

Notices for Sunday May 24, 2020

Hello lovely people of St Philip's!

I write this on a day that is significant for two reasons in the life of our church.

Firstly, I received the document from the Archbishop that sets out the framework for a phased reopening of our churches within the diocese. The framework describes four distinct phases that eventually lead to our churches being fully open to both worshippers and user groups. As you might expect, each phase involves churches fulfilling a large number of criteria in terms of hygiene, personal protection and eucharistic practices. What is clear is that there will be a new normal to what we do in church for some time to come as we move through each phase of the reopening process. I have shared the document with the Trustees, Parish Council and members of staff and have called for them to reflect on the document and its implications prior to us coming together to discuss how we will react and implement all necessary changes. I will, of course, inform you as and when decisions are made and why they have been made along the way. Please rest assured that my number one priority as we look towards reopening St Philip's is the safety of our people and all those who meet under our roof.

Secondly, today is Ascension Day, the day when Jesus physically left his disciples and returned to heaven to be with God. For many in the church Ascension Day is often overlooked, but this is one of the four major feasts of the Christian church, which we will celebrate on Sunday. Ascension is hugely significant particularly for us in the midst of this pandemic as it grapples with issues around loss, fear and abandonment. As Jesus physically disappears into the clouds, the disciples must have been dealing with a myriad of emotions. But Jesus's final words are to ask them to return to the city and wait until the gift of the Spirit is sent to empower them with wisdom and courage to spread the good news of the kingdom of God.

Even so, the disciples must have walked back to Jerusalem with heavy hearts as they realised that Jesus, alongside whom they had lived the last three years of their lives, was now gone for good: their old normal was now over. What would happen next? What would the new normal look like? How would this new normal come about?

Yet the significance of Ascension was about to overtake them. Rather than being abandoned, simply left to get on with it by themselves, Jesus' ascension unlocked an outpouring of creative energy fuelled by God's Holy Spirit, which empowered them to preach and witness to the reality of God's new Kingdom. The disciples later came to realise that it was because Jesus physically left them to return to God that he is able to become the universal Christ who, as the writer of the letter to the Ephesians describes, is now able to 'fill all in all.'

We too may be feeling fearful, lost and abandoned. We may be mourning the loss of our old normal as we contemplate what the new normal will look like. But the feast of the Ascension reminds us that not only does Christ empower us to be the church in every age, but also because Christ is ascended, heaven and earth are united and the universal Christ can now stand with each one of us, wherever we are, no longer bound by physical restraint. He is with us always and will lead us on...

Hallelujah! Happy Ascension Day!

Stuart

WEBSITE WORSHIP

Stuart Hallam will preach again this Sunday and we look forward to hearing him.

Distant Voices of Hope, a special series of four guest preachers over four Sundays on the theme of hope, has elicited many positive comments at coffee hour and has been viewed on YouTube by 630 households. Enjoy these and other services at any time by going to our website where there is much to find: past worship, resources and music.

<https://www.stphilipsdunbar.com/blog>

PRAYER LIST

Please pray for those who have asked for our prayers at this time: Ken and Greg, Maura and Brian, Nancy, Tracy and family, Mike Lane, Brenda Harrison, Sarah Burns, and Richard Fenner.

MILESTONES:

We have TWO lovely milestones from one family! Paul and Brenda Harrison "would like to share with the parish two bits of good news. In early May, our son Teddy became a father. His wife Maria gave birth to a healthy boy, Nikanor Jogov-Harrison. This Sunday marks the 45th anniversary of our wedding." Let's celebrate with them as we recite the final prayer together.

COFFEE HOUR: Sunday May 24, 11:00 AM

Last week, sixteen people dropped by to share coffee. It was good to see Vicki and Pittman Potter. Min Rundle attends weekly, using the chat function. Margie Brown joined us again from South Africa. Families with children are especially invited: we miss seeing you! Click the blue link to Zoom at 11:00 am, using your computer for best results. <https://zoom.us/j/454815164>

RE-OPENING THE CHURCH

Trustees meet on Zoom on Tuesday May 26 at 9:00 AM and Parish Council meets at 7:30 PM to begin to discuss the many questions put to us in a lengthy document from the Diocese this week. Stuart makes clear in his letter that safety is paramount as we consider each question.

