



The Pews Report

To Unify and Inform

Advent & Christmas 2019

A Publication of the Corporation of Christ Church, Dartmouth, Est. 1817

Advent Letter from the Rector

The Rev. Kyle Wagner

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins. -1 Corinthians 4.5

Dear Friends in Christ,

Advent marks the beginning of a new church year. It is a time where we as a church make ready for the coming Christ, the birth of the baby born in Bethlehem. We experience Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. We reach out in charity to support the less fortunate, and we anticipate the joy of Christmas Day and the fresh possibilities that it brings.

One of my favourite books is C.S. Lewis' *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. It tells the story of four children who embark on a remarkable journey when they open the door to a magic wardrobe. They enter into a wintry scene in the cover of darkness, yet a single lamppost provides enough light until the coming of Aslan the Lion, who brings a thaw to the winter world, and new life springs forth.

Similarly, we are entering four weeks of darkness, well at least a time in the wilderness where Mary is visited by an angel who directs her and Joseph to travel to Bethlehem. The Magi follow the star to the manger, and the shepherds watch their flocks by night. Along the way, we light the advent candles, which illuminates our path to Christmas.

And as we walk this path, we find a distraction. Advent and Christmas is the time of year when focusing on Jesus Christ should be the easiest, but somehow it seems the hardest. How will you focus your advent journey? How will you enter into the story of Christ's coming in a fresh way this year? How will you make Christmas meaningful again? The beauty of asking these questions is that you have a whole community to reflect with. As our Christ Church family worships together, gives more to one another, and loves wholeheartedly, we are developing our Christian identity together. As we sing the hymns of Christmas, and as we gather around the Lord's Table, we become a light for the world, a light that is created through the birth of a child some 2000 years ago. What will we do with this light?

It is my prayer that you and your family find the beauty of this Holy Season and that you enter into this magical season in a meaningful way!



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Please note that the **Parish Office Holiday Hours** are as follows:

- Tuesday, Dec 24 – Friday, Dec 27 - closed
- Monday, Dec 30, 9-3:30
- Tuesday, Dec 31 closed at noon
- Wednesday Jan. 1 – Sunday Jan 5 - closed
- Monday Jan 6 - normal office hours

Our Advent Theme for 2019:

*Submitted by Candace Vieira and Joan Hensler, Co-Chairs
Spiritual Development*

Have we lost the true meaning of Advent, the preparation for the joyous Christmas story? Christmas can be a season of mixed emotions for so many. Some cannot wait to start decorating, shopping and baking and that excitement can be contagious! For others, however, the season can be one of dread and sadness because they are “supposed” to feel happy and excited yet cannot.

When we sat down to discuss the Advent season and what we could do as a church family to prepare for the Christ Child, many ideas came to mind. But when we were introduced to the “Advent Conspiracy” it became an “aha” moment. In a way, it is a “back to basics” idea. There are four tenets one for each week of Advent.

Week One will focus on worshipping fully, and we will talk about different ways we can worship differently or wholly; perhaps it will bring you, Hope. Week Two will focus on spending less. How can we cut down on material things this Christmas? In spending less, it is hoped it will bring you Peace. Week Three will focus on giving more. Giving more of your time, love and hope. Giving more brings you and others Joy. Week Four will focus on loving all. How do we love all? By being inclusive and loving all, we are following Christ’s example of loving others as you love yourself. Love

It seems so simple, but in this day in what has become the “new normal” we may have lost sight of what is important and are reminded every day in our news just how things have gone awry. So, the “Advent Conspiracy” made perfect sense and we can in our personal life, family life and church family life walk this path together to make this our “new normal”!

Come join us as we worship fully, spend less, give more and love all!

The Advent Conspiracy:



Advent Conspiracy was founded on the radical idea that we can

celebrate Christmas humbly, beautifully, and generously. Advent is the story of a wondrous moment when God entered our world to make things right. It is the greatest

story ever told, and it changes everything – including the way we celebrate Christmas.

Over a decade ago, a few pastors were lamenting how they'd come to the end of an Advent season exhausted and sensing they'd missed it – the awe-inducing, soul-satisfying mystery of the incarnation.

For many of us, we were drowning in a sea of financial debt and endless lists of gifts to buy. We struggled to find the connection between our Christmas to-do lists and the story of Jesus' birth.

An overwhelming stress had overtaken worship and celebration.

The time of year, when focusing on Christ, should be the easiest was often the hardest. Somehow, this had become the new normal.

