



THANKSGIVING & PENTECOST 2020

THE PEWS REPORT

TO UNIFY AND INFORM

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



The Church is Alive in new ways!

Submitted by the Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner, Rector

Below is an article I wrote when the pandemic began. It appeared in the *Anglican Journal* in March. Since then, things have changed in regards to Sunday worship. We are no longer just online for worship, as we have begun to gradually move back to in person worship.

Some of the things that have stayed the same is the resiliency of God's people. The resiliency of families who have not been able to celebrate their loved ones in the way they would have liked. We are still very much in the midst of this pandemic, and we take each day in the parish as a gift, as a learning moment, and as an opportunity for growth!

The end of church as we know it? (And I feel fine?)

BY KYLE WAGNER March 25, 2020

In light of the novel coronavirus and the serious disease it causes (COVID-19), frontman Michael Stipe of the band R.E.M. was interviewed about the popular single *It's the End of the World as We Know It (And I Feel Fine)*. He said, "I do feel fine. I feel okay. The important part of that lyric and song title is 'as we know it.' We're going through something that none of us have ever encountered before, and that is, of course, the coronavirus."

The first time I felt the coronavirus's presence was when I was in Toronto a few weeks ago. My wife and I travelled to the Toronto School of Theology, where I successfully defended my doctorate of ministry degree. As people moved about the campus, and in the

streets, I noticed face masks and felt a little unease. Travelling home to Nova Scotia, I saw more masks on the GO Train and in airports. As the numbers of positive cases increased across our country, and with the Nova Scotian government essentially shutting down the province, like many clergy and other Anglicans, I find myself in a wilderness experience. What a Lent it is indeed.

On March 15, after worshiping with no handshakes or hugs—and with a 40% decrease in attendance—I felt like this would be the end of regular worship because of the pandemic. At the end of our service, I usually dismiss parishioners with words, "Our worship has ended, now let our service begin as we go out into the world." I almost hesitated when I said these words, as I sensed that people weren't in a place necessarily to spread the gospel in the usual way—living it in public. The feeling of collective unease was palpable, and many suggested following the service, "This is going to be the last time we gather for quite some time."

THE CHURCH MAY BE ENDING AS WE KNOW IT, SAYS THE REV. KYLE WAGNER—BUT AS WE LOOK BEYOND TODAY'S CRISIS, WHAT NEW LIFE MIGHT WE SEE?

In this issue:



Pastoral visiting in a time of pandemic.....	4
Historical: Similarities Between 1918 & 2020.....	2
Vision 2020.....	9
Life in the Parish Office.....	13
Rector's Readers: Book Club	13
Sunday School Update.....	14
2020 Christmas Hamper Support	15
Finance Committee.....	16



As many sit home, challenging their peers to push-ups, special dances and offering cooking tutorials, essential service workers continue to carry on. God bless those doctors, nurses, people in the service industry, lab technicians, research scientists and truck drivers (I apologize to those I've missed). I wonder if clergy and ministry practitioners are considered essential service workers? Nonetheless, those who are at home are looking for connection, for continuity of community and pastoral care in these hard times, and we've had to sort this out in solitude. With Zoom groups established and Facebook and Instagram messages posted, the digitally savvy are able to connect with our parish; however, I've had to figure out how to maintain the connection to those who are not online. A phone chain was quickly established, with each member of the parish receiving a phone call from our pastoral visitors group, as a check-in to see if folks need any assistance. For the most part, people seem okay, but our callers could sense a feeling of unease.

We've also had to figure out how to support those who depend on the ministry of Christ Church to meet their material needs. One program that is vital to many in downtown Dartmouth is our foodbank and clothing ministry. In our parish, we serve roughly 65 clients weekly. This community has been gathering for nearly 25 years—and it is a community, offering people a hot cup of coffee, social interaction and a safe place, in addition to food and clothing. This sort of community is often just what people need.

Our foodbank serves people living below the poverty line and the “working poor”—now working less and less. Need is exploding, but so are restrictions and limitations. In conjunction with Feed Nova Scotia, we have had to adjust our operations. Now we can't allow people the dignity of walking down our makeshift food aisles (Christ Church's pantry resembles a small grocer) to select what they would like. Instead, we now have to pass a bag of groceries through the door. With gloved hands and the smell of sanitizer, you do miss the personal connection. And with limited office hours and a lack of funds coming across the collection plate on Sunday mornings, we must wonder: how long can we continue this ministry? It's hard to say.

Will the landscape of the church be radically different, when we reunite? In my mind, there's no question. But I

also trust that once the pandemic is over, we will come out of the darkness and be reunited in a way that we have not seen in some time, perhaps with a sweetness as yet unknown to us.

Then there's worship. Once bishops across our country began to direct dioceses to close their doors to public worship, thousands of parishes, clergy, and laity have had to find creative ways of gathering to praise God, to pray and to dwell in Scriptures. I'm a priest in an urban church in downtown Dartmouth. Christ Church is progressive in many ways, but in terms of technology, we still have some work to do. Without any live-streaming or camera skills, what were we to do? Thankfully a handful of folks stepped up and offered to facilitate that and record a Holy Eucharist, two Morning and Evening Prayer sessions, and Compline. Over two days, and about 150 hours of work combined, we were able to record and edit services in a dignified fashion. However, uploading to the internet was difficult. (I suspect many churches were clogging up the internet connection last Sunday as liturgies were live-streamed for the world to see.)

I have to say that my experience recording worship was not heartily fulfilling. Presiding at Holy Communion with an empty church, except four people, standing six feet apart, provided me with little inspiration. The nature of our filming involved stopping at points. After filming one Eucharist of two, I had to pause. I just couldn't do it. Filming worship for a “TV audience” didn't seem authentic, didn't seem right. I honestly had a sense of profound guilt afterwards. For the foreseeable future, I see Evening and Morning Prayer, and other adapted liturgies, as a way of drawing the community of Christ Church together.

Might this be a time for the church to reflect on its liturgical practice? Is this an opportunity for the church to educate the faithful about its prayer books and the importance of establishing a rhythm of prayer and dedication to the Scriptures for daily life? In a sense, I believe we have lost the art of ordering Morning and Evening Prayer. Yet the church has now moved to a place where having bread and wine on a Sunday isn't

considered church. Is this an opportunity to reflect further?

