

ST PHILIP'S POST

DUNBAR'S ANGLICAN COMMUNITY

THE LENTEN PRACTICE OF ALMSGIVING

By The Ven. Dr. John Bailey

At our recent Annual Meeting, many expressed concern at restraints in our Parish Budget. The Diocese is equally concerned with a general decline in the number of those committed to giving substantially to the life of the Christian community.

On April 1, the Bishop has arranged for a Diocesan Stewardship Day and we have been invited to send a delegation to an event designed to help all parishes in the Diocese to encourage members to express their support of the work of the Church in substantial ways. When I was first ordained there was a great deal of conversation about striving to give 10% of income to the life of the Church. It was said that 30 families tithing at this rate could support an entire parish. While there are many reasons most of us do not achieve such lofty goals (high costs of housing, fixed incomes in retirement, other family responsibilities) all of us can find some percentage of our incomes that works.

In Lent, we are asked to consider how and why we give money for the life of the Church. We have no choice about taxes. We can choose where we give our money away. Giving money away is a joyful experience. May your lives be filled with the joy of giving.

MARCH 2016

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THE FACE IN THE FONT – AN EASTER MYSTERY

By The Revd. Dr. Marilyn Hames

Finally--after six months of classes and preparation, I joined the other adults being baptized at the Easter Vigil. This was a big deal--a big, grown-up decision worthy of a new dress and bubbly in the fridge. Maybe that's why I felt both excited and nervous. We were all pretty quiet, lost in our own thoughts sitting, or rather trying to sit on the tiny chairs in the Sunday School room as we waited to be summoned to join the procession. That's when I started to lose my nerve--I did not feel 'holy enough' and the feeling of being 'unworthy' (so contrary to the Gospel message of being loved and accepted) mounted as the minutes ticked by.

Then suddenly, before I could escape, the Archbishop popped his head in, said a prayer with us and we were ushered into our places in procession alongside our 'sponsors' (aka godparents). Anyone who has been to the full version of the liturgy for the Great Vigil of 1 Easter will know it is amazingly beautiful, but very long--and that is part of its unique beauty--an amazingly profound once-a-year (and for me, once-in-a lifetime) spiritual experience, never to be forgotten.

The build-up to the point where the Baptisms took place was fantastic, but that uneasy feeling of not being 'holy enough' grew to a crescendo as we gathered around the font and one by one, my fellow classmates and candidates bent forward for the Archbishop to baptize them. Come my turn, I was rooted to the spot until my godfather gave me a hefty shove in the back and I stumbled headlong into the wooden font sloshing the water about in its silver bowl. Grabbing hold of it to steady myself, I found myself facing head-down into the surface of the water. Gradually, as the ripples calmed down a face appeared. But who was it? Christ staring out of the water of Baptism? Me looking into it? Both of us merging into one? It remains a mystery.

Straightening up, I looked around and everyone's face glowed with a beautiful light--but apart from the Paschal Candle and a minimum of safety lighting, the Cathedral was in darkness. Yet another mystery--what was the peculiar light that shone brightly in the darkness? The light of Christ?

For me, Baptism was a life-changing experience, but most Christians I know were baptized as infants so have no memory of it. Instead, perhaps they recall their Confirmation and the classes that prepared them for it. Others, adults mainly, have beautiful memories of their Reaffirmation-- something available to any confirmed person.

Over the years, we have experimented with a number of formats for adult Baptism/Confirmation/Reaffirmation preparation--everything from a structured programme including classes, workshops and retreats. This year we decided to invite anyone who felt called to take any of these steps to contact one of our clergy who would mentor them through the process. It is still not too late, at least if you are prepared to do some guided reading and spend time discussing various aspects of our faith and the Christian life with us. Lent is 'prime time' to focus on matters of faith, so if you want specific help please let John, Clare, Pitman or myself know ASAP.

¹ See the BAS pp. 322-333, plus p. 192 ff. for the Eucharist. Some Parish Churches, including St. Philip's use an abbreviated version, and/or offer parts of the liturgy as separate services.

MOTHERING SUNDAY AND SIMNEL CAKE

By The Ven. Dr. John Bailey

The Fourth Sunday in Lent is variously known in the U.K. as Mothering Sunday or Refreshment Sunday. It falls in the middle of Lent and includes a number of traditions, some dating back hundreds of years. One of these is the Simnel Cake – a light fruit cake including two layers of marzipan, one in the middle and one on top. A recipe is available below.

The term ‘Mothering Sunday’ developed from the readings set for this Sunday in the Book of Common Prayer. The Epistle is from Galatians 4.26: Jerusalem which is above is free; which is the mother of us all. This Sunday attracted to it ideas of returning to your ‘mother’ Church on this Sunday. People went to either their parish Church or Cathedral on this day, often accompanied by their mothers. In the 19th century those ‘in service’ were given the day off from their duties in order to spend the day with their families. They baked a simnel cake and picked spring wildflowers on their way home to give to their mothers.

For March 26, I invite all parish bakers to make a simnel cake and bring it with them for coffee hour following the service. The same cake is often used to celebrate Easter, decorated with 11 balls of marzipan, one for all the disciples except Judas. Mary Berry’s BBC recipe follows:

Mary Berry's Simnel Cake (courtesy BBC)
By Mary Berry From Mary Berry's Easter Feast

Ingredients

For the cake

- 175g/6oz light muscovado sugar
- 175g/6oz butter, softened, plus extra for greasing
- 175g/6oz self-raising flour
- 3 large free-range eggs
- 50g/1¾oz ground almonds
- 3 tbsp milk 100g/3½oz sultanas
- 100g/3½oz glacé cherries, quartered
- 100g/3½oz dried apricots, cut into small pieces
- 2 tsp mixed spice powder

For the topping

- 450g/1lb golden marzipan
- 3 tbsp apricot jam
- 1 free-range egg, beaten

Method

Preparation time: less than 30 mins

Cooking time: over 2 hours

Serves: 8-10

Dietary: Vegetarian

Traditionally simnel cakes are very rich but this one is a bit lighter but just as flavourful.

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 160C/140C Fan/Gas 3. Grease a 20cm/8in round, deep-sided, loose-bottomed tin with butter and line the base with baking paper.
2. Put the cake ingredients into a large bowl and beat together until well incorporated. Spoon half the mixture into the prepared tin and level the surface.
3. Roll one-third of the marzipan to the same size as the base of the tin and place on top of the cake mixture.
4. Spoon the remaining cake mixture on top of the marzipan and level the surface. Bake for 1 3/4-2 hours or until golden-brown on top and firm in the middle. If the cake is beginning to brown but not cooked through cover it with tin foil. Leave the cake to cool for 10 minutes before removing from the tin.
5. Heat the apricot jam in a pan, then brush the top of the cooled cake with a little warm jam. Roll out half of the remaining marzipan to fit the top of the cake. Place the marzipan on the cake and use your thumb to crimp around the edges.
6. Make 11 balls from the remaining marzipan and place these around the edge of the cake fixing them to the marzipan with a little beaten egg.
7. Brush the marzipan with the egg and glaze under a hot grill for about 5 minutes (turning the cake round to ensure even browning). You can do this using a cook's blowtorch if you prefer.

ABENDMUSIK LENTEN VESPERS*By Michael Murray*

This year, Abendmusik Chamber Choir presents an evening Vespers for Lent in the church on Sunday, March 12th at 7:30 pm. I have been conducting this choir of (mostly) Mennonites for six years now. Usually we present services at Knox

United but this year circumstances there have changes so we are trying it at St. Philip's. This presents an advantage: as the organ lends itself to performances with music for accompaniment and St. Philip's acoustics are second to none. Please join us for an amazing service with music featuring the English composer Charles Stanford as well as compositions from the Baroque and Renaissance. Brian Mix will accompany us on 'cello and Alastair Smith will be our organist.



ON BENDED KNEE

By Adele Wonnick

The Washing of the Feet
On bended knee,
as if in prayer,
we wash each other's feet
acknowledging your Holy Spirit
living within each one of us,
each one a temple of your Spirit.
In our love for you, for one another,
we serve you, O Lord,
by serving one another
on bended knee.



We wash your feet, O Lord.
But who am I
that some one else should wash my feet?
I am unworthy, I feel unworthy,
to have my feet be washed.
And yet,
humbled,
I allow another person
to kneel down
and wash my feet
acknowledging your love for me,
the love we share
by washing one another's feet
in our love for you,
as if in prayer
on bended knee.

