Notices for Mother's Day, Sunday May 10, 2020

Dear Friends,

Hello lovely people of St Philip's!

Last week's online service was our most successful yet having more than 170 views in just one day. Our Facebook page reached nearly 1600 people this week, really incredible! One thing for sure that we are learning as a church during this pandemic is that we need to utilise how we use social media moving forward, particularly the live streaming of our services once they resume. Thanks to all those who contribute to the services each week and particularly to last week's guest speaker, the wonderful Dave Tomlinson for his excellent talk. This week, I am delighted to welcome the Very Rev'd Dr (and very lovely in my opinion) Jonathan Draper, the former Dean of Exeter Cathedral in the UK. Jonathan and Maggie are dear friends of ours, so it is a real pleasure to welcome Jonathan to St Philip's this week!

Mother's Day is fast approaching but with social distancing still upon us (at least until the Canada Day holiday weekend) our celebrations will be different this year with no family gatherings, no hugs and kisses and no dinners together. Hopefully, this year will be a one off, we pray it will.

The Christian Church as underplayed (to its detriment and shame, to my mind) a key fundamental aspect of the femininity of God's nature, choosing instead to concentrate only on the masculinity of God's character. We understand why, of course, the bible was written by men and from within a context of a patriarchal society. Even so, the bible offers us glimpses of a more holistic understanding of God's true self, one that emphasise equally both the male and female aspects of God's nature. Of course, the key passage that underpins this truth is written in one of the oldest works of scripture, the book of Genesis. In Chapter 1 we read that humankind is made in God's image, male and female, a reflection of God's very self.

To see God and use language to describe God as female is not only appropriate, it is truth telling. We are made in God's image, male and female so to speak anything other about God not only under plays who God is, but also diminishes our relationship with God. Just think for a moment how seeing God as equally female would affect how you viewed God. We often describe God in terms of being a 'mighty deliverer' for example. From a male perspective this can take on a militaristic quality that has often led the church down a confrontational road, often with dire consequences. Taken from a feminine angle, God's deliverance is all about bearing life itself; God becomes the source of our life, without whom we cannot hope to survive. Again and again the scriptures give us hints that God like a Mother is our protector and safe refuge. In Deuteronomy chapter 32 verse 18, for example, the writer says, 'You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you; you forgot the God who gave you birth. Jesus himself famously used similar imagery to describe God as a Mother hen willingly sacrificing herself to protect her children.

During this time of fear and crisis, we need to be ever mindful of the true nature who the God we worship and of the God who cares for us and loves us; God is our 'mighty deliverer' who like our own Mother, bears us, gives us life, holds us at her breast and will continue to protect us until our world, pregnant with new possibilities, is born again.
Happy Mother's Day!

Love and Prayers,
Stuart

FAITH, HOPE, LOVE: Music for Mother's Day, May 10 at 4:00 pm
Treat your mum, wife, daughter, sister and other wonderful women in your lives to a front-row seat anywhere in the world to FAITH, HOPE, LOVE: Music for Mother's Day.
Michael Murray presents a live-streamed organ concert featuring music by Bach, Hugo Distler, J. G. Walther and Charles Tournemire. These composers write with their faith uppermost in mind. The familiar celebratory themes of Easter will be presented from a position of thoughtful devotion. Tune in here: https://www.facebook.com/stphilipsdunbar/ to watch.

Buy virtual tickets to raise funds for the work of St Philip's Church:
https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/parish-of-st-philip/events/music-for-mothers-day/

STEWARDS OF ST PHILIP'S, 2020

Moira Bryans has been involved at St Philip's for over 35 years, since before her twin girls were baptized here. With her cheerful enthusiasm, able teamwork, and accounting background, Moira has offered invaluable guidance, initiative and leadership as a member of the Finance Committee for 21 years, in Stewardship, as a Warden and Trustee, on Parish Council, delegate to Synod, on a Canonical Committee, Outreach Committee, and currently as treasurer of the Endowment Fund Committee. Moira has led the Altar Guild and has been a member for 25 years, volunteered at St Michael's Food Bank as part of Outreach, supports countless St Philip's events such as being convener of a Christmas Fair stall, and has baked our famous Christmas Cakes for over 25 years as one of the original team of bakers. Whether in finance, fundraising or fun, Moira has been a true Steward of St Philip's. Parish Council is very pleased to honour Moira with this award, in great affection and gratitude.