RESURRECTION IN THE MORNING with Harold Munn

How can the resurrection be a resource for us in this strange, uncertain time? Harold Munn offers instruction on how to use the resources of the Daily Office and leads a Zoom discussion group about how that can be a way of experiencing the resurrection in our time. To join or just to receive daily readings, contact Harold at haroldtmunn@gmail.com [604-564-2716](tel:604-564-2716)

DONATE NECESSITIES TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD MINISTRY

The requested food, hygiene sundries and clothing are given to Neighbourhood Ministry's community partners who support our clients during the COVID-19 precautions. Thank you for your generous donations, but we still received some unsolicited rummage sale items which we now must deal with. **Read the attached Wish List and bring only what is listed. Thank you!**

NEIGHBOURHOOD MINISTRY WISH LIST - *Please, we ask for these items, and only these items.*

FOOD	CLOTHING	SUNDRIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canned soups, stews*• Tinned meat*• Peanut Butter• Dried Fruit• Soft Granola Bars• Juice Boxes• Bottled water <p>*easy open cans</p>	<p>(New or gently used MEN'S clothing, bagged)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• T-shirts• Socks• Underwear• Shoes/Runners• Jeans	<p>(Small, new and unopened only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toothpaste, tooth brushes• Soap• Shampoo• Tampons• Deodorant

LIVE-STREAMING

As St Philip's website worship and Michael Murray's organ concerts reach people at home, shut-in, or far away, we want to capture this potential for the future. Currently, Stuart is recording Sunday worship - preaching, organ and singing - on his old iPad taped to a music stand! With improved audiovisual recording capabilities, we will be able to bring worship, concerts, celebrations of life, and weddings to people who cannot attend in person, and to

groups of over 50. Stuart and Beth are researching manageable, affordable options with the audiovisual team that engineered Michael's "Phantom of the Opera" film concert last October.

ROOF

The Roofing project is well underway! The rectory has been reroofed with asphalt shingles, and the church and hall are being reroofed with long-life ECO shingles made of recycled tires. Walk along W. 27th to take a look or follow the progress in website photos under NEWS. Thanks to the Capital Campaign donors who have made this essential capital investment possible.

THE NEW PEWS

Ten of the old pews have gone to be restyled into lighter movable pews, which will also help us follow COVID-19 distancing precautions. Follow the project on our website under NEWS. You can see a prototype pew made of the recycled old growth wood of a pew using the exact same seat design, but lighter in the back, sides and legs. The new pews will be finished with a natural polish similar to the wood around the sanctuary. Thanks to the Reordering Working Group for their research and careful decision-making leading to the design by a local craftsman carpenter.

IMPROVED SOUND

The wall speakers and wiring are all being tested, inspected and reconnected. Second, the Loop System has been installed under the church floor that directs sound to hearing aids. Again, thanks to Capital Campaign donors for funding such welcome and essential improvements.

PAINTING

Pat Brandon is making good use of the time without us all underfoot and is completing many cleaning, repainting and lighting projects. Look for some bright spotless spaces when we return.

OUR REFUGEE FAMILY

Lama has just lost her job permanently as the catering company where she worked has closed for good. Her daughter, Sedra (17) is also keen to work. Debbie Matheson is seeking jobs for Lama, Sedra and Lama's brother, Ward (26). All leads are welcome! Onward.

SHARE THE PEACE

Stuart wants to share with the world the true faces of the people of St Philip's. Young or old, record a short video (5 seconds or so) of you sharing the peace: "Peace be with you". Express your personality to share the peace with us and with the world! Send your short clip to:

Revhallam@hotmail.co.uk

ST. PHILIP'S RINGERS are volunteers who have rung every parishioner to chat and offer support. Let us pray for all our parishioners feeling deep losses of separation from loved ones, especially from those who are in care. If you or someone you know feels in need of support or practical help, leave the name & number on 604-224-3238, ext.304. **We're here.**

PRAYER LIST AND LIFE'S MILESTONES

Please send your prayer requests to Beth manager@stpdunbar.com or 604-224-3238 ext 301. Are you celebrating a birthday, anniversary or a milestone? Let Beth know so that we can celebrate with you in spirit, in prayer or with a phone call.

DONATIONS

St Philip's received **over \$3000** in special Easter online donations, beyond usual pledged giving. Thank you so much for your generosity! <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/47610>
If you still use envelopes, please click "Donate" on the website, print or write out the form for Pre-Authorized Donations (PAD) and mail it to the Diocesan Office.

GRATITUDE CONFETTI

Toss your gratitude confetti on those who make this uncertain time brighter, safer and more hopeful. And pass it on.

Staying Close While We're Apart,

Stuart Hallam (Rector), Debbie Matheson, Brian Mix, Diana Bragg, and Suzi Noetzel (Wardens)