

Welcome

to

St. Philip Church, Oak Bay

Anglican Diocese of British Columbia



2928 Eastdowne Road
Victoria, British Columbia

<http://www.stphilipvictoria.ca>

Spring 2023

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Spring 2023

Welcome to St. Philip Church

If you're reading this, I imagine you're interested in joining a spiritual community. I understand that can be both exciting and a bit scary. There is always the risk that the community looks like on the outside and what it's like once you join can be two different realities.

Here's the straight goods on St. Philip's: it's a group of ordinary but amazing people, people who not only talk about faith but practice it, people who are willing to help others in the community and join hands for the sake of helping people outside the church. We're ordinary, but when we join with each other, we're amazing!

As a newcomer, I can attest that I've experienced a rich welcome to St. Philip! "But you're the priest," I hear you say; yes that's true, but this community is not clergy-centered, all are welcomed because God loves everyone equally, and each person has unique gifts and talents that enrich the community.

If you get to know the people and involve yourselves in some of our activities, you'll find that this community is built upon the conviction that a relationship with God is a deep and fulfilling journey and that you can "join the journey" from wherever you happen to be. What makes the journey so endlessly fascinating is that God isn't something/Somebody we can "figure out," yet God has made the Divine Presence accessible to all of us regardless of where we're starting from or regardless of our past.

Here's the thing: all along the way we need other people to journey with; this "human thing" isn't a solitary journey but a social reality. We might intuit that the spiritual journey is towards "the beautiful, the true, and the good" but we can only make progress if we join with other hearts who are bent on journeying there too.

I invite you to dialogue with St. Philip people, and with me, if you'd like to. God is experienced through human faces and human actions and words. If you join us on the journey, you will be welcomed and you will find a place. If your journey takes you on a different path, we pray that you will find the grace and love that will light your way. We hope you know that you're always welcome here.

On the Journey,

Allen+
Rector

A Community of Faith & Worship

St. Philip, Oak Bay is an Anglican church. We are part of a community of about 40 churches in the Diocese of British Columbia (more poetically known as the Diocese of Islands and Inlets) on Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, and Kingcome Inlet. We belong to the national Anglican Church of Canada and the Worldwide Anglican Communion.

Sunday Services

Services are held each Sunday at the following times:

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist (a Communion service without music)

9:30 AM HOLY EUCHARIST (a Communion service with music, Sunday School for children and a gathering for youth)

Midweek Services

10:00 AM Thursday – Holy Eucharist (a Communion service followed by a group book study or discussion)

Reach Us

Church Office Hours Mondays 1-5; Wednesdays and Thursdays 9-5

Church Office 250.592.6823 admin@stphilipvictoria.ca

Rector 236.508.2928 incumbent@stphilipvictoria.ca

Website <http://stphilipvictoria.ca>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stphilipoakbay>

To receive regular emails about our community life, please subscribe at <https://www.stphilipvictoria.ca/subscribers> . Sunday sermons and live-streamed services are uploaded weekly and available on our website.

All are Welcome

At St. Philip, we strive to welcome and include everyone who seeks Jesus. Whatever your age, income, cultural background, race or gender identity, you are welcome. This is our aspiration, so please patiently forgive us if we fail to live up to this desire.

Staff

Allen Doerksen Rector 236.508.2928 incumbent@stphilipvictoria.ca

Allen became our full-time Rector on March 15, 2023. We are so glad he is here! Allen has served in several Anglican parishes in western Canada, most recently in Abbotsford and Chilliwack. With a background outside the Anglican tradition, Allen has a passion for developing spiritual community around the Mystery of God. He wants to ask the tough questions without having all the answers. He is a gifted counsellor and teacher who loves exploring helpful approaches to life and faith with parishioners. His wife Denise is the new rector of Holy Trinity Anglican, North Saanich.

Anna Sander Office 250.592.6823 Administrator admin@stphilipvictoria.ca

Anna has been the Office Administrator at St. Philip since April 2022. She plays a vital part in keeping the church functioning by facilitating the activities of church staff and volunteers. Anna is also the professional archivist for the District of Oak Bay.

Shannon Carmichael Children's Worker childrensministry@stphilipvictoria.ca

Shannon oversees all aspects of church life that involve our children: Sunday School, Children's Time during the service, picnics, pageants as well as special services, and Christmas and Lent readings. Shannon holds a Degree from the University of Victoria in Biology and Anthropology. As well, Shannon is a professional costume designer for stage and film. She has boundless creative energy and shares those gifts with the children.

Eli Deifeld Youth Worker youthministry@stphilipvictoria.ca

Eli joined us as our part-time Youth Worker in July 2022. She is an ordained Lutheran pastor and comes to us from Brazil, bringing us much creativity and energy. Her husband, Tiago, is completing a PhD in Education. They have a son, Felipe.

