



Volume 7

Issue 4

Carol Service -

Sunday 16th December 7pm

Carols at the Lantzville Pub -

Sunday 9th December 2pm

Carols at Origin -

Wednesday 19th December 7pm

Family Nativity Service

- Christmas Eve 4:30pm

Midnight Mass -

Christmas Eve 10pm

Christmas Morning -

Christmas Day 10am



The birds were singing all along



If you were at the service on Remembrance Day, you will know that I played a powerful recording of the guns in WWI going silent at 11am on 11th November 1918. You could hear the regular bangs and thumps and then it all became silent. In that silence, you could hear birds singing. It is worth emphasising that this wasn't some sort of recreation of that moment; it was a genuine recording of what happened 100 years ago.

When I first heard that recording and noticed the song of the birds, my initial thought was that after so many years of life filled with crashes and thumps and explosions, the birds had taken the opportunity to start singing again now that the guns had fallen silent; but then I realised that the truth of the matter was a little different. In reality, the birds had always been singing; it was just that the noises of war had drowned their songs.

So often in our lives and in the life of our world, we long to hear the voice of God and the voices of the angels. “Where is God” we ask. “Why don't the angels sing to us anymore?” In particular, as we approach the Christmas season, we are reminded of the Angel Gabriel coming to Mary and announcing the news of that she would bear the child who would be the saviour of the world. Then, we hear again the story of the shepherds in the fields, keeping watch over their sheep during the dark night, who encountered angels singing “Glory to god in the highest”. Perhaps when we hear that story each year, we may feel that it would be nice to be like those humble shepherds, able to hear angelic voices singing God's praises.

Perhaps the truth of the matters is that the angels, like the songbirds in France and Belgium, have never stopped singing; it is just that our noise is drowning out their voices. It is only when we stop our fighting and struggling and create a “moment of Armistice” in our lives that the voices we have missed may have a chance to be heard once again.

Bishop Logan is calling for the Diocese of British Columbia to enter a “season of discipleship”, a time when we can, as individual Christians, as church communities and as a diocese, seek to renew and deepen our faith. As part of this season of discipleship, can I encourage you all to find the right place and time to create moments when all the striving and busyness can cease, and you can be open once again to hear the angelic voices that have never stopped singing.

“Come let us adore him – Christ the Lord!”

A Doll and a White Rose

I hurried into the local department store to grab some last minute Christmas gifts. I looked at all the people and grumbled to myself. I would be in here forever and I just had so much to do.

Christmas was beginning to become such a drag. I kinda wished that I could just sleep through it. But I hurried the best I could through all the people to the toy department. Once again, I mumbled to myself at the prices of all these toys. And wondered if the grandkids would even play with them. I found myself in the doll aisle. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw a little boy, about 5, holding a lovely doll. He kept touching her hair and he held her so gently. I could not seem to help myself, I just kept looking over at the little boy and wondered who the doll was for. I watched him turn to a woman, and he called his aunt by name and said, "Are you sure I don't have enough money?" She replied a bit impatiently, "You know that you don't have enough money for it."

The aunt told the little boy not to go anywhere, that she had to go get some other things and would be back in a few minutes. And then she left the aisle. The boy continued to hold the doll. After a bit, I asked the boy who the doll was for. He said, "It is the doll my sister wanted so badly for Christmas. She just knew Santa would bring it." I told him that maybe Santa was going to bring it. He said, "No, Santa can't go where my sister is - I have to give the doll to my Mama to take to her." I asked him where his sister was. He looked at me with the saddest eyes and said, "She has gone to be with Jesus. My Daddy says that Mama is going to have to go be with her." My heart nearly stopped beating. Then the boy looked at me again and said, "I told my Daddy to tell Mama not to go yet. I asked him to tell her to wait till I got back from the store." Then he asked me if I wanted to see his picture. I told him I would love to. He pulled out some pictures he had taken at the front of the store. He said, "I want my Mama to take this with her so she don't ever forget me. I love my Mama so very much and I wish she did not have to leave me, but Daddy says she will need to be with my sister." I saw that little boy had lowered his head and had grown so very quiet. While he was not looking, I reached into my purse and pulled out a handful of bills. I asked him, "Shall we count that money one more time?" He grew excited and said "Yes, I just know it has to be enough." So, I slipped my money in with his and of course it was plenty for the doll. He softly said, "Thank you, Jesus, for giving me enough money." Then the boy said, "I just asked Jesus to give me enough money to buy this doll, so Mama can take it with her to give to my sister. And he heard my prayer. I wanted to ask him for enough to buy my Mama a white rose, but I didn't ask him, but he gave me enough to buy the doll and a rose for my Mama. She loves white roses so very, very much."

