

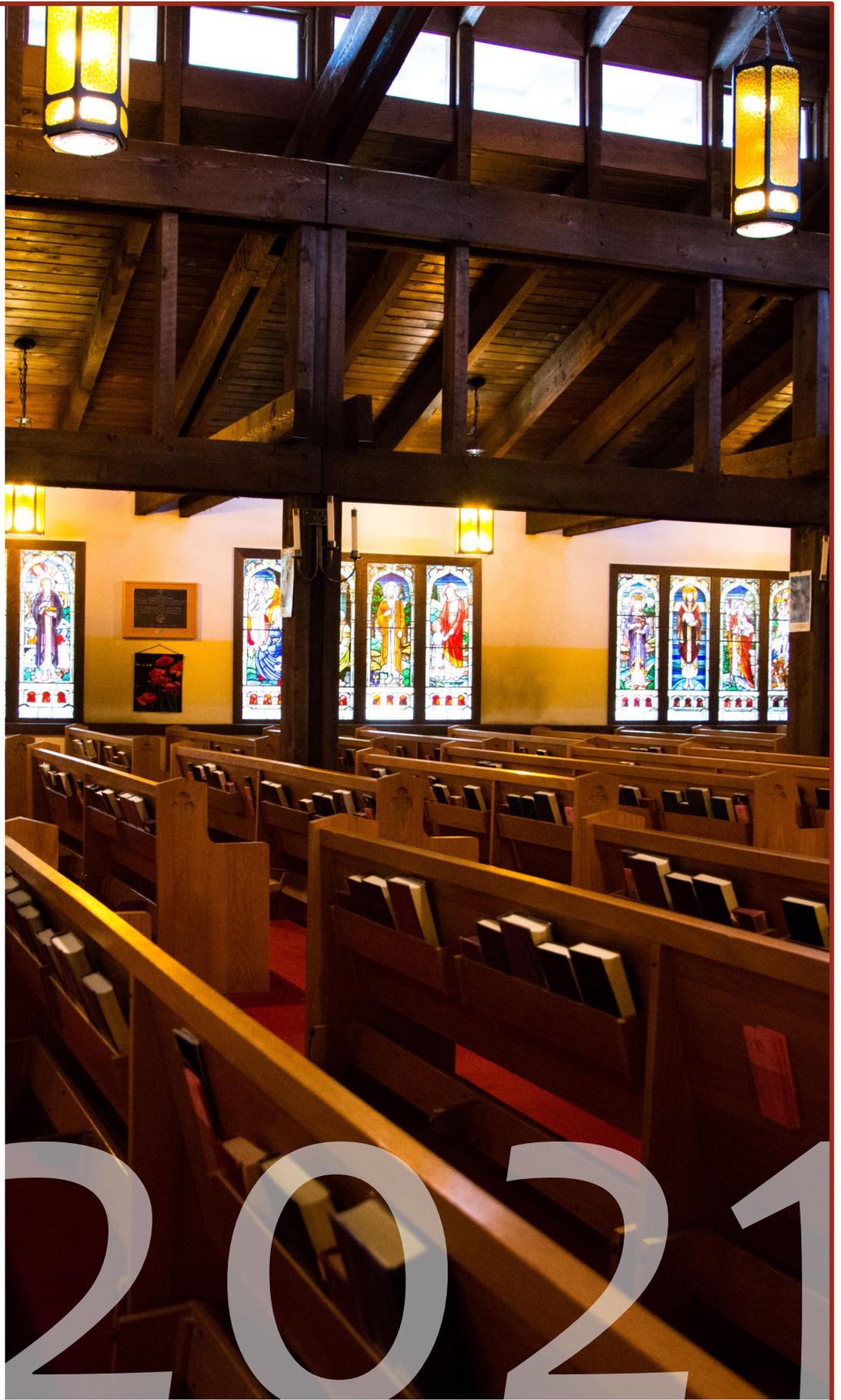
ANNUAL REPORT

TO VESTRY

2021



St. Helen's Anglican Church





ST. HELEN'S MISSION STATEMENT

St. Helen's mission is to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to all people. We are ordinary individuals who have become extraordinary through God's love of us in Christ.

Our aim is to testify and witness to the presence and leading of God's Spirit in our midst and in the life of the community in which we live.

St. Helen's seeks to be a loving, nurturing, and supporting fellowship of faith for all. We exist to serve the building of GOD'S Kingdom in this time and place through worship, education, fellowship and service.





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ST. HELEN'S, WEST POINT GREY
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
DIOCESE OF NEW WESTMINSTER
THE REVEREND LIZ HAMEL, PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

NOTICE of ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

February 12, 2021

Dear Friends,

This is your invitation to participate in St. Helen's Annual General (Vestry) Meeting on **Sunday, February 28, 2021**, following the 10 am Eucharist.

Members of this Vestry meeting are defined by diocesan canons as, ALL BAPTIZED PERSONS OF THE AGE OF 16 OR OVER WHO ARE ACCUSTOMED WORSHIPPERS WITHIN THE PARISH AND WHOSE NAMES HAVE BEEN ON THE MEMBERSHIP ROLL OF THE PARISH FOR AT LEAST THE THREE MONTHS PRECEDING THE VESTRY MEETING.

This is the St. Helens' annual "business" meeting where we will address the following agenda items:

- Receive reports and financial statements
- Elect Parish Councillors for 2021
- Approve the budget for 2021
- Consider business requiring the assent of the parish membership as a whole
- Motions: Written **notice of any motion** must be given in writing to the Chair (sthelenspriest@gmail.com) by **Wednesday, February 24th** at noon.

All members please attend. The Reverend Liz Hamel, who will be our interim priest in charge, will chair the meeting. A draft agenda will be circulated in the Annual Reports which will be available for pickup in the box outside the church door (where bulletins are left) Sunday, February 21st and emailed to all on or about that date.

Yours faithfully,

Morgan Poliquin, Hector Williams & Anne Guthrie-Warman
The Wardens of St. Helen's

ST. HELEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: FEBRUARY 28, 2021

(PROPOSED) AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Motion to Adopt the Agenda
3. Appointment of Recording Secretary: Peter Leighton
4. Notice of Canons 1401 & 1403
 - a. 1401. The Vestry of a Parish shall consist of all baptized person of the age of fifteen or over who are accustomed worshippers within the Parish and whose names have been on the Membership Roll of the Parish for at least the three months preceding the Vestry Meeting, but no person shall have their name on the Membership roll of more than one Parish in this Diocese at the same time. Only those members of the Vestry who have within the preceding twelve months provided an identifiable commitment of time, talents or financial resources to the Parish or have been in receipt of the ministrations of the Parish because of illness or other incapacity shall have the right to vote at any Vestry Meeting. Any questions as to a person's right to be on a Membership roll or to vote at any Vestry Meeting shall be determined by the Canonical Committee of the Parish. *[7(1); 105th Session]*
 - b. 1403. The Annual Vestry Meeting shall be held on or before the end of February in each year for the purpose of receiving reports, electing Officers and Delegates and Alternate Delegates to Synod. Officers and Delegates and Alternate Delegates to Synod. *[Part of 7(3); amended 102nd Session]*
5. Appointment of Scrutineers
6. Acceptance of the Minutes
 - a. Annual Vestry Meeting February 23, 2020
7. Annual Reports for 2020
 - a. Motion to Receive
 - b. Discussion
 - c. Motion to Adopt

