

Christ Church Cathedral

Christ Church Cathedral, P.O. Box 31442, Whitehorse, YT.

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Fall Newsletter 2020



A Word from the Dean

The Very Reverend Bert Chestnut

Living with COVID-19



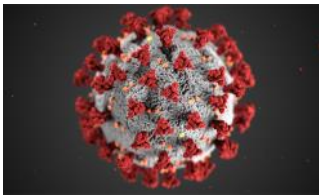
Well here we are quickly moving into the fall season. The last time I looked around without COVID-19 it was March, what happened to summer? What are your thoughts and feelings about the past few months while we have weathered the effects of COVID-19 and all the precautions that have had to be put into place?

We have all heard that it is just a big hoax and doesn't really exist, that we should do nothing and let "herd immunity" take over, some will die and others will suffer but the numbers probably are not that much greater. Do you really want to take that chance?? Whether it's a hoax and doesn't exist or it exists, and we let it run its course...I think I would much rather live on the side of caution and protect as many folks as possible. At this point, we really are our brother's keeper.

Let me look at it from a slightly different perspective; maybe, just maybe, through all of this we are being asked to stop (pause) and consider what exactly we are doing to this "our island home". Nothing else would have gotten the attention of the entire world so completely. Before COVID we were doing surprisingly good at working on removing single use plastics, well, that changed quickly. Somehow, we got the idea that plastic wrap and single use plastics were "clean or sterile" and was going to protect us from the effects of germs from the pandemic. The truth is that they do not accomplish a great deal, if anything plastics are a better carrier for the virus where using a clean napkin or Tea Towel can accomplish the same thing and are washable and re-usable. We have had to

make so many adjustments and those adjustments have far reaching effects on lots of folks around us. In the initial stages everyone was working from home, or off work and staying at home... all because of the effects of the pandemic and fear of either catching or spreading the virus. What we discovered rather quickly was that some people do not survive well when they are ask to “social distance” or remain home and not go to work. How many relationships, I wonder, were strained to the breaking point because of COVID 19 restrictions? Folks who were used to being busy were not. And what about the people who live alone? We are social creatures; we crave contact with other humans...that was being denied to us. Even in our worship space, we were prohibited from gathering or, later, had to be social distanced from other folks. We could not hug, or shake hands, much was done online to compensate for gatherings.

God stood with us through all of this. Through all the things that we thought we lost, and there were a number, we discovered that life will probably not go back to the way things were,



to “normal”. Instead we discovered that we could go about our jobs in a slightly different fashion, we learned to record services online, social media took on a different importance. We learned

how to think “outside” the box and check in with other people around us. Conversations we may never have had, suddenly became important and now as we are putting life back together again and beginning to anticipate the possibility of a second wave, we are in a much better, more informed place to meet what the immediate future holds.

Bert Chestnut

News Roundup

Pandemic!

Our plans for this year were rudely interrupted by the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. All non-essential programs were shut down from March 17th. March 22nd was the last Sunday service at the cathedral. Even Easter was more or less cancelled. We discovered how busy we usually were, as there were no events for weeks. No Sunday morning Communion, no Gathering, no Messy Church, no Common Threads, no Keep Fit, no Sisters' Breakfast, no Men's Breakfast, no Tea and Hymn Sing, no Choir, no Table Talk, no Anglican Church Women, no Tuesday Barbecues, no Historical Evening Prayer, no special events, no retreats, no Vestry meetings, no potlucks.



A new light appeared on the altar. Bert lights this every time he arrives at the cathedral, to lift up all those suffering from COVID-19, those who are ill, those who are restricted by it, and those who are working for the sick and to take care of the rest of us.

Re-opening—On-line

Our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Lesley Wheeler-Dame, organised on-line Morning Prayer services. The first was on the March 29th, the fifth Sunday in Lent. The Bishop records these services with the Rev. Sarah Usher, Archdeacon of Liard, and with our own Dean, Bert Chestnut. Since Easter, Anne Coates has been accompanying hymns. She was not available when the lockdown began, as she was out of the country visiting relatives, and then had to self-isolate for two weeks.

For Easter, Bishop Lesley used the Easter Festival Service from the Book of Occasional Services.

More recently, several clergy from around the diocese, including our Archbishop, The Rt. Rev. Melissa Skelton , and the National Indigenous Archbishop, The Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald, have sent us sermons.

The online service (usually Morning Prayer) will continue indefinitely, as it provides for people who cannot attend in person, whether self-isolating after travel or exposure, or other reasons.

It seems that previous parishioners have been watching these services, too, and some from other churches which were unable to offer what the Cathedral does.

