



THE *Lamplighter*

Anglican Parish of St. Mark Quarterly Newsletter • Number 1 • December 2020



Our Church in COVID Times

- by Chenda Bishop

Early in 2020 the St. Mark's family was faithfully meeting for worship, work and fellowship, and planning for our future path. We did not imagine that a pandemic would cause our closure.

In March 2020 when the COVID numbers in BC were rising our Chief Provincial Medical officer Dr. Bonnie Henry, together with a mandate from our Diocese of BC, required the locking of our doors. Our Rector Elizabeth and the Wardens Terry and Chenda were the only people allowed into our buildings and were tasked with monitoring the physical plant of the Church and Hall.

While we were easily able to caretake the buildings we knew our priority was to create a plan to keep in touch with our parish family, to monitor their safety and needs, to hear their prayer requests and to encourage them in their faith walk.

(continued on page 2)

WHAT'S INSIDE

Page 2

From the Archives

Page 3

Elizabeth's Quirks and Quarks

Pages 4-5

Parishioner Profile:
Nancy Chisholm

Page 6

Education: Messy Corner

Page 7

Outreach:
The Dorcas Ministry
Guess Who?

Page 8

Focus on Fellowship

Page 9

CD Review
Advent Appie

Pages 10-11

Around the Parish

Page 12

News Flash!
St. Marks Services





During Covid, Parish Council members have held monthly “socially distant” meetings.

The eleven Parish Council members agreed to adopt a section of the parish list as their own and began their series of phone calls which became a regular lifeline for us all. The months have been hard on everyone as we adjusted our lives to our new reality of separation from friends, family and regular activities. During our many phone calls to parishioners the council members heard not only of isolation and frustrations felt by many but also of a new found resiliency in many as they slowed down, prioritized needs, reached out to others and with great pluck shared tales of having survived much worse.

Our Rector Elizabeth, with the assistance of Barb Hicks, began the twice weekly online services and we assisted many parishioners to access these as their touchstone. For the 25 folks not online we delivered printed packages of the services including the sermons.

Parish Council monthly business has been completed via email consensus and in person meetings during September and October. The Rector and Wardens have met weekly throughout this time.

During the summer, as restrictions eased, we were able to prepare a plan for reopening August 30th

for services with very strict protocols in place. We are pleased that we can connect through services available to both in person and online parishioners as we continue to adhere to COVID safety guidelines.

In mid November, due to rising COVID numbers and for the safety of all, we temporarily went back to online services only. Each day brings new challenges as we adapt to the COVID pandemic but we are comforted that we live in God's world.

Glory to God, whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

- by John Smith

In a book about St. Mark's Church written by Mary Colthurst Brown in 1976, a delightful commentary appears about a class in Church embroidery established by Mrs. Page.



The first meeting was held April 15th, 1926, with four members: (named). The status of the class was clearly defined at the outset, as being under Mrs. Page's personal tuition and not under Church control. New members were admitted only by unanimous vote of members, and two rules were maintained: (1) that there should be no gossip at meetings; (2) that nobody should bring an iced cake, to avoid competition. Under these conditions excellent teamwork developed.

Oh my! How would our groups manage today without our gossip and our iced cake! But then again, none of us do Church embroidery anymore, or do we?

ELIZABETH'S QUIRKS & QUARKS

This is not the first time a document has been published with news from the Anglican Parish of St. Mark in Qualicum Beach, but it is the beginning of a new format, and new team of writers, under new editorial direction. I am so grateful for the producers of this “Lamplighter” who have stepped up and taken this opportunity to spread the good news of ministry in Qualicum that happens through the works of the people of the Church.

When asked to contribute, I puzzled for a time to find a catchy title and theme. I kept coming back to CBC’s announcer, Bob Macdonald who shares in his “Quirks and Quarks” a look into the science of our world and leads us to consider thoughts and ideas that are often outside our day-to-day realm of possibilities. While I am not either a scientist, nor Bob Macdonald – I too would love to offer an idea that might make us ponder ideas that are of a God-centered life.

We begin this “Lamplighter” series of newsletters in the Christian season of Advent. This is a time to anticipate the coming of “Immanuel”, God with us. For years, I was certain this was a time to consider my “wish list” of toys. Advent was a time to get ready for Jesus’ birth but most especially it was a season to prepare for the arrival of Santa and his eight tiny reindeer.

To my surprise, I later learned from a wonderful and patient teacher, that Advent was a time to consider and prepare for the “second coming of Christ” while remembering the “first coming”, Jesus’ birth, with thanksgiving.

