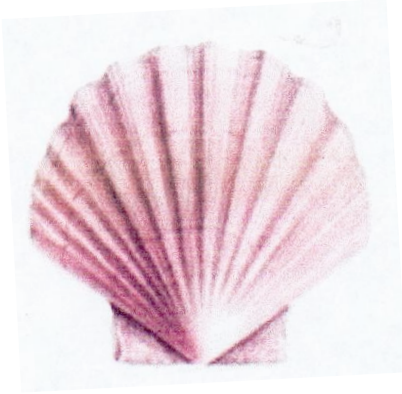


## 'The Order of the Shell' and the Apostle James

Prepared by Anita Schmidt



The scallop shell is the symbol of the Apostle James. People who made pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela, the burial place of St. James, carried a shell with them.

Pilgrims walking to Santiago de Compostela used the shell as a scoop for water and a plate for food.

During Rev. Paul Smith's incumbency at St. James (1970 - 1983), he introduced the shell as the parish logo. He first initiated the creation of shell letterhead.

In 1985, Rev. John Caird introduced the "**Order of the Shell**" as a token of appreciation to a parishioner who had contributed a great deal to the parish. The recipient received a small silver shell and a certificate marking the occasion.

While rector of St. James, John awarded the "Shell" to six people

They were Alberta Hodgins, Lawrence Schmidt, Jack Watt, Jack Labelle, Irma Mitchell and Don Fiddler.

The Order of the Shell is only occasionally bestowed, and is intended only as a light-hearted thank you.



Santiago de Compostela



Pilgrims en route to Santiago de Compostela in Spain see these crosses with the sign of the shell to guide them on their journey.

### The Link between the Shell and the Parish of St. James

The Rev. Canon John Caird was the Rector of the Parish of St. James from 1983 -2002.

John had hoped in his retirement to make the journey to Santiago de Compostela. He wanted to make the pilgrimage that linked our parish with the burial place of the apostle, St. James.

John died on August 5, 2004 before he was able to carry out this dream.



## A Memorial Tribute to John Caird

Following John Caird's death, his long time friend, Dr. Colin Clarke, went on the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela as a memorial tribute to John.

Colin's friendship with Anne and John Caird dated back to the days when the three of them worked as microbiologists in Scotland before the Cairds, or Colin and his wife, Ann, were married. Colin Clarke is Robin Caird's Godfather. The Caird and Clarke friendship remained strong and Colin was able to visit the Cairds through the years because his business brought him to North America.

Colin undertook the pilgrimage in September 2004 and contacted Anne Caird when he had completed journey. He sent her pictures and a map that outlined his walk.

In April 2005 Colin visited Anne and they were able to share more of Colin's experiences on the road to Santiago de Compostela.

## The Journey Completed: a Friend's Tribute

Colin Clarke walked 111.5 km

(70 miles) over rough paths to make the Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela as a memorial tribute to John Caird shortly after John died.

The journey took six days.



Colin Clarke's arrival in Santiago de Compostela  
On September 18, 2004

## Santiago de Compostela

Prepared by Anne Caird

Through the centuries, the three destinations most sought out by Christian pilgrims have been Jerusalem, Rome and Santiago de Compostela, which is traditionally believed to be the burial place of St. James the Apostle, hence 'Santiago'. In the ninth century, the site was mysteriously revealed by the shining of a star on a field, the Latin 'campas stellae' which became 'Compostela'.

This city in North Western Spain became, after about 1095 AD, a magnet for pilgrims from all over Europe, who walked over the tremendously rough, rocky and hilly countryside to reach their destination. The route was known – and still is, as 'el camino' and it was customary for the pilgrims to wear a shell in their hat or about their person as a sign that they were on their way to the Shrine of St. James.

Every pilgrim will have his or her intentions for this 'bonum arduum' (this difficult good). For some, to purge the soul; for others, to travel a way made holy by those who have gone before; for others, the meeting of fellow pilgrims; yet others may seek the grace of perspective and clarity, while others may offer thanks and fulfill a vow.

Those who complete the journey register with the ecclesiastical authorities and are issued a Latin document certifying in their name that they have completed the pilgrimage.



Colin Clarke's Certificate verifying that he completed the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela on September 18, 2004

**Recipients of The Order of the Shell**  
**St. James the Assiniboine Church**

Lawrence Schmidt  
Alberta Hodgins  
Jack Watt  
Jack Labelle  
Irma Mitchell  
Don Fiddler

Marion Neild  
Ralph Childerhose

Posthumously Awarded in 2006:

John Caird  
Bruce Pippy  
Howard Welsh