Kathy Fyfe Bookkeeper

Kathy has been the church's bookkeeper since 1999. She makes sure we pay our bills promptly and that all payments are documented and recorded accurately, ensuring the church meets all Canada Revenue Agency and audit standards. Kathy is also the bookkeeper for the Cathedral and other clients. She is very active in the Altar Guild, helping with the overhead and video systems, and so many other aspects of our church life.

Neal Tucker Verger verger@stphilipvictoria.ca

Neal has worked as our part-time verger since 2019. His day job is working as a capacity planning engineer/analyst for an American bank. He and his wife Jen Sharlow have been members of the St. Philip community since 2008. Jen works in hospitality with the Mustard Seed and is continuing her MDiv at the Vancouver School of Theology.

Beliefs

Pinning down what Anglicans believe is tricky. Although a few of our members at St. Philip have been Anglicans from the cradle, most of us come from various faith traditions or none. This means we hold a wide range of beliefs about God, the Bible and our faith. What we share is a desire to love God, each other and the world. In general, Anglicans affirm the following two creeds, or statements of faith:

Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed dates from the 3rd century:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Nicene Creed

The Nicene Creed was created at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD to affirm that Jesus, the Son of God, is eternal.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Bible

A collection of history, stories, poetry, prophecy, myths and metaphors, the Bible is our spiritual guide and the most important text (or rather lots of texts) revealing God to us. While we regard the Bible as true, we acknowledge that many truths are mysterious and can be interpreted in many ways.

Liturgy

Anglicans worship God through liturgical services. These services follow a specific structure each week with the same elements in the same order. (At certain times of the year, such as Lent or Advent, there are minor changes to the elements of the service.) Sometimes we use services outlined in the Book of Alternative Services (BAS); at other times we use other liturgical guides. To make the liturgy as easy as possible to follow, we usually put it on an overhead so we can all follow it together.

Bible readings in each service are chosen out of the Revised Common Lectionary which is used by many Christian churches around the world, meaning we are all reading the same four Bible passages on any given day. At St. Philip, we usually read from both the First (Old) Testament and the New Testament at each service and usually include a Psalm. When we read from one of the four Gospels, the congregation stands as a sign of respect for the stories and teachings of Jesus. <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

Some elements of the service, such as the Gloria (Glory to God) and the Lord's Prayer, are sung while others, like prayers of the people or Bible readings, are spoken. The service is interactive and involves the congregation at specific points. This participation may involve standing for the Gospel reading, responding verbally to readings, sitting or kneeling for prayers or shaking hands or hugging (or waving during Covid restrictions) during the Passing of the Peace.

Anglicans also mark the Christian Year, acknowledging the spiritual significance of specific dates and seasons in the Christian calendar. For example, we observe the seasons of both Lent and Advent, as well as Christmas and Easter. Altar cloths, banners and liturgical colours change with the seasons. For example, Advent uses blue colours associated with Mary while the colour of Pentecost is red, for the tongues of fire sent by God.

Sacraments

A sacrament is an "outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace" (St Augustine of Hippo). Anglicans believe Jesus ordained two sacraments: Baptism and the Eucharist (Holy Communion), which is the re-enactment of the Last Supper. Other rituals are important but, for Anglicans, do not rise to the level of a sacrament. These include: confirmation, ordination, marriage, absolution, and anointing the sick.

Holy Communion

The Service of Holy Communion in the Anglican Church is often called the Eucharist, from the Greek word for thanksgiving, reminding us of our thankfulness for Christ's death and resurrection. We also call it the Lord's Supper, reminding us of the historical events of Jesus' last meal with his disciples where he asked us to "Do this in remembrance of me." Because it was commanded by Jesus, Anglicans consider communion to be a sacrament.

As a community of equals, we leave our seats and go to the altar to receive the bread and wine, leaving behind all that hinders our freedom to walk with Jesus.

Communicants may kneel or stand at the altar. All, including children, are welcome to receive communion.

Sharing Wine

We use a common cup to receive real wine (not grape juice). Despite Covid, the risk of spreading or contracting illnesses is considered very low for everyone except those with significant health issues such as those caused by cancer therapies or low immune systems. If you do not feel comfortable receiving the wine for any reason, you may instead: touch the cup, cross your arms across your chest or simply leave the altar after receiving the bread to indicate your decision. The Diocese has instructed us not to dip the bread in the cup because hands might get into the wine and spread more germs than lips.

Home Visits for Communion

For anyone unable to attend church in person, a home visit for Communion is available upon request. Call the church office to arrange a time 250.592.6823 or admin@stphilipvictoria.ca.

Baptism

Baptism is the sacrament of belonging. It is the sign affirming that, through Christ, we belong to God, and to one another.

Baptism is a symbol of being reborn into a spiritual family 'by water and the Spirit' into the mystical body of Christ, linking us to all Christians as brothers and sisters in Christ. At St. Philip Church, we practice infant baptism but will baptize people of any age if they express this desire. Infant baptism reminds us that we are all drawn into relationship with God on a common basis. God is at work in our lives, not because of anything we do, or because of any merit in our lives.

At St. Philip's, baptisms are conducted during the main service of worship on a Sunday. When an infant is being baptized, parents normally select sponsors, also known as godparents. A sponsor is intended to be someone who will take an interest in the

child's spiritual life and well-being by praying regularly for the child and modelling Christian faith. If parents are unsure of whom to select to be sponsors for their children, they may choose to present the children themselves, without specifically identified sponsors.

Sponsors and parents of a child being brought forward for baptism make promises on behalf of the child they present for baptism. These promises can be found in the Book of Alternative Services (p. 153 & 154). The commitments and statements made in the Baptism service are serious and weighty. Families will want to think carefully and prayerfully before committing themselves before God and before the Church to these promises.

If you are interested in baptism, please speak with Allen.

Our Life Together

Home Groups

Many of us find home groups essential to our spiritual growth. Home groups are friendly, safe places where we meet regularly as fellow travelers to share our faith journey and our lives. Each group meets for fellowship, study, discussions and prayer in members' homes. Some groups study the Bible, some do studies of books written by Christian authors and theologians, and others have topical discussions. Some meet in the morning, others at night; most meet 1-2 times a month. Some meet in the same place every week or have an identifiable leader; others rotate locations and leadership among group members. Each group is different, but all share a commitment to loving God and supporting each other through spiritual nurture and practical help. If you want to join a home group, contact Ceal McLean at cmclean@stphilipvictoria.ca.

Men's 'Muffins & Mumblings' Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Join other guys for "muffins and mumblings" on a scriptural theme. This Bible Study meets every Wednesday morning at 7:15 AM and concludes promptly at 8:15. Come and join in the lively discussion of a scripture passage while enjoying a light breakfast. Connect with Bruce Richmond (250.592.4073) or Mike Pipes (250.592.9847) for details.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

This group meets weekly for Bible and/or book studies at 10:30 AM in the church, following the Thursday Morning Communion service.

Contemplative Sits

For many years, St. Philip Church has encouraged contemplative prayer where we sit quietly and open our hearts and minds to God. Each Tuesday at 10:30 AM, a few of us gather at the church to sit silently to empty ourselves of busy distractions and welcome God's goodness, truth and beauty. Following this quiet time, we share prayer requests. For more information, contact Sharon Richmond at sharonrichmond@gmail.com.

Children's Ministry

Children are included in our worship and are given the space and grace to be children. At all times, children are accepted and respected. Families gather in the church for the start of the worship service with praise singing, and a children's talk. The young then go downstairs for their Sunday school classes and return for communion. Children who

do not wish to attend Sunday School can choose to do a craft provided at the back tables.

Sunday School

Sunday School is offered for all children aged 3+ during the 9:30 AM Service. Sunday School lessons are created for active and imaginative children who learn in different ways, so lessons take many forms: crafts, stories, dramas, songs and discussions.

If you are interested in teaching or assisting with a class, or if you are new to the parish, and would like to connect with the right Sunday School group for your child, speak to Children's Ministry Worker, Shannon Carmichael 250.360.0383 shannon@stphilipvictoria.ca.

Youth Ministry

St. Philip has an amazing and active community of youth, ages 12 to 18. Our idea of youth ministry is not to be a 'program' – but to work together to create spaces and places where youth can grow in their faith in Christ, while also having fun and being a part of the wider community.

Sunday morning gatherings happen as part of the 9.30AM service. On Sunday, youth gather for the 9:30 am worship service for the praise time with the whole community, then participate in a youth-only session for learning and discussion downstairs. All questions and points of view are welcomed! They return to the worship service for communion. On two Saturdays each month, youth build their community through fun nights like treasure hunts, bake-offs, games nights and movies. They also volunteer at The Mustard Seed or collect items for those in need. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact Eli (Ellie) Deifeld youthministry@stphilipvictoria.ca.

Pastoral Care Team

Our small pastoral care team works with our Rector to provide love and support to those in need within our community. The pastoral care team reaches out to visit, pray with and provide practical support to whoever is sick, shut-in or hurting in any way. Contact the office if you have a need for pastoral support. admin@stphilipvictoria.ca.

Prayer Chain

If you have a need for prayer, whether for yourself or a loved one, please contact the church office. Anna will confidentially forward your request to our prayer chain who will lift you up in prayer before God. admin@stphilipvictoria.ca.

Safe Church

The Safe Church program of the Anglican Diocese of BC provides training to clergy and lay volunteers to ensure our churches are places of safety from abuse and misconduct. Safe Church training is a Diocesan requirement for *everyone* who works or volunteers with children, youth, and vulnerable persons. Safe Church training is offered online through the Praesidium Academy training platform, which is used by all the dioceses in the Ecclesiastical Province of BC and the Yukon. All staff and all volunteers who work with children or vulnerable people must have criminal record checks. Shannon Carmichael is our Safe Church coordinator and can be reached at shannon@stphilipvictoria.ca.

T Coil Hearing Aid System

St. Philip has an induction loop assistive listening system (perimeter loop) to enable a person with hearing loss to enjoy hearing at all locations in the church sanctuary. People with hearing aids should ensure their audiologist has activated the T-coil inside their hear aids for maximum benefit from a loop system. If you do not have hearing aids with T-coils, the ushers will be happy to provide you with a set of headphones and a “loop listener” device for use during the service.

Signed English

Several members of the congregation know Signed English and will be happy to interpret the service for you. Also, songs and much of the liturgy are projected to make the service easy to follow. Transcripts of the weekly sermon are routinely available under the Sermons tab on our website.

Mobility

The entire church is accessible by wheelchair using exterior wheelchair ramps, one to the sanctuary near the main entrance and one by the garden for the lower hall.

Guide Dogs required for mobility, sight or hearing assistance are welcomed and respected.

Scent Free

We encourage our members to minimize perfumes and colognes so we can be as scent-free as possible.

Missions

At St. Philip Church, we long to share the love of God with our community. Individual church members volunteer in many different organizations across Victoria.

Collectively, we join together to support local charities such as Street Hope, Operation Trackshoes, The Mustard Seed and Shelbourne Community Kitchen.

We support many local and international missions, financially, through prayer and with practical support. More information can be found on the Missions bulletin board in the stairwell. In 2023, we are supporting the following missions:

International

Canadian Foundation for the Children of Haiti

This foundation began in 1992 as an international Christian non-profit society to serve children with profound disabilities in Haiti. Judith Armstrong, a member of our 9:30 am congregation, is the organization's founder and guiding light. Hope Home in Port Au Prince, Haiti is home to 22 children, all with profound disabilities and complex needs. In the past, Judith has visited Haiti twice annual, taking with her medical equipment and supplies as well as medical and teaching volunteers.

Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) is the Anglican Church of Canada's agency for sustainable development and relief. With the support of Anglicans across Canada, PWRDF partners with organizations working to increase healthy pregnancies and births, reduce gender inequality, relieve hunger and break the cycle of poverty in the world's most vulnerable communities. Against a backdrop of climate change, PWRDF strives to address the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

Precious Jewels Ministry

Joké Bergink and Lorrie Anderson were commissioned from St. Philip Church in 1983 to work in the Philippines and have maintained their ties with us. For many years, they worked with abandoned and malnourished children on the garbage dump at Smokey Mountain outside Manila. In 1987, they set up a home called Precious Jewels. They expanded their work to include services to HIV-affected children and their families

Joké & Lorrie worked for many years with abandoned and malnourished children on the garbage dump at Smokey Mountain, outside Manila. In 1987 Lorrie and Joké set up a home called Precious Jewels. Their work expanded to include HIV-affected children

and their families and they opened a centre in 2001 in partnership with San Lazaro Hospital in Manila to support children living with HIV/AIDS.

Mar Elias Maronite Church, Homs, Syria

For several years we have supported the Mar Elias Maronite Church in Rablah, a village near Homs, Syria. Several members of St. Philip's congregation were refugees from Syria and have a long-term association with this church.

Local

Contemplative Society

The Contemplative Society was founded in 1997 in response to interest in the Christian contemplative tradition that offers an opportunity to develop a balanced path of spiritual wisdom rooted in prayer, silence and mindful work. The society offers courses and retreats, maintaining a schedule of these on its website www.contemplative.org.

Shelbourne Community Kitchen

The Shelbourne Community Kitchen is a neighbourhood food centre located at the Lutheran Church of the Cross in Saanich. It works to lower barriers to healthy food for families and individuals who are living on low income in our community by offering a Community Pantry, food skills programs and freshly grown garden produce.

South Island Counselling

South Island Counselling Christian non-profit committed to providing the best counselling possible so people in the Victoria area can achieve better emotional, psychological and social well-being. More than 12 registered clinical counsellors, certified Canadian counsellors, interns and volunteers see individuals age 16 and older, couples and families to offer them support. Services are offered on a sliding scale based on income.

Street Hope

Street Hope Victoria is a volunteer-driven Christian organization that builds personal relationships with people who face multiple barriers and marginalization and encourages them to seek wholeness in all aspects of their lives. These people may be facing poverty, a lack of supportive community, homelessness, addictions or mental health issues.

We feed hungry people, provide essentials such as warm clothing and toiletries, establish and nurture meaningful connections with folks, and encourage them towards healing in their lives.

Volunteers

Much of what happens at St. Philip is driven by volunteers who give freely of their time and gifts to keep our community of faith thriving. Where we have the time, abilities and interests, we step up to read Scripture, pray, sing, serve as chalice bearers, play instruments, run sound and video equipment, usher, count money, serve on the Altar Guild, pour coffee, decorate the church, clean, fix, mow lawns, garden and serve on committees like Missions or Parish Council.

If you would like to share in any of these roles, please let us know. We welcome your involvement!

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild prepares the sanctuary for our Services by preparing the wine for the common cup and the wafers, arranging the altar linens according to the church calendar, placing banners and flowers. They also prepare the church for special services such as Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter, baptisms, weddings and funerals. Usually, the Altar Guild does its work on Saturday mornings.