The church is firm in her belief in the return of Christ Jesus. In our Eucharistic prayer we declare, “Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.” However, exactly how and when this event



There's a new “normal” in our parish.

will take place remains a mystery. Scripture doesn’t give a clear explanation; however, it does provide signs to help navigate life’s journey with the help of the Holy Spirit until Christ comes again.

Until Christ’s return, the church is reminded to remain awake as she diligently carries on the ministry of spreading the Good News of God’s love for all. One of my dear friends used to wear a button on his coat during the Advent season that declared, “Look busy, Christ is coming again!” This ought to be our motto and our focus during this sacred time.

In light of all that troubles the world today, this Advent presents a unique opportunity for the church to stand in the gap and proclaim the Good News of Christ Jesus through word and deed. Now is the time to be diligent in proclaiming the Kingdom of God in word and deed. We must be diligent in our proclamation that God’s grace is sufficient to sustain us all, even in the worst of circumstances. May we continue to be faithful in proclaiming God’s love for all creation, and labour tirelessly in proclaiming God’s justice and righteousness until Christ comes again.

PARISHIONER PROFILE: NANCY CHISHOLM

- by John Smith

Nancy's beautifully furnished corner apartment is replete with pictures of family and friends, and souvenirs to remind her of her long and abundant life.

"I was a Penticton Peach!" she says, with a twinkle in her eye. She was born there in 1926, as her father, originally from Nova Scotia, had set up his dental practice in the Okanagan. After some years, the family moved to Vancouver where Nancy's father established his practice in the Medical Dental Building. Nancy remembers that, back then, "all the elevator operators were women who wore white gloves and blue blazers, and they were all blondes. I wanted to be an elevator operator!" Later in his career, Nancy's father specialized in children's dentistry, particularly looking after children of poor families.

The family lived in a lovely big house in West Point Grey, with a view of the North Shore, right out to Point Atkinson – Nancy has a painting of the Lighthouse there. She went to Queen Mary School, and then started at UBC at the age of seventeen. While there, she was persuaded to go to a party to entertain visiting Royal Navy officers which she thought would be tedious. It was there that she met Douglas Chisholm.

It was, it seems, a whirlwind romance, and he soon proposed. Nancy said, "I think you should know I'm only seventeen," to which he replied, "Seventeen or seventy, the offer's still good." So, when she reached eighteen, they got married, and went off to live in Doug's home town of Winnipeg. While there, they attended St. Luke's Anglican Church; the magnificent building is a provincial heritage site. After the war, Douglas went into the insurance business, and Nancy became a stay-at-home mom, bringing up their son and two daughters.



*Nancy proudly displaying her
Order of the Diocese of BC.*

When their children were eleven, seven and five, Nancy came home one day to find an empty wardrobe. Douglas had walked out on her. She basically never saw him again. However, she still proudly wears a pin which has the Chisholm family motto, "Feros fiero" – "I am fierce with the fierce!" The Chisholm family, a Scottish Clan, appears to have lived up to its motto in several battles over the centuries.

Never having worked for a living, and with three children to bring up, Nancy moved back to New Westminster in 1963, partly to look after her mother. After taking some courses, she found work as a medical records librarian. That started her on a career path which culminated in the position of Personnel Director at Surrey Memorial Hospital. The job had its challenges; for example, the Registered

Nurses were not part of any union. She worked with Labour Relations personnel on a variety of projects, including developing salary and job criteria for clerical and other workers. That included a visit to Nanaimo General Hospital to develop a personnel plan there.

One day, Nancy found herself being interviewed without realizing that she was being head-hunted. This led to an offer to take a personnel position at a new hospital in Saudi Arabia! With all her children grown up, she was free to take the job, so, in 1981, off she went! Nancy was there for four years, and although the senior staff were all men, her expertise was put to use. Again the job had its challenges. For example, some of the hospital staff – “Brits and others” – tended to ignore the ban on alcohol in their rooms, so Nancy once had to write a letter to someone on holiday telling her not to come back. During her time in Saudi, she holidayed in Europe with one of her daughters, who was also allowed to visit her mother in Saudi Arabia.

After some years back in Vancouver, Nancy was looking forward to retirement, when she heard some friends raving about Qualicum Beach. “Qualicum Beach! – Boring!” she said. Nevertheless, Nancy did go to visit Qualicum Beach, decided it was where she wanted to live, and moved here soon after. Although her family had not been Anglicans, Nancy started attending St. Mark’s Church, and soon became very involved with parish activities. She is amused by the fact that the architect for St. Mark’s was also the architect who designed St. Helen’s Church in West Point Grey, where she grew up as a child. The two look very similar.