For me, Lent has always been about prayer, self-reflection and giving. I've always enjoyed gathering together as a community to learn from Lenten book studies, connecting through public worship, experiencing the washing of the feet on Maundy Thursday, grieving the death of our Lord on Good Friday and seeing new life on Easter morning. This year I suspect none of this will be possible, or at least impossible as we've experienced it before.

I think we are in this battle against COVID-19 for the long haul. Some churches will die. I fear that some clergy will be laid off. For the first time, I am scared not just for smaller parishes, their health and vitality, but I am scared for my parish family and for members of our community who are facing layoffs. I'm afraid for my wife and my two young boys. What will our futures hold? I'm not sure, but right now, as a priest, I'm taking it day by day, and my story is just one of many, many thousands, in terms of clergy—and many millions worldwide, as “people in the pews” are forced from church, from everything, and must adjust to this new isolation.

I did not know how scary creation can be until I met my wife. (No, I do not mean in that way!) You see, Julie is a medical microbiologist, and she earned her PhD from the University of Manitoba, where she worked at the National Microbiology Lab in Winnipeg during the SARS outbreak in 2003. After getting married, building a house, the birth of two boys, laying my late father to rest and completing a doctorate, Julie and I have not had much time to talk about viruses, death, plagues and the resetting of the human population. Until now. Now I speak to her every day about this stuff, stuff that I don't understand. She's my go-to person for information. I wonder if God had this in mind when we met?

How does this virus work? How does it spread? Are such measures necessary?

As a priest, I take my role as a leader seriously. I've done some reading from reliable sources (this is key). The reality is, the science is correct. This virus is terrible—that's just fact. As a society, we have to be apart now so that we can be together later. I know there is some

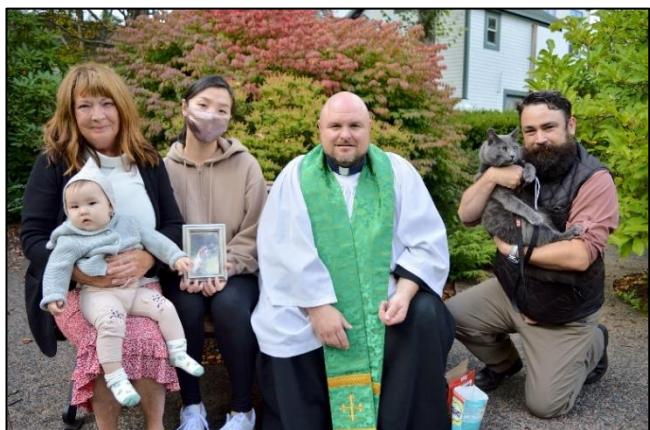
chatter that we should keep sanctuaries open, and that if the liquor stores can limit to five people, why can't the church? Perhaps. But I believe that the church has a responsibility to practice social distancing, to love thy neighbour as thyself, to serve as an example of good health.

As I look forward to the day when the body of Christ can gather in our historic church in Dartmouth, I lament: *How long, O Lord? Will the landscape of the church be radically different, when we reunite?* In my mind, there's no question. But I also trust that once the pandemic is over, we will come out of the darkness and be reunited in a way that we have not seen in some time, perhaps with a sweetness as yet unknown to us. After a period of self-isolation, we will have had plenty of time to pray, reflect and give. I think that when we pull ourselves from the mess of it, the world will be different than we've ever known.

As Michael Stipe said, “It’s the end of the world as we know it, and I feel fine.” Will the church be fine after all of this? Yes! But I think the actions we take now will determine the shape of our worshiping communities on the other side of COVID-19. As a person of faith, I draw upon the Holy Spirit, upon the teachings of Christ and from the divine presence of God to get me through this time, until we can all join hands.

I look forward to the day when we draw together at the altar for the first time in a long while and celebrate that first Easter Holy Communion—whenever that Easter morning comes. I wonder what the Lord will taste like? Until then, let us be of good courage.

The Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner is rector of Christ Church in Dartmouth, N.S.



Blessing of the Animals on November 4th with Rev. Kyle and the Shaw family!

In this Issue

.....	1
The Church is Alive in new ways!	1
Bishop Elect the Reverend Sandra Fyfe	4
Pastoral visiting in a time of pandemic	4
Prayer is a Wonderful Thing	5
Prayer of lament for the Wildfires	6
Pastoral Ministry Committee	6
Bible Study and Book Club: <i>God and the Pandemic</i> by NT Wright	6
Historical Committee	7
Vision 2020: Holy Cow! What's with all the CATS!	9
Music at Christ Church– Thoughts on The Silence Around Us	9
Food Bank Garden	10
Safeguarding in the Church of England	11
Life in the Parish Office	13
Book Club	13
Our Campus (Property):	14
Sunday School Update May-June 2020	14
2020 Christmas Hamper Support	15
Food and Clothing Ministry	15
Financial Committee	16
Heritage Oak Columbarium Perpetual Care Committee	16

Bishop Elect the Reverend Sandra Fyfe

The Reverend Sandra Fyfe has been elected the next Anglican Bishop of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. When consecrated bishop she will be the 17th person to hold the post. Owing to Covid-19 restrictions, the 149th Session of the Diocese met in eleven locations throughout the two provinces to conduct the election. She was voted in on the 3rd ballot. The Reverend Sandra Fyfe is currently the rector of the Parish of Horton, St. John's Church, Wolfville, where she has served since 2009. A

graduate of Queen's Theological College, St. John's, NL with her Masters of Divinity, she was ordained deacon in 2000 and priest in 2001. Other places where she has served have been: curate at St. Thomas Church, St. John's, NL; rector at Christ Church, Shelburne; and, priest-in-charge of the parishes of St. James Church, Kentville, and Lockeport-Barrington. She was Archdeacon of the South Shore Region until 2009 and Archdeacon of the Valley Region until 2017.



Pastoral visiting in a time of pandemic

Submitted by Rev. Bonnie Baird, Pastoral Visitor

The first week after everything shut down province-wide was a shock.

