness 26 letters and 10 numbers giving birth to innumerable words, sentences and paragraphs expressing happenings, ideas and opinions.

Don Cherry of Coach's Corner described his analyst's role as, "exciting and fun". I feel the same way.

However, as the 19th century poet Lewis Carroll's Walrus suggested, "The time has come".

Lewis was reflecting what the Preacher or Philosopher (Ecclesiastes 3:1) concluded twenty-two centuries earlier, "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity".

I have been honoured and privileged to have had two "times" or "seasons" as Editor.

Pre-Season

My pre-season began as an undergraduate student in University. A kernel was planted in my innermost being—not sure from whence it came—that someday I would like to be Editor of a Church paper.

Season one

My first opportunity came 16 years after ordination. I was teaching, as well as working as an administrator at Memorial University of Newfoundland, which I enjoyed immensely.

However, the kernel began to sprout. It appeared God was calling me back to parish ministry. Eventually, an Associate's position at St. Thomas' St. John's—I was part-time there—became available, and the Editor of the tri-diocesan paper had recently resigned.

I approached the Bishop regarding both appointments. He replied, "I can make you Editor immediately, but I need to consult the parish about the

Associate's position".

For 11 years and over 22,000 pages, we recorded church news, featured minor and major life issues, provided a forum for the exchange of varying opinions, garnered readership input, struggled through difficult times and renewed our zeal during the upbeat moments.

"I view a Diocesan paper as 'a sounding board' and 'a gathering place'. The latter enables the diocese, parishes and individuals to gather on the printed page to share happenings, experiences, ideas and suggestions."

When season one concluded, the three Newfoundland-Labrador diocesan Bishops praised our team for our balanced approach, including all aspects and voices in the church, our sensitivity to all groups (especially minorities), our clearly stated editorials and our challenges which helped the church reassess where it was going. They concluded that we "enriched the life of the church in doing" a difficult job.

My first season ended.

Season Two

My second season began with a phone call from Archdeacon Michael Patterson of Niagara Diocese during the summer of 2011.

I jumped for joy with the prospect of being Editor of the *Niagara Anglican*, a paper I had read and admired for decades.

Michael and I conversed about the paper's direction and finalized various specifics. In my first issue (October 2011) I outlined my philosophy as Editor of a diocesan paper.

I decided to interview myself in an article called, "In Conversion with ..." Responding

to the query about my philosophy as Editor of a diocesan paper, I replied ...

"I view a Diocesan paper as 'a sounding board' and 'a gathering place'. The latter enables the diocese, parishes and individuals to gather on the printed page to share happenings, experiences, ideas and suggestions.

80 issues, 960 pages and nearly 2,000 items (news, photos and opinions), we have remained faithful to our *Niagara Anglican* mission and ministry.

Also, we have blossomed from the print kernel into the new realities of social media—websites, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, email delivery and



mistakes (grammar, spelling, sentences, etc.) were corrected. Thanks Helen, I could not have done it without you.

Post season

Not sure what my future as an Editor will be, except to note I have indicated to the church decision makers that my skills and talents are available to be employed as God is calling us to do and be.



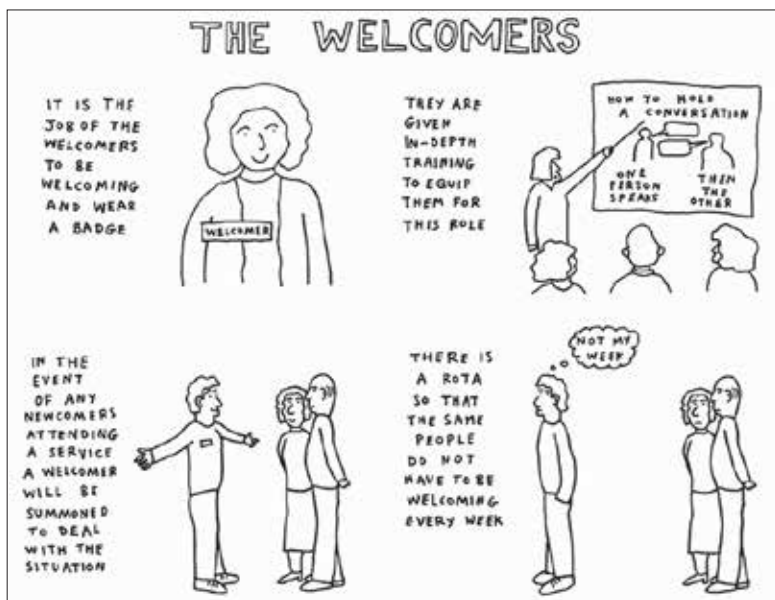
The paper becomes a 'sounding board' when writers exchange different perspectives and challenge readers to think at a deeper level about issues facing God's Church and world. Hopefully, the paper can be interactive for all ages, interests, groups and individuals."

After reviewing the 8 years,

beyond.

My sincere gratitude and appreciation are extended to you for your contribution in making my second season as a diocesan paper Editor remarkable and memorable.

A special shout out to my wife Helen, the best proofreader in the world, who ensured all



Copyright © 2015 Dave Walker. This cartoon originally appeared in the Church Times.

cartoonchurch.com



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Meghan's Beads

a daughter's story told by an aching mother

ANGELA RUSH

Meghan's Beads, a true story, told from my heart, the aching heart of her mother as I journeyed with my daughter through something so difficult, and yet so inspiring that the words were almost impossible for me to put together.

