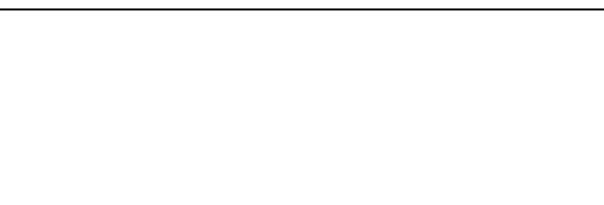


The Magdala News



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*Our Mission: To love God and be
the light of Christ in the world.
(March 2017)*



From the Editors

In the world we live in there are many signs around us, in the stores, on the streets, and in the media that... ‘Tis the season to be Jolly! Decking the halls with boughs of holly may help and most of us will try it, but truly ‘Jolly’ is not always so easy to achieve as that.

As people of faith, we have many reminders of what Christmas is really about and we have the whole of Advent to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child. The winter solstice reminds us all of the value of light in our lives and gives us the opportunity to share the light of Christ with others.

Please join the parish family in the special activities and services which have been planned. Although we have many opportunities to show Christ’s love all year round, these opportunities increase at Christmas, so feel free to support the Hamper program, The Christmas Store, and donate winter wear (socks, toques and winter gloves) for distribution to groups at St Matthews-Maryland Community Ministry and North Point Douglas Women’s Group. Cash donations are also helpful and if you can donate your time to any of these ministries that too will be appreciated.

You may be new to our community, but please do not hesitate to join in parish life where you are able and feel called. The Altar Guild, Choir, Servers and Lay readers, Sunday School, Vestry, Meditation

group, Bible study, Prayer Partners, Greeters, Intercessors, Readers, Hospitality after Sunday Service, Prayer Shawl Ministry: any of these may be areas to share your giftedness. Please speak to Val or any of the Lay leaders if you wish to.

I believe that as we enter into the real spirit of the season, we will find ourselves much more than ‘Jolly’. I think we may experience ‘Joy’. The word ‘Joy’ can be defined as a feeling of great pleasure and happiness. C.S. Lewis has much to say about that, including the belief that once a person has experienced it they will want to do so again.

Some of us remember too, the collect in the *Book of Common Prayer* which requests “Our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found”.



So then let’s sing that well-beloved carol “Joy to the World” with great gusto, enjoy the feast of Christmas and especially remind ourselves in the midst of whatever turmoil we may be experiencing that:

*“He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love”*

The editors

Opinions expressed in articles or notes in this publication are those of the writer, and do not necessarily represent the opinion or policy of the Parish of St. Mary Magdalene, the Diocese of Rupert’s Land, or the Anglican Church of Canada.

The selection of material for publication is made by the editors, Heather Birtles and Therasa Hunt, c/o St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church, 3 St. Vital Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2M 1Z2

In this issue:

From the Editors	2
Advent Activity Calendar	3
Christmas Eve Services	3
Val's Voice	4
O Antiphons	5
2019 Grow Hope Report	6
Garage Sale Report	7
Social Justice Advocacy	8
Preventing Slips and Falls	9
Heaven in Ordinary (Malcolm Guite)	9
Christmas Traditions 'Round the World	10
Single-Use Plastics Ban	11
Parish Calendar	12

**2019 Christmas Eve Services**

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let Earth receive her King!*

*Family Christmas Eucharist
2:00 pm*

*Christmas Candlelight Eucharist
8:00 pm*

**25 Advent Activities**

Make Christmas cards	Open one early present	Random act of kindness	Go ice skating	Donate toys to kids in need
Make reindeer food	Make a bird feeder	Make a gingerbread house	Christmas Pajama Day	Drink hot chocolate
Look at Christmas lights	Read Christmas books by the fire	Make a handprint ornament	Make Christmas cookies	Go to a Christmas Eve service
Take pictures with Santa	Donate food to a food bank	Sleep under the Christmas tree	Read the Christmas Story	Play with Nativity
Watch a Christmas movie	Make a snowman	Make Christmas slime	Deliver gifts to a nursing home	Listen to Christmas music



Val's Voice

The Light takes longer now...