The church doors temporarily closed to services. No visiting allowed in hospitals even with close family members, homes for special care closed to outside visitors, last rites at hospital bedsides no longer possible. Forget about in-home visits.

In the months since, some restrictions have lifted. How wonderful to actually have in-person services again at Christ Church, for example. The emphasis is still on safety and caution, however.

And so your visitors' group has been keeping in touch with people they would normally see regularly by other means. Some are writing letters. Some are sending emails, and of course keeping in touch by phone.

That involves reaching into people's isolation, listening intently to what is often unsaid. Which is more difficult when you can't read the expression in another person's face or their body language. So much of effective communicating has to do with the nonverbal. We are rediscovering this now.

I'm thinking today about my own experience as a pastoral visitor phoning someone in the parish. And sometimes phoning a stranger, in response to a request to do so.

Here's what I've noticed:

- ❖ Most people are pleased to receive a phone call. Even if they're busy and can't talk at that moment, most will reschedule. Many have asked for regular phone calls.
- ❖ Sometimes, a deeper conversation occurs in the space of a call. People trust that what they tell you will be treated as confidential. It is sacred territory we enter in such calls.
- ❖ In this time of pandemic, people are grieving. Grieving for spouses who have died before they were permitted to see them in hospital, grieving for family members who are sick at a distance, or just simply at a distance. There are the funerals that cannot be held yet because of safe distancing, the weddings and anniversary celebrations postponed for the same reason. There is the complexity of dealing with a health care system that is now handling Covid 19 too. Some anticipated medical procedures have been postponed. And of course there is the longing for ordinary life to return. All of these losses take a toll.
- ❖ Woven through the grief and disappointment, however, are stories of more time for self-care (if you aren't juggling children at home), reflection, and pursuing a long-put-off hobby. Or of blending family in a time of isolation, or of reconnecting across the miles.
- ❖ People are handling what's coming at them with a whole lot of grace. And a few choice words (sometimes):.

Thank you for being a community that keeps in good touch with one another. You did so at the beginning of the pandemic with a parish-wide phone call. You continue to do so as pastoral visitors, as friends and colleagues in shared ministry, and following the promptings of your heart. In this time when fears are

high and gatherings are limited, a phone call can make a big difference. Especially to someone who is alone.

Prayer is a Wonderful Thing

Submitted by Joan Halsey, September 2020

Prayer is a wonderful thing,
Unless you're Satan, of course,
For he hates to see us giving,
Precious time to our Lord.

But we can outsmart him,
That's for sure,
We can pray in our comfortable pews,
Even pray while making stews.

'Cause when two or three are gathered,
And we're praying for certain needs,
No matter where we're scattered,
Our God is there indeed.
So, ten o'clock each morning,
Let us bow our heads in prayer,
Ten minutes of time with our Saviour,
Will show Him we really care.

This joins us all together,
As only God's Spirit can do,
And oh the gift of peace He shares,
When we come to Him with our hopes and cares.

Holy Spirit, grant us power to fight,
Pandemics, and all the storms of our lives,
And in faith,
We know, that we'll be all right.
Amen

We have 20 plus people who have made a commitment to pray for our Church every morning for ten minutes, starting at 10 a.m... Like every Parish at this time we are more than ever in need of God's guidance as we vision His Will, in His way.....

I know that people pray faithfully, but this is a chance for us to be together Spiritually at the same time to pray for our parish and its needs. If God calls you to this ministry, would you please phone Joan Halsey at 902 469 0575 or Grace Williams, 902 464 1801. So we can add your

names to our list. The pandemic may keep us apart physically but not spiritually.

Prayer of lament for the Wildfires

Submitted by Grace Sperry, September 2020

God Almighty creator of heaven and earth
We beseech you
On bent knee we kneel before you wearing sackcloth
and ashes on our head
Our garments are torn and our hearts are broken
We have sinned against your creation
Now the flames of our idolatry consume all that lives
in your garden
Let us take refuge under your wing from the glowing
embers
Anoint the scorched earth with tears from the
heavens
The night sky has been rouged with the anger of the
cosmos
Smoke rises from a groaning creation and puts out the
stars
Our souls have been singed by the temptations of evil
We quake in fear on a fleeing foot from death and
destruction
Deliver us from this land of terror and grief
Our sighs are a song sorrow
You are the rock on which we built a temple filled with
hope
The temple has burned
Hope has been sacrificed on the altar of our
selfishness
Our bones have been dried by the heat of greed
You have abandoned us to ourselves
We cry out to you
Save us
The roar of fire deafens our cries
Oh God of Israel hear our pray.
Amen



Pastoral Ministry Committee

Submitted by Carolyn Chenhall

The Pastoral Ministry Committee will once again be offering the PWRDF World of GIFTS. Please watch the Mid-Week Announcements for the dates.

This Christmas make a world of difference
with PWRDF's World of Gifts!



Support PWRDF programs by making a gift.
Three easy ways to order:

- Use the order form in the World of Gifts guide in your October, November or December issue of the Anglican Journal.
- Order from our secure site any time at pwrdf.org/worldofgifts.
- Browse the guide at pwrdf.org/donate/worldofgifts then place your order by telephone during business hours at 1-866-308-7973.

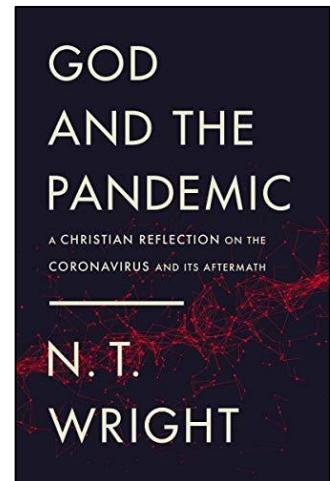
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Bible Study and Book Club: God and the Pandemic by NT Wright

Sundays after church
starting October 18th
(11:30am in the Lower
Hall)

Our sessions together:

- October 18th
Where Do We Start?
- October 25th
Reading the Old Testament
- November 1st
Jesus and the Gospels



- November 8th *Reading the New Testament*
- November 15th *Where Do We Go from Here?*

Please RSVP your attendance, and also if you wish to order a book through the parish office. Books cost \$15.00.

