ST PHILIP'S POST

DUNBAR'S ANGLICAN COMMUNITY

MARCH 2018

By The Rev'd Canon Dr. Harold Munn

Last year at this time Claire and I were in the UK to celebrate Holy Week and Easter with a congregation in south London. One day we stopped into several of the major stores in downtown London to pick up some Easter cards for friends back in Canada. I'd had trouble finding Easter cards in Canada - none showed anything other than bunnies and chocolate eggs. But the British stores were no different – there was a tiny section of religious Easter cards, but not one mentioned Jesus' resurrection.

I'm pretty sure card companies watch their sales carefully and they know that cards mentioning Jesus' resurrection don't sell well.

Why would that be? Jesus' resurrection is the whole point of Christianity, and Christianity has been the foundational religious experience of the western world for two thousand years. So why can't they sell cards depicting Jesus' resurrection?

What is becoming clear is that we live in a world in which Jesus' resurrection isn't taken seriously. That would have been unimaginable until very recently.

But that's a huge opportunity for St. Philip's.

Start with ourselves. Are we embarrassed to talk about Jesus' resurrection? Would that be because it feels like an adult trying to believe in a fairy-tale? What could his resurrection mean? Would it make any difference to anything? Is it something you are supposed to believe in when we are in church, but is irrelevant everywhere else? Have any resurrections happened to me? What difference would Jesus' resurrection make to Tatooine (the Star Wars planet)? (continued on page 2)

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and much more...

St. Philip's Dunbar
Anglican Church
3737 W. 27th Ave.
Vancouver, BC
604-224-3238
www.stphilipsdunbar.com

The first Christians were astounded by the resurrection and it changed everything in the universe for them, and they lived in as chaotic and dangerous times as ours. Our job this Easter is to discover whether they were deluded or whether they had stumbled on something earth-changing, which is still underway in our time.

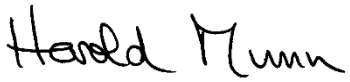
Asking those sorts of questions will take work and determination. And St. Philip's has resources for us.

First, immerse yourself in the Holy Week and Easter services. They aren't just nice unusual services. For centuries they have been designed to reproduce the original experience of the resurrection. Make good use of that, so you know what they were talking about.

Second, take advantage of the musical, academic, and business experiences of the resurrection in our Easter series on Wednesdays after Easter. They'll push our minds and hearts into new ways of thinking about the resurrection. That way you won't be tongue-tied if someone asks you what resurrection means to you.

When we experience the power of the resurrection, we'll understand what drove the early Christians to transform the world. They called that experience "Holy Spirit," and you'll celebrate it on Pentecost Sunday, Stuart's first Sunday as your rector.

It's a huge opportunity for St. Philip's and has the potential to transform this church, to say nothing of the world around. Be part of that transformed world this Easter, and then you might find yourself comfortable being the best Easter card ever, able to say with enthusiasm, in church and out, "Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"



Harold Munn,
Priest-in-Charge

Who am I?
By The Rev'd Dr. Marilyn Hames

Much of what we know about the earliest saints is what we might nicely call 'pious legends'—not told with the intention to deceive, but because they became symbols of what folk at any given time thought to be the ideals of a 'holy life'. Their 'lives' inspired imitation as they came to be regarded as exemplars of heoric faith and models of Christianity.

Every Christian tribe and nation has its favourites, often as representatives of their own people. The Welsh (as I have discovered) had hundreds of saints, almost none of whom received papal approval, but they were revered locally and celebrated in various ways on their saints' days, starting with special readings and prayers, sometimes special hymns and liturgies, mini-pilgrimages, but also with feasting and fairs—some of which went on for days, descending into drunken street parties which caused bishops to introduce strict rules for such celebrations.

Alongside these 'local saints' (some of whom were thinly disguised pagan heroes preserved in lively folklore and poetry recited by the bards of old), there were 'international saints'—some biblical in origin though

barely recognizable after generations of confusion and creative overlays from local legends. Here is one who asks you 'Who am I?'. All the information below has been thought to be true at different times in history, so start with trying to decide what is true, what is embellishment and what is mistaken or false. The answer is found on Page 8