At the young age of 15 Meghan became very ill.

We took her to so many doctors and finally after weeks of being tested for so many things, she was referred to McMaster Children's Hospital Hamilton. On April 7, 2005 Meghan was diagnosed with a rare life-threatening illness called HLH.

She needed to be put into a drug induced coma and was in critical condition. She had to fight for her life now. I never thought I would ever in my life have to face anything like this with my child.

Our whole family gathered at the hospital as did friends and extended family. Prayers were being sent out by the hundreds that she would pull through this terrible illness.

HLH is a very rare blood disorder. White cells are released from the bone marrow called histio cells. They are supposed to fight infections, but hers somehow became reprogramed and began to act like Pacman and attack her body's organs.

When I was about to give up, Meghan showed me just how amazing God can be when you are open to His love. She became the perfect picture of His grace.

After conquering HLH and being prepared to return to high

school we were summoned back into McMaster due to findings on a routine scan.

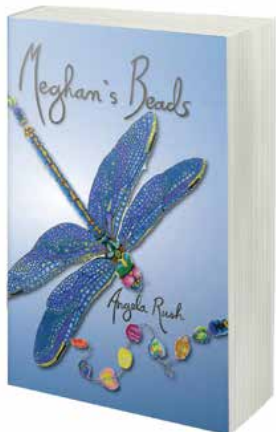
She was now given the horrific news that she now had cancer — ALCL, a type of lymphoma.

How does one tear hold so much pain? The same way a puddle holds so much rain, one drop at a time.

Faith was tried and tested over and over through this two-year journey. Meghan inspired everyone who met her. She became a lighthouse to many who faced the storm called cancer.

Children who are ill and receive treatments collect beads which become strands as a necklace. Each bead represents something. A red bead represents bloodwork. Chemo is a green bead. There is a bead for everything.

Meghan collected 13 strands of beads. One day while stringing up a strand she said to me, "Mom you gotta write my story."



Meghan's Beads is her story but belongs to all of us. God transformed her on her journey and with Him we faced each and every moment with love and grace.

I thank God for taking us all into His loving arms and for carrying us through this journey and teaching us through Meghan, that love is love is love.

After 10 years of writing and re-writing, and sometimes giving up, I managed, with God, to write her story, *Meghan's Beads*. In her own words she states, "It's not about how long you live, it's about how you live your life".

To purchase your copy, email missmeghansbeads@gmail.com Additionally, visit amazon.ca and search *Meghan's Beads* for an eBook. It is also available outside Canada on amazon.com for those loved ones far away to more easily order a printed copy.

Angela Rush is the Advertising Agent for the Niagara Anglican. niagara.anglican.ads@gmail.com

Pub night – food and entertainment

A happy audience participated as The Church of Our Saviour The Redeemer Stoney Creek held another of its fun-filled Pub Nights in June.

Following a full BBQ dinner, everyone was entertained by our amazing in-house entertainers, wrote Churchwarden Bev Groombridge. "Our Pub Nights are held quarterly, and they wouldn't take place without the hard work of a lot of dedicated parishioners," she continued, "it is a lot of fun for everyone and an amazing fundraiser for the parish!"

The next Pub Night will be held in September.



Photo: Bev Groombridge

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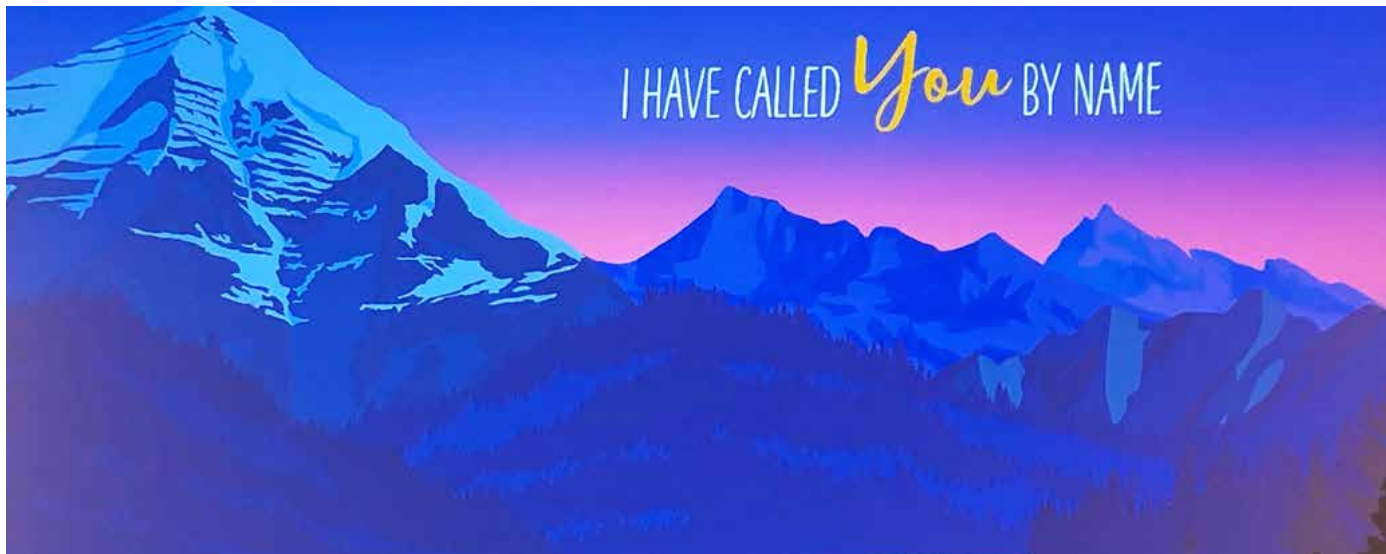
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Amendment to the Marriage Canon fails to be ratified by General Synod



A Message from the Bishop of Niagara The Right Reverend Susan Bell

My heart aches with lament and my soul is filled with anguish knowing all the pain and hurt caused by the General Synod's failure to ratify a change to the national marriage canon that would have explicitly expanded the meaning of marriage to include same-sex couples.