Michael McKenzie - Over his nearly 18 years at St. Philip's, **Michael McKenzie** has lent his time, talents, and enthusiasm to many endeavours. He has served as Trustee, People's Warden, and member of Parish Council, been on the Stewardship, Canonical, and Music Committees, sung in the choir for 15 years, and has at various times been co-convenor of the Rummage Sale and the Book Stall as well as volunteer help at countless parish events, all with unfailing kindness, cheerful humour, and singular empathy. Michael's work as a doctor has also benefited St. Philip's, through his organization of a series of talks on Medical Assistance in Dying and his involvement with Songcology, a "medically-staffed" choir which has performed several times in

our church. For these and many other reasons, Parish Council is delighted to honour Michael as a Steward of St. Philip's, with thanks for his dedicated service to our community.

WEBSITE WORSHIP: ***Distant Voices of Hope*** **on May 10**
Stuart has created *Distant Voices of Hope*, a special series of four guest preachers from around the globe on a theme of Hope: Rev'd Canon Angela Tilby, Rev'd. Dave Tomlinson, and on May 10 the guest preacher is the Very Rev'd Dr. Jonathan Draper, Dean of Exeter Cathedral.
As well as Sunday worship, there is much to find on the website: 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, Richard Fenner, Ursula Bell, Shirley Fowler Handkamer, and for the late Debbie and Ches Fowler.

MILESTONES: Diana Bragg celebrates a birthday. Let's think of her as we recite the final prayer together.

COFFEE HOUR: Sunday May 10, 11:00 AM
Everyone drop in. Families, children and youth are especially invited: we miss you! Click the blue link at 11:00 am, using your computer for best results. https://zoom.us/j/454815164

SHARE THE PEACE
Stuart wants to make the online worship more inclusive and 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". Be as simple or creative as you feel: you can quietly say the words or joyfully shout them from your favourite place – express your personality and share the peace with each other and with the world! Send your short clip: Revhallam@hotmail.co.uk

RESURRECTION IN THE MORNING with Harold Munn
COVID is making everyone re-think our priorities at every level and live with deep uncertainty about the future. How can the resurrection be a resource for us in this strange time? Harold Munn offers instruction on how to use the resources of the Daily Office and leads a discussion group about how that can be a way of experiencing the resurrection in our time. Meet by Zoom on Monday mornings until Pentecost from 10:30 to 11:30 or Monday evenings at 7:30. To join or just to receive daily readings, contact Harold at haroldtmunn@gmail.com 604-564-2716

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD MINISTRY: keep helping!
Your generous donations to the food and clothing drive are donated to Neighbourhood Ministry's community partners who support clients whom our volunteers cannot due to COVID-19 precautions. Check the attached message re **what to donate** to St Philip's donation boxes.

ST. PHILIP'S RINGERS are volunteers who have rung every parishioner to have a chat and offer support. Let us pray for all our parishioners feeling deep losses of separation from loved ones,

especially 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 – Thanks from the Trustees
We asked you to give differently this year and parishioners have stepped up. St Philip's received $3000 in special Easter online donations, over and above pledged giving.
Please give, if you are able: https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/47610
If you still use envelopes, please click "Donate" on the website, print the form for Pre-Authorized Donations (PAD) and mail it to the Diocese Office.

OUR REFUGEE FAMILY
Mary Lymburner has ensured that Lama is receiving the Emergency Relief Benefit (CERB), three months' waiver of Hydro payments, and augmented Child Benefits. Through Suzi Noetzel's neighbour, Ward (26) is just starting a job in landscaping, and Debbie and Suzi have supplied him with work gear. The four teens have contact with their teachers and classmates online, which is both a challenge and a social support for them. Onward.

GRATITUDE CONFETTI
Let's toss lots of gratitude confetti over Moira Bryans and Michael McKenzie who have been chosen as 2020 Stewards of St Philip's. They exemplify the many wonderful volunteers who dedicate their time and talent to St Philip's. Thank you, Moira and Michael, for all that you do.

Staying Close While We're Apart,
Stuart Hallam (Rector), Debbie Matheson, Brian Mix, Diana Bragg, and Suzi Noetzel (Wardens)