- d. Motion Recommending Lay Administrators
8. Financial Report
- a. Motion to Receive the Financial Statements: *Tony Hodgson*
 - i. Seconded:
 - b. Discussion
 - c. Motion to Adopt the Financial Statements as presented: *Tony Hodgson*
 - i. Seconded:
9. Mission Budget 2019
- a. Motion to adopt the budget as presented: *Tony Hodgson*
 - b. Seconded:
10. Motion Re: Rectory: *Tony Hodgson*
- a.. Seconded:
11. Election of Officers
- a. Candidates for Parish Council: *Anne Guthrie-Warman*
 - b. Appointment of a Warden (*Canon 1421b*): *Morgan Poliquin*
 - c. Commissioning of incoming Parish Council & Wardens
 - i. Proposed date: Sunday March 7 at the 10am Eucharist
12. Signing Officers for 2021
13. Votes of Thanks
14. Date of the next Annual Vestry Meeting: February 27, 2022
15. Motion to Adjourn
16. The Doxology: *Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen.*

MINUTES OF THE ST. HELEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

February 23, 2020

1. The Meeting was called to order by Reverend Scott Gould. 28 people signed into Vestry
2. Opening Prayer was led by Reverend Gould.
3. Motion to Adopt the Agenda: Moved – Liz Hodgson; Seconded – Monica O'Brien; Carried.
4. Appointment of Recording Secretary: Lynn Raymond.
5. Notice of Canons 1401 & 1403 was given:
 - a. 1401. The Vestry of a Parish shall consist of all baptized person of the age of fifteen or over who are accustomed worshippers within the Parish and whose names have been on the Membership Roll of the Parish for at least the three months preceding the Vestry Meeting, but no person shall have their name on the Membership roll of more than one Parish in this Diocese at the same time. Only those members of the Vestry who have within the preceding twelve months provided an identifiable commitment of time, talents or financial resources to the Parish or have been in receipt of the ministrations of the Parish because of illness or other incapacity shall have the right to vote at any Vestry Meeting. Any questions as to a person's right to be on a Membership roll or to vote at any Vestry Meeting shall be determined by the Canonical Committee of the Parish. *[7(1); 105th Session]*.
 - b. 1403. The Annual Vestry Meeting shall be held on or before the end of February in each year for the purpose of receiving reports, electing Officers and Delegates and Alternate Delegates to Synod. *[Part of 7 (3); amended 102nd Session]*.
6. Appointment of Scrutineers: Will Sparling and Erin Bruchet.
7. Motion to Accept the Minutes of the St. Helen's Annual General Meeting held February 24, 2019: Moved – Sean Cummings; Seconded – Alf Lam; Carried.
8. Annual Reports of 2019.
 - a. Motion to Receive: Moved – Monica O'Brien; Seconded – John Chapman; Carried.
 - b. Morgan Poliquin presented a report on the state of the roofing on the church and hall, and plans for replacement/repair to add to the printed Annual Report.
 - c. Morgan Poliquin briefly presented a visioning process and proposal for a capital campaign that the executive and parish council are considering, that would begin with a feasibility study. A printed one-page summary of this proposal was circulated.

- d. Error in report – Sean Cummings should also be listed as a Lay Administrator for 2019
- e. Motion to Adopt: Moved –Sean Cummings; Seconded – Dale O’Brien; Carried.
- f. Motion: to Recommend David Abbott, Matthew Bradsher, Bob Carl, Susan Greenstreet, Irene James, Carol Mason and David Powell as Lay Administrators for 2019. Moved – Scott Gould; Seconded – Matthew Bradsher; Carried.

9. Financial Report for 2019 presented by Tony Hodgson, Treasurer.

- a. Motion to Receive the 2019 Financial Statements as prepared by Rolf Benson: Moved – Tony Hodgson; Seconded – Monica O’Brien; Carried.
- b. Motion to Adopt the 2019 Financial Statements as prepared by Rolf Benson: Moved – Tony Hodgson; Seconded – Alf Lam; Carried.
- c. Motion to Appoint Accountant: Be it resolved that Rolfe Benson is appointed St. Helen’s accountant for the fiscal year 2020 to perform the Annual Review Engagement: Moved – Tony Hodgson; Seconded – Dale O’Brien; Carried.

10. Mission Budget for 2020 presented by Tony Hodgson, Treasurer

- a. Motion to adopt the 2020 Budget as presented: Moved – Tony Hodgson; Seconded – Morgan Poliquin; Carried.

11. Motion on the Molly Hole Fund presented by Tony Hodgson, Treasurer

Motion to authorize treasurer to make additional draws on the Molly Hole Fund as needed to cover any deficit that may develop in the operating fund, in order to meet our financial obligations.

- a. Moved – Tony Hodgson; Seconded – Monica O’Brien; Carried.

12. Election of Officers and Report of the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee presented their Report and recommended that the Parish Council be composed of:

- Rector’s Warden – To be appointed at a later date;
- People’s Warden - Morgan Poliquin;
- Associate Warden – Hector Williams;
- Treasurer – Tony Hodgson;
- Secretary – Peter Leighton;

- Synod Delegate – Sean Cummings;
- Alternate Delegate – Richard Alexander;
- Alternate Delegate – Anne Guthrie-Warman;
- Youth Delegate – vacant
- Alternate Youth Delegate – vacant
- Member at large – Alf Lam; and
- Member at Large – Lisa Cooper.

Motion to receive the Report of the Nominating Committee and approve the nominations: Moved – Hector Williams; Seconded – Morgan Poliquin; Request for nominations from the floor – asked three times; Carried.

Commissioning of Council to take place March 1, 2020 at the 10 am Eucharist.

13. Signing Officers

Motion to appoint the two Wardens, Morgan Poliquin and Hector Williams, and Treasurer, Tony Hodgson as signing officers: Moved – Lynn Raymond; Seconded – Will Sparling; Carried.

14. Vote of Thanks

Thanks to the cooks, coffee servers, and clean-up crew, to Alf Lam, to outgoing and incoming Councillors and Wardens, and to Tony Hodgson.