YOU DO NOT NEED A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT TO SEE THE FACEBOOK SERVICES. Just follow the link from the Diocesan web-page, <http://www.yukon.anglican.org/> and click on the picture that says “Join us on facebook”:

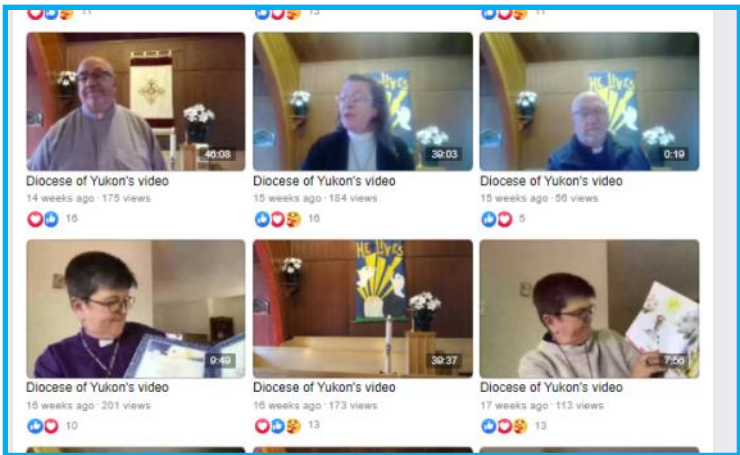
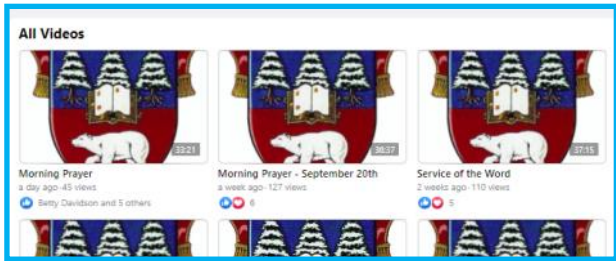


The most recent service should be quite near the top. If you can't find it, scroll down the left side until you find videos. Clicking on the picture will start the most recent video.

If there is a different video showing here, then use the little link in the top right corner: “see all” .



Underneath are links to previous videos. They are all still available.



Re-opening—At church

The first live service was June 21st, Father’s Day and Aboriginal Sunday. Every other pew is roped off, and there is space either for a single person each end of the open pew, or a family bubble in one pew. Unfortunately, congregational singing is still not allowed as the distance to maintain safety is so large when singing. There is live music, either instrumental or Anne can sing when there is enough open space.

The Gathering has re-started as a Bible study group on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month (no food or singing). Common

Threads meets now in the main hall on Tuesday mornings from 9:30—11:00. Keep Fit is on Wednesdays at 10:30. All of these have to observe physical distancing. The Men's meeting is a Zoom chat.



Monica, our secretary, has put up some of her needlework in the entranceway, the poem Footsteps in the Sand, and the Angel of Mercy. Examine these some time, they deserve a second look.



Vestry met in August, discussing the rectory, and on September 1 discussed services, repairs to the hall and snow removal (yes, snow will be coming).

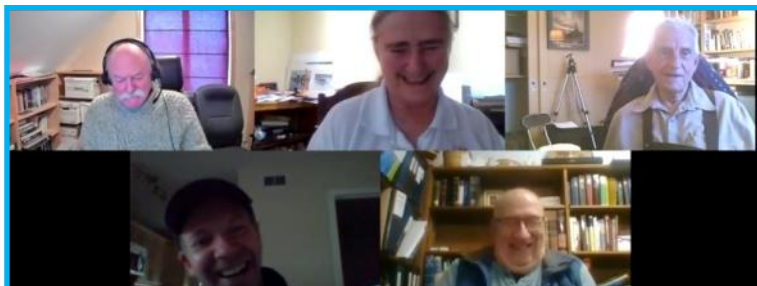
Our Cathedral building has been looked after: all the toilets were replaced, thanks to a parishioner's donation which will pre-empt wasting water and possible flooding. In the hallway, bathrooms and kitchen new flooring is replacing the cracking and lifting tiles. If you would like to make a donation towards the floor and its installation, just put it in an envelope and indicate on the front that is what you would like us to put it towards. Every nickel will be gratefully appreciated and is tax deductible.

The grounds have also looked great this year, thanks to Jeannie Roches and Bob Dempster.



Choir

Faced with the limitations on singing together, the choir has gone virtual.



This clip from Zoom shows the men practicing with Anne.

