



ST PHILIP'S POST

DUNBAR'S ANGLICAN COMMUNITY

AUTUMN LEAVES

By The Rev'd. Stuart Hallam

Welcome to this edition of the Post!

I hope that you have had a very relaxing summer and are now looking forward to a change of season as we move into the fall? The autumn is my favourite season, a time of rapid change, of beauty and colour, and of preparation for the winter...the same will be true for us as a community at St. Philip's.

Since becoming rector, I have been hugely impressed by the passion and commitment of so many within our congregation and have been 'dreaming dreams' about the possibilities of what can be achieved here, as well as some of the challenges ahead. So, in the coming weeks I want to begin to share some of my vision for St. Philip's, but I also want to know about why you love St Philip's and about where you see St Philip's moving in the future?

It was hugely flattering for Dunbar Life magazine to call St. Philip's the 'Champions of Dunbar Village' in their recent addition, but we now need to think about how we can continue to be that 'champion' in the years to come? We live in a rapidly changing community, one which has become far more secular than in the past. Many in our parish are completely unchurched, so the challenges for us moving forward are very different to those which our predecessors faced. How can we share the good news of God's inclusive love to those who have never been to a church or who have never heard the Christian story?

The good news is that we do not have to face this challenge alone. Despite the changing nature of our parish and community, God is still at work there! As you know, I have spent much of my first few months here getting to know as many people within our parish as possible. *(Continued on page ?)*

SEPTEMBER 2018

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INDIA: WILD AND WONDEROUS

By Derek Simpkins



India may not be on everyone's 'bucket list' for travel destinations! It certainly was not on mine !

However, I'm so glad that a good friend persuaded me to come along for a 15 day Indian adventure trip. We traveled through four large states, visiting numerous villages, small towns and several large cities.

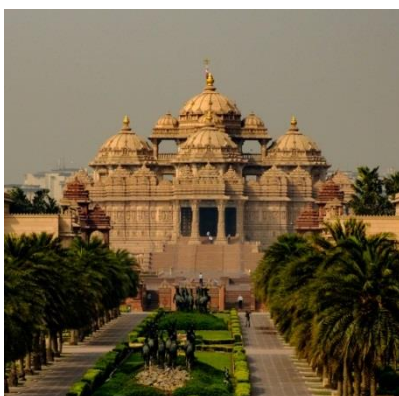


We were also fortunate to visit and stay in four National Parks, seeking Asiatic Lions, Indian Leopards, Bengal Tigers and numerous other animals, including some very colourful birds, like the Indian Roller. On **Wednesday, September 12th at 7pm**, I will offer a presentation to St. Philip's:

India: Wild and Wondrous.

Before our arrival in Delhi, I was somewhat prepared for this megalopolis, having read William Dalrymple's "City of Djinn's". "Delhi, it seemed at first, was full of riches and horrors; it was a labyrinth, a city of palaces, an open gutter, filtered light through a filigree lattice, a landscape of domes, an anarchy, a press of people, a choke of fumes. a whiff of spices."

The real Delhi was at first shocking: our senses were assaulted by the traffic chaos, the constant beeping of horns, the widespread poverty, the dilapidated buildings, the garbage - everywhere! But then the charms of India began to captivate us - the incredible colours, the smells, the flowers and the smiles of so many friendly people!



A visit to the Akshardham Hindu Temple in Delhi was a real eye opener. This temple complex covers a site of 100 acres !!! The main temple was constructed over five years, completed in 2005 by some 8,000 artisans who donated over 300 million hours of labour ! It is truly a stunning and inspirational achievement. We were very fortunate to have witnessed the daily 10 am service. Together, the music, chanting, dance, use of fire and incense and the sprinkling of Holy water were transcendent! I have never experienced such a compelling religious service anywhere.

Everywhere we journeyed in India, smiles were abundant. Most Indians struggle to live from day to day, but you would never guess from their warm welcomes and friendly smiles. Outside large cities, Indians

are very curious of Western tourists, some even using their cell phones to take photos of us Westerners! Children love to practice their English with tourists, often speaking with no Indian accent.

Indians revere their National parks and the treasured wildlife that lives within them. We were so fortunate to witness the last remaining population of Asiatic Lions, the same lions whose former territory stretched to the Middle East and beyond. Now, the last remaining population of Asiatic Lions, about 500 animals, is relegated to only one small National Park in the state of Gujarat.

