

## Notices for Sunday May 31, 2020

### Hello lovely people of St Philip's!

I want to share with you how proud I am of the leadership of this church!

On Tuesday, the Parish Council met via Zoom to talk about the diocesan plans to re-open churches in the Diocese of New Westminster. The four-phase plan is very detailed and complex. Clearly, the diocese has consulted widely with the health authorities and other bodies to put together this comprehensive road map. Each parish is now being asked to consult and work out its own pathway in the light of the guidelines. One thing the Archbishop made clear is that **there is no compulsion to reopen whatsoever at this time**, something that many of the clergy welcomed when we met with her last week.

The Parish Council wisely decided to consult with you first to test the waters in these uncertain times. So, in the next few weeks we will send out a short summary of the diocesan report outlining what steps we would need to take to re-open into Phase 2. We will also send a questionnaire asking you whether you would even contemplate returning to in-person worship at this time, given that the virus is still at large in the wider community. Again, let me reiterate, **there would be no compulsion to return to church even if we did decide to reopen**. Your safety remains paramount! Online services will continue even after we reopen the church for worship.

What is clear, and why I am so proud of the leadership team, is that they were all talking the same language and were all united in wanting to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church.

I am struck at the moment by how the scripture stories resonate with our present situation. The disciples are waiting, still unsure about what is going to happen next. Despite Jesus' assurances that he will be with them, physically he has departed and the disciples spend their time praying and waiting for something to happen. What will this new world look like? How will it come about? Is God going to do a new thing?

Into the midst of all this uncertainty God's Spirit comes, and how!! Much is made of the description of how the Spirit came that day of the first Pentecost, but what strikes me is that the power came in the hearing. The Disciples spoke and suddenly everyone could hear clearly what God wanted to do. In this divine revelation, suddenly they were all speaking the same language!

We often say that, don't we? "Now you're talking" which is actually short for "Now you are talking my language". I must confess in these strange times I often hear myself repeating that phrase at around 5.30 pm most evenings when Laura, after a long day at work, asks "G & T?" But the phrase is really about making a connection when we realise that we are instinctively

moving in the same direction together. That is what I felt at Parish Council the other night: it was like Pentecost.

The disciples still, even after this great event, didn't really know which direction it was, but they were empowered to move. What they did know was that now God was with them and that they could see a way forward, they could see 'visions' and 'dream dreams' about the new normal. And that is where we are today. God is with us and we can 'dream dreams' about what the new normal may look like. So let us too all listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church and to the world.

**Love and prayers,**

**Stuart**

### **WEBSITE WORSHIP**

Join Stuart Hallam and others in Sunday morning website worship and follow along with the order of service emailed to you on Friday. The services are recorded, posted by Saturday evening, and you can watch and rewatch them at your convenience.

*Distant Voices of Hope*, a special series of four guest preachers on the theme of hope, has elicited many positive comments and has been viewed so far by 668 households. Enjoy all of these by going to our website where there is much to find in 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**

Beth Vondette celebrated a birthday this week! Let's share with her in spirit as we recite the final prayer together.

### **COFFEE HOUR: Sunday May 31, 11:00 AM**

Last week, at least sixteen people dropped by to share coffee. It was good to see your faces! 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 and Parish Council both met over Zoom to begin to discuss Phase Two, part of a four-phase reopening put to us in a very detailed document from the Diocese. Expect to receive a summary doc of Phase Two soon, along with a brief survey asking for your position on restarting in-person services. Archbishop Melissa Skelton has made clear that each parish must decide when to reopen. St Philip's will apply to the Diocese to reopen only when we are ready

with all precautions in place, and after capturing our parishioners' wishes in the survey. Your safety and peace of mind are paramount as we consider our next steps. In the meantime and in future, we have engaging Sunday website worship, weekly online Zoom gatherings to attend at St Philip's, and the option to keep in touch with each other with a call.

### **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](mailto:haroldtmunn@gmail.com) [604-564-2716](tel:604-564-2716)

### **MUSIC**

Michael Murray has asked for your favourite hymns. Inundate him with suggestions at [michaelmurrayorgan@gmail.com](mailto:michaelmurrayorgan@gmail.com)

### **THE NEIGHBOURHOOD MINISTRY: Donate at St John's, 1490 Nanton Ave. until further notice.**

While St Philip's courtyard is a roofers' worksite, the donation bins have been put away. Please drop off your donations of food, hygiene sundries and clothing at St John's Shaughnessy. We need new or gently used clean clothes for men. Omit rummage sale items, gifts, and worn out goods. Read the attached Wish List and donate **only** what is listed. Thank you for your help.

**The Neighbourhood Ministry's** Annual Meeting invitation is attached. Keen NM supporters might like to attend to hear plans, and to say thanks and farewell to Vicki and Pitman Potter as they retire.

### **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 and are researching up-to-date camera and sound recording equipment. Currently, Stuart is recording Sunday worship on his old iPad taped to a music stand! With improved recording capabilities, we will be able to bring worship, concerts, celebrations of life, events and weddings to people who cannot attend in person, and to groups of over 50.

### **NEW ROOF**

Click on NEWS at [www.stphilipsdunbar.com](http://www.stphilipsdunbar.com) to see roof project photos updated every few days. 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. 27<sup>th</sup> to take a look! Thanks to the Capital Campaign donors who have made this essential capital investment possible.

### **I CAN HEAR CLEARLY NOW. THE LOOP IS INSTALLED**



The Loop System has been installed under the church floor that directs sound to hearing aids. If you benefit from hearing aids, contact your provider to learn how to turn on the Loop feature. Thanks to Capital Campaign donors for funding such a welcome, essential improvement.

### **THE NEW PEWS**

Ten of the old pews have gone to be restyled into lighter movable pews, which will allow us flexibility and COVID-19 distancing precautions. Follow the project on our website under NEWS and under Capital Campaign. Each new pew is recycled from the old growth wood of an original pew using the same seat design, but lighter in the back, sides and legs. The pews will be polished and look similar to the wood around the sanctuary. Thanks to the Reordering Working Group for their careful decision-making leading to the design by a local craftsman carpenter.

### **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). Do you need a painter? A house cleaner? Contact [debbiematheson53@gmail.com](mailto:debbiematheson53@gmail.com)

### **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](mailto:Revhallam@hotmail.co.uk)

**ST. PHILIP'S RINGERS** are volunteers who have rung every parishioner to chat and offer support. If your circumstances have changed and 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 and milestones to Beth so we can celebrate with you in spirit, in prayer or with a phone call. [manager@stpdunbar.com](mailto:manager@stpdunbar.com) or 604-224-3238 ext 301

### **DONATIONS**

If you still use envelopes, please click "Donate" on the website, print or write out the form for Pre-Authorized Donations (PAD) from your bank account or card. Mail it to the Diocesan Office. That way your donations will support St Philip's uninterrupted by life's circumstances. Thanks!

### **GRATITUDE CONFETTI**

Heap gratitude confetti on those who make this uncertain time brighter, safer and more hopeful. We are deeply grateful to COVID-19 ICU staff, especially Deb Hamilton who saves lives and also ministers lovingly to those who succumb to the virus. We pray for her and all ICU staff.

### **Staying Close While We're Apart,**

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