



# The Parish Window

ADVENT / CHRISTMAS 2020



CHRIST CHURCH SCARBOROUGH VILLAGE  
*Quarterly Newsletter*



## POUNDERINGS FROM PASTOR PAM



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Ponderings from Pastor Pam:

Voice:  
Looking Ahead

**"At this time, we may also have to work through the "unwelcoming effects of the pandemic on ourselves"**

The theme of welcoming kept coming up even before I had a chance to put pen to paper (fingers to keyboard) to write this Newsletter article. Perhaps it was sparked by reading Viggy's well-written piece, which you will find later in the Newsletter. It is about the importance of welcoming newcomers.

I have been deliberating over how we can be welcoming during this wonderful time of Christmas. Our food bank has, indeed, been helping meet the needs of local people, welcoming all each week, but what about welcoming people to worship? Normally, we would be able to invite community members to in-person Christmas services. I have always enjoyed the carol-singing "offered" at the Metro grocery store. It gave us a great opportunity to sing the good news of Christ's birth and invite others to join us for worship

over Christmas. The problem this year: how do we invite when we are, at present, only allowed 10 people into our sanctuary?

Additionally, we have the stats stacked against us. Due to the high number of Covid 19 cases in Scarborough Village, the Parish Board advised us to consider discontinuing in-person worship services until some time in the new year. It seems that figuring out how to be inviting when we can only have 10 people, that conundrum, is no longer an issue. We will not be having in-person worship and will need to welcome all to come to our website

**[www.christchurchscarborough.com](http://www.christchurchscarborough.com)** and join us online.

At this time, we may also have to work through the "unwelcoming" effects of the pandemic on ourselves. Have you felt awkwardness or low-key niggling rejection during the pandemic? Contributing factors may be having to distance from others, not inviting or being invited to normal family/friend gatherings, and no handshaking or hugging (I have heard that missing

grandchildren has been especially difficult).

As well, there is the breakdown of understanding, because you cannot get close enough to hear one another or because wearing a mask muffles the communication. It is hard to feel that yours or other's words are fully welcome. Or, I think of a far-worse scenario and effect of the pandemic, the horror of a loved one dying alone in a hospital or seniors care home. Horrific.

And what of the fact that at various times during the pandemic important-to-you-and-me-places have been closed - children's playgrounds, gyms, spectator sports and participatory events, the theatre/concerts/cinemas, book and craft clubs and libraries. The fact that we are not welcome might help raise a nagging question - do we really matter?

Either way, there is a general cloud of unwelcoming over us, causing unease (some have termed the reality, "ambiguous grief"). I do not know about you, but, at times, I have felt grumpier. Needy.

# THE PARISH WINDOW

With all of this in mind, this year, especially, let us find a sense of welcome in the Christmas story. Even when there was no room in the inn for Mary to give birth to Jesus, the Saviour of the world, and even when the coming of the Holy One was seemingly overshadowed, not by a pandemic, but a census, yet the message of Christmas came. Angels broke into the rough-and-tumble world of the shepherds, announcing good news of great joy for all the people, proclaiming the birth of one who would save them from their brokenness. The disheveled crew were invited to come and see the one who was born to bring peace, goodwill to all.

We are also invited, just as the shepherds were, to come and see. I am invited to open my grumpy heart to God, who always welcomes me and meets me, enfolding me in his loving embrace. Perhaps, this Christmas, since it is difficult to fully embrace others, it is a time to cultivate our relationship with God and have Him meet our neediness. We are fully invited, this year, to welcome the best-welcomer, God Himself, into our lives more fully. No barriers. No miscommunication. No rejection. Love came down at Christmastime. Welcome Love in. Welcome God today.

***"Joy to the World, the Lord has come Let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare him room."***

You are invited to join us to worship online at  
[www.christchurchscarborough.com](http://www.christchurchscarborough.com)

**December 24th evening -**  
Christmas service with montage of faith-family faces

**December 27th -** Reflective, prepare-for-the-new-year service

**Your Priest and Pastor**

Pam



## CHRISTMAS 2020

***"Saviour who came to bring on thy redeeming wing healing and sight, health to the sick in mind, sight to the only blind, now to all humankind Let There Be Light!"***

We are well into our plans for Christmas. Not the usual Christmas celebrations we are used to. We may even feel we are in exile (?) But Christmas will still come. (Maybe God has even sent us to our room in timeout' because of how we have mistreated HIS creation.)

But still we prepare for the Joy that is to be celebrated. We will

tidy up our home, we will plan a menu and shop for it, we will write greeting cards, set up a tree and decorate it, after all it needs some lights for the light of the world is coming, we will shop for gifts and deliver them somehow..... Now, how will you prepare your hearts for Christmas? It probably needs preparation too. Is there any repentance needed; are there any misunderstandings to rectify? Do our actions and voices need adjustment? Maybe there are some who would appreciate a call, to hear a familiar voice.

Let us not get so busy, that we drift away from the reason for the season, the joy, hope, peace and love that should still exist for all humankind. Let your light so shine before others. Only this year we may have to go the distance. There is always a way with God.

However, you celebrate this Christmas, may it be one that lifts your spirits as you again welcome our Saviour's coming into our world, into our hearts. We should never be lacking the zeal and spiritual fervor to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour.

Christmas Blessings.

**Jeanette Khan**



## A Visit To A Mosque

The year was 2013, summer. A very close friend of mine, who lives in France, decided to visit me in Toronto. My friend Floron hails from the ancient city of Rouen in the Normandy region. She was born in a Roman Catholic family and for reasons beyond my comprehension she converted her religious belief from Catholic to Islam.

Floron stayed with my mum and me in our house in Scarborough. Her visit to Toronto coincided with the festival of Ramadan when Muslims fast the whole day. The fast is broken with ritual prayers at the end of the day.

As I am very liberal in my views, I could understand why she practiced her Muslim faith. My understanding was, "there is but ONE God"; the masses may have decided to call him in different names but what really matters, is faith. On the other hand, for my mother Kamalan, it was a different story. She could not fathom how one can change their faith from Christianity to Islam. Poor Floron had to literally go through a Spanish inquisition to try to explain the reason for her change.

One day Floron decided to visit a mosque in order to break her fast. She requested that I take her. Now this was a challenge to me, as, at that time I hardly stepped into a church. Now I had to take Floron to a mosque! I decided to take her to the mosque on Nugget Avenue in Scarborough.

We arrived at the mosque around 9 pm. Cars were lined up at the Nugget Avenue entrance and attendants were on duty, directing cars to the parking lot. It was almost like a check point at the main entrance to the premises.

I rolled down the window and told the attendant that this was my first time and that my friend wanted to perform the ritual of breaking fast. I also told him that I was not a Muslim. The attendant called over another assistant and mumbled something in a language I did not understand. I did hear the phrase, "first-timer" being emphasized. Then he directed me over to a

parking spot right by the entrance to the mosque, whereas I noticed that some other cars were directed to the north of Nugget Avenue by the Tim Hortons parking lot.

The attendant welcomed me to the mosque. He invited me to come in as a guest and partake of their meal. I politely declined the offer and then explained that Floron had limited understanding of English. The attendant reassured me that everything would be taken care of. A few minutes later, a young girl walked over and greeted us. Her head was covered in a niqab (a traditional Muslim head scarf). I did notice that she spoke very well, and her demeanor was very welcoming. She took down my cell phone number and assured me that she would take care of Floron and would call me when the service was over. The girl reached over and took Floron's hand and they walked into the mosque together.

Then I drove back home. A few hours later my phone rang and Floron was ready to be picked up at the mosque. I drove back and the girl was standing with Floron by the VIP mosque parking spot. She greeted me again and gave me her cell number. She said that I could call her at any time if I needed help with Floron and she asked me for my address so that she could deliver a French version of the prayers.

Once again, I politely declined the offer, saying that Floron would be returning to France. Then I took Floron home. Floron seemed so happy as she narrated how she was treated in the mosque. Apparently, the girl dedicated all her time to Floron. She was escorted to a special spot reserved for visitors only and all the elders in the mosque came down and greeted her personally. She was treated as such an important person that she felt a little embarrassed. Floron was literally surrounded by total strangers the entire time and yet they made her feel at home.

*Viggy Manickam*

# THE PARISH WINDOW

## A Word from Father Roy - Joy to The World!

To Mary and Joseph, their baby's first cry must have filled their hearts with excitement, joy and thanksgiving. There must also have been some sadness, because they were more than a hundred miles away from their families and friends. Praise God they had each other, and they had a beautiful baby boy, the gift of life through re-creation.

In a few days we will celebrate that gift of life. Mary and Joseph were the happy mother and father, but to us A CHILD IS BORN. The gift to the delighted parents was also a gift to us, the gift of the person of God, coming to live as one of us. The tiny cuddly baby of the manger became the caring teacher and healer, and the suffering man on the cross, and finally the mighty Lord of the resurrection.

We can easily let ourselves be suffocated by the overabundance of Glitz which surrounds us at Christmas, even during a lockdown from Covid-19. The manger held a real baby, not a doll. That baby was God- come to show us the true joy of being fully and truly human- come to show us what real love can and should be- showing us in the simplest way possible, by becoming one of us.

Jesus was a real baby, no different than you or me, giving us a real Gift- the gift of himself and his incredible love. Through his birth, his teaching, his healing and his death, he gave us a life that was a real triumph of love, a love for God and a love for each one of us. This is the love we celebrate at Christmas.

This gift of love is the foundation of the peace and joy which we can sing about in Christmas Carols, and although we can't be together in church led by our great choir, we can still sing them at home.

This gift of love can be the special presence that makes our smiles brighter and our footsteps lighter. This gift of love is the tremendous power which transforms us into truly caring and sharing people. This gift of love is GOD

WITH US! Not just two thousand years ago in a manger in Bethlehem, but today, here and now, God with us. With you, and with me, and our fellowship at Christ Church.

Whatever our present circumstances, God is with us and the real excitement comes when his love fills us with everything we say and do. Shalom! May the hope, peace, joy and love of God be with you.



### Joy to the World!

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

## Christ Church Deacon's Cupboard Food Bank

What do you do when your clientele jumps from 15 people coming once a month to 45-50 people coming every week needing assistance with food? Answer: you think very fast on your feet! And call for volunteers. We have been fortunate in having established teams of volunteers who now come every week instead of just once a month in rotation, and new ones have come forward to help with "prep" on Wednesdays and picking and packing on Thursdays. Detra Powell, Donna Campbell, Merle Caraballo, Eleanor Lorde, Shirley Rigby, Diane Dean, Deborah Cloakey and Beverley Mason are regulars, along with Tammy Durdle and Cathy, a friend of Donna.

Thanks in great measure to the generosity of our parishioners (and their friends), we were able to quickly increase the amount of food we could offer. We used available cash for purchases wherever we got the biggest bang for the buck (think Dollarama among others). Councillor Paul Ainslie contacted us to offer bulk foods from the CARES project of the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus; we received several shipments of these and are slowly (or not so slowly) distributing these. We opted to add some fruit and vegetables, and we continue to receive day-old bread from the Cliffside Heath bakery.

We also had some nice surprises, like a couple who live nearby who were out walking because their building gym was closed, saw the food bank message on our sign and decided to make a monthly donation of food. This is community involvement from people who have no connection to the parish.

We reconfigured how we distribute the food in order to respect distancing and other hygiene rules. Instead of people coming to wait in the entrance and going upstairs one at a time to register and select their food, they now wait outside, coming in one at a time to register, tell us their needs which we check off on a "shopping list" and those items are selected upstairs and brought down. In

the meantime, they can select bulk foods and fresh produce from whatever we have available on the tables. In mid-September the newsletter from Councillor Gary Crawford mentioned an organization called Scarborough Food Security Initiative. We contacted them to see what they could do to help us, and they explained that in return for a little record-keeping we could receive weekly shipments of dry goods (packaged and canned food) and produce, proportionate to the number of people we are serving. Since early October (just in time for Thanksgiving) we have received these two shipments each Wednesday, waiting with interest to see what we get! We can mention things we need and, if they are available, they will include them in the shipment. In this way we have received eggs, milk, vegetables and even Halal chicken hot dogs.

Another great source of support has been St. Mark's United Church on Orton Park. Their usual beneficiary, ACSA (formerly the Red Cross drop-in), was not accepting food and suggested it go to their head office in Agincourt. However, the congregation at St. Mark's did not want to send the food there when Scarborough needs it; we now receive occasional deliveries from either their drive-by food drop or their Outreach Committee purchases. As this is being written, we are expecting a delivery of 50 dozen eggs, 50 loaves of bread and two sacks of rice from them! Talk about generosity!