New members are welcome. If you would like to join the Altar Guild, please speak to Guild Coordinator Karen Fenimore karenfenimore@gmail.com, or speak to any member of the Altar Guild.

Audio-Visual Support

Larry Anthony lanthony@stphilipvictoria.ca coordinates putting liturgical elements and music lyrics onto the screen to make it easy for the congregation to follow the service. Other volunteers ensure the 9:30 am service is live-streamed for those who cannot make it to church in person.

Chalice Bearers

The Rector offers a wafer symbolizing the body of Christ to everyone who comes to the altar. Chalice bearers assist the rector during communion by offering each person wine from a shared cup, symbolizing the blood of Christ. Please contact our rector, Allen, at incumbent@stphilipvictoria.ca if you wish to become a chalice bearer. A small amount of training and the approval of the Diocese is required to take this position.

Coffee Hosts

Gathering after the 9:30 service gives St. Philip community a time to meet with one another in a relaxed, informal atmosphere. Coffee hosts prepare the coffee and refreshments, providing milk & cream for hot drinks and (sometimes) treats. Coffee-

making instructions are on the kitchen bulletin board, as is a signup sheet. Please contact Evelyn Savage cedar@telus.net if you are interested in being a coffee host.

Flowers in Church

If you are celebrating a special occasion or commemorating an anniversary, think about marking the date with a special gift of flowers. There is a "Flower Calendar" on the church office door. Mark your name and contact information next to the Sunday significant for you. A member of the Altar Guild will contact you before that Sunday and you can either choose the flowers for the arrangement yourself or provide money to cover their cost.

Garden Helpers

A roster of helpers cares for our lawn and garden. Mowing, edging, trimming and weeding, be it for a few hours on a particular weekend or on a regular basis throughout the summer, is a wonderful way to contribute. Please take a turn helping to care for our grounds.

Intercessors

Intercessors lead the congregation in the Prayers of the People during our 9:30 a.m. services. If you are interested in being an intercessor, please contact the church office admin@stphilipvictoria.ca

Lesson Readers

Each week we read selections of the Bible according to the lectionary schedule. If you would like to share in the ministry of publicly reading the Scriptures during worship services, add your name to the regular roster of readers. Contact the church office if you wish to read lessons at admin@stphilipvictoria.ca.

Pastoral Care Team

Our small pastoral care team works with our Rector to provide love and support to those in our community who are in need. The pastoral care team reaches out to visit, pray with and provide practical support to whoever is sick, shut-in or hurting in any way. Contact Evelyn Savage cedar@telus.net if you wish to join this uplifting team.

Praise Music (9:30AM service)

Music is a vital and exciting part of our worship at St. Philip and new participants are always welcome! If you enjoy singing or playing a musical instrument, join us at our 9:30 am service. Different teams of music leaders offer worship leadership each week, allowing musicians to offer their gifts and different styles of music on a rotating

schedule. If you are interested in participating or leading music, talk to Dave Conway who can be reached at zdconway@shaw.ca.

Prayer Ministry

The Prayer Chain is a vital ministry at St. Philip that lifts up the needs of the congregation to the Lord in prayer. New requests and updates are circulated by telephone and email.

Prayer Ministers are also available for prayer at either side of the Altar Rail after you have received Communion/a blessing at the 9:30 AM Sunday Service.

If you would like to submit a prayer request or are interested in joining the prayer chain, please speak with the Prayer Ministry Coordinator, Joan Sedgwick.

Joansedgwick@shaw.ca. Prayer requests can also be made through the church office admin@stphilipvictoria.ca or 250.592.6823).

Servers' Guild

The Servers assist clergy at the principal services. They receive the collection from the ushers, help clergy prepare the offertory and the sacraments, lead processions, and generally make themselves useful in the sanctuary. Servers are trained by the Rector; the chief requirement is a willingness to serve faithfully in turn. If you wish to become a server, contact Allen at incumbent@stphilipvictoria.ca.

Ushers

Ushers arrive about 10 minutes before the beginning of the service and greet people before the service. If we are using pew leaflets, they hand them out. They count the number of people attending the service, collect the offering and tidy the church after the service by picking up papers left behind and placing kneelers in an upright position. Please contact Susan Smith at susanksmith05@hotmail.com if you are interested in being an usher.

Governance

Church Wardens

The Wardens are the two leaders who, together with the Rector, constitute the legal entity of the Parish and have a fiduciary responsibility for it. The wardens are elected at our Annual General Meeting serving staggered two-year terms for continuity. Unlike other Anglican churches we currently do not distinguish between People's or Rector's Wardens. Our wardens are:

Larry Anthony lanthony@stphilipvictoria.ca

Larry became a warden in 2020. He retired as a Professor of Immunology at Camosun College in 2021 and enjoys woodworking.