So, in 2006, three pastors, Chris Seay, Greg Holder, and Rick McKinley, decided to try something different. They called it the Advent Conspiracy movement, and came up with four tenets – Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, Love All – to guide themselves, their families, and congregations through the Christmas season. And remember that we all walk the path together. For resources and activities visit: <https://adventconspiracy.org/>

The Four Weeks of the Advent Conspiracy



WEEK 1: DECEMBER 1st Worship Fully
SCRIPTURE VERSE: Psalm 150



WEEK 2: DECEMBER 8 Spend Less
SCRIPTURE VERSE: Matthew 6:19-24



WEEK 3: DECEMBER 15 Give More
SCRIPTURE VERSE: John 3:16-17



WEEK 4: DECEMBER 22 Love All
SCRIPTURE VERSE: Matthew 22:34-40

Each Sunday, you will receive with your bulletin, a description of what we as a community and you as a person of faith can do to make the Advent journey that much more meaningful and unique!

Pastoral Ministry Committee

Submitted by Carolyn Chenhall

During the Advent season, as we all scurry about to remember very special people in our lives with gifts; to connect with people, even just once a year with a Christmas greeting, to extend the eternal gifts of hope, peace love and joy, we also remember those who are in bereavement through the passing of loved ones just recently or in years past. As with our own personal families, so with our church family, we pause to remember and to celebrate special people who are no longer with us as part of our worshipping community. To this end on December 15th at our regular worship service, we shall decorate a TREE of REMEMBRANCE. Everyone is welcomed to bring an ornament to hang on the tree as part of the

Christmas decor until the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6. Following the service, there will be a time of fellowship and refreshment in the church.

During the time of worship, we will be reminded of the scripture verse, "For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son" John 3:16.

The theme for Advent 4 is to love all – Love never ends 1 Corinthians 13: 8. During this last week of Advent members of the Pastoral Ministry Committee, Pastoral Visitors, Clergy and friends will make some 45 – 50 visits with shut-ins and bereaved persons in our parish family bearing a gift, e.g. floral, candy, etc. It is our extreme privilege and pleasure to be welcomed into your abode to extend love, conversation and connection.

*"Love came down at Christmas,
love all lovely, love divine;
love was born at Christmas,
stars and angels gave the sign."*

- Christina Georgina Rossetti 1830-94

Theological Education

Submitted by Debbie Fice, Anglican Postulant, MDiv Student (Atlantic School of Theology)

Hello everyone! It has been a very busy few months, both for you, the congregation and clergy of Christ Church, and for me. Classes started up for me on September 9th, and after a wonderful summer here in the parish, I have to say that I found it somewhat difficult to settle into the routine of classes and homework – I really wanted to be back here in the parish, working with all of you! Going from a 40 hour a week involvement to a 6-7 hour a week involvement (and that includes Sunday services) has been a challenge, but I am trying to attend at least one meeting of each committee over the semester, to continue to learn how a large parish functions and works together.

I have been able to continue leading Morning Prayer on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 9 am. We have a lovely group who gather to enjoy this time of quiet prayer, but there is always room for a few more! I was asked to teach a session on praying and prayer to the Regional Confirmation class – which I did Sunday, November 17th, here at Christ Church.

I will also be teaching a small workshop on Sunday, December 1st, after Coffee and Conversation, offering some tips and pointers on how to write/construct the Prayers of the People. I hope to see some/many of you there.

It was my honour and privilege to preach twice this semester; on Thanksgiving Sunday and Remembrance Sunday. I wish to thank everyone for their feedback – not only have you been incredibly kind and generous, but your comments are invaluable to my continuing growth in preaching and as a preacher– SO, keep those comments coming, please!!

My semester ends on December 9th, but I plan on ‘sticking around’ through Advent and Christmas, hopefully doing some pastoral visiting and helping Rev. Kyle with the Advent Book Study. I will be back in January and will be here until classes end in April.

I want to wish each and every one of you a Blessed Advent and a Holy and Merry Christmas!! Hugs and Blessings.

Advent Book for 2019

The Chronicles of Narnia The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

Join our Ministry Student Debbie Fice, and our Rector, Rev. Kyle Wagner, as this short 30-minute reflection on C.S. Lewis’ masterpiece brings Advent alive for you and your family! Coffee, tea, and snacks provided!

When the Pevensie children - Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy - step through a wardrobe door in the strange country house where they are staying, they find themselves in the land of Narnia. Frozen in eternal winter, Narnia is a land of snow and pine forests, and its creatures are enslaved by the terrible White Witch.

