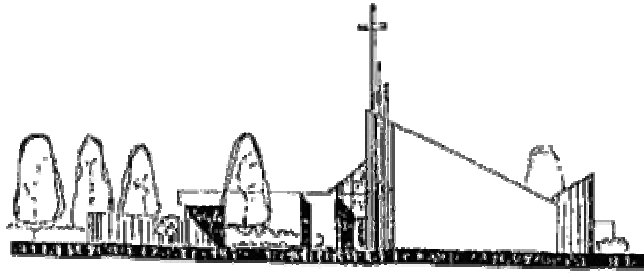


THE CHURCH OF THE ADVENT



CONNECTIONS

*Keeping
YOU
connected
with our
Advent Parish Family*

Anglican Parish of Colwood and Langford

510 Mount View Avenue, Victoria BC V9B 2B1

Telephone 474-3031 Fax 474-4097

www.colwoodanglican.ca

office@colwoodanglican.ca

rector@colwoodanglican.ca

Church Office Hours:

9:00 - 1:00 Monday -Thursday

9:00 - Noon Fridays

THOUGHT PROVOKING QUESTION: *“What is the best way to connect with other people and with God here at Church of the Advent?”*

Answer: Attending church services on a regular basis is the best way to nurture these relationships. That said, ninety minutes on a Sunday Morning can only accomplish so much.

*In our groups and activities, God’s Holy Name is praised and the community benefits. **Connections** is designed to provide a snapshot of the various ministries at COTA.*

Names and phone numbers are included in the Directory; however, if you see something that interests you which doesn’t have a corresponding name, please call our Church Office and we’ll be able to connect you with the right person.

**FOR CONTACT INFORMATION
FOR EACH OF THE MINISTRIES
BELOW, REFER TO THE BACK
PAGE OF THIS BOOKLET**

Adventus Music Ensemble

The group practices on Monday nights and leads worship once/month. We sing and play a variety of classical and popular music. All singers and players are welcome, regardless of experience. We are blessed with good instruments and a fine sound system.

Altar Guild

Members prepare both sanctuaries for worship services. Main duties include care for communion vessels, bread and wine, cleaning silver and brass, and arranging flowers. Members work in groups on a rotating schedule. No previous experience is necessary.

Baptism

Holy Baptism takes place at the 10:00 service at specific times throughout the year. Because this is the Rite of Initiation into the community of faith, all candidates and their families will receive preparation classes for this important event. See the pamphlet in the Narthex.

Bears and Bags (Canada Comforts)

This is an amazing international outreach ministry which provides handcrafted bears to orphans and victims abroad. It also facilitates the transfer of medical and other goods to persons and organizations in need worldwide. It is well described as "a miracle every day."

Breakfast after the 8:30 a.m. Service

Most Sundays of the year (except summer) a light breakfast is served following our early morning service.

Breakfast Club Youth Ministry

This is a group of 12-16 year olds that meet with our youth staff during the 10 a.m. service most Sundays.

Choir

Our adult choir provides special music and leadership for our 10 a.m. service. Practice is every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Contact the director. For those with little or no musical experience see Adventus (above).

Church School

It is essential that we take seriously the challenge of passing on the Gospel to the next generations of seekers and learners. In addition to youth ministries we have a small but lively church school which operates during the 10 a.m. service. We welcome students, teachers, assistants and support staff. All those entrusted with the care of children must sign the Diocesan Sexual Misconduct Policy and agree to submit a Criminal Record Check. We are committed to safeguarding all God's children.

Coffee Hour

Every Sunday after the 10 a.m. service, coffee, tea and juice are served in the Church Hall. Members work in pairs on a rotating schedule. The preparation of food is not a feature of this ministry.

Communion Distributors

Members assist the presiding priest in distributing holy Communion during the service. Such persons are licensed by the Bishop on an annual basis. Speak with the Rector for more information.

Counselling and Pastoral Care

The Rector is always available to parishioners and community members for prayer and informal counselling. Other options are available for more formal pastoral counseling, this on a sliding-scale fee model. Speak with the Rector for more information.

Food Bank

The Western Communities Food Bank provides food and advocacy to families on income assistance or in distress because of financial hardship. Items can be left for pickup in the box provided in the Narthex.

Funerals, Death and Dying

Please notify the Rector whenever someone you know is **seriously** or **gravely ill**. In the case of death, a priest will meet with you to assist with funeral arrangements and to provide counseling and support. Please contact the clergy through the office at the time of death, and if possible, before you converse with a funeral service provider.

Garden Group

This group provides upkeep of the flower beds on the Church property. Many hands make light work and produce great results.

Homegroups

Groups of up to 10 people meet at the host's residence to enjoy refreshments and share in the discussion of spiritual topics. Groups use book studies, DVD features and sometimes invited guests to expand their reflection on Christian faith. Use your God-given gifts to host, lead, or become a leader-in-training for a homegroup.

Jazz Vespers

This meld of an ancient monastic service and improvisation-based jazz is now hugely popular. Our musicians are amongst Western Canada's finest performing musicians. The Rector improvises in his homily on the music presented. This service is appropriate for those familiar with church and those new to any form of Christian Ministry. JV occurs on the Third Sunday of each month, Sept - May at 7 p.m.

Take a poster from the Welcome Table in the Narthex.

Kidstime

Parents and pre-schoolers meet every Thursday morning at 10 a.m. in our nursery. A time for play, discussion and refreshments. Parishioners and non-parishioners welcome.