15. Date of the next Annual Vestry Meeting: February 28, 2021.

16. Motion to Adjourn: Moved – Alf Lam; Seconded – Judy Poliquin; Carried.

17. The Doxology: *Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen.*



ST. HELEN'S, WEST POINT GREY
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
DIOCESE OF NEW WESTMINSTER
THE REVEREND LIZ HAMEL, INTERIM PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

February 26, 2021

The Right Reverend John Robert Stephens, Bishop
1410 Nanton Avenue
Vancouver BC V6H 2E2

Re: Lay Administrators

Dear Bishop John:

Please find below our list of Lay Administrators for 2021, passed at our Annual Vestry Meeting on February 23, 2020 and proposed for your approval:

Isabelle Ava-Pointon
Matthew Bradsher
Bob Carl
Sean Cummings
Susan Greenstreet
Irene James
Carol Mason
David Powell

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Liz Hamel
Interim Priest-in-Charge



WARDENS REPORT

It is not an easy thing to report on 2020. We are still processing what has happened to the world, our personal lives and of course St. Helens since the outbreak of COVID19. Many aspects of daily life, including worship and stewardship activities at

St Helen's, have changed. The losses are fresh and keenly felt, perhaps most acute of which is our current inability to gather in person to worship.

As with all institutions this crisis precipitated financial constraints. In our case this has required of the leadership to make very challenging decisions. We are grateful for the financial and pastoral support of the Diocese in 2020. In consultation with the Diocese it was recognised that our budget no longer allows for a full time minister. With guidance and support from the Diocese, we made the very challenging decision to give notice to our long time rector Scott Gould. This has been, and will continue to be, a loss that we are coming to grips with.

Despite these challenges we have an enormous amount to be grateful for at St Helen's. The blessings of the past year are numerous. This crisis has witnessed a monumental commitment to this parish. Many volunteers have stepped up to support the wardens and parish council.

From the onset of the pandemic Will Sparling has led and implemented the technical framework necessary to

conduct very meaningful virtual services. Tony Hodgson our treasurer has been a pillar of strength as he has taken it upon himself to aid and assist the wardens in an extraordinary manner which we are all very grateful for. Special thanks also go to Matthew Bradsher for his dedicated service in Sunday worship services, and his help with administration of the Eucharist and leading services on occasion. As we have become accustomed to for decades, Alf Lam's dedication to the parish has gone beyond his critical service of maintaining our physical plant in good repair. He, with other parishioners, delivered Sunday leaflets to those unable to access them by internet. Bonnie and Will led a heartwarming and successful virtual Christmas Bazaar which brought many kitchens into their normal seasonal action stations for jam and baking.

Perhaps most gratifyingly, a leadership team emerged to help us through this time. This Transition group has led an important consultation and brainstorming effort which will serve us well for the challenges ahead. Many have been involved with this process but special efforts were put in by Liz Hodgson, Lisa Cooper and former wardens Lynn Redmond and Sean de Graaf. We are also thankful to the

excellent skills of our bookkeeper, Patricia Rust, the continuous support of our Envelope Secretary, Monica O'Brien, and to our Parish Administrator, Deborah Bianchi Bourienne. We are also very grateful to Rev. Munn and Rev. Liz Hamel for stepping in to lead Sunday worship.

The Children and Youth program at St. Helen's found its way through a mostly virtual year thanks to the efforts of Children's Leader Dunni Awe and volunteer Erin Bruchet who made sure the meaningful story-based Godly Play continued and new creative ways were found to stay connected. A very meaningful virtual connection was established with the youth at the start of the pandemic. It is hoped that this can be re-established in the future. We also owe a very special thank you to Anne Bonnycastle for leading our first ever virtual Nativity pageant.

Virtual services would not have been as impactful without the outstanding music program we are gifted with. Let by our Music Director Emilia Boronco this program and all its dedicated participants their sounds have lifted spirits and provided great solace to us all.

While of course constrained by new health, safety and other protocols, our outreach programs and volunteers have continued their important work. The Neighbourhood Ministry maintained its outreach work through dedicated

St. Helen's volunteers, under the leadership of Bryan Henderson and St Helens parish council member Sean Cummings. Together with volunteers from three other local churches they have faced the challenges presented by the pandemic to do their vital work. Under the leadership of Lisa Cooper and Richard Ritson, St. Helen's sponsored three more Syrian Refugees who are family members of our current group, likely sometime in 2021.

At this time we do not know what the future will bring to our parish in these uncertain times. What we can say is that we have seen our strengths magnified and manifested in the commitment to the continuance of the parish. While many challenges and uncertainties remain, our reasons for gathering, in whatever form that may take, are as important as ever. We mean a lot to each other and if the pandemic has taught us at St. Helens anything, it is the enduring power of our church community which is guided by God's grace.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Guthrie-Warman, Rector's warden
Morgan Poliquin, People's warden
Hector Williams, Associate warden





PARISH TRANSITION TEAM REPORT

In November of 2020, as we said goodbye to Rector Scott Gould, the St. Helen's wardens put together a small team to help with the transition: myself (Liz Hodgson), Shawn De Raaf, and Lynn Raymond, all former wardens, and Lisa Cooper,

current parish council member and refugee program coordinator.

Our role has been to help guide the parish through Phase One of the transition while we wait until we have an Interim Priest-in-Charge installed. Then we will work with that Interim Priest-in-Charge for Phase Two during 2021, as we map out our long-term vision.

In Phase One, we've had very constructive conversations with the parish about managing this change and priorities for 2021, both on Zoom and with a survey. In Phase Two, we'll be working toward a larger and slower consultation and discernment to see where God is leading us next.

The Transition Team has also tried to respond to the short-term needs of the community for a sense of togetherness; with help from the parish leadership and many cheerful volunteers, we now have coffee-hours for

fellowship and reflection, an ongoing Bible Study (thank you, Matthew!), an upcoming talk from Nicholas May, and a team of caring parishioners starting to reach out to those who need some love in these difficult and lonely times. Our goal is to support the parish leadership and the parish as a whole by giving us simple ways to talk to each other, listen to each other, and support each other as we move toward a new future together.

Thanks to the wardens and council; to these wonderful team members (Lynn, Shawn, and Lisa) who just dive in and get it done, with care and attention; to the staff like Deborah and Danni who've been willing to improvise with us; and especially to all the members of the St. Helen's family—we are keeping the faith!

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Hodgson, Transition Team Coordinator
Lisa Cooper, Shawn DeRaaf, Lynn Raymond



TREASURER'S REPORT

Thanks and Acknowledgements

I would like to thank our book-keeper Patricia Rust, our parish administrator Deborah Bourienne, and our envelope secretary Monica O'Brien, for their many contributions and support in this past year – collectively, they pulled together and fed me the multi-faceted information I needed to do my job. I could not have done this without them.

2020 Financial Report

This past year has been more of a roller-coaster ride than we could have imagined last February. You may recall that we started the year having run a very substantial deficit in 2019, and we were having a hard time imagining how we would be able to fill the gap in 2020. However, we collectively “Stepped Up” and offered pledges of approximately 30% more than we had given in 2019, and this gave us the courage to pass an essentially balanced budget at vestry.