Her Saudi Arabian experience whetted Nancy’s appetite for travel. She made trips to Scandinavia, Europe and the British Isles. Although she went on organized group tours, she went solo, without a companion. Later on, she told her friend Bill about her wonderful trip to Russia, and when she told him

she was going to join a tour to Ireland, he said, “Can I come too?”, and so he did.

After fifteen years in a townhouse, Nancy considered moving into a facility for seniors. She says that, while investigating the options in Qualicum Beach, “I went to look at Hawthorne Manor just so that I could say I had, and had rejected it, but then I saw the corner apartment, and realized it was right for me.” She moved in in 2010. She has made friends there, but most of them have their own family and friends to visit, and to take them out. “Also,” she says, “they keep on dying!” Nancy has outlived many of her friends and relations; her surviving daughter lives in Coquitlam, and in these Covid days, visiting isn’t easy.

For years, as one of her special projects at St. Mark’s, Nancy has made red and white woollen lapel crosses which are handed to visitors for them to wear. Also, Nancy started the practice of writing thank-you notes to visitors who sign the Visitor’s Book. This established a special way to support St. Mark’s reputation as a welcoming church.

In addition to her volunteer work at St. Mark’s, Nancy was involved in the establishment of the Qualicum Beach Seniors’ Activities Centre, where her professional experience was invaluable. Until recently she could be seen there regularly, putting to use her special skill as a greeter.

In 2018, Nancy was honoured for her exceptional contributions to the life and character of St. Mark’s Church. She was awarded the Order of the Diocese of British Columbia, which is given to those who have made an extraordinary voluntary commitment and service to the Diocese, and wears it proudly.

One can’t write about Nancy Chisholm without mentioning her love of angels. She has many ‘angelic’ ornaments and jewelry, which she treasures. And this is so appropriate, for it isn’t an overstatement to describe Nancy as an angel amongst us.

“I was a Penticton Peach!” she says, with a twinkle in her eye.

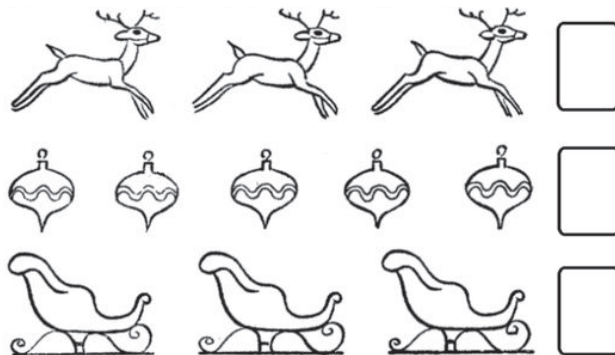
EDUCATION: MESSY CORNER



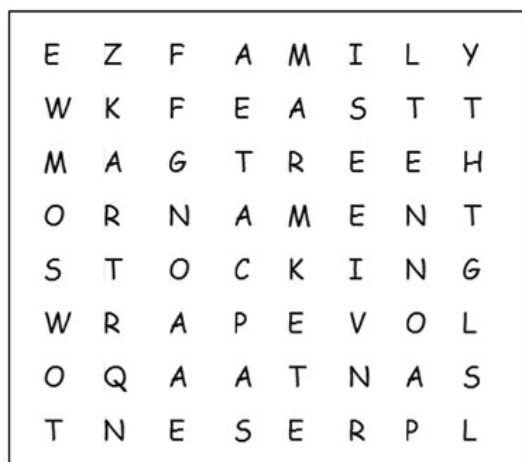
Join us for **Messy** stories and crafts online every Sunday during Advent.
(Packages will be sent to families registering with the office at 250-752-5414).

There will also be an online **Messy Pageant** on Christmas Eve at 4pm. Check out our website at stmarkqualicum.ca or Facebook at www.facebook.com/stmarkqb

How many items are in each row? Write the number in the squares.



Christmas Word Search



Can you find all of these words in the puzzle above?