To the members of the LGBTQ2S community especially, I want to say that I stand with you and I share in your tears. I deeply value the person God beautifully created and called you to be and your contributions to the life of our Church. Your faithful witness has been long, difficult, prophetic, and sacrificial, and I give thanks to God for it.

While I am deeply disappointed, the General Synod did also overwhelmingly vote to affirm the prayerful integrity of the diverse understandings and teachings about marriage in the Anglican Church of Canada. This includes the inclusive understanding of marriage affirmed by the Report on the Marriage Commission, This Holy Estate, that we hold in Niagara.

As a result, nothing about this decision will change our practice in Niagara; I remain steadfast in exercising my episcopal prerogative to authorize the marriage of all persons who are duly qualified by civil law to be married, thereby responding to the pastoral needs present within our diocese. Two rites of The Episcopal Church, The Witnessing and Blessing of a Marriage and The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage 2, continue to be authorized for use in our diocese, in accordance with our established episcopal guidelines.

There will be more to say in the coming days but for now I ask your prayers and solidarity for and with the LGBTQ2S community, globally and locally, in the wake of this decision and in the face of persistent discrimination, oppression, and violence. Pray also for the members of General Synod that in the days to come the Holy Spirit will help us discern a way forward that upholds the dignity of every human being and boldly proclaims God's Way of radically inclusive love.

Letter

Overwhelmed by show of love and concern



Sunday July 14 was tough for my husband, the Reverend Tom Decker, and me. Quite coincidentally, we were both scheduled to serve at St. James' Anglican Church Kingston, the parish church where we volunteer. Tom was the celebrant at mass, and I was the lay reader.

We drove to church that morning still feeling very upset over the decision by the General Synod to deny the validity of our marriage. We felt like frauds going to worship with this denomination that continues to reject the legitimacy of our love.

But we were blessed by the overwhelming show of love and concern from the parish,

The Reverend Tom Decker and Maurice Tomlinson (former members of St. Jude's Oakville) now attend St. James Kingston. Maurice wore his "extra gay" shoes to worship on Sunday, July 14th ... several days after General Synod voted not to approve same sex marriages. He wrote, "I deliberately wore (them) below my Alb as my act of silent "protest".

Photo: Maurice Tomlinson

including Father Don Ford who acknowledged the pain of the marriage vote decision in his homily, as well as the married lesbian in the congregation who said how proud she was to see Tom and I serving today. A senior church member also took me aside and disclosed that he is bisexual, and several people said that they loved my "extra gay" shoes that I deliberately wore below my Alb as my act of silent "protest".

These acts of grace reminded us that we have a place in the Anglican Church of Canada, even while a minority of our church family wrestles with this fact. Tom and I remain faithful and proud Anglicans and hope that our presence and witness will one day help the church to reflect the truly radical and inclusive love of Christ.

*Maurice Tomlinson
Kingston, Ontario*

In conversation with ...

Our delegates who attended General Synod



The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, bringing together church people from across Canada, met in July for six days in Vancouver.

Read the *Anglican Journal* for their comprehensive coverage of this special gathering.

However, the *Niagara Anglican* sought the unique impressions, findings, experiences and perspectives of the delegates representing Niagara Diocese.

Here are samplings of their responses, edited for space.

If you wish to read the delegates' full replies, contact the Editor who will forward your request to the individuals so they can respond to you directly.

Niagara Anglican: What impressed you most about general synod?

Archdeacon Valerie Kerr:

Several things impressed me about GS2019.

The planning and implemen-

tation of gathering over 200 people together in one place was a start. Congratulations to those who looked after such a diverse group of people so well.

In an historic vote, General Synod almost unanimously approved changes to Canon XXII that enabled a self-determining Indigenous church within the Anglican Church of Canada, and to bestow the title of Archbishop upon National Indigenous Bishop Mark MacDonald (ranks among the metropolitans).

General Synod approved full communion between ACC and the U.S.-based Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The Reverend Canon Bill Mous:

The generous and warm hospitality extended by the Diocese of New Westminster was extraordinary.

The synod was situated in

downtown Vancouver and created a space where we could gather for the intense discernment and decision-making that unfolded but also find occasional moments of refuge in the surrounding neighbourhood in order to retreat from some of that intensity.

What was perhaps most impressive, however, was the beautiful worship which unfolded over our time together. The music, bible studies and liturgies grounded the synod and its members in wonder, love and praise of God.

Canon Pat Davis:

The planning and organization did an awesome job—ensuring the days were calm and ran smoothly—keeping with the theme, I Have Called You By Name.

The prayer like hymns always suited the agenda and kept us mindful of the theme. All the speakers spoke about living and acting in love, honour and

respect.

