

SYNOD OFFICE SNIPPETS

April 7, 2021

The central figure in our grand communications strategy is

Kelinda MacRoberts

780-624-2767

dioath@telusplanet.net.

Kelinda will answer or redirect your enquiries.



BIBLE READING MARATHON A SUCCESS!

The Diocese of Athabasca, with the support and guidance of the Parish of St. Mark's, High Prairie, hosted an international BIBLE READING MARATHON, March 28 – April 1, 2021. The marathon was conducted online using the Zoom Conference platform which was shared on Facebook. The goal was to read the entire Bible aloud from beginning to end in the 100 hours of the marathon. The Rt. Rev. David Greenwood started the adventure and was followed by readers from across the diocese, from across the Anglican Church of Canada and from around the globe. The readers used a variety of translations and a number of languages including an aboriginal language from Canada, German and Farsi. More than ten Canadian bishops—including the Primate and our Metropolitan—participated, and readers joined us from other denominations. While the number of listeners actually viewing the reading on Zoom was small, hundreds of viewers were able to participate via the Facebook LIVE posting. The readers were so engaged and engaging that they reached the end of the Bible long before the posted end of the event, and began to read the New Testament over again.

Requests to repeat the event next year—even without the presence of a pandemic—have already been received.

In addition, the current technology presents us with the opportunity to host a diocesan **PRAYER AND PRAISE EVENT** on April 25, 7:00 p.m. Leaders from across the diocese will offer their musical talents as well as their experience of the Christian faith. It is our prayer that this event will be of spiritual support to our diocese as we pray and give praise to our God.

LAY READERS' ZOOM CLASSROOM

Date: **April 24, 2021**

Time: **9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Platform: **Zoom Conference Call**

No registration required.



If you are a registered charity, you have a Business Number (##### ##### RR 000#). If you've ever issued receipts for income tax purposes, you have a B/N. If you are a registered charity with a B/N who has ever issued income tax receipts, you must complete a T3010 and related forms for the **CANADA REVENUE AGENCY**. Failure to do so will result in the cancellation of your charitable status and a host of other awful consequences. To avoid causing yourselves or the archdeacon heart palpitations, please work on completing these forms soon. Since they all use data you gathered for your annual general meetings and the Annual Parochial Returns, it should be relatively easy to complete them. Whatever it takes, please begin completing these forms now.

PANDEMIC RESPONSE

After several rounds of consultations, Bishop David Greenwood has decided to allow congregations to apply to him for re-opening to in-person worship. Every congregation who wishes to re-open for public worship must submit a plan to him. That plan must follow the limitations placed on worship by the provincial government. As of March 22, these limitations include

- a limit on the number of worshippers, equal to 15% of the fire code safety rating;
- all worshippers must be masked, even song leaders; preachers who are at least two metres away from others may be unmasked while preaching, but must replace their mask following the sermon;
- all worshippers who do not belong to the same household must be separated by two metres.

The bishop has issued a letter outlining the conditions for re-opening services, which has been distributed both in hard and soft copies. Congregations who wish to submit a re-opening plan should study that letter.

Congregations who have been hosting online worship services will have to consider how to address the needs of parishioners unable to return to in-person services. The numbers of the "third wave" have discouraged re-opening plans for those congregations who have received permission from the bishop to re-open.

Anyone with questions or concerns about the re-opening plans should contact the Archdeacon (amdath@telus.net; 780-618-9593).

God doesn't call the equipped.

He equips the called.