

June 25, 2020

To: the congregation of St Andrew's Anglican Church – Langley

From: The Vicar

Re: Reopening the building for church services

Hello friends,

We've had some inquiries about when St Andrew's is going to reopen the building for worship services.

We have sent our application in to the Diocesan Office and the Archbishop and her committee are reviewing it. Pending their approval, we will begin to open-up the building beginning Sunday, July 5, 2020. The structure of these opening phases is intended to give us the opportunity to practice how to use social distancing and hygiene protocols.

In this coming phase of reopening, we will continue to have our regular 10am Sunday service online in conjunction with St Dunstan's. However, beginning July 5 the 8am BCP service will be in the church. In addition, we will start to have the 10am Thursday service in the church beginning July 9. For each of these services, we will allow up to 30 people including the clergy and worship leaders in the church. This is to maintain social distancing inside the building.

To assist the worship leaders in keeping the numbers down to 30, we are asking people to register to come to church by phoning or sending an email to Andrew. When you arrive, there will be someone to meet you at the door to check your name on the list and to ask questions about whether you have flu-like symptoms or have participated in any activities considered high-risk for coronavirus infection (e.g. travelling out of the country) in the last two weeks.

Once inside, you will be directed to your assigned seat by the worship leaders. At the end of the service, to avoid everyone coming together at the door, you will be directed to leave by the worship leaders.

If you do plan to attend one of these services, please note:

1. You must phone or email to let Andrew know that you will be attending church at least a day in advance so that we can plan accordingly and ensure that the numbers stay at 30 people or fewer.
2. We are asking that you wear a face mask or covering when you come inside the building.
3. The bathrooms will not be open unless there is an emergency. Please do your best to plan accordingly.
4. These two services traditionally do not include music and we are not presently allowed to sing inside the building. However, if there is sufficient demand, we will arrange for some instrumental or recorded music to be played.
5. The liturgy will be projected on the wall using PowerPoint, similar in style to what we have been using online. If you would like to have or use a prayer book, you must have your own and take it home at the end of the service. Please do not share your prayer book with anyone or leave it

behind in the church. If you would like to have a prayer book to take home, they will be available at the church on the way in.

6. When seated in the church, we are asking that you do your best to not touch the back of the pew in front of you, and that you refrain from kneeling or using the kneelers in any way.
7. We are not yet permitted to distribute communion to members of the congregation, and so we will continue to have services of the word.
8. There will be no social gathering or fellowship time after the service inside the building.

This all sounds and feels very regulated, I know. However, I (and Helen, Alison & Amanda) attended a service at Christ Church Cathedral (Amanda's ordination) following many of these same protocols. It felt peculiar but it felt like church. They did have a bathroom attendant to clean the bathroom after every use (let me know if you'd like to volunteer for that job!) and they used a printed bulletin. Some of these options will be available to us as time goes on.

Thank you for your patience and your support as we continue to navigate these unprecedented times. Please continue pray for each other, and for the leaders of the congregation including the wardens, clergy, staff, and parish council. Know that you are in our prayers as well.

Please be in touch with any questions, comments, concerns, or compliments!

Love from,

Andrew

The Rev. Andrew Halladay
Vicar, St Andrew's Church – Langley