So many wonderful uplifting things happened, including the Primatial Message, The Anglican Council of Indigenous People delegation being voted in as members of General Synod (received with a standing ovation), viewing *The Doctrine of Discovery, Strong Hearts, Stolen Lands*, many outstanding speakers, passing the Affirmation Statement and so much more.

Andrew Clinkard:

What impressed me was the deep Christian faith and love for our church shown by all delegates. It was contagious!

The spirit filled liturgy was uplifting, the agenda well crafted and the speakers excellent—befitting the theme I Have Called You By Name.

I was very impressed with St. Thomas' Church Vancouver where a handful of delegates attended... the worship and fellowship were priceless.

During that service my anger

over the vote on the marriage canon was washed away.

Holding General Synod in such a beautiful setting—beach, ocean, forest and mountain—was awe inspiring and helped make me feel closer to God.

Youth Delegate Claire Christoff:

The aspect of General Synod which impressed me the most was the sense of community, of being one with the Holy Spirit.

I heard that in 2016 there was a clear division of members of general synod regarding positions on the marriage canon, and much hostility. While I cannot deny the tension and disagreement, there was that sense of community and support, nevertheless.

Within my own group of youth delegates, with whom I spent what felt like an eternity, we were strongly divided on this issue, but like much of General Synod as a whole, we were still a tight knit, happy group.



Niagara delegates pose with former Primate Fred Hiltz and the newly elected 14th Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, Linda Nicholls.

In conversation with ...

Our delegates who attended General Synod

I HAVE CALLED *You* BY NAME

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Photos: Claire Christoff, Greg Tweney and Bill Mous

Niagara Anglican: What was a disappointment or low point for you?

Youth Delegate Claire Christoff:

For myself, as a queer youth in the church, the lowest point of synod was hearing the cries of my fellow LGBT+ siblings, as the painful results of the vote came through.

Though the local option is now our church's reality, nothing has broken my heart more than those rainbow tears.

The Reverend Canon Bill Mous:

Friday, July 12, about 9:36 p.m. local time was the low point of General Synod. It was in this moment that the results of the vote on the amendment to the marriage canon vote were announced. They were greeted with a mixture of the soul-piercing wails, loud sobs and stunned silence from members of synod.

Within moments, the Primate invited the General Synod chaplain to lead us in prayer. As the shock of the results began to truly sink in, a deep sense of sadness, disappointment and shame encompassed many of us in the room.

Archdeacon Valerie Kerr:

My disappointment was the discussion around the change of

the marriage canon.

It pains me to hear people state "I/we love you but". What I hear is we love only the parts of you we agree with. I always maintained we do not have to agree with each other to love each other unconditionally. We are a diverse church and bound to have differences of opinions. My fear is some believe there is only one way and it is their way.

My hope is each person remembers how Jesus loved without boundaries. As Bishop Mark said in his homily, "the church must be a community of openness to all people, in a way that we never have been before".

Andrew Clinkard:

The low point for me was the debate on the Friday evening over the motion to amend Canon XXI—the Marriage Canon, and the resulting vote.

The debate became rancorous at times, and when the voting results were released, and I saw the motion had failed in the House of Bishops I was furious. It felt to me at the time as though the Bishops who had voted no were bringing on a *Gottterdammerung* of the Anglican Church.

I was in a negative frame of mind until Sunday worship.

Canon Pat Davis:

That the vote on the motion to amend the marriage canon (Canon XXI) failed and that the Primate had to read a statement from the House of Bishops acknowledging the hurt and harm they had done.

There was honourable intent in this, but it did not change anything in that order.

It was also disappointing that a few of the bishops did not stand as requested by the Primate.

Niagara Anglican: What did you bring back from general synod that will help in your parish or Niagara diocese?

Canon Pat Davis

The theme of General Synod—I Have Called You By Name—will be most helpful to us as a diocese and a parish to focus us on our direction forward. As long as we can be reminded that love, honour and respect are the keys to moving forward with dignity and compassion.

We will continue to move forward with our support and love for the LGBTQS2+ community and proceed as before with marriage equality and welcoming all people into our parishes.

The Reverend Canon Bill Mous:

One of the things General Synod quietly affirmed was the Arusha Call to Discipleship which emerged from the World Council of Churches' Conference on World Mission and Evangelism.

There seems to be a great deal of synergy with this initiative and Bishop Susan's focus on faith formation, renewal and mission. In the coming years, look for context resources from the national church to support this call to discipleship and baptismal living.

Youth Delegate Claire Christoff:

I have brought back a greater understanding of what the national church looks like, and how our diocese differs from and relates to those from coast to coast.



I think this expanded perspective of mine and the countrywide connections I have made will allow me to serve the diocese with a more open mind and new ideas.

Andrew Clinkard:

It provided me with opportunities to gain a greater understanding, appreciation and respect for the depth and breadth of the Christian faith as exemplified by our Anglican Church.

After having conversations with Anglicans from across Canada it finally dawned on me that not every congregation or diocese was in favour of changing the marriage canon—it wasn't just a few cranky bishops who were opposed.

I pray Anglicans on every side of the marriage canon debate can find with God's help the faith and strength to stay together and show love and respect as we move forward together on a journey just

Youth take time to explore Stanley Park in Vancouver.

begun.

Archdeacon Valerie Kerr:

I brought back more hope. Hope for an ever-changing church, for people living on the margins and for those whom we see as "different".

One challenge is the decline in membership although in some places we have growing churches. Just replicating what growing parishes are doing will not always work.