However, only a couple of weeks later, the pandemic struck and things changed dramatically. In person services ceased, and we moved largely online. Many of our rentals dried up, and we found that congregational giving, while

still strong, was not increasing in line with our Step Up pledges. The diocese stepped in with some substantial support – they paid our rector’s salary through April and May, and waived the diocesan assessment from April through August. In addition, the federal government implemented a wage subsidy program and, thanks to Monica’s hard work, we secured \$7000 in support from that. Nonetheless, as the year went on, it became clear that after these periods of support would end, we would be in a situation in which we would be running substantial monthly deficits for the foreseeable future, which would be unsustainable. For that reason, we took the step of reducing our clergy position to a half-time position effective as of the end of the year.

Despite these challenges, we did somehow end the year with a small fiscal surplus (about +\$5000 after accounting for the non-cash expense of amortization), and this, combined with our new half-time minister position, has set us up well for 2021. In addition, we had good returns on our investments in the Consolidated Trust Funds, so some of those funds are not as depleted as we had expected they would be.

2021 Proposed Budget

Looking forward to 2021, then, we find ourselves in a strong position. Our projected expenses are now much better aligned with our anticipated giving and rental income, and I am very pleased to be able to put before you a balanced budget proposal. At \$240,000, it is considerably lower than it has been in past years (>\$300,000 in recent years), but it is tightly focused on our congregation's key ministry priorities: a strong Sunday worship experience with rich musical offerings, pastoral care, ministry to children and youth, and outreach to our community through the Neighbourhood Ministry.

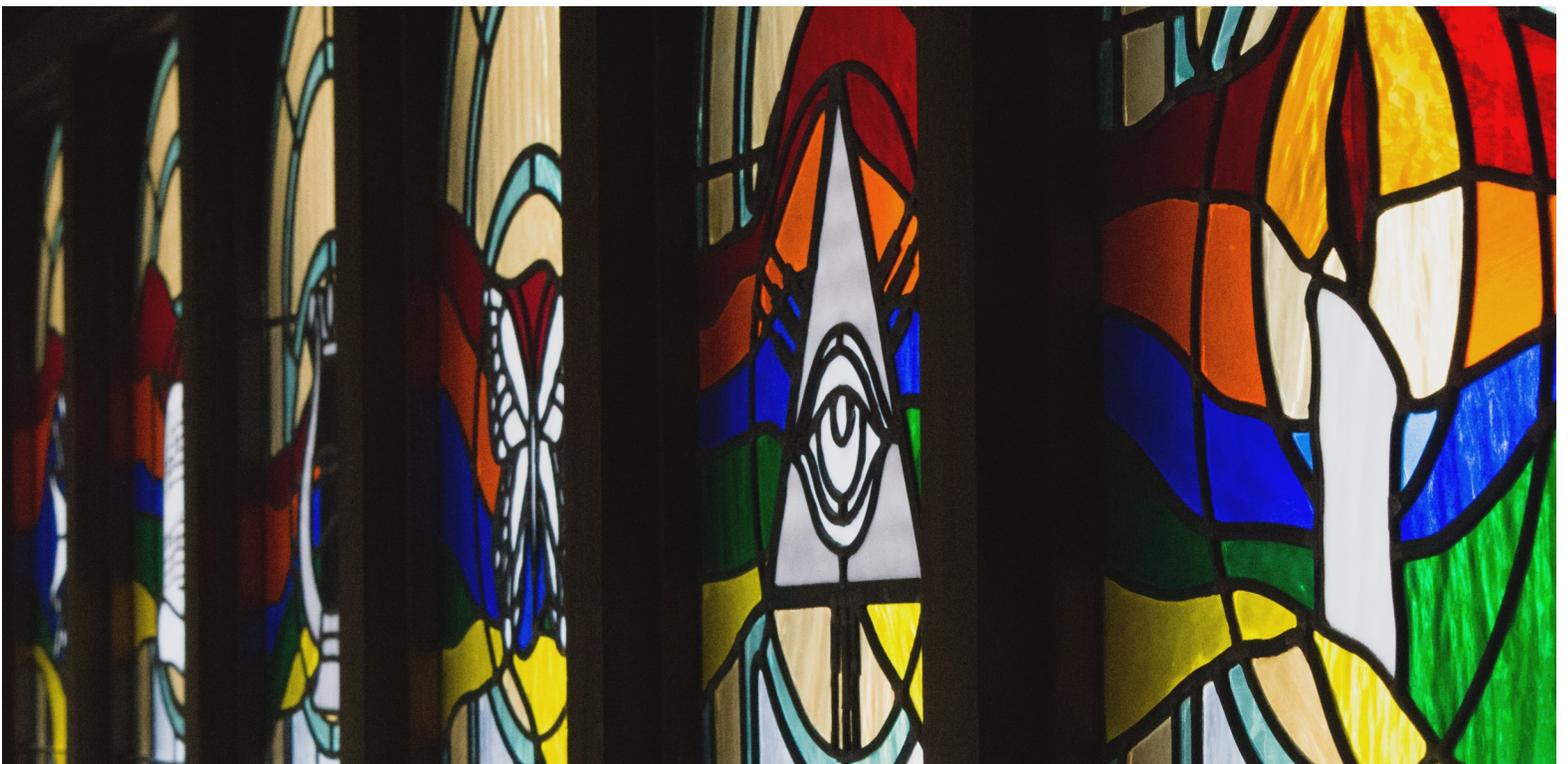
This 2021 budget calls on all of us to continue our giving at levels similar to what we contributed in 2020, as we heard from all of you in our recent consultations that the vast majority could continue to give at the same or higher levels this year. For this, we are deeply thankful.

This year, the budget also contains a new provision to start rebuilding some of our reserve funds, which will soon put us in a position to start imagining new ministry initiatives. I am thrilled to be in this new position of being able to discern new directions that God might be leading us in rather than feeling weighed down by the challenges of

making ends meet on a budget that is stretching us beyond capacity.

So it is with great joy and anticipation that I commend to you this fresh budget for 2021, and pray for God's blessing on us all.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony Hodgson, Treasurer



ENVELOPE SECRETARY'S REPORT

The parishioners of St. Helen's rose to many challenges in 2020. Of note was the response to a large deficit, compounded by rental and other income loss due to COVID-19.

The 50 regular givers gave the most they have since 2017, when the membership was 30% more. There was not only a very generous response to a matching campaign in the Spring, but also an increase in PAD enrollment. PayPal played an important role too, allowing both automatic regular donations and extra offerings.