In a few minutes the aunt came back, and I wheeled my cart away. I could not keep from thinking about the little boy as I finished my shopping in a totally different spirit than when I had started. And I kept remembering a story I had seen in the newspaper several days earlier, about a drunk driver hitting a car and killing a little girl and leaving the mother in serious condition. The family was deciding on whether to remove the life support. Now surely this little boy did not belong with that story. Two days later, I read in the paper where the family had disconnected the life support and the young woman had died. I could not forget the little boy, and just kept wondering if the two were somehow connected. Later that day, I could not help myself and I went out and bought some white roses and took them to the funeral home where the young woman was. And there she was, holding a lovely white rose, the beautiful doll, and the picture of the little boy in the store. I left there in tears, my life changed forever. The love that little boy had for his little sister and his mother was overwhelming. And in a split second a drunk driver had ripped the life of that little boy to pieces.



Thanks to Sheila Denney for this story



*“And some can pot begonias, and some can bud
a rose,
And some are hardly fit to trust with anything
that grows”*

We will be holding our 2019 plant sale on Saturday 11 May so will need the first lot of these folks to get potting and budding, sowing and growing, dividing and digging as soon as you can get out into the garden again.

The 2018 sale was a huge success thanks to all the people who donated plants, books and garden-related stuff and the wonderful crew who turned out to help on the day. We will be looking for the same help in the new year as we prepare for our sale.

If you have anything to donate please get in touch with Jude Chillman (250-585-1345 or jude.chillman@shaw.ca) or Yvonne Downey (250-751-7897 or yvonedowney@shaw.ca) and we can arrange delivery places and times.



Maureen Lawrence



Congratulations to Maureen Lawrence upon receiving and being honoured for her 65 years of service and volunteerism to Girl Guides.

Maureen started her Guiding life at the age of 6 as a Brownie at her girl's school in Belfast, Northern Ireland. She advanced to 2nd Belfast Guides, the longest operating unit in Northern Ireland, followed by Sea Rangers. Maureen was the Northern Ireland representative to an International camp in Sweden, then as the United Kingdom representative to another International camp in Button Bay, Vermont, sailing home on the Queen Elizabeth. All this before she was 18 years old!!

As a young adult, Maureen was a Tawny Owl and Brown Owl in Belfast., Upon her marriage to Caleb, they moved to Canada in 1966, and their move to Great Whale River, Quebec, she became a mentor and Guide leader to the many young girls in the village.

Relocated to Timmins, Ontario, Maureen held many positions, including Division Cookie Co-Ordinator, and Division Commissioner. Her next leap was to become the Provincial Commissioner of Ontario!! Under her leadership, with many varieties of cookies sampled at the Lawrence home, the now "mint" cookies became a sensational and scrumptious fundraiser for Girl Guides of Canada. She was the lead negotiator for the creation of the cookies, merchandising and national rollout for the presentation. Well done!

Upon retirement and the subsequent move to Nanaimo, Maureen has become a valued member of the Boomer Trefoil Guild, sharing her experiences, insight and laughter. Maureen just recently visited Great Whale River and was able to reconnect with some of her Guides from decades ago. No doubt these ladies acknowledged their Guider's guidance in life skills, commitment, and friendship that flourished while she shared her time with them, but also her dedication and concern for each one. She did make a difference.

Thank you, Maureen for sharing your laughter, love and life with us.
You are truly our model of Guiding and how to "Lend a Hand".

St Philip's has a profound presence in our Trefoil Guild...not only Maureen, but Julie Duddridge, Kevin Breaky, Deb Baker, Liz Wiley and Roberta Peterson.