Tempted by the promise of endless Turkish Delight, Edmund becomes the White Witch’s servant - and it’s up to his brother and sisters to release him from his enchantment and to rid Narnia of the witch. But just when it seems that all hope is lost, the Great Lion Aslan returns to help the children to save Narnia.

This classic story is certain to capture young imaginations, cleverly blending elements of fairy-tale and fantasy to create a wonderfully engaging adventure. Adult readers will be quick to spot the Christian symbolism woven through C S Lewis’s story, which some critics have found problematic - but children will enjoy the magic of this spellbinding adventure in its own right.

“Wrong will be right, when Aslan comes in sight, At the sound of his roar, sorrows will be no more, when he bares his teeth, winter meets its death, And when he shakes his mane, we shall have spring again.” -The Lion, the Witch and Wardrobe.

Advent Book Club Discussion dates:
December 8, December 15, December 22

You can pick up a copy of this book at your local library or bookstore. If you have trouble getting a copy, please speak with the parish office so we can assist you.

Historical Committee

Submitted by Janice Silver

The Historical Committee invites you to our first Lunch and Learn **on Sunday, January 19, 2020, at 11:30 am.** (Storm date Jan 26th). Join us for a free talk by retired Chief Petty Officer First Class JoAnn Cunningham as she describes the role of the Wrens in WW2. Many may know JoAnn, sister of parishioner Cathy Connors, and recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II

Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012 for her work on the subject.

On July 31, 1942, the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service (WRCNS) was established as part of the Royal Canadian Navy to "release a man to go to sea." At peak strength, 6783 women were serving as Wrens and trained in 39 different trades. Come hear about the important contributions made by these women.

The talk will be followed immediately by a Corn Chowder (GF) with a roll (GF), coffee or tea and a wartime dessert. Price \$8.00 Tickets are available from

Shelley shelleyabridges@gmail.com

Shelley phone: 902-233-6316

Janice. Janice.silver6@gmail.com

Diane dkaye@bellaliant.net

This is a great stocking stuffer! Plan to hear an interesting talk and enjoy some time together over a hot bowl of chowder in the first month of a new decade! If anyone has memorabilia related to the Wrens we could use for a display, we would appreciate hearing from you!

A Notable Christ Church Cemetery Resident

This is the first in a series of stories about some of the folks that have been laid to rest in our Church Cemetery.

While preparing the Cemetery Self-Guided Walking Tour Brochure this past spring, the Historical Committee found out more about many of the featured persons than there was room to print in the brochure. Their stories are interesting and provide a glimpse into the past, not only of Christ Church but of the greater community of Dartmouth. The first to be featured is Samuel Albro;



Samuel W. Albro - 1779 - 1842 was born in Halifax, the son of Loyalist immigrants from Rhode Island. He had 5 children from his first marriage and 7 from his second marriage. (A grand-daughter, Jeannie Hall married Sir Sanford Flemming.) He and his brother John operated a tannery, windmill and a nail factory beside a brook in Turtle Cove, which eventually became the site of Oland's Brewery. The Albro Lakes and the brook that ran out of

them were named for the family. He was one of 6 men who petitioned Governor Sherbrooke in 1816 for government aid to enable them to erect a church on the lot in Dartmouth given by the government for that purpose. The request was granted, and the Christ Church cornerstone was laid on July 9th, 1817. On April 12, 1819, he was one of the first two Christ Church Wardens chosen, and he served on two additional occasions. He died at Foster's Cove (now known as Mill Cove) and buried in our cemetery. His brother John went on to become a well-known and very successful hardware merchant in Halifax. He served a term as an MLA, was an active participant in the city's social, business and church life, serving as a Church Vestryman and then Warden at St. Paul's.

Music Ministry

Submitted by John David Bogardus, Music Director

November has been a busy time for our adult choir, preparing for our regular 10:00 am services as well as gearing up and selling tickets to local singer/songwriter Rachel MacLean's fundraising concert on November 9th.

Rachel's concert was amazing. In an intimate setting, Rachel's beautiful voice and sparkling personality, along with our grand piano, lifted the spirits of everyone who attended. Her style of music fit just perfectly into the acoustics of our church, and those who came left with lifted hearts.

On November 15th, 16th, and 17th, Christ Church was jam-packed for the Halifax Music Co-op's (HMC) annual Inventions concert. Although this was not a Christ Church event, we were partners in working to produce and promote this concert in partnership with the HMC. It was wonderful to see that many parishioners attended this fantastic concert. Inventions was led by three of our valuable music ministry leaders: Gail Teixeira (orchestra conductor), Joey Dowell (accompanist) and Tessa Short (choir conductor). John Bogardus was on hand for all rehearsals and performances to ensure that everything ran smoothly and to make sure things were in place for Sunday's services. The feedback that we got was that Christ Church is a fantastic venue (the acoustics) and how welcomed both the HMC members and their audience felt. Hopefully, we can host the HMC and play host to more musical communities in the future. More than 600 people came through our doors over those three nights!

