



Parish Update #22

Hello to our St. John's friends and family,

As restrictions begin to ease, I'm happy to tell you that we will begin a return to **limited in-person worship on Sunday, July 4 at 10:00 a.m.** Under Phase 2 of the province's re-opening plan, we are allowed 25% of our capacity up to 50 people. Under Phase 3, which is slated to begin on June 30, we will be allowed 50% of our capacity up to 100 people. Unfortunately, the requirement for social distancing will still be in place for the foreseeable future, so even in July the numbers we can accommodate will be between 40-50 people. Until social distancing is removed, this will be our reality. So we will be returning to worship that looks like what we were doing before this second lock-down began on April 28. We will use our **existing Sunday worship pool** to draw names that will be contacted and invited to attend. If you are already registered for the pool, there is no need to contact us again now. You will be automatically placed in each week's draw. But, if you do not wish to return to in-person worship at this time, please contact me by email or phone and we will suspend your name from the draw until you notify us again. As always, we draw the names for each Sunday early in the week and you will be contacted by email or by phone before the end of the day on Wednesdays if you are chosen for that Sunday. New names are always welcome to the pool and you can register by calling or emailing me or the church office. And for the foreseeable future, the online worship recordings will still be provided on Sunday mornings at 8:00. I pray this is the beginning of a return to more normal worship patterns which will be uninterrupted, as more and more of us receive our second vaccine dose and continue to follow the public health guidelines. Parish Council will be making some further decisions about our fall pattern of worship and activities at its September meeting.

We continue to be thankful for the presence of our AST student minister, **Jane Magrath**, who is with us for the summer months on a work term supported by the Diocesan postulancy program. I will be on **vacation from July 13-Aug 13** and during that time, Jane will oversee and lead our worship and parish activities and be on call for any pastoral emergencies. She will have oversight from the Rev. David Fletcher of the Parish of Lantz if there is need of a priest. During that time, our liturgies, both online and in-person will be services of Morning Prayer. I know that you will give Jane your full support and co-operation during this month. It will be a wonderful chance for her to experience the fullness of parish ministry on her own!

In other news:

The next 3 month installment of our **parish calendar/diary** for the months of July/August/September is currently being edited. It should appear in your inboxes between June 25th and 30th.

Truro PRIDE celebrations have had to be cancelled again this year due to Covid-19 restrictions. We have been participating in the parade and other events as a parish for several years now. In lieu of that participation, we are planning a **PRIDE worship service on Sunday, July 18**. Join us either in-person or online for the celebration!

Many of you have been asking about what we can do as a church in response to the discovery of the graves of 215 first nations children on the grounds of the residential school in Kamloops, B.C. and to the reopening of the wounds both first nation and settler peoples feel about the history of our church's involvement with the residential school system. I believe our prayers of lament and our public confession of the wrongs we did as a church have been the first steps. Educating ourselves is another. To that end, I want you to know about a free, online public course called **Indigenous Canada** which is sponsored by the University of Calgary. It is taught by aboriginal people and is available to anyone who wants to learn. Our Diocese is strongly recommending that we take the opportunity to learn through this course. You can find out more at: <https://www.nspeidiocese.ca/ministries/youth-and-family-ministry--1/pages/indigenous-canada>

Our Parish Council is planning a **belated good-bye gift for Michael and Adele Stokoe** who have recently moved to British Columbia after having played a huge role in the leadership of our parish over the years. Our gift will be a Memory Book which can include photos or written messages (memories, greetings) from all of us. If you have something you would like to include, simply send it to Kim Benedict at memories4stokoes@gmail.com by July 31. If you have questions, you can direct them to Kim at that email address. Thanks for your help with this and thank you to Kim for co-ordinating the submissions.

Our parish **Finance Committee** wants you to be aware that as we approach the slower days of summer and the chance to get away and enjoy its brief beauty, we also approach the time of slimmer offerings. This second lock-down has been difficult for our offering stream and the parish is currently slightly more than \$4000 off from its projected budget year to date and seasonally adjusted. This is not ideal moving into summer. So we place that reality before you and ask you to prayerfully consider your offerings as you move about and enjoy the greater freedom that this summer will offer. We thank you for your faithfulness in the past. We know that together, and by God's grace, we will move through this time of financial uncertainty and onto firmer ground.

You may be interested to know that on **Saturday, June 26th St. John bells will ring as we participate in the Ellacombe Chime Festival** which includes the playing of bells like those in our tower all over the world on one day! It begins in New Zealand and ends in Vancouver (at St. James' Anglican) 17 hours later. The bell ringing will cross 4 continents with at least 120 participants in 11 different time zones. How small the world has become! Thanks to our

faithful campanologist, Cathy Boudreau for making it possible for St. John's to be part of this endeavour. The world surely needs the joyful sound of bells these days!

I pray that this summer break is a time for you to draw closer to the One who is always closer to you than your breath. I pray that you have time to simply be and to absorb the great love that flows to you at every moment and that you turn from your prayer time to share that love with those around you. I leave you with a prayer from John Birch:

*Creator God
who breathed this world into being,
who is discernible within
the harmony of nature,
the perfection of a butterfly's wing,
the grandeur of a mountain range,
the soaring eagle and hummingbird,
thank you for this world
which you have created.
Thank you for summer sun
which reminds us
that your creative breath
is still alive and active.
Thank you for the warmth of your love,
sustaining this world, your garden.
That we can glimpse you within creation
is a beautiful thought,
but also tells us that you desire to be seen,
to be found and known.
Open our eyes, Lord,
as we walk through this world,
feel the wind and sunshine,
see the majesty of creation
unfolding before our eyes.
Help us to see you. Amen*

In Christ's peace
Rev. Lori