Here she is Lori's second granddaughter!! Willa Joan was born on October 31st weighing in at 6 lbs 3 ounces.

Here she is with her Great Grandma Joan and happy mom and dad, Megan and Zerick.



Need a handy man? Call Ron! Skilled woodworker, painter, and yard work Call 250-619-2259 Or email at rsdowney51@gmail.com



Advent Sundays at St. Philip by-the-Sea

Hope - Sunday, Dec 2nd - Hamperville Sunday:

For the first Advent Sunday, we are asking you to consider bringing either a financial or food donation towards Hamperville. This supports the Christmas hampers that are provided to families to help them celebrate the holiday season. Please remember that for every dollar that is donated, Loaves and Fishes is able to purchase \$3 worth of food. Please mark any cheques or envelopes with "Hamperville" for this collection. If you would like to know more about Hamperville and also see how you might volunteer to help, please check out their website: Hamperville Nanaimo <http://www.hampervillenaimo.org/>

Peace - Sunday, Dec 9th - Toy Drive Sunday:

For the second Advent Sunday, we are asking you to consider bringing an unwrapped gift, book, game, puzzle or craft project for children aged newborn to teenager for the annual Toy Drive. Often gifts for the teenagers are the ones most needed. When in doubt, a gift certificate or financial donation is welcomed and allows the Toy Drive Elves in Santa's Workshop to purchase items that are most needed closer to the distribution days. Please mark any cheques or envelopes with "Toy Drive" for this collection. For more details about the Toy Drive, see their website: Nanaimo Toy Drive <https://thegreatnanaimotoydrive.ca/>

Joy - Sunday, Dec 16th Skivvies, Socks and Blankets Sunday:

For the third Advent Sunday, we are asking you to consider purchasing new, still in their packages, men's and/or women's underwear and/or warm socks. Alternatively, you could purchase a warm blanket. These items will be provided to local shelters to be distributed to those in need at this time of year.

Love - Sunday, Dec 23rd - PWRDF:

For the fourth Advent Sunday, we are asking you to consider donating to the PWRDF (The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund). The funds collected will be donated towards items in the PWRDF's gift-giving catalogue by the Outreach Group, which includes Maureen Lawrence. Please mark any cheques or envelopes with "PWRDF" for this collection. For more details about the PWRDF and how it brings joy to those around the world, please visit their website: <https://pwrdf.org/>

Worship Leadership, we need YOUR help

[Sunday Liturgical Assistants](#)

[Ministries/Worship Leadership](#)

The Sunday Assistants include Sides-people, Greeters, Readers, Intercessors who lead Prayers of the People, Servers, Chalice Bearers, and Collection Counters. These ministries contribute to the smooth running of Sunday worship services. The scheduling is done on a rotation basis, taking into account the particular ministry of participants and their availability.

Sides-people

Sides-people welcome people as they enter the Church, make sure that appropriate books are provided for worship, keep a count of numbers of congregants for the priest, assist people during collection of the offering and communion. Sides-people are also responsible for making sure the building is tidy and secure after the service.

Greeters

Greeters are responsible for making new people feel welcome and inviting visitors and newcomers to join in the time of coffee and conversation following the worship service.

Readers

Readers are responsible for the public reading of the Scripture lessons appointed for the day. St. Philip's follows the lections set out in the Revised Common Lectionary.

Intercessors

Intercessors are responsible for leading the congregation in the public Prayers of the People for the community, the world, and the Church.

