



ANGLICAN ORDINARIATE FOR THE CANADIAN FORCES



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BISHOP ORDINARY TO THE FORCES
The Right Reverend Peter Coffin STB, MA, DD

A LETTER OF THANKSGIVING FROM JOHN ORGAN IN JERUSALEM

Dear Friends,

I am grateful to Archdeacon Fletcher for his invitation to write a few words for the Anglican Ordinariate Newsletter about life here in Jerusalem.

Recently, a long established and important Christian aid organization known as Biblelands changed its name to Embrace the Middle East, which is quickly becoming known as "EmbraceME." The organization changed its name for several reasons and decided upon its new name based on Mark 9:37, where Jesus took a child in his arms and said, 'Whoever embraces this child embraces me and not only me but also God who sent me.'



Canon John Organ and Mrs Irene Organ in Jerusalem. John has retired from the Canadian Forces as a military chaplain and is now chaplain to the bishop of Jerusalem and canon pastor at the cathedral of St. George the Martyr.

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HONORARY CANON

Nearly two months have passed since my wife, Irene, and I arrived in Jerusalem. We are embracing the Middle East, learning day by day, and coming to love the indigenous people that until now we have known only superficially.

For one entire month of those two it was the Muslim Holy Month of Ramadan. Friday after Friday, tens of thousands of Muslims from the West Bank poured out of buses and flowed by our apartment on their way to the Temple Mount/Haram Ash-Sharif to worship. The daily Ramadan fast was broken each evening, generally around 1930 hrs, with the sound of the Ramadan Cannon, which sounded all across Jerusalem, giving permission to Muslims to break fast. Ramadan ended with several days of celebration. Shops did bustling business as the narrow streets of Jerusalem filled with happy, joyous Muslims celebrating their faith.

This Bulletin, for the Anglican Ordinariate of the Canadian Forces, is an informal document for the members of the Clericus. Its purpose is to provide the membership a means of communication and an expression of our fellowship. It is issued under the jurisdiction of the Bishop Ordinary for the Canadian Forces (Anglican). To submit an article please email text to: dmscs@1@msn.com.

Friday evening and Saturday we naturally become part of Sabbath observance. Stores are closed and the Jewish community becomes still, except inside synagogues and at the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site. Irene and I have spent several Friday evenings at the Western Wall, respectfully well to the back, and sharing in the worship of the Jewish faithful. One evening in particular the square was filled with literally thousands of worshippers, many hundreds of whom were Jewish youth dancing and singing. Under what has to be one of the most beautiful skies in the world, both during the day and at night, the Western Wall on this occasion was a place like no other and one felt at the deepest level that there simply was no better place to be than at this holy place on this Sabbath evening.

As we live just 10 minutes from the Old City of Jerusalem, Irene and I walk frequently to sites historically identified with our Lord's life, death, resurrection and ascension. We have gone to the Holy Sepulchre and stood in line with hundreds of others waiting to enter the tomb where tradition says Jesus was laid to rest. Christian pilgrims have been coming to this tomb since the Fourth Century - indeed, since the time of the resurrection as there is evidence suggesting the site was never forgotten or lost to indigenous Christians. There have been times when Irene and I have gone to the tomb late in the evening and found no lineups at all and we have been able to go immediately into the tomb. On those occasions we can meditate unhurriedly upon those very first disciples who came to the tomb and upon the holy mystery of our Lord's death and resurrection.

Being among and sharing in the religious life of the Children of Abraham is one of the great blessings of Jerusalem. Every day thousands of people from each of the three faiths live and worship side by side. It is a city on a hill, a Holy Hill in fact, and to it come all the nations of the earth.

As a priest of the Diocese of Jerusalem, I am privileged to meet indigenous Christians. My bishop, the Rt. Revd Suheil Dawani, is an Arab Palestinian. I have travelled with the bishop throughout the West Bank and Israel as well as Jordan. Irene has joined us on a number of these occasions. We have been honoured to enter into the lives of the local people, to meet the Living Stones of the Holy Land, and come to know them warmly as our brother and sister Christians and Anglicans. Indigenous Christians have become a very small minority within the Holy Land, and in fact throughout the Middle East. This is unfortunate as there has been an important presence of indigenous Christians here since the first Pentecost. The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Anglican Church of Canada, the Episcopal Church in the United States, and indeed the entire Anglican Communion, as well as sister Christian Churches, have taken seriously the need to support the continuation of the indigenous Christian presence in the Holy Land and the Middle East.