Ladies Guild

The Ladies Guild meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month and hosts a monthly community luncheon. The Guild also hosts a pancake lunch and marmalade-making day. The Guild assembles gift baskets for the Christmas Craft Fair and caters funeral teas.

Lay Ministry

Opportunities exist for persons to read scripture publicly, lead in prayers, distribute the elements at Holy Communion, assist the Rector or others with travel, help the office staff, work in our gardens, and for involvement in lay pastoral care. Call the office for more information.

Library

A well stocked library is located beside the office. Books, DVDs and other materials are available free of charge for loan. We are working at building this collection and obtaining a number of new titles.

Mens' Breakfast

Held on the first Saturday of each month from September to May. Coffee is available at 8:00 a.m. followed by a full breakfast. The focus is fellowship and admission is by donation. Profits periodically go to meet current needs in the church or to community outreach.

Movin' On - For those who find themselves alone

This is a new group for those who find themselves alone, for whatever reason. They meet twice a month for a variety of social and educational activities.

Nursery

Infants and children up to age 3 receive supervised care during the 10 a.m. service. This ministry is staffed by parents of young children in the Church.

OUR ADVENTURE Newsletter

This newsletter is published several times annually. Everyone is invited to submit articles, bits of humour and items of interest to the parish. Usually one or two parishioner families are featured each time. Our connections with Global Anglican ministry are also featured.

Outreach Ministry

Each month, parishioners are invited to support various church-based ministries locally or nationally. We also make commitments to staff or support in real ways outreach ministries of Anglican Churches throughout our Selkirk Region.

Prayer Line

The members in this group provide prayers and follow-up on the requests received by phone or in person.

Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF)

This is a national fund with staff in Toronto who coordinate Anglican participation through partnerships in development and emergency relief worldwide. We have 3 parishioners who guide our involvement with the fund. It is generously supported and it is a "jewel" in the Cdn Anglican Crown.

Recycling Program

The following items are collected by *COTA*: Fairway receipts for Club Grad, Stamps, Cdn Tire Money in support of our maintenance fund, Campbell Soup Labels, Island Farms UPC tabs, bottle recycling, shoeboxes, tabs from canned beverages, batteries and printer ink cartridges and phone books. Please wash all containers before bringing them in.

Rose Garden

Our rose garden holds the cremated remains of parishioners and friends. The plants are cared for by dedicated volunteers.

Shoebox Sunday

Shoebboxes are collected and filled with personal items such as toothbrushes, socks, gloves and distributed to street youth in downtown Victoria.

Sidespersons

Sidespersons prepare the church building for services, hand out bulletins, usher, count and record the number of worshippers and collect the offering. Afterwards, they ensure that everything is put away and that the building is secure.

Stewardship Group

A group of folks meet regularly with the Rector to set before the congregation the challenge of stewardship including our use of money. This group influences our worship and common life in a variety of ways.

Thanksgiving and Offerings

One of the ways we say “thank you” to God for the gift of new life in Christ is by giving a portion of our income back to God. On request, you will receive a one year supply of

special envelopes and a confidential summary of contributions for your records. COTA also offers **PAR**, the **preauthorized remittance program** as another option.

Website

We have a fine website at www.colwoodanglican.ca Visit the site on a regular basis for information on events, recent sermons, and other resources relevant to living the Christian life.

Weddings

The first step in planning a wedding is to call the Rector who will discuss times and dates with the couple. See the pamphlet in the Narthex for detailed information. The Rector does not currently preside at weddings but we have other licensed clergy who do. Contact the office for details.

Wednesday Services Of Holy Communion

This intimate service is held every Wednesday morning at 10:30. On the third Wednesday of each month, the service includes optional prayers for healing and the Laying on of Hands.

Youth Ministry

Kids 12 years and up find acceptance and friendship in a Christian atmosphere. Contact the office for more information.

DIIRECTORY

Church Office	<i>Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. till Noon</i>	250-474-3031
Rector	<i>The Rev. Kenneth J. Gray</i>	250-474-3031
Parish Administrator	<i>Elizabeth Garland</i>	250-478-5494
Office Assistant	<i>Monica Gurzinski</i>	250-715-0227
Organist/Choir Director	<i>Mary Rogers</i>	250-472-6671
Wardens	<i>Graham Terlson</i>	250-478-4020
	<i>Jose Pereña Pratt</i>	250-744-3025
Treasurer	<i>Gowan Armstrong</i>	250-474-3031
Financial Gifts Secretary	<i>Karla Armstrong</i>	250-474-3031
Buildings and Grounds	<i>Ed Robinson</i>	250-478-9426
Altar Guild/Lay Ministry	<i>Kathy Middleton</i>	250-474-6914
Sidespersons, 10 a.m.	<i>Patricia McKenzie</i>	250-474-5970
Facility Use and Movin' On group	<i>Pat Leonard</i>	250-382-7287
Church School	<i>Vicki Wilson</i>	250-477-8175
Kidstime (Pre-schoolers)	<i>Tina Weatherell</i>	250-391-7652
Ladies Guild	<i>Marjorie Nixon</i>	250-474-1169
Liturgical Assistants	<i>Gary Brewer</i>	250-893-4752
	<i>Nancy Baal</i>	250-595-7064
	<i>Irene Ferguson</i>	250-474-0713
Nursery	<i>Marita Atwood</i>	250-474-3699
Prayer Line	<i>The Office (office hours)</i>	250-474-3031
	<i>Mary Percival (other times)</i>	250-478-1940
Youth Group	<i>Carol Denton</i>	250-474-9720