

ST PHILIP'S POST

DUNBAR'S ANGLICAN COMMUNITY

ADVENT: WAITING AND PRAYING

By The Ven. Dr. John Bailey

Two years ago, Brenda and I were fortunate to find ourselves in London for the days leading to Christmas. Many of our modern Christmas traditions have an origin in this great city. We listened to the voices of the Kings College Cambridge Choir as they sang carols in the Albert Hall. Skaters worked over a sheet of artificial ice in Kensington and eight life size reindeer and Santa sitting on a sled (all made from Lego) graced Covenant Garden. Shops were full and coloured lights hung over the length of Oxford Street. Christmas puddings and cakes filled the windows of Fortnum and Mason's and chocolate shops were filled with worshippers. It brought back childhood memories of watching Alistair Sim playing Scrooge in the Christmas Carol and his conversion on a magical evening of dreams.

There are few times of the years that bring more emotional complexity than the month of December. All of us know the expectations surrounding the season. The 'traditional' Christmas, as Bob Cratchett knew well, comes with a cost. Not everyone can afford to keep up with the latest and greatest presents, let alone afford the cost of the associated feast. And many have forgotten, or never known, the story of the birth of Jesus that gives the season its name. What little many know relates to the pageant theme that began in western culture thanks to St. Francis who first displayed a manger scene in Assisi in the twelfth century. Artists have continued to play on imagination and one recent Christmas film included the presence of an octopus worshipping the baby.

The 'true' story of the birth of Jesus is known to us from the early Church in both our creeds and the Gospel tradition. That story speaks of two births, one in eternity and the other on earth. To full appreciate the story requires some work on our part to understand a very different world from our own. The world into which Jesus was born revolved around the great Temple in Jerusalem. At the heart of the temple sits a rectangular room divided by a veil made of four different coloured threads, said to represent the material world. John's story of the 'only begotten son of God' speaks of a birth in eternity. Matthew and Luke write of the eternal passing through the veil into the material world. Both births are important parts of the Christian story. Both speak with awe of something that can still push human imagination into places it never dreamt existed.

As our celebration of Christmas approaches let us pray that we all find time for prayer and reflection on the mystery which is the Gospel Jesus Christ, the son of God.

DECEMBER 2016

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Manancourt**

**A Gift for all Seasons- A Card
for all Reasons ...**

Curate's Corner

and much more...

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NOAH'S CHRISTMAS

By Rev'd Dr. Marilyn Hames

Noah? Like in *Noah's Ark*?... Sorry, we cannot tell you—that would spoil the fun of hearing this heart-warming story written for our special Christmas morning service at St. Philip's when the child in each of us welcomes the *Christ-child* into our hearts once again.

What we can say is that we would like you to bring your favourite stuffed animals or fondest memories, and please come *just as you are*—still in your PJs (but wrapped in a warm coat), in a sweater and jeans, or all dressed-up in your best Christmas outfit.



Our 9:00 am service appeals to all kinds of people. It offers families a chance to catch their breath after the youngsters have unwrapped some of their presents (but before tackling the 'bird') or gives grandparents, uncles and aunts a little magical time with the kids, while visitors to town or those of us without family in this area can enjoy the special family atmosphere we encourage. Yes, we will be singing traditional Christmas carols, gathering in or near the Sanctuary to share in a celebratory Eucharist, then blessing any *Baby Jesus* figurines for your own home crèche's.

The blend of tradition with thoughtful playfulness offers the best of all worlds—a chance to be with others on this day-like-no-other when we celebrate that God came down to dwell among us. Whether you like to quietly let the beautiful words of our Anglican liturgy feed your soul, want to simply 'watch and wait' then enjoy the story by sitting comfortably in the pews or choir stalls, or settle on a blanket near the Altar clutching stuffed animals or cradling your *Baby Jesus*—you are welcome to come and be yourself—*just as you are!*

God bless you this Christmas and always.

CELEBRATING ANNE RICHARDS' RETIREMENT

By Charlotte French,

Anne Richards, our amazing and invaluable Parish Manager, retired on November 30, 2016 after more than 30 years of service at St. Philip's. We will miss her but we wish her all the best in her retirement. On November 27, the first Sunday in Advent, we celebrated Anne's retirement and our former rector, John Stephens, provided some thoughts and memories of Anne's service to St. Philip's. Excerpts from his words follow...

A few thoughts from a former Rambling Rector in regards to Anne Richards.

I have known Anne Richards for a good few years now and so of course there are a few memories that come to mind when I think of her and her incredible ministry at St. Philip's.

It is interesting to know that when Anne came to St. Philip's she was actually hired by my father (and the wardens of course) after the previous parish secretary (as the position was titled at that point) had left running and screaming at the thought of having to work with computers and trying to bring the parish into the latest technological age. Anne was clearly the standout candidate and I know the Rector at that time was very pleased that she accepted the position.

Anne of course went on to have an incredible ministry at St. Philip's. Her position title changed, of course, to describe more of her role around the parish. She became the Parish Manager as she really was involved in every aspect of parish life and kept us all in order.

But for Anne it was also a ministry. She and Betty Edwardson were an incredible team of compassion in the office. Anne liked things to be run well and to be well organised but if anyone needed help or support and a kind word she was there for them. She really has been the glue holding so many things together.

When I was hired as the Rector, after she had trained Ron Harrison so well, it must have been a terrible shock. She was patient and kind, however, and offered many words of wisdom that helped me to grow into the position. Her professionalism and work ethic were quite astounding. She was amazing and incredibly careful with confidentiality; she kept things to herself that should not go any further. She would never let the parish down. She would often bring work home if she could not complete the task in the office hours. She was a huge support to me personally. She will be greatly missed by St. Philip's and the Dunbar neighbourhood.

I am delighted for Anne that she is now retiring. Finally, she we will be completely rid of the Stephens Rectors! She brought incredible skill and dedication to her role as Parish Manager. She brought wisdom, kindness and compassion. She brought professionalism and a willingness to learn. We had tea at 10:00am almost every day of the working week and I must say I miss her very much. I pray God's blessing upon her; may she enjoy her freedom, retirement and time to put her feet up knowing it has been a job very well done.

Every blessing,
John Stephens

DEAR PEOPLE OF ST. PHILIP'S,

Thank you so much for the support and trust you have given me for so many years. Your farewell words of appreciation and gifts have been quite overwhelming. You have been so much a part of my life that it is very hard to say goodbye, but I will treasure the memories of my happy years with you.

With love,
Anne

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRIES UPDATE

By the Rev'd Clare Morgan

We've had a wonderful exciting fall with our children and young people this year!

Our Preschool, Godly Play, and Godly Say programs continue as usual with great success. This year we had no new teachers sign up and so our training session gave us the chance to focus deeper on the story of the Communion of Saints, which we would like to use more often with the children. We've also welcomed several new servers to our re-established Servers' Guild and they are doing very well indeed. Our Halloween Lunch has so far been the biggest family event of the year and everyone had a wonderful time!

Our youth room has become a beloved sanctum for the youth and they are up there every chance they get. We have so far painted a beautiful set of special stones to use in the Memorial Garden as markers for loved ones to place on the earth – all that remains is for them to be blessed and the perfect spot designated to leave them in a basket! We also used an interesting oil and water technique to paint some intriguing Christmas cards to sell at the Fair, to which I added some embellishments to make them more explicitly Christmas/holiday themed. The youth also met to bake fudge and hot chocolate pops last weekend and I can't wait to try it! You know, for quality control. (Selfless, aren't I?) We have expanded Open Gym and Youth Group to be twice a month instead of just once, and so far the change has been welcomed and embraced! I'm so thankful to have such an energetic and thoughtful group of young people to share in fellowship with, and really want to commend them to you as

fellow members of Christ's Body. Our St. Philip's children and youth have really learned to help and love each other, and they have a lot of fun together. They are some of the most open, forgiving, wise, and aware young people I've met.

Please be sure to come to the big St. Philip's activities coming up in the next month, and keep us all in your prayers.

SENIORS CAFÉ CELEBRATES AN EXCELLENT 2016

By Ann Kent

Tuesday, December 13, is the last session of Senior Café for 2016. Volunteers and participants are planning a special morning of cheerful conversation, seasonal art and floral activities, and festive refreshments.

If you have that Tuesday morning clear, please join us between ten o'clock and noon to say hello and join friends at the Café tables. We have no age restrictions at Seniors Café.

On Sunday, November 13, I was asked to speak for a few minutes at the ten o'clock service at St. Philip's about Seniors Café and to explain why social and educational programs for older adults are important to me.

Our young adulthood and our middle adulthood span four decades, from 19 to 60, with a recognition in society of very distinct passages of life during those 40 years. We arrive at the precipice of 60, and the world drops us in a category called 60 plus, or more ominously, The Grey Tsunami.