These two months have flown by. Each day is filled with a wide variety of ministry activities. There are always visitors to greet, messages to prepare, official functions to attend, Eucharists and Evening Prayer to attend or preside at, schools and hospitals to visit, clergy conferences to participate in, funds to raise, and fellowship to enjoy. Stamina is needed. My military formation in physical fitness serves me well as each morning at 0630 I run around the Old City of Holy Jerusalem, pass the Mount of Olives, up Mount Zion, down to Gehenna, up to Jaffa Gate, around to Damascus Gate, and down Nablus Road to home. Irene keeps fit by our walks and occupied by volunteering at St. George's School, where she helps the children with learning English.

We miss Canada. We miss our family. We are grateful though to be here.

I will be forever thankful for my time with you and with the Canadian Forces Chaplaincy. Whatever strengths and maturity I now have, have come from being one of your colleagues.

Peace, Shalom and Salaam!

Irene and John



Jewish youth dancing and worshipping at the Western Wall

A word from our Archdeacon...

In the gospel passage that is traditionally appointed for Thanksgiving, we hear the familiar story of how Jesus cured ten lepers, and only one returned to give thanks. We know that when Jesus healed these lepers, he did not just heal their physical condition, but he also healed their social condition, as well. By curing their leprosy, these ten individuals -- who had been seen as unclean outcasts because of their disease -- were now enabled to be restored to their society and culture. Jesus not only gave them a new life that was free of the biological disease that had stricken them, but he also gave them a new life of wholeness and fellowship within the community. This was a remarkable gift of immeasurable value. And yet only one of the ten came back to give thanks. And the expressed gratitude of this one merited Jesus' blessing, while the ingratitude of the other nine caused him deep disappointment.

While I wish it weren't the case, I am sometimes more like the ungrateful nine in this gospel story, than I am the one who turned back to give thanks. Many of us can perhaps relate to the nine who, on the one hand, showed no reluctance to cry out to God for healing and deliverance in the midst of their need, but found it all too easy to forget about God once those needs were fulfilled. If I may coin a new phrase, "When the going gets tough, the tough get praying." But when things are good, or when our prayers have been answered, the best and the least among us can sometimes forget to give thanks. And our own ingratitude, I'm sure, is no less disappointing to Jesus, than the nine cured lepers who did not give thanks.



*Colonel the Venerable John Fletcher
Archdeacon of the Canadian Forces*

As children we were taught to say "Thank you" to those who give us gifts, help us with difficult tasks or teach us something new. We sometimes reluctantly followed this advice just to please our parents, while being blissfully unaware that gratitude personally enhances us as well. In fact, research demonstrates that being grateful actually promotes good health, increases wellbeing and even fosters better relationships. There is so very much for which we should show gratitude, and sometimes we need a few reminders of just how grateful we truly should be, and of what a great gift -- and indeed what a source of true blessing, our gratitude itself can be: both for us and for those whose lives we have a chance to encounter.

At the kick-off ceremonies for the National Defence Workplace Charitable Campaign (NDWCC) in Ottawa a few weeks ago, I was deeply moved by the personal stories of two of the presenters. They were there to speak on behalf of the many agencies, charities and health-partners, whose services and programmes are made possible by the generous support of the contributors to the NDWCC. They came to express their thanks and appreciation to the CF members and DND employees who, year after year, surpass the campaign's established targets,



and so benevolently seek to make a difference in the lives of countless others. I was not only moved by the stories of these two presenters, but I was also humbled by their heartfelt expressions of gratitude.

Nadine Imbleau-Redman is the mother of two boys, both of whom have cystic fibrosis. Nadine has been an active volunteer leader with Cystic Fibrosis Canada since 1998 and has served on the charity's National Board of Directors. She is a joyful and hope-filled woman, who has not only dedicated herself to the love and care of her two boys, but has also made it her mission to advance the causes of CF Canada. In the process, she has touched innumerable hearts and souls with her boundless enthusiasm and compassion. In the face of adversity, she just rolled up her sleeves and went to work, and her grateful and graceful determination and hope are truly an inspiration.