India's National Animal, the Bengal Tiger, seems to be holding its own, although only about 2200 animals remain within the boundaries of India, most living in protected Tiger reserves and National Parks.



I look forward to sharing my Indian experience with members of the Parish on Wednesday, September 12th at 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room.

WONDER AND MAJESTY

By Beth Vondette

Having traveled far afield last year for my summer vacation, I was determined to stay somewhat closer to home this year. I elected to take a quick cruise to and from Alaska. This trip allowed me to cross off a couple of items on my bucket list as well as permitting me to enjoy British Columbia's coastline at my leisure.

I left Vancouver on a bright and clear afternoon, sailing smoothly out of Vancouver's Harbour on the Volendam, a mid-size ship in Holland America's fleet. I was immediately greeted by my deck steward, Hero. From that moment on, every time he would see me, he would ask me how I was doing by name. Every night, he would astound me with the towel art. One night it was an elephant, the next a hermit crab, the next a monkey!



I spent the first evening exploring the ship, meeting some fellow travellers and enjoying the entertainment onboard. One group of four Canadians from Ontario seemingly "adopted" me as we would regularly find each other in the evenings looking out at the stars, in the dining room or at the various entertainments. My favourite discovery on board was the Automatic Handwashing Machine on Deck 8. I got a real kick out of inserting my hands and having warm-hot water swirl around my hands.

I awoke the next morning to thick fog, masking the narrow passage between islands. The ship had to sound the horn at regular intervals until around 11 am, when the fog lifted to display Haida Gwaii in the far distance. The weather was cooler, which was a welcome change from the high 20s Vancouver had been experiencing. I apparently kept missing whale sightings, about which I got a bit frustrated, but knew that I would eventually spot one.

Arriving in Juneau, I joined my group for the day excursion: Whale watching and a trip to the Mendenhall Glacier. The tour bus drove just outside of Juneau to the small marina, driving onto the precarious one-lane bridge. My first-time whale watching! At last, I was guaranteed to see a whale! We spent 2 hours cruising up the Inlet, keeping a fair distance from the whales. We spent some time with each whale sighted, the naturalist on board knew them all by name. “That’s Flame at two o’clock,” he’d say, “She has a very distinctive pattern on her flukes. She likes to show them off”. After the exhilarating boat trip, we shuttled back closer to town, passing juvenile and mature bald eagles posing in the estuary.



The Mendenhall Glacier is just one of the many beautiful glaciers I saw in my travels, but it was the first I experienced up close. It appeared that someone had spray-painted the inside of the crevasses a bright blue, but learned that this is a natural phenomenon which is the result of the intense pressure of the ice compressing the air molecules in the ice at the bottom of the

glacier. At the visitor centre, I learned how far the glacier had receded in the past century, as well as be able to touch centuries-old ice. I also learned that the glacier was part of one huge ice field, and all the Glaciers for miles were interconnected. I managed to spot a couple of black bears in the National Park, keeping a safe distance away.

The next morning, we had arrived in Skagway. I boarded the tour bus and headed up White Pass, into the cloudbank. On the way up the Pass, the guide explained that the RCMP were responsible for enforcing rule that the Gold Rush prospectors had enough rations for 1 year (approximately 1 ton of goods), so the prospectors usually had to make at least 50 trips on foot up and down the Pass to accumulate the quantity of goods in order to gain entrance to BC and the Yukon. Once the rations were gathered, they would have to traverse the Tormented Valley. The trees that grew in this environment were about 2-3 feet tall, but centuries old.



I was excited as we entered into the Yukon territory and drove to Carcross (formerly Caribou Crossing). The sky cleared, and we visited stunning glacial lakes en route, learned about the Gold Rush and visited the world's smallest desert. The Carcross Desert is the remnants of a glacial lake which has evaporated, leaving all the glacial silt in a small "one square mile" desert.

We arrived at the Caribou Crossing Trading Post where I had a barbecued chicken lunch in a covered wagon. They also served all you can eat donuts, but I restricted myself to just one. It took a lot of willpower to not take another... or two... or three... or four.



