



# St Mark the Evangelist Anglican Church

1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa ON K2C 1X6

## Weekly Newsletter

July 17, 2020

Dear friends,

Welcome to the eighteenth edition of our weekly newsletter. A limited number of paper copies will be placed at the link

doors for people who do not have access to email.

### A Message from the Bishop

This message from Bishop Shane was released on Wednesday:

In consultation with our COVID-19 advisors, and based on current trends in the evolution of COVID-19 in our region, I am announcing that on September 1, 2020, our diocese will move from RED to AMBER according to our In This Together (found here: <https://bit.ly/3j7Pft5>). That means churches in the Diocese of Ottawa can aim to hold services, with restrictions, on Sunday, September 6- with understanding we will not move if conditions change for the worse between now and September 1.

I feel it is important to set a target that will give us all reasonable hope and make our engagement with the plan purposive. Parish leaders should therefore begin immediately to make preparations, including rehearsing and checking all your procedures before Sunday, September 6.

*Everyone should be aware that holding services with restrictions is going to look substantially different than what we are used to. Among other things, there will be no lingering in the church buildings or grounds, the number of people attending will be restricted and the office will be required to hold a list of people attending each service. This list will be turned over to Ottawa Public Health if contact tracing*

*becomes necessary. Instrumental music which does not use wind instruments is acceptable. There will be no congregational singing.*

Important notice for preventing COVID-19 outbreaks.

## Avoid the "Three Cs"!

- 1. Closed spaces** with poor ventilation.
- 2. Crowded places** with many people nearby.
- 3. Close-contact settings** such as close-range conversations.

One of the key measures against COVID-19 is to prevent occurrence of clusters. Keep these "Three Cs" from overlapping in daily life.

The risk of occurrence of clusters is particularly high when the "Three Cs" overlap!

In addition to the "Three Cs," items used by multiple people should be cleaned with disinfectant.

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### "Shout Outs"

If you would like some special occasion like an anniversary or birthday acknowledged in the Sunday service, Fr Julian will be more than happy to announce it. However, it must be into either Father Julian or the office by Tuesday noon for it to be included in the service for the following Sunday.

This week's shout outs include:

- Karen Barber celebrates her birthday on July 18
- Karen Roberts celebrated her birthday on July 7. She is now preparing for the birthdays of her boys: Alexander will be turning 6 on July 21 and William will be turning 3 on July 24. As well Karen, and her

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husband, Sean Bawden, celebrate their 9th Wedding Anniversary on July 23

- Margaret and Donald Williamson celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on July 16

### **Sunday Morning Service**

Although we cannot attend Sunday morning worship, we have put together a recording for July 19. It should arrive in your inbox on July 18.

Accompanying the recording will be a file which has the complete service including the readings if you would like to read them. Unfortunately, the sermon will not be transcribed and you will need to listen to the video to hear it. Many, many thanks to Alex Dee who is doing the video editing for this endeavour.

Because of the method of recording different sections at different times and then melding them together, we are able to follow the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa guidelines on Physical Distancing. There are no more than three of us in the church at any one time and we maintain a distance of 2m between us.

### **River Ward COVID-19 Testing**

A community testing centre will be open in River Ward this weekend at the Hellenic Centre of Ottawa (banquet hall), 1315 Prince of Wales.

**Saturday July 18 from 9am until 1pm**

**Sunday July 19 from 2pm until 6pm**

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) continues to communicate that testing remains an important aspect of pandemic response efforts, along with surveillance, case and contact management, communication, and infection prevention and control (IPAC).

Ontario Health is responsible for developing and implementing the provincial COVID-19 testing strategy that, in addition to focusing on asymptomatic residents in higher risk settings, specific essential workplaces, outbreaks and

targeted campaigns, now also includes any resident who feels they need a test, even if they are not showing symptoms.

### **Summer Break**

The video and newsletter staff are taking a two week break after the service next Sunday. There will be no video service for August 2 or August 9. Likewise, the newsletter will not be published on July 31 or August 7. If you have events you wish to go in the shout outs during this period, please send them in before Tuesday this week or recognize they will be shouted out on August 16. Fabric masks production is also suspended for those 2 weeks.

### **ADOn the Move**

Bishop Shane is doing a series of podcasts (like radio broadcasts on demand) where he is moving around the diocese and talking to people. On last week's podcast Bishop Shane visited with Rachel Robinson from Centre 454, Taylor Seguin from Centre 105 in Cornwall and Canon Hilary Murray from Cornerstone. The series is coming out every Saturday. You can find the podcasts at:

<https://www.ottawa.anglican.ca/podcasts>

### **School Supplies for Debra Dynes Family House (DDFH)**

The Director of the DDFH has let me know that they are currently taking registrations from families for school supplies. Although DDFH works in partnership with Caring and Sharing, there was a significant gap in what they needed to supply families last year. There is an increased demand this year and with the impact of Covid there's the possibility of an even greater demand for school supplies.

Although St Mark's is currently closed, we are accepting donations of school supplies. School supplies may be dropped off every Thursday in August from 10 am to 1 pm.

Bins will be placed between the doors in the link entrance. Should you wish to drop off a monetary donation, please make your cheque

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payable to Debra Dynes Family House and include your mailing address for income tax receipt.