Chalice Bearers

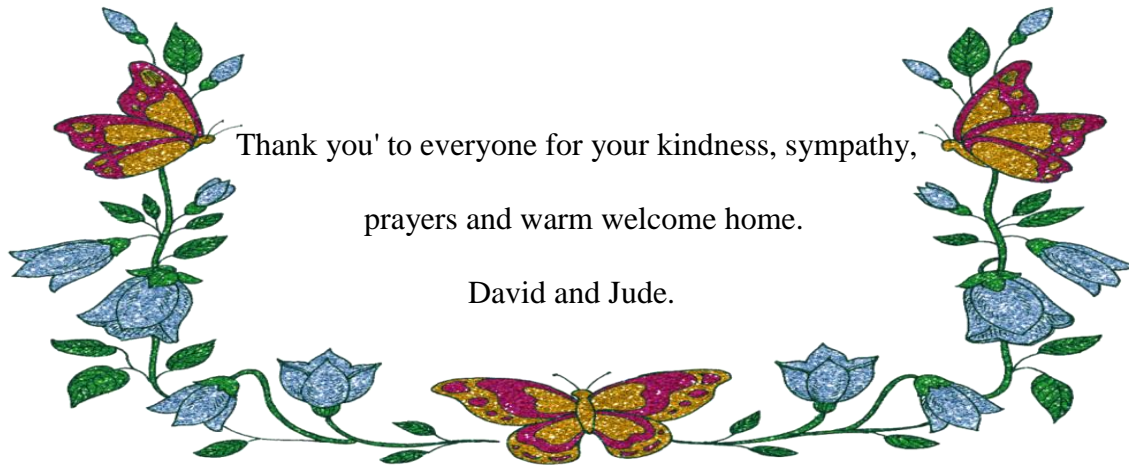
Chalice Bearers assist the priest during communion by administering the wine.

Servers

Servers assist in the preparation of the Communion Table and perform various tasks during the liturgy on behalf of the people and the priest.

Collection Counters

Collection Counters work in pairs to properly record and account for the Sunday Collection in a responsible and secure manner.



Thank you' to everyone for your kindness, sympathy,
prayers and warm welcome home.

David and Jude.

Christmas Brunch



"On December 2nd, St. Philip's Ladies' Group held the second annual Christmas Brunch, Bake Sale and Bazaar. The brunch portion of the event replaced our long time Christmas Tea 2 years ago, and has proved to be a great success. The idea of coming to a 'brunch' seems to have appealed to some of the gentlemen in the parish, and we were pleased to serve everyone with a good hearty meal. Once again this year, we prepared the 'Frittatas' on Friday, popped them in the cooler for the required overnight setting, and then cooked everything fresh on Saturday morning. We cooked 13 frittatas including 2 gluten-free/vegetarian dishes, and served each customer, at their table, with a healthy portion together with slices of tomato and fruit as well a homemade muffins. Coffee/tea and juice was also served.

The Bake Sale was once again a huge success with only a small amount left over to sell after the services on Sunday. Product was very reasonably priced and customers often headed straight to the bake tables before taking their tables for the brunch. The Bazaar tables were beautifully displayed with some new and gently used products, and as with the Bake Table, was a huge draw for customers coming to the brunch or just to buy!

The Ladies Group would like to thank everyone who donated baking for the bake sale, muffins for the brunch or items for the bazaar tables. A huge "Thank You" also goes out to all of the volunteers who came in early on Friday morning to set up the tables and chairs, prepared food, and helped with the serving and cleanup on Saturday. We had a really good turnout, and to date, after expenses, we made \$2000+. What a great event!"



Frances



Advent Acts of Kindness Calendar 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Call your grandparents, just because...	3 Say "Thank you" to the janitor at school or at the mall	4 Give someone a Hug coupon	5 Pay for a stranger's coffee	6 Donate some food to the food bank	7 Make a card for a soldier who won't get home this Christmas	8 Donate a toy to your community's toy drive
9 Make a hug out of paper and send it to someone you love	10 Make someone laugh by telling a funny joke	11 Clean up your toys or your room without being asked	12 Take cookies to the fire hall or police station	13 Smile at the people you pass today	14 Say "Hello" to your bus driver and "Thank You" when you get off	15 Tip your server generously or put some money in the tip jar
16 Put a sticky note with a positive saying on a mirror in a public washroom	17 Take a coffee for your teacher	18 Donate a book to the Children's Hospital	19 Make a thank you note and give it to a crossing guard	20 Let somebody with a couple of items go in front of you at the checkout	21 Say "Thank You" to at least 5 people today	22 Candy Cane bomb cars in a Parking lot
23 Go with some friends to a Home for Seniors to sing carols	24 Put some food outside for the birds	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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