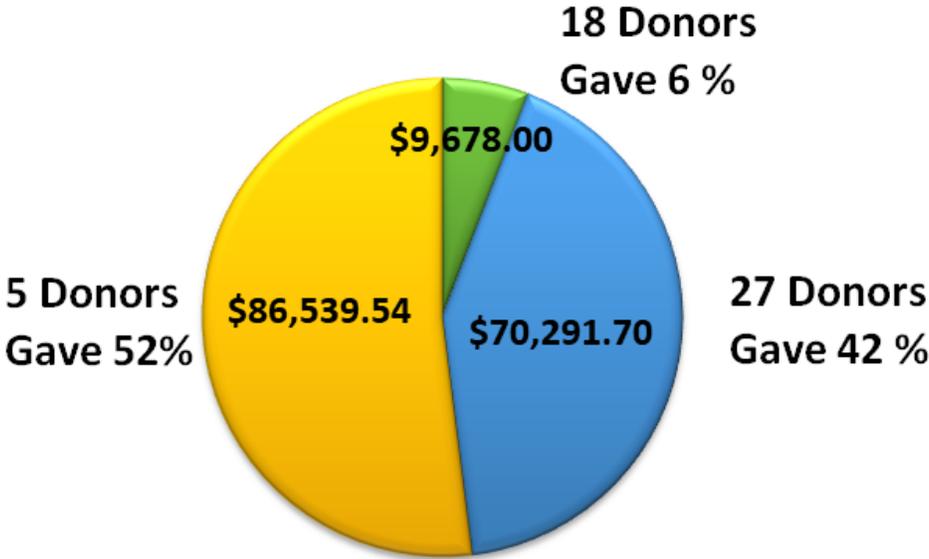
The chart below shows a breakdown of how many people gave to the total amount. To provide a more accurate picture of our donations, offerings given by visitors have been removed, as well as bequests.

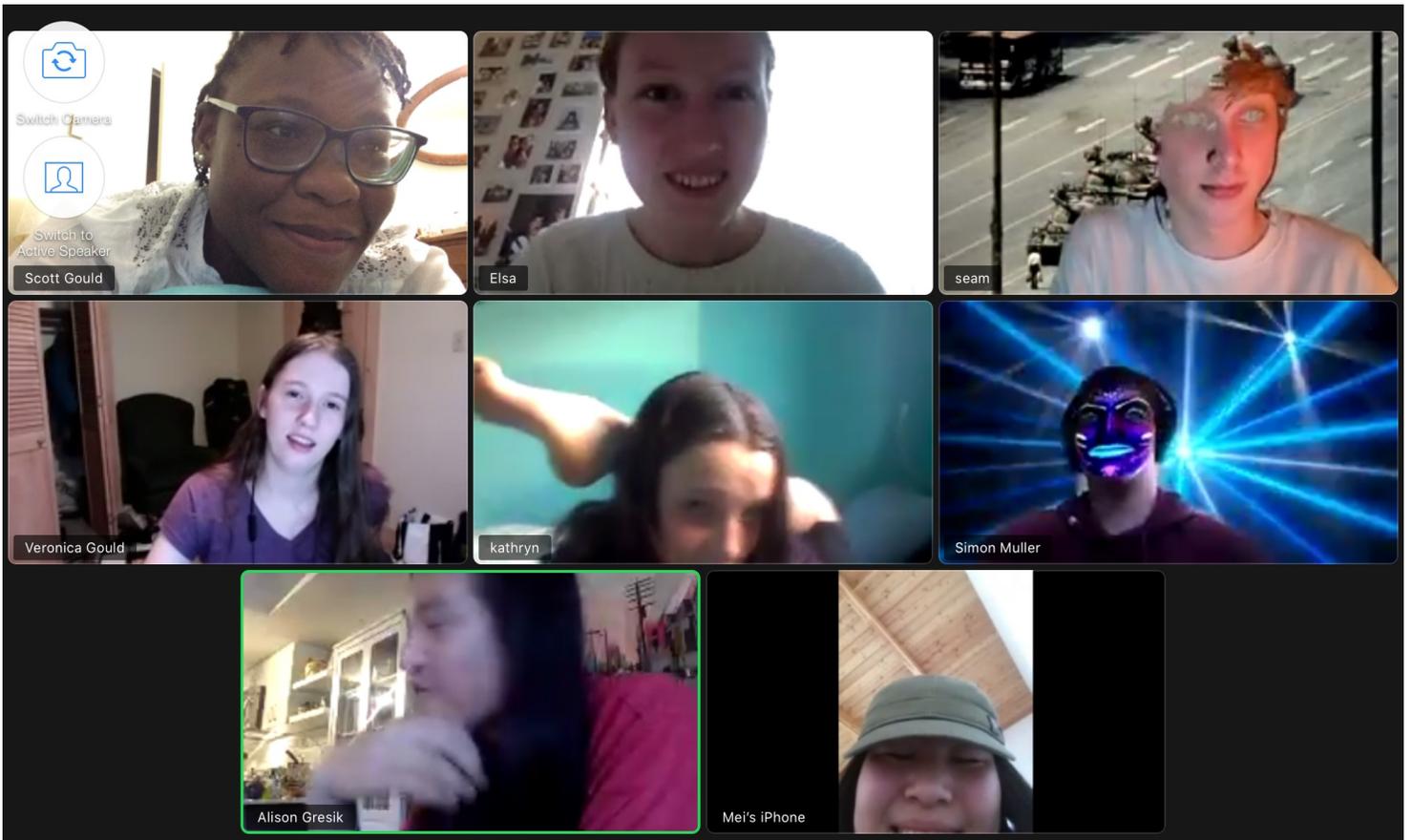
For more details of our finances, please refer to the Financial Statements and the Treasurer's Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica O'Brien
Envelope Secretary

Distribution of Regular Congregational Giving in 2020





YOUTH GROUP REPORT

Youth Group meetings continued online after the pandemic until May 2020. Although not the same as the in-person meetings, the zoom meetings were filled with exciting games and lots of laughter.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to continue the youth group meetings since the Fall. Hopefully, when we are able to meet in person, this group can come together again, at least once for a proper send forth.

We mustn't let the Youth Group tradition at St. Helen's fade away. The program has been on hold since last year and there seems to be no indication that this will change anytime soon. We should however plan for the

continuation of the program in the future, if we are to keep the children involved in the Church.

Yours in Christ,

Dunni



Dunni Awe
Youth Leader

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY & GODLY PLAY REPORTS

What a year 2020 was! We started the year with plans on how to get the kids more engaged with the Godly Play stories and hold their attention through the session.

Little did we know that we would have to make bigger adjustments to continue the program at all.

We started the online sessions in March of 2020, initially with the Godly Play stories being told in the Church and broadcasted on zoom to the kids. We quickly found that this was not very effective as the children could hardly see the story as it was being told. We also got feedback that the stories were becoming monotonous as the kids had heard them over and over again. Back to square one.

We then had to come up with other ways to nourish the children spiritually while entertaining them. Although children's time is short these days, we notice that the children are more engaged and trust that, through the Holy Spirit, their spirits are also being ministered to.

