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The Mustard Seed.

A PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF BRANDON • A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL • JUNE 2026

The Archbishop of Canterbury: Our Sarah

By Bishop Rachael Parker

At the most recent National House of Bishops, our Primate Shane Parker shared some reflections about his time at Canterbury Cathedral in late March. As Primate of All Canada, he was invited to be present for the Installation of The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally DBE as The Archbishop of Canterbury. Two short words summed up the beauty of our Primate's reflection: *our Sarah*.

++ Shane's gentle voice as he began speaking of "our Sarah" spoke volumes about the role she has been called to play, the need she will have for our prayers and support, and the incredible impact this Archbishop of Canterbury is having on the Church and the Anglican Communion already.

Archbishop Sarah has been called by God to step into the leadership of the Anglican Communion in a time when there is much discussion, and even

fearmongering, about the very presence and identity of the Anglican Communion itself. Much like the Anglican Church of Canada's mandate to connect, convene and communicate, much of the Archbishop's role within the worldwide Communion is to do these very things. She has been called, and will be Spirit-given the gifts required, to connect Anglicans around the globe, to convene the meetings, gatherings, and interactions of Anglicans and other denominational representatives internationally, and communicate on behalf of the Anglican Communion where we stand as Anglicans, what we believe, and what we discern God is calling the Anglican Communion to do in and for the world. The immensity of her job description alone calls for our prayers and support. However, we trust that with God's help, and that of bishops, priests, deacons, and lay leaders worldwide,

“our Sarah” will be up for the tasks at hand.

Early in her Archepiscopal ministry, our Sarah was invited to meet with the Pope. The images of the Archbishop of Canterbury standing face to face with Pope Leo XIV, wearing her purple cassock and being received as the Archbishop of Canterbury at the Vatican are overwhelming. Clear as day a portrait is painted of a new kind of Pope standing with a new kind of Archbishop of Canterbury ... The world is changing quickly but so too is God keeping pace! (For those who speculated whether a woman Archbishop of Canterbury would be accepted, the answer has been given.)

Other than the fact that our Sarah is apparently only the second Archbishop of Canterbury since the Middle Ages who is not a graduate of Oxford or Cambridge to hold this Office, for many women around the world,

her presence as the first woman to be raised up to this Office is extraordinary. Her gentle and unpretentious presence in this role speaks volumes to women and girls who may be considering what their own vocations may be.

In November of this year, women priests from across Canada will gather in Victoria to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood in Canada. For many this milestone is one which reminds us that God does not look upon gender to call but rather God looks into the heart. Our Sarah's very being, seated upon the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury, brings home the truth that when God calls we simply need to say, "here I am, send me."



The Bishop's Message



Living God, Resurrected Son, Reviving Spirit,
upon our knees we come before you to ask for revival.

Fill our hearts with the fire of your Spirit
that we may go out into the world
speaking of the glory of your love
and the gift of your Son Jesus Christ.
Kindle our souls with the longing to
share your love with all whom we
meet.
May your desire that “as it is in heaven
may also be on earth”
become our prayer and our work.
Teach us to bring the joy of revival
in Christ to our Diocese and to your
world.
In Christ’s holy name we pray. Amen.

In last month’s edition of The Mustard Seed, I shared with you both this prayer and the story of Billy Graham’s experience of kneeling in John Wesley’s prayer spot and asking that God would “do it again.” We have just moved through the celebrations of Pentecost and Trinity in which we are reminded of the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the world (Pentecost) and then called to grapple with, pray about, and live into the truth of the presence of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, in our hearts and lives and in our minds (Trinity Sunday). We have entered Ordinary Time, otherwise known as the season of Trinity or Pentecost, depending on which Prayer Book you grew up with – BCP or BAS.

This Ordinary Time is anything but ordinary. It is indeed a season in which we fall into a rhythm of worship which shares a

more continuous story from Scripture. For many it is a glorious season in which we get to sing our favourite hymns that aren’t specific to Christmas, Lent, or Easter. Our Altar Guilds get a bit of a break because we pretty much just hang the green paraments and leave them there until Thanksgiving. In many ways, this season can indeed begin to feel quite ordinary. However, this lulling into the hum drum is just a ruse! You might think this is the laid-back season of the Church year when not much happens but ... This is when we whip out that old warning, “Hold on tight, Martha. We’re heading for the rhubarb!”