About the Book

Discover a different way of seeing and responding to the Coronavirus pandemic, an approach drawing on Scripture, Christian history, and the way of living, thinking, and praying revealed to us by Jesus.

What are we supposed to think about the Coronavirus crisis?

Some people think they know: "This is a sign of the End," they say. "It's all predicted in the book of Revelation."

Others disagree but are equally clear: "This is a call to repent. God is judging the world and through this disease he's telling us to change."

Some join in the chorus of blame and condemnation: "It's the fault of the Chinese, the government, the World Health Organization..."

N. T. Wright examines these reactions to the virus and finds them wanting. Instead, he shows that a careful reading of the Bible and Christian history offers simple though profound answers to our many questions, including:

- What should be the Christian response?
- How should we think about God?
- How do we live in the present?
- Why should we lament?
- What should we learn about ourselves?
- How do we recover?

Written by one of the world's foremost New Testament scholars, *God and the Pandemic* will serve as your guide to read the events of today through the light of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Historical Committee

Submitted by Janice Silver

Some Eerie Similarities Between 1918 Spanish Flu and 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic

According to medical historian Allan Marble, "One hundred years ago, Nova Scotia was a sombre place as the Spanish Flu spread. School closures were frequent and church services were often cancelled. People were encouraged to stay in their homes and avoid contact with their neighbours.

By the end of its final flare-up, Spanish influenza killed 200 more people (2,200) in Nova Scotia than the 1917 Halifax Explosion. In Canada, about 55,000



people died because of the Spanish flu. Women were hit particularly hard by the virus, which was most deadly for adults under 65. Many nurses and other women died after caring for patients and family members who'd fallen ill.

Nova Scotia had the lowest mortality rates of any place in North America from the Spanish flu, something that Marble attributes to doctors being in positions of influence at that time. During the three-year-flu period (1918-1920), N.S. had an overall death rate of 3.16 per



Seven Deaths From the "Flu" in Dartmouth

The Public Schools Will Not Re-Open Until the Disease is on the Wane.—J. T. Graham Succumbs to the Disease.

DARTMOUTH, October 24.— Seven deaths have occurred in Dartmouth directly or indirectly from Spanish influenza and since the first of the week a further increase in the number of new cases has been recorded. Enquiries have been made as to when the schools will be re-opened. There will be no school while the disease shows any signs of increasing. Just as soon as the influenza is on the wane the schools will re-open.

The disease is not confined to any one part of the town. It has occurred in houses on Windmill road, Fairbanks street, Portland, Pleasant, Ochterlony streets, Shore road and in the Austenbury district. It is by no means epidemic, altho there have been quite a number of cases to date. The action taken by the Health Board has greatly prevented infection and the people are observing the restrictions satisfactorily.

THERE was a large attendance at the funeral this week of Mrs. William O'Brien, who died from influenza. A number of relatives and friends from the city and town were present. The services were conducted at the grave by Monsignor Underwood. Besides a husband and one child, the deceased is survived by five brothers—James, of Dartmouth; Richard, Halifax; John, at home, Robert, in Sheridan, Wyoming; Eardley, at the front. Emma, wife of Harry Knox, who resides in Winnipeg, is a sister. The mother of the deceased resides in Dartmouth.

seemed over and both cities began to return to normal. However, walking through Halifax and Dartmouth, it must have felt like a weary, strange place; twin cities recovering from the Explosion, enduring the fourth and final year of a world war, and now struggling to contain a fast-striking disease. On November 5, all public health restrictions were lifted and life began to return to normal, just in time to celebrate the end of World War One on November 11, 1918. While many associate Spanish Flu with 1918, it actually lasted in Nova Scotia until around May, 1920 when it finally disappeared."

Notes from the 1918 Christ Church Vestry Book
During the Spanish Flu

October 4, 1918 – Churches, schools, theatres etc. closed for fear of epidemic of Spanish Influenza. Rector (Rev. Noel Wilcox) developed influenza on Oct 4th and was confined to bed for 4 days.

thousand, considerably lower than the death rate in the U.S. which was 6.2 per cent per thousand.

"As the Spanish flu spread, newspapers published daily reports, listing new cases, infected occupant addresses, and sadly, deaths. Both Dartmouth and Halifax opened hospital beds at the quarantine facility on Lawlor's Island, the Cogswell Street Military Station Hospital, unused wards in Victoria General Hospital, and at Greenvale School, but they also quickly built a facility in Willow Park. Funerals had to be performed quickly, with no public attendance. By the end of October, the number of cases had peaked and then just as quickly, the pandemic

October 13– Churches closed almost all over Canada. Rector made 16 sick visits. 1 baptism, 1 marriage, 3 burials

October 14 Thanksgiving Day – Open air service at 10am on steps of Christ Church – 45 present. Rev. Noel Wilcox was assisted by Presbyterian Minister and Methodist Pastor

October 20 – Churches closed. 3 Burials during the week.

October 27th – Churches closed

November 3 – One Holy Communion service held in rectory and 9 attended. 2 burials in previous week

November 10 – 78 total communicants at 8am and 11am Holy Communion services. Another burial

November 11, 1918 - Germany surrenders and the war then ends. Word came at 4:40am. The Rector rang the church bell at 5:05. Still ringing as the 4 signal guns on the Citadel were discharged. All through the day people came to the Church/Parish Hall to offer thanksgiving prayer. At 5pm Great Service of Thanksgiving was held. The Parish Hall was filled to capacity. (Note: the church was still under repair from the Halifax Explosion) Hymn 566, Te Deum, address by the Rector, prayers and God Save the King.

November 12 – 30 communicants at 10am Holy Communion - Celebrant Rev. Vernon, assisted by Rev. Noel Wilcox. Noon Thanksgiving Service in


Office of City Health Board
Halifax, N. S., October 4th, 1918.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE Health Board of the City of Halifax, in order to prevent the spread of the epidemic disease, commonly known as Spanish Influenza, has determined under the authority conferred upon it by the Halifax City Charter and the Public Health Act, that all Churches, Theatres and moving picture shows, Colleges and Schools, both public and private, and other places where people assemble or congregate, shall be closed from this date until the further order of the Board, and persons having control of such places are hereby notified to comply with such direction and that for failure so to do, they will incur the penalties provided by the law in that behalf.