The time is currently the same—7:30 pm on Thursdays, but the meetings are on Zoom. The free Zoom is limited to 40 minute meetings, but the diocese has let us use their subscription. Because it is over the internet, it is impossible to synchronise properly, but the meetings are used to get everyone singing, and learning the songs together. The music is sent by email, although there will be a package of paper copies later.

The prognosis for a physical service looks bleak. However, we should be able to record each singer separately, and with strict control of the timing, and the wonders of (free) online software, we hope to get a carol service put up on Facebook like the weekly services. We are currently checking out various forms of free software, and getting used to manipulating them.

It is a new way of working, and the result will be different. Since the timing has to be set in advance, it may lose some sense of occasion. But each person recording has a chance to delete errors and produce their best.

We shall see the results nearer to Christmas.

Anne Coates

From the Treasurer

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS AT AUGUST 31, 2020

Total revenue for the first eight months of 2020 was reported at \$66,842.00 which is 54.68% of our budgeted annual revenue of \$122,250.00. We require a monthly revenue of \$10,188.00 (\$81,504 to date) to meet our budget and we are presently experiencing a shortfall of **\$14,662.00**.

Expenses were reported at \$56,384.00 representing 33.50% of our budgeted annual expenses of \$145,756.00. We, at the present, are well within this budget.

In view of the Covid-19 pandemic, we will continue to utilize our offerings to cover upcoming operating expenses. Fortunately, we were able to contribute \$3,000.00 to the Diocese and to date we have paid \$17,100.00 towards our budgeted annual commitment to the Diocese of \$73,699.27 (\$6,133.27 per month). We are presently **\$31,966** (5.2 months) behind in our commitment to the Diocese.

Please note that the total Diocesan Maintenance Share due to Christ Church Cathedral for the year 2019 amounts to \$4,513.53 which will be applied to our commitment (Stipend) later in the year.

Please remember that bills need to be paid and you can still bring your offering in your envelope with a cheque (no cash please) to either the church (open 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon - Tuesday to Friday) or send it by mail to P.O. Box 31442, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 6K8.

Thank you.

Bob Dempster

Please keep our finances in your prayers to make our target for 2020.

Advertising God...

A fifth grade teacher in a Christian school asked her class to look at TV commercials and see if they could use them in 20 ways to communicate ideas about God. Here are some of the results:

God is like Bayer aspirin—he works miracles

God is like a Ford—He’s got a better idea...

God is like Coke—He’s the real thing.

God is like Hallmark cards—He cares enough to send His very best.

God is like Tide—He gets the stains out others leave behind.

God is like General Electric—He brings good things to life.

God is like the Energizer Bunny—He keeps Going & Going and Going.

God is like Walmart—He has everything.

God is like Alka-Seltzer—Try Him, you’ll like Him.

God is like Delta—He’s ready when you are.

God is like VO-5 Hairspray—He holds through all kinds of weather.

God is like Dial soap—Aren’t you glad you have Him? Don’t you wish everybody did?

God is like the U.S. Post Office—Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet or ice will keep Him from His appointed destination.

God is like Maxwell House—Good to the very last drop.

God is like Bounty—He’s the quicker picker-upper. He can handle tough jobs. And, He won’t fall apart on you.

- From Betty Pearson and the Shawl Knitting Group St. Augustine’s Parish, Marpole, B.C.

If you enjoy the pictures, consider sending yours to the Cathedral by email, or to Anne Coates.

Deadline for next edition is December 1.

A Psalm for Your Psyche

I asked for strength...

And God gave me difficulties to make me strong.

I asked for wisdom...

And God gave me problems to solve.

I asked for prosperity...

And God gave me a brain and brawn to work.

I asked for courage...

And God gave me danger to overcome.

I asked for love..

And God gave me troubled people to help.

I asked for favours...

And God gave me opportunities.

I received nothing I wanted.

But I received everything I needed.

My prayer was answered.



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Regular Events/Activities

Sunday Services:

Holy Communion	8:30 am
Holy Communion	10:00 am
Morning Prayer (Facebook)	11:00 am

Weekly:

Common Threads	Tuesday	9:30 am
Men's Chat (Zoom)	Wednesdays	10 am
Keep Fit	Wednesday	10:30 am
Choir (Zoom)	Thursday	7:30 pm

Monthly:

Vestry (Zoom)	2nd Tuesday	7 pm
The Gathering	2nd* & 4th Monday	6:30 pm

* No Gathering October 13.

Harvest Thanksgiving:

Sunday, October 11 services as usual

All Saints Day:

Sunday, November 1 services as usual

Remembrance Sunday:

Sunday, November 8 services as usual