

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador
Anglican Parish of St. Philip
Bishop: The Right Rev Dr. Geoffrey Peddle
Rector: Rev. Edward Keeping



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Deacon: The Rev. Edgar Bonnell

Honorary Assistants:

**The Rev. Canon Bert Cheeseman
The Rev. Canon Shirley Gosse
The Rev. Russell Osmond
The Rev. Canon Don Morgan**

**Rector's Warden – Margaret Boone 782-0988
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**A WARM WELCOME IS EXTENDED TO ALL OUR
PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS WHO ARE WORSHIPPING
WITH US TODAY**

December 21st, 2014 (Year A)

**The Bulletin today is given to the glory of God and in Loving
Memory of**

**David Sharpe
Dec. 20, 1937 – Jan. 18, 1996
by the family**

Parish Mission Statement

God's people in the Parish of St. Philip, in a covenant relationship with God through Baptism, are called....

- ‡ To be Fishers of people in response to the call of Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit;
- ‡ To be a House of Prayer
- ‡ To be a Centre for Christian Teaching;
- ‡ To be Disciples in learning;
- ‡ To be a fellowship of Loving and Sacrificial Service;
- ‡ To be Witnesses to our Lord's Love through Word and Example.

**Launching out into the
Deep....
Into New Spiritual
Depths**



From the Rector's Desk

I am offering Advent Reflections for your reading and meditations this Advent. There are four devotions and they are offered by bishops from the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Episcopal (Anglican) church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As you know, the Anglican Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church are in full communion with each other.

The fourth devotion (Fourth Sunday of Advent) is written by **Fred Hiltz, Anglican Primate of Canada**. I commend these devotions to you.

Prayer – “God of courage and fulfilment, help us to make Mary’s Song our song – the song of our lives and of our work; the song of the Church and its life and work in the world. Amen.”

Like you, I am always glad to come to this fourth Sunday of Advent and its focus on Mary’s role in God’s plan for the redemption of the world. Mary is chosen by God to carry the holy child in her womb. Mary is both favoured and troubled by the angel’s message.

Gabriel assures Mary that what is to be conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. Called to be the very vessel through whom the word of God becomes flesh of our flesh, Mary will be known through every age as *Theotokos* – the one who bears God. Through Mary, God will inhabit the world in the likeness of our human form, walk this earth and announce the reign of divine reconciliation, justice and peace for all people.

Of this moment of annunciation, much has been offered by way of commentary through the centuries.

I am personally intrigued by how Marie Azzarello, a sister of the Congregation de Notre-Dame religious community in Montreal, speaks of the moment in her book, *MaryThe First Disciple*. She writes: "...in many analyses it is a moment of consent. She did consent but it is important to note that she freely gave her consent. Otherwise we see her only as a passive, docile, obedient woman rather than a strong and courageous woman, prepared to live with the Holy Spirit working in and through her life, one in whom the purposes of God are fulfilled not only for her moment in time but indeed for all time."

Mary's moment of annunciation is followed quickly by her visit to Elizabeth. As they greet one another, one's word becomes known in time as the Hail Mary and the other as Mary's Song or the Magnificat.

Of Mary's Song "it would be taken", writes Herbert O'Driscoll in *Portrait of a Woman*, "from her lips and be augmented into a mighty anthem echoing in basilica and cathedral. In the centuries long monastic round of daily offices it would be the song that welcomes the approach of evening, the center point around which a jewel called English evensong would revolve. Yet it would also be a dark and terrible song of revolution quoted in societies moving through political turmoil, or continents seething with a desire for change."

Truly it is the song of so many in our day.

Of Mary's Song, Azzarello writes, "to pray the Magnificat each day as a disciple of Jesus is to pray in union with Mary in joy, faith, and thanksgiving to God as the source of our being; it is to sing of God's everlasting love and mercy which extends from age to age and to proclaim Mary's hope in the fulfilment of the divine promises in favour of the whole of humanity... To pray the Magnificat is an expression of our desire to be honest about the state of our world and shows our conviction that the kingdom of God that Jesus preached is not a vision for an end time but a vision that begins now, in this world..."

This is a strong commentary and it is a challenge to live the gospel of which we sing.

It leaves me pondering to what extent Mary's Song is truly my song; the song of my life and my work; the song of the Church and its life and work in the world.

MILESTONES

Congratulations to Canon Shirley Gosse on the anniversary of her ordination to the priesthood on December 21st, 1992.

Congratulations to Canon Don Morgan on the anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on Decemere 10th, 1961.

If anyone knows of someone in the Parish celebrating a milestone in their lives, please contact the Church Office.

A Stewardship Thought for the Week

Have you been trampled yet this Christmas shopping season? You will be! People really seem anxious to spend their money.

Our financial secretary wasn't trampled last week, but at least he heard footsteps. Our special gifts reflected great love and joy. And more of you are learning the blessings of giving all the time. The gifts will be used to the glory of Christ.

Church Chuckle

If the Three Wise Men had been Three Wise Women ...they would have asked for directions, arrived on time, assisted in the

birth, cleaned the stable, brought a baby-grow and cooked a casserole.

"You will find next week's preacher pinned to the inside of the front door."

Notices

The ACM of our parish will be providing an outside Christmas Tree complete with BLUE LIGHTS. Donations in memory of loved ones are invited and as the donations are received, the blue lights will be replaced with WHITE LIGHTS in memory of the particular loved one. BY CHRISTMAS EVE, THE TREE SHOULD HAVE ONLY WHITE LIGHTS.

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS. We would like to have some people come by tomorrow to put up the Christmas tree and decorations.

Our last Advent Bible Study will be held on Monday, Dec. 22nd at 7:30pm.

Church Calendars: The ACW still has church calendars for sale. They are \$5.00 each. If you would like to purchase one, please see Rebecca after church or call her at 895-2343.

Daily Morning Prayer (Mon thru Friday) is being held at 10:00am at the church. Anyone who would like to share in this service is welcome to come along.

St. Philip's Anglican Church New Year's Eve Party – Wednesday, December 31st at 9:00pm. Tickets are \$10.00 per person and are available by contacting Una Skanes, Margaret Tucker or Rebecca Tucker.

Cards & Darts Fellowship: The Cards & Darts Fellowship will be held on the **4th Wednesday of each month**, at 8:00pm, **but not in December.** The next scheduled date is January 28th.

You can pick up your 2015 church envelopes as you leave the church this morning. They are in the foyer.

Advent Envelopes: We encourage the people of our congregation to use their Advent envelopes during this season. These givings are a separate budget item and we graciously ask for your support at this time.

Preauthorized Payment (e-Giving) of Church Offerings can now be offered to our parishioners. Many people find that this is a safe and convenient way to make their offerings and, if you are interested, **please complete the form which you will find in the pamphlet rack in the foyer.**

For those who are giving by Pre – Authorized (e-Giving), there will be plastic cards available in the foyer which read "Giving Electronically to the Anglican Parish of St. Philip". We want our people to think about giving to the church by this method.

December 14th, 2014

Regular Giving \$1,588.00

e-Giving \$ 835.00

Dec 14th 2014

Maintenance Fund \$ 315.00

Maintenance

Fund To date \$14,821.00

Schedule of Services

4th Sunday of Advent, Dec. 21st

8:30 AM – Holy Communion (BCP)
Eucharistic Assistant: Christopher Earle

10:30AM – Holy Eucharist (BAS)& Sunday School
Eucharistic Assists: Debbie Collis, Harve Hiscock
Counters: John Parrell, Gloria Earle
Sidesperson: Don Morgan

Christmas Eve, December 24th

4:00 pm – Children’s Pageant and short form of Holy Eucharist (BAS)

Eucharistic Asst: Mose Tucker
Sidesperson: Karen Puglisevich

7:00 pm – Holy Eucharist (BAS)
Eucharistic Asst: Ann Lambert, Jennifer Tucker
Counters: Linda Roberts, Todd Martin
Sidesperson: Don Morgan

11:00 pm - Holy Eucharist (BCP)
Eucharistic Asst: Debbie Collis, Harve Hiscock
Counters: Don Morgan, Ruth Hiscock
Sidesperson: John Parrell

1st Sunday after Christmas, Dec. 28th

9:30 AM Holy Communion (BCP)
Eucharistic Asst: Charlie Gosse
Counters: Lori Johnson and Linda Thomas
Sidesperson: Karen Puglisevich

7:30 PM Carol & Lesson Service

(The list of names for whom flowers were placed in the Sanctuary for Christmas will be read at this service)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reader 1: O God, we light the fourth candle of Advent. (With the first three candles burning, a family member lights the fourth candle.)

Reader 2: We hear your angel Gabriel and witness the faith of Mary. Fill us with your grace and light.

Reader 1: Mary was a young, strong, spiritual woman. Even though her life was not easy, she heard God’s voice and said yes. Her song was a prayer that would uplift those who were downtrodden. Her lyrics shattered the proud and called the world to change. She would bear within her the promised child, Jesus, the Light of the World. This Advent, we respond to God’s beckoning to us as well.

People: Revealing God, visit us and fill us with your Spirit. Bring your good news to life within us. Give us courage to carry your light into the injustices and shadows of this world. Amen.