Halifax, October 4th, 1918.
By order of the City Health Board,
J. A. WATTERS,
Secretary.
6277 hm 5

City Health Board
Halifax, N. S.
October 3rd, 1918.

Church/Parish Hall - full of worshipers, Rector preached 12:45 United Service of Thanksgiving in front of Post Office, address by Dr. MacKay. Rev. Noel Wilcox took part.

November 17 – 7pm Evensong used Service for Victory at Sea. Two more burials

December 1– List of noble dead in war read by rector at 11am service

December 8– Great storm and only 2 present

December 15– Stormy. Nobody in congregation and rector did not celebrate

December 25 – Christmas Day. Torrents of rain. Services at 7am, 8, 9:30, 11 and 4pm with a total of 108 attendees

Vision 2020: Holy Cow! What's with all the CATS!

Submitted by John MacDonald



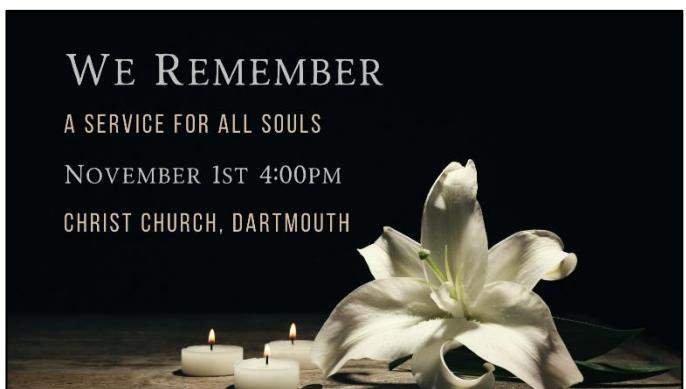
We want to hear
from you!

Christ Church has embarked on VISION 2020 - a process of discernment to map our ministry priorities into the future. To that end, Parish Council has established two sub committees to determine all options regarding the future of the ministry of Christ Church. One committee to look at our ongoing ministry and one to look at the campus.

The subcommittees exploring the ministry of Christ Church has partnered with the company Holy Cow Consulting to conduct a Church Assessment Tool (CAT). This is an on-line survey that will help us gauge the strength, vitality, and trends in our church. The information gained from this assessment will be valuable in helping us make decisions about the future of our parish. If all goes well, we should see data and discussion forums regarding the survey results by the

end of October. To date we have received 95 completed surveys, but we need everyone's feedback so please take the time to complete the survey online or call the church office to get a paper copy.

The campus sub-committee will be evaluating our current physical plant to determine the useful life and capital cost investment needed to sustain our buildings and will react to the outcomes of the ministry subcommittee to determine what physical resources will be required to perform our ministry in Dartmouth into the future. For more information on the Vision 2020 process see a video by Father Kyle at: <https://www.christchurchdartmouth.com/vision2020.html>



Music at Christ Church– Thoughts on The Silence Around Us

Submitted by John Bogardus

Happy Autumn friends. As the leaves turn around us and everything falls asleep, we have begun to wake up from our own stressful hibernation. However, the world we have emerged to find is quiet. We stand apart from each other. We speak



quietly. For many of us, the lack of music makes the world deafeningly quiet, almost too much to bear at times. We are tired yet we've probably had more opportunity to rest than we've had in years.

But the world is quiet. As I write this, late at night, after a long day of pulling Dutch organ pipes out of the basement of a church in the Valley, I am listening to J. S. Bach's transcendent Chaconne as played by Nova Scotian Organist Xaver Varnus and Canadian Pianist Anastasia Rizikov. Bach's Chaconne is one of those great works that transcends time, genre, and instrument. It has been played by everyone and on every instrument.

I discovered this piece as a young violin student. I was transfixed. It is one of those pieces that causes you to think deeper every time you listen to it. I have worked on this piece on and off for over 20 years.

My life is never quiet. My mind is filled with the greatest choirs in the world, the best orchestras and bands wander through my mind when there is not music around me. This never ending record plays in my head. It is God's gift to me. I love music so much. God knows this and he pours it through me. I receive this gift with unending joy and I know that I'm lucky.

But our collective life is quiet. During this quiet time, when your heart longs for those lost hymns, those lost songs, there is something you can do.

When we go to music school or we study music we immerse ourselves in recordings. We even transcribe them. Imagine being so moved by a recording that you would spend hours and hours to write down that which has moved you, inspired you.

We live in the most amazing times. God's gift of music sits in digital boxes all around us. Turn on the radio, put on a record, get cds from the library, watch youtube, and as Bill Nye the Science Guy always says "Turn it up loud!"

Surround yourself with this gift of music, let it pour into you, through you. Stop and listen. Sing along. Let it give you your joy back.

The music is not gone, for now it is in a different place. The words are only gone if you don't open the books (so to say).

And, as the word begins to make music again, as the church begins to sing again, you will, someday, lift your voice and sing bolstered by your own expression of the joy of music, God's gift of music that, like a prayer, you did not wait for. Seek out that which you miss.

Food Bank Garden

Submitted by Janice Silver

During the early months of the COVID-19 shutdown, the Gardening Group was unsure if community gardening would be allowed this summer. Fortunately by the time June rolled around, outdoor activities were given the green light with appropriate social-distancing, of course! The garden was quickly planted and a volunteer schedule was set up to carry out watering, weeding, maintenance and harvesting. Produce was picked mid-week for Thursday Food Bank clients.

We planted cucumbers, beans, garlic, carrots and potatoes, to supplement our rhubarb, blueberry bushes and strawberries. It turned out to be another challenging growing season because of the lack of rain, but our gardeners persevered with lots of watering and were able to harvest some fresh produce most weeks during the summer. The garlic crop was fantastic and was offered for sale to parishioners in September. The money raised will be used to help fund next year's seeds and garden supplies.

It was a pleasure to use the new garden shed, funded by the late Ann Minzloff and built by Larry Graham at the end of last year's growing season! We intended to have it named and blessed this spring, but unfortunately that got postponed due to COVID. Hopefully this will happen in 2021!