We can try what others are doing; however, we need to get out into communities and listen to what their needs are. We can't continue to do "church" from within our buildings only.

I view it as an opportunity to meet people where they live and help people get to know us on a more personal level.

Continued Page 8



Bishop Susan and Primate Linda Nicholls. Archbishop Linda preached at Bishop Susan's consecration.

Niagara Diocese will have a presence at the national church scene as the following were elected to various ministries ... the Venerable Val Kerr to the Council of General Synod (clergy), Andrew Clinkard to Financial Management Committee (laity) and Canon Donna Bomberry to the Communications Committee (laity).

In conversation with ...

Our delegates who attended General Synod



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Niagara Anglican: What decisions will impact Niagara Diocese and how?

Andrew Clinkard:

The motion that passed allowing a "local option" is a significant breakthrough from a national perspective, and for the many dioceses that have or are considering moving forward with the local option on same sex marriage.

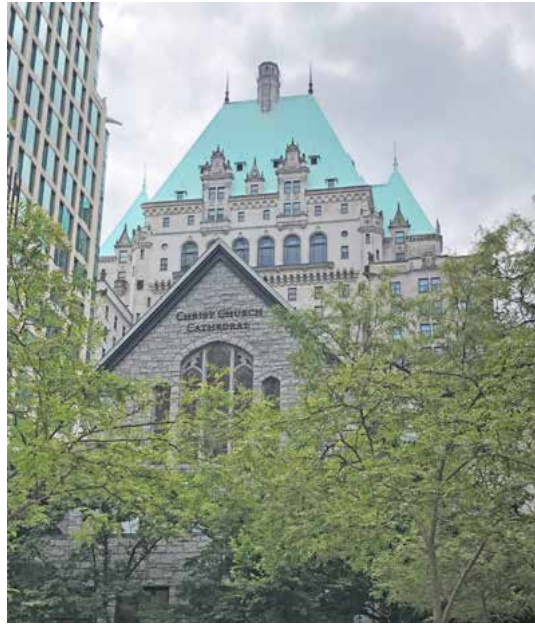
I hope the people of Niagara gain some measure of comfort that Anglicans in some other dioceses will have the same marriage rights Niagara Anglicans have enjoyed for three years.

The election of a new Primate and indeed the first woman, is another large step forward, particularly as one of the new Primate's last acts as Bishop of Huron was deciding to go ahead with same sex marriage in Huron.

Youth Delegate Claire Christoff:

The two major decisions which were discussed in Vancouver were the marriage canon and the self-determining Indigenous Church.

Our Bishop's perspective on the marriage canon is not news for our diocese, and I do not believe this decision will impact



Christ Church Cathedral Vancouver was the host site for General Synod 2019.

us greatly.

However, with the support from General Synod of the Indigenous Anglican Church, I know that Archdeacon Val Kerr will be able to continue her important work. With the guidance of the newly named Archbishop Mark MacDonald, I hope our diocese will continue to support the growth of the Indigenous Church and support the work of Indigenous leaders

in the church.

The Reverend Canon Bill Mous:

The election of Bishop Linda Nicholls to serve as our primate will guide the future direction of our Church in the coming years.

With approval at General Synod, parishes in Niagara now have access to a wide variety of new authorized collects and other liturgical resources.

Our commitment to the work



Inside Christ Church Cathedral Vancouver.

of truth and reconciliation will be bolstered by the Primate's Apology for spiritual harm to Indigenous peoples, and several resolutions related to self-determination.

The encouragement to curtail the use of single-use plastics at events will reawaken in us a long-standing call from the Greening Niagara committee to do just that.

Canon Pat Davis:

We have much rebuilding to do in the church.

The vote on Canon XXI and the unflattering media publicity it garnered spoke volumes to the world.

The "Affirmation" provided much hope for the future. I believe Bishop Susan will continue to be visible on social media and promote the message of our love, honour and respect for the LGBTQS2+ and all people.

Her sincerity and love of God and the teachings will remind the public of all the wonderful things that happened at General Synod, and how the church is always moving to make the world a better place for all to come to God's love.

"Nothing has broken my heart more than those rainbow tears."

—Claire Christoff



Youth delegates pose with Primate Linda Nicholls, the first woman elected to that office in the Anglican Church of Canada.

Mission Action Planning for Niagara – an update

MARLIE WHITTLE

Over the spring and summer, we have listened and heard from parishioners, clergy, ministry leaders and community organizations as we discern the new vision for the Diocese of Niagara.

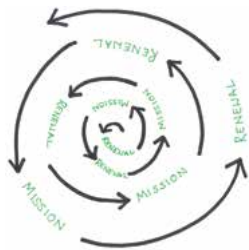
You may have been one of over 300 people that attended a gathering in Oakville, St. Catharines, Guelph or Hamilton where we listened to your thoughts and prayers as we discern God's call for our diocese over the next five years.

You also may have been one of the 299 people who shared their opinions, hopes and dreams for their parish and the diocese via our online Mission Action Plan Questionnaire.

In case you missed these sessions and the survey, the questions ranged from demographic information, for example age range, parish location, clergy or lay, to questions about the trends people are noticing in their parish and broader community and how God is calling us to respond.

For your own personal reflection, we have shared highlights from the survey results below:

We are thankful that 299 people submitted their questionnaire to us before the deadline of July 15, 2019. We had 60 participants from Brock Region, 75 participants from Hamilton-Haldimand, 53 participants from Lincoln, 48 participants from



Greater Wellington and 61 participants from Trafalgar region.