Despite the pandemic and all the adjustments we had to

make, we scored some notable wins as a team! We had a small social distanced gathering at Trimble Park in September and it was delightful to see how much the children had grown during the summer break. They connected quickly as we handed out packages for the Fall.

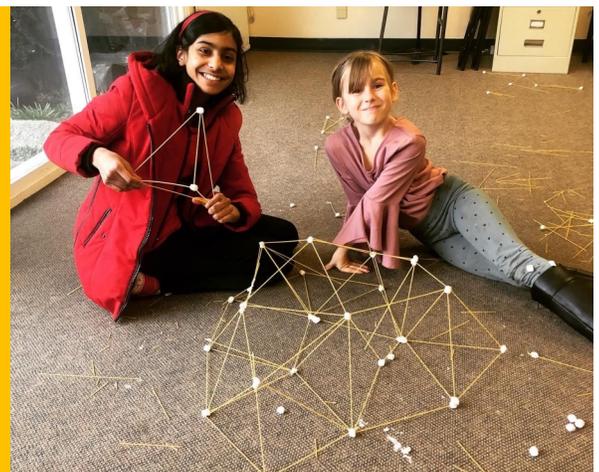
We also had a successful virtual Christmas pageant organized by Anne Bonnycastle. Anne put together pre-recorded videos of the children, each telling a part of the Christmas story and it was such a joy that the children were still able to significantly contribute to the pageant. Thanks for making it happen Anne.

We also put together packages for the Winter which included Christmas treats and epiphany kits! Many thanks to Liz Hodgson and Anne Bonnycastle for helping out with this.

Looking ahead, we hope to continue to find innovative ways to keep the children involved, supporting their spiritual growth even as they grow physically.

Best regards,

Erin and Dunni





Normal ongoing maintenance in 2020 involved the changing of lamps, replacement of fluorescent ballasts and repairs to broken fluorescent sockets. More incandescent lamps throughout the complex were replaced with energy efficient compact fluorescent and LED lamps in lighting fixtures and LED lamps in EXIT signs as the existing incandescent lamps expired.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPORT

Due to budget restraints, except for emergency repairs, no major alterations were considered.

The old freezer in the Kitchen pantry failed and has been replaced with a new unit.

A new condenser microphone has been added to the sound system inventory.

I am grateful to our cleaners, Ali and Mohamad Rahme, for their tireless work in and about the Church complex.

The roof of the complex is nearing the end of its designed life and a need for a new roof is on the wish list. The past year proved to be a trial in that there were numerous leaks in the roof of the Church Hall and the Church itself.

This problem persists despite an attempt at patching the roof and the cleaning the gutters. This is evident with the number of stains in the ceiling of the Church Hall. I am

grateful to Morgan Poliquin who took on the task of having a contractor carry out these repairs.

My Wish List

The re-keying of all the internal locks throughout the Church complex; a cardlock access system for entry; the installation for a fire suppression sprinkler system with the required fire alarm system; emergency lighting throughout the complex; installation of a fire suppression system for the kitchen range hood and the associated solenoid gas valve, a new roof and the purchase of a two-stage snow blower.

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred G. Lam,
Property Manager



SENIORS REPORT

The Friday afternoon Seniors Fellowship Group saw struggle in 2020 with fielding enough attendees to offer games of choice (crib, scrabble or bridge). The mid-afternoon tea break with donated treats invariably added to the pleasure of the fellowship aspect. At the same time, we sadly began to come to terms with the withdrawal of a long-term, much-loved member due to unpreventable circumstances. We were cancelling get-togethers as a result.

This unfortunate reality coincided with the onset of restrictions on group socializing due to Covid-19. No further attempts at formal contact among the membership of seniors ensued.

Some of us were impacted by temporary or long-term limitations of many kinds and degrees of severity.



Meaningful communication among us, sadly has been variable, if at all. It therefore comes as an unforeseen and welcome blessing that just as we appear to have cause to despair with the demise of a decades old tradition of “Seniors” at St. Helen’s, we take heart as we witness a new expression of fellowship that has sprung up in recent weeks. A parish-wide, person to person initiative to reach out, establish and maintain electronic communication has been set in motion.

We rejoice as the bonds of fellowship at St. Helen’s are sought out, found and strengthened in 2021 and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,
Irene James



NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY REPORT

The Westside Anglican Neighborhood Ministry is a collaboration of the Anglican parishes of St. Anselm's, St. Helen's, St. John's Shaughnessy and St. Philip's. The joining of these parishes in this ministry has brought people together in wonderful ways. Please see our website at www.neighbourhoodministry.com for detailed information about this Ministry.

This report is for the Neighborhood Ministry as a whole, across the four parishes supporting the ministry, rather than for any of the individual parishes. I would like to thank all those from St Helen's who support this ministry. In particular the indoor team leader Sean Cummings, Irene James and her daughter Margaret, and Matthew Bradsher, the "Indoor Team," who provide the packets, sandwiches and other food items to the outdoor teams, and all those who contribute financial support and items of food and clothing for distribution to our homeless neighbors and the residents of the Coast Dunbar supportive housing facility.

Following this report is the budget for 2021. The funding for the 2021 activities is planned to be from:

- Each of the four parishes (\$2,500 each, the same as 2020)
- Draw-down of a portion of the accumulated surpluses of prior years

- Possibly a grant from the City of Vancouver under three different budget scenarios
- Miscellaneous donations.

Westside Anglicans Neighborhood Ministry 2021 Report to Vestry

The Neighborhood Ministry began the year with plans to continue its programs: Street Ministry, Mobile Care Unit (MCU), Angels Program, and luncheon events at Dunbar Apartments. We also hoped to grow our ministry, having applied for a grant from the City of Vancouver to do so. However, like everyone else on earth, our goals for 2020 were drastically altered by the COVID-19 pandemic. In March, when the pandemic was declared, safety concerns prevented the continuation of our programs. However, we were still able to provide tax filing support for 48 of the 51 residents at Dunbar Apartments. Pitman and Vicki Potter, after 13 years of shepherding this ministry, officially retired from the NM this year. They were both thanked and lauded for their founding and leadership of this ministry at the June Zoom annual meeting (details can be viewed at the NM website www.neighbourhoodministry.com/news/). Early in the year, the NM received a grant of \$26,600 from Renter Services at the City of Vancouver in to hire a program and volunteers' manager. Because of the

pandemic, the hire did not take place until October, at which time The Rev. Liz Hamel came on board as manager/clergy lead for the NM. She reports to the NM Board of Management, which consists of four clergy leaders and four parish liaisons from St. Anselm's, St. Helen's, St. John's and St. Philip's. In August, we were given permission by the Diocese to resume the Street Ministry, with several new COVID-safety protocols put in place. At the same time, many of our volunteers, who are the backbone of our organization, understandably stepped back from Street Ministry because of concerns for their own health. We are actively recruiting new volunteers, which takes time, but we are still able to operate with two volunteers each Saturday, offering food, clothing and, most importantly, caring and non-judgmental service to the folks they meet on the street. In December, St. Philip's graciously offered The Rev. Liz office space at no cost, for which we are very appreciative as we now have a designated location for the NM. As of February 2021, we are still unable to restart the MCU or host our luncheon events at Dunbar Apts. However, in anticipation of a full restart of our programs, we have applied for a continuation of the city grant, details of which are on the 2020/2021 financial NM page. We continue to be in communication with the city about the need for housing and what options may be being considered, including the "Tiny Homes" concept under discussion by the city. We connect with other church and secular organizations in the city who offer food and clothing—and care—to vulnerable people. This web of connection is important, as we continue to share ideas and needs. At the time of Vestry Report publication, the Neighborhood Ministry was awaiting word about funding for 2021 through a City of Vancouver grant. (See budget following this report.) If we



do not receive the city grant, we anticipate using accumulated surplus and 2021 contributions from the parishes to fund a part-time staff-person to carry on the current program. (See budget following this report.) A

robust fundraising effort would be required to fund future years' activities. The city requires that funding recipients be a registered not-for-profit or a registered charity. The four participating Neighbourhood Ministry parishes are each registered charities, and St. Philip's has agreed to serve as the lead on the application for the

city grant. As such, if we receive the grant, St. Philip's Trustees would be ultimately responsible for adherence to grant responsibilities, with the Neighborhood Ministry Board of Management carrying out the day-to-day duties. Securing the grant allows the Neighborhood Ministry to maintain and expand the services it offers to homeless and needy people on Vancouver's Westside, and especially to enhance volunteer opportunities.

Submitted by,

Bryan Henderson
Board of Management
Westside Anglican Neighborhood Ministry

NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY BUDGET

	2020 Actual	2020 Budget	2021 Budget Scenario 1	2021 Budget Scenario 2	2021 Budget Scenario 3
Income:					
4 Parishes	\$ 10,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
City grant	\$ 26,600	\$ 26,600	\$ -	\$ 26,600	\$ 45,600
Diocesan Care+Share	\$ 340	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Book sales	\$ 571	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CEW	\$ 1,874	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other donations/ fundraising	\$ 2,650	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Donations in kind	\$ 1,383	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total income for the year	\$ 43,918	\$ 39,600	\$ 13,000	\$ 39,600	\$ 58,600
Expenses:					
Office	\$ 1,555	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600
Communications	\$ 268	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Angels (clothing, supplies)	\$ 3,803	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
MCU Site Support	\$ 3,000	\$ 5,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500
Dunbar House Support	\$ 2,510	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,510	\$ 2,510	\$ 2,510
Modular Housing Support	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Salaries	\$ 19,620	\$ 50,000	\$ 39,177	\$ 51,516	\$ 51,516
Donations in kind	\$ 1,383	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Tiny Homes project	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000
Total expenses for the year	\$ 32,139	\$ 65,000	\$ 51,787	\$ 67,126	\$ 87,126
Surplus or deficit for the year	\$ 11,779	-\$ 25,400	-\$ 38,787	-\$ 27,526	-\$ 28,526
Accumulated surplus at yr. beginning	\$ 32,308	\$ 32,308	\$ 44,087	\$ 44,087	\$ 44,087
Accumulated surplus at yr. end	\$ 44,087	\$ 6,908	\$ 5,300	\$ 16,561	\$ 15,561

*Note 1: Scenario 1 assumes no grant; Scenario 2 assumes same grant as 2020; Scenario 3 assumes grant received in amount requested.

*Note 2: In Nov 2020 the Board adjusted the 2020 budget by reducing MCU Site Support from \$6500 to \$5500 and increasing Angels from \$3000 to \$4000.

*Note 3: Salaries expense for 2020 was lower than budget because budget assumed program manager hired early in year but actual was in October.

*Note 4: CEW is the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy

*Note 5: Tiny Homes is a potential project in collaboration with the City of Vancouver



SYRIAN REFUGEE MINISTRY

Parishioners Lisa Cooper and Richard Ritson remain in close contact with the AY and AL families, though restrictions have curtailed social visits except outside.

Our Current Newcomers

Since the spring, Lisa and several grad students from the Classical, Near Eastern and Religious Studies department at UBC have been doing weekly English conversation meetings on Zoom with Mariam AY, who otherwise has the least opportunity to work on her English, and also sometimes with her stepson Omar.

Khaled, Fatima, Lana, Majid and Jad, as well as Zakarya, continue to live in in North Richmond. Lana is attending grade 1 and is enjoying it. Khaled and Zakarya are still working full-time in Public Works for the City of Richmond. They (and their brother Karim) are doing their best to support their parents and other siblings in Syria and Turkey. The situation there unfortunately does not improve, and the pandemic is now starting to take a toll in their home village as well.

Karim and Fatima are happy in their apartment in south Vancouver. They have two daughters Haneen (5) and Celia (2). Haneen will be attending the nearby elementary school in September. Karim continues to work for the City of Richmond in the Parks department and now essentially full-time. Fatima, whose English is now excellent, is shortly to start dental hygienist training.

Abd Alkarem AL, Mariam AY, and Abd Alkarem's self-sponsored children (aged 19-23) continue to live in Richmond. Abd Alkarem has a new and better-paid job with an organics recycling company. A happy event last July was that Abd Alkarem's daughter Daad got married to a nice young man from a very pleasant Arabic-speaking Richmond family, who are a great help and resource to the ALs. Abd Alkarem's sons are adjusting to life in Canada and doing a mix of part-time work and online English classes. The restrictions we all face have made this process slower than it would otherwise have been, but their English is certainly improving.

All the arrived newcomers at this time are in good health and collectively self-sufficient. Most have now applied for Canadian citizenship, but the process seems on hold until easier times.

St. Helen's Church can be proud of the role they played in bringing them to this country and helping them to thrive here.

Current Plans of the Refugee Committee

St Helen's is sponsoring Abdul-Rahman AY (Karim's twin brother) and his wife Rahaf and infant child to Canada. We understand they are expecting another baby (!), due later this summer, so depending on timing it may be necessary to add a new member to the application. They remain refugees in Turkey, and cannot go back to Syria. Their brothers here have been helping financially as they can. The expected settlement cost for the one year sponsorship obligation will be about \$35-40,000. The Refugee Fund



Zakarya fishing near Prince George (with Richard and Julianne Ritson), July 2020.

(together with \$2,700 funds held in trust by Richard Ritson) has a bit over \$30,000.00 in hand. Remaining funds will come from the AY family already settled here, and from funds to be raised by Richard Ritson/Lisa Cooper. Members of the Parish are welcome to contribute to the Refugee Fund if they can. All will help.

The refugee application for Abdul-Rahman and family appears to have been approved a year ago, but it is unclear how long before travel papers can be processed, due to the pandemic. In 2020, only about ¼ of the usual number of privately-sponsored refugees were able to come. This will be ramped up in 2021 if the pandemic situation improves, so we hope they will arrive late this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Ritson, on behalf of the Refugee Committee.



