

Blessings Boutique - a volunteer's guide

The Blessings Boutique reflects Isaiah 55:1 – *“Come buy ... without money and without cost.”*

The Boutique is like a Thrift Store where everything is free, including the welcome, information and care. And just like a Thrift store the BB is open to all, because St Peter's longs to bless everyone in our community generously, as the Lord blesses us generously.

The opening hours are Thursdays **9am-1pm**.

A minimum of two volunteers must be on duty at all times. You can volunteer for one or more Thursdays of the month. There are two shifts during the day, 9-11 and 11-1. You can sign up for one or both shifts. If you wish to volunteer, please sign up via the office or by using the online sign up at [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d49afaa22a2f9c07-blessings#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d49afaa22a2f9c07-blessings#/)

Sorting donations

In terms of stock, the remit of the Boutique is to make available to its visitors used clothing and household items. **Any new items (including clothing with tags), collectible items and items of value must not be put on display at the Boutique. Instead, please lay them aside for either Linda Hughes, Linda Nugent or the Rector, Rev Sulin to assess.** The reason for this is twofold: Firstly, as per our Blessings Boutique donations policy, such items will be added to our annual auction or sold elsewhere. This is necessary to enable the church to cover its running costs so we can continue to offer the BB and other outreach programmes to our community. Secondly, it stops individuals or dealers abusing the Boutique by taking items of value for personal gain.

Donations brought into the Boutique during opening hours can be processed by the volunteers in the back room immediately. Please encourage people who want to leave donations outside these hours to take their donations to the admin office, or if shut, to leave them on the Church House porch. Donations MUST NOT be left outside the hall. Donations that come to the Church House will be placed in the BB cupboard just inside the front doors of the hall, ready for processing.

The Boutique does not accept books but any that do come in can be deposited at the Rotary collection point outside Jules by the Bay on Comox Ave.

Any food or toiletries must be taken to the Church House to be distributed through St Peter's Foodbank.

If anyone comes into the BB who have need of food can be directed to the Church House as our Foodbank is open during BB hours.

All rags must be taken for recycling. As per the BB policy, we aim to throw as little in the garbage as possible.

Note: Members of the public must not be allowed in the kitchen or back hall during BB opening hours.

The BB is about blessing people in more ways than by giving them items for free. We also exist to connect with people and to help them feel supported and valued. We also are doing this because of the call our faith places on our lives.

Isaiah 55:1 – *“Come buy ... without money and without cost.”*

Matthew 25: 36 and 40 – “I needed clothes and you clothed me ... Truly I tell you, whatever you do for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you do for me.”
In order to share these things that are important to us by handing each visitor, or placing into each bag, the BB info slip that will be provided.

Below is a summary based on an outline by Joy Braathen.

Purpose

A place for people to be Welcomed and feel Welcomed, important and respected.

Ambiance

The BB is not to feel like a shop or business. It should feel more like a visit to friends or family (where you rarely leave empty-handed)

Relationship

Get to know our visitors. Greet, chat with them.

Let the visitors know of anything that they may be interested in that is happening in the church and community.

This is a time to care.