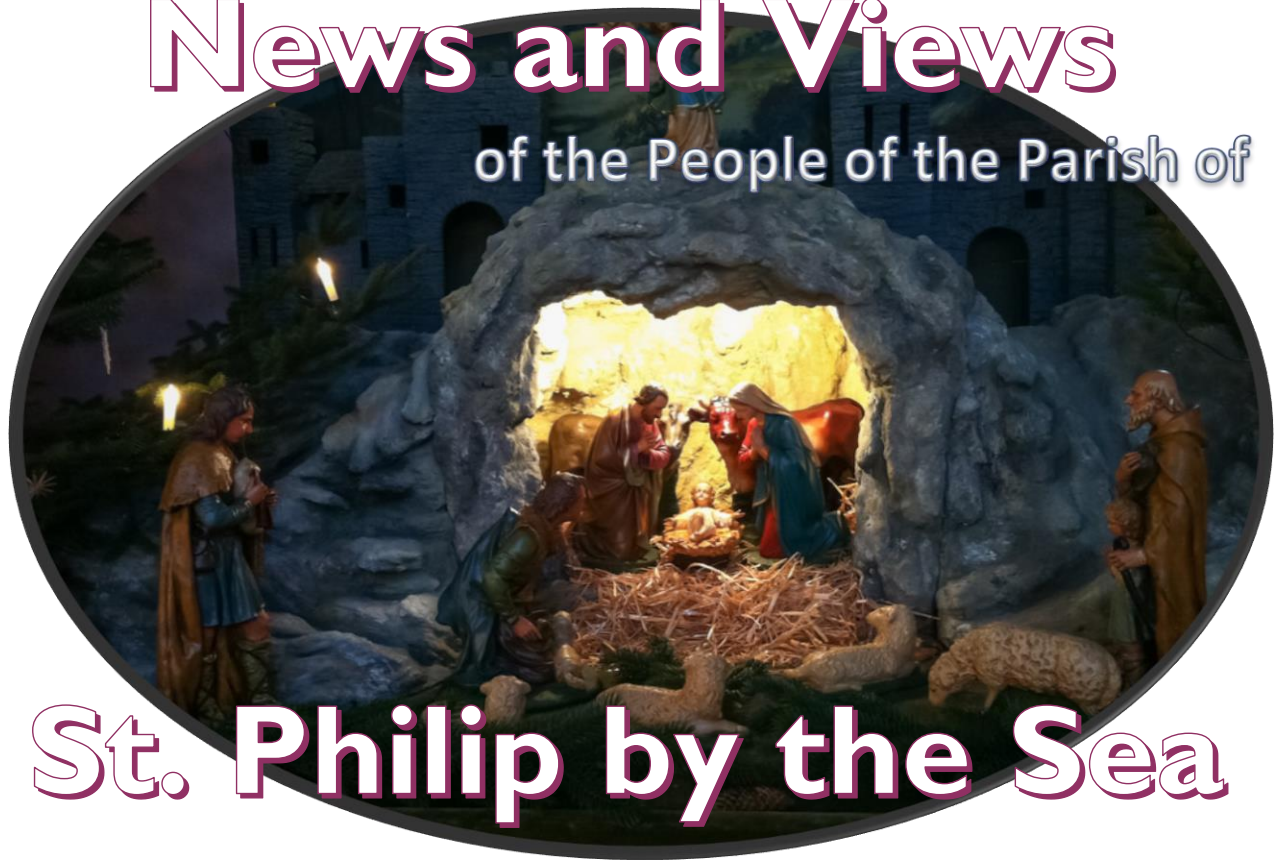


News and Views

of the People of the Parish of



St. Philip by the Sea

Christmas Issue 2017

Volume 7 issue 4

Carol Service

December 17th, 7pm

Nativity Service for all the family (come dressed as a Shepherd or an Angel or Mary or Joseph)

December 24th, 4.30pm

Christmas Eve

December 24th, 10pm

Christmas Day,

December 25th, 10am

Christmas is coming!



Three simple words which can inspire excitement, dread or panic. Christmas – is – coming! What things come most readily to mind when you hear these words? Do you think about all the things you still need to do – the presents that need to be bought, the meals that need to be planned, the cards that need to be sent? Do you think about your calendar and all the different places you will be in such a short time? Do you think about the decorations that you are putting up and the Christmas music that you hear in every shop you go into?

One of the things that comes to my mind every Christmas is how many times I will be singing some of the old and still favourite Christmas carols. So many people love to sing carols and really don't mind how often they sing them, because it won't be long before

Christmas is over and those carol sheets get put away for another year. In the meantime, though, we make the most of this short window of opportunity to sing "O Come all ye faithful" or "While shepherds watched their flocks".

And I love singing these carols, even when I know that some of them are overly sentimental and some of them are downright inaccurate when it comes to the "facts" about the birth of Jesus. "In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan." Really? I would never think of not singing this, however. "Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed." Again, the historical realities (as far as we can discern them) are a little different from the words of the hymn. I have recently come across a great article by someone who, whilst still taking the story in Luke's gospel seriously, points out that what probably happened is very different from what we see on the Christmas cards. The article is called "Jesus was not born in a stable (honest!)", by Ian Paul and can be found here:

<https://www.psephizo.com/biblical-studies/jesus-was-not-born-in-a-stable-honest/>

Even if I take all of what Ian Paul says to be accurate, does that mean I will no longer sing the old favourite carols? Of course not. The point, though, is that we shouldn't let the words of Victorian hymns completely dictate the way we understand the Christmas story. So, I encourage you to take the time as we approach Christmas to do a little bit of research for yourself. Read Ian Paul's article and perhaps look out for any others like it that might shed new light on the Christmas story. Re-read Luke's account and try and think afresh about what it describes and what it doesn't. And then, once you have done all that, come and sing as enthusiastically as ever those old great words.

"Come let us adore him – Christ the Lord!"

Hi Everyone,

Hope this finds you all well? Hard to believe another complete set of seasons has come and gone and we are off on our 18th trip. Though we will miss family and friends we are keen to get to work in Cambodia.

Last year thanks to everyone's generosity we were able to bring hundreds more children and their families clean drinking water. Together we also were able to support our ongoing programs which include: the girls home, preschool/kindergarten and rural student sponsorship program. We bought hundreds of bikes so kids could go to school as well as books and other educational needs. We built houses, toilets and floated a sinking school, supported medical care in isolated areas as well as started new computer and English classes.



This year we are hoping to do it all again and are excited that KIDS will be able to build at least 2 new water projects, many toilets for rural families, hopefully a couple of houses for very poor families as well as other needed projects yet to be determined. If possible, we are hoping to support more classrooms and continue to sponsor students so they do not have to live a life of hard labour working in brick factories.



On behalf of KIDS and ourselves we want to send you our sincere appreciation for your contributions of funds, support, volunteerism and well wishes.

We look forward to keeping you all up to date on the difference you are making in so many children and families lives.

Wishing you and yours all the very best,

Adrienne and Rick

Kids International Development Society



KIDS

kidsdevelopmentociety.org/

adrianneandrickatkids.blogspot.com/

Would you like to be more of a part of the service at St. Philip's??

We would love to have another server join us in this ministry. We give huge thanks to Jane, and appreciate her stepping forward, but there are still only four of us and we really need some extra help. It is not a hard task, it is one that I really enjoy. I have served for many different priests and although the principal is the same each priest has his, or her different ways, so if a new priest is preaching on your day, you just need to check as to whether there is anything they require you to do differently.

The first task is to light the candles on the altar, usually 10 minutes before the service starts, you also check that everything is there that is needed, wafers, wine, etc. The altar guild takes good care of this but it is important to know that nothing is forgotten. You then check that the Bible readings are marked and that the readers are all present to complete this task. If not, it is your responsibility to either read or find someone who would like to take it on

When the priest is ready you go to the back of the church to join him/her, some priests like a quiet time with you before the service, some not

You walk up with the priest and go to your seat by the window.

After each reading, you check that the bible page has been turned over for the next reader, some readers do this, some not!

After the Peace, you help the priest set the table for the communion, I actually enjoy setting the table, but this is your choice. You hand the priest, first the wafers, adding the one gluten free wafer if needed. The count is on the wall by the piano. Then the wine, followed by the water. Once the priest fills the chalices, you take the bowl and pour water over his/her hands. When this is completed you take the plate to go to the front to collect the money, putting it on the side table.