MCpl Mike Trauner was on foot patrol in Afghanistan in 2008 when an IED blast took both of his legs and partially destroyed one arm. Since that time, he has worked tirelessly not only to rehabilitate himself, but also to be an inspiration and a support to many others. The recipient of many military and civilian honours, MCpl Mike Trauner currently lives at CFB Petawawa, where he works to assist other injured and ill CF members by striving to mentor and motivate them.

He is model of determination and inspiration and a grateful hope-filled individual who is not only resolved to get the most out of his rehabilitation, but also to "give back" each and every day.

We are surrounded in this autumn season by so many reminders of just how much we have to be thankful for: the abundant harvests, the love of families, the ministry of colleagues, and the care of community. We may not be suffering from leprosy, or struggling with cystic fibrosis, or living without limbs; but we are all, indeed, in need of healing: healing from an all too insufficient sense of our own frailty, healing from an all too insufficient awareness of the grace and goodness of God, and healing from an all too insufficient sense of gratitude that should call us into greater service and deeper praise. I wish you a blessed Thanksgiving and an autumn crowned with giving thanks.

*Praise is due to you, O God;
You crown the year with your bounty;
The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.*

John+

Colonel J. M. Fletcher
Archdeacon, Anglican Military Ordinariate

NOTES FROM THE ANGLICAN CLERICUS MEETING IN JUNE

Clericus is a gathering of all Anglican military chaplains of the Regular Force who are not excused by the Chaplain General for deployment, duty or other needs. Frequently funding is provided for a few Reserve Force chaplains to attend as well. It occurs just before the Chaplain General's Annual Retreat & Conference and at the same time as other denominational groups of chaplains are meeting. † This was the first Clericus Meeting for four new chaplains, Padres Tim Parker, Lisa Pacarynuk, Joanne Brousseau and Shawn Samson. † Eight Anglican Reservist Chaplain attended: Padres Joanne Brousseau, Grant Churcher, Robert Fead, Reg Gilbert, Charles Irish, Shawn Samson, Ed Swayze and Gary Thorne. † Archdeacon Fletcher reported that this year, three Anglican theology students had been awarded gifts of \$500.00 from the Ordinariate's Ivor Norris Bursary: Hilary Murray of St. Paul's University, Ottawa; Charlene Scriver and Michael Bruce, both of Trinity College, Toronto. † Canon Staples reported that, as a member of the National Council of General Synod, the Governance Working Group has been extremely busy, but was happy to take time out to assist our Ordinariate in the drafting of a proposed amendment to Canon XXIII, which will revise the process of the election and appointment of our next Bishop Ordinary. † Canon Treasurer Nigel Shaw reminded everyone that donations to the Ordinariate can be made through the National Defence Workplace Charitable Campaign - it is simple to identify the Anglican Ordinariate by inserting the Charitable Donation number **(86847 3315 RR0001)** where indicated. This is available to all members of DND – military or civilian who are participants of the campaign.



A WORD FROM OUR BISHOP

THANKSGIVING 2012

"We give thanks to God always for you all..."
1 Thessalonians 1:2a

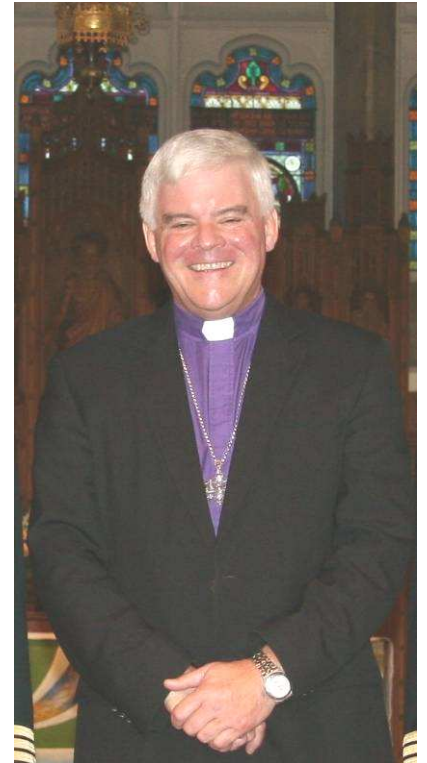
During this Thanksgiving season there is so much for which to give thanks. Our churches will be adorned with the colours of Fall and tokens of the harvest as we give thanks for the fruits of land and sea; or images of the bounty of the sea for those who farm and fish and of course; all so that we can recognize our God from whom all blessings flow. There is so much more for which we ought to give thanks: "For our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace and for the hope of glory." (BCP p.15)

It is indeed meet and right that we should thank our God "not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to God's service and by walking before Him in holiness and righteousness all the days our lives." (BCP p.15) It is not only right to give thanks to God and to and for each other but it is the kind of attitude that lifts the soul – one's own soul and those of others.

In his epistles, Saint Paul is always admonishing us to give thanks and he gives thanks by remembering those who he has met on the journey. "I thank my God for every remembrance of you." (Philippians 1:3) These are people who have been a part of our lives and have blessed us in some way. We all know people who have been like that, not least of which are members of our own families, and while we may not always thank them for what they have been to us we may, at least, give thanks to God for them.

I have been giving thanks for colleagues this year – a year emptying with a number of retirements from our chaplaincy: Richard Durrett, John Organ, Greg Bailey, Baxter Park, Gordon Moir, Maude Parsons-Horst, Tony Basset and, early next year, David Greenwood our newsletter editor. Within the Ordinariate there are lay people who have retired or are close to doing so, people with whom we have

served, shared and prayed. And as all of these friends retire we also hold in remembrance their spouses and family members – the strength behind the uniform for they too have served and shared and prayed. All have been a part of our lives in this tight-knit community of military life in which so many experiences are shared. One of those who will have retired by the time that this goes to press is General Walt Natynczyk who has been our Chief of Defence Staff these past four years of considerable operational tempo. We give thanks for his exemplary tour of duty, his compassionate and strong leadership and for the service that his spouse, Leslie, has given in support of the military and their families. "Well done good and faithful servants, you have been faithful..." (Matthew 25:21)



Recently and in the months to come I will have had the opportunity to speak in a number of churches and other gatherings about the military chaplaincy and the members of the Canadian Forces. I am immensely grateful and proud – and often humbled – to be able to do so. I will also be blessed to be able to visit some of our bases, formations and Wings. For all of this I feel deeply grateful. One never knows where the Lord calls us to serve but I have reason to give thanks for the blessings 'en route'.

This season of Thanksgiving should be a reminder that thanksgiving is a grace for all seasons. So, to quote Saint Paul: "Above all things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which you are called in one body and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom...singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." (Colossians 3:14-16)

Peace and Grace to you all.

+Peter

Anglican Bishop Ordinary

(The Right Reverend Peter Coffin was appointed by the Primate to the position of Bishop Ordinary (Anglican) to the Canadian Forces in November 2004.)

A CONVOCATION ADDRESS *by Padre Baxter Park*

Cdr Baxter Park recently addressed the graduating class of Queen's College at their Spring 2012 Convocation. His topic was the relationship between Queen's College and the Canadian Forces. Here is a transcript of his speech:

Honoured guests, graduates, fellow alumni, ladies and gentleman it is a real privilege for me to attend this convocation, the 28th since I convocated in 1984, and to bring the greetings of the Bishop Ordinary, the Right Rev Peter Coffin and the Chaplain General, Brigadier General the Venerable Karl McLean.

Newfoundlanders have historically served the Canadian Forces in numbers far disproportionate to our population in Canada. We are 2% of the Canadian population and 10 % of the Canadian Forces. Anglican priests from NL have followed their faithful into this unique ministry. Most have been prepared here at Queen's and have been able to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth. Their contribution to military chaplaincy and to operations has been remarkable.

The father of the modern day Canadian chaplaincy is acknowledged to be Bishop George Wells of the Western Canadian Diocese of Cariboo. On this weekend when we commemorate the Battle of the Atlantic, the longest battle of the Second World War, it bears reminding that he was the chaplain to the fleet. He was born in Clark's Beach. Padre Matt Roberts took his Queen's formation to Kowang-San Hill during the Korean War. He was from Pushthrough. Padre Gerry Peddle, from Whitbourne, took the gospel to the depths of the Atlantic Ocean in diesel submarines and then to its heights as an airborne chaplain, eventually rising to the rank of Chaplain General and leading our branch.

Since Queen's reopened 30 years ago there have been many graduates who have served their church and their country. Padre Michael Canning from St John's sailed with Canada's Pacific fleet. Padre Percy Coffin, a name some of you may recognize, a native of Fogo, shared his faith with recruits at Cornwallis. Padre John Organ from Isle-Aux-Morts provided ministry in war torn Croatia. Padre Mac Berry, a New Brunswick native graduate of Queen's provided ministry in the Panjawai district of Afghanistan. Padre Dennis Newhook, from Norman's Cove and his wife Padre Bev Kean-Newhook from New-Wes-Valley and Padre Maude Parsons-Horst from Ramea, also served in Operations in Afghanistan. Padre Jennifer Gosse, the former Archdeacon of Labrador, served in the HMCS MONTREAL while it was doing pirate interdiction of the coast of Africa.

Today Padre John Hounsell-Drover from Spaniards Bay is off the coast of Libya in the HMCS CHARLOTTETOWN and Padre Tim Parker, the former rector of Carbonear is serving on the VILLE DE QUEBEC in the north Atlantic. Padre Shawn Samson, rector of Paradise, is serving as a Reserve Chaplain with the Royal NL Regiment and Padre Jack Barrett, from Spaniards Bay serves as our only fulltime chaplain on the island of Newfoundland, while Padre Robin Major from Norris Point serves in Labrador.

And as for me, a native of Cox's Cove, I was able to carry my personal history at Queen's to the Arabian Gulf during the first Iraq war and then to Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina. I spent time ministering in the northernmost settlement in the world, CFS Alert, on Ellesmere Island. Finally, I was able to spend nearly a year; relying upon my clinical pastoral education provided at Queen's to attend to those wounded in Afghanistan at the American hospital in Landstuhl Germany.

And what were those experiences and memories that I took with me. From Dr Sheldon Mackenzie, our homiletics professor, a reminder that every sermon had 3 good points: number 1: an interesting beginning, number 2: a strong ending and number 3: a short time between numbers one and two. I took the value of a strong ethical judgement and social conscience and the writings of Walter Rauschenbusch provided by Dr. Morley Hodder. I left with the pioneering spirit of my seatmate for my entire time at Queen's, Trudy Gosse, who was our first female graduate. I took the work ethic and the expectation of a systematic approach to theology from Dr Hans Rollman and finally I hope I took the humility and the gentle spirit of Provost Frank Cluett and an eternal gratefulness for his introduction to my historical mentor, Father Andrew of the Society of the Divine Compassion who taught us by his example that ministry can not be confined to the altar and pulpit but also must go into the streets among the poor, the voiceless and the disadvantaged.

The Canadian Forces is deeply grateful to Queen's College and to the bishops of NL for the wonderful support that has been provided for our ministry. We wish our new graduates every blessing and pray for a mutually supportive future.

Padre Baxter Park is in the process of retiring from the Canadian Forces and will be installed as the Dean of The Diocese of Western Newfoundland on Sunday 25 November 2012. He is the former Formation Chaplain of Maritime Forces Atlantic.

BOOK REVIEW OF NT WRIGHT'S *SIMPLY JESUS* by Captain the Reverend Michel Paul Gagné

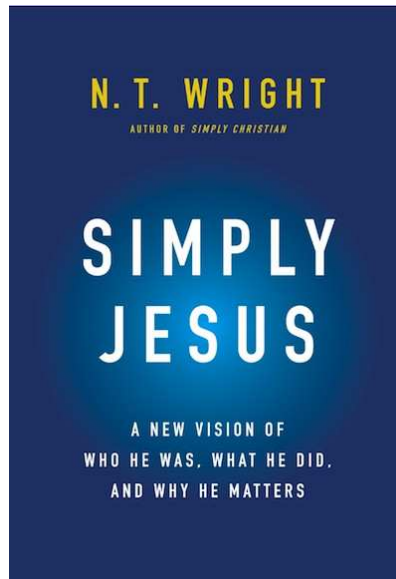
For anyone wishing to get a taste of N. T. Wright's Christological research and reflection, his 2011 book, *Simply Jesus: a New Vision of Who He Was, What He Did, and Why He Matters*, provides a rich and delicious slice of meaty thought, tenderized through much debate, and seasoned with an extensive bibliography and prolonged reflection. In this easy-reading and relatively short 231-page primer, he identifies many questions that spring out of a reflection on Jesus, he examines Jesus' strange world and vocation with First-Century eyes, and finally, he guides the reader through a reflection of what it all means for us today. This is a very balanced examination which serves up an assortment of views, and then examines them critically.

