



## ST. PHILIP'S ANGLICAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Edition: Christmas

19 December 2021

Priest-In-Charge: Canon Nancy Beale



### Growing on the Vine: Rooted in Christ, Nourished by Prayer, Maturing in Faith

*WE AIM TO BE A CHRISTIAN CENTRE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD, BRINGING MEMBERS CLOSER TO CHRIST, PROCLAIMING THE WORD AND MAKING HIS LOVE KNOWN TO ALL.*

*WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT: WELCOMING EVERYONE, HELPING THOSE IN NEED AND SUPPORTING THE ENDEAVOURS OF OTHERS.*

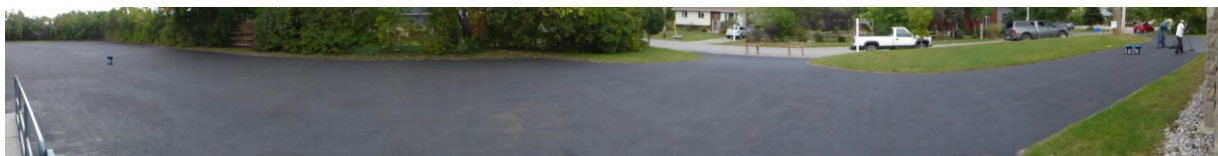


**August 15: Meeting  
Archbishop Nichols at  
St. Andrew's**

**August 28: StP Rummage Sale COVID  
version: at Bill and Sally Cowan's**



**9-13 September: Painting  
the parking lot**

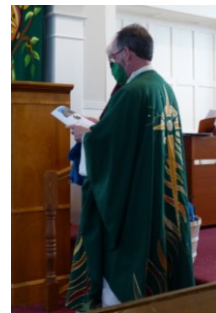




**10 October:  
Thanksgiving  
celebration**



**24 October: Last service with  
Fr. Don Davidson**



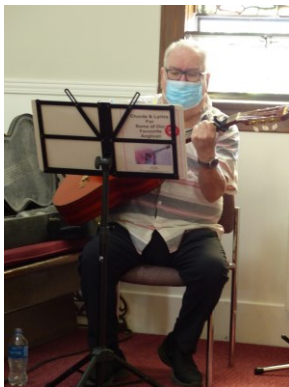
**31 October: First service with  
Canon Nancy Beale**







**17 November: Broadway  
Tunes and Kate's Rest  
Fundraiser with Fr. Don**



**Mike Langlois sang hymns  
for us on several Sundays**



**5 December:  
New Cross at  
St. Philip's,  
raised by Ted  
Foy and Bruce  
Walker**

## *Minister's message*

My brothers and sisters in Christ;

I am so excited to be preparing for my first Christmas with you, my new parish family! These last weeks we have begun the journey into Advent, lighting the Candles for Hope and Peace in our Advent wreath. I am looking forward to joining with our church decorators, as they pull out the beautiful Christmas decorations and lovingly put them in place in our church. Finally, after so many long challenging months of dealing with the necessary safety restrictions, we can finally sing and hope to continue doing so. It will be so lovely to sing Advent and Christmas hymns with you all.

As part of your personal preparations for Christmas, I would like you to consider taking some time out for quiet and prayer each day throughout December as we lead up to celebrating Christmas. In the same way that we are taking time in our schedules and making room in our homes for the tree, the nativity scene, and all your favourite Christmas decorations.... I would ask you to make room in your schedule and in your heart for Jesus as you prepare for Christmas. Even just 5 minutes a day, where you sit quietly.... Close your eyes... and just breathe. A wonderful prayer to use with each breath could be that simple Advent petition.... "Lord Jesus, Come soon."

On Christmas Eve, please plan on once again coming home to your church. We would love to celebrate the birth of our Saviour with you this Christmas season. In this rushing, busy crazy world, more than ever, we need the peace that Jesus, the Prince of Peace came to bring. Join us as we welcome the baby Jesus into the world, and help us to share the hope he brings, out into this hurting world.

