

Honouring Connie

By Terry Jones

On Sunday, January 8, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Logan McMenamie presided at Holy Trinity, Sooke, and surprised everyone by making a special presentation to commission a parish member as an honorary lay canon. No one was more surprised than the recipient, Dr. Constance Isherwood, Q.C., when Bishop Logan read the following commission:

“... to my friend and co-worker in the service of Jesus Christ . . . Recognizing your faithfulness in the work of the Gospel, and acting under the authority given me as Bishop of this Diocese, I appoint and commission you to the dignity of Honorary Lay Canon of the Diocese of British Columbia.”

Dr. Isherwood has received many accolades from both the Diocese and secular society in recognition of her outstanding contributions. In 2016, Mrs. Isherwood was the recipient of the Law Society Award—an award that is based on integrity, professional achievement, service and law reform. Previous

awards include the Queen’s Council designation in 1998, the University of Victoria’s Lifetime Achievement Legacy Award in 2006, the University of British Columbia’s 2016 Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award as well as an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from UBC that same year.

Dr. Isherwood is one of six women who graduated from UBC’s law school in 1951. At age 97, she is the oldest practicing lawyer in British Columbia. She is also active in many community organizations including the Victoria Symphony, the Sooke Philharmonic, the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria and the Canadian Scottish Regiment.

Connie, as she is known at Holy Trinity, is a valued member of the parish. She works tirelessly for the church and is a vital part of the service on Sunday mornings—whether reading or leading the prayers of the people. The Diocese of British Columbia is very fortunate to include Constance Isherwood as one of its parishioners. She has served as Chancellor of the Diocese for



Constance Isherwood holds commission from Bishop Logan at Holy Trinity, Sooke.

Photo: Christine Langerak

the past 30 years. That means she is an Ex-Officio member on almost all diocesan committees. She is chairwoman of the Canons Committee which handles questions regarding the canons or regulations of the Articles of

the Constitution. She has acted as legal advisor for the diocese on controversial issues such as the ordination of women, gay marriage and residential schools. Connie says, “It is a great honour to receive this from the Diocese

in the hands of the Bishop in recognition of many years of association and hard work with the Church.” Congratulations Connie!



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