

# Saints Alive

At the "Little Brown Church"

Advent 2020



## Rector Reflection A BLESSED ADVENT TO ALL!



*Advent is a time of drawing back and preparing for the coming of the Christ Child. This year we are being asked to do so much more because we are in the midst of this world-wide pandemic.*

Our holidays this year are not the same as in the past as we continue through yet another upsurge of the Covid-19 virus. In this time of pandemic we continue to show love for our neighbors and one another by wearing our masks, washing our hands frequently, keeping our distance and not gathering in large groups – as hard as that is at this time of the year. Some of you were alone or in small groups for Thanksgiving. I did not have Thanksgiving with my son for the 1<sup>st</sup> time since he was born. He and Nicky ate alone with their elderly cat, Tizzy. I had a quiet dinner in the Dining Room here at the Village with a few friends. Except for dinner I spent the day in my apartment. It was pouring most of the day and I couldn't go out for a walk.

But, I am thankful – for health, for a home, for food and for those who worked to prepare and serve it, for care that has kept me safe, that no one in my family has contracted the virus, and, especially, for the opportunity to continue to provide worship for the parish - virtually.

The downside of virtual worship is that we are not able to reach all of the parishioners because either they don't have the technology - or don't have the energy to do yet another Zoom service. I certainly understand that. For many months the clergy were having many meetings each week – sometimes 2-3 a day. Now there are just a few each month plus the meetings with the Church Pension Fund (for my other role as Chaplain to the Retired Clergy, Spouses and Surviving Spouses). Our Bishops are on Zoom daily from early morning until 9 PM, so I feel fortunate.

The upside of Virtual worship is that many of us have worshipped with parishes around the world. I have been listening to morning prayers daily with the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral. He leads them out in the beautiful gardens of the Cathedral. They are in yet another shut down in England, so once again that beautiful Cathedral is closed. He shares historical information of that date and talks a bit about the plantings in the garden where he sits that day. On Saturdays he sits in the pen with the pigs and chickens and one very noisy duck! Usually one of the Cathedral cats sits with the Dean as he speaks.

As you know, many local parishes livestream their worship and also offer it on YouTube. I visit some of them when I am able. Clearly things will be forever changed with the new technology. When we regather we will still be able to include those at home who can't attend – and have the technology to join us. That is here to stay.



### ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

Beginning on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, we bless our advent wreaths. If you have an advent wreath at home, keep it nearby and we will bless the wreaths together on our Sunday Zoom service each week of the advent season.

If you are unable to be on Zoom, join us in spirit with your family. We have included an advent project on page 5 here in the newsletter.

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**Please send in your pledge card to Stewardship Chair David Wight**

***Rector Reflection, cont.***

We are all quite weary of this virus and how it has changed and affected our lives. We are saddened as we hear of more and more cases of the Covid-19 Virus - and more and more deaths. The numbers are staggering. It is sad that so many businesses are struggling to survive or have already closed. It is sad that more and more people are going hungry each day and many are losing their jobs and homes. We worry for all of the children, parents and teachers who struggle to do education in very different and often stressful ways.

We try to be encouraged as the word that vaccines will soon be available. That will be the thing that allows us to resume our lives more normally again. But, meanwhile, we must not give up hope. The 1<sup>st</sup> Candle of Advent is often called the Candle of Hope – “for a Saviour who will bring us freedom and peace.” We long for freedom in so many ways these days. We long for peace – in our own country and in a world that is torn by strife and division.

I have a book of Advent and Christmas hymns. One of my favorites says, “Patience, people, till the Lord is come....Steady your hearts, for the Lord is close at hand. And do not grumble one against the other. Patience, people, for the Lord is coming.”

Another is, “A Time will come for singing....” This is a good one to remind us that life has both sorrows and joys. Be sure to look for the joys in the midst of the sorrows of these times.

Advent is the beginning of the Church Year. May our prayers each day be for a new year with hope and health and peace for all.