Live
Worship
10:00AM





Safeguarding in the Church of England

Submitted by The Reverend Canon David Greenwood

On 24 September, our Canon David Greenwood made a presentation to Parish Council on the topic of Safeguarding in the Church of England. Canon David is a priest of the Church of England who is on loan to us here at Christ Church. Here are some notes from his presentation:

The Church of England (C of E) is profoundly serious about the issue of Safeguarding.

In October 2015, the Rt Rev. Peter Ball, Bishop of Gloucester was convicted and sentenced for the abuse of 18 young men over a period of 15 years. Following his conviction, there were allegations of church cover-up and a national independent inquiry was called by the Federal Government.

The C of E has now been galvanized to become an advocate against - and sanctuary from - abuse. The goal is to make the C of E, from parish level to the Archbishop of Canterbury, into a Leader in Safeguarding. Every parish church must become a safe place - vigilant and free from abuse, alert and able to recognizing abuse symptoms in members, and able to provide educated advice and pastoral care to those who may suffer abuse at home, at school, in the workplace, or at other institutions.

The C of E uses the term “Safeguarding” whereas the Anglican Church of Canada has a program called “Safer

Church.” The goal of both programs is the same – to prevent abuse from ever happening.

Fr David reflected that Safeguarding training had changed over the past thirty years. In the 1990s, clergy were trained to keep themselves safe by ensuring chaperones were present when meeting with children or women and to ensure their office spaces had a window to ensure the parish secretary could discretely observe that nothing untoward was taking place. Later in the 2000s, clergy were told to ensure the church institution was safe, that, if necessary, charitable employee insurance was obtained, training was received and recorded, and that parish policies were developed to give assurance to diocesan and insurance leadership that all was in order. Now in the 2020s, we are being told that the primary objective is to create a safe space in the first place so that no abuse will take place at all - and, in fact, that we as churches will be seen as a safe abuse free place, with such special skills and compassion that people experiencing abuse in other places will seek us out to find sanctuary, counsel, and relief solutions.

To support this, the C of E had produced three important guidance documents: (1) the 2016, Faith and Order Commission’s theological resource for local parishes, *The Gospel, Sexual Abuse and the Church*; (2) the 2017, Faith and Order Commission’s document, *Forgiveness and Reconciliation in the Aftermath of Abuse*; and the House of Bishops’, *Parish Safeguarding Handbook: Promoting a Safer Church*. Printed versions of all three documents were on hand for my presentation and PDF versions will be to Parish Council members.

The focus of the current Safeguarding initiatives within the C of E could be summarized into three points:

Anyone is vulnerable and almost everyone can be considered as an officer of the Church.

Whereas once we spoke of children and vulnerable adults as potential victims of abuse, now we are aware anyone can be a victim of abuse – a 35 year old can be abused physically, emotionally, or sexually by their spouse; an 85 year old can be abused physically, emotionally, sexually, and financially by their caregiver, and a 10 year child can be abused physically, emotionally, or sexually by someone in authority or

abused through bullying online by their peers. Anyone can be abused.

Whereas we once thought of clergy, Wardens, and Treasurer as the “officers of the church” – to a visitor the one greeting at the door and handing out bulletins is officially acting on behalf of the church; the volunteer who reads the first scripture lesson during worship is a religious authority proclaiming God’s Word from a gilded lectern; and the parishioner who is asked to give someone a lift home, becomes an unsupervised but mandated minister of the parish. Anyone tasked with a ministry is an authorized officer and agent of the Church.

How would people know that we are a safe church?

If we are to become a safe sanctuary staffed with educated and compassionate and vigilant safeguarding people – how would someone visiting know this? Fr David observed that, like the Anglican Church of Canada, the C of E requires that every clergy leader attend Safe Church training and each parish develop a Safeguarding policy, but that in addition, each parish is to have an appointed Safeguarding Officer who is a member of Parish Council and who keeps track of training, makes regular reports, and is the primary person appointed to receive abuse complaints.

In addition, Safeguarding visibility can be enhanced by (1) Having a summary of the Safeguarding Policy and Safeguarding Officer’s contact information made into a poster and placed by the main door, (2) Placing Safeguarding posters in the washrooms so women and men can become aware of our concern and advocacy, (3) wearing a safety pin on our lapels (a safety pin in becoming an international sign of being an ally and someone safe to approach); and (4) including our concerns about Safeguarding in sermons, (5) announcements, (6) parish newsletter articles, and (7) in the distributed minutes of Parish Council.

How to can a parish welcome, but yet be vigilant with, people who are accused or guilty of abuse? And how can we be a place of reconciliation?

In England, everyone who is resident in a parish is legally entitled to attend parish worship. This is not the case in Canada. The C of E has an excellent policy on being vigilant with persons who have been accused of abuse or who have been found guilty of abuse, been

incarcerated, have come to a faith belief, been released, and who now desire to attend parish worship. There is a need to protect the repentant abuser and safeguard them from actions or temptations that could cause them to breach any legal or probation limitations. An open and honest, “Covenant” must be developed by them and the wardens. Such an agreement could identify a specific place to sit, a prohibition of entering the church Sunday school area or any area where children are present, not lingering after worship to attend the coffee hour, and not attending any church based small group programs held in congregational members homes where children reside. We, in turn, would agree to develop religious programming options which take place in adult only settings. The congregational member subject to the Covenant would be ensured that their ability to worship will be maintained, the Covert will be discrete but monitored, and that the clergy, wardens, and the Safeguarding Officer will be vigilant in its application.

In congregations where abuse has taken place, and when working with persons who have been abused, I made reference to the excellent pastoral care, liturgy suggestions, scriptural references, and prayers which have been compiled in the Faith and Order Commission’s document, *Forgiveness and Reconciliation in the Aftermath of Abuse*.



Pam Fisher (Sexton), John Bogardus (Music Director), Gail Teixeira, gathering together as recordings taking place during COVID-19



Command central at Rev. Kyle's home as he leads worship during the pandemic.



Life in the Parish Office

Submitted by John Gallant, Parish Administrator

The year 2020 has been a challenging one for us all. Lindsay Patriquin, our Parish Administrator of 20 years, retired in November of 2019. I stepped into the role on December 16th one week before Christmas, Christ Church's financial year-end and the installation of a new accounting system for 2020. I thought, "If I can survive this I can survive anything!" Little did anyone know what 2020 had in store.