ANGLICAN FOUNDATION OF CANADA CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

The Most Reverend Fred J. Hiltz, Primate of Canada, will be in Vancouver from May 25th to May 28th, to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Anglican Foundation of Canada. Judy Rois, Executive Director, and the Board of Directors will be joining him.

There will be three events during the visit:

- On May 25th at 5:45 pm there will be a Choral Evensong, followed by a Wine and Cheese Reception and Annual General Meeting at Christ Church Cathedral, located at 690 Burrard Street.
- May 27th A Wine and Cheese Reception and the Official Opening of *(in)finite: A Canadian Textile Exhibition* at Christ Church Cathedral. Details on the Exhibition are below.
- May 28th The Most Reverend Fred J. Hiltz will be the guest preacher at Christ Church Cathedral for their Choral Eucharist, which begins at 10:30 am.

(in)finite: Exploring the finite limitations of humanity and the ineffable, infinite nature of the divine. A juried exhibition inviting artists working in fibre media to submit artwork that:

- ❖ Connects the artist with their spirituality
- ❖ Is designed for meditation, personal devotion, community prayer or public worship.

The exhibition will include perspectives from First Nations. For more information visit the Anglican Foundation of Canada's website: www.anglicanfoundation.org/infinite

MORE ABOUT OUR REFUGEE FAMILY

By Mary Lymburner

As most of you know, just before Christmas St. Philip's submitted an application to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) for the sponsorship of Lama, a young widow from Syria, now in a refugee camp in Lebanon, and her four children, daughters Sedra, 14, and Doha, 12, and sons Majd, 10, and Ahmad, 9. We have applications ready for her parents, Nasriddin and Fatmeh, and her brother, Ward, although we have not definitely committed to include the brother. We are awaiting clearance from IRCC to submit these applications. These eight people form one household in the camp and would like to come to Canada together. The applications must be processed by the government and security and medical examinations done before they can come here. This may take about a year.

This family came to our attention because Fatmeh's brother, Said, and his family were among the 25,000 Syrian refugees chosen to come to Canada by February 29, 2016. They were sponsored jointly by the government and a group of North Shore churches. They left many relatives behind in the camp, and asked their sponsors if they knew anyone who could sponsor their niece, Lama, and her children.

In the process of putting together the applications, which involved my interviewing Lama and her parents and brother with the help of an Arabic interpreter by phone from the home of her uncle in North Vancouver, I learned something of this family's story.

Their situation reflects two refugee crises decades apart. Lama's grandparents on both sides were born in Haifa, Palestine. When Israel was created in 1948 they were among those who fled. They were teenagers at the time. They went to Damascus, married, and raised families. Although they and their descendants could not become Syrian citizens, and continued to be considered Palestinians, it seems that they were able to live and work in Syria without too many restrictions. Nasriddin earned a living as a taxi driver. Fatmeh stayed home and raised six children. Their oldest child, Lama, married Mohammad who worked with Nasriddin in his taxi business. Mohammad was a Syrian citizen.

Life was going along normally until early in the Syrian civil war, likely early in 2012, when Lama's husband, Mohammad, was murdered. The family seems unclear as to the motive or what factions were involved. It was a time of chaos in their part of Damascus. Lama's house was burned down and various family members threatened. She and her children moved in with the parents. In early 2013, when their neighbourhood was being bombed, the whole household fled. They made their way to Lebanon and sought refuge in a refugee camp there. Before and after them many extended family, members made their way to this same camp.

This refugee camp in Lebanon has been home to Palestinian refugees for decades. It is now so overcrowded that free education is not provided for the children of these newcomers from Syria. Lama's children have not gone to school since they left Syria. The Palestinians in Lebanon face many restrictions in where they can live and work.

Sponsoring this large family will be a challenge for St. Philip's. We expect to need at least \$50,000, likely more, for one year of support. Making a good life here will be even more of a challenge for this family and they

will need a lot of help. No one in the family speaks English. The adults, both women and men, and Lama's daughters have only about four years of education each. The children will be far behind in school. But we are hopeful. Their relatives on the North Shore seem to be responding well to similar challenges. The father has found work. All are learning English.