- I was the most popular saint with 'ordinary' people in Europe for centuries
- I lived as a hermit in a cave for 30 years, surviving solely on 'spiritual food'
- I performed miracles, including raising the dead—one a princess, one a knight
- I survived a perilous sea-crossing and saved my companions from starvation
- After being jilted at my wedding I went wild, enjoying every kind of vice
- I am no relation to Martha despite what most people said
- I was very rich and powerful having inherited the 'lordship' over a major town
- I am one of the patron saints of childbirth although I never had children myself
- I was a much-loved missionary to Europe
- I inspired Christian mystics, contemplatives and also reformed sinners
- I was beautiful and had long red-blonde hair which artists liked to capture in paintings
- I helped fund Jesus' ministry
- I was the model penitent, proving Christ could save everywoman/everyman
- My symbols are: an alabaster jar (of perfumed ointment), books and a skull
- I was martyred in Syria
- I loved Jesus better than everyone except his mother
- I died in peace in Provence
- I listened to Jesus
- Safe-houses and homes for reformed prostitutes were named after me
- I followed Jesus throughout his ministry
- I disappeared after Jesus ascended into heaven
- There is a Gospel named after me
- My relics were fought over by bishops and priests—all wanting a piece of me
- I anointed Jesus' feet
- I escaped from the Holy Land with John the Evangelist and the Virgin Mary
- I anointed Jesus' head
- Angels visited me in my cave and transported me to heaven then back every day
- I never anointed Jesus, but intended to embalm his body
- I was courageous and stood by Jesus to the end, but wept many tears
- Jesus healed me of seven demons
- Jesus forgave my 'seven deadly sins'

- I visited ‘seventh heaven’
- My image changed as I was painted and sculpted by famous artists up to 20th Century
- I was the first to meet the Risen Christ
- When I died, my sacred relics included five corpses and several limbs that folk venerated
- I was a common whore until I met Jesus
- I was not a sinner, but had suffered for years from a debilitating illness
- People make up all kinds of stories about me
- I had a special relationship with Jesus
- Kings, queens and popes made pilgrimages to my magnificent tomb
- My ‘Life’ was a medieval best-seller
- I was called ‘Christ’s physician’
- Most of the disciples were jealous of my deep understanding of what Jesus taught
- I was a great preacher, converting whole cities to Christ
- I was the ‘Apostle to the Apostles’ — a title finally restored to me only a few years ago.

The answer is on page 6

Special People at St. Philip’s
Brilliance Among Us – Dr. David Huntsman

The Huntsman family have been members of St. Philip’s for many years. When sitting in the pews on Sunday, we come together as a community to pray and praise God. We often do not pause to think of the extraordinary talents and gifts individual parishioners in our community share with the world. This edition, we recognize Dr. David Huntsman. We celebrate and honour his achievement.

The following is taken from the website of the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research.
https://www.msfhr.org/news/msfhr-news/david-huntsman-2018-aubrey-j-tingle-prize

World-renowned expert in cancer genetics, Dr. Huntsman is the recipient of the 2018 Aubrey J. Tingle Prize.

Created in honour of the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research’s founding president & CEO, this award is given annually to a British Columbia clinician scientist whose work in health research has had a significant impact on advancing research and improving health, and the health system, in BC and beyond.

Dr. David Huntsman is a professor in the departments of pathology and laboratory medicine and obstetrics and gynecology at UBC, and is the Chew Wei professor of gynecologic oncology. He is a researcher with the BC Cancer Research Centre and the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute. His research has had a transformative effect on cancer prevention and treatment.

In addition to his academic affiliations, he is also co-founder of OVCARE, an ovarian cancer research program aimed at improving patient outcomes, and the Genetic Pathology Evaluation Centre which links archival tissues to outcome data, a process that has improved the validation of cancer diagnostics. He also created the Centre for Translational and Applied Genomics which provides clinically accredited molecular

pathology services and is a founder and the chief medical officer of Contextual Genomics, a local biotech company that is delivering global solutions for cancer patients.

Dr. Huntsman's work on the genetics of cancer has advanced the understanding and treatment of hereditary stomach cancer. Prior to his work, little was known about the disease and outcomes for patients were poor. His research has allowed clinicians to identify those at a high genetic risk for this type of cancer and to recommend surgical treatment to prevent the disease.

He has also contributed greatly to the understanding of ovarian cancer. His research team at OVCARE demonstrated that ovarian cancer sub-types should be considered as different diseases to successfully identify bio-markers. This work has led to new diagnostic tools and ongoing progress on improved treatments. Once identified, more targeted and appropriate treatments can be developed. This led the OVCARE team to launch the world's first population based ovarian cancer prevention program in 2010, recommending fallopian tube removal in specific high-risk patients. This recommendation has since been adopted across Canada and in the US and Europe.

The impact of Dr. Huntsman's research is dramatic, with 340 published papers, many in high impact journals, and 21,000 citations in the past five years alone. However, he has also committed significant time to supporting up-and-coming researchers, mentoring more than 30 trainees to this point in his career, whilst also attracting more than $20 million in funding as a principle investigator and $73 million as a co-investigator.