When the news broke that we were going into a Global "lock down", life in the Parish Office changed drastically. Reverend Bonnie, Christine Hoehne and I put together a list of everyone in the Parish so volunteer callers could reach out and check on our Church Family. Equipment was gathered and taken home. Having run my own business for many years, I am no stranger to working from home. This felt different, somehow more urgent. Any sense of routine that was established in the three short months in the role vanished. The duties of the Parish Administrator changed. Communications that would at one time have been reserved for Sunday Service were now emails and paper copies being mailed out. Simple tasks of running the office had to be reworked. Just going to the bank or meeting clients at Heritage Oak required extra planning.

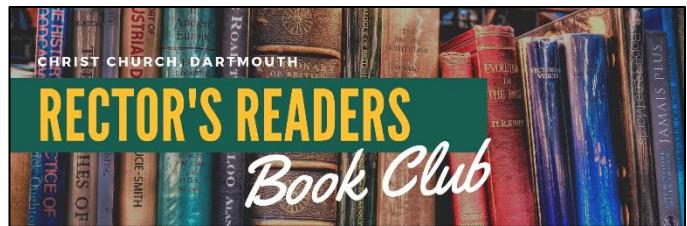
As the "First Wave" waned, we returned to working from the office. Hand sanitizer, masks, and physical distancing are all



now routine. It is amazing how quickly we have adapted to these changes.

What I have learned from this year of Global Pandemic? I have learned that the community of Christ Church is a strong and varied family. The members of our Parish care deeply for Christ Church and its people. The people are the church. We gathered via the internet, but we still gathered. Emails and telephone calls were received offering to help with Food Bank, stuffing envelopes, and/or making telephone calls.

I do not know what the future holds for Christ Church. I do know that together, as a family strengthened by our faith, we can face any challenge.



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 gather on Wednesday afternoons in the minister's office (61 Dundas Street) at 2:00 pm. If you wish to join our group, please contact the parish office at 902.466.4270 or christchurch@christchurchdartmouth.com If you wish to join us via zoom, please contact the parish office.

Book Club Book List for 2020/2021

- **November 4th** *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard For White People To Talk About Racism.* By Robin DiAngelo, Beacon Press: June 26, 2018.
- **December 2nd** *Mr. Dickens and His Carol.* By Samantha Silva, Flatiron Books: Oct. 31 2017
- **January 6th** *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking On Water, And Loving The Bible Again.* By Rachel Held Evans, Thomas Nelson: June 12, 2018.
- **February 3rd** *The Waiting Hours.* by Shandy Mitchell, Viking: April 30th 2019.
- **March 3rd** *American Dirt: A Novel.* By Jeanine Cummins, Flatiron Books: January 21, 2020

- **April 7th** *Where The Crawdads Sing*. By Delia Owens, Penguin Publishing Group: August 14, 2018
- **May 5th** *The Humans* By Matt Haig, HarperCollins Publishers: July 2 2013.

Our Campus (Property):

Submitted by Cathy Connors Chair of Property Committee

The Property Committee have met regularly and are pleased to report that the long-awaited hot water heaters in the church have been installed. In keeping with our efforts to reduce our energy consumption the washroom has been outfitted with an “on demand” system. This system heats the water when the tap is opened rather than maintaining gallons of hot water waiting to be used. The work on the front doors has resumed and we hope to have them installed before winter sets in.



Sunday School Update May-June 2020

Submitted by Heather Downey and Gail Texiera



A report on activity - Sunday School delivered via Zoom video conferencing

We are all part of God's family - and Zoom Sunday School puts a special spotlight on our Christ Church youth and the young-at-heart.

Thank you, Rev. Dr. Kyle, for your continued support and prayer. We have dedicated attendance from eight families / extended families as well as visitors.

Thank you to those who contributed funds so that each child / youth has their own, hardback copy of “The Spark Story Bible”. This resource tells stories from The Old Testament (46) and The New Testament (104) in narrative form

(without chapter / verse designations), along with the chapter / verse references from the traditional Bible in the Story Bible Table of Contents. The illustrations are engaging, gender inclusive, ethnically diverse - and of course, take the lead from the expressive art rendering of Squiggles the caterpillar.

Arrival and presentation of the Spark Story Bibles was part of a party celebrating Pentecost, the birthday of the Church. And celebrate we did with bubbles and chocolate cake (thank you, Iain!), and our Sunday School Zoom gathering.

Our host teachers alternate in lead roles, and use vetted resources from Augsburg Fortress (Spark Bible Curriculum). The inclusion of guest presenters Kim Drisdelle, bees (May) (children / youth made bee baths) and Tareq Hadhad, Peace by Chocolate (June) (children / youth received “Peace by Chocolate” candies) reminds us that God’s loving care is relevant and practical.

Our Christ Church, Dartmouth, Sunday School Prayer (thank you, Christine Hoehne)

**May we who have much — remember those who have little
May we who are full — remember those who are hungry
May we who are loved — remember those who are lonely
May we who are safe — remember those who are in danger
May we who have much — learn to share.**

Where and how will this form of Sunday School continue in the transition to in-person liturgy? This poses many questions and possibilities. We, the current Sunday School teaching team, believe our mandate contributes to providing a social setting for youth to know how much God loves them, and how they always have the stories of God’s love available in prayer, text, art, song and video. “I love to tell the story | Of Jesus and His [God’s] love.” That’s why we love the Bible, and why it was so important that each child / youth have a copy in a format accessible at multiple reading levels. The Bible - a central part of our liturgy. Quoting from the introduction of “The Spark Story Bible”: “Experience something new each time you read a story, ... through the words, the imaginative art, or in the face of Squiggles [the caterpillar]. Grow in faith together as you imagine, talk about, wonder, and explore God’s word.”



2020 Christmas Hamper Support

Submitted by Marg Seaman

As with all things this year, Covid-19 has and will affect the way the Christmas Hamper Support program is run. Unfortunately, we will not be able to enlist the participation of the community in the set-up and packing of the hampers due to physical distancing guidelines. The committee is saddened by this but we are committed to providing the same level of support to families in need as we have done in the past. We just have to do it differently and there are many ways you can still be involved!