Wright uses the analogy of a perfect storm, as in the Hollywood movie, to animate the main forces that he perceives were at work in Jesus' time, and indeed today. Today we are experiencing the *West Wind of Scepticism* coming up against the *High Pressure System of Conservatism*; both colliding against the *Hurricane Force* of "the sheer historical complexity of talking about Jesus." Similarly, in Jesus' time people experienced the *West Wind of Imperial Rome* blasting against the *High Pressure System of Jewish Hopes and Aspirations*; both coming to realise that, as long predicted, *YHWH was Coming to Rescue and Rule over all Creation*.

Through his analysis, N.T. Wright demonstrates why it is so difficult to understand the mystery of Christ; Jesus' world was strange to us, as was his God, and Jesus spoke and acted as if he was in charge, *which he was and is and will be*. Blurred in our thinking by the strangeness of his world, we misunderstand his allusions to the Temple, to Heaven, and to Messiah. We seem forever focussed on some obscure and distant time and place to which we aspire to be lifted, not realising that the Reign of God has indeed come, is being realised in us and through us, and yet not by us, but by God.

Wright insists that we are battling the Satan even today, one who is trying to confuse, redirect, and frustrate our cooperation in God's plan. Wright says that God is not coming to take us away from a world that will blow apart at any moment, but to make all things right; to complete God's work where Heaven and Earth meet, in our hearts.

"Are you the one?" John the Baptist asked. "Do the blind not see...", Jesus replied. People say, "In God We Trust" and yet they still expect a victorious Messiah. Well, says Wright, Jesus has redefined that royal task around his own vision, around the belief that he represents the Jewish people and they, in turn,



represent all humanity. Jesus saw his vocation as representing and take the fall for *all* God's people in order to bring about the dawn of a new Creation. Through his suffering, death, and resurrection, Jesus would break the ages-old cycle in which the People received God's blessing, lost faith, were judged, faced disaster, were sent a saviour, repented, and received blessings only to stray again. Jesus completes God's plan, but we're not there yet.

Wright explains in these simplest of terms what Jesus was all about: "Jesus' way of running the world here

and now is through his followers. The heart of their life is Spirit-led worship, through which they are constituted and energized as 'the body of Christ'. The agenda which follows from this is set by the ... Beatitudes which offer a vantage point from which to explore God's kingdom, which Jesus announced and which he believed would be accomplished through his death, can become a reality not only *in* the lives of his followers, but *through* the lives of his followers".

Wright closes with a diverse bibliography, the authors of which he says challenge as much as they support him. He also highlights his recent extensive and pithy series on Christ. I found this book extremely enjoyable and informative. It highlighted major thrusts of belief (and disbelief), providing several anchors and numerous guideposts for further study. This book is highly recommended for those wishing to lightly surf this aspect of theology as well as those with a strong appetite for in-depth study. N.T. Wright's *Simply Jesus* is simply a must-read.

Michel Gagné is the former commanding officer of a Canadian armoured regiment who is undergoing formation within the Military Chaplain Training Plan. He is currently serving as Assistant Curate at Holy Trinity, Pembroke, after which he hopes to become a Military Chaplain.

GIVING THANKS FOR ONE OF OUR ORDINARIATE RUSTY WILKES by Padre Michael Peterson

Russell (Rusty) Oliver Wilkes (1905 - 1997) was one of a distinguished group of decorated combat padres of World War Two that included Laurence Wilmot, Robert Seaborn, and John Weir Foote. He deserves to be better known by Anglican chaplains, and particularly by those posted to the Royal Canadian Regiment.

Rusty Wilkes was born and raised in Hamilton, Ontario, the son of a printer. In the 1920s he studied theology at Wycliffe and Emmauel St. Chad, and was ordained a deacon in 1930 and a priest in 1930 in Keewatin Diocese. A true frontier priest, he served small parishes in Manitoba and western Ontario. Besides his parish duties, Wilkes was a band leader, a school board chairman, a volunteer firefighter, a baseball pitcher, and a fill-in newspaper editor. He experienced the hardships of the 1930s drought and depression, and with his wife Ethel endured frigid and substandard housing and pauper's wages. It was all good training for war.

Wilkes wanted to join the army as a chaplain when war broke out in September 1939, but was not accepted until May 1940. In those days chaplains did not require special training or accreditation. On the authority of a letter from the Army's Principal Chaplain, Wilkes enlisted in Winnipeg on 31 May and by mid June was embarking on a troopship in Montreal, bound for England. He would not see Canada and family again for five years.

Shortly after arrival in England, he was assigned to serve the Royal Canadian Regiment, at the time a single battalion. His sense of fairness and his suspicion of tradition impressed the Permanent Force Royals, to the point where he persuaded his CO to end compulsory church parades, which Wilkes saw as "a docile and sullen parody of worship". As in his parishes, Wilkes threw himself into the life of the regiment, organizing sports, canteen life (including obtaining condoms for his "red-blooded young Canadians"), and assisting soldiers with education by correspondence. The RCR became fiercely possessive of him.

Wilkes landed with the RCR at Pachino in Sicily on 10 July, 1943, and served with them as they fought their way up through Italy. The Italian campaign was a series of difficult and costly attacks against a skilled enemy in excellent positions. In each action, Wilkes was up forward with his flock to "plant my bedroll with the RAP [Regimental Aid Post]". As the RCR official history put it, "Padre Wilkes as usual was in the firing line and accompanied by the stretcher bearers evacuated many wounded under intense close-range fire; his leadership was an inspiration".

It was at one such action in Sicily, two weeks after the landings, that Wilkes was awarded the Military Cross for rescuing wounded men with "no regard for his personal safety" while being

"intensely mortared", and providing "an inspiration to all the men who took part in the battle". Years later, Wilkes modestly explained his courage as mere curiosity, saying that "I'm a nosy individual, so I spent as much time as I could at the front until the commanding officer ordered me not to go ahead of his tactical vehicles".

Between actions, Wilkes participated in the frontline chaplain's duty of recording the identity and grave locations of Allied and German dead, a grisly and unpleasant business which he glosses over in his memoirs. Several highlights of his time in Italy include commemorating the regimental birthday, 21 December, which fell during the Ortona campaign in 1943. Every RCR padre should know the story of the Ortona Toast and has a right to be present when it is celebrated. In August of 1944, during the Gothic Line campaign, Wilkes had a brush with fame when the RCR tactical HQ was visited by no less than Winston Churchill, the British Prime Minister, and the theatre commander, General Alexander. At the time Wilkes was the only officer present, and was dirty, bloodstained



Left to right: Captain(H)"Rusty" Wilkes, center, with two other RCR officers, Capt "Cec" Hollingsworth (L) and Lt. "Klink" Klenavic, in England early in World War Two.

and tired, but he shook these great men's hands, and was then asked to report the tactical situation. "I'm only the padre", I managed, "but I'll get someone". For weeks thereafter, Wilkes was asked by his men if they could shake the hand that had shaken Churchill's.

In late 1944 Wilkes was ordered to an administrative post in England, where he finished the war. Years later he recalled that "It nearly broke my heart to leave [my men]". In peacetime he remained in the army, holding senior chaplain positions and retiring as a Lieutenant-Colonel in 1960. Settling in Victoria, he resumed parish ministry, but maintained an honoured place in the RCR association, and was invited to Wolseley Barracks in London to preach at the regimental centennial service in 1983. In his later years he was active in church life. Rusty Wilkes died in Vancouver on 24 May 1997. At his funeral at St. Michael and All Angels, in Victoria, the Colonel of the Regiment, Col. Dick Dillon, spoke of "the courage, dedication and great sense of humour of this remarkable padre whose presence in action was such an inspiration to the Regiment.

Wilkes deserves to be remembered for his courage and dedication to those he served. He was practical in his churchmanship and theology, deeply pastoral, but could be fierce and fearless in defending ordinary soldiers against what he saw as a sometimes hidebound and stupid military culture. He had the virtue of not being easily intimidated, and the good fortune to be supported by discerning commanders who allowed him to do his ministry. Wilkes' story is told most fully in a memoir, *God's Dodger*, ghost-written by G.W. Stephen Brodsky (Elysium 1993) and now sadly out of print. Rusty Wilkes is truly one of the remarkable figures in the history of our Ordinariate.

Padre Michael Peterson is Chaplain at CFB Suffield. He gives thanks for Capt. Mike O'Leary of the RCR Association for his kind assistance in the compilation of this article.

THANKSGIVING POETRY

Life is a Gift

by Kathleen Higham

Life is sometimes painful
Yet, life is surely a gift
Even when God allows this
For the evil one to sift.

I am feeling more than sifted
So tired, and just plain through
Thoughts rage through my mind
Wondering what I should do?

A monumental waste of time
To think that I had a plan
Well, plans vanish in the air
I can't, but my God can.

Thinking I had it covered
But there never was a chance
When blindsided recognition came
God engineers every
circumstance.

Life is a gift from God
For He sends friends abound
Falling into a fitful sleep, yet
This morning the gift, I found.

They have gathered faithfully
As Christians remain so true
Life though fraught with pain, but
Their prayers flow, replenish,
renew.

Thank you Lord for this gift
They came to me this morn
Lifted a spirit feeling low
A heart heavy and forlorn.

Life is a gift from God
Now another day is here
Thank you for these precious ones
That came to bring good cheer.

I Thank You, Lord
by Leslie Rummel

I thank You for the blessings
You give to me each day.
They fill my life with abundant joy
More than words can say!

I thank You for my growing faith
And the trials I've made it through.
I'm victorious and am made
complete
Because of only You!

I thank You for the many times
You carry me through my strife.
I long for, with each passing day,
Your presence in my life!

I thank You for Your only Son
Who died and set me free.
I marvel at the fact that You
Think so much of me!

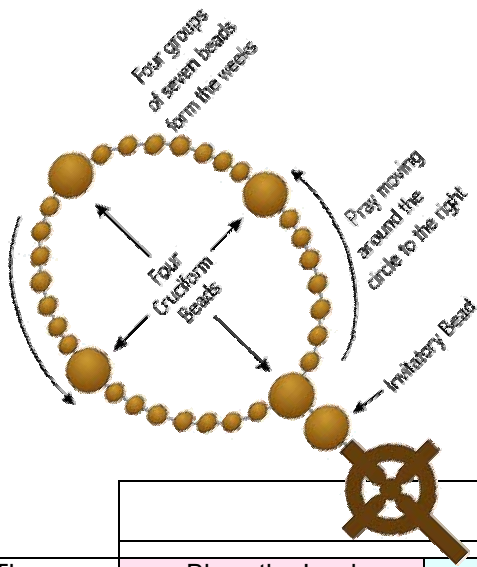
I thank You for Your tolerance
And a love that never ends.
How glad I am that You are both
My Savior and my Friend!

I thank You for the Holy Word
That's powerful and true!
It's the Plan You made and a gift
That keeps me close to You!

I thank You for Your gentleness
And desire to draw me near.
When You embrace me in Your
arms
I lose all doubt and fear!

But most of all I thank You, Lord
Because You're God and King!
I'll praise You till the day I die;
My heart will forever sing;

I Thank You, Lord!!!!



ANGLICAN ROSARY???

Yes there is such as thing as an Anglican Rosary. It is shorter than a Roman Catholic rosary and there are many more options (How Anglican!) A prayer is said on the cross, often with the person praying making a sign of the cross. Then an opening prayer is said on the Invitatory bead. Then a prayer said on the first of the four cruciform beads. This prayer is repeated whenever a cruciform bead is encountered. The four cruciform beads separate the four sets of seven beads called weeks. That makes one cross and 33 beads – one bead for each year of Christ’s earthly life. Every time you use an Anglican rosary, the theme of the prayers can be changed. Four of the possible “themes” are featured in this table.

Themes

| Theme | Bless the Lord | Agnus Dei Prayer | Julian of Norwich Prayer | An Evening Prayer |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Opening Prayer on the Cross | Blessed be the one, holy, and living God. Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen. | The Lord’s Prayer | In the Name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen. | Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. |
| Prayer on the Invitatory bead | O God make speed to save me (us), O Lord make haste to help me (us), Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. | "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer." - Psalm 19:14 | O God make speed to save me (us), O Lord make haste to help me (us), Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. | Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim Your praise. |
| Prayers on the cruciform separator beads | Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord. You that stand in the house of the Lord, lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the Lord. | Oh, Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us, Oh, Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world have mercy upon us, Oh, Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world give us Thy Peace. | God of your goodness, give me yourself, For you are enough to me. And I can ask for nothing less that is to your glory. And if I ask for anything less, I shall still be in want, for only in you have I all. | Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace. |
| Prayers on the Weeks | I lift up my eyes to the hills; From where is my help to come? My help comes from the Lord, The maker of heaven and earth. | Almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. Amen. | All shall be well, and all shall be well, And all manner of things shall be well. <i>or</i> In His love He has done His works, and in His love He has made all things beneficial to us. | Jesus, lamb of God, have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer of the world, give us your peace. |