We are hoping to hold many more similar concerts here at Christ Church in the future. These kinds of events are an amazing opportunity for us to open our doors to

communities that would otherwise have little reason to walk through our doors.

Also during the month of November, we welcomed two new members into our choir and church family – Bruce Palmer (fun fact, Bruce is the grandfather of one of our youth organ scholars, Lily Munro), and Taralynn Wood (good friend of our new Sexton Pam Fisher), now bringing our number up to 30 members!

On the evening of Friday, December 6th, we will once again host the Lights of Love Christmas Carol Service. This service is for families who have lost a child, at any age, to help remember and celebrate their children in a beautiful setting during a season that can be very difficult for some. We are looking forward to sharing our music ministry at this very special service. Our choir will be joined by the Aeolian Singers, a well-established, all-female, Nova Scotian choir.

On December 15th at 2:00, we will be spreading the joy at a carol sing in the church. There will be a Christmas Carol Sing-along on Sunday, December 15th, at 2:00 pm in the Church. For one hour, we will sing boisterously through favourite Christmas Carols. This event is open to everyone, public and parish alike, and there will even be refreshments. Christmas sweaters are encouraged, and donations to the Food Bank Christmas Ministry are welcome. If you have a carol, you would like to suggest, please email John Bogardus john.bogardus@christchurchdartmouth.com.

As Advent and Christmas approach, we are looking forward to learning new music, as well as singing some old favourites. Again this year, we will be singing at all three Christmas Eve services and will be joined by some friends and guests.

Thank you to Candace Viera (Music Representative on Parish Council) for her help in creating this article.



Theology on Tap



Our next gathering is December 10th at 7:00 pm at Pilot's Pub in Dartmouth. Our discussion will be "The Advent Conspiracy."

Christmas Outreach Ministry 2019

It is that time of year when Christ Church jumps in to provide support to many in our community who are in need



by making sure they can enjoy a wonderful Christmas. Last year's program was a great success, with many in our congregation and the wider community taking part. We have pledged our support to Feed Nova Scotia to prepare & deliver 105 hampers and here are the ways you can participate: Purchase a Hamper: An \$85.00 financial contribution = Support for 1 family, Gift Tag from the Giving Tree: Child's gift - \$40.00 value or a \$10.00 Grocery Gift Card, Baking Cookies: Take a Cookie Tag from the tree.

Event Schedule:

- **Wrapping Party: Thursday, December 19th**
- CE Room at 7:00 pm
- **Lower Hall Setup: Friday, December 20th**
- Lower Hall at 2:00 pm
- **Hamper Packing: Saturday, December 21st**
- Lower Hall at 9:30 am
- **Fellowship Lunch and Commissioning: Saturday, December 21st**, Lower Hall at 12:00 pm
- **Hamper Delivery: Saturday, December 21st**
- Lower Hall at 1:00 pm

Lots of "People Power" will be needed, and we encourage you to join in this fellowship opportunity! For further information, contact Marg Seaman at 466-2159 or email mseaman@accesswave.ca

Rector's Readers Book Club

Saint Augustine once wrote, "*The World is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page.*"

This group is a space to assemble and share a love of literature. It's a time in our busy lives to converse over coffee and tea about our favourite authors and books, what we like about literature, and what we don't like! We gathering on Tuesday evenings in the minister's office (61 Dundas Street) at 7:00 pm If you wish to join our group, please contact the parish office at 902.466.4270 or christchurch@christchurchdartmouth.com

Book Club Book List for 2020

- **January 7th** *The Handmaids Tale* by Margaret Atwood (McClelland & Stewart, Sept. 2011)
- **February 4th** *Crow* by Amy Spurway (Goose Lane Editions, April 2019)
- **March 3rd** *Educated* by Tara Westover (HarperCollins Publishers, February 2018)
- **April 7th** *The Saturday Night Ghost Club* by Craig Davidson (Vintage Canada, April 2019)
- **May 5th** *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver (Harper Collins, October 2018)
- **June 2nd** *Becoming Mrs. Lewis* by Patti Callahan (Thomas Nelson, October 2018)

Altar Guild Notices

Christmas Memorial Flowers – The Altar Guild is now receiving donations for Christmas Memorial Flowers.

Cheques should be made payable to Christ Church Altar Guild and include your envelope number. Please put the cheques into a separate envelope and place it on the offertory plate or bring it to the parish office. The deadline for receiving donations is **Sunday, December 15.**

What is an Altar Guild?

Do you ever wonder how the beauty of Sanctuary comes to be each week? Do you notice that the Church colours change from time to time & how does that happen? Or, where did the flowers come from? The Christ Church Altar Guild is the "culprit"!



An Altar Guild is a volunteer group of the parish whose ministry is to care for the altar, vestments, vessels & altar linens of the parish and to arrange flowers when there is a memorial.

Our duties include:

- Change the hangings – according to the church colours of the season
- Wash the linens as needed
- Wash the "dishes" weekly
- Tidy & vacuum the Sanctuary
- Polish the brass
- Arrange the flowers as needed
- Set up for a Baptism
- Set up for a Wedding
- Set up for a Funeral

Our small group is comprised of 8 dedicated people who work in teams of 2 or 3 on a 6-week rotating schedule. Each group prepares the Altar for two consecutive Sundays (2 hours per week) and then is off for four weeks. For the major celebrations, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, all Altar Guild members take part in the preparations. It is not a huge time commitment but an important one as with all of our Church groups.

Is this something that would appeal to your Special Talents? New members are always welcome, and we provide the training. For further information, please contact Marg Seaman at (902) 466-2159 or Sheila Ferguson at (902) 469-3662.

mseaman@accesswave.ca or ds.fergus07@gmail.com

Property: Green Initiatives

Submitted by Cathy Connors Chair of Property Committee

Inspired by Reverend Kyle's mention of reducing our carbon footprint in a sermon back in early October, here is a list of some of the initiatives taken here at Christ Church over the past years. Thanks are due to the ACW for their forward-thinking in the 1990s and the efforts by our former sexton, Larry, for his leadership on energy efficiency. Property Committee continues to look at ways to "green our church."



- At least 20 years ago, the ACW decided to stop using Styrofoam cups, and the Parish began using only washable mugs or cups and saucers when coffee and tea are served.
- We have been using Fair-Trade coffee since the 1990s.
- The fluorescent bulbs in the church (100 in the church alone) are now T8 and have electronic ballasts; the chandeliers are all LED lights, as are the low ceiling lights at the greeter's table area. Some fluorescent fixtures were moved to distribute the light better. About the same time in 2008, the lights in the hall were updated. There are still a few CFL bulbs around that should be changed to LED, which will be done as time permits. This work was done with a grant from Efficiency Nova Scotia.
- We've placed motion-sensitive lights in the hall washrooms, so the lights automatically turn off when not in use. We are looking into other areas where timers would be advisable.
- This summer, the water heater (which needed replacing) was converted to a more energy-efficient propane-fired one. This will result in savings on our oil bill. Note: there is also a connection for two barbeque hookups on the outside of the shed.
- We have been trying to encourage everyone to turn off the heat and turn off all lights and washroom fans when leaving buildings. We certainly do not want to pay for heating these large and mostly un-insulated spaces when people are not present.
- Energy-efficient windows replaced old ones in the hall years ago. The funds for this effort came from a bequest from the Estate of Charlie Keating.
- Our new side door to the church is airtight; an HRM grant has been received to replace the front doors of the church which leak air. (The grant is for \$11K, and we will still need to pay another \$4000, but we will have a beautiful, weather-tight set of double doors.) We are hopeful this work will be completed in the spring of 2020.
- The Heating pipes from the boiler room to the church, which travel through a tunnel under the lawn, were insulated 12 years ago. In the past, we were paying for 4-yard lights on the property. Now it is just the one in the graveyard; more efficient light sensitive fixtures now light the other three.

Food and Clothing Ministry

Submitted by Gearlyn Tutty

The clients and volunteers at Christ Church Foodbank wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The continued support of our Parishioners and Volunteers enables Christ Church to offer this wonderful outreach program to our local community. Thank you.

A special thank you to Madelyn Bell, our Foodbank Coordinator. Madelyn is a workforce on her own. She keeps us organized, looks after correspondence as well as liaising with Feed Nova Scotia. She is at the church hall on both Wednesday and Thursday mornings for all that is Foodbank.

The annual Foodbank Christmas Room is on Thursday, Dec. 5, 12 and 19. Each of our clients may choose a gift for themselves or someone else. The gifts are acquired over the year and stored until December. They come from donations we receive new items. Anyone having new items; however, small can donate them by leaving them at the back of the Church. Please label the gifts "Christmas Room" and do not wrap them.