Our level of commitment is 105 families of which many will be for our own Food Bank Clients, we will receive additional names from Feed Nova Scotia.

Volunteers will be needed for the following activities:

- 1) **Callers** – This involves making contact with the client to verify & to secure additional information
- 2) **Bakers** – Providing cookies packaged in 1 dozen lots to add to the hampers. Drop off to Lower Hall entrance on Monday, December 21, 2020 no later than 2:00 pm
- 3) **Christmas Card Writing** – Signing Christmas cards on behalf of Christ Church for each family
- 4) **Delivery Drivers** – December 22, 2020 from 3:00 pm forward. This will be done by “appointment” to ensure physical distancing. All drivers will be required to wear masks while delivering to clients

Financial Support Suggestions:

Purchase a Hamper:

An \$85.00 financial contribution = Support for 1 family

Children's Gift or Gift Card:

Child's gift - \$40.00 value – You will be contacted with the child's name and gift suggestion

Grocery Gift Card: \$10.00 value

All monetary donations can be made by dropping off a cheque to the Parish Office, placing the donation on the Offertory Plate at service or by e-transfer to the Parish Administrator at (christchurch@christchurchdartmouth.com) . Please indicate clearly that it is for the Christmas Hampers.

To indicate your interest in participating in the 2020 Christmas Hamper Support program, please visit the Christ Church website www.christchurchdartmouth.com and complete the online form under the Donations Tab.

For further information, contact Marg Seaman at 902-466-2159 or email mseaman@accesswave.ca

Food and Clothing Ministry

Submitted by Christine Hoehne

Our food bank has had to go through many changes in the last 6 months, thanks to Covid 19.

We have had to change from a relaxed Thursday morning social coffee event during food distribution to a quick food pick up with masks, social distancing and constant disinfecting.

At the beginning of Covid19, initiated by the Public Good Society of Dartmouth, we started an active food delivery program. Now deliver about 30



-35 boxes per week on Wednesday's. We would like to thank our drivers who generously give their time, gasoline and car for folks in dire need. Our drivers often deliver to circumstances that can be “adventurous “. Thank you.

Thank you also to the volunteers who shop on behalf of Christ Church, unpack the Feed Nova Scotia delivery truck Wednesdays, sort and stack food, build new shelving and serve our clients Thursdays, all of this

while wearing masks and keeping appropriate social distance.

We have had to discontinue the clothing ministry as our clients are really not able to come in and choose clothing. At this point we have not found a safe social distancing way of continuing this ministry, although we are very aware of the need come fall and winter.

In the last month Christ Church foodbank has served about 100 households every week. This represents a almost a doubling of our clientele from a year ago. We believe this is most likely the result of government funding programs ending.

A big thank to all of you, who have continued to support the our Food Bank. Although Feed NS has been generous with their support, we do rely on Christ Church parishioners.

We also want to thank every one who has ever worked at Christ Church food bank for the tremendous work they have done to establish Food Bank and the support they have given the clients over many years. Thank you all, but particularly, Madelyn, for your care and love of the Food Bank.

Financial Committee

Submitted by John MacDonald

Due to diocesan and government support programs to the tune of \$44,000, as of the end of August, Christ Church's financial position is healthy going into the fall. Giving through the PAR program is strong! Thank you to all who have continued to support Christ Church through these challenging times.

However, giving makes up only 70% of the church's operating budget. Hall rental and fund raising have been minimal due to covid. We have recently learned that government subsidy in all probability will be substantially reduced in upcoming months. In that case we will be forced to utilize our current strong cash position as the decline in hall rental and fund-raising mean our expenses will be greater than revenues.

The Finance Committee continues to monitor our financial situation and advise the executive. Please

keep Christ Church in your prayers through these challenging times.



PAR

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

Supporting the growth of our ministry.

Many of us pay our monthly bills online. Just ask the Parish Administrator for the PAR Form. The same form can be used to change your monthly givings if you are already using PAR. Knowing what to expect financially each month helps us at Christ Church budget and plan the good works we do.



E-MAIL LIST

Connecting Online

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

Heritage Oak and the Perpetual Care Committee have been busy over the past several months.

There is a growing interest in Heritage Oak by the greater Dartmouth community. To date (September 2020) we have sold 23 niches, had three



scattering of ashes in the Garden, and had 13 internments.

The Perpetual Care Committee reminds everyone that niches are available for sale in our Heritage Oak Columbarium should you wish to enquire 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. If you wish to view the columbarium, please contact John Gallant in the Parish Office. Remember that Heritage Oak Columbarium & Memorial Garden is a peaceful and historical setting for remembrance for all denominations.

PHONE: 902-466-2443 or John 902-430-5687
www.HeritageOak.ca



HERITAGE OAK
— columbarium & memorial garden —



UPCOMING EVENTS

To add to your date book

- ✓ Thanksgiving Service Sunday October 11 10:00am
- ✓ All Souls Service of Remembrance November 1st at 4:00pm
- ✓ Services of Remembrance November 8th at 10:00am
- ✓ The Reign of Christ Sunday November 22nd 10:00am



Parish Contacts:

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner
Pastoral Visitor: The Rev. Bonnie Baird
Honorary Assistants: The Rev. Canon Dr. Jody Clarke, The Rev. Canon David Greenwood
Parish Administrator: John Gallant
Music Director: John Bogardus
Wardens: Christine Hoehne, Steve Smith, Don Murray, QC

Office Phone: (902) 466-4270
Email: christchurch@christchurchdartmouth.com
Web: www.christchurchdartmouth.com
Parish Office Hours: Monday 8:30 am-4:30pm,
Tuesday 1-5 pm, Wednesday & Thursday 8:30 –
1:30, Sunday 9:00 am-11:30 am
(Note: hours may vary)
Church Hall: 61 Dundas Street
Postal: 61 Dundas Street, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B2Y 4H5



CHRIST CHURCH COLLECT FOR VISIONING

O God, draw us together as a community that seeks understanding. As followers of Christ, we are guided by your Holy Spirit. Fill us with your vision. Assist us as we reflect on who we are as a church. Help us to be mindful of the resources we have and what you are calling us to do. Fill our hearts with love for your mission as we seek to grow and build your Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.