This Christmas, let's once again make the birth of our Saviour the story and the power that grounds all the rest of our Christmas celebrations. Come home and celebrate Christmas with us. Christmas blessings to you, and looking forward to seeing you soon!

Your sister in Christ,

Canon Nancy Beale+

Anglican Churches of St. Andrew's and St. Philip's

## *Synod Report*

Held October 28, 29, 30, 2021

The 2021 Synod was, of necessity, a hybrid method of gathering together, not together, but involving a combination of on-line meetings and small in-person groups or "Hubs" held at various locations around the Diocese of Ontario. All members of the diocese were invited to join on-line to observe the meeting and Synod activities.

All of us have been surprised at just how much interaction has taken place through our computers and smart phones and iPads and the internet. It was really amazing that so much was accomplished at this "hybrid" Synod. There was quite a bit of waiting for connections and sound to be fixed up but I think the results were worth it. We had received prior information from the Diocesan office that we should bring a lunch and snacks on Friday. No food or beverages, except for bottled water, would be at the Hubs.

Alfie Deyo and Gord Deyo, St. Philip's Delegates

## *Wardens' report*

...In recent weeks, the COVID restrictions required by the Diocese have been eased enough to allow the congregation to sing, albeit with masks and family group distancing. It was so nice to hear everyone join in and support our group of six singers: Ted, Josef, Diane, Judy, Arnold and Fr Don. A special thank you goes to Ted and Josef who braved the soloist role for so many weeks. However, we cannot count on the guidelines to remain this way in view of the ever-changing COVID case statistics, so we will enjoy it while it lasts. Please remember if you feel unwell to stay at home and get a COVID test if you are experiencing symptoms.

We have said good bye to Fr Don and welcomed Canon Nancy as our full-time priest, in a partnership agreement with St. Andrew's, Wellington. Nancy's first public appearance in Milford (outside of a church service) was to welcome Fr. Don back for an evening of beautiful "Broadway Tunes" sung in his great tenor voice. We are most grateful to Don for his time spent with us as Interim priest, and for nourishing our souls not only with a spiritual message but also with hymns and songs using his gifted voice.

Shortly after Canon Nancy's arrival, the Wardens of St. Andrews met with Nancy, Josef and Sally to work out a schedule framework that would help Nancy plan her work weeks. She will be in Marysburgh for meetings and visiting on Thursdays and every other Tuesday; the other Tuesdays as well as Wednesdays and Fridays she will spend in the Parish of Kente. Urgent needs will be met wherever and whenever they occur. Please let Nancy know if you would like her to call or visit.

The Building Committee was busy with beautifying the church. Ted Foy, Bruce Walker and helpers raised the wooden cross on the front lawn. We are also especially thankful to Joel Walker and his company who, with Bruce Walker's guidance, made several complicated changes to the electrical system; more on both in the Building Committee's report below.

Looking forward to 2022 and the uncertain future in many places of the world, we ask you to join us in facing optimistically our future at St Philip's as we follow our calling to Love Your Neighbour. We do this by worshipping and working together; by supporting Outreach and ACW events; by spreading the word through Marysburgh Mirror and our new website; by paying heed to the guidance from the Diocesan Green Group; by making donations to the Picton Food Bank and PWRDF; by individual actions too numerous to mention; and by having some fun together as we do all of this! And we are so very blessed to have Canon Nancy to worship, work and have fun with us as we face 2022.

Warm Christmas blessings to all.

Sally Cowan and Josef Cihlar, Wardens

## *ACW report*

As the year 2021 is coming to an end, I have been reflecting on the many changes that have taken place with the ACW, here at St. Philip's church, in the County and also across Canada. The ACW ladies met in September and October to review the events held, successfully we felt, so far during the pandemic. We will meet in the church hall on January 19 to make plans for the coming year.