The priest gives the bread, you follow with the wine, after communion you assist in the clearing up, either consuming what is left or putting it into the ambry.

If you have already served as chalice bearer, this is a really good first step.

Albs/gowns are available in most sizes in the sacristy

You walk out with the priest, and after the service you extinguish the candles.

How often are you needed?

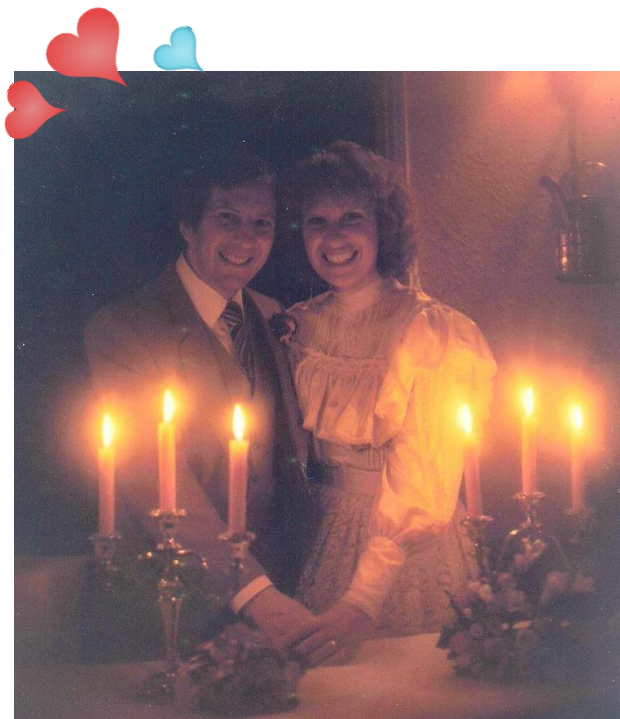
Once a month

Who do you talk to if you are interested in doing this? David or any of the servers

Liturgy Volunteering



Thank you to our volunteers who create a church service of welcome as we first enter the church and within the church service itself. We invite you to become part of a very important ministry in the church. There is always room for another person to become a **greeter**, a **sides person**, a **chalice bearer**, a **server**, say the **Prayers of the People** and to become a part of the team that **counts** the offering. Please speak to David if you feel you could help and where you feel you could fit in.



*It was 36 years ago today
my life went on a different
road, turned some corners but never
looked back*

*Thank you for everything Michael. From
Julie*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY ♥

Congratulations to you both

JESUS WAS A RADICAL
NONVIOLENT REVOLUTIONARY
WHO HUNG AROUND WITH LEPERS
HOOKERS AND CROOKS; WASN'T
AMERICAN AND NEVER SPOKE
ENGLISH; WAS ANTI-WEALTH
ANTI-DEATH PENALTY ANTI-PUBLIC
PRAYER (M 6:5); BUT WAS NEVER
ANTI-GAY, NEVER MENTIONED
ABORTION OR BIRTH CONTROL,
NEVER CALLED THE POOR LAZY,
NEVER JUSTIFIED TORTURE,
NEVER FOUGHT FOR TAX CUTS
FOR THE WEALTHIEST NAZARENES,
NEVER ASKED A LEPER FOR A COPAY;
AND WAS A LONG-HAIRED BROWN-
SKINNED HOMELESS COMMUNITY-
ORGANIZING ANTI-SLUT-SHAMING
MIDDLE EASTERN JEW.

@JohnFugelsang

Dear David

On behalf of all our family, thank you for all your work regarding Ken's Celebration of Life. It was a lovely service. And, many thanks to Frances and her kitchen crew for the reception, and to all the others involved before, during and after the service. It was so appreciated by all the family. I truly believe that our Dad lived in part to the age that he did because of the love and spiritual, emotional and physical support from all the parish of St. Philip by the Sea. Thank you all.

Thank You

In lieu of your honorarium and catering costs, please find enclosed a donation to St. Philip by the Sea.