Many of us in the parish of St. Philip's and the surrounding community will live to be 100, or older. Most will live well into their 80's and 90's. When we turn 60, we hope to live those coming decades in ways that are happy and productive. The greatest barrier to that vision is not a failure in our physical or mental health, it is social isolation. Our children and grand-children move to cities far away, our friends move away to be with their families; our beloved partners and friends depart this earth long before us.

We rely far more on our church and members of our parish to become our extended family. We look to our church and local community to provide us with social opportunities. Dunbar still does not have a seniors' centre.

This fall, a visitor explained he had recently arrived in Vancouver. He looked at the "Seniors Café – Everyone Welcome" signs several times on Tuesday mornings before deciding to walk up the steps. He came again, and thanked us for the opportunity to make friends and practice his English. This is community.

Seniors Café was a pilot project in 2016, funded by a federal government grant to provide a social program for older adults both in the parish and in the Dunbar Community. That funding comes to an end in December. I am happy to report that we met all the key targets set out in the grant application to the New Horizons for Seniors Program. The average attendance since March of this year has been 15 people at each session, peaking at 27 for several special events.

Despite difficulties with access and parking close to the church, the Café was well attended during the summer months and numbers have risen slowly and steadily through the fall. It is the sincere hope of Seniors Café volunteers and participants as well as groups such as the Dunbar Residents Association and West Side Seniors Hub, which have given us great support during the past year, that a program like Seniors Cafe will continue in 2017.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have volunteered many hours to make Seniors Café such a success during 2016. Thank you also to our wonderful participants whose stories and laughter make those Tuesday mornings in the Fireside Room a very warm and special place.

TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

By the Rev'd Clare Morgan

I am blessed to share with all of you some exciting news!

In January of the new year I shall be cashing in some of my study leave and travelling to St. George's Anglican College in Jerusalem to participate in their brand-new Jerusalem Ministry Formation program. I chose to explore this opportunity after a long period of prayer and discernment on how to answer what I believe to be a calling to build up and embody a ministry of reconciliation.

The Jerusalem Ministry Formation program is a special course tailored for the needs of people preparing for ministry, whether as clergy or lay leaders, and including clergy in the first five years of ordained ministry. The program will include sessions on Anglican identity and mission, as well as postcolonial hermeneutics, assisting people to prepare for their ministry in new and challenging contexts during the next few decades. There will be opportunities for small group reflection and prayer each day. The program will most likely begin in Jerusalem before going to Jordan for several days, and then culminate with several days in the Galilee.

I am so thrilled to be embarking on this amazing trip, particularly since I will be doing it with my friend the Rev'd Lucy Price, who was ordained a transitional deacon the same day I was ordained a priest and received a full scholarship for the program from an anonymous donor, which was offered to a selection of students and young clergy. (I had already decided to go no matter who got the scholarship!) I share in Lucy's gratitude for the generosity exhibited toward all of us from this unknown soul, who is proud to support the work of reconciliation and education to which all of us have committed.

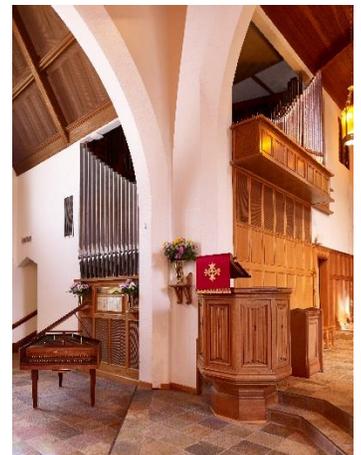
I ask for your prayers of support and thanksgiving for us and for the anonymous benefactor as we begin our journey toward the Holy Land, and I will be sure to make arrangements to share our stories when we return.

AN UNHOLY RACKET

By Michael Murray

As with most budgets, we walk on a thin edge and can easily fall off either way. The budget for the music programme is struggling to support the paid section leaders we have in the choir. That being said, I have heard many very favourable comments on how wonderful the choir is sounding. In addition, I must say that our concert series throughout the year are fundraisers for our Music Fund and I encourage you to give generously to the fund every time we have an afternoon performance. 4 o'clock in the afternoon seems to be the best time to schedule events. Our next concert in January will be Steve Maddock and his Hot 3 Jazz trio. Please mark your calendar for January 22nd 4PM.

For our Organ fund, we want to support new additions to the instrument that we would like to see in place by 2022. This would be in time for our 100th anniversary as a parish. I would like to have a campaign begin in the New Year and take about 4 years to complete. Then we would have time to install the new pipe work and update the console. I would like to engage Casavant Frères to work on the organ as it is a Casavant that we own. I expect we would need to raise a significant amount of funds. The new additions would feature a Trumpet Stop on the Great division, a Principal Stop on the Swell Division and a revoicing of the Quintaton on the Pedal to make it a large Bass Flute Stop. It is also necessary to rebuild the console and upgrade the memory preset levels.