Kathy Morgan, President of the Hastings & Quinte Region ACW keeps in touch with us through letters and cards. I have failed abysmally in my efforts to scan and send these out to our members but I would like to quote from her October letter: "over these past many months we have probably reflected on many aspects of our own daily lives and what we used to do and what

we do now. Some, if not many of us are back in our parish churches for Sunday services that are very different from our usual services, but at least we are worshipping together”. How very well put -- different but together!!

St. Philip’s underwent many changes during the year. We said farewell to Father Don, with thanks for his many outstanding contributions to our church family. And, we are delighted to welcome Canon Nancy to our fold - we look forward to a warm and loving relationship with her!!

I’d like to wish each of us a blessed and happy Christmas!!

Alfie Deyo, President

## *Outreach report*

The committee met on November 25, and Canon Nancy joined us for the first time. We have since prepared and sent some Christmas cards on behalf of our congregation. Currently we are considering our response to reconciliation with Indigenous People in Canada. The plan is to invite Archbishop Mark MacDonald to join us for a workshop in the spring.

Ash Wednesday will be on March 1 and we hope to be able to have our traditional pancake supper in support of our diocesan refugee work (DOORS). We are discussing a picnic table and bike rack for the church yard.

On November 17 we were happy and thankful to have Fr. Don return. In support of Kate’s Rest he presented a musical evening of Broadway show tunes. We are considering ways to stay in touch and provide more support for Kate’s Rest.

November 28, the first Sunday of Advent, was White Gift Sunday at St. Philip’s. Your generous gifts have been delivered to the Salvation Army to be used in their community Christmas gift baskets.

On December 1, Canon Nancy led the Christmas service at Hallowell House. St. Philip’s provided cake and ice cream. Volunteers were happy to be able to join the residents for worship and fellowship once again. We are always grateful to Phil Robbins for his musical accompaniment!

Thank you all for your ongoing support for the Picton United Church food bank and for the Primate’s World Relief Fund.

We hope to announce our next outreach meeting early in January. All are welcome to attend every meeting.

Thank you for your generous support of our efforts.

Blessings for a merry Christmas and all the best for 2022!

Paula Walker, Chair

## 2021 Financial update to 31 July

St. Philip's donations to the Operating account in 2021 compared to 2020 (excluding Memorial fund, PWRDF, and other donations not intended to support church operations):

1 January to 31 August:	2020	\$25,462	2021	\$24,750
1 September to 30 November:	2020	\$9,010	2021	\$10,210
December:	2020	\$5,770 (4 weeks)	2021	\$3,775 (2 weeks)

All our financial obligations to the Diocese for 2021 have been met.

Elizabeth Hill, Systems Analyst /Glendon Walker, Treasurer

## Building Committee Report

The committee has kept busy ensuring that our property and grounds look loved and cared for. To enhance our physical presence in the village, we have erected a rail cross on the front lawn, and arranged for lighting to show the beautiful coloured windows in early evening.

The railed cross is firmly anchored in the rock below, and installed in the place agreed on by the whole congregation. The lighting changes were intended to make the church visible in early evening and highlighting the coloured windows. For about two hours after sunset, the lights inside the church, in the vestibule and the belltower will be turned on. Thanks to Joel Walker and his company for making the required changes in wiring and for installing a new lighting control package.

In preparation for the winter, windows were caulked with draft stop and the base of one of the west-facing windows got a new trim base. Murray, Bruce and I worked to ensure that we are ready for winter.

Ted Foy, Chair

## St. Philip's Website Update



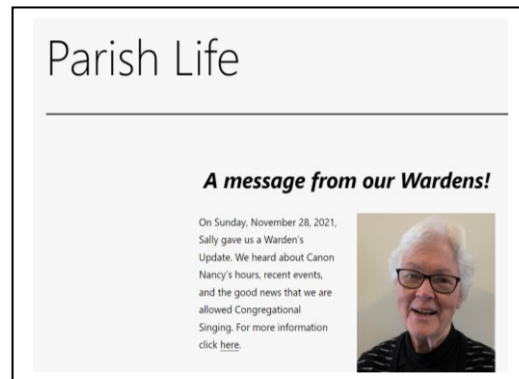
From the launch of our new website in March 2021 our focus has been on remaining true to our deep faith in Jesus, our wish to communicate with the surrounding community and our parishioners and, equally important, to be up-to-date and relevant. We hope that after visiting the site you agree that we have done well in reaching these goals! We have been keeping our **Welcome** page current and relevant to what is currently happening at St. Philip's. You may have noticed that on many websites you visit the homepage doesn't change. We wanted to be different, so we update our homepage weekly or more often. Got a suggestion for something we should add to the homepage? Send it along to [contact@stphilipchurch.ca](mailto:contact@stphilipchurch.ca)