I remember a cold December morning during one Advent many years ago. As Paul came into the kitchen to get his second cup of coffee,

our two-year-old son Ben was standing on a chair by the big picture window by the back door. He pressed his hands against the window and looked intently beyond the woods to the east as the smallest sliver of light appeared behind the trees, and he said matter-of-factly and quietly, “The light takes longer to come now.” And then he turned and looked at us... expecting an explanation perhaps, or maybe just a nod of agreement.

We don’t really remember what our response was, but we do remember the way his words captured the essence of life this time of year. If we had tried to explain, it wouldn’t have done the trick... we could have explained the science, but the reality of a dark world would still remain. “The light takes longer to come now.”

Strangely enough, though, those words also sort of capture the essence of life at so many times.

When we look out whatever window at our world, these days, things like poverty, or racism, or climate change can fill the view. Loneliness, or violence, division in families or the world some days seem like they themselves can make us wonder if the light is coming at all.

The gift of Advent is that in a world of positive thinking (or even endless Christmas carols!), Advent offers a different approach. *In a world of darkness, we aren't called to flip on all the lights, and pretend.* Rather Advent calls us to be awake, to watch, and to notice what’s happening around us. It calls us to

notice where darkness seems to threaten the light in our world, or in our lives. And then to put to voice what it is for which we long... use our voices, our hands, the yearning itself that God has given.

Peace. Kindness. An end to hunger. A world where people listen. Beauty. Hope. A world where all people have a chance. The ability to forgive.

These longings themselves come from God, and the strength to work for them does as well. Advent is the season of the church year in which we hear longings for our world and everyone in it spoken by the prophets, sung by Mary and Zechariah, woven into the prayer-filled poetry of the psalms...

In our upper hall this year is a tree which will hold our own words of thanks and memory, longings and hope, written on tiny cards, and making that tree a thing of beauty. It reminds us of so many whom we and God hold in our hearts. Be sure to add your own prayers of thanks and hope and longing to our tree, and to do what you are able to bring light to our world!

With that two-year-old whose hands are pressed against the window, we name what we see: The light takes a long time to come.

*O Come, O come, Emmanuel...
and be for us our Prince of Peace.*



O Antiphons

Among the list of most beloved Christmas carols is “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.” However, this ancient song is not strictly speaking a Christmas carol at all; rather it is an Advent hymn, built from a series of traditional prayers called the “O Antiphons” that the Church has used to usher in the Christmas season since time immemorial.

For those unfamiliar with liturgical chant, antiphon is a word of Greek origin that literally means “before the sound.” Antiphons occur in the Church’s liturgy as short prayers meant to focus our mind and heart on a particular theme before praying a psalm or other scriptural canticle.

Each verse in “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” parallels the “O Antiphons” of Advent. In the Middle Ages, these antiphons were developed and traditionally sung at Evening Prayer (Vespers) in the seven days before Christmas. They are also echoed in the Advent Litany in the BAS (page 119).

During Advent at St. Mary Magdalene, the O Antiphons are brought to life in the beautiful banners made by Liane Marsh and Barbara Bater. Perhaps as you’ve sat during a Sunday service you’ve looked at them on the walls and wondered what they represent. An explanation follows.



Praying the O Antiphons throughout Advent will add a mood of eager expectation that builds and climaxes at Christmas.

O Wisdom:

You came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and reaching from beginning to end You ordered all things mightily and sweetly; Come, and teach us the way of prudence.

O Lord and Ruler of the house of Israel:

You appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and on Mount Sinai gave him Your Law; Come, and with an outstretched arm redeem us.

O Root of Jesse:

You stand for the ensign of mankind; before You kings shall keep silence and to You all nations shall have recourse; Come, save us and do not delay.

O Key of David and Scepter of the house of Israel:

You open and no man closes; you close and no man opens; Come, and deliver him from the chains of prison who sits in darkness and in the shadow of death.

O Morning Star Radiance of the Light eternal and Sun of Justice:

Come, and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

O King of the Nations and the Desired of all, You are the Cornerstone that binds two into one:

Come, and save man whom You fashioned out of clay.