The Trading Post had a museum, petting zoo, dog sled rides from their Iditarod team and an opportunity to meet with the next generation of the team. The instructions were that we could pet the 12-week old pups, but were asked not to pick them up, or abscond with one (this had apparently happened before). I sat down on one of the platforms and was immediately charged by five pups, who proceeded to chew on every available piece of clothing, or part of me, they could reach. This was my first experience with a true "dog pile". Not seen in the photo is the pup playing tug-of-war with the bottom of my purse, and the pup chewing on the back of my shirt. The reason for my facial expression is because the brown pup has just decided that my ear was a great chew toy...



The tour bus took us back to Fraser, British Columbia, where my group embarked on the White Pass and Yukon Route Railway. The morning fog and clouds had burned away, revealing the stunning Pass in all its glory. At one point, the guide indicated a section of the original trail used by the Gold Rush prospectors still visible along the route. The "path" was often barely the width of an average human's foot.

The last port was Ketchikan, where I spent time at The Saxman Native Village. Our guide was a young man from the Brown Bear Tribe of the Tlingit people. He graciously shared his language, history and parts of his culture with me, from songs and dances, to the intricate and delicate art of carving Totem Poles.

The tour bus delivered the group back to Ketchikan to bring us to the Great Alaskan Lumberjack Show, pitting the “local” Spruce Mill Camp versus the Dawson Creek Camp (USA vs. Canada). I unknowingly sat in the “Canadian Camp cheering section”, and proudly watched “my boys” trounce their adversaries. All in good fun.



The next morning, we arrived at Glacier Bay. A truly awe-inspiring place with multiple glaciers feeding into the Bay. The ship drifted into the Bay, allowing us to experience the incredible quiet and serenity of the sleeping glaciers. I was secretly hoping for a groan or movement from the tip of the glacier, but that was purely driven by my own selfish desire for the spectacle of a splash.

The silence was nearly a palpable presence. It was such a juxtaposition from the normal hustle and bustle of life. It reminded me of the need to embrace true stillness and to recognize the majesty in silence. At this point in my journey, I had been “unplugged” for five days and had finally stopped reaching for my phone. I experienced wonder, truly appreciating the splendour of nature in all her forms. Serenity.



The last day on board, I spent re-packing my suitcase and visiting with new friends. I was sad to leave the pampered luxury I had been enjoying. The air quality in Vancouver was horrible, equivalent to smoking 7 cigarettes. I was very tempted to stowaway for another week until the air cleared. For better or worse, I was home.

CONCERT EVENTS AT ST. PHILIP'S FOR THE REST OF 2018

By Michael Murray

The St. Philip's Concert Series presents world renowned violinist David Gillham with pianist Chiharu Iinuma on Sunday, September 23rd at 4 pm. David is on faculty at the University of British Columbia and is especially noted for his purity of sound and his dedication to performing music by today's composers. He and Chiharu have worked together presenting piano duo repertoire for over 20 years. Ms. Iinuma is on faculty at the Vancouver Academy of Music. Together the two will present an attractive program featuring Cesar Franck's Sonata for Violin and Piano. This beautiful work composed in 1886 uses themes that recur identically in different movements.

St. Philip's will also have a concert on November 4th at 4pm honouring All Saints Day, featuring Mozart's Requiem, with soloists choir and orchestra and organ.

AUTUMN LEAVES (Continued from Cover)

And I've met some wonderful people who, despite not coming to church (yet!), are clearly, not only very spiritual, but who have a passion for justice, equality and inclusion. This is God's kingdom at work in the midst of us!

Our challenge moving forward is to find new ways to reach out to those around us who share our values and our passions. Those who have either never heard the Christian story, the unchurched. Or those who perhaps have, but have wandered away from church for whatever reason, the spiritual, but not religious.

I for one am very excited about this challenge! But it will mean change for us as a community and that is always something that is both challenging and scary, yet like the coming of the autumn, it can also be wonderful and beautiful...

As we journey on together we can be sure of one thing, that God journeys with us, by our side, every step of the way. And so we can say with confidence...
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 for ever and ever. Amen.

Love and prayers.