Trinity season is one which actually invites us to learn and grow and pay attention to all the things that God is whispering in our ears. This season of Pentecost is a time filled with parables and challenges and puzzles that Jesus invites us to ponder and question and wrestle with as we walk gently through the summer and fall. Ordinary time is that ripe season in which the Holy Spirit is not only planting seeds of faith but also calling us to harvest those seeds which were planted in ordinary times before. Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter share with us the big adventures and the doctrinal and theological enormities of God’s gift of Christianity with all of us but Trinity-Pentecost-Ordinary time, *these* are some of the most powerful, lifechanging, and earthshaking days of our lives. *These are the times when we experience the most “aha” moments.*

So, what did the Bishop mean about heading for the rhubarb? When we think we have everything in hand, we understand all the things there are to understand, those are the moments we take our eyes off the road. Like that unnamed driver and his wife Martha, when we start allowing ourselves to feel comfortable and sure of where we are going, we stop paying attention to where we are. And when we stop paying attention? Well, that’s when we hit the gravel and

turf ourselves right into the rhubarb.

The remarkable thing about those moments of heading off the track in our ordinary journey is that they can lead us into the most amazing and unexpected circumstances. We may just find ourselves smack dab in the middle of a rhubarb patch and all that it holds: rhubarb pie, stewed rhubarb, strawberry-rhubarb crisp. At first it may not seem like a great place to land but when you give it a chance, ask for some help, investigate some new recipes, voila! Life might just get a whole lot tastier.

As we live out the adventures that this Ordinary time will share with us between this June edition of the Mustard Seed and the September edition, you may just find yourselves in your own rhubarb patches, or unexpectedly white-water rafting, or building a brand new house for someone, or laying on the ground with your grandchildren, not worrying about how the heck you’re going to get back up but rather pointing out dinosaur shapes in the clouds or tracing the path of a butterfly with your fingers. God willing you will have many, many not so “ordinary” times over this summer. Don’t ignore them. Don’t let them pass by. Don’t allow yourself to be too busy to share in the “aha” moments the Trinity is sharing with you.

When we come back to The Mustard Seed in September we will also be coming back to Synod and a restart of committees and groups and the inevitable preparations for those specific seasons of the church year. But this Ordinary time is a season in which I invite you to pray the prayer at the top of this page. It is a season in which I hope you will join me in beginning to expect the “rhubarb detours” as we allow God to take us to new places, meet new people, learn some new “recipes” for how to be Christians.

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The Mustard Seed

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Deadline for submissions:

The first day of the month preceding publication.

2026 PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Issue	Deadline
Sept 2026	Aug 1, 2026
Oct 2026	Sept 1, 2026
Nov 2026	Oct 1, 2026
Dec 2026	Nov 1, 2026
Jan 2027	Dec 1, 2026
Feb 2027	Jan 2, 2027

Please note: All submissions are subject to editing for clarity, timeliness, appropriateness, or length. Submit writing to the Editor in Microsoft Word file format or in the body of an email. Photographs must be large, high resolution jpg files. Please ensure you have permission from parents or guardians of all minors who have their photos or names published in The Mustard Seed. If including a photo, please send a name of who took the photo along with it, so the Editor can give proper credit!



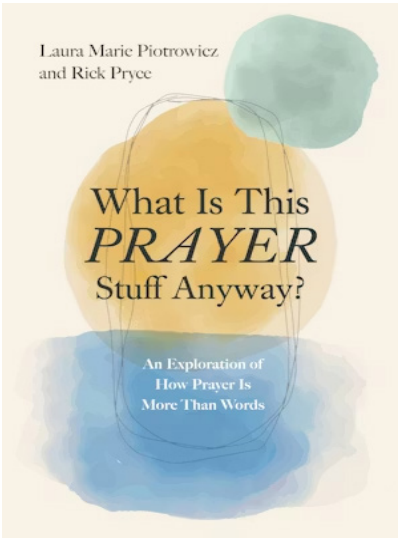
Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Diocese of Brandon

NOTE: THERE IS LET US PRAY ZOOM BROADCAST IN JUNE

- **May 25th – Rev’d Dr. Laura Marie Piotrowicz and Rev’d Rick Pryce** speak to us about their recently released publication, *What is This Prayer Stuff Anyway?*

The 2025 – 2026 Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83536726542>



This book describes over sixty different forms of prayer, providing gentle guidance for each one. Some are active and energetic, others are quiet and contemplative; some involve groups of people, while others are more individual in nature; some open us to receptivity, others release our creativity. Regardless of where the reader starts or ends, however, the authors assert that it is all prayer; it is all response to the abundant love that God gives us in every moment.