O Emmanuel our King and Lawgiver, the Expected of the nations and their Saviour:

Come, and save us, O Lord our God.

2019 Anglican Grow Hope

The Harvest is in! And what a harvest it is:

First, the money raised:

A total of \$19,814.18 has been deposited in PWRDF's account at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. This money will go to feed people, and help small-hold farmers diversify and grow better crops as well as enhance their livelihoods. Our Diocese, through individuals, parishes and multi-parish events raised \$7,462 (38% of the total). The sale of the canola grown by Chris Lea generated \$5,909 (30% of the total). Events largely in the Pembina Hills area of our Diocese raised \$5,151 (30% of the total). Nancy Howatt even raised a calf for auction and that generated \$1,292. People's generosity is fabulous and all our gifts large and small together add up to fewer people being hungry in our world.

Second, our relationships:

Over this season, there were six multi-parish events we know about. Two parishes in Winnipeg, St. Mary Magdalene and St.Peter's, organized and hosted wonderful musical events in support of Anglican Grow Hope. St. Luke's, Pembina Crossing hosted our June Rogation Service and lunch, and St. Thomas, Morden hosted our September Thanksgiving Service. In addition, Manitou United Church hosted a Grow Hope service at which both Chris and Nancy spoke; and Chris, Leanne and Jonathan welcomed a Winnipeg group for an August field day and potluck picnic. People all over our Diocese have come together in prayer, song and fellowship to share in the work of kingdom. Each event was unique and represent the power of the Spirit to create community.

It is important to note that this has been a particularly hard year for our farmers and cattle producers. The wet, cold fall weather seriously compromised the harvest, but in addition Chris noted that "the farm gate prices on all commodities have been less than stellar this year due to all the trade issues. I am thinking there might be some

farm operators quitting due to financial reasons, especially in the Interlake and Eastern regions. The rest will have to do some serious financial restructuring." Nancy Howatt also described the struggles facing cattle producers and said "it will be a long winter for some, who will be short of feed." Please pray for everyone involved in agricultural production in our Diocese. It is a very difficult time for the farmers and cattle producers in our midst.

Everyone involved with Anglican Grow Hope **thanks you** for your contribution in making 2019 such a success:

- Your prayer,
- your participation, and
- your financial donations

have all made a difference and will extend well beyond our Diocese to make difference for the most vulnerable around world.

For stories of hope, visit pwrdf.org and foodgrainsbank.ca.



On September 22 a group that included members of our parish attended the Harvest Thanksgiving and Grow Hope Service of Celebration at St. Thomas Anglican Church in Morden, MB. Shown here are The Rev Canon Cathy Campbell, Marlene Smith, Lois Patterson (Holy Trinity), The Rev Chris Lea, and Dayle Michaud.

Fall Garage Sale

This is an edited version of the report presented at the October 2019 Vestry meeting.

The fall garage sale was held Friday, September 27, 9 am to 5:30 pm and Saturday, September 28, 9 am to noon. A total of 641 people entered our doors.

All items were moved into place and tables set up on Sunday, September 21, and Monday morning volunteers started unpacking and sorting items. Items continued to come in right up until Thursday at noon. By 3 pm that day all items had been tested, priced, signage was up and the cash float had been secured.

At least 52 different people volunteered for all, some or part of the time. There were about 20 faithful people who were at the church every day, sorting, pricing, cleaning and preparing for the sale.

Friday morning when doors opened at 9 am the people streamed in and by 10:30, 194 had already come through.

Recommendations going forward

1/ In the past, baby items have not been accepted. However, this fall there was a request to take a crib reported to be in very good condition. Three cribs were donated. Two were sold, and one was put into the garbage.

AON Reed Stenhouse, our insurance broker, was contacted for assistance. The parish could be held liable for damages should a crib (or baby equipment) fail or an infant get hurt using the item. Health Canada's website states all "cribs, cradles, and bassinets sold in Canada must meet current safety regulations (including) items sold at second-hand stores and online second-hand retailers... (they) should be checked against recalls and the safety alerts database... cribs made before September 1986 don't meet current safety regulations and

should not be used...as of December 29, 2016 the sale, importation, manufacture or advertisement of traditional drop side cribs is prohibited".