Celia (Ceal) McLean cmclean@stphilipvictoria.ca

Ceal became a warden in 2023. She is a retired communications consultant who worked mostly for charities and the provincial government. She enjoys sailing, gardening and hiking with Ged, her husband of 42 years and spending time with family.

Treasurer

Mark Graham treasurer@stphilipvictoria.ca

Mark became our Treasurer in 2022 and is a member of Parish Council. He oversees our annual budget process and our income and expenses, working closely with Kathy, our bookkeeper. He manages this while being the Executive Director of the Strategic Initiatives Branch of the BC Ministry of Energy, Mines & Low Carbon Innovation.

Envelope Secretary

Betty Davidson keeps track of donations to the church, whether they are given by e-transfer, pre-authorized debit, cheques or cash in the offering plate. She keeps gifts secure, deposits them in the bank and issues tax receipts in February of each year.

Parish Council

Parish Council members share a responsibility to encourage, support and uphold the work God is doing in our church community. Believing God calls the council members to leadership, we elect them for 2 year terms at our Annual General Meeting near the beginning of the calendar year. Council usually meets the third Tuesday of each month, except in summer. Meetings are open to church members, and approved minutes are on the church website and posted by the main door of the church. If you wish to make

a presentation to the council by submission or in person, please speak to the Rector or either of the wardens.

In addition to the Rector, wardens and treasurer, Parish Council members include members-at-large and Synod delegates:

David Bird – Synod alternate

Stacey McGhee – member

Dave Conway – Synod

Marcus Schlag – member

Gerianne Knowles-Robson – member

Judith Slimmon – member

Mark Laidlaw – member

Karen van Rheenen – Synod alternate

Synod Delegates

Synod Delegates represent our commitment to the larger Anglican Church as part of the Diocese of British Columbia. Because Synod representation depends on the number of church members, St. Philip sends three delegates to annual regional and diocese-wide meetings. Synod Delegates are also part of Parish Council.

Church Finances

We aim to be responsible with our resources and to launch out courageously wherever we believe God's Spirit is leading. Freely given donations from our church community in response to God's grace in their lives are the main source of income. Although the tithe (traditionally 10% of income) is a guide, it is not a mandate. Our giving is between us and God.

Presently the money on our offering plate is allocated in the following way: salaries and benefits: church maintenance and operations; the diocesan assessment (16% of the previous years' offering); missions and programs.

Offering Options

The church provides Offering Envelopes upon request for donations during the worship service. They are not mandatory but allow donations to be discreet.

E-transfers may be made out to the treasurer@stphilipvictoria.ca. You can also give using ChImp (Charitable Impact) which is a secure, Canadian service. ChImp will provide your tax receipt immediately via email. Note that ChImp charges 2-3% processing fees that are deducted from the total amount of your gift.

Pre-approved deposits (PAD) through Coast Capital Credit Union may also be made if you wish to give donations at regular intervals. Banking forms to donate via PAD are

available on the church website www.stphilipvictoria.ca or from the pamphlet rack in the church stairwell. These forms may be submitted to the office with a blank cheque. They will be forwarded to our Envelope Secretary Betty Davidson.

Reimbursement for Expenses

All expenses on behalf of the church must be pre-approved by the Rector or the wardens. If you have made a pre-approved purchase for the church, submit your receipts to the office and our Bookkeeper, Kathy Fyfe, will issue a cheque to reimburse you. Find the bright yellow 'Refund Request Forms' in Kathy's mail slot, fill in the form and attach your receipt. Kathy will reimburse you as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, purchases made on behalf of the church but without pre-authorization cannot be reimbursed.

The Christian Year

In our worship life, we follow a sacred calendar which parallels the secular calendar that governs our routine lives, pointing to the belief that we experience time both by the clock and in God's time. The "Christian Year" begins with Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas.

Advent

Advent begins on the 4th Sunday before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent reminds us that Jesus came into the world intending to open us to an awareness of the light and truth of his presence in the world. It is a season when we are encouraged to deepen our awareness of Christ's presence and action in our lives and in the world and to be open to silence and stillness instead of the busy-ness of Christmas preparations.

During Advent, the hangings and vestments in the church are blue in honor of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and as a sign that Advent is a season of hope. For each of the four Sundays of Advent an additional candle is lit, reminding us that, the deeper our awareness of Christ's presence becomes, the brighter shines the light.

Christmas – 25 December

At Christmas we celebrate the Incarnation of Christ in the historical person of Jesus. The colour for Christmas is white, reminding us of the purity and innocence of the baby who embodied the light of God's presence in human form. Christmas is also called the feast of the Nativity of Christ. Our celebration of Christmas extends over twelve days from December 25 to January 6.

Epiphany – January 6

Epiphany means "showing forth," or "revelation." It acknowledges Jesus' manifestation to the gentiles as the promised Messiah, symbolized by the visit of the Wise Men who recognized him as worthy of veneration and kingly gifts. In Epiphany we celebrate the fact that Jesus came to be The Light, not just for a select group, but for all people.