Blessings to all,  
*Rev. Billie+*

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**  
*via Zoom*

**4:00 pm      Family Service**  
**7:00 pm      Ante-communion**

**There will be carols at both services.  
You are welcome to attend either one  
virtually.**

**The Sunday service following Christmas will  
be Lessons & Carols.**

***ALL SAINTS SHARES A LITTLE  
CHRISTMAS***

Once again, All Saints is sponsoring two families through the Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore.

Each year we purchase and wrap gifts for families who are living in shelters or hotel rooms. This year our families consist of two single mothers – one with an 8-year-old son and the other with four teenage daughters.

Normally parishioners are able to choose a gift item and shop for it and then we do a large wrapping session together at the end. However, with the COVID situation this year I've been placing Amazon orders with the donations that I've received from the parish thus far. I'm so grateful for your donations. Without them I would not be able to perform this ministry.

If anyone hasn't donated and would like to, you may leave cash or check in the mailbox at All Saints to my attention.

Thank you! Allison Akarsu



Christmas Pageant Cast 2019

# THE SEARCH FOR A NEW RECTOR



## NOTES FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE



### Your Search Committee

Diantha Meagher, Jim Walker, Rosemary Botelho, Pat Delaney,  
Allison Akarsu

*Hello All Saints,*

*We are overjoyed to share that – after a long wait – we have received a couple of applications for our rector position! God has rewarded us for our patience. We are currently in the interview process, which involves many steps. This allows us to discern whether any of the candidates are a good match for our parish, and we for them. We trust that God will connect us to the right rector for our congregation. We look forward to hopefully sharing more good news by early in the new year!*

*From,*

*Your Search Committee*

A final word about the search and the Search Committee's work from Co-Chairs Allison Akarsu and Rosemary Botelho: "Be patient; we are working in the background. We want to get it right."

### All Saints Search Committee

Please see the list below of the members of the Search Committee and the emails for each member. If anyone would rather speak to one of us over the phone, please reach out to Pat Delaney at 781-878-3125 (or 617-733-9410) or Jim Walker at 508-942-4856. We plan to have at least one of us available at coffee hour each week should anyone have anything to discuss in person. The Search Committee will be putting together a survey as well as holding small group meetings to get everyone's input in the process of choosing a new rector for our parish.

Allison Akarsu: [awight6180@yahoo.com](mailto:awight6180@yahoo.com)

Rosemary Botelho: [bvcbosslady@gmail.com](mailto:bvcbosslady@gmail.com)

Pat Delaney: [designquilter@yahoo.com](mailto:designquilter@yahoo.com)

Diantha Meagher: [meags55@comcast.net](mailto:meags55@comcast.net)

Maureen Murphy: [maureen-murphy@comcast.net](mailto:maureen-murphy@comcast.net)

Jim Walker: [jlwjr77@hotmail.com](mailto:jlwjr77@hotmail.com)

Alfonse Wildfred: [runner4life42@aol.com](mailto:runner4life42@aol.com)

### Prayer for the Search Process

Almighty God, look graciously on the people of All Saints.

Be with us and lead us as we seek the next rector for our church.

We ask your direction and guidance for those who shall choose our new spiritual leader; that we may receive an upright and faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries.

Grant us perception, faithfulness and joy, so that we may hear your voice in all our deliberations. Grant us also the desire and the ability to truly hear each other and those who have entrusted us with this process. Give us courage to respond and act as you lead us.

Come Holy Spirit.

We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Edited from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church,  
Terre Haute, Indiana)



**HELP NEEDED**  
by  
**Priscilla O'Connor**

Good morning!

That basket in the church hall which is usually filled with donations for the Whitman Food Pantry has been empty for many months. But the needs of all food pantries have increased, some by 50% and more, much more. People who were once donors to their local pantries now find themselves clients due to job losses and other economic pressures of the pandemic. The Greater Boston Food Bank advises that 1 in 11 people in Eastern Massachusetts is food insecure. Large grocery store chains continue to help, but are no longer able to contribute the large quantities of fresh and non-perishable foods they routinely sent to pantries—as we know from personal experience, our favorite grocery stores often have empty shelves themselves. For personal health and safety reasons, most food pantries are making do with limited volunteer staffing and prefer to receive financial donations that they use to buy food to distribute.

The Greater Boston Food Bank distributes to pantries through-out the region. Some outreach-based organizations like the Salvation Army and St. Vincent DePaul serve cities and towns in our area. Many towns have their own food pantries. I have listed a few here, along with addresses (and some phone numbers and URLs), should you wish to make donations.

**WHITMAN** Whitman Food Pantry, 44 Blake St., Whitman, MA 02382; (781) 447-8560

**WEYMOUTH** Weymouth Food Pantry, PO Box 890009, East Weymouth, MA. 02189

**ROCKLAND** Rockland Food Pantry, 12 Church St., Rockland, MA. 02370 (781) 878-1078 [www.rocklandfoodpantry.org](http://www.rocklandfoodpantry.org)

**BRIDGEWATER** Central Square Congregational Church, 71 Central Square, Bridge- water, MA 02324 Make checks out to CSCC and write “food pantry” on the memo line

**EAST BRIDGEWATER** East Bridgewater Food Pantry, 105 Pleasant St, East Bridgewater, MA 02333 (508) 378-2874

**WEST BRIDGEWATER** West Bridgewater Food Pantry, Inc., 2 Spring St., West Bridgewater, MA 02379 (339) 987-1684

**HANSON** Hanson Food Pantry, 228 High St., Hanson, MA 02341 (781) 293-1400 [www.hansonfoodpantry.org](http://www.hansonfoodpantry.org)

The Greater Boston Food Bank, Attn: Accounting, 70 South Bay Ave., Boston, MA 02118



Those wishing to add someone to the All Saints Prayer List should contact Pat Eunice at [ja1aj2to3@aol.com](mailto:ja1aj2to3@aol.com).

Prayer is powerful!



**All Saints  
Christmas  
2013**

**Do you have a pastoral need?**

To reach our interim priest Rev. Billie Mae Gordon call 617-584-2737. Or email her at [billiemaegordon@gmail.com](mailto:billiemaegordon@gmail.com)

To reach Senior Warden Regina Gurney, please call her at 781-335-5838 or email Regina at [reginamg56@comcast.net](mailto:reginamg56@comcast.net)





**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**  
*from Sarah Doyle and Kristen Brodeur, Directors*



Sarah and Kristen continue to offer Zoom Sunday school weekly at 9:30 am. If your children are interested in attending, please contact them through the REMIND APP at <https://www.remind.com/join/3g3c48> or text the code @3g3c48 to the number 81010.



**ALL THE NAMES FOR JESUS**

Rev. Billie sent this fun project for families and individuals to complete over the days of advent. Create a banner listing the Bible verses below. Read a verse each day, beginning on the first Sunday of advent November 29<sup>th</sup>, to find the name(s) that Jesus is called in the passage and list them next to the corresponding verse on your banner. Ideally, this should be done during the lighting of the advent wreath every evening. Before Christmas, Rev. Billie will share the results. (Although the first few days of advent have past, I am sure you can easily catch up!)

1. Isaiah 9:6
2. Mark 1:24
3. John 1:29
4. Acts 3:15
5. Rev. 15:3
6. Rev. 22:16
7. 1 John 1:1
8. Malachai 4:2
9. John 10:11
10. Matthew 2:6
11. Rev. 22:16
12. I John 1:1
13. Rev. 1:8

14. 1 Peter 5:4
15. Hebrews 12:2
16. Luke 1:78
17. John 14:16
18. Ephesians 1:22
19. 2 Timothy 4:8
20. John 8:12
21. John 14:16
22. John 1:41
23. Rev. 19:16
24. John 1:34
25. Luke 2:10



*She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger – there was no room for them to stay in the inn.*

John 1:2

**WORK CONTINUES**

Work continues at All Saints: Louisa and Dick clean the church, Tom maintains the building, Regina convenes the vestry, and we worship via Zoom. It is nice to know that there is some consistency.



Autumn Chores

## ***FROM THE WARDEN'S DESK***

***With Senior Warden Regina Gurney***



I received a letter the other day from channel 7 & 56 about closing or delays for schools or business. It started by saying, "It has been a year like no other and as we get ready for winter we want you to know we have an important new option in our storm closing system." The option was we are going remote. The option might be new for the system but not for schools or business. Like the school, if it snows, we will still be on *Zoom*. Just like they said, it has been a year like no other. It has been hard on everyone; but I am praying that it is going to get better by spring or summer.