The website also lists the things you need to check for in order to sell a crib.

Based on this, I recommend that donations of baby cribs and/or baby equipment are not accepted.

2/ Health Canada also has *Facts for Garage Sale Vendors* information that states the following:

- "Everyone holding a garage sale is legally responsible for ensuring that products being sold, whether new or used, are safe and meet current regulatory requirements. It is important to only sell items that are in good condition. Damaged articles should be discarded."
- "Products should be checked to make sure they are not on the product recall list posted by Health Canada at www.healthcanada.gc.ca/cps-recalls".
- "The Canada Consumer Product Safety Act and its regulations do not distinguish between new and used products. Any person who sells, distributes, or gives away consumer products that do not comply with the current regulatory requirements is breaking the law in Canada".

After reading this I wondered about even hosting the garage sale; however, after some prayer and consideration I believe we are vigilant in making sure items work and are safe to sell.

I spoke with David Newman regarding posting signs stating items are sold "as is" and that we are not responsible. This may or may not help in a legal challenge. I also spoke to Salvation Army as to why they do not post these signs - they stated it has to do with perceptions and trust. People know they are not buying new items at the Thrift Store and they, like us, try to ensure that all items work. Signs may deter people from supporting them (or us).

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After consultation with the People's Warden, I made an executive decision to not post "as is/not responsible" signs.

3/ I recommend that the dates for the 2020 garage sales be May 1-2 and October 2-3.

Our garage sale, while a fundraiser, is, more importantly, an outreach ministry which helps us to fulfill our mission of loving God and being the light of Christ in the world. Many people support our sale with donations and that is great – without them we would not be able to do this.

Items often help people who otherwise would be unable to purchase them new. This year a couple who had lost everything in a fire was able to pre-shop after seeing the ad on Kijiji. They were able to pick up some items that would allow them to start over.

In summary, the garage sale was a success. Vigilance in the safety of all items that are sold will continue.

Cathy Mondor



Manitoba Advocacy Group for Social Justice

Irene Konsmo of our parish is president of the Manitoba Advocacy Group for Social Justice, a registered non-profit organization dedicated to helping those who are physically and/or financially disadvantaged and are having difficulty accessing the community's social services. These individuals, due to an intellectual or physical disability, have fallen through the cracks of society and are outside the reach of mainstream social agencies.

According to Irene, the group is "available to provide assistance in the Winnipeg area to those having difficulty accessing community services or needing assistance to medical appointments.

We also help those who suffer food shortages due to financial issues or physical disability. These services are free of charge and all the information gathered is dealt with in the strictest of confidence.

Our organization held our annual fundraising dinner at St. Mary Magdalene on Saturday, October 19, 2019. Our guest speaker for the evening was Tessa Blaikie-Whitecloud from 1JUST CITY. The money raised from this event goes to fund our distribution of monthly food hampers and bus tickets to those individuals that are in need in our community.

Our services are only available in the Winnipeg area. Referrals from individuals or agencies are welcome."

Website: www.magforsocialjustice.org

Email: info@magforsocialjustice.org

Phone: 204-254-4788

PREVENT

SLIPS & FALLS

1 No Shortcuts

Ensure your pathway is clear.

In parking lots, pick the safe route.

Do not climb over snowbanks or obstacles.

2 Wear sensible footwear

- Non-slip sole (avoid leather or plastic soles)
- Deep tread, not flat
- Wide, low heel
- Consider using cleats
- Dry boots before walking indoors

3 Hold On

Use at least one handrail.

4 Careful leaving your car

Look to make sure the ground isn't icy before stepping out.

Carefully place both feet on ground, hold the door frame and steering wheel for support.

Reach for belongings only after securely standing.

5 Stay focused

No texting while walking.

Watch where you are going to avoid hazards.

6 Take it slow

Short, flat, careful steps.