The winter weather is certainly here. Many of our clients spend a lot of their time on the street and need warm clothing. If you have any gently used winter coats, boots, gloves, mitts or long johns that need a new home, we would love to have them. You can drop these items off at the back of the church, or the church hall between 8 and 1130 am on Thursday mornings.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe festive season. May the celebration of the birth of Christ continue to bring us together in love and compassion for all of humankind. God Bless.

The Ministry of our Church: Financial Update and Commitments for 2019

Dear Friend, the Parish of Christ Church wishes to highlight the support you have given the church over the last year. Whether it was a one-time donation or a recurring financial contribution. Not only do we thank you for any financial support, but also your time and talents that have been crucial to establishing and continuing the various ministries we have at Christ Church. Either way, we want to thank you for your generous support. Every contribution helps be it time, treasure, or talent.

We also wanted to let you know that in our upcoming Annual Report for 2019, you will notice that it will be presented as a Narrative Budget. This budget is a story that describes the ministry we do here at Christ Church. It will also give you a better idea of how your contributions have made a difference in our community.

It was an excellent year for the parish, and thanks in large part to parishioners and friends like you. So thank you for your support of our church, and we hope you'll consider continuing to give to the mission of the church in the coming year.

Also, the last day to drop off 2019 contributions will be Tuesday, Dec 31, until 10:00 am. After this date and time, all donations will be considered 2020.



As of October 31st our financial position is as follows:

October 31 budget for givings/fundraising	\$190,375
<u>October 31 actual giving/fundraising</u>	<u>\$175,882</u>
Deficit	- \$14,493

Pre-Authorized Giving (PAR)

If you are preparing your 2020 budget, then now is the time to think about budgeting monthly to your church. We have several parishioners already on this type of giving, and they feel, due to the winter's inclement weather, it is to their great peace of mind to remit this way. It is also a tremendous help to your church to be able to depend on this regular monthly income. Please ask your greeter for the necessary form, or phone the parish office to have a form sent out to you.

CHRISTMAS EVE 2019
CHRIST CHURCH, DARTMOUTH
o Holy Night
A TIME TO GATHER AS COMMUNITY
AND GIVE THANKS FOR THE BIRTH OF
JESUS CHRIST
4:00pm | 6:30pm | 11:00pm



Christmas Services at Christ Church for 2019

Children & Family Service 4:00 pm: celebrate the Birth of Jesus with the whole family at Christ Church, Dartmouth. This short 45min service features St. Nicholas, who shares the Christmas message. Sing along to your favourite Christmas Carols led by our full choir. Join us as we darken the church and light candles and sing Silent Night to mark a memorable evening among friends and family. This event only happens once a year!

Family Service with Contemporary Holy Communion 6:00 pm: Holy Communion (BAS) Contemporary Anglican Holy Communion Service with Christmas Eve Sermon. Sing along to your favourite Christmas Carols led by our full choir. Join us as we darken the church and light candles and sing Silent Night to mark a memorable evening among friends and family. This event only happens once a year!

Traditional Midnight Holy Eucharist 11:00 pm For the traditionalist. This majestic service features the Book of Common Prayer, 1962 (BCP) with Holy Eucharist, and traditional Christmas Eve Homily. This service leads us into Christmas Day, highlighting the Birth of Jesus Christ. The lighting of the Taper candles sung to Silent Night.

Christmas Day December 25 Said Holy Eucharist (BCP) A short, traditional said service with a reflection on Christmas Day, with Holy Communion. The perfect way to celebrate the Birth of Jesus!

An Advent Poem

Submitted by Joan Halsey

*What is Advent,
What does it mean,
Is it part of our Christmas
Or only a dream?*

*Advent, I guess, is like planning a trip,
Each day has a purpose,
Each day has a plan,
A need to prepare,
Oh, it's going to be grand*

*And finally, it happens,
Our great Christmas Morn,
The waiting so worth it,
As we welcome our Lord*

*Our joy overflows in love and good will,
And just like the Shepherds,
We give out gifts still,*

*For it represents that morning,
When Baby Jesus changed mankind,
Gifts were given in thanksgiving,
Of a Love that was Divine.*

Have a Blessed Advent.



Christ Church Christmas Craft Market

This will be taking place on Saturday, December 7, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. This is a wonderful fundraiser for our church. Please mark your calendar.