The age range of survey respondents reflects our diocese's parish demographics with 64% of participants between the age of 51 and 74 years old. Of the survey participants, 85% are lay people and 15% are clergy.

Engagement and participation at the parish level is very high with 249 people (83%) naming at least one ministry or parish role in which they are active participants. About 75% of the lay people who responded to this survey are volunteers in the diocese through parish activities or broader diocesan initiatives.

When asked about trends they are witnessing at their parishes people stated there is a vast range of trends from decline in parish membership and the dwindling numbers of young families to growth in numbers and strengthening ministry and spirituality among parishioners.

There were over 175 mentions of changes, trends and activities that indicated ministry and spirituality at parishes is

increasing and thriving.

We have collected over 380 ideas of a faithful future in our parish communities, neighbourhoods and across our diocese.

We heard strong and clear that the future of our diocese needs to include more sharing of ideas and collaboration across the diocese.

In September the MAP Leadership Committee, which is made up of clergy and lay representatives from across the diocese, will review and discern:

- the findings of the surveys,
- the results of our Community Discovery Interviews with community service organizations such as Meals on Wheels and Kairos,
- research about the current environment in Canada, Ontario and each region of the Diocese of Niagara and

- other information that is pertinent to the Mission Action Planning process.

We will be sending out MAP updates through our monthly Diocesan E-news, which you can sign up for at the Diocese of Niagara's website, and through Facebook and Twitter.

Marlie Whittle is Business Development Associate & Consultant to Nonprofits, M&M International Toronto.
marlie@mminternational.ca



Bishop Susan and Partner Consultant Martha Asselin of M & M International Consulting Services (left) at one of four gatherings held to get input in planning a vision for Niagara Diocese.
Photo: Hollis Hiscock

Celebrating an extraordinary ministry — Dean Peter Wall

On September 30th, the Very Reverend Peter Wall—Dean and Chief Liturgical Officer of Niagara as well as Rector of Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton—officially retires.

Peter has served the Anglican Church of Canada with distinction for 30 years.

Throughout his ministry, he has offered leadership at all levels of our Church, and his passions for liturgy, stewardship, music and good governance have shaped the Anglican Church of Canada in ways that will continue well beyond his ministry.

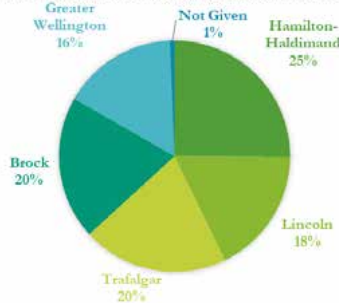
You are invited to attend a reception for Peter on September 22nd at Christ's Church Cathedral in Hamilton (see accompanying poster for details and instructions).

Please join us to celebrate the ministry of Dean Peter Wall



Wine and Cheese Reception
Sunday, September 22, 2019 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Christ's Church Cathedral
252 James St. North, Hamilton Ontario
Please RSVP to alison.datri@niagaraanglican.ca
no later than September 13th

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Author's talk leads up to ceremony honouring 1812 War veteran

CLARE STEWART

Two events—the first to learn more about the history of Hamilton's West Mountain area and the second to honour Jacob Hess who served in the War of 1812—have been organized by the Church of the Resurrection, 435 Mohawk Road West, Hamilton (Mohawk & Garth).

On Wednesday, September 18, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. author John Terpstra will read from his book *Daylighting Chedoke* and talk about his research into the history of the West Mountain area. There is no admission, but attendees are asked to bring a non-perishable item for Neighbour 2 Neighbour.

John's talk is a lead-up to an event being held at the Church on Sunday, October 6, 2019, at 2:30 p.m. There will be a brief ceremony to honour the services of Jacob Hess (November 15, 1766–October 7, 1823), an early settler in Hamilton who served in the War of 1812. He is buried in a small pioneer cemetery cared for by the Church of the Resurrection.

Representatives of the Lincoln



The shattered tombstone of Jacob Hess, veteran of the War of 1812, who will be honoured at a ceremony October 6. Photo: Clare Stewart

& Welland Regiment, War of 1812 Reenactors, and Royal Canadian Legion have been invited to attend the dedication of a historical plaque and memorial stone. The general public is also welcome.

Following the ceremony, the tombstones of Jacob and his parents, Michael and Charity Hess, will be on view.

For more information contact the church, 905-389-1942 or onersurrection@rogers.com, or Clare Stewart or Iain Sneyd at militarygenealogy@cscomps.on.ca

People in the news

Condolence:

It is with sadness that we share the news that the Reverend **Carole Grant-White** died on Sunday, July 21. Carole ministered at St. Paul's Fort Erie and at other churches throughout our diocese from time to time, as well as in the Diocese of Moosonee, before moving to the Diocese of Western New York. A service to celebrate Carole's life was held at Christ Church Lockport, NY.

Our deepest sympathy to the Reverend **Ann Turner** and Canon **Trudy Lebens** on the death of their sister-in-law, Lynda Turner. Friends and family gathered at St. Augustine's Windsor for a service and celebration of her life.

Deepest sympathy to the Reverend Canon **Joseph Asselin** and family on the death of his father, Allan Wayne Asselin, July 20. Funeral mass was held at Annunciation Roman Catholic Church, Victoria Park South of Ellesmere.