We are well aware that this issue is not going away any time soon, and we are prepared to do whatever we can to meet the needs for as long as we possibly can. To do this we count on your continued support in both money and food. Please continue to use the Advent Food Bank calendar in Connections to guide your shopping and contributions. Thank you all – we could not continue this vital ministry without you.

Canon Deacon Jacquie



# THE PARISH WINDOW

## Financial Report - A different Year! From Ian Campbell - Treasurer

No one predicted the year we have had in 2020. While our lives and the operation of our church have been turned upside down, we have adapted and the congregation has responded very positively, including financially. To the end of November offering income is 99% of the same period last year. Outreach income for the foodbank is 2 1/2 times last year. As well, \$24,800 has been received for our Rejuvenate Capital Campaign. Thank you all for your faithfulness and support!

We have been fortunate that our primary tenants, the daycare and Faith Tabernacle Church have continued their rental payments, but due to restrictions on building usage, other rental income was absent. Similarly, most of our fundraising activities have been cancelled. These have resulted in a reduction of about \$21,000 income in these areas from last year.

Our operating expenses are about \$1,000 lower than last year, excluding outreach expenses (which have almost tripled in line with foodbank income and increased demand), but with the decreased income, we could have had a deficit of \$34,000 at this point.

However, we do not have a deficit at present, because of the generosity of the Diocese and the federal government. The Diocese has provided \$31,600 and the government \$5,070, in COVID 19 subsidies. These have been wonderful and mean that we have a small surplus (\$2,600) at present. The downside is that while we may still receive some government wage subsidies, there is unlikely to be further money from the Diocese. Yet, there is still a long way to go before we return to normal

and we can look forward to increased rental and fundraising income.

So, as treasurer, I wrestle with the thoughts that while the 2020 income / expense results with the subsidies look positive, the first part of next year - possibly until the fall of 2021, look a lot more challenging given the continuing restrictions on rentals and fundraising. It would make it much easier if we could carry a portion of the subsidies received over to next year to help cover early year deficits.

	Jan - Nov 20	Jan - Nov 19
<b>Operating Income</b>		
Envelope & Open Income	99,905	101,015
Space Usage (rental)	41,024	50,729
Outreach (Foodbank & Backpacks)	10,812	4,526
Fundraising	903	12,164
Other Operating Income	23,978	27,061
<b>Total Income from Parish</b>	176,622	195,495
Covid 19 Subsidies	36,668	0
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	213,290	195,495
<b>Operating Expense</b>		
Food Bank & Backpacks	10,040	3,665
Other Operating Costs	200,618	201,753
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	210,658	205,418
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	2,632	-9,923
<b>Rejuvenate Capital Income / Expense</b>		
Income	24,800	22,240
Expenditures	64,114	-937



Please note that your current envelope number will not be valid in 2021. The changes have become necessary to effectively distribute and record monthly/ weekly envelope in the numbering sequence in which they are supplied.

If you are unable to pick up your envelopes, or are using e-transfer, please call the office in the new year to find out your new number.

There are still some monthly envelopes available.

# THE PARISH WINDOW

## Altar Flowers and Candles of the Presence

During the successive shutdowns, when we have not been able to have in-person worship, we have not had altar flowers delivered and have not kept the Candle of the Presence lit (for safety reasons in an empty church). We know some of you have paid for these memorials, and we assure you that your charitable donation receipts for tax purposes will reflect whatever you have paid in 2020.

We want to thank you for your financial support in this area, which will be of assistance to the parish in meeting the ongoing expenses at a time when income, especially rental and fundraising income, is seriously reduced. If you request it, you may carry these unused payments forward to 2021, and we will offer this option when verifying your memorial dates for next year.

## Canon Jacquie



A huge thank you to the various members of the choir and to our fabulous Music Director, Sam, for providing us with wonderful hymns for our online Lessons and Carols and Christmas services.



## MILESTONES

Congratulations on your marriage



HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
to  
**Diane Richardson (70) Dec. 27**

and to everyone else who have celebrated a birthday since the last newsletter! We uphold you in prayer, and hope the Lord leads you to spiritual growth and flourishing in the year ahead!



