



Parish of the Ascension

The Anglican Church of Canada

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Canada

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April 15, 2021

Dear Ascension Family and Friends,

I hope and pray that everyone is safe and well as we continue through this Easter season. Over the past two weeks there have been a number of updates from the Chief Medical Officer of Health, as the province continues to manage the threat of COVID19 and variants in the wider community. Last night, I called together the vestry and wardens to discuss these updates, and the possibility of the Ascension returning to public worship sooner than we had originally decided.

The discussion was informed by three major points:

- The fact that we currently have two full COVID19 Teams available to ensure safety while conducting worship
- The permission that the parish has received from the Bishop to invite volunteers 60+ years of age to assist with the COVID19 Liturgy Teams
- The new CMOH measures that allow for up to 100 persons to be present for formal gatherings, including public worship.

Given these factors, the vestry made a unanimous decision to have the Ascension open for public worship on April 25, 2021. If the parish receives enough volunteers to fill four COVID19 Liturgy teams, then we will be open on a weekly basis. Presently we have two teams, so we can only ensure public worship on April 25 and May 3, 2021. If we do not receive enough volunteers by April 29, 2021, then the parish will only ensure public worship every second week after May 3, 2021.

As with all dialogue and decisions at vestry, the manner by which we came to this decision was prayerful and respectful. We made the best possible decision given the facts and resources that we had at the time.

I am thankful for the patience and love of the parish during this time, and I am thankful for the wisdom and care by which the vestry has continued to provide leadership during this latest lockdown. I am thankful for the many emails, letters, phone conversations, and texts that I have received from parishioners outlining their great love of the parish and their care and concern as we continue to navigate these unprecedented times.

Blessings to you all throughout this Easter season, may we continue to be embraced and upheld by the gift of the resurrection.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Burrows', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Archdeacon of Avalon
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