FAMILY
ORNAMENT
STOCKING

FEAST
PRESENT
TREE

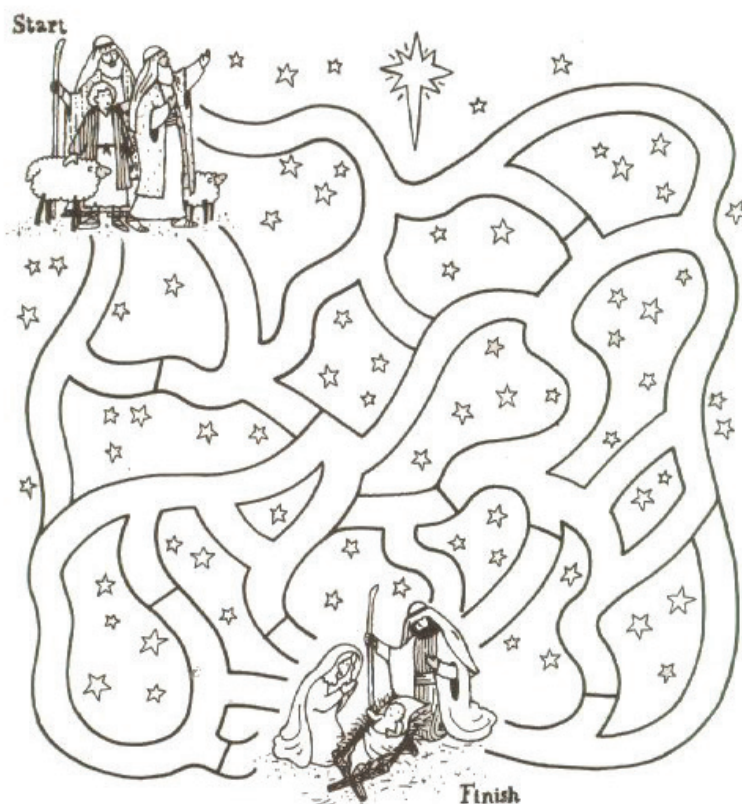
LOVE
SANTA
WRAP



easyfreesantaletter.com



Help the shepherds find the path to Jesus.



Kids, check with an adult for the answers to these puzzles.

OUTREACH: THE DORCAS MINISTRY

A Letter of Thanks to the Parishioners of St. Mark's

Why were we collecting baby clothes?

Where does it all go?

Who collected it?

The DORCAS ministry of the Anglican Church Women (ACW) strives to follow the example of the woman (Tabitha or) Dorcas of Joppa [Acts 9:36-39] in good works and caring for others.

For one hundred and fifty-nine years, Anglican women around our Diocese (and across the country) have seen the need of Parishes in Canada's North and have sought to support ministries there. Our Diocese contributes Dorcas boxes to our sister Diocese of Caledonia, sending to eight remote communities from Haida Gwaii eastward across Northern B.C.

This year with contributions from Parishes from Campbell River to Victoria, we sent three boxes each to six destinations including: Old Masset, Port Edward, and Vanderhoof. Each site received – four Layette bundles of infant sleepers, onesies, bibs, sweater sets, and receiving blankets – lap

quilts and afghans for seniors – warm knit children's sweaters, mitts, and scarves – “socks slippers and PJs – cosy flannelette or fleece crib blankets – and small “Joy” bags of toiletries for expectant Moms transported to large hospital centers away from home and family.

The ACW board thanks you all for your support of our Outreach projects, especially this year's Dorcas Ministry through your gifts. Together we can do more than we can ask or imagine.

ACW Board Rep
Canon Diane Hutchison



GUESS WHO?

Try to guess who this little cutie is.

GUESS WHO? will be featured in every newsletter. If you'd like to submit a photo(s) of a younger you, please email to Barb at bhgs54@gmail.com or call 250-927-4660 if you need a photo scanned. *Answer is on page 12.*

FOCUS ON FELLOWSHIP

GARDENING GROUP

Ryan Geboers, *Coordinator*

The Gardening Group falls under the St. Mark's property committee, but runs as a separate function and depends on many volunteer gardeners.

Some of this group's duties are:

- Looking after the lawn sprinkler system.
- Ensuring that the hedges and shrubs are trimmed.
- Caring for the Garden of Remembrance summer and winter.
- Weeding and watering of the flower beds and Meditation Garden.
- Keeping the parking lots free of debris.
- Annual removal of all garden compost.

St. Mark's Garden Group meets on the first Tuesday morning of each month from 9:00am - 11:00am starting in late March until late October.



CD REVIEW

- by Dave Hitchcock

Let's face it; when you put a CD into the player hoping to evoke a Christmas mood, the last thing many of us want to hear is the banal offering of the type of "music" typically piped into a department store from Halloween until December 25th. If you can overlook the muddy acoustics of the first track "*The First Nowell*", you can rest assured that the selections on this CD will please much more discerning ears!