Parish E-Mail List

Are you on our parish e-mail list? Every Wednesday, Mid-Week Announcements, and every quarter the PEWS Reports are sent out from the office to all parishioners on this e-mail list. When other important events happen during the week, they too are sent out. This is a great way to stay informed and up to date on events happening in your Parish and Community. Please e-mail the parish office christchurch@christchurchdartmouth.com to be added to our e-mail list.

Heritage Oak Columbarium Perpetual Care Committee

To date, 2019 has been a very successful year with respect to the sale of niches in the Columbarium.

We have already surpassed our targeted sales number, and as a result, the Columbarium was able to pay back \$15,000 towards the



loan from the Operating Fund. The other exciting news is that our mortgage with the Credit Union is finished! Indeed, a time of celebration!

Due to the efforts of Tara Davies & Alexandra Tutty, we secured two separate grants that helped offset the costs of our summer students. Again, a very positive factor! Thank you to you both

We now have a different pricing structure for our niches, which takes into account the location of the niche. This was done on the recommendation of a marketing specialist, and we have already reaped the benefits. If you would like more information on this pricing, please contact John Gallant, Shelley Bridges, or Marg Seaman.

If you are looking for an urn, we also have those available! They are made by Ray O'Connor, a talented craftsman, and there are two different kinds at a cost of \$350.00, of which you receive a charitable tax receipt for \$100.00.

Remember, we do not charge HST, and we provide a charitable tax receipt for a portion of the niche cost.

The Perpetual Care Committee reminds everyone that niches are available for sale in our Heritage Oak Columbarium should you wish to inquire as part of your estate planning. Pre-planning provides peace of mind and can relieve decision-making at a difficult time. There are also many financial advantages to purchasing a niche; NO HST is charged. An income tax receipt is issued for that portion of the cost over \$750.00. There are no opening and closing fees. A brass plaque, engraved is also provided. Interest-free payment plans are available. If you wish to view the columbarium, please contact us at the number below. Remember that Heritage Oak Columbarium & Memorial Garden is a peaceful and historical setting for remembrance for all denominations. PHONE: 902-466-2443 www.HeritageOak.ca

Upcoming Events Calendar

Weekly Morning Prayer: On Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 9:00 am, Debbie Fice, our Theological Student, will be leading morning prayer. Please come and enjoy this sacred time, a great way to start your day!

Advent & Christmas Carol Sing-along on Sunday, December 15th at 2:00 pm in the Church. For one hour, we will sing boisterously through favourite Christmas Carols. This event is open to everyone, public and parish alike, and there will even be refreshments! If you have a carol, you would like to suggest, please email John Bogardus john.bogardus@christchurchdartmouth.com.

Tree of Remembrance Service: December 15th, 10:00 am
December 15th at our regular worship service, we shall decorate a TREE of REMEMBRANCE. Everyone is welcomed to bring an ornament to hang on the tree as part of the Christmas décor until the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6. Following the service, there will be a time of fellowship and refreshment in the church.

Who was Saint Nicholas?

Nicholas 6 December
Bishop of Myra, c. 342 –
Commemoration

Nicholas was a fourth-century bishop of Myra, a town in what is now southwestern Turkey, and we remember him because of the stories which have given him “a perpetual name for deeds of kindness on land and sea.” Nothing certain is known about his life, but the people of the Church held him in high honour from a very early date and many stories came to be told about him. The most famous of these legends tells of his merciful generosity.

Once there were three sisters whose parents were so poor that they thought of selling them. Bishop Nicholas heard of the sisters’ plight and tossed three bags of gold onto their doorstep – thus providing them with dowries for marriage and saving them from a life of prostitution. That is why he is considered the special protector of children. In memory of his deed of mercy to the three sisters, the Dutch developed the custom of giving gifts to children on his feast-day. They brought this custom to America, where it became associated with Christmas rather than the feast of Nicholas – and where “Sant Nikolaas” was changed into “Santa Claus.”

Another story tells how a company of seafarers were caught in a storm off the coast of Asia Minor. The waves were swamping their ship, and the mariners were nearly at their wits’ end when they



remembered what they had heard about the bishop of Myra. Though he was still alive, the sailors cried out his name and implored his help. The legend says that Nicholas himself suddenly appeared in the rigging of their ship and calmed the storm, so that the ship and all who were in it came safely to port. Nicholas is considered the patron saint of many other groups besides children and sailors. The common thread in all these claims on his heavenly protection is his legendary kindness to those in need – and his special care of those who follow his storied example by aiding the desperate, the needy, and the sick.