**People Sing: Shine on us, O God of justice;
Guide our path through gloom of night;
Bear within us Wisdom’s glory;
Come to us, O Christ the Light.**

NOTICES

The Church’s financial books will close on Wednesday, December 31st at noon. At this time, I want to encourage our congregation to consider giving a little extra in the white envelope to meet our budget for 2014. I would like to mention as well, those who haven’t supported the ministry of the church in 2014, this is the time to give with a generous heart.

Chaplaincy Services at Hospitals in St. John’s

When you are being admitted to a hospital in St. John’s, you should be asked, “While you are admitted to hospital, would you like to have a visit from a chaplain or pastoral care worker?” Be sure to say “Yes” if you would like a pastoral visit. You will then be asked to identify your religion, and your name will be added to the chaplain’s visitation list, and you will then receive a visit from the denominational chaplain within a day or two.

Also, the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army and United Church Chaplaincy Teams are continuing a pilot project to assess ways to share resources. The four denominations will share First-call Chaplain responsibilities at the hospitals in St. John’s. This means that each night one chaplain will receive all after-hours calls (5:00 pm to 8:00 am). That First-call Chaplain will determine if the chaplain from the patient’s own denomination is needed to provide particular services or supports (anointing/ communion). Patients and families can request their denominational chaplain, if they so wish. The denominational chaplains will follow up with patients seen by the First-call Chaplain.

If any members of our congregation have a new e-mail address or changed his/her e-mail address, would you kindly e-mail us your new address.

“TODAY” & “OUR DAILY BREAD” - Please pick up the latest copy of “Today” and “Our Daily Bread” for your daily devotion. They are on the table in the foyer. We are encouraging people to use them for their own spiritual growth. Please put a quarter in the container provided, so we can support these ministries.

Maintenance Fund – I do ask you to give regularly to this fund. In the spring, major work around the windows of this building will be required. Repairs are needed immediately to the main door of our church. Please continue to use your “Pink Envelope” to contribute to this Fund so when the time comes for repairs there will be funds available.

MEMORIAL BULLETIN: We encourage you to donate the weekly bulletin as a memorial to a departed loved one. The envelopes and information are available from the pamphlet rack in the foyer.

Parish Hall Rentals: The Parish Centre is available to members of the congregation and the public to rent for birthdays, weddings and anniversaries. Please consider renting the hall for your next important event. Any person wanting to rent the parish hall can call the church office at 895-0715.

Recyclable Donations: - for your convenience, boxes are located near Sharpe’s Store on Thorburn Road and Country Convenience, corner of Old Broad Cove Road and Bennett’s Road. This is a project of the ACM. If you can help with sorting the recyclables on

Monday or Tuesday nights please call John Parrell. **Your help is needed.**

Dismissal to be sung at the end of the service:

“Go now in peace, never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true. Know he will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there, watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith and love.

Collect, Epistle and Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Scripture Readings for today, Dec. 21st,

1st Reading **2nd Samuel 7: 1-11, 16 Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26 (Pages 823, 824, 826)** (Gloria Earle)

2nd Reading: **Romans 16: 25-27** (Dave Earle)

Gospel: **Luke 1: 26-28** (Deacon Ed Bonnell)

The Scriptural Sentence for our worship today as appointed in our BAS Lectionary, page 271:

I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to his word.

Collect for the Day. (In Unison) Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Launching out into the Deep (In unison) Bless, O Lord our God, the worship and work of this church. Grant that it may faithfully Launch Out into the Deep and respond to the call of Jesus to be fishers of people. By the power of your Holy Spirit make it a house of prayer, a Centre of Christian teaching and disciples in learning, a community of loving and sacrificial service, and a witness to your redeeming love through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayer over the Gifts: (In unison) Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother of your Son, make holy all we offer you this day. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Prayer after Communion: (In unison) Faithful God, in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation. May we, like the Virgin Mary, be obedient to your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Today in our Parish Cycle of Prayer, we pray for our parish families: Each week we remember a number of our families in our Prayers of the People: **Baxter & Catherine Rose, David & Cheryl Rouse, Violet Ruelokke, Arthur & Lisa Ryan, Beverly Sharpe, and their families.**

In our Tri-Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Diocese of Central Newfoundland Synod Office Staff: The Rt. Rev. David

Torraville, The Rev. Perry Cooper, Ms. Lori Wheaton, Ms. Beverley Parsons, Ms. Margaret Jenniex, Ms. Sharon Rogers, The Rev. Harvey Bullen, The Rt. Rev. Donald Young, and **all retired clergy.**

In our Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for: Kontagora – (Lokoja, Nigeria), The Rt. Rev. Jonah Ibrahim.