

# SYNOD OFFICE SNIPPETS

March 17, 2021

The Synod Office staff consists of the Bishop, the Executive Archdeacon, the Secretary to the Diocese and the Dean. Since the introduction of restrictions related to Covid-19, only the Secretary, Ms. Kelinda MacRoberts, continues to work in the office building. The other officers, masked and sanitized, appear as required. In all cases your first point of contact should be

**Kelinda MacRoberts**

**780-624-2767**

[dioath@telusplanet.net](mailto:dioath@telusplanet.net).

## Our Future with Covid-19

Last year, our bishop—along with the Anglican bishops of Edmonton and Calgary—closed our churches to in-person worship services. This was in response to the fact that the majority of our worshippers are in greater risk of severe outcomes should they become infected with the corona virus. In addition, while parishioners have the choice to remain at home, officiating clergy and lay readers do not. In-person worship puts them at greater risk of infection. Lastly, the current capacity limit of 15% of our fire code ratings inhibits our in-person worship, while the buildings cannot accommodate Zoom or FaceBook broadcasts.

The closure of our buildings to in-person worship is reviewed on a weekly basis by the bishop and the College of Clergy.

Parishioners with internet access may attend the services offered inside the diocese by a number of parishes, including the Cathedral, the Parish of the Northern Lights and the sister parishes of Fairview and Berwyn-Grimshaw. Links to the services are published weekly on the diocesan FaceBook page, <https://www.facebook.com/TheDioceseOfAthabasca>.

## Ministry in the Synod Office

Currently, Kelinda is working on your behalf with the following:

- Follow-up with income tax reporting and forms.
- Receiving and paying invoices, with special attention paid to employee costs, benefits and insurance premiums.
- Advising parishes on the completion of the Annual Parochial Returns and the upcoming T3010s.
- General bookkeeping responsibilities.
- Managing the insurance policy.
- Supporting the communication strategy of the bishop.

The Executive Archdeacon is focussing his attention on

- completing T3010 and associated forms for those parishes unable to complete them;
- supporting the ministry of the diocesan treasurer and the Secretary of the Diocese;
- support for episcopal ministry;
- administrative support for parishes;
- communications and administrative support within the diocese.

### Episcopal Ministry

The bishop continues to develop his ministry despite the restrictions imposed by the government in response to the pandemic.

- Support for the Regional Ministry of the Trinity of Parishes (Athabasca, Lac La Biche, Boyle, Colinton, Perryvale, Wandering River).
- Staffing issues in Fort McMurray, Beaverlodge and Valleyview.
- Support for incumbents and lay leaders in parishes without incumbents.
- Development of new forms of ministry.
- Professional development for clergy.

As with most ministry nowadays, much of this work is carried out online using the Zoom platform. This is complicated by the fact that some locations do not have incumbents and others do not have reliable internet access.

### Our diocesan newspaper is looking for you!

Canon Peter Clarke is our diocesan editor for "The Messenger", the insert that accompanies the national church newspaper, "The Anglican Journal". Peter is always looking for photographs and articles. Please send anything you have to [seens@telus.net](mailto:seens@telus.net). This includes even notes of interest, out of which Peter or the Archdeacon can create an article.

**Bible Reading Marathon!** Sign up at [www.athdio.ca](http://www.athdio.ca) to read for an hour during our international Bible Reading Marathon, March 28 through April 1. For information contact Peter Clarke at [seens@telus.net](mailto:seens@telus.net). Everyone is invited to join in this Bible marathon as our diocese proclaims the Word of God.

### Improve Your Communication

Consider what happens when you phone a busy company: "Make your selections from the following menu..." When you're seeking information, direct your concerns most effectively.

#### Contact Kelinda at 780-624-2767 for

- general inquiries about payments, invoices, and deposits;
- all insurance related inquiries (claims, damages, payments);
- general communications issues (prayer cycles, email addresses);
- inquiries about the Annual Parochial Return or the Assessment Calculations.

#### Contact the Archdeacon at 780-618-9593 for

- questions regarding the Canada Revenue Agency;
- administrative issues and policies;
- communications from and to the Diocesan Executive Council or the Management Committee;
- maintenance, renovations and rentals of properties.

#### Contact the Bishop at 780-219-8499 for

- questions about the direction of ministry (both individual and diocesan);
- policy statements on contemporary issues;
- concerns about the future;
- concerns about personnel.

### Put us on "speed dial" or "one click communications".

- Synod Office 780-64-2767
- [dioath@telusplanet.net](mailto:dioath@telusplanet.net)
- [amdath@telus.net](mailto:amdath@telus.net)
- [www.athdio.ca](http://www.athdio.ca)