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY  
&

Blessings to all who have celebrated an anniversary since the last newsletter! We uphold you in prayer, and hope that your marriage continues to bring glory to God!



We remember with love and in prayer those to whom we said goodbye this past year and are no longer with us: May they rest in peace and rise in glory.



# THE PARISH WINDOW



O Come  
Let Us  
Adore  
Him!

## The Holy Night

by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

We sate among the stalls at Bethlehem;  
The dumb kine from their fodder turning  
them,  
Softened their horned faces  
To almost human gazes  
Toward the newly Born:  
The simple shepherds from the star-lit  
brooks  
Brought visionary looks,  
As yet in their astonished hearing rung  
The strange sweet angel-tongue:  
The magi of the East, in sandals worn,  
Knelt reverent, sweeping round,  
With long pale beards, their gifts upon  
the ground,  
The incense, myrrh, and gold  
These baby hands were impotent to  
hold:  
So let all earthlies and celestials wait  
Upon thy royal state.  
Sleep, sleep, my kingly One!



We give thanks for the diligent work of Ellen Cunningham, our Parish Administrator, pictured here. During the pandemic Ellen has been coming into the office on Thursdays from 9-1 (other than Dec. 31st), if you need to connect with her. Or do leave a message on the answering machine and it will be checked regularly throughout the week. Ellen also does all the updating and postings on the website and she sends out the e-blasts with Connections and other information.



# THE PARISH WINDOW

## JUST A THOUGHT...

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**Office Administrator:**  
Ellen Cunningham

Please call the church office  
to be directed to any member  
of staff or committee  
member.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.christchurchscarborough.com](http://www.christchurchscarborough.com)

Chaos seems to be the order of the day throughout the world as the pandemic created 'season' continues. Emotions, fear, grief etc., so tightly intertwined within itself and with insecurities and uncertainties, opens doors for many in an unleashing of anger, rebelliousness, and even self-harm. And so, we pray, and so we love and comfort even in our own fear, our own weakness.

This year, Christmas activities are expected to be smaller than normal or even non-existent; places of worship empty; all this because of the safety protocols that are in place. Never-the-less we still need to remember the reason we celebrate this holiday.

Here is something I think can help revive the hope and joy this year, worshiping with thanksgiving. **'Arrival' by Hillsong**

*Who is God that He would take our frame  
The artisan inside the paint  
Or breathe the very air His breath sustains  
The architect inside the plan*  
[Chorus]

*Oh, come now, hail His arrival, the God of creation  
Royalty robed in the flesh He created  
Jesus, the maker has made Himself known  
All hail the infinite infant God*

[Verse 2]

*The One who had no start and knows no end  
Became confined in time and tense  
The Everlasting God, the Great I Am  
In the mercy of a mother's hands (Cho.)*

[Interlude] *The One who holds the stars in the creases of His hands*

*Is the One who holds my heart like a mother once held Him*

*The One who knows what lies, where space has run its course*

*Embraced a baby's mind, and now I can know my God  
The monarch of the stars, the King above all kings  
The ruler of my heart, and the Saviour for my sins*

*The One who sees what lies, in each and every soul  
Embraced our finite eyes, and now we can see our God*

[Verse 3]

*The holy Word of God defined by name  
The author climbed inside the page. (Cho.)*

*Love embraced our fate, when the playwright took the stage*

*All hail the arrival of our maker*

*God embraced our frame, when He graced the world  
He made*

*All hail the divine in a manger*

*Even now, as I think of the words of this song and all that is happening today,*

my mind keeps going back to a discussion in a C/E class awhile back and I ask you to ponder this thought as well. Incidentally, this was my first train of thought for this article and decided not to defer it. Then I spoke with and got a nod from a very dear friend.

What do you think would our cultural, spiritual, or personal behavior be if the birth of Christ was fulfilled in 2020? What do you think would be different now in relation to all those years so long ago?

How would you treat Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus? Would there be upturned noses, social media frenzy? Or would there be joy and happiness and shouts of welcome for the king?

Given a chance to meet the holy family, what would be your gifts to Jesus? Is it the same gift to Him 'today' like the day you accepted His love and His charge of over 2000 years ago?

Thanks to all our contributors to this edition of the Parish Window.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to you and your family!

**Hyacinth**