BENEFIT CONCERT COMMEMORATING HOMELESSNESS ACTION WEEK

By the Rev'd Dr. Pitman Potter

The Westside Anglican Neighbourhood Ministry will have a benefit concert at St. Philip's on Sunday, October 14 from 5:00 - 6:30 pm, featuring Rebecca Jenkins and Joel Bakan and Pro Bono Publicum and Friends. A reception will follow the concert. Admission is by donation.

WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

By Adele Wonnick

Marriage is a bond in which two people have made a lifelong commitment to each other, who give of themselves and their love to each other and who experience the presence of God and his love in the presence of each other.

It is a bond that grows in strength and beauty with the passing of years and that enables both individuals to grow and to continue to become themselves in the security and the beauty of their love for each other.

ST. PHILIP'S CELEBRATES A MILESTONE IN OUR REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

By Debbie Matheson

September is a time of new beginnings as folk return from holidays and resume routines. October brings Thanksgiving for our blessings. For Lama Chebli and her four children aged 10 to 15, a family who fled the conflict in Syria to a refugee camp in Lebanon in early 2013, life now is about new beginnings and thanksgiving. For over five years, Lama lived without security and her children lived without schooling.

After over a year of paperwork, interviews, phone calls, and waiting, Lama received the call that her refugee sponsorship by St Philip's had finally been approved and they would arrive in Vancouver on September 13. That news was joyfully received by everyone at St Philip's, especially by Mary Lymburner, who managed all the paperwork and communication on this side.

As of last December, the Immigration Department was processing applications for almost 16,000 privately sponsored Syrian refugees. The hands-on support of private sponsorships like St Philip's has earned Canada attention from around the world.

We know from experience that sponsorship involves many facets: fundraising, filing the application, finding housing, collecting furniture, welcoming and settling the family, enrolling children in school and adults in English classes, and supporting them materially and emotionally for at least one year as they find work and independence.

St Philip's sponsored Maryam, a teenaged Kurdish girl, in 2004; Adde, Farhiyo and three children, a Somali family in 2007; and are sponsoring Lama's parents and younger brother, while St John Shaughnessy is sponsoring other relatives.

Let us give deep thanks to Mary Lymburner for her years of effort, and gratitude to all who have donated money, located a house, given furniture, provided house wares, given clothing, and prepared for the family's arrival.

Now the personal and hands-on support begins. If you feel called to help, guide, drive, teach, integrate and accompany Lama and the children, contact Mary Lymburner. Ride the bus with Lama to the Fraser St grocery. Walk the children to the park with a soccer ball. Bring them to APOG (All Parish Open Gym). Sit one-to-one at homework time. Bring them to a picnic by the sea. Share a veggie pizza or two.

Please pick up a church letter from Beth Vondette for a police clearance check for you to work with vulnerable people and youth. Note from Penni Stock: take *two separate* government photo ID's.

You may wish to donate to the Refugee Fund: write Refugee Fund on the memo line and the envelope. And keep an eye on the weekly bulletin for other needs as they arise.



1 Lama Chebli and her children (from left to right): Majd, 11; Doha, 14 ; Lama; Sedra, 15; and Ahmad, 10.

A PARABLE

By Melinda Rundle

There was once a woman who was walking to the market to buy groceries for her family. As she was walking along singing praises to God she found a happy, physically challenged girl pushing herself home in a wheelchair. Because the woman had never seen physically challenged people, she instantly took the physically challenged and went to look for Jesus in hopes that He would heal her.

When they found Jesus, the woman said “Lord, please heal this girl so she can walk, for it is not normal.” First, Jesus bent down to the physically challenged girl and, kissing her on the forehead, He said, “well done for living your life to the fullest, precious girl. I love you and so does God. Go on your way and keep happy.” When the girl left, the woman was confused and said, “Master, I don’t understand why you didn’t heal the girl so she could be normal.”

Jesus took her hand and said, “God made both of you precious and in His image and He has a special plan for you both. I couldn’t heal her because He needs things done that only physically challenged people can do. Truly I tell you: whoever sees the pure happiness in the faces of physically challenged people will be filled with my joy as well as the joy of God.



TOMFOOLERY AND FELLOWSHIP

By Beth Vondette

St. Philip’s annual Parish Picnic was held at Chaldecott Park on Father’s Day, June 17th, after the 10 am service. Hot dogs, ice cream and juice were on the menu. While we were disappointed that the water park was closed for maintenance, we were still able to enjoy our traditional games of tug-of-war, sandal toss, parachute and tower building.



