April 3, 2020

STAY CONNECTED!

Dear Friends,

I begin my weekly note with a bitter-sweet announcement today. Into this wonderful community of Christ Church Deer Park, Andrew Colman arrived eighteen months ago, and soon we will be wishing him farewell. Andrew, as many of you know, is a postulant for ordination in our diocese. His ordination was to occur in May, but it has been postponed due to our present crisis. Andrew has been appointed Curate at Grace Church in Markham and will begin there September 1st. We will find an appropriate time, when we return to our space, to wish Andrew a proper farewell and offer him our blessing in his new ministry. He will be greatly missed in our community.

In anticipation of Andrew’s departure, we interviewed and hired a new Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator. Her name is Bridget Poole and she comes to us from St Thomas à Becket Anglican Church in Mississauga, where she was the Youth Minister for five years. Bridget is a graduate of Wycliffe College where she received her Master of Divinity. Her undergraduate area of study was Art and Art History. We welcome Bridget on April 26th when she officially begins at Christ Church.

In other news:

1. **WORSHIP and STUDY: Holy Week and Easter** are upon us. This year, rather than our usual extensive liturgical celebrations we will place our focus on Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Day.
   
a. This Sunday (April 5th) is Palm Sunday and, as usual, there will be two opportunities for worship: our interactive conference call service at 10:00am (see below for dial-in information) and a pre-recorded online worship service that will be posted on our website and available for you to watch by the time you awake Sunday morning. Please join us for either or both. Simultaneously, Andrew Colman will be offering Children’s Ministry via ZOOM, for the children of our parish. Bridget Poole will join him and meet the children of our parish.

b. On Good Friday (April 10th) there will be a pre-recorded liturgy posted in the morning on our website. Members of the parish will share in an abbreviated reading of the Passion. This day is a day in which we are obligated, as Christians, to worship. Please take a half an hour in your day to sit quietly and reflect with us on the death of Jesus.

c. Easter Day (April 12th) will have two glorious celebrations: our interactive conference call service at 10:00am (see below for dial-in information) and a pre-recorded online worship service that will be posted on our website and available
for you to watch by the time you awake Easter Sunday morning. A trumpeter and added musical offerings will enhance our online worship this week. Please join us for either or both services. Simultaneously, Andrew Colman and Bridget Poole will be offering Children’s Ministry via ZOOM, for the children of our parish.

d. For the telephone liturgy at 10:00 on Sundays, please follow these steps:
   Dial: 647-794-1282
   Then enter this number when prompted for the conference ID: 405 361 177#

e. For the online, pre-recorded service, please go to our website:
   www.christchurchdeerpark.org

f. The bulletin for Palm Sunday is attached to this email.

g. During Holy Week (April 5th – 11th) the staff will have brief, daily reflections posted on our website. We will focus on the Seven Last Words of Christ:
   i. “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34)
   ii. “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:43)
   iii. “Woman, behold, your son... Behold, your mother.” (John 19:26–27)
   iv. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matt. 27:46; Mark 15:34)
   vi. “It is finished.” (John 19:30)
   vii. “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit!” (Luke 23:46)

h. Thanks to Cathy for guiding us through a great Lenten study that explored Signs of Life: Light, Water, Food, Shelter, Community. Studying and praying together via video conferencing (see attached photo) was new to all of us, but a wonderful rapport and much fun was had by all, as we covered these vital signs of life.
And as soon as we complete one study, we are preparing for another:
Join us for Alpha Online! Starting on April 28 at 7pm, we are so excited to be able to run our Alpha via ZOOM. If you’ve never done Alpha before, this is a great opportunity to join us from the comfort of your sofa! Please go to our website at www.christchurchdeerpark.org to register for this wonderful program or contact Molly at mfinlay@christchurchdeerpark.org if you have any questions. Looking forward to seeing you there!

i. Christ Church Deer Park Digital channels include:
   Website: www.christchurchdeerpark.org
   Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/ccdpToronto/
   Instagram account: https://www.instagram.com/christchurchdeerpark/
Check these channels frequently during the pandemic. We will be posting devotions throughout the time we are unable to meet and worship together.

