

Notices for The Second Sunday of Advent, December 6, 2020

Lovely People of St Philip's,

It has been a very significant week in the life of St Philip's and for the wider world too. With news of the first COVID19 vaccines being authorized for use in the UK, there is now real hope across the world that there is an end in sight for this pandemic. It is by no means over, but let's hope it is the beginning of the end!

The pandemic has made us all do things differently including this year's Christmas Fair. I don't know what you were doing at around 7:45pm on Wednesday evening, but I was glued to the St Philip's silent auction website making sure that my bids were still winning!! Strangely, all my items were food and drink related (which probably speaks volumes)!

It looks like this year's Online Christmas Fair and Silent auction will raise somewhere in the region of \$10231.00! Huge congratulations to Debbie Matheson and the Fundraising Working Group for re-imagining this event. So to them and to all you bakers, jammers, donors and bidders, cake makers and volunteers who made the Online Christmas Fair such a huge success, THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!!

Talking of doing things differently, one further significant piece of news this week was that the Endowment Fund Committee unanimously voted the fund the Parish Council's request to buy new live-streaming technology for the church. We all know how important being able to connect online has been this year. Once this equipment is installed we will be able to live-stream all our in-person services directly onto YouTube and Facebook. This means that those who are unable to attend, or who are curious about what happens in church will be able to participate directly in real time with what is happening in church. This is a very exciting new ministry for us as a community and has many possibilities for growth moving forward. We hope the equipment will be installed by the end of the year. I will keep you posted.

This year we have all been challenged to watch and wait. We have had to re-imagine who we are and how we do things as we anticipated the end of the pandemic. This seems a very appropriate way of keeping Advent – of watching and waiting and encountering God's light in unexpected places and in ways which are sometimes comforting, sometimes challenging, but always illuminating.

As we journey through this season in anticipation of encountering the Christ Child anew, perhaps we all need to ask, 'who is it I am looking for?' And, "where am I looking to find God?' Advent questions our assumption about who God is and where God may be found. Our experience this year shows this can be both an uncomfortable challenge as well as a wonderfully revealing journey.

Advent blessings to you all,

**Love and Prayers,
Stuart**

Online Christmas Eve Nativity, 24th December –

The Rector needs YOU! Because of the continued Coronavirus restrictions, we are having to plan for all our Christmas services to be online, so I am re-imagining this year's Family Nativity and I need **YOUR** help.

Firstly, I would love for all the children of the parish (and adults too, come to that) to paint pictures of the scenes of the Nativity. Specifically pictures of Angels, Mary & Joseph on the donkey, Shepherds in the fields, Three wise astrologers (Magi, or Kings & Queens), and Baby Jesus in the Manger.

Sign & Photograph the pictures and send them to Stuart's email: rector@stpdpunbar.com

Secondly, I would like as many families as possible (family in its broadest definition) to send in a very short video of themselves wishing everyone a Merry Christmas!!

Pictures and Videos will be incorporated into the Family Nativity Service on Christmas Eve. Please get them to Stuart by 20th December. **Thank you!!**

DATES TO NOTE

Sat. Dec. 5	Pick up Christmas Fair shopping and Silent Auction wins 10am – 2 pm
Sun. Dec. 6	Advent Service Online
Thurs. Dec 24	Christmas Eve Nativity 4pm

WEBSITE WORSHIP Sundays at 10:00

Join Stuart and others in Sunday morning Website Worship and follow along with the order of service delivered to you. The services are recorded and posted by Saturday evening, so you can watch and revisit them at your convenience.

St Philip's will continue to offer online worship for the many worshippers who cannot attend in person or who live afar.

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



OTHER WAYS TO CONNECT

PRAYER, CARE AND SHARE

Wednesdays via Zoom at 10:00 AM

On your computer, click the link at 10:00 AM <https://zoom.us/j/2939572088>

To join the gathering by phone, dial 778-907-2071. The meeting ID is 2939572088.

MIDDAY PRAYERS

Join Stuart Mondays to Thursdays for Midday Prayers. Whether you are at home or busy at work, this 20 min service will help you relax and reconnect with yourself, your community and your Creator... <https://zoom.us/j/98044347032?pwd=NjdlQmg5bTc4Ym9GaidYL1BZNtBz09>
To join by phone, dial 778-907-2071 Meeting ID: 980 4434 7032



COFFEE HOUR Sundays at 11:00 AM on Zoom

We look forward to seeing **you**. Click the blue link at 11:00 am, using your computer for best results, or join by phone:

<https://zoom.us/j/454815164>

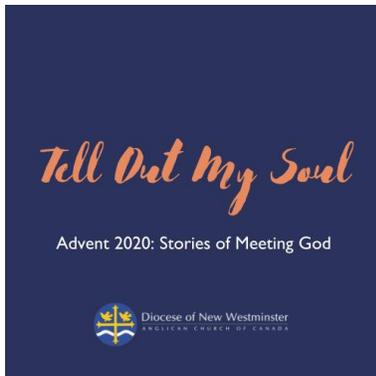
By phone, dial 778-907-2071. Coffee Hour ID is 454815164.

PRAYER LIST

Please pray for those who have asked for our prayers at this time:

Greg, Maura and Brian, Nancy, Tracy and family, Larry Hoad and Mike Lane, Brenda Harrison, Sarah Burns, Richard Fenner, Jan Alexander and Eve, Mia Salamito, Diana Bragg and Family, Hazel Maunder, and Min's sister Jill and Min's advocate Dorothy McNaughton.