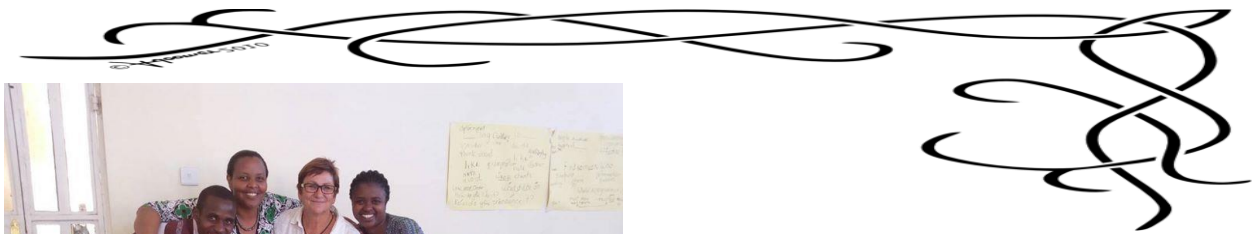
Yours sincerely,

Kathleen Flowerdew

Brian May

Stephen May

David May



Hey friends - I need your help!

As you may know, I went back to Tanzania recently. While I was there, I had an opportunity to do some unexpected teacher-training with the English teachers at a local high school. They are in dire need of teaching resources, particularly audio material to practice listening, and

technology to play it with! I said I would try to help. I'm looking for (1) people who would be willing to spend a few minutes recording stories from their English textbooks (which I would provide), and (2) mp3 compatible devices (extra smartphones, iPods, iPads, mp3 players) and speakers, for playing the stories in class. Can you help? Please email me!

Mary Wendling marywendling@shaw.ca

Hello Everyone,

Hope all is well with you and yours. We are now in Cambodia and after a few days of R&R we are back visiting KIDS programs and starting new projects. Going out to the countryside we are always struck by the contrasts of beauty and poverty. The green rice fields and red roads are



beautiful, and people use many modes of



transportation to travel to and from their destinations.



As we visit different communities we see the children coming and going to school, often walking or



riding their bikes. Many have to travel long distances and support each other along their way.



We visit very poor families living in incredibly difficult situations, working hard make



ends meet however they always greet us with hospitality and smiles.





The rainy season is coming to an end, flood waters are starting to recede dry



and both people and pets await ground.



So now we can begin to build toilets, houses, school water systems and much more to improve the lives of these hardworking people. Thanks so much to everyone for helping make these changes possible. We will keep you updated.



Until next time

Adrienne and Rick

KIDS

kidsdevelopmentsociety.org/

adrianneandrickatkids.blogspot.com/



It may seem like a long way off but the church plant sale will be held on the first Saturday in May. That means that now is the time for all the gardeners out there to start thinking about what they can contribute: from veggie and flower starts to plants grown from cuttings/slips; fancy pots to unwanted garden tools; spare seeds to planters bursting with life and even plants in need of a degree of TLC. If you're thinking of having a clear-out early in the year just let Jude know and she will arrange to have items collected and stored (email her at jude.chillman@shaw.ca or call her at 250 585 1345).

A VISIT TO THE ISMAILI CENTRE



An early morning rise to meet up with my fellow curiosity seekers to catch an early ferry and join the Victoria contingent at Tsawwassen terminal. Greeted by Naz, a humble man with a gracious air about him; powerful yet disarming, he radiates love and welcome. Name tags donned, we climb aboard a school bus to deliver us to the Ismaili Centre. Once aboard, we take turns to introduce ourselves to the group. The scenario is a perfect outward projection of the childlike wonder

beginning to blossom in me for the marvels the day is soon to reveal.

An adventure through the city brought us to a hidden gem amongst the urban sprawl. Tucked into a residential neighbourhood and sunken down to be less ostentatious and more integrated into its surrounding community: The Ismaili Jamatkhana is a juggernaut of a concrete cube with fascinating, intricate design by a group of architects, led by Bruno Freschi. The geometry of design and construction makes for an impressive and awe-inspiring effect that is also unmistakably earthquake proof. It has the feeling of majesty; simple yet opulent.

There are lavish gardens and fountains (currently switched off for maintenance) more geometric and esoteric designs inlaid into the marble courtyard, a theme which runs through every aspect of the Centre. Wherever you look is the minute detail of an artisan pouring love and flair from their soul into their work.