As we give thanks for those who have passed to eternal life, let us remember their families, friends and colleagues in our prayers as they grieve.

Appointments:

The Reverend **Dean Cormack** has submitted his resignation and intention to retire as Rector of St. John's Winona and Chaplain at San Gabriel Hamilton, effective September 30.

The Reverend **Naomi Miller** accepted the position as Rector of Church of the Apostles (St. James and St. Matthias) Guelph (September 1).

The Reverend **Paul Maynard** resigned as Rector of Christ Church Niagara Falls, effective August 31.

The Reverend **Sheila Van Zandwyk** resigned as Rector of St. Michael's Hamilton, (July 7) and became Rector of Church of the Transfiguration St. Catharines (August 1).

The Reverend Canon **Terry DeForest** becomes rector in the interim at Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton, on a part-time basis, beginning October 1. Terry maintains his current role as Director of Human Resources on a modified basis during this interim period. In addition, Archbishop **Colin Johnson** has been appointed as episcopal consultant, on a part-time basis, beginning November 1, during the interim.

The Reverend **Rob Duncan** and the Reverend Canon **Jim Powell** formed a new ministry team at Holy Trinity Niagara Falls, effective August 14. Rob ministers as a Lay Pastoral Associate (half-time) with Jim being Priest-in-Charge (part-time). Rob Duncan brings to his role at Holy Trinity considerable experience as a Baptist minister and is currently in the midst of testing a call to Anglican ordained ministry.

Congratulations:

Congratulations to the Reverend **Garfield and Aileen Wu** on the birth of their second son, Andrew (July 15). Big brother, Philip, is very happy as well.

Congratulations to the Reverend **William Roberts**, Rector of St. Mark's Niagara-on-the-Lake, on the birth (July 5) of his first grandchild: Atli Jasper Rex Kalbfleisch. Proud parents are Jessica and Adam, and excited sister is Isadora.

(Source: People in the News — niagaraanglican.ca)




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WOW grants to many ministries in Niagara



Seven parishes shared nearly \$70,000 in WOW grants which enable them to assist and enhance their mission in the church and the wider community.

The goal of the diocesan Walking on Water (WOW) grants program is to provide the financial resources to launch transformational, creative, innovative and inspiring ministries that are both vibrant and mission centred.

Christ Church Wainfleet was one of seven WOW grants presented this year. The grants will support The Children's Theatre Company where youth participants and adult volunteers will experience God's mission in a performing arts setting.

Photo: Submitted

For more information, including a complete list of recipients, go to niagaraanglican.ca

Ignatius for Anglicans?

JOHN BOWEN

In the first installment of this three-part series (*Niagara Anglican*, Summer 2019), John wrote, "A 16th century Roman Catholic has something surprising to offer to Christians of different traditions, even today".

Part two

One fruit of that greater understanding has been increased Protestant interest in the Ignatian Exercises. The best way to do them is during a forty-day retreat, paralleling Christ's forty days in the wilderness. Loyola House in Guelph (ignatiusguelph.ca) is a favourite place for people to do the Exercises this way.

But you may say "I don't have forty days to be quiet". Loyola foresaw that problem and figured out a way for "busy people" to do the Exercises in the course of everyday life by referring us to section 19 of his instructions.

This way of doing it involves taking an hour a day, following the course of a liturgical year. Even one hour daily may seem daunting. That's what I thought when I did this a few years back, but, to my amazement, I found the time. I told my spiritual director I didn't know how I was



Image: Wikimedia Commons

managing it. She smiled mischievously, and said, "Everyone says that". So, don't despair.

Doing the Exercises is one way that this obscure figure from almost five hundred years ago can help us develop our spirituality. But the challenge—and the invitation—of Ignatian spirituality for Anglicans goes beyond that. There are four areas in particular where I believe he speaks to us.

One is that the Exercises require a close engagement with Scripture. Anglicans have often said to me, "I am embarrassed at how little I know the Bible".

Loyola can help.

One distinction of his approach is that students imagine themselves in the Bible story, whether it be with the shepherds at the manger, with Jesus as he leaves Nazareth and walks to the Jordan river or with Mary as she encounters the risen Jesus.

Many insights come through this contemplative engagement with scripture that might never come through academic study alone. Even familiar stories take on new dimensions.

I confess that when the Exercises required me to read

the Prodigal Son for the third time, I was skeptical: "I saw something new the first two times. Give me a break! Surely there can't possibly be anything else?" But of course, there was. Each week I saw something new every time.

Secondly, Ignatius could almost have coined the phrase which these days we tend to associate with evangelicals and some other traditions, "a personal relationship with Jesus".

A few years back, a group of doctoral students were discussing an article critiquing this idea of "a personal relationship with Jesus".

The author argued that it was anti-community, simplistic, other-worldly, made faith a private matter and so on. The students agreed. Then they turned to the professor, a very senior and distinguished academic — and a Jesuit, and asked: "So what did you think of the article?" He promptly replied, "I felt very sorry for the author." Classic Jesuitism!

As Ignatius guides us through the Gospels, always the emphasis is on what you might say to Jesus and what he might say to you.

Of course, orthodox Catholic that he is, for Ignatius, that



"personal relationship" is never free wheeling like that of some Protestants, but is always securely in the context of God the Trinity (as were most of Ignatius' mystical visions), and in line with the Church's teaching.