Lent

Lent is a period of preparation for Easter. It begins each year on Ash Wednesday and consists of the 40 days before Easter. Lent lasts 6 weeks - Sundays are excluded from the count, as these are always days on which we commemorate the resurrection of Jesus.

The number 40 is significant in the Bible -- both Moses and Elijah fasted for 40 days -- but it is Jesus' temptation and fasting in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-12) we most identify with at this time. Lent offers a special challenge to engage in self-examination, repentance and spiritual discipline.

No flowers are used to decorate the church during Lent, and the somber tone is reflected in our worship as we omit the **Gloria** & the **Alleluia** gospel acclamation. The liturgical colour for most of Lent is purple, symbolic of the suffering Jesus bore and the royalty he embodied.

At Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving, everyone is invited to join with members of the Altar Guild to decorate the Church. If you would like to contribute flowers, or if you have a plant you'd like to donate (or even loan), please bring it to the Church by 9:30 on the Saturday morning before our special service. Contributions towards the flowers purchased are always warmly welcomed. Cheques should be made payable to *St. Philip Altar Guild* and given to Kathy Fyfe.

Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent begins. The word 'shrove' comes from the verb 'to shrive', meaning 'to hear confession and grant absolution', pointing to the central Lenten themes of repentance and amendment of life; however the day itself is for fun and celebration. This is 'Mardi Gras' or 'Fat Tuesday' as historically cooks used up meat, eggs, dairy products, and cooking fats in preparation for the Lenten fast, during which these foods were not eaten. In many western traditions this takes the form of eating pancakes and other rich foods on this day.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent and reminds us that we are not to cling to the external things of life. In Hebrew tradition, ashes are a symbol of sorrow and repentance for sin. In earlier centuries, sinners processed through town with ashes sprinkled on their heads, acknowledging their sin and expressing their contrite hearts.

To prepare for Ash Wednesday, parishioners return last year's **Palm Crosses** to the church. These crosses are burned to make the ashes used to make the sign of the cross on each penitent's forehead, accompanied by the words, "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return."

Holy Week

Holy Week follows Lent and is the final week leading up to Easter. The colour for the first part of Holy Week is Red, for Jesus' Passion, commemorating the final week of Jesus' life.

Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday we recall Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11). It is the last Sunday before **Easter Sunday**, and marks the end of Lent and the beginning of **Holy Week**. The day combines joy with pain and sadness. While we rejoice with the crowds in declaring Christ to be the Messiah, we recognize that soon the people will turn and call for his death. To mark the day, we receive crosses made from palm branches which we keep at home until the following year.

Maundy Thursday

On Maundy Thursday we remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples where He demonstrated His love by washing their feet. Maundy Thursday reminds us that the first *mandate* of the Christian life is sacrificial love. The term 'Maundy' comes from a translation from Latin of John 13:34 - *Mandatum novum do vobis* -- 'I give you a new commandment, says the Lord, that ye love one another.'

On this day, we observe the 'Stripping of the Altar' service when all textiles are removed from the altar, pulpit, lecterns etc. The Stripping of the Altar reminds us that Jesus was stripped of his clothing, possessions and dignity at his crucifixion.

Good Friday

The darkest day of the Christian year, marking the day Jesus was crucified, is called 'good' because of the universal benefits of Jesus' death on the cross. Good Friday is a day for sober reflection and prayer as we reflect on the cost of sin and the anguish it

creates. It also announces the Good News that God enters the suffering of creation to redeem the brokenness and pain of the world.

Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday is the day Jesus lay in the tomb. We experience the grief felt by his followers, but wait for him, trusting in his abiding presence in our lives.

Easter Sunday

Easter marks the day Jesus rose from the dead. It is a day when we rejoice and celebrate the resurrection of Christ and worship him in praise and thanksgiving. Easter demonstrates that the power of God is greater than darkness or death, affirming that the cross is not the final word. Death and destruction are defeated. The resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate truth about life and human destiny. The liturgical colours for Easter are white and gold.

Ascension Day

Ascension Day is the fortieth day after Easter and marks Jesus' ascent into heaven. It falls on a Thursday but is usually observed the following Sunday.

Pentecost

The Day of Pentecost celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit bestowed on believers after Jesus ascended to heaven. The Holy Spirit inspired believers to go out into the world to live the life of Christ and begin the Christian church. Traditionally, we celebrate Pentecost 50 days after Easter. Pentecost Sunday is sometimes called "Whitsunday" (white Sunday), the name derived from the white garments worn by those who were to be baptized at Pentecost. The colour for this day is red symbolizing tongues of fire.

Trinity Sunday

On Trinity Sunday, the first Sunday after Pentecost, we honour the mystery of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – three persons in one God. The colour for Trinity Sunday is white.

Blessing of the Backpacks

In September, we have Welcome Sunday to mark the beginning of a new season following summer. We encourage children to bring their school bags to church and at the beginning of the 9:30 service so we can bless their backpacks and pray for all those in our community who are involved in education.

