



Connections

Volume 2

Number 4

January 16 to 31

2020

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 16

What are annual meetings for?

In the world of business they're called Shareholders' Meetings, and they're mostly about the financial status of the company and the direction it will take in the future. In academia they're called Convocations, "coming together", and they're about honouring students and praiseworthy people. In most clubs or groups they're called the AGM - Annual General Meeting - and they're about reports and elections and sometimes complaints by the members. In the Church we call them Vestry Meetings, and they're about all of the above.

Why do we call them vestry meetings?

The word "vestry" is an old term which originally meant the room where clergy put on their vestments, the robes they wear for worship services. Often the wardens of the parish would conduct their business in this room, so vestry came to mean, not only the place where the priests "vested", but also the meeting when the business of the church was brought by the wardens to the members, wherever it was held.



Why should I attend the vestry meeting if I am not a leader in the parish?

Vestry meetings are about listening as well as speaking. Those who lead the various clergy and lay ministries of the parish need to hear from the whole fellowship. The grace of God and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit are given to everyone in the parish family, so we all have a part to play as decisions are made.

How should I prepare for the vestry meeting?

- Mark the date on your calendar - we will meet and have lunch after the 10 o'clock service on February 16.
- Read the printed reports ahead of time and come ready to ask questions and offer comments.
- Bring a bag lunch - tea and coffee will be provided.

JANUARY 19
after the 10 o'clock service

Sidespersons' Luncheon and meeting



JANUARY 26
between services
Worship will be at
8 am & 10 am

Chancel Guild Breakfast



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Website: www.christchurchscarborough.com

Holy Communion Sunday 8:30 and 10 am
Morning Prayer Tuesday 9:30 am

The Goose Story

This is not a new story. The author is unknown and it doesn't seem to have much to do with religion. But read carefully - there's a message here for our vestry meeting.

Science has discovered why geese fly in a "v" formation. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird following. By flying in this kind of formation the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

When a goose flies out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

And when the head goose gets tired, it rotates back and another goose takes the lead.

People and geese who share a common purpose and a sense of community get where they are going more easily because they are travelling on the strength of one another.

It's sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs, whether with people or with geese flying south.

We have people in our parish who have been doing those jobs for a long time. We should have as much sense as the geese and share the responsibility of leadership as they do.



SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE

The Apostle Peter is one of the great stories of a changed life in the Bible.

He may have been the most outspoken of the twelve apostles in Jesus' ministry on earth. He certainly became one of the boldest witnesses for the faith. His beginnings were humble. He was born about 1 B.C. and was crucified sometime around A.D. 67. Peter was named Simon until Jesus changed his name. Peter means "rock" or literally Petra.

He and his brother Andrew were Galilean fishermen from the village of Bethsaida. Peter was also a follower of John the Baptist.

Fishermen at that time were gruff, unkempt, shabbily dressed, and often used vulgar language. They were full of vigour and had boisterous tempers. (This is perhaps why James and his brother John, also fishermen, were called the Sons of Thunder.)

Theirs was a rough life, since fishing was a very physically demanding job. They must have been fearless too, because some of the storms that came quickly upon the Sea of Galilee were fierce and furious, often catching fishermen by surprise, and they could easily capsize the 20 to 30 foot boats. Peter was always putting his foot in his mouth, but when Jesus told them (Peter and Andrew) to "follow me" they walked away and left everything they had without a second thought. This meant that they left everything - their fishing boats, their fishing nets, and all the accessories that came with their trade. From that time on, Peter was a changed man. Not perfect - he denied Jesus three times when challenged - and not educated in the Mosaic law, but a powerhouse in the early church. Peter was the first one to preach on the day of Pentecost, and the first one to proclaim Christ to a Gentile.

He was one of the boldest apostles of all. He willingly suffered persecution and imprisonment for Jesus' sake, so we honour him on his day, January 18.



Scripture Readings

January 19

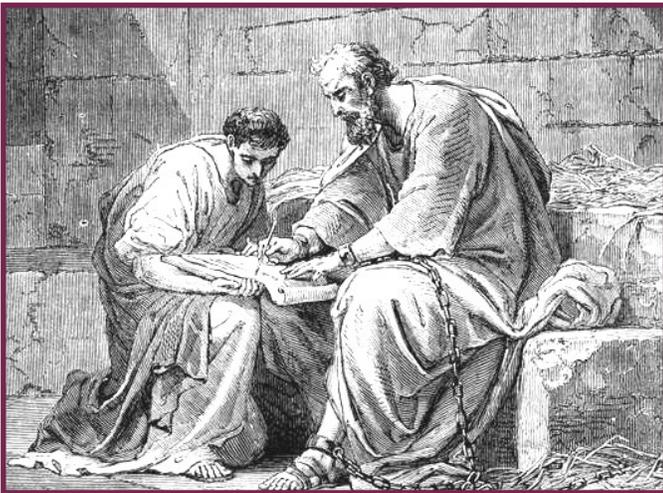
Isaiah 49: 1 to 7
Psalm 40: 1 to 12
1 Corinthians 1: 1 to 9
John 1: 29 to 42

January 26

Isaiah 9: 1 to 4
Psalm 27: 1 and 4 to 9
1 Corinthians 1: 10 to 18
Matthew 4: 12 to 23



Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet



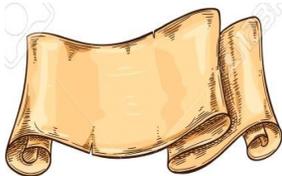
Paul in prison, dictating a letter to a new church

JANUARY 25 -THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL

St. Paul the Apostle, whose original name was Saul, was born about 4 BCE, in Tarsus (now in Turkey) and died about 63 AD in Rome.

His remarkable conversion on the road to Damascus from a zealous persecutor of the fledgling Christian movement to one of the leaders of the first generation of Christians is well-known by every Christian.

In his own day, he was a major figure within the very small Christian movement, but he also had many enemies and detractors, and his contemporaries did not accord him as much respect as they gave Peter and James. Paul was compelled to struggle, therefore, to establish his own worth and authority.



However, his surviving letters, which are almost half of the New Testament, have had enormous influence on Christianity and secure his place as one of the greatest religious leaders of all time.

We are asked to pray for these members of our parish family

Anne S, Annet K, Barb N, Beverly B,
Coreen L, Corinne P, David M, Deb
A, Elizabeth, Florence S, Jenille L,
Joan N, Leonora B, Margaret R,
Michelle B, Viggie M, Mr. & Mrs.
OyetaKin

OUR NEIGHBOURS CELEBRATE

JANUARY 21-JUDAISM -TU B'SHEVAT

Tu B'Shevat (or Tu Bishvat), the 15th day of the Jewish month of Shevat, is a holiday also known as the New Year for Trees. The word "Tu" is not really a word; it is the number 15 in Hebrew, as if you were to call the Fourth of July "Iv July" (IV being 4 in Roman numerals).

Judaism has several different "new years." This is not as strange a concept as it sounds; in Canada, we have the calendar year (January-December), the school year (September-June), and many businesses have fiscal years. It's basically the same idea with the various Jewish new years.

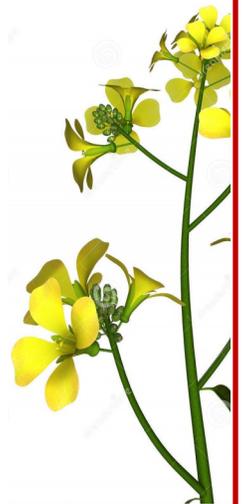
Tu B'Shevat is the new year for the purpose of calculating the age of trees for tithing. Leviticus 19 says that fruit from trees may not be eaten during the first three years; the fourth year's fruit is for God, and after that, you can eat the fruit.