We have recently added **Parish Life**, a section on worship activities. Here you can find our **Recorded Services**, a copy of the **Prayers of the People**, and our monthly **Prayer Circle** prayers. You will notice that we do not include any parishioner personal information in the Prayers of the People or the Prayer Circle.

Lastly, and most importantly, we keep our **Worship** page up-to-date and provide an easy way to find our current services. This includes the type of service we are having on Sunday (Holy Communion or Morning Prayer), the priest leading the service, and readings for the week. We also add a quote from the Gospel for the week, and food for thought in preparing for the service.

We would also like to point you to our **Posts** page. This is where we have articles and

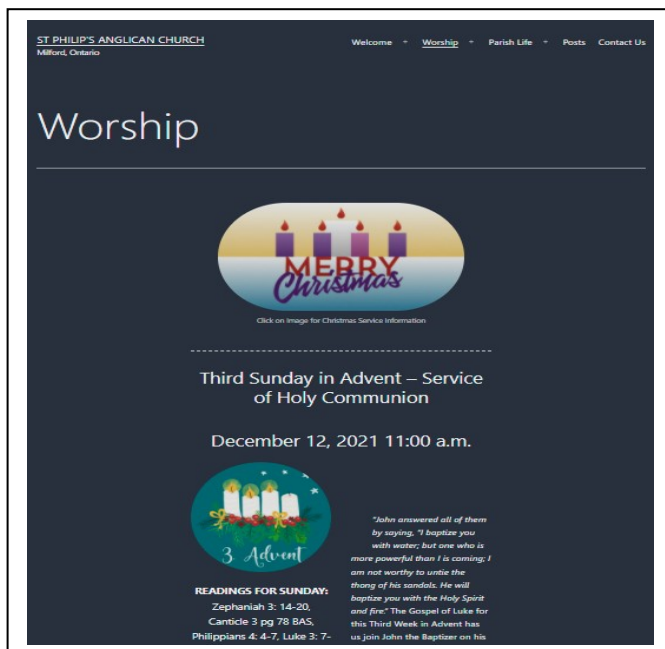


commentary on various events in our church, in the Diocese, and important happenings in Canada.

We now know that our website is a helpful communication tool. Since launching in March 2021 we have had over 4,400 visitors to our site, and over 14,000 'clicks' on various pages.

All this is very good news, as we share with our community and the world our love of God and His creation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Elizabeth Hill, Webmaster



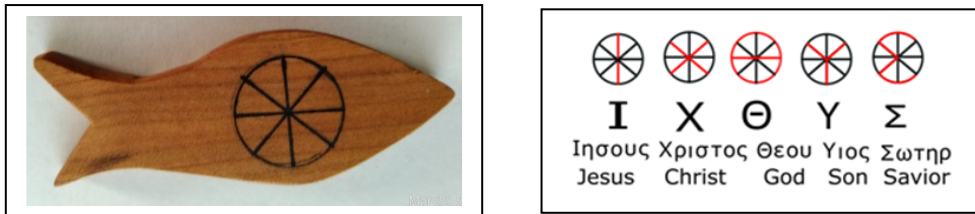
## *E transfers and symbols*

Starting during the pandemic and approved by the Vestry this February, donations through electronic funds transfer are now used in our church. It is a convenient way to make contributions, not affected by changes in COVID response rules or attendance limitations, and is increasingly used in the church. However, as a new way of doing things it may seem impersonal and detached from the usual experience of placing a gift on the collection plate to be blessed.

To partly deal with this limitation and using experience from other churches, we have provided an alternative to envelopes: a small fish with a drawing which contains the word "ichthys". It is based on the Greek phrase "Iesous Christos, Theou Yios, Soter." Translated "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior," the first letters of each word spell out the Greek word for "fish." The appearance of the phrase appears in Christian art and literature as early as the second century,



and legend has it that Christians would use the fish symbol to identify each other when they were persecuted. The drawing below shows individual letters embedded in this drawing:



E transfers are used increasingly in the County churches and in the diocese because of the convenience and because they help the church to more easily maintain track of contributions as well as to manage financial obligations. We hope that the 'fish' will help our members to make wider use of this 'new' way, while maintaining links to the past experience. The 'fish pool' is kept at the entry desk near the front door.

Josef Cihlar

### *Reflections on Matthew 6:25-34\**

This text from Matthew's Sermon on the Mount is somewhat baffling.

*"Do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear."* Easier said than done! Who among us has not worried or continue to worry about any number of things. But for the poor of first-century Palestine; and many in our world today, a basic need of clothing and food was and still is a concern.

Yet here we have Jesus telling us not to worry. Bob Marley's song "Don't worry, Be happy!" is one of many songs and slogans telling us not to worry. Is Jesus telling us it is ok to leave everything to chance? Is he telling us to be lazy or do nothing to ensure our well being? Is he telling us to have a happy-go-lucky attitude to everything?

I do not think this parable is an invitation to plain old laziness.

I think here Jesus is warning us about inactive anxiety. He doesn't want us sitting around twiddling our thumbs in worry, or to be scurrying around trying to secure our life with material things. God knows that we need food and clothing for our health and well being but these things should not become for us an alternative god. Life is more than food and clothing. Jesus calls us to a different set of values, different priorities.

The author of Matthew gives us exaggerated examples of how things work out by not worrying: the birds of the air neither sow nor reap and yet they are fed, the lilies of the field neither toil nor spin and yet they grow and look beautiful.

God cares for and feeds the birds of the air. Yet the birds of the air, even animals and humans are constantly threatened by ever-increasing wild fires, floods, mud slides, hurricanes, tornados, civil wars and persecution - real threats to this world which God has provided for our use. A world, sadly, which we have abused and misused. A world that does not seem to care. Yet, even so, we continue under the watchful care of a faithful, compassionate God.

Jesus' commandment is not a call away from common sense and basic prudence, rather it is a call away from an attempt to secure life through human effort, especially in terms of material goods. It is a call to God and godliness – to relate to God and to form life out of that relationship; a relationship that extends to all of God's creation. The Dalai Lama writes: "Because we all

share the small planet Earth, we have to learn to live in harmony and peace with each other and with nature.”

Jesus calls us away from unnecessary anxiety over the needs of our daily life, to a complete concern with God’s kingdom and righteousness. To place effort in acquiring goods only for one’s self may distract from seeking righteousness and justice around us. As Mother Teresa famously said, “If you can’t feed a hundred people, then feed just one.”

In one of the articles on the Seasons of Creation, I read *“It is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through repenting, repairing, and rejoicing together. Jesus tells us that God will take care of us....so it is to us to take care of God’s creation and God’s justice in the world.”* He is telling us that our priority should be to strive first for the kingdom of God and God’s righteousness. As the hymn says, if we do this, all other things shall be given unto us. Alleluia!

Rev. Fran Langlois

\* Provided at Editor’s request

**Editor’s note:** I feel fully justified in re-using the sentence from the August 2021 Newsletter: “Although still hampered by COVID rules, this newsletter shows that St. Philip’s congregation continues to fulfil its mission with determination, overcoming obstacles with creativity, enthusiasm and perseverance.”

Josef Cihlar < [robat58@kos.net](mailto:robat58@kos.net) >

Photo credits: Elizabeth Hill, Josef Cihlar