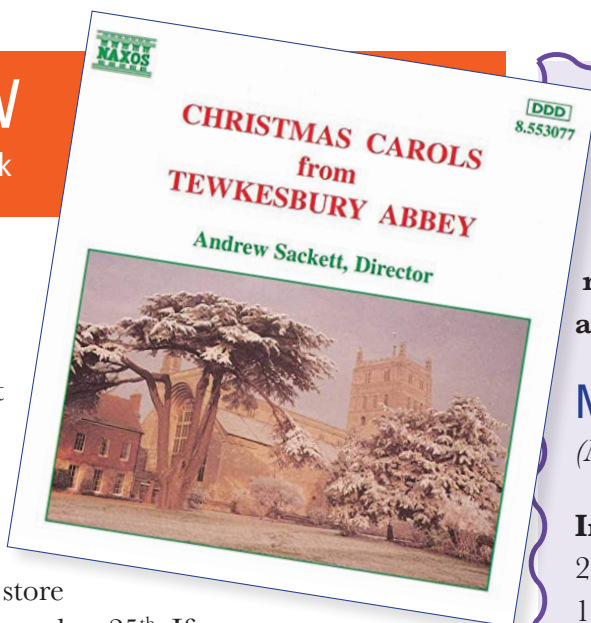
There are many lovely carols here: ones which are rarely heard in the usual carol compilations. However the well-known carols are not totally overlooked, many arranged by the well-known British musician Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015) of Choir of King's College, Cambridge fame.

This disc follows the English tradition of using the innate purity of boys' unbroken voices, well-trained in the cathedral choir schools that are to be found attached to many British cathedrals and abbeys. Although a modern setting would admit girls into this mix, the purist can be happy that this album was recorded in early 1994 and thus the music was recorded in the traditional format using just boys' and men's voices.

From the ethereal beauty of "*Gabriel's Message*" to the simple but superbly enunciated "*While Shepherds Watched*" you are likely to be entranced with the various Christmas selections.

The common British over-use of diapason organ stops for accompaniment is avoided in this album as is the surfeit of mixture stops so often used by organists from continental Europe. By contrast the organ accompaniments are simple, sensitive, and, at times, simply ethereal as in the accompaniment to the "*Sans Day Carol*" arranged by the renowned British composer John Rutter.

This is a CD that will tolerate many repeat playings without becoming wearisome. Available from Amazon.ca at \$10.86



ADVENT APPIE

Thanks to Marion Jagger for her recipe for this delicious appetiser.

Minced Meatballs

(Makes 6 dozen hors d'oeuvres)

Ingredients

2 beaten eggs
1/3 cup fine dry bread crumbs
1 - 2.25 oz. can devilled ham
1/2 tsp salt
dash pepper
1 lb. ground beef
22 oz. mincemeat
1/4 cup apple juice or cider
1 tbsp. vinegar

Making meatballs

Combine eggs, bread crumbs, devilled ham, salt & pepper.
Add ground beef & mix well.
Shape into 6 dozen very small meatballs.
Bake 375° F for 12 – 14 minutes or until done.
Cool, remove from pan, cover & chill.

To serve

Combine mincemeat, apple juice & vinegar.
Heat until bubbly.
Add meatballs & heat through.
Serve in a chafing dish with picks.
Keep warm.
Add additional apple juice if mixture becomes too thick.

AROUND THE PARISH

- by Sue Smith, Janet Dol and friends

This past spring, summer and fall have been so different for us at St. Mark's. We're missing many of the social contacts while we follow the protocols to keep each other safe during this unusual time of the COVID pandemic. But there is always news to share with our friends, so we are taking this opportunity to keep you up-to-date on the activities of some of our parishioners. We'd love to have YOUR news for our next edition. Please contact Sue Smith (sueandjohn@shaw.ca) or Janet Dol (thedolhouse@shaw.ca)

Kay Forsyth is spending a lot of time during Covid, making her beautiful cards 'for any occasion'. These cards are absolutely unique and good value for the money. A must for special occasions.



With care, David & Louise Kelsey ventured off the island for the first time since early March, taking the Hope-Princeton route to Naramata, for some family time. There were just 6 of them, plus their little Grandson, their essential "bubble". It was quiet, surrounded by vineyards, apple orchards, and the lake. Wineries, cider works and brew pubs were sampled as well as the Kettle Valley hiking trail, then produce from the abundant and colourful stands in Keremeos on the way home. They're already making plans for next year's BC trip in the fall.