Our Remembrance Day concert was very well received and many people thought the choir sounded superb. I must take this opportunity to thank our soloists Melanie Adams and Geoff Schellenburg as well as cellist Laura McPheeters and organist Alastair Williams. The caliber of performance was at a professional level.

If you would like to volunteer for one of the concerts, please let me know. We can always use help in setting up and handing out programs.

Thank you.

REFUGEE UPDATE

By Mary Lymburner

Early in 2016 the parish began planning and fundraising to sponsor a family of Chaldean Christians named Zirak, who had fled Iraq for Turkey. We were planning to sponsor them in partnership with the Chaldean Church of St. Mary the Virgin which worships in the Anglican Church of the Epiphany in Surrey. We were told we would need \$40,000. The response of the parish was very generous, and we now have just over \$25,000 in our refugee fund. Unfortunately, we have learned that we will not be able to sponsor this family. The Chaldean Church in Surrey decided not to pursue sponsorships with the Anglican diocese.

A representative of the Diocesan Refugee Unit suggested several options for our sponsorship. We discussed these at our Outreach Committee meeting and then at a meeting of interested parishioners on November 20. Both groups gravitated to a particular family, a widow with four school age children, who fled Syria. They are in a refugee camp in Lebanon. The father of the family was a lawyer and was killed by the Syrian government. The family are relatives of a refugee family sponsored by a group of churches, including Anglican churches, on the North Shore. As we fill out applications we will learn more details about this family and its needs.

The government guidelines suggest that \$30,000 is needed to support a family of this size for one year. This seems unrealistic in the Greater Vancouver area, and we would expect to need at least \$40,000, likely more. We would be responsible for helping the refugees settle, which would not have been the case with the Chaldeans, although the relatives already here will no doubt help as well.

The sponsorship of this family will need to be approved by the trustees before the application is finalized. And of course the government will have to approve the family before they can come to Canada. The time between the submission of an application and the arrival of refugees is always difficult to predict.

If you have questions and/or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Mary Lymburner, 778-898-5117 or kmarylymburner@telus.net

To donate to the Refugee Fund, please make cheques payable to St. Philip's and mark Refugee Fund on the envelope, not just on the memo line.

GIFT FOR ALL SEASONS – A CARD FOR ALL REASONS

By the Rev'd Dr. Marilyn Hames

At a time when folk say they have 'no time', perhaps the most costly gift we can offer is our time, and one of the most precious gifts we can receive is the time and attention someone offers us because it says they care about us. Like me, perhaps you too cherish little things, no matter how small, like hand-written letters and home-made presents that someone spent time to create.



Cards are another example. Each year, I receive a couple of hand-made Christmas cards--one from friends who are excellent photographers and cartoonists, another from a craft enthusiast who has quite a flair for 'making something from nothing' -- something simple, lovely and original.

Of course, with the busy lives many people lead and frantic pace year-around, Christmas is not the only occasion when a little time is appreciated--whether on the giving or receiving end, so I came up with a little gift for you to pass on--'a gift for all seasons and a card for all reasons'.

On our [website](#), you will find four images--watercolours I painted specially for you the members and friends of St. Philip's. There is a link to each which allows you to print these as photographs that you can attach to photo-mount card-stock available with matching envelopes from craft stores. Alternatively, print the paintings onto white paper, cut them into bookmark-size strips, have them laminated (6 to a page) at a local print shop or courier office, punch a hole through the plastic, then make and add a tassel. The laminating process brings out the rich colours beautifully.

Yes, this takes a little time--but the joy comes from the time taken. Of course, you don't have to use my images--better still, choose or create your own. Whether you write and send the cards, or make sets of four as a gift in themselves, you will be passing on love through the gift of time.

A SUNDAY AT ETRICOURT-MANANCOURT, PICARDIE, FRANCE ON OCTOBER 16TH, 2016

By Jocelyn Gardner



Cecil Robert Tidswell was born on November 22nd, 1880 in Suffolk, England. Cecil was the only son of Richard and Helen Tidswell and was the middle child of seven. He had joined the 1st Royal Dragoons, a cavalry regiment, and had fought in the Boer War and then spent 10 years of service in India.