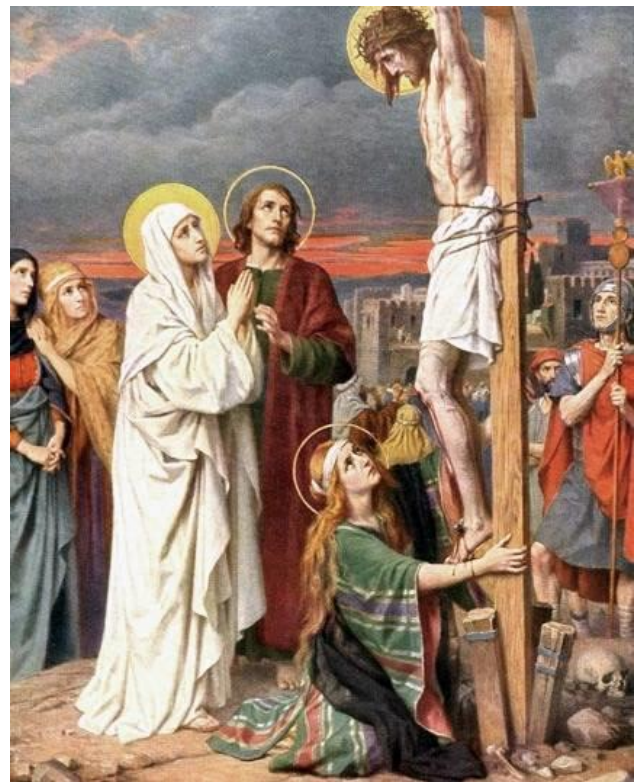
Contributions can be made to St. Philip's Refugee Fund. Please make cheques payable to St. Philip's and mark Refugee Fund on the envelope as well as the memo line.

STABAT MATER

By Michael Murray

The enumeration of the Seven Sorrows of Mary's life is said to have evolved from the devotion of the Servites. They are: Simeon's prophecy (Luke 2: 34-35), the flight into Egypt (Matthew 2: 13-15), the three days' loss of the Holy Child at Jerusalem (Luke 2: 41-50), meeting Christ carrying the cross at Calvary, standing at the foot of the Cross (John: 19-27), the descent of Christ from the Cross, and the entombment of Christ.

"The *Stabat Mater* is universally recognized as the tenderest and most pathetic hymn of the Middle Ages. In simple and vivid language it represents the Mother of the Redeemer plunged in grief and weeping beneath the Cross on which he was suffering an unmerited and agonizing death. The historical event is narrated in the first, second, and fourth stanzas. The remaining strophes are made up of reflections, affections, petitions and resolutions arising from the contemplation of Our Lord's bitter suffering and death." (Britt, Hymns of the Breviary and Missal)



Pergolesi's (1710 - 1736) composition Stabat Mater dates from 1735-36 and was composed in a Franciscan monastery near Naples, where Pergolesi spent the last months of his life dying from consumption. He died at the age of 26.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY

By The Right Reverend Melissa M. Skelton

I'm writing to thank St. Philip's for its continued support of hospital chaplaincy at Vancouver General Hospital, and specifically for the generous contribution the parish made to that important ministry.

This chaplaincy makes a difference in the lives of many people, and it would not be possible without your commitment.

BE STILL... SEE...

By the Rev'd. Dr. Marilyn Hames

Be still and know that I am God....

Be still and know that I am...

Be still and know that I...

Be still and know that...

Be still and know...

Be still and...

Be still...

Be...



See, I am making all things new...

See, I am making all things...

See, I am making all...

See, I am making...

See, I am...

See, I...

See,...

Meditation and mindfulness are very fashionable spiritual practices (or forms of prayer) common to a number of religions--including Christianity. Perhaps this Lent is a time to explore and enjoy their many benefits. For a starter--find a quiet spot and comfortable posture (standing, sitting, kneeling or lying flat, whichever is easiest in trying to keep a straight back and neck), relax using deep-breathing, a mantra and/or visualization to help, decide whether you are going to dedicate the next 10, 15 or 20 minutes to 'rest in God's presence'--then go for it, just do it. There is an accumulative effect, so the more often and regularly you do it the better. How about daily in Lent?

Between now and Easter I will be offering a number of 'pop-up' sessions on various meditation styles and prayer forms, announcing them on Sundays and in the bulletin--so stay tuned.

In the meantime, you will find two photos with accompanying meditations based on scripture. After preparing yourself as described above, study the image for a minute, then say each line very slowly allowing at least one minute between them to savour the divine silence and wisdom of that 'still, small voice'. End with a simple 'Thank you!'