All Saints Day / All Souls Day

On November 1 the church observes All Saints' Day the day after Hallowe'en (All Hallows' Eve). On this day we remember people the church has identified as exemplary role models of the Christian faith. November 2 is All Souls' Day when we honour all those who have died and celebrate the promise of a continuing great communion of love beyond the material and time-bound world.

Reign of Christ Sunday

The final Sunday of the Christian year, known as the Reign of Christ, or Christ the King Sunday, is the last Sunday before Advent begins. It reminds us that Jesus is to take first place in our hearts.

Visual Art

Stairwell Gallery

Many artists contribute to our Stairwell Art Gallery, which rotates displays of artistic work by congregation members throughout the year. Speak to Sharon Richmond for more details or if you have art to share at sharonrichmond@gmail.com.

Our Windows

Our beautiful windows were created by Dr. Mary Filer, a pioneer in Canadian glass art. In 1975, Mary was commissioned to design a series of panels for the windows of the church's south wall based on John 14:8-9 in which Jesus told our namesake, St Philip, that "He who hath seen me, hath seen the Father...I am in the Father and the Father is in me."

The design begins with the great Light of Revelation at the Last Supper. This burst of light embodies the idea of the Trinity symbolized in the three transparent shapes; the central cross is Christ in Glory; the left sphere is the Holy Spirit; the upper right square and circle is God the Father and the totality of heaven and earth. On either side, the contrast of the primordial world and the urban world, in the landscape of Victoria, is suggested through placement of glass and the artist's use of colour. As the panels extend to the left, toward the climax of the end windows, the great panorama of the Olympic Mountains, the Gulf Islands, the Sea, and the sweep of Sky, with the Sun and Moon, even the City – is revealed. The symbols on the far right, represent the dynamic, whirling life source – the creative energy of God the Father.

The City of God

The glass work in the south window of the Narthex was donated by Mary Filer in 1978 in memory of her parents. She used the same symbol of the Holy Spirit depicted in the

centre of the MacDougall Memorial Window. The circle in the square represents the unity of the temporal and spiritual world.

Light of God

The West Window in the Narthex depicts the Light of God. In this work, Mary used vertical and diagonal beams to focus on the “jewel-like” source of creative inspiration. Mary has produced a symbol of spiritual revelation and joy which radiates light from above and within. This window was a gift to St. Philip from Mrs. Joy Storkey in memory of her husband Bert.

Celestial Song

In 1986, ten years after the first panels were completed, members of St. Philip’s Senior Choir commissioned the artist to do a design for the windows on the north side of the Church to commemorate their enjoyment of sacred music. These panels depict the abstract score of a Celestial Song. The pattern of form and colour has no reference to a conventional musical score but establishes a lineal measure of Heaven above and Earth below with a song line between the two. A photo of this window may be found on the cover of this booklet, courtesy of Toad Hollow Photography.

The Horse Knows the Way Home



The unusual 21-foot mural at the back of the sanctuary was installed in September 2013. The mural was based on a sermon given by Christopher Page in 2011 in which he used Chinese Wisdom tale that says "Trust the horse the horse knows the way home". His message was that we could trust the quiet wisdom in our hearts to lead us home. We are the horse and as St Philip Church our name means 'lover of horses.' Members of the church contributed to the mural, put together by Jacqueline van Voorst. The ghost horses are those who have gone before and the horses run on a purple backdrop, the symbolic colour of the royal priesthood and spirituality, between heaven and earth.

St. Philip Church History

St. Philip had its origin as a Sunday School annex to the parish of St. Mary's Oak Bay, during the 1950s. The Church was dedicated on January 19, 1955 and consecrated on St. Philip's Day, May 1st, 1976.

A book of our history, "St. Philip, Oak Bay, a pictorial history of faith & fellowship" was completed in October 2013. There is a pdf copy on our website and a hard copy available to borrow from the church office.

St. Philip the Apostle

The namesake for our church, the apostle Philip, was one of the twelve closest followers of Jesus during his earthly ministry. Philip gave up everything he had to go with Jesus, reminding us to follow this same call. One of the first things Philip did upon heeding the call of Jesus was to share that call with others: "*Philip found Nathanael and told him, 'We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph ... come and see'*" (John 1:45,46). Philip reminds us that our call is not just to be followers, but also to be sharers.

Nothing certain is known of Philip after the resurrection of Christ. It is thought that he preached the gospel in Phrygia and died at Hieropolis in Syria. Having the name Philip challenges us to fulfill God's role for us as people of faith. It is a constant reminder of our destiny as those who are to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the world. May we meet this destiny with joy.

Gonzales Preschool



Gonzales Co-op Preschool has rented our basement facilities since 2004 but has no formal link to St. Philip Church. The pre-school is run by Angela Paletta-Haslam, a wonderful and gifted teacher who is committed to helping children learn through play. The preschool is open to 3 and 4 year olds. As a co-op, the preschool encourages participation from parents to help run the school. www.gonzalespreschool.com