MSFHR is proud to have supported Dr. Huntsman's career over the years. He received MSFHR Scholar awards in 2002 and 2007, as well as a 2004 Research Unit award to support his work at the Genetic Pathology Evaluation Centre.

MSFHR is delighted to name Dr. Huntsman the recipient of the 2018 Aubrey J. Tingle Prize. The presentation will take place on April 19 at the 20th Annual LifeSciences BC Awards.

Easter, the Time of Renewal
By The Rev'd Dr. Marilyn Hames

'See, I AM doing something new...' says the LORD...

Easter—the absolute testimony to 'new life', the demonstration of God's ability to turn death into life, the gift of hope and salvation that Christians share thanks to the love of Christ.

As Christians, we are called a 'resurrection people' shaped by Christ's conquest over evil and death and molded by the constant promise and reality of new life after every form of death we experience. That 'cycle' of new beginnings is an amazing gift that we celebrate at Easter with the lighting of the new fire and Paschal Candle symbolizing the 'light of Christ'.

Besides our special celebrations and traditions, nature also puts on a great show of renewal and new birth, but how will we embrace that spirit this year? As a parish, we will be entering a new phase in our ministry as Stuart and his family join us, so we can embark together on new initiatives appropriate to this time and place. But personally? What do you feel called to do?

There is a saying that ‘everything old is new again’. Call it recycling or renewal, call it what you like, more and more folk are rediscovering the important things most people really need and value like the joys of friendship and community, especially the pleasure of relaxing over a meal with others—just as Jesus enjoyed with friends and strangers alike. It doesn’t have to be fancy—a simple bowl of soup and a bun, anything that makes us slow down long enough to sit down for a chat is all it takes.

What about on a personal level? Are there things you used to love doing worth resurrecting, like knitting, sewing bees, or gentlemen—urban equivalents to barn-raising, a special project like a repairing or redecorating something together? And what about those personal passions—enjoyments long forgotten, or dreams that are worth re-exploring? Commercial businesses, clubs and community centres are thriving by bringing people together to pursue common interests—often old pastimes and hobbies but with a new twist. Traditional skills are taught, and tips are shared, fun is had and friendships forged. What would you like to share or learn?
Something old,… something new?

The answer: Mary Magdalene.

She is my namesake—Marilyn being a contraction of Mariam Magdalenam.

MARCH, APRIL & MAY

March

17th All Parish Open Gym (APOG)
21st Lenten Series, 7 pm
25th Palm/Passion Sunday
29th Maundy Thursday
30th Good Friday

April

1st Easter Sunday
8th Easter-themed music concert
11th Easter Speaker Series
18th Easter Speaker Series
21st Quiz Night
25th Easter Speaker Series
28th Rummage Sale
28th Board game Night
29th St. Philip's Day
29th Michael and friends music concert

May

13th Mother's Day
22nd The Rev'd Stuart Hallam's Induction Service

UPCOMING EVENTS

Holy Week and Easter Services

March 25: Palm/Passion Sunday Services 8 am and 10 am.

Holy Week:

March 26: Service of Holy Communion at 10 am.
March 27: Service of Holy Communion at 7 pm.
March 28: Service of Holy Communion at 10 am.
March 29: Maundy Thursday Service at 7 pm
(a light supper will be served in the Fireside Room at 6 pm)

March 30: Good Friday Service for families at 10 am.
The Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 12 noon.
March 31: Easter Vigil at 7 pm.
April 1: Service of Light & First Eucharist of Easter at 7 am
Easter Sunday Service at 10 am

CONTACT US
Phone: 604-224-3238

Priest-in-Charge
The Rev'd Canon Dr. Harold Munn
jbailey@stpdunbar.com

Spiritual Director
The Rev'd Dr. Marilyn Hames
mhames@stpdunbar.com

Organist
Michael Murray
mmurray@stpdunbar.com

Church School Coordinator
Deb Hamilton
dbortolu@yahoo.com

Parish Manager
Elizabeth Vondette
manager@stpdunbar.com

Caretaker:
Gerry Windsor

Wardens: Craig Wilson,
Diana Bragg

Associate Wardens: Charlotte French,
Debbie Matheson

From the Parish Registry
November to March

Burial
Susan Hutchinson
Helen Fairley
Cornelius Lighthall

"May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace"

Easter Offering

For those of you who receive the POST by email, there are special Easter Offering envelopes in the narthex and pews at the church, or you may use the DONATE NOW button on our webpage:

www.stphilipsdunbar.com