Collect for Saint Nicholas

Eternal God, in your great love you gave to your servant Nicholas a perpetual name for deeds of kindness on land and sea. Grant that your Church may never cease to work for the happiness of children, the safety of sailors, the relief of the poor and the help of those who are tossed by tempests of doubt or grief; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

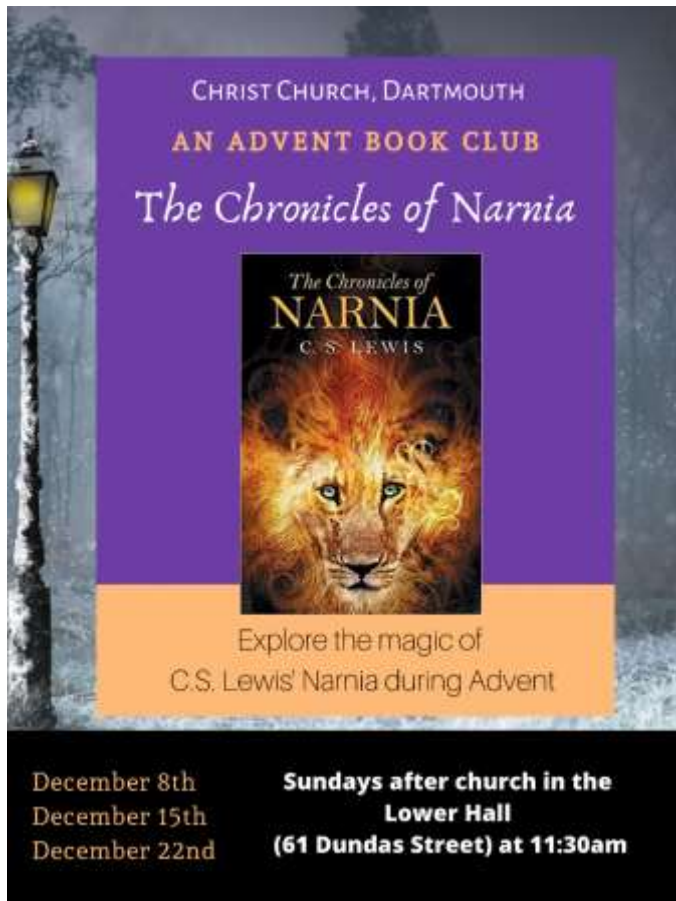
A Warm Welcome to our New Sexton

In November Christ Church welcomed Pam Fisher as our new parish Sexton. Pam comes to us with a background in property management and matience.

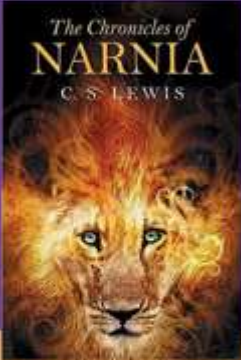


Pam brings to her position a toolkit of knowledge and is a great pastoral presence here on our campus! Please welcome Pam as you see her around!





CHRIST CHURCH, DARTMOUTH
AN ADVENT BOOK CLUB
The Chronicles of Narnia



Explore the magic of
C.S. Lewis' Narnia during Advent

December 8th
December 15th
December 22nd

**Sundays after church in the
Lower Hall
(61 Dundas Street) at 11:30am**



CHRIST CHURCH, DARTMOUTH

Christmas and Advent Carol Sing-A-Long

Join us as we get in the Advent Spirit!

Feel free to wear your Ugly
Christmas Sweater!



Dec. 15, 2019
2:00pm
Christ Church, Dartmouth

Donations to the Christ Church Food and
Clothing Ministry is greatly appreciated

Tree of
Remembrance
Service
DECEMBER 15TH
10:00AM



Place an ornament on the tree in
memory of a loved one.



PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Contacts:

Office Phone: (902) 466-4270

Email: christchurch@christchurchdartmouth.com

Web: www.christchurchdartmouth.com

Parish Office Hours: Monday–Thursday 9:00 am–3:30
pm Sunday
8:30 am–11:00 am

Church Hall: 61 Dundas Street

Postal: 61 Dundas Street, Dartmouth,
Nova Scotia, B2Y 4H5

Rector The Rev. Kyle Wagner, BA, MDiv

Pastoral Visitor: The Rev. Bonnie Baird, BJ, MDiv

Parish Wardens John Gallant, Christine Hoehne, Jim
Graham

Parish Administrator *Vacant*

Sexton Pam Fisher

Director of Music John Bogardus

Honorary Assistants The Rev. Canon Dr. Jody Clarke

The Rev. Canon Peter MacDonald, The Rev. Canon
David Greenwood

Lay Readers Vanessa Turner, Joan Halsey

Finance John MacDonald