2. **PASTORAL CARE** is particularly needed when we have been cut off from each other and when we are acutely aware that the virus can be a deadly attack on our elderly. I am thankful that a great deal of informal telephone and email “visits” have been occurring in our community. This week you will be hearing from clergy and lay people who will be calling everyone on our parish list. If you do not receive a call by Easter Day, please follow up with us at the office: 416.920.5211 or info@christchurchdeerpark.org

**Easter Flowers** – Each year at Easter our church is beautifully decorated with numerous flowers that are given in memory of loved ones of our parishioners. This year we will not be decorating our chancel and sanctuary, but we will still decorate. With the help of a few parishioners (observing social distancing), the outside of the church will be decorated for Easter. If you usually donate funds for our Easter flowers, please continue to do so this year. Contact the office with the name(s) of the deceased whom you would like remembered and your flower memorial donation. We will post a list of the memorials on our website.

**Interested in getting involved while isolated?** The Management Team is looking for a Volunteer Coordinator to help with various ministries during the COVID-19 crisis. These include our community breakfast program, virtual parish social meetings, and pastoral care programs including our virtual parishioner wellness checks. We are looking for an individual who will help to recruit volunteers for these ministries and work with each of the ministry leads to develop volunteer schedules. During this crisis as we try new ideas and ramp up new programs the role will likely require 4-5 hours per week. As all meetings will take place virtually, access to a computer and/or smartphone will be an asset to join video meetings in addition to traditional phone meetings. Please contact any of our clergy or warden if you are interested: 416.920.5211 or info@christchurchdeerpark.org

3. **OUTREACH** to the needy continues at CCDP, and our Bishop has asked us to keep offering “critical outreach ministries to vulnerable and marginalized communities.” In an effort to do this, we have adopted risk mitigation strategies that are being implemented across the community food programs in the Diocese and city. These practises have been developed to mitigate the risk to both our volunteers and guests.
   a. Last Saturday our breakfast guests doubled in number from the previous week. Already we are seeing the numbers of vulnerable people grow. This does not bode well as this crisis continues for weeks, possibly months. Please offer prayers and your support as your fellow parishioners provide meals for the hungry.
b. Churches-on-the-Hill Foodbank is in dire need of funds to get through the Covid-19 crisis. Please donate online: http://www.cothfoodbank.ca/donate/ Your money is needed to keep the poor fed. Please be in touch with Anne Larkin: larkin_anne@hotmail.com or the church if you wish to support either of these causes. Messages are picked up daily.

4. ADMINISTRATION and FINANCE are a constant concern for us during this crisis and this week we received some wonderful news from Bishop Asbil: “Our Diocese has announced a Jubilee to help parishes with their finances in April and May. In these two months, parishes will not be required to pay their monthly allotment to the Diocese or cover the cost of clergy remuneration.” During these stressful times, this is wonderful news as we make every effort to keep all our staff. Much more information is available online in a video the Bishop offered on Wednesday: https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/2020/04/01/video-to-the-diocese-from-bishop-andrew/

But this news does not mean that all our financial concerns are covered, your church still needs you to continue to support it. With the loss of rental income during this crisis, as well as the loss of income from many weekly donors, we need you to continue your donations. On Easter Day, freewill offering and weekly donors usually average $10,000 in donations. Will you help us receive that amount this year?

Giving During COVID-19
We encourage you to continue to give generously in support of the work of our parish that continues despite and because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The needs are great, especially with the loss of some income sources.

- If you use weekly or monthly envelopes, we encourage you to mail them to Christ Church Deer Park, 1570 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario M4T 1Z8
- If you would like to shift to pre-authorized giving, even if only in the short term, please contact our Administrator Paul Marritt, at pmarritt@christchurchdeerpark.org
- Donate online through Canada Helps: https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/christ-church-deer-park/

Many blessings to you. I look forward to connecting with you at our services on Sunday. Come prepared to sing over the phone! During Holy Week I do not plan to send an update, but I will be in touch in Easter Week. May you be in God’s presence during this holy season.

Cheryl Palmer