The water balloon fight this year was exciting, as our newly-retired-Green Beret-Rector displayed his prowess in evasion and spatial awareness by dodging and escaping many of the balloons thrown at him.



Soon, though, the tables had turned, and not many escaped the park dry. At one point, Stuart decided he needed to practice his baptismal skills by re-baptising some dads (it was Father's Day after all!)



Singing is good for your health, singing is also good for your soul and most importantly singing is happiness. If you love singing like us, come join us. We are a group of mostly retirees from various backgrounds that come together each week to join our voices in song. From classical to contemporary, we sing a variety of music in many languages and styles. We practice on Wednesdays 1:15pm to 2:45pm at St. Philip's Anglican Church. Fall session starts from Sept 5th until Nov 27th (no class on Oct 17th). New students sign up before Sept 12th for only \$150. If interested, please contact Szu-Wen @ 778-869-9630.

ST. PHILIP'S 2018-2019 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

By Brian Mix

Every fall, St. Philip's has a Stewardship Campaign – a time when we are invited to reflect a little more deeply about what St. Philip's means to us, and how we can be involved the life of this parish and the ministries it offers.

Stewardship is about recognizing and responding to God's goodness to us by giving back and contributing to the work of our shared ministry. Jesus told Peter that to love and follow him means to feed and tend his sheep. Peter himself wrote that we should "be shepherds of God's flock... not because you must, but because you are willing." St. Philip's has a long history of tending God's flock both inside the walls of our church and in the wider community. It's a legacy passed on to us from over 90 years of faithful witness in this beautiful place.

There are many things that make St. Philip's such a vital Christian community: worship, outreach, street ministries, music programs, youth programs, seniors' programs, refugee support. But there is so much more going on here at St. Philip's than what might be obvious on a Sunday morning, including the many user groups that make our church and its facilities an unofficial community centre. Our church truly is a Champion of Dunbar!

All of this needs stewardship. Buildings, programs, and community all require resources to survive and flourish. Stewardship is not only about looking after the gifts we've been given – it's also about sustaining and growing those gifts for the future.

This is an exciting time in the life of our parish. After two years of transition and uncertainty, we welcomed our new Rector Stuart Hallam and his family in May. Stuart's visionary leadership will no doubt transform our community and give us new direction and energy. But while we were waiting for Stuart, we discovered something about ourselves: all of us have a visionary role to play in this parish, and all of us can help sustain and drive forward the work of this extraordinary place. Ministry is not just about the clergy – it's about each and every one of us joining together in shared effort. St. Philip's may be bigger than any one of us, but it also needs every one of us.

There are many ways you can respond to God's goodness. You can offer your time and talents as well as your financial support to help sustain the life of our church community and grow God's kingdom. The upcoming Stewardship Campaign will be an invitation for you to join with all the saints past and present in God's work in this place. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to respond to God's goodness to you – not because you must, but because you are willing.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

September

- 9th Welcome Sunday
 9th Men's Breakfast, 8:30 am
 10th Jones Girls, noon
 12th India: Wild and Wonderous,
 7:00 pm
 17th Outreach Committee
 Meeting, 7:30 pm
 22nd Fall Rummage Sale, 9 am
 23rd Violin and Piano Concert,
 4:00 pm
 30th Blessing of the Pets Sunday

October

- 1st Jones Girls, noon
 7th Thanksgiving Sunday
 7th Men's Breakfast, 8:30 am
 8th Thanksgiving Monday,
 office closed
 14th Family Service, 10:00 am
 14th Neighbourhood Ministry
 Benefit Concert, 5:00 pm
 18th Northern Isles Talk, 7:00 pm
 28th Halloween Lunch, 11:30 am

November

- 4th Men's Breakfast, 8:30 am
 4th Family Service, 10:00 am,
 4th All Souls Day Concert, 4:00 pm
 5th Jones Girls, noon
 11th Remembrance Day, 10:30 am

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Associate Wardens: Charlotte
 French, Debbie Matheson

From the Parish Registry
 June 2018- September 2018

Burial
 Don Lamb

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

Thanksgiving Offering

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

www.stphilipsdunbar.com