In 1914, when war was declared, Cecil was sent to Belgium to fight in the trenches, but he realized that this war could not be successfully fought by the cavalry. He applied to join the Royal Flying Corps (RFC), which was, at that time, a branch of the British Army. He was accepted in July 1915 as an observer in reconnaissance flights over enemy lines in France. By January 1916 he was training as a pilot and in June was given his 'Wings'.

He was well suited to his new career as a Flying Officer, being of slight build and only 5' 6" in height - ideal for the cramped cockpits of the early aircraft. By this time, Cecil was 35 years of age, about 10 years older than most of the pilots who were being trained at the time. He was not married and was an experienced professional soldier.

Throughout the time, Cecil was in the trenches and flying in Belgium and France he was writing letters home to his parents. After he was killed his mother had a book published containing Cecil's letters, and each branch of his family has a copy of the book, so we know something about his mind set at the time.

In August 1916, only two months before he was killed, in a letter to his mother he wrote ... "work is very interesting, you never go out without having a scrap'. Every flying day was an adventure - getting lost, landing in a field and having to ask the way home, and then, towards the end, the dogfights. Finally, it was in a dogfight, behind the lines of enemy occupied France, that his plane crashed into a hillside beside the village of Etricourt-Manancourt, and he was killed. He was buried by the Germans in the French field in Picardie where he fell. He still lies there to this day, thanks to his sisters who did not want his remains moved after the war.

Cecil was in the RFC 19th Squadron whose motto was “Possunt quia posse videntur”. (They can because they think they can). He was flying a B.E. 12 aircraft that was only put into service in August 1916. Unfortunately, the planes were not good as ‘fighters’, useful for bombing raids but not good in a dogfight. Primarily this was because they were not maneuverable and instead of an extra seat for a spotter, had a large extra fuel tank placed immediately behind the pilot!

Cecil was my paternal great-uncle. In the fall of 2015, my cousin Michael decided, after talking to the Mayor of Etricourt-Manancourt, that a few members of the family should try to be in France for the 100th anniversary of Cecil’s death. The Mayor had already decided they would use Sunday October 16th to inaugurate the new War Memorial in their town and have a small commemoration event at ‘the English airman’s’ gravesite.

The ‘few’ members of the family turned out to be 42 of us, who had travelled from England, Scotland, France, Germany, the States and Canada to be there for this special weekend. Other cousins from Ireland and New Zealand were unfortunately unable to make the trip. Obviously, none of us had known Cecil, but many of us remembered his sisters (our grandmothers and great aunts). The eldest of our family group was 78 and the youngest 18 months! It was a remarkable, emotional and wonderful weekend of laughter and tears, new friendships forged and family differences forgotten.

The morning of Sunday, October 16th, 2016 was cold and clear. After many days of grey, damp skies, the sun was shining and the air crisp. After a hearty breakfast, and a group photograph on the steps of the hotel, we drove in convoy to the very small town of Etricourt-Manancourt. There we were joined by over 300 people, soldiers in WW1 British and French uniforms, a pipe band, a bugler and an array of British and French flags. Everyone was given a small ribbon in the colours of the French flag with a union jack attached, which we pinned on our coats. Our family all had poppy pins from the Royal British Legion, with 1916-2016 on the pin. We all sang the French and British national anthems at least four times that day!



The Battle of the Somme took place between July 1st and November 18th, 1916. During that important battle over 1.2 million were killed or wounded.

The commemoration ceremony started with the Mayor welcoming us and inaugurating the new monument “dedicated to the victims of all wars during the 20th century which was so deadly”. The Mayor and dignitaries spoke in French, but my cousin Jane, who has lived in Paris since the early 1970’s, acted as translator for all the official speeches. We were then taken by bus to a nearby British War Cemetery where another ceremony was held and then we moved to Cecil’s grave site.



The ceremony at Cecil's grave was very special and moving. The sky was clear, with only the occasional cloud. Probably much like the day, 100 years before, when Cecil, who was flight commander, and seven other airmen, took off from Fienvillers at 2:25 pm on a bombing mission. The weather that day was ideal for flying with only the occasional cloud. The targets were the rail station at Hermies and a nearby airfield. The mission was successful but unfortunately around 5 o'clock the formation was spotted and attacked." Cecil was killed in action. His last thoughts will remain a secret for eternity, but we could imagine, standing on that hillside beside his grave, that his last view was of the landscape of Picardie in the heart of the French countryside.

Members of Cecil's family read from his letters and talked about his life, his parents and his sisters. Then each branch of the family laid a wreath at his grave. During this ceremony, the local flying club arranged for a small bi-plane to fly overhead for a few minutes and as I looked up into the sky, with tears in my eyes, I felt Cecil would be very pleased that so many people remembered him and the sacrifice he, and so many others, made for our freedom.

