



CHRIST CHURCH, DARTMOUTH

An inclusive church welcoming everyone

61 Dundas Street, Dartmouth, NS
www.christchurchdartmouth.com

November 5th, 2020

“The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.” Psalm 28:7

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we continue to live in the space of the pandemic, we are called to continually lift each other in prayer as we seek to maintain connection and community. COVID-19 has not disappeared, and there is an uptick in cases as we enter the winter months. This being said, the church does not stop but rather pushes forward with its mission to share the joy of the Good News of Jesus Christ. We continue to maintain connections with each other, including Sundays, as we connect through in-person worship and various means of communication, including online platforms.

As we begin the Season of Advent (November 29th), we enter into a journey of great expectation. Such a period of relative darkness allows us to journey to Christmas, as we anticipate the light which is cast at our Lord's birth. Often it is in the shadows of darkness that the most incredible light is revealed. The parish will be announcing how we plan to recognize this most holy season in the next week or so. Please stay tuned as we reveal our Advent Theme!

A few updates regarding the mission and work of the church:

- **Music Ministry:** continues on Sundays and throughout the week as choir members provide excellent musical leadership. All attending Sunday service are now softly singing and are masked. At this time, we have established a collaborative leadership group to continue music and dynamic worship. I want to thank Tessa Short for leading the choir, along with John MacDonald, and Joey Dowell as accompanist. Tessa has been hired to work with the parish 10 hours a week. Come the new year, we will take time to reflect on the nature of this ministry as we move forward.
- **Parish Sexton:** Andrew Smith has been hired for 16 hours per week to carry out janitorial duties on our campus property. Andrew is a member of the parish and has worked as a summer student and has filled in during vacations in the past. Come the new year we will look at the position of Sexton as we move forward.
- **Church Interior:** Parish Council unanimously passed the removal of church pews in the choir stalls. This allows us to create additional space in the church for the period of the pandemic. I know that this is not easy for some to digest. Please do not hesitate to speak with me, Rev.

Bonnie, a warden or member of the council if you have further questions regarding this decision.

- **Confirmation:** at this time, there is no set date for a service of confirmation as we wait for the Consecration of our new Bishop-Elect, the Rev. Sandra Fyfe. Just as the pandemic began, six people attended confirmation classes with me. We are looking to start lessons once again. If you are interested in learning more about the faith, Christianity, and Anglicanism, please contact the parish office to attend our sessions.
- **Technology:** we now have a total of five TVs which display our services on Sundays. A special thank you to John Gallant, our parish administrator, for organizing this, and to the parish council for supporting this endeavour. Also, we thank individuals for their generosity in supporting this ministry. You can view our services online Sunday by visiting: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUnnx5_7UORuJudCuinOqQw/featured. John MacLeod and Gail Teixeira have been tireless supports of this ministry, and the parish thanks them for their dedication in making sure folks at home can connect with us. At this point, our team is learning how to use the system, so there will be some “hiccups” as we become more familiar with the technology.
- **Vision 2020 Survey:** Our survey is now complete, and the parish council has reviewed the document. Council will be discussing it at its next meeting at the end of November. Please stay tuned for further communications. Thank you to all who took the time to participate in the survey.
- **Christmas Worship:** we will shortly make an announcement regarding times of services for the 24th of December. You will need to register for the service and seating will be limited. You will also be able to view services online. There will also be a Christmas Day Service at 10:00am (BCP) with the Rev. Canon David Greenwood presiding.
- **Consecration of Bishop Elect:** On November 30th at 7:00pm Rev. Sandra Fyfe will become our new Bishop. Due to COVID-19, the Cathedral will have limited seating, but you will be able to view online at https://www.facebook.com/Diocese-of-Nova-Scotia-and-Prince-Edward-Island-274107035933762/?ref=page_internal

Yours Faithfully in Christ,



The Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner
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