If you like to be creative, pair your own photos or favourite pictures with lines of scripture or poetry to make your personal prayer-cards or personalized Easter cards.

God bless,

Marilyn

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

It was a special winter this year as our children and families once again brought the ministry of the St. Philip's Christmas Pageant to the Dunbar neighbourhood. This year we had quite a few new participants, and all of our readers were magnificent. We were also so proud to share the musical talents of our pick-up children's choir, who performed a lovely piece by John Rutter. I am deeply grateful to all those who were involved and who made it such a special night for the people of our community, particularly Laurie Cassie, Rebecca Gregg, Michael Murray, and the rest of the team of parents and children who worked so hard to provide this deeply appreciated and respected ministry to our friends and family in Dunbar.

We will be continuing our regular church school programming into the new year. The biggest change so far has been to our intergenerational services, which are now simpler and more geared toward integration. We have scheduled several "Kids stay in Church" Sundays and will be working to include their leadership.

Youth group and Open Gym are continuing and we are still looking for a bar fridge in good condition for the youth room! If anyone has a spare or one they are hoping to upgrade please let us know!

Most people are aware that children and youth these days are expected to take an active service role in their community, and ours are no exception. You may also know that last year, entirely of their own volition, the youth group put together a bottle drive and donated the proceeds (just over \$150!) to the Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative, which seeks to eradicate the recruitment and use of child soldiers around the world.

Shortly before Christmas they announced a new bottle drive, which so far thanks to your help has been an unparalleled success! The youth are certain that they will raise a far greater amount – perhaps even twice as much! – and are pleased to share that the money will be going to the St. Philip's refugee fund. If you have any more bottles do please pass them on to our very generous young people, and thank you for all your help!

Last but not least, now's the time of year to think about confirmation! If you or your child are interested in confirmation please let Clare, John, or Marilyn know!

HARRY POTTER AND THE PARISH PRIEST

By Caitlin Reilley Beck

This year, a group of 65 young people and leaders spend Family Day Weekend together at Sorrento Centre. Unfortunately, due to closed roads and weather, we had to delay our departure from Friday evening until Saturday morning, but once we arrived, we were still able to do most of the planned program. Our guest speaker, the Rev. Shalome MacNeill Cooper, used the Harry Potter stories to examine prejudice, racism, activism, literacy and justice in both plenary sessions and small group workshops. She, along with your own Rev. Clare Morgan, led morning and evening prayer as well as our Sunday morning Eucharist with the support of a music team composed of young

people and youth leaders. The whole weekend had a Harry Potter theme and many of the workshop, activities and games took great advantage of that, and explored different points of connection between faith and life using the world of Harry Potter.

Workshops included Harry Potter and Literacy; Defense Against the Dark Arts: The Myth of Redemptive Violence; Hogwarts Hospitality; Care of Magical Creatures; and Magic and Theology. This year's delayed start meant that we had less free time for rest and reflection than usual, but both Saturday and Sunday evenings were unscheduled time and allowed participants to unwind.

We were pleased this year to have youth and leaders attend from 26 different parishes in our Diocese and beyond. I believe that our winter retreat is an important opportunity for young people to make friends beyond their own parish, with those who might have a different experience of church life – it can be a new and inspiring experience of the Body of Christ. I am especially grateful to leaders who come even without youth from their parishes. As we have many parishes who send youth without adult leaders, their presence is especially necessary to ensure we have enough leaders to make these events happen.

This retreat is held annually and organized by the leadership of the Diocesan Youth Movement with support from the staff of Sorrento Centre and the council of the BC and Yukon Anglican Youth Movement. In an effort to better connect these retreat experiences with ongoing parish life, I am writing to let you know a bit about what happened at the retreat and to invite you to reach out to those members of your parish who were there to hear about their own experiences.

A HOLY LENT

By The Ven. John Bailey

In New Testament accounts of the Baptism of Jesus we catch a glimpse of the vision he received in that moment. We hear of the heavens opening and a voice proclaiming Jesus as the beloved Son of the Father. A dove descends from heaven and remains on him, an image of the Holy Spirit walking with Jesus as he reveals the vision he has received in his Baptism. Even Jesus needed time to understand the significance of mystery in his life. He went into the desert for forty days and forty nights and there he works out the implications of what he has seen when the heavenly doors were torn open.

Saul walks along the road bent upon the destruction of the community of people who have found themselves in relationship with Jesus. He is struck blind. In that moment, he has a vision of the Risen Christ asking why Saul is persecuting him. Following his conversion experience he leaves for Arabia where he spends the next three years trying to make sense of the vision he has seen.

Lent began early on in the story of Christianity as a means of preparation for the great festival of Easter. It is a season recalling stories of conversion and invites both Christians and those desiring to deepen their relationship with Christ to practice spiritual exercises. Our Ash Wednesday services give an indication of the sort of exercises

long practiced in this season: self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as well as reading and meditating on the word of God.

As many of you are aware we had hoped to have The Rt. Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Rowell, retired Bishop of Europe, with us for a week of our Lenten journey (Lent 3 through Lent 4). Last month Bishop Rowell was forced to cancel due to an unexpected health problem in his life. In his most recent correspondence with me he is awaiting the result of a lung biopsy and has begun radiation treatment on his spine. He is using his time of waiting to write a new book.

As part of our preparation for the visit we ordered in copies of Bishop Rowell's Lenten book first published in 2002. The book entitled **Flesh, Bone, Wood** consists of readings and meditations for every day in Lent. The practice of daily meditation with a focus on events leading to the crucifixion of Jesus is ancient.

In our age, many psychologists have discovered the value of meditation in calming the brain and enabling the development of new paths for healthy living. The practice of **Mindfulness** has roots in Buddhist monastic practices. The connection between Christian and Buddhist traditions of prayer has long been observed by monks in both traditions. The Rev. Tim Stead of the Diocese of Oxford has been teaching a Christian form of Mindfulness for several years and last summer published his book: **Mindfulness and Christian Spirituality – Making space for God**.

We are thankful for the kindness of the Rev. Dr. Richard Topping, Principal of the Vancouver School of Theology, for agreeing to preach at our services on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Dr. Topping teaches Reformation Theology and this year marks the 500th year since Martin Luther first pinned his thesis to the door of the parish Church in Wittenburg. That same Sunday marks the middle of Lent and an article elsewhere in this newsletter highlights one of the English traditions associated with this day. It is my hope that we are all able to both welcome Richard and enjoy a time of fellowship following the service.

On Wednesday evenings in Lent we have invited members of the Roman Catholic Parish of the Immaculate Conception to join us for a Lenten Study of the document: **Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ**. The original theme of our parish mission with Bishop Rowell was: Walking with Mary in the Way of the Cross. Marilyn will work with the theme using art, Clare will begin each evening with a form of Vespers, and John will lead discussion of an important shared document between our two Christian communities (hopefully helped by Father Paul). On Saturday March 25th (The Feast of the Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary) at 2:00 p.m. Michael Murray has arranged for a performance of Pergolesi's **Stabat Mater**. It will be a deeply moving experience and Michael believes the voices are amongst the finest in Canada today.

Finally, if any of you are struggling to find a suitable way in which to establish a Lenten practice, feel free to approach any of the clergy for advice.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH, APRIL & MAY

March

1st Ash Wednesday, 7:30 pm
 12th Abendmusik Vespers, 6:30 pm
 25th Stabat Mater Performance, 2 pm

April

9th Passion Sunday
 13th Maundy Thursday Service
 29th Rummage Sale
 30th St. Philip's Day

May

14th Mother's Day

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Caretaker:

Gerry Windsor

Wardens: Craig Wilson,
 Conrad Guelke

Associate Wardens: Charlotte French,
 Debbie Matheson

Holy Week and Easter Services

April 9: Palm/Passion Sunday Services 8 am and 10 am.

Holy Week:

April 10: Service of Holy Communion at 10 am.
 April 11: Service of Holy Communion at 10 am.
 April 12: Service of Holy Communion at 10 am.
 April 13: Maundy Thursday Service at 7 pm
 (a light supper will be served in the Fireside Room at 6 pm)

April 14: Good Friday Service for families at 10 am.
 The Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 12 noon.

April 15: Easter Vigil at 7 pm.

April 16: Service of Light & First Eucharist of Easter at 7 am
 Easter Sunday Service at 10 am

From the Parish Registry November to March

Burial

Donald Harvey
 Howard Lear

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



From the Envelope Secretary

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

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

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

Easter Offering

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

www.stphilipsdunbar.com