Many of us walked back to the town, in the warming sunshine, to a reception of sandwiches, pastries and wine outside the town's Salle des Fetes. Finally, people had to depart for home, but a few of us were left for one more night in this beautiful, rural, peaceful part of the French countryside.



N'Oubliions Jamais. Lest We Forget.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This year's Christmas Pageant is sure to be another sparkling and fun-filled event for the whole family! Are you available to participate? Let Clare or Janice Hope know!

Our rehearsal schedule is:

Wednesday, December 21st, 5 pm

Children in Tableau/Nonspeaking Parts: 5:00-6:00pm
Youth/Speaking Parts: 6:00-6:30pm

Thursday, December 22nd, 5 pm

Children in Tableau/Nonspeaking Parts: 5:00-6:00pm
Youth/Speaking Parts: 6:00-6:30pm

Friday, December 23rd, 10 am

Dress Rehearsal

Bring your family and friends to this beautiful service and live the story of the birth of our Saviour

A REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

By Paul Clinton, Treasurer

Total revenue for St. Philip's through end of September is \$331K, slightly ahead versus budget and year ago. Receipts from identified givers (pledges) are slightly behind budget (-2%). Improved rental income and increased weddings and funerals have helped make the difference.

Despite significant staff change and building maintenance costs incurred, expenses through September have been well managed by clergy, staff and committees, coming in 6% below budget. We also have benefited from a rebate in the amount we submit to the diocese, which has the bottom line deficit of -14K.

It is important to note that the parish did approve a budget with an operating loss of \$34K, and we have done well to shrink that loss, but we must continue to manage cost and achieve our forecasted revenues in order to minimize the use of parish investments to bridge the deficit gap.

Please assist your finance committee by remaining up to date on your pledges.

SNAPSHOTS OF HOPE

By the Rev'd Clare Morgan

This month has been a difficult one for me due to the election results down south, as I'm sure it is for many people. I have struggled with balancing feelings of what I believe to be justified anger and hurt with the feelings of openness and compassion so necessary at this time. To perform this balancing act, I have become much more intentional about standing in open solidarity, and attended several events in that spirit which I'd like to share. Two of them were religious, and two of them were secular.

The first was a painful but lovely consultation between LGBTQ+ people and our Bishop on her decision about how to proceed in light of the results of General Synod's conclusion on the Marriage Canon. I came not only as an often invisible sexual minority myself, but also simply to listen to the pain, frustration, and hope of those who wanted to share with our Bishop their concerns, their questions, and their fears. It was a truly prophetic and beautiful exchange and I was glad to be a part of it.

The second was the inaugural ringing of Christ Church Cathedral's new set of bells, which were installed in their stunning bell spire and rung on Thursday, November 17th. My husband and I both attended, and I was so moved by the excitement and joy on the faces of all those who stood with me and counted down until the first peal. Canon Herbie O'Driscoll preached a magnificent sermon that reminded us all of the Church's call to be a light on the hill, and to ring out the song of peace to the world.

The third was an amazing concert that my husband and I attended. I have been so inspired by his desire over the last two years to reflect on what First Nations reconciliation means to him, not only as a white man, but as a nonreligious person. In the last few months he has been supporting First Nations causes with his money and with his presence, and I've been so thrilled to share in it with him. When we learned that a truly remarkable indigenous music act that we loved was going to be in town, we couldn't wait to buy tickets. A Tribe Called Red is a group of three indigenous Canadian men who perform, essentially, as DJs, creating their own hip-hop mixes and beats with traditional chants in a style they often refer to as "powwow step." They partner with various other acts to create a show that is a wonderful and inspiring blend of cultures. We attended with a crowd of other young people (and even a few elders!) of all colours and creeds to enjoy the music and the accompanying dancers, two of whom combined the traditional dancing of their people with hip hop and breakdancing, sometimes in their traditional regalia! It was a lot of fun, even though we didn't get home until very late and I didn't have much voice the next morning!