Our guide, Aly (clearly an apprentice of Naz who looked on as a fatherly veteran while his student learns the ropes of being Host of the tour) gives a brief history lesson and running commentary that highlights noteworthy details, while we walk through the entrance, lobby and cloak room. A sense of refined and tasteful splendour as we continue downstairs to the luxuriously decorated board room, often used by dignitaries for meetings, including Royalty, federal governors, Vancouver's mayor and councillors, while also used by the Centres own board of directors, in which women outnumber the men.

From there we are lead up to the top floor for an absolutely delicious lunch, with an optional side of heat! Chai, juice, coffee followed by scrumptious desserts. Yum! After lunch was an address from Omar, a gifted orator and poet, about what it means to be Ismaili and the Aga Khan's focus on pluralism: the similarities of Belief across all denominations as opposed to the differences, was refreshing and heart-warming. Then there was a presentation of what the Ismaili community does around the world to benefit humanity given by Mithila, a girl who is clearly on her way to be a force for good and charity in the world. The information and "behind the scenes" peek at the workings of both the Jamatkhana and of Ismaili belief were both a revelation and stereotype breaking. It feels honest and genuine with muted pride. As I see it, a major benefit of having a living prophet is the ability to have current, updated guidelines for daily life as opposed to ones that are 1700 years old and have become antiquated.

Lastly, the jewel of the tour. The Prayer Room itself. We removed our shoes and remained quiet as we file into the heart of the building. The Sacred Reverence of it hit me with a palpable force; years of prayer, devotion and connection have taken place in this room. Tears come unbidden to my eyes as we kneel or sit in a circle to learn of the magnificent details of just how much this means to this community.

The Prayer Room holds the Centres only portrait, fittingly of the Aga Khan. It really needs to be experienced personally, trying to write about it here is like trying to correctly capture a sunset with words too simple for the task.

With that the tour is complete and we quietly move back to regain personal effects and board the bus to return to the ferries and home. There is a reflective calm amongst the group, as each person absorbs and processes what they've just learned and how it will affect their own lives and beliefs. Personally, I feel there is no "right" path to Divinity. There are as many paths as there are people. Choose the way that is right for you. That does not denounce your neighbours' path as wrong. Divinity has many names. Pick the one that resonates for you and be gracious enough to allow others to do the same.

Gratitude.

Steven C. Downey



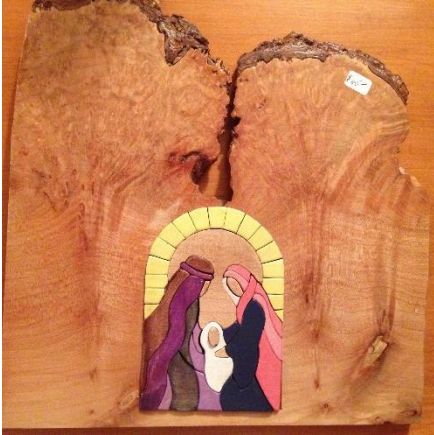
This year the Ladies' Group decided to try something new for our Christmas fund-raiser. Instead of afternoon tea with fancy cakes and sandwiches the decision was taken to try an earlier time of day and offer brunch (baked ham and cheese frittata with sausages, coffee and a home-baked muffin) alongside the bake sale and bazaar.

I am pleased to be able to say that it was a great success, with a lot of positive feedback from happy customers. 'Thank you' and 'well-done' to everyone who donated baked goods and preserves, those who turned out to help with the setting-up of the tables and chairs, those who made everything look welcoming and worth buying, the kitchen helpers and the wonderful table servers who were kept very busy as well as the people who helped return everything to 'normal' at the end so that we could have church the following day. You are all fantastic!



Jude

Beautiful Yule Logs for sale \$12 each, just call Ron (250)-619-2259, also carvings available for a limited time



7 CARDINAL RULES FOR LIFE

- 1) Make peace with your past so it won't disturb your present.
- 2) What other people think of you is none of your business.
- 3) Time heals almost everything. Give it time.
- 4) No one is in charge of your happiness. Except you.
- 5) Don't compare your life to others and don't judge them. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
- 6) Stop thinking too much. It's alright not to know the answers. They will come to you when you least expect it.
- 7) Smile. You don't own all the problems in the world