Step carefully on fresh snow as ice could be hidden underneath.

www.wrha.mb.ca

*Hark! the herald angels sing
 "Glory to the newborn King
 Peace on earth and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled!"*



Heaven in Ordinary

This poem from Malcolm Guite comes from his new poetry collection After Prayer (2019). For information about Malcolm, an English poet, singer-songwriter, Anglican priest and academic, visit <https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/>

Because high heaven made itself so low
 That I might glimpse it through a stable door,
 Or hear it bless me through a hammer blow,
 And call me through the voices of the poor,
 Unbidden now, its hidden light breaks through
 Amidst the clutter of the every day,
 Illuminating things I thought I knew,
 Whose dark glass brightens, even as I pray.

Then this world's walls no longer stay my eyes,
 A veil is lifted likewise from my heart,
 The moment holds me in its strange surprise,
 The gates of paradise are drawn apart,
 I see his tree, with blossom on its bough,
 And nothing can be ordinary now.



Weird and Wonderful Christmas Traditions from Around the World

Source: www.momondo.ca/discover/article/christmas-traditions-around-the-world

Giant Lantern Festival, Philippines

The Giant Lantern Festival is held each year on the Saturday before Christmas Eve in San Fernando, the “Christmas Capital of the Philippines.” The festival attracts spectators from all over the country and across the globe. Eleven villages take part in the festival and competition is fierce as everyone pitches in trying to build the most elaborate lantern. Originally, the lanterns were simple creations around half a metre in diameter, made from ‘papel de hapon’ (Japanese origami paper) and lit by candle. Today, the lanterns are made from a variety of materials and have grown to around six metres in size. They are illuminated by electric bulbs that sparkle in a kaleidoscope of patterns.

Gävle Goat, Sweden

Since 1966, a 13-metre-tall Yule Goat has been built in the centre of Gävle’s Castle Square for the Advent, but this Swedish Christmas tradition has unwittingly led to another “tradition” of sorts – people trying to burn it down. Since 1966 the Goat has been successfully burned down 29 times, the most recent destruction was in 2016.

Krampus, Austria

Scaring kids into the festive spirit, Krampus is the most chilling of Christmas traditions. A beast-like demon creature that roams city streets frightening kids and punishing the bad ones – nope, this isn’t Halloween, but St. Nicholas’ evil accomplice, Krampus. In Austrian tradition, St. Nicholas rewards nice little boys and girls, while Krampus is said to capture the naughtiest children and whisk them away in his sack. In the first week of December, young

men dress up as the Krampus (especially on the eve of St. Nicholas Day) frightening children with clattering chains and bells.

The Yule Lads, Iceland

Icelandic Yule Lads run amok this time of year in one of the more fun and mischievous holiday traditions. In the 13 days leading up to Christmas, troll-like characters known as the Yule Lads visit children across the country. For each night of Yuletide, children place their best shoes by the window and a different Yule Lad visits leaving gifts for nice girls and boys and rotting potatoes for the naughty ones. Clad in traditional Icelandic costume, these fellas are pretty mischievous, and their names hint at the type of trouble they like to cause: Stekkjastaur (Sheep-Cote Clod), Giljagaur (Gully Gawk), Stúfur (Stubby), Pvörusleikir (Spoon-Licker), Pottaskefill (Pot-Scraper), Askasleikir (Bowl-Licker), Hurðaskellir (Door-Slammer), Skyrgámur (Skyr-Gobbler), Bjúgnakrækir (Sausage-Swiper), Gluggagægir (Window-Peeper), Gáttaþefur (Doorway-Sniffer), Ketkrókur (Meat-Hook) and Kertasníkir (Candle-Stealer).

Saint Nicholas’ Day, Germany

Not to be confused with Weihnachtsmann (Father Christmas), Nikolaus travels by donkey in the middle of the night on December 6 (Nikolaus Tag) and leaves little treats like coins, chocolate, oranges and toys in the shoes of good children all over Germany, and particularly in the Bavarian region. St. Nicholas also visits children in schools or at home and in exchange for sweets or a small present each child must recite a poem, sing a song or draw a picture. But it isn’t always fun and games. St. Nick often brings along Knecht Ruprecht (Farmhand Rupert). A devil-like character dressed in dark clothes covered with bells and a dirty beard, Knecht Ruprecht carries a stick or a small whip in hand to punish any children who misbehave.

