

SYNOD OFFICE SNIPPETS

December 6, 2021

For your diocesan communication needs, please contact

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Staffing Changes at the Synod Office

At the end of November, we bade **Kelinda MacRoberts** a fond farewell as she moved to take a position with the Town of Peace River. We wish her well in this career change.

In a parallel move, the Diocese of Calgary has agreed to take over our bookkeeping services. Their two financial management staff will be caring for all our bookkeeping needs, while the Executive Archdeacon tries to keep on top of income/deposits and invoices/payments. We are grateful to the Diocese of Calgary for their generosity to us—this bookkeeping service is being provided at no charge to our diocese.

While the Management Committee works to create a position description for our “Communications Officer”, Mrs. Benita Greenwood will be shepherding our communications three half-days per week.

Regional Deans Danielle McKenzie and Blessing Shambare have worked to ensure that all parishes will have some form of worship on Christmas Eve/Christmas Day. If you’re unsure what your liturgical schedule is, please contact Danielle at 780-618-1451 for the Peace Deanery and Blessing at 780-849-0690 for the Athabasca Deanery. If you’re looking for advice on your liturgy, please contact the Very Rev. Jason Haggstrom at 780-625-2109. If you’re looking for an online worship experience, please join St. Helen’s-in-the-Mall Anglican Church, Fairview, December 24, 3:00 p.m. via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87035660665>).

Live Generously,

Give Generously

Canon Peter Clarke, Treasurer Vicki Townson and Archdeacon Terry Leer have conducted a number of regional Zoom meetings on the nature of diocesan ministry and how the Diocese of Athabasca will carry out that ministry. The process began with the Diocesan Executive Council and has offered nearly every congregation the opportunity to understand the ministry of the diocese and ask questions about funding that ministry.

As many parish treasurers as wanted to gathered in a Zoom meeting with Diocesan Treasurer Vicki Townson and Executive Archdeacon Terry Leer on November 29. The goal of this “Treasurers’ Roundtable” was to establish firmer relationships amongst the treasurers and to share both our success stories and our quandaries. The treasurer and archdeacon recognize how vital the ministry of the parish treasurer is—and how difficult it can become, especially when dealing with forms and reporting requirements. Participants were encouraged to reach for the telephone whenever confronting any questions or concerns. The video of the roundtable is viewable at <https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/hQjWVjxPw1SsYEeu-YjImUr3KmuUJwuNT8wlyfHUw91D0tvphJte0lZJrFdxAoKR.CtcwX8TQMwoCacfl?startTime=1638237211000> (copy and paste this link into your browser). Vicki may be reached at 587-298-4288. Terry may be reached at 780-618-9593.

PANDEMIC UPDATE

“Steady as we go!” That’s the motto for our response to the ongoing pandemic. This means:

- ✓ All clergy and parishioners are encouraged to be vaccinated against Covid-19 according to provincial guidelines.
- ✓ Congregations are to obey the attendance limits (1/3 of the fire code occupancy), with physical spacing between households. There are different limits for weddings and funerals.
- ✓ Celebrants at the eucharist are to follow cleansing and sanitizing protocols as already laid down, and are not allowed to distribute wine using the common chalice.
- ✓ Celebrants and worshippers are to be masked during worship, even while singing. Hand sanitizing stations are to be available to all, and the celebrants of the eucharist are to take special care in washing/sanitizing.
- ✓ If the worship space is to be used again within a 72-hour period, contact surfaces must be wiped down with antibacterial wipes.
- ✓ Worshippers are strongly encouraged to report any infections or exposures to the virus to the parish so that close contacts may be informed.

Anyone with questions or concerns about our pandemic protocols should contact the archdeacon (amdath@telus.net; 780-618-9593).

In case you were wondering, all Annual General Meetings must be completed by February 16, 2022. The Annual Parochial Returns (newly edited to accommodate some changes in the information required) are due by February 28.

We are about overzoomed:

- ✓ Management Committee,
January 20, 7:00 p.m.
 - ✓ Diocesan Executive Council,
January 27, 7:00 p.m.
- Staff meetings, Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.
Clergy, once a month.