“In Luke’s Gospel a disciple asks Jesus, ‘Lord, teach us to pray,’ and people have been asking the same question ever since. This book offers a fresh and invigorating response to that longing. The authors, in exciting and creative ways, lead us down many refreshing avenues of prayer--never judging or prescribing a single path. It is a valuable companion for individuals and communities seeking to deepen and enliven their conversations with God.”
--Paul Feheley, National Director, The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

What Is This Prayer Stuff Anyway? will be a valuable and valued resource for clergy and lay people, prayer groups and individuals, those who have prayed all their lives, those who are just starting out, and those who have found their prayers have become a bit stale; anyone, in fact, who wishes to engage, or reengage, the practice of prayer.

FROM THE COVER:

What Is This Prayer Stuff Anyway? is a joyful proclamation that there are many different ways for Christians to pray.

This book describes over sixty different forms of prayer, providing gentle guidance for each one. Some are active and energetic, others are quiet and contemplative; some involve groups of people, while others are more individual in nature; some open us to receptivity, others release our creativity. Regardless of where the reader starts or ends, however, the authors assert that it is all prayer; it is all response to the abundant love that God gives us in every moment. *What Is This Prayer Stuff Anyway?* will be a valuable and valued resource for clergy and lay people, prayer groups and individuals, those who have prayed all their lives, those who are just starting out, and those who have found their prayers have become a bit stale; anyone, in fact, who wishes to engage, or reengage, the practice of prayer.

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You see, the rhubarb patch I believe God is inviting us to explore over the next while is one which will be so filled with Jesus, so exuberant with revival, so Diocesan-changingly hope-filled, that we will never be

the same again. Nor will the people we share Jesus with and with whom we witness and participate in helping bring about making God’s desire that “*as it is in heaven may also be on earth*” become a reality here in our Diocese of Brandon, in the Anglican Church of Canada, in every corner, nook and cranny

where we find ourselves positioned by God to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, *not because we must but rather because we know in our hearts and souls that we can do no less!*

+ Rachael



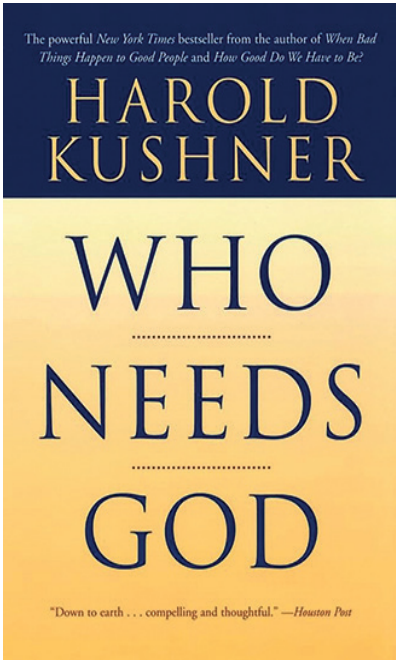
Book Review:

By The Rt. Rev'd Rachael Parker

Kushner, Harold. Who Needs God. New York, New York, Summit Books, 1989.

ISBN: 9780671680268

Rabbi Harold Kushner, author of When Bad Things Happen to Good People has written a timeless offering for people seeking to dig deeper into Scripture and their own faith journeys as they search for God’s wisdom beyond simply a command to be nice to each other. While this book was written for a 20th century audience, the truths Rabbi Kushner shares are well-suited for our own 21st century ponderings. This book offers a journey through Psalms which tie together God’s everlasting Word with the truth that religious commitment can indeed have a tremendous impact on the lives of those willing to walk the road of faith.



The ABC's of AMC

Easy Learning All About Camp!

26 Things Everyone Should Know about Camp

Anglican	Open fire & marshmallows
Brandon	Paddling a canoe
Camp (well, yeah!)	Questions about God, faith, life ...
Diocesan	Racing to jump into the lake
Everyone’s welcome	Singing “My God Is an Awesome God” louder than the Teen Campers
Friends (new & old)	Trust
Great fun!	Understanding and being understood
Happy faces	
Infinitely more than you can ask or imagine	Voyaging into new faith
Jumping	Walking with new friends
Kids!	X-box holiday and fresh air galore
Laughter	Youth from ages 8 to teens
Making memories	Zooming old-school – not on a computer screen but into each other during worship, games, swimming, and simply goofing around!
Never want to go home	

Marked in Time and Oil Paint



This past Easter the Cathedral has the distinct pleasure to host the Brandon artist, Weiming Zhao. He painted live during the Saturday Easter Vigil service and again at the Sunday morning East Main service.

Born in Northern China, he made Brandon his home in 1991 and in 2003, he rekindled his love of painting and hasn't stopped since. His collect numbers over 7500 canvases.

It is worth noting that he has painted St. Matthew's Cathedral at least seven (7) times, at various times of the year.

The above photos show the finished work and Weimings view from the easel.



"I DON'T HARP ON THE NEGATIVE BECAUSE IF YOU DO, THEN THERE'S NO PROGRESSION. THERE'S NO FORWARD MOVEMENT. YOU GOT TO ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE OF THINGS, AND WE ARE IN CONTROL. LIKE, YOU HAVE CONTROL OVER THE CHOICES YOU MAKE." - TARAJI P. HENSON, AMERICAN ACTRESS

News from Here and There



On April 29th, the Bishop joined with Fr. Tim Moore and the people of Christ Church, Austin for a service of communion and music.



Sunday, April 26th, at Christ Church, Melita prayers were offered asking for God’s blessing on our farmers and gardeners this spring seeding season. Grain and garden seeds were brought by the congregation’s farmers and gardeners, and prayers were said over seed, soil and water asking for a bountiful crop this year.



After a trip to the National House of Bishops meeting in Niagara Falls, Bishop Rachael traveled to Swan River to join the congregation for Sunday worship.



Fr. Cent in Verden and Tri-Valley

On May 3rd, Bishop Rachael and the congregations of the Tri-Valley Parish welcomed Fr. Innocent and his family. Fr. Cent come to us from the UAE and the Diocese of Cyprus and the Middle East. Bishop Rachael took this opprotunity to Institute Fr. Cent, and a service of induction will take place at a future date.



“Don’t let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.”
John Wooden

Kids Corner

Is your congregation fortunate enough to have teenagers or older children worshipping with you? This is a tremendous time of their lives in which to gently engage them as part of the community and open opportunities to participate in the liturgy. Here are some small ways to help our younger people know that they are loved and welcome!

If they are whispering and people are feeling distracted, have a basket of baggies with smarties, skittles, or other quiet munchies to share with them. Make sure you ask for the red ones!

Invite them to help collect the offering or hand out bulletins. They don't have to speak to people unless they want to and it will let them know they are not only welcome but can participate in the leadership of the Church.

Ask them to read a Lesson at a service. If they are shy, practice with them or even offer to go up and stand with them as they read. (Just make sure that their reading is a relatively short and interesting one, and that there aren't any difficult names or hard words.)

Make sure you learn their first names and a few interesting details about them. Do they like basketball? Are they avid readers or X-Box players? Are they there on their own or with parents or grandparents? Then write their names discretely so that next time you see them you will be able to greet them by name.



Make today so awesome, yesterday gets jelous!
Ashley Calhoun

Up Coming Events and Want Ads

KNOW SOMEONE LOOKING FOR A SUMMER JOB? WELL, THE AMC IS HIRING!
JUST EMAIL [CAMP@BRANDON.ANGLICAN.CA](mailto:camp@brandon.anglican.ca) AND FINDOUT MORE.

AMC

Anglican Memorial Camp

APPLY NOW

@ camp@brandon.anglican.ca

- Cooks
- Kitchen Helper
- Handy Person

AMC 2026 – REGISTER NOW!

Looking for an unforgettable summer experience? Join us at Anglican Memorial Camp for a week of fun, friendship, and adventure!

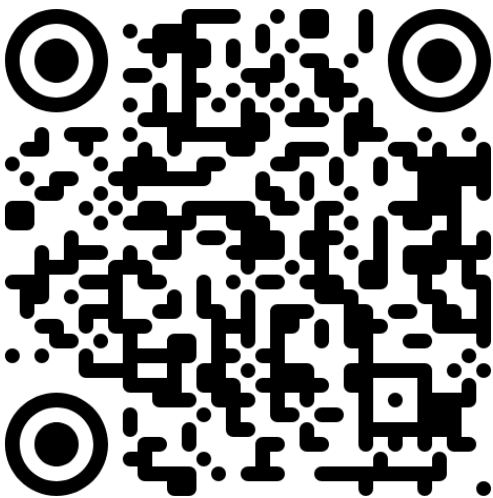
Junior Camp (ages 8-10): July 5-11, 2026

Intermediate Camp (ages 10-12): July 12-18, 2026

Camp (ages 13-18): July 19-25, 2026

Campers will enjoy a variety of activities including canoeing, swimming, wide games, crafts, campfires, and daily chapel. Our camp provides a welcoming and supportive environment where youth can grow in their faith, build friendships, and create lasting memories.

Contact: Camp@brandon.anglican.ca
Register at: <https://anglicanmemorialcamp.com/>



"Small deeds done are better than great deeds planned."
Peter Marshall