The fourth was a more somber event, held in a back room at the Carnegie Centre in the Downtown Eastside on the late afternoon of November 20th, where a small, determined, and emotional group of people gathered to mark the 2016 Transgender Day of Remembrance, where people around the world remember the lives of transgender people who had been murdered over the last year by gathering, lighting candles, and reading the names, ages, and dates of each person who had died. Transgender people, particularly women of colour, are among the most vulnerable members of society, and are subject to denial of jobs and housing, hatred, and terrible violence. There was a small contingent from Christ Church Cathedral there, and we sat together, sometimes tearful, as volunteers read out the names of some 300 people, most of them women of colour, who had died through violence or by suicide since November 2015. The event was entirely secular, and I felt it was important for me as a Christian to bear witness to this act of prophetic love and care within a deeply persecuted community, which I believe was a movement of the Holy Spirit in the world outside the Church's walls.

I saw these latter two events as the perfect blend of living my vocation as a priest fully integrated within my vocation as Clare, the baptized Christian. At this time in our history, it's more important than ever for us to allow ourselves to be led by the God of love, compassion, and justice, and to allow ourselves to be truly changed by the story of our faith. This Advent season where we testify to our hope in the return of the Prince of Peace, I therefore invite you all, my dear St. Philip's family, to discern in prayer something you can do, attend, or support that bears witness to the Christian conviction in the power of love and healing made manifest in Christ, and which fully integrates who you are with how you live your life in the world. It might be simply listening to a voice you don't normally listen to. It might be developing a deepening awareness of the spiritual dimensions of a beloved pastime or ritual. It might be taking time every day to be thankful for the many blessings in your life, and sharing your gratitude with the whole world. It might be standing up for something even though you aren't sure how it will go over with the people around you. You will know if it is the right thing by asking, "Does this help love to be birthed in the world?" Go forth and sing your love into the world!

ST. PHILIP'S MISSION

By the Ven. Dr. John Bailey

St. Philip's Church in Dunbar has invited the Rt. Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Rowell to lead a mission in the parish between Lent 3 and Lent 4, 2017 (March 19, 2016 – March 26, 2017). Bishop Rowell recently retired as the Anglican Bishop of Europe and continues to sit as an Anglican representative on the Oriental Dialogue (he is a former Chair of the Dialogue process). The central piece of Bishop Rowell's visit to the parish is the Curtis Lecture, a public lecture scheduled for Wednesday March 22, 2017 at 7:30 pm. The Topic is: '**Dying you destroyed our death**' – **Human Mortality and the Christian Hope**. Dr. Rowell is an Emeritus Fellow of Keble College, Oxford and the doctoral research was on 'Death and the Future Life in the Religious Thought of Nineteenth-Century England' (published as *Hell and the Victorians*). He has also written on *The Liturgy of Christian Burial* and served on the C of E Liturgical and Doctrine Commission and was for many years the Chair of the Churches Funerals Group (the interface between the churches of England, Wales and the 'funeral industry'). Plans are still underway exploring other ways Bishop Rowell may encourage conversation both at St. Philip's Church and beyond.

ST. PHILIP'S CHRISTMAS FAIR 2016

By Debbie Matheson

Community

All ages came to St. Philip's, some from as far away as Burnaby, to enjoy the spirit of our Christmas Fair. They loved the warm welcome, authentic Christmas spirit, lovely wares, and especially Clare Morgan singing and playing her Celtic harp. Our church plays a quiet, deep role in the soul of Dunbar. As for our parish, our Christmas Fair helps us meet new people, uncover talents, share a laugh, and appreciate each other. I appreciate Marian Boyle for her dedication, humour, and poetry!

Continuity

It is truly delightful to see our youth growing up with the Fair, helping more each year, and owning their contribution. With open arms we welcome new volunteers of all ages as folk retire from their roles. Please consider contributing more, joining a stall, taking on leadership, starting up a new stall, or bringing along a friend to volunteer.

Cash

The Christmas Fair is St Philip's biggest fundraiser. You have raised over \$12,000 to be used in wonderful ways.

Thank you, every one.

Blessings.

**THANKS FOR THE FAIR!**

There are dozens of thank yous we owe
and we'd hate to miss one, as you know.
With so much that was done to ensure it was fun
We will try to list all of them, so....

All the strong arms that carried the load
Of huge boxes, to them much is owed.
For climbing those stairs, lugging
cartons of wares
Is a tiring and perilous road.

There were bakers and picklers galore.
All the knitters and sewers, what's
more,
Folks who sought out donations, who
hung decorations,
And all those who swept up the floor.

All the adults, the children and youth
Who helped out with a stall or a booth.
All who put out a sign, all who waited in line.
Without them we'd have failed, that's the truth.



There was music and laughter and tea.
There were baubles and lights on the tree.
There was friendship and fun, 'cause when all's said and
done,
That's what all festive gatherings should be.