Julianne Ritson looking over photographs with Lana, Majd and Jad.



Wedding of Ahmed and Daad (daughter of former refugee Abd el-Karem), with Fatima and Lana.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT REPORT

*“My heart, O God, is steadfast. I will sing and make music with all my soul.”
Psalm 108:1*

What a year we all had! The year 2020 started off well, with weekly choir rehearsals and singing on Sunday mornings. Things went along smoothly until middle of March 2020, when everything came to a screeching halt due to the Covid 19 virus. The world pandemic caused us to hold virtual church, first with recordings of the music for two Sunday services on March 29th and April 5th. Following B.C. health guidelines and regulations, only the quartet was able to resume singing in person for the Good Friday Service on April 10. We have been providing live music for all through Zoom services ever since.

During 2020 we continued featuring our soloists - Carleigh Ross soprano, Deeandra Miranda soprano, Ali Powell, soprano, Anne Bonnycastle piano & alto, Matt Powel fiddle, Liz Hodgson alto, Arthur Chen tenor & piano, Justin Cho tenor, Rafael Laurindo baritone, Dale Throness baritone, Spencer John trumpet.

We celebrated the Advent Lessons and Carols on December 13. I would like to thank Anne Bonnycastle and her talented family for taking time and pre-recording a

great selection of wonderful Christmas music and carols. Your contribution to our Advent and Christmas services was absolutely terrific. During Christmas Eve service we were also able to feature two lovely recordings done by the Vivaldi Chamber Choir.

I would like to express my deep gratitude for the privilege of working with such an outstanding group of people who are in the choir not only because of their love of music but, even more, because of their commitment to the St. Helen’s music program. As we continue to move through this difficult time may we continue to: *“lift every voice and sing.”*

Respectfully submitted,
Emilia Boronco



Emilia Boronco
Music Director

CRUCIFER'S REPORT

"If anyone would come after me, let them deny themselves, and take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24

The ministry of the Crucifers was greatly impacted by the restrictions placed upon our community by the Covid-19 pandemic and associated health precautions. Ordinarily, Crucifers carry the cross - leading the Opening, Children's, Gospel, and Closing processions; assist at the Altar - turning the pages of the Altar Book, helping to set the table; work alongside Sanctuary Guild members to wash and maintain Altar vessels; and offer support during other sacramental and corporate worship occasions. It is a hands-on role, and as such, has laid fallow over the past year, as we have worshiped together from our homes via our phones, devices, and personal computers.

St Helen's has been richly blessed with many opportunities for corporate worship over the past year or so of pandemic. However, that worship has not included any processions. Similarly, the number of people allowed in the chancel and sanctuary is limited by the amount of space available there, and the safety plan the church has formed to address pandemic healthcare restrictions. An unintended result of this is that the role of the Crucifer has become obsolete. The processional cross has been untouched for some time. The celebrant stands alone at the altar, with two meters at least between them and the nearest person.

Nevertheless, during the first two months of 2020, the crucifers at St Helen's were going strong! Prior to the pandemic shut down, this ministry was growing both in size and in breadth! 2019 to early 2020 saw multiple new crucifers trained. With enough crucifers to cover a monthly rotation, there was a period of some months wherein a dedicated bearer of the Gospel Book complemented our usual Processional train. It is worth acknowledging those individuals that contributed their time and energy to this important ministry. David Abbott, Isabelle Ava-Pointon,



Matthew Bradsher, Sean Cummings, Sue Greenstreet, and David Powell all gave generously of their time, and on behalf of all those who have worshipped at St Helen's during 2020 – thank you for your dedicated service!

In some ways – though we have not processed together as a community or held the processional cross aloft above the heads of a church full of worshippers – the Crucifers' ministry has not changed over the past year. Instead, all of us have become increasingly involved in holding up the Cross of Christ before the worshipping community of St Helen's. Let us all hold fast to the Cross, trusting the one who laid down His life for us!

Submitted by

Matthew Bradsher

SANCTUARY GUILD REPORT

“O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: let the whole earth stand in awe of him.” Psalm 96:9

The Sanctuary Guild is dedicated to caring for the Lord’s altars, vessels, draperies, linens, and candles. Very warm thanks are owed to David Abbott, Sue Greenstreet, Doreen Hatton, David Powell, Sean Cummings, Paul Thiessen, Dick Scarth, Barbara Walker, Marion Lynn, Shannon MacRae, Carol Mason, and Irene Vavasour – all of these devoted guild members have given of their time and talents to ensure that St Helen’s worship and sanctuary reflect the splendour of God’s glory.

The guild members listed above each worked to wash the communion vessels, and the linens used in Holy Communion – purificators and lavabo towels; change the frontal, antependium and other items of ecclesiastical color to correspond with the current church season or festival. The Altar candles are oil lamps, and they must have their oil replenished regularly, their wicks’ trimmed properly. All of these tasks, and many other behind-the-scenes types of jobs that are essential to the corporate worship of St Helen’s, are the purview of the Sanctuary Guild.

During January and February of 2020, these Guild members carried out their duties with faithfulness and dedication – just as in years past. After the beginning of the pandemic and the closing of our building to most congregants, I took over the washing of Holy Communion vessels –the patens, chalices, lavabos, cruets, etc., filling the oil-candles, buying flowers for the Altar, changing the church colors, and etc.

I would like to extend my special thanks to Shannon MacRae, who has faithfully picked up our purificators and lavabo towels and returned them again – laundered and pressed – ready for use at the Altar.

Additionally, I would like to give thanks to Claire Munn, wife of Reverend Harold Munn. During Rev Munn’s time with us over Advent, Claire polished all of the silver vessels



in regular use at our Altars: the chalices, ciboriums, patens, etc. I was so impressed by the radiant gleam of the silver vessels that I was inspired to buy some brass polish, and have been working my way through all of the brass objects in regular use at our Altars: the candlesticks, Altar crosses, Missal stands, offering plate, processional cross, etc. Thanks in large part to Claire – there is a fresh lustre to our silver and brass Altar vessels and objects!

Submitted by,
Matthew Bradsher



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

This past year we had to think about stewardship very differently. The Stepping Up campaign of January 2020 run by parish council to shape our 2020 mission budget gave us a tremendous sense of trust and confidence in our collective confidence in our ongoing ministry.

During CoVid we had a spring matching-funds campaign that again showed how much we all care about God's work at St. Helen's. And though we couldn't have our usual fall potluck discussions around the mission and our support for that mission, the transition survey and Christmas gifts and pledging had a similar effect of showing us to ourselves as children of the Spirit who want to keep that flame alive in our community.

So: when we can affirm our collective support for this important work, the work of stewardship, the works of love, live on!

Liz Hodgson, Stewardship Coordinator



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