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Norway

Never leave a good broom behind in Norway over Christmas: it might get stolen. Perhaps one of the most unorthodox Christmas Eve traditions can be found in Norway, where people hide their brooms. It's a tradition that dates back centuries to when people believed that witches and evil spirits came out on Christmas Eve looking for brooms to ride on. To this day, many people still hide their brooms in the safest place in the house to stop them from being stolen.

Venezuela

Love Christmas, but think it could be improved by a spot of roller-blading? Every Christmas Eve, the residents of Caracas, Venezuela head to church in the early morning – so far, so normal – but, for reasons known only to them, they do so on roller skates. This unique tradition is so popular that roads across the city are closed to cars so that people can skate to church in safety, before heading home for the less-than-traditional Christmas dinner of ‘tamales’ (a wrap made out of cornmeal dough and stuffed with meat, then steamed).

Day of the Little Candles, Colombia

Little Candles' Day marks the start of the Christmas season across Colombia. In honour of the Virgin Mary and the Immaculate Conception, people place candles and paper lanterns in their windows, balconies and front yards. The tradition of candles has grown, and now entire towns and cities across the country are lit up with elaborate displays. Some of the best are found in Quimbaya, where neighbourhoods compete to see who can create the most impressive arrangement.

St. Mary Magdalene Church



Church has decided to ban the use of all single use plastics in our facility. That includes specifically Styrofoam or plastic plates or cups, plastic cutlery, stir sticks... plastic water bottles.



The world that God made is too precious for us to keep filling it up with our waste!

But we have real dishes, glasses, cutlery, jugs to be filled and tap water by the gallon! You are most welcome to use the resources of our church for your gathering.

Please join us in our quest to save the environment that God has made for all of God's creatures!



St. Mary Magdalene Church - Calendar of Activities

December 2019 – February 2020

December	January	February
1 1st Sunday of Advent Eucharist 10:30 am	5 Epiphany of the Lord Eucharist 10:30 am	2 The Presentation of the Lord Eucharist 10:30 am
10 Vista Park Lodge 2:30 pm	14 Vista Park Lodge 2:30 pm	9 5th Sunday after the Epiphany Eucharist 10:30 am
8 2nd Sunday of Advent Eucharist 10:30 am	12 Baptism of the Lord Eucharist 10:30 am	11 Vista Park Lodge 2:30 pm
17 Vestry Meeting 6:30 pm	16 Vista Park Lodge 2:30 pm	16 6th Sunday after the Epiphany Eucharist 10:30 am
19 River Park Gardens 10:30 am	19 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany Eucharist 10:30 am	20 River Park Gardens 10:30 am
15 3rd Sunday of Advent Eucharist 10:30 am	26 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany Eucharist 10:30 am Asian Christian Fellowship 7pm	23 Last Sunday after the Epiphany Eucharist 10:30 am Asian Christian Fellowship 7pm
22 4th Sunday of Advent Children's Christmas Program Eucharist 10:30 am	28 Vestry Meeting 7 pm	25 Vestry Meeting 7 pm
24 2 pm Afternoon Eucharist & Tea Christmas Eve Service Eucharist 8:00 pm		
25 Asian Christian Fellowship 11 am		
29 1st Sunday after Christmas Eucharist 10:30 am		

Weekly Activities			Contact
Wednesday	Bible Study	12:00 pm	Heather Birtles
Wednesday	Eucharist	2:00 pm	The Rev. Val From
Wednesday	Choir Practice	7:30 pm	Nancy Aasland
Thursday	Christian Meditation	7:30 pm	Barbara Bater
Thursday-Dec 5, 12, 19	Advent Soup & Prayer	6:00 pm	Rev. Val From

The Rev. Val From: 204-257-0491
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www.stmarymagdalene.org