As for Gerry, our caretaker,...Phew!
The whole thing must have seemed like a zoo!
Though it may have seemed dire, your baptism
of fire,
You survived, so it's hats off to you!

All the people who handled the cash.
And the helpers who bagged up the trash.
For no job is too small and it's thanks to you all
That the fair was once more such a smash.

So, from planning to clean up it's done.
It was work, it was hectic but fun.
Many thanks to you all, 'cause you answered the call.
And your efforts were second to none!

Marian Boyle

A Thank you is owed to the conveners, particularly Debbie Matheson and Marian Boyle for their time and enthusiasm. Their tireless leadership has resulted in yet another successful Fair!

CURATE'S CORNER

By the Rev'd Clare Morgan

After my very relaxing August I jumped straight back into the thick of things this fall! It's been exciting and a little chaotic, but thankfully fall is my favourite time of year, particularly because the new sharpness in the air gets me full of energy for all the new activities to come.

I was deeply honoured to preside at three funerals this fall, a ministry that I actually rather enjoy. I love hearing all of the wonderful stories about a person's life, and bearing witness to the truly faithful love that a family can exhibit to one another during a time of loss. It gives me so much hope for the future to see people treasure their time together, and be called to remember the important things in life, like love and the bonds between them.

And speaking of loving bonds, I was also thrilled to officiate my first wedding at St. Philip's in October! It was a truly grace-filled moment to be called to mark such a beautiful and happy occasion. And you couldn't have asked for a more perfectly picturesque couple!

Alt Vespers has been continuing, and though our numbers have been down I have still been honoured to minister to unlikely people at unlikely times. One evening while in silent prayer a mother and her young daughter poked their heads into the church, and I invited the little girl to explore the church with me. She was so full of questions and curiosity, and I was so delighted to share in this new experience with her. I also had the chance to provide a place of solace for a friend who has been looking for a church to call their own, but is juggling their own hectic work schedule with the anxiety that they will not be accepted fully as they are in a traditional parish. Although all are welcome at Alt Vespers, I specifically crafted the service to speak to the secret heart of people just like my friend. If you would like to be a part of a community that ministers to people like this, I really do invite you to come by one Wednesday evening, even if we don't get that many people. The moment my friend stepped in the door was the moment that I said to God in prayer, "Please help the ones who need this place to find it." I invite you to keep that prayer in your hearts at this time, especially as we come toward the season of Advent and wait for the incarnate one to be born again into our hearts.

This last fall I've also been very busy around the Diocese helping on various committees and groups. I'm still a part of the Bishop's consultation group on confirmation, which is now beginning to prepare for 2017's Confirmation Day, and I have also been working with a small task force organizing a celebration to recognize 40 years of women in the priesthood in the Anglican Church of Canada, which will be a special Eucharist held Wednesday, November 30th at St. John's Shaughnessy at 6pm with a catered dinner following. Closer to home, I've also been working on a special Archdeaconry Blue Christmas service, which will be held Wednesday, December 21st at St. Mary's Kerrisdale at 7pm.

Advent is my favourite time of year, and I'm so thankful to share another one with all of you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER, JANUARY & FEBRUARY

December

11th Christmas Carol Sing-along, 4pm

21st Blue Christmas Service, 10am

January

18th Derek's Slides, 7 pm

22nd Steve Maddock and his Hot Three Jazz Concert

February

12th Hungarian 60th Anniversary Concert, proceeds go to our Refugee Fund

26th Annual Vestry Meeting

26th Early Music Program, 4 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE AND DAY SERVICES

December 24

4 pm Eucharist for Families

5 pm Children's Christmas Pageant Service

7:30 pm Holy Eucharist

10 pm Candlelight Eucharist (note new time)

December 25

9 am Christmas Eucharist

CONTACT US

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Caretaker:

Gerry Windsor

Wardens: Charlotte French,

Conrad Guelke

Associate Wardens: Sarah Burns,

Craig Wilson

From the Parish Registry October to November

Marriage

Brittany Morris and Douglas Clifford
*"May this couple live together in love and
peace"*

Burial

Gerald William Worthy
Elizabeth Daphne Giolma
Olaf "Hall" Leiren
Patricia Winnifred Jamieson
Joan Winnifred Ashley

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

From the Envelope Secretary

In order to receive a tax receipt for 2016 we must receive your donation in the office by noon on December 30, 2016.

If you are mailing your donation, please mail in time for it to arrive before December 30.

Any money deposited into the bank after noon on December 30 cannot be credited to 2016.

Christmas Offering

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

www.stphilipsdunbar.com