Gardens can be beautiful but have to be constantly looked after to survive. Ann Fairchild is a great gardener and during this sad time of Covid, has been happily tending her garden making something beautiful out of a nasty time.



Marion Jagger was kept busy helping her brother downsize, move, discard and cope with the death of his spouse of 62 years. A successful garage sale resulted in donations to the Rotary Polio Foundation and the Hesham Refugee Support Group here in Oceanside. In September Marion ventured with Pam Brown to visit good friends Susan and Cheryl Hayward-Brown in their new home at Sorrento Centre; it was great to see them so happily settled. Early November saw another sojourn, this time to Salt Spring Island. Fortunately in August one daughter with her puppies ventured to VI to visit - and stayed several more days than planned as they enjoyed it so much. Marion's keeping connected to St. Mark's in scheduling readers for the Sunday and Wednesday services, but majorly missing St. Mark's Beaux and Belles!

AROUND THE PARISH

The Hutchisons (Diane & Rob), when they're not acting as Voting Officers during BC's election or participating in sanitizing the church, have been heard reciting "How much wood could a woodchuck chuck..." as they help their daughter & son-in-law split & stack cords of wood for their Mt Washington/Forbidden Plateau winter.

John and Sue Smith were disappointed that their trip in June to England and then on to Switzerland and Oberammergau was cancelled because of the pandemic. However, they have been productive at home developing their garden and having the exterior of their house painted. They both have been part of the team helping at St. Mark's services and John continues with his involvement in the Hesham Refugee Support Group and his Parish Council duties. As a fundraiser, for both St. Mark's Messy Church program and Manna Ministries, Sue and a friend have made various greenery baskets and door swags for parishioners and friends. Thanks to Richard & Wendy de Candole for supplying greenery and to all who donated pots & baskets.



Barb Hicks and Brian Okell, other than golfing and swimming, have been exploring this beautiful island we call home. They spent a few days up in Crowne Isle, then off to Ucluelet, and then a few days at Salt Spring Island.

Janet Dol has been cleaning out her wardrobe, amassing two huge bags of clothing (John has not parted with his yet). The result – she can make do with a smaller clothes closet (due to John's clever workmanship) – and more space in the bedroom.

They say life is full of surprises and that proved true when Vera Brassel (90 years young) attended her Bible Study group this November. Avis, Cynthia, Janet and Michele were there to greet her, singing happy birthday, with flowers, birthday cake, card and gifts, and familiar music playing.

Harry Bassett celebrated Guy Fawkes day in rather a unique way this year. Instead of letting off fireworks outside, he decided to use the microwave oven to create black smoke and a big bang. I am told he will not repeat this next year as it proved more expensive than buying a few fireworks and Michele did not approve.



News flash!

The Hesham Refugee Support Group, headed up by Terry and Jennifer Roberts, John Smith, and Hesham's sister Samar, has received official confirmation that Hesham, his wife, and their two children, will (finally!) be arriving here on Wednesday, December 9th! The team is very excited, especially Samar!

From The Editors

Welcome to our first issue of the quarterly *Lamplighter*. Special thanks to all contributors, and to Barb Hicks for her formatting and layout expertise. We welcome comments, criticisms and contributions.

- John and Sue Smith

ST. MARK'S SERVICES

IN PERSON WORSHIP has been suspended until the new year. Please check stmarkqualicum.ca for bulletins and info on all services.

WEEKLY SERVICES:

Sundays at **10:00 am** (available online)

Wednesdays at **11:30 am** (available online)

Messy story/craft Sundays during Advent only (available online)

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

4:00 pm Messy Pageant (available online)

7:00 pm Family Eucharist (available online)

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE: 10 am (available online)

Guest organist Jenny Vincent will provide music at the 7:00 services.

ANSWER TO **GUESS WHO?!**: Barbara Hicks



How to Contact THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF St. Mark

138 Hoylake Rd W.
Qualicum Beach, BC
V9K 1K3

Parish Office (Pam): 250-752-5414 • admin@stmarkqualicum.ca

OFFICE HOURS: 9am - 3pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Rector (Elizabeth): 250-240-2418 • enorthcott@bc.anglican.ca

Rector's Warden (Chenda): 250-947-9788 • wardens@stmarkqualicum.ca

People's Warden (Terry): 250-240-4330 • wardens@stmarkqualicum.ca

FaceBook: www.facebook.com/stmarkqb • Website: stmarkqualicum.ca