Let us pray for those who have died, Joyce Helton and Ken Crookall, Ross Smith, and for their friends and family bereaved by their loss.



ADVENT STUDY

Sign-up for a daily email in Advent with stories from people throughout the diocese. How did God meet them in different situations in their lives? The lectionary readings of the Sundays in Advent will inspire the theme for each day's story to be delivered to your inbox. The title of this Advent Calendar is the name of a much-loved hymn, whose first line rings out "Tell out, my soul the greatness of the Lord." Follow the link to sign up for daily emails that begin on November 29th.

<https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/programs/2020-advent>

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS 2020: News from Sandy Harrison, Outreach Committee

Each year, Outreach organizes generous food hampers and wrapped gifts for 20 needy families from two schools: Queen Alexandra and Nightingale. These schools count on St Philip's help every year and we make a real difference in these families' lives. Due to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 crisis, this year Church families are only responsible for purchasing gift cards as Christmas gifts. The Outreach Committee has already bought each family a grocery gift card, so food is done. Please see the family descriptions attached to this Bulletin, and contact Sandy Harrison with an offer to help. srharrison401@gmail.com As of Dec. 2, only 4 families still await sponsorship by parishioners. Seal your gift cards in a seasonal

greeting card labelled with the **family's "letter name" and school** and deliver it to St Philip's on *Saturday, Dec. 12 between 10a.m. and 4 pm* or on *Sunday, Dec. 13 from 10-am -1pm.*

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BuyLow

Delivery to the schools will be on Dec. 14-15. Thank you for your generous support.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA 2020 HAMPER FORMS

Only one family left to sponsor!! Family J
1 Adult, 2 children

Details	Gender	Size	Gift Suggestion
Dad	Male	-	Grocery gift card.
Child(12yrs)	Male	Adult M	Red colours. Books, lego
Child(10yrs)	Male	Adult M	Orange colours. Books, Lego

Special Dietary needs/Food Allergies: None Preferred Grocery store: Superstore

Sponsor: St.Phillips Contact: Jaimi Hollingsworth 604-209-6833 jhollingsworth@vsb.bc.ca

SAINTS PRESERVE US!!

Saturday Dec 12, 10am -4pm, Joanne Vondette will be selling the remaining jams and jellies left from our online sale. Last chance to snap them up!! Thanks Joanne!



STEWARDSHIP 2021

Copies of the Stewardship pledge form are available at the mailboxes (Sat – Wed) for you to fill out and deliver back to the church **by Dec 10** so that the Treasurer can set the budget for 2021. Please pledge as generously as you can in this time of lost rentals and curtailed fundraising. So far, 48 pledges for 2021 had been received by Dec 5, 2020. Thank you all and keep them coming!

HOLIDAY LIGHTS FOR THE CHURCH

If you have outdoor lights you can donate to the church, we would like to decorate the courtyard for the season. Please drop them at the church Saturday – Wednesday 8-4!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

As we complete our second year of the three-year Capital Campaign, we have much to thank donors for: the buildings are protected and updated, and we are looking at future staffing. We are reminded to make our contribution soon. You might even consider *Donation of Securities and Related Tax Benefits*. <https://www.stphilipsdunbar.com/pages/2019-capital-campaign>



Final Session This Week !!

Discussion Group on Contemplating Coronavirus

Many in the four parishes of the Westside Anglican Neighbourhood Ministry and elsewhere have expressed interest in *Fever Dreams*, the booklet of corona virus contemplations presented by our retired Deacon and former WANM Clergy Lead, the Rev. Dr. Pitman Potter. The book's 52 spiritual texts selected from Judeo-Christian, Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, and Taoist traditions as well as poetic and lyrical voices provide an opportunity for reflection and discussion on the challenges we all face during this trying time. In response, St. John's Shaughnessy and WANM invite interested folks to join us for a series of four discussion sessions followed by Night Prayer beginning at 7pm on Monday evenings November 16 – December 7. These sessions can contribute to our Advent preparations (Advent begins November 29). Access via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87115723587?pwd=WUNwbWNEb016MFplaGVMNvdRMnA1dz09>

Passcode: 292451 Meeting ID: 871 1572 3587

Fever Dreams is available from Rhona at rhonat@telus.net



GRATITUDE CONFETTI

Thanks to the Fundraising Team

St Philip's first online Silent Auction and Christmas Sale wrapped up successfully on Dec. 5th thanks to Diana Bragg, Pat Brandon, Harper Hadden, Debbie Matheson, Sheryl McKay, Laura Millman, Suzi Noetzel, Joanne Vondette and Catriona

Wilson, and thanks to the holy host of bakers, preserve makers, auction donors and tech support. Stay tuned next week for the amount raised. Best of all, it was great to work together and share fellowship in this project.

Even More Gratitude Confetti!

Let's shower gratitude confetti on all the parishioners and friends in the community who ventured online to bid and buy, many shopping online for the first time. Our roots in the community run deep. One community shopper wrote: "My family always come to and enjoy the St. Phillips fairs held throughout the years (and have been coming for about the past 25 years!) I've already purchased some homemade goods from the St. Phillips store and am happy to continue to support St. Phillips in other ways." Please pass on our gratitude to everyone you know who supported our endeavour.

Staying Close While We're Apart,

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