JANUARY 29 - HINDU -VASANT PANCHAMI

In India, Vasant Panchami is one of the chief Hindu religious festivals and is a widespread public holiday, marking the end of winter and the beginning of spring. On the Hindu calendar, it falls during the month of Magh, which corresponds to sometime in January or February. The main religious figure of Vasant Panchami is the Hindu goddess Sarasvati, the "goddess of wisdom". Sarasvati is supposed to embody all of the sciences, arts, and crafts. And so, school children offer her their pencils, pens, and notebooks to be blessed before they go off to use them at school for the year ahead.

Also, young girls dress up in yellow dresses and go out to the many Vasant Panchami festivals taking place. Yellow is the colour of spring in India, and many devotees will offer yellow flowers to the gods. The farm fields are also yellow this time of year in many areas, since it is the season when yellow mustard flowers bloom.

A festive pastry eaten for Vasant Panchami, kesar halwa, is also bright yellow because of the saffron in it. Kesar contains nuts, sugar, cardamom, and flour. It is a sweet enjoyed by young and old.



January highlights in church history

January 26 is the day we remember Timothy and Titus, contemporaries and companions of St. Paul. Timothy was an evangelist and the first Christian bishop of Ephesus, who tradition says died around the year 97. Titus was an early Christian missionary and church leader, a Gentile, one of Paul's converts and a great help to Paul in his ministry. He died in the year 81.



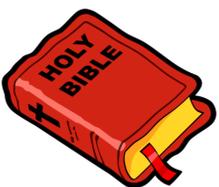
January 2 On this day the Church remembers Basil the Great (born in the year 330) and Gregory of Nazianzus (born in 329), Bishops and Teachers of the Faith. Basil supported the wording of the Nicene Creed, while Gregory defended the doctrine of the Trinity, at a time when these important beliefs were being challenged.

January 28 On this day the church honours Thomas Aquinas, born in 1225. He was an Italian Dominican friar, philosopher, Catholic priest, Doctor of the Church and an immensely influential philosopher and theologian. He said: *"To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible."*



January 15, 1535 The Act of Supremacy was passed, in which King Henry VIII declared himself "Protector and Only Supreme Head of the Church and Clergy in England", having broken with the Pope over the annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon.

January 30, 1536 Parish priest Menno Simons left the Catholic Church over his doubts about the doctrine of transubstantiation. He converted to the Anabaptist faith and led a group of followers who were later called Mennonites.



January 16, 1604, King James I granted approval for a new Bible translation, and the resulting

project led to the 1611 publication of the Authorized (King James) Version of the Bible.

January 17, 1829 Catherine (Mumford) Booth, English reformer and wife of William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, was born. She was instrumental in taking the Salvation Army to the United States, Australia, Europe, India and Japan.



January 14, 1875 Albert Schweitzer, French theologian, music scholar, physician and medical missionary, was born. He founded the Lambarene Hospital in Africa in 1913 and in 1953 was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.



January 12 On this day the church remembers John Horden, who died in 1893. He was the first Anglican Bishop of Moosonee, who for more than forty years led services in Cree, Inuit and other languages of his parishioners.

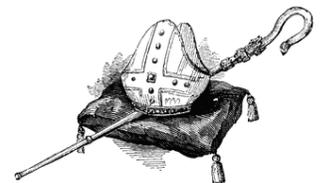
January 6, 1924 In England the first worship service broadcast over radio from a church was aired by the British Broadcasting Company. The church was St. Martin-in-the-Fields in London.

January 25, 1944 Florence Tim-Oi Lee was ordained as a priest in China. This was an emergency wartime measure, due to the lack of male priests at the time. In 1946 the Synod of Hong Kong and South China endorsed this action, making her the first female Anglican clergy person.



January 5, 1964 Pope Paul VI and Athenagorus I, ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, met in Jerusalem. It was the first meeting between Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox prelates since 1439.

January 24, 1989 The Rev. Barbara C. Harris of Boston was confirmed as the first female bishop in the history of the Church of England.



What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8