I will be at the Church from 10 to 1 on the Thursdays in August to accept donations. If these dates and times are not convenient or if you would like a pick-up, please call me at 613-727-5892 and I will make arrangements to accommodate you.

Many thanks for your usual kind generosity to this worthwhile cause.

Suzanne Bisson  
St. Mark's Outreach Coordinator

#### *Sample School Supplies*

Three-Ring Binders

Pens, pencils, crayons, coloured pencils, highlighters, washable markers,

Pencil Sharpener

Glue sticks,

Blunt-tipped scissors

Erasers

Sticky Notes

Tabbed Dividers

Wide ruled notebook, pads of paper,

Single-subject spiral notebooks

Backpack

Calculators

USB Flash Drives

#### **Fabric Face Masks**

Face masks are now required in Ottawa at all indoor public spaces.

If anyone would like a fabric mask, there are sewers at St Mark's who can make you one. Just let the office know. It has been taking a while to fill the orders so don't give up if you have ordered.

#### **Sharing Coffee Hour**

If you would like to share a photo, a recipe of what you would have made for coffee hour and/or a short hello message with a few details of what you've been up to, then you are welcome to do so. The editor will not seek out people but would be happy to receive submissions.

#### **Janis & Michael Perkin**

Hi everyone normally we would be sharing Coffee Hour duties with Joanne Pagani and her children. You have had some wonderful updates from the Pagani Family so I thought that Michael and I should take a turn.

Way back in March, March 2<sup>nd</sup> to be exact, we left for our month long trip to Barbados accompanied by Michael's sister Julie. COVID-19 was just on the horizon and holiday travel was going on as usual. We had rented a private home with all of the amenities, were not in a resort or hotel and had a car rental as well. Because of Facetime and Messenger video, family at home was able to keep us updated as to what was happening in Canada and Google let us know what was happening on the island. Cousins who were coming to visit from England cancelled their trip because they were flying via the United States to join us and weren't certain they would be able to fly from Florida to Barbados after their visit to friends there.

Barbados kicked its containment program into high gear after they had to refuse entry to a cruise ship that entered the port with five active cases of the virus on board. Up until this time we had been happy to visit the familiar rum shops, attractions and even take a Catamaran tour which was our tradition. Then came the revelation of active cases on the island, most of them citizens returning from visiting in the U.S. Supplies of hand sanitizers, alcohol and you guessed it, toilet paper, started to dry up. We were able to procure some surgical alcohol and an aloe vera gel to make hand sanitizer in which we soaked some hand wipes and these became our best friend.

Attempts to book return flights early met a dead end when Air Canada offices in both Canada and Barbados locked out voice box messaging and email. We chatted with other Canadians who were in the same boat, all waiting for Air Canada to rebook them. Going to a small beach in the morning, returning to have breakfast, relaxing at the

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house, having lunch and then dinner became our daily routine as we voluntarily self-isolated. We even had the local constabulary check on us one day. We ventured out for a drive occasionally but everything was shut tight and the evening curfew was 8:00 p.m.



Finally Air Canada booked us a homeward flight, one day short of our original return date. This was also the last Air Canada flight off of the island. Unfortunately, it only carried us as far as Toronto. We were expected to fly out of Toronto to Ottawa two days later on an evening flight. The airport in Barbados was deserted when we got there and everything was shuttered except for a restaurant where we purchased some food for the flight. There would be no food service on the flight and only bottled water would be available. Realizing that we would have to stay in Toronto at least overnight before trying to book the Ottawa flight in the morning, we came to the conclusion that a car rental would be the best option for us and we booked it online at the airport before our flight.

On arrival in Toronto, Border security required us to fill out a form before we left the plane. They checked each one to make sure that it was filled out completely and we were reminded constantly about the 14 day isolation policy. With great orchestration, family members purchased us groceries and left them in the house. They also brought our car to the airport near the car rental return so that we could get back home under our own steam. Our return journey had started at 3:15 pm in Barbados and saw us, after returning Julie to her home in Greely, getting into our home at 4:30 am. So many prayers of

thanksgiving were offered up as we moved through our 14 day self-isolation as family and friends continued to see to our needs. During the time following our return I have acquired some new cooking skills and favourite recipes and Michael and I have started and finished some interior work that had been languishing. Also, our garden has never looked so good! We hope that whatever projects you take on this summer you stay healthy and safe until we can meet again in person,

God bless, Janis and Michael Perkin

### **Donations to the Church**

We are extremely fortunate at St Mark's that there are a number of people who use Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR). That gives us some source of income during this time that there is no public worship. If you are not on PAR, we would encourage you to continue your donations. Of course, putting a cheque in the mail is always a great option for getting your donation to us. If you wish to make a donation by credit card, you may do so at CanadaHelps.

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/47820>.

You will have to remember when you go to do your taxes for 2020 where you have put your receipts from CanadaHelps. If you cannot find them, contact CanadaHelps and they will be happy to issue duplicate receipts. All money donated will be put in to the appropriate income category when it comes to us.

### **Contacting the Church**

Contacting the office has actually not changed at all. You may contact the office at 613-224-7431 or [stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca](mailto:stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca). Messages are being monitored and the business of the church is continuing, albeit remotely.

### **Comments and Suggestions**

If you have anything you would like to see in next week's newsletter, please email the church at [stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca](mailto:stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca).