

### Christ Church, Alert Bay, BC

The Bishop of British Columbia seeks to appoint an incumbent to the Parish of Christ Church, Alert Bay, with Fort Rupert and Quatsino. Alert Bay is located on Cormorant Island, just off of the north-east end of Vancouver Island.

The ministry of the Parish of Christ Church is located in the traditional territory of the 'Namgis. The 'Namgis First Nation is one of the Kwakwaka'wakw peoples, and the ministry of the parish extends to Fort Rupert, Kingcome Inlet, and Quatsino. Alert Bay was founded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a mixed community of Kwak'wala speaking native peoples and English speaking settlers, and continues as such today. The current permanent population is a little over 1000.

The Anglican ordained minister has historically ministered to the whole community. Sunday attendance averages about 31, which includes a Sunday School of about eight children. However, 2007 also saw 24 baptisms and 20 funerals. The parish functions as a mission with significant support from both the parish members and the diocesan budget. Current challenges include: dealing with the inter-generational legacy of the residential schools (one of which, St. Michael's, was located on the reserve from 1882 to 1969); developing the Bible Studies; building up the worshipping congregation; and increasing youth participation in church life.

The new incumbent will need to be an open and engaging person with past experience of small communities and/or island life. He or she will need to be able to flourish in an environment where indigenous, Christian, and other approaches to spirituality coexist at individual, family, and community levels. She or he will need to have or be prepared to develop an appreciation of and interest in Kwakwaka'wakw/'Namgis/BC First Nations culture, history, and politics. The new incumbent will be a person of hope for the future while treasuring the teachings of the past.

A Parish Profile is now available. It, along with information concerning Diocesan levels of remuneration and benefits, may be obtained from:

- The Rt. Rev. James Cowan, Bishop of the Diocese of British Columbia  
900 Vancouver Street, Victoria, British Columbia, V8V 3V7, or
- by calling Imelda Secker at (250) 386-7781, ext. 121, or
- e-mail: [isecker@bc.anglican.ca](mailto:isecker@bc.anglican.ca)

The deadline for applications is April 6, 2009.