Yet at the heart of the Exercises is a yearning to be a more faithful and dedicated disciple of Jesus, and to learn all that he has to teach.

As Loyola wrote of his own experience, "God taught me as a schoolteacher teaches a pupil". That's a good perspective for Anglicans as we think about what that trendy word, "discipleship," means these days.

(Next month, John examines how Ignatius' Exercises can help develop our own spirituality by exploring the other two areas about which he believes Ignatius can speak to us today)



Caroline Astle Rummage Sale Co-Ordinator and her mighty crew raised over \$3,000 in support of St. Michael's Hamilton.

Photo: Submitted

Never a dull moment here

A Holy Humour Sunday, a Friday walk, a cake as well as a rummage-garage sale are some activities that make St. Michael's Hamilton a "busy, hopping life", reported Sue Crawford and Karen Galer.

Holy Humour Sunday was enjoyed on the first Sunday after Easter. Even the Sunday School organized its own humorous surprise when the children appeared for the Eucharist wearing rabbit ears, bow ties and tails! Why you ask?

Sugarbun, the rabbit came for a visit bringing with her a basket of materials to create the bevy of bunnies! Sugarbun happily received a blessing at the altar for her efforts!

Spirits were not dampened by the cool rainy day of the Good Friday Walk with the Church of the Resurrection and St. Stephen's. "With valiant smiles on our faces the small but mighty group completed the eight km walk. At journey's end we were greeted with

hot drinks and warm food," continued Karen and Sue. St. Michael's walkers raised more than \$1,600. for Mission Services, the Mountain Churches' choice of fund raising this year for the annual walk.

No occasion at St. Michael's is complete without cake, so on Matthew Bowman's last day at the parish he was presented with a cake. Matthew, a student intern, completed part of his discernment process for ordination in the parish. Sue and Karen

commented, "He delighted many of our elderly shut-ins with his visits".

Although the weather did not cooperate fully with its dampness and cold, nevertheless many shoppers came out to support the parish's spring rummage and garage sale, raising \$3,000. for St. Michael's.

"Never a dull moment around here!!," concluded parishioners Karen Galer and Sue Crawford.

Photo: Submitted

Deadlines and Submissions for Niagara Anglican

Deadlines:

- November – September 25
- December – October 25
- January – November 21

Submissions:

- News, Letters, Reviews** (*books, films, music, theatre*) – 400 words or less
- Articles** – 600 words or less

Original cartoons or art – Contact the Editor.

Photos – very large, high resolution, action pictures (people doing something).

Include name of photographer. Written permission of parent/guardian must be obtained if photo includes a child.

All submissions must include writer's full name and contact information. We reserve the right to edit or refuse submissions.

Questions or information: Contact the Editor at editor@niagaraanglican.ca or 905-635-9463.



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Fresh from the Future

the Bishop's Company Dinner 2019

Photos: Alison D'Atri and Hollis Hiscock



ELEANOR JOHNSTON AND WAYNE FRASER

Parish groups, including people from Fergus, gathered around tables for the main meal.

The Most Reverend Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Canadian Anglican Church, made good his nickname, Forty-Minute Fred, using this full time to summarize his gratitude and hope for the Anglican Church of Canada in the present and past, as well as for our future.

He was present at Bishop Michael Bird's consecration in 2007, at his own of course and at Bishop Susan Bell's in 2018.

Michael and Fred each brought a fresh perspective on the church, and we are beginning to understand how Bishop Susan, as one of only 14 female bishops in Canada, is in her person, a new perspective. He admires the recent efforts in Niagara, noting the courage, compassion and boldness that make our church relevant and vigorous.

Archbishop Fred, with the clock ticking, explained the discernment process in the town hall meetings to choose a new

Diocesan vision. Intentional discipleship, being a disciple as opposed to a mere church member, is our goal. Moving in Christ's name from breaking bread to providing bread, and choosing political stances in the name of justice, these are at the heart of God. It is inspiring to witness the movement of the Spirit in our midst.

"Coming fresh from the future," God is using "liminal" figures, those who exist on the borderland of church inherited and church emergent. This term relates to the transitional stage of a process, a place of transformation and the calling of prophets. Archbishop Fred emphasized our spiritual ideals by quoting Isaiah, "Behold! I am doing a new thing. Can you not perceive it?" We must name what God is doing and draw others into seeing it.

The Primate praised Bishop Susan as such a liminal figure, living and working on the bor-

derland of heritage and becoming. Both pastoral and prophetic, she is searching out new models of lay leadership, developing ministry teams, fostering a migrant workers ministry and addressing poverty.

What an amazing speaker! In her response, Bishop Susan thanked the members of the Bishop's Company for their support of this discretionary fund which allows her to meet the needs of leaders in the diocese who find themselves in a time of crisis or professional transition. The fund allows her to meet such need with compassionate care.

Bishop Susan concluded the evening by announcing an additional celebration for the Company to be held at the cathedral on November 29, 2019.

Eleanor Johnston can be reached at eleanorjohnston@gmail.com and the Reverend Wayne Fraser at fraserwayne@gmail.com



Maximilian Aoki and Theodor Aoki provided super music for the over 300 people attending this year's Bishop's Company dinner.



Primate Fred Hiltz was emphatic during his wide-ranging range speech.



Elora parishioners enjoying the 2019 Bishop's Company evening.

Guests responded to Primate's speech by singing All Are Welcome.



Primate Fred Hiltz and Bishop Susan enjoyed the festivities.