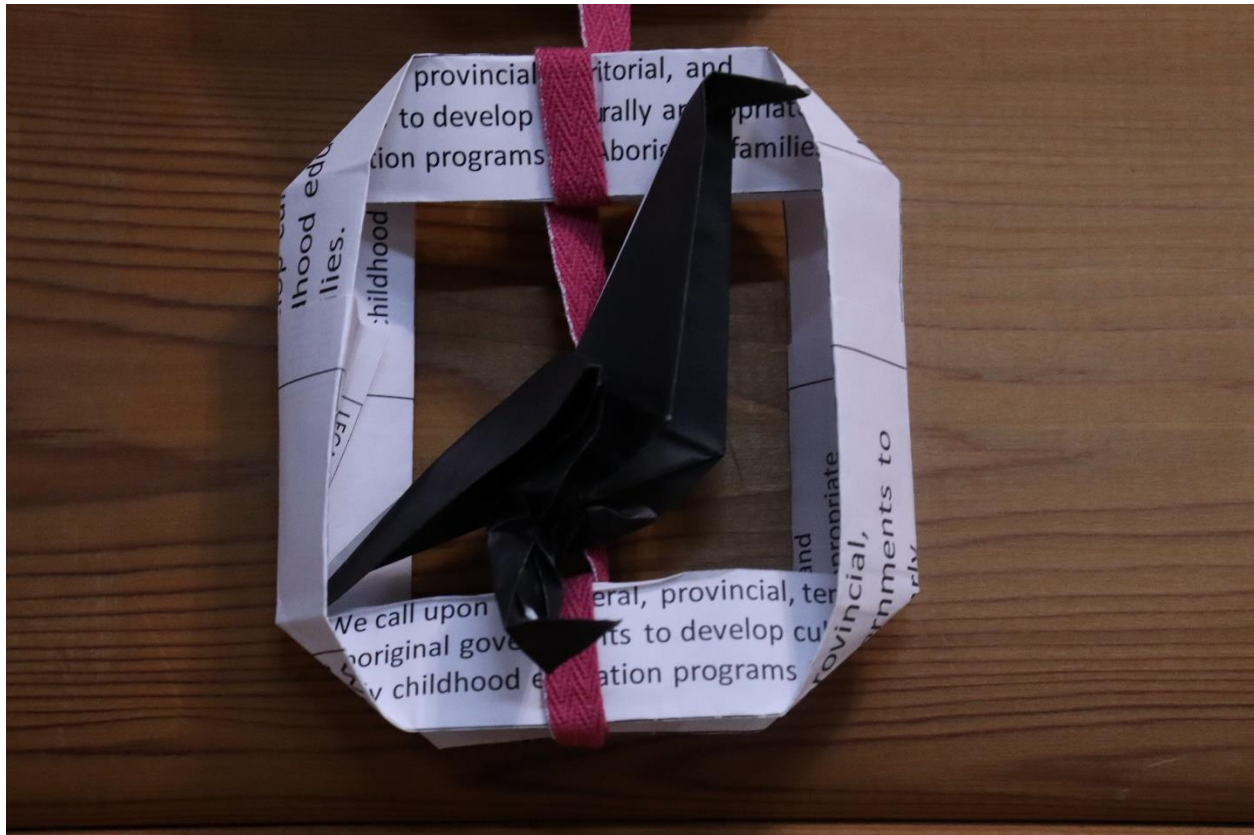


Wardens' Report for 2020



This most unusual of years started off with the Parish steadfastly working towards the goal of being a centre for spiritual growth, and creative arts.

In January the Stay and Pray program continued in St. Annes as the Assisi shelter, administered by Oceanside HEARTS (Homelessness Ecumenical Advocacy Response Team Society) and with a grant from BC Housing. The first sign of things to come came on January 19th when we received a memo on Coronavirus precautions from the diocese, mostly related to worship services. Programmes continued in February. Preparation of meals for the Assisi Shelter moved to St. Edmunds kitchen. A Lenten study group using the book Watershed Discipleship started, looking at the impacts of the Doctrine of Discovery. Participants also continued with a project to make 94 origami ravens one for each call to action resulting from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. They were incorporated into an art installation in St. Edmunds, with one string of calls to Action and ravens hung each week.

In March, the Covid 19 virus arrived in B.C. Lack of sanitation forced closure of St. Anne's cold weather shelter. Some of the homeless were accommodated in a Covid Response shelter using commercial hotels. Community Partners could no longer gather.

The West Coast Recreation program had to shut down. The Diocese suspended all public worship for 60 days. Holy Week Services were held on-line only. Education for Ministry and The Watershed Discipleship program meetings moved on line, which halted progress on the reconciliation art installation. On the bright side, our priests coped with the daunting task of providing on-line worship and preaching to remote congregation.

Our youth have truly flourished this year. With the help of the Canada Summer Jobs program we were able to bring four young people on board with 75% of their salaries covered by the program.

They worked on outside maintenance, keeping the cemetery and flower beds looking beautiful. They completely re did the memory garden. Extra bricks were laid in the garden, the students now know how to mortar, compost was added and all was planted with creeping flowering thyme. They also did clean up at the cemetery at St. Mary's in Errington. Inside they were responsible for cleaning and sanitizing the building following COVID procedures.

In the brief time we were able to have in person services they made sure the proper protocols were followed as directed by Bonnie Henry in addition to participating in the services with readings and music. When we had to revert to online services their technical expertise was invaluable. They assisted in zoom presentations for Spirituality Beyond Borders, and Sunday services, and participated in a retreat at Bethlehem Centre.

Three of the students are back at school, however Allison Poole is still with us doing office administration and helping Mandy with online chair fitness. In July a reopening plan was written. In person worship resumed with Covid Protocols in place, and an on-line booking system to keep numbers within the limits.

In September a new Bishop was elected with an all-day on-line event. In October progress was made on the reconciliation art installation, and it was completed before Advent.

On Nov. 19, Provincial Health orders prohibit in-person worship. It is still prohibited at the time of writing this report. We are all waiting for the time when we can congregate and worship together.

Colleen Day, Rector's Warden

Mariellen Martin, People's Warden