The Regathering Committee is working on the plans for having Sunday services at church. Worshippers will have to be in the hall because of spacing 6 feet apart. When they are finished, we will submit the plans to the Diocese for approval; so when it is safe for us to meet, we will be ready. Our bishops do not want churches having indoor services or any other thing until it is safe to do so. The way COVID is right now I do not want to put us in any danger.

I want you to know that even though the church building is closed, we still are busy. We have regular church services on *Zoom* each Wednesday at 11AM and on Sunday at 10AM. We would love to have you join us. Some of our parishioners are making phone calls to say hi and see if you need anything. If you would like to call a few parishioners just contact me as I need a few more people to do this. We recently sent a donation to the Whitman Food Pantry to help them buy food. We have placed a plastic bin on the bench on the church porch. Inside there are *Forward Day by Day* booklets and copies of Sunday lessons' pamphlets for you to take. Since we cannot have our regular fund- raising projects, Dick has come up with another idea. Right now, he is selling chances to win a Duraflame infra-red electric stove with heater. If you are interested in it, give Dick a call at 339-933-9111. Rev. Billie is willing to have a Book Club or Bible Study group on *Zoom*. If you are interested in one of these, call her at 617-584-2737. If she gets enough people, she could start these after Christmas. If you need any help, contact Rev. Billie or Regina 781-335-5838. If you are sick, let us know so we can put you on the prayer list.

I really miss seeing you at church, at coffee hour and at our various programs. I look forward to the day when it will be safe to open All Saints and we can celebrate being together again. I pray that you will have a wonderful, blessed Christmas and please join us on *Zoom* for our church services.

Regina Gurney, Senior Warden



### ***THRIFT SHOP***

**The church Thrift Shop is open for business on an appointment only basis.**

**Please let those who use our shop know about this.**

**Christmas on a budget is possible here.**



**Parishioner Irene Darcy wins Thanksgiving Basket Raffle! Congratulations, Irene!**



## **FUNDRAISING**

with Dick Tingblad

It's been a punk year for Fundraising, as we were not allowed to do much. Up until March, things were normal:

Breakfasts (1st Sunday of every month)	\$ 256
Trivia Contest, January 25	143
Winter Yard Sale	221
Toll House Cookie Contest	108
Valentine's Raffle	28
Corned Beef Supper, March 7	543

The Plant Sale in May, thanks to Regina's tomato plants, made \$340, but only members of the congregation knew about it. We missed out on the Craft Show in October (usually earning over \$900), and the Church Fair is reduced to a "Fairless Fair," and has so far made \$1,255. (The real Fair earns about \$2,300.) You may still send in your contributions to make the Fairless Fair seem a little better.

The Thanksgiving Basket Raffle sold 207 tickets, and made \$130 dollars. Irene Darcy was the winner. The Electric Heater raffle will be drawn on December 18. We have sold 77 tickets so far and made \$60, with plenty of time left to buy yours. This is a really classy heater.

Altogether, Fundraising has made \$3,404 so far, with goal of \$8,000. Oh well.

But, in the immortal words of Falkor the Luckdragon, "Never give up, and good luck will find you."

See you soon

Peace

Louisa and Dick Tingblad

### **RAFFLE TICKETS**

**ONE -- \$1**

**SEVEN - \$5**

**FIFTEEN - \$10**

**To purchase tickets: We will not have real tickets. Choose how many chances you want, PRINT AND FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW, enclose the money or check in an envelope, and mail it to Church (44 Park Ave. Whitman 02382) or drop it off in the outside mailbox. Louisa and I will write your name on slips of paper the appropriate number of times (one, seven, fifteen, etc.) and put them in a bowl. We will draw the heater on December 18 (the week before Christmas), and will call the winner.**

**NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_**

**NUMBER OF ELECTRIC HEATER TICKETS YOU WANT \_\_\_\_\_**

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**