

Corona Chronicles #3

May 2020

This is our third news offering since we closed the church building for worship and user groups on March 17, 2020. #1 and #2 were in email form on March 31st and April 16th.

Physical Church Re-Opening for Worship

We miss you all and are continually thinking of being together physically once again! We may be closed physically but our spiritual church has never closed. Indeed, many have been working on our building and gardens, and our Clergy and Office Administrator have continued their work through these past 3 months

Last week, The Diocese of New Westminster published a re-opening plan for parishes. This includes eventual reopening of our sacred spaces and returning to in-person worship.



	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Eucharist	Online only	Online only	In-person with restrictions	In-person, no intinction
Service of the Word	Online Only	In-person with restrictions	In-person with restrictions	In-person with no restrictions
Filming and Live Streaming Worship	YES, with restrictions	YES, with restrictions	Continue for those that cannot physically attend	Continue for those that cannot physically attend
Other Services	Permissible with tight restrictions	Permissible with tight restrictions	YES, allowing for physical distancing under 50 people	Unrestricted
Formation Fellowship, Fundraising And Pastoral Care	Online or telephone only	Online or telephone only	YES, allowing for physical distancing under 50 people	Unrestricted and some online recommended
Office building use	Limited Access	Limited Access	YES, allowing for physical distancing under 50 people	Unrestricted
Service and Outreach Initiatives	With permission from the Archbishop's Office	With permission from the Archbishop's Office	YES, allowing for physical distancing under 50 people	Unrestricted
User Groups and Rentals	Suspended or invited to suspend	Suspended or invited to suspend	YES, allowing for physical distancing under 50 people	Unrestricted

Since March 13, 2020, when the Diocese sent us their first COVID-19 communique, the Priest and Wardens continue to meet bi-weekly to discuss and review our situation as it relates to Diocesan protocols. At the Church of the Holy Trinity we are in Phase 1. We are completing Phase 1 before we move to Phase 2.

We are deliberately being cautious with re-opening as the majority of our congregants are in the vulnerable or susceptible demographic. We plan to continue to monitor the reports coming from the Provincial health authorities and our own Diocese as it relates to the outcome of phased re-opening. This information will inform our decisions as we move forward. We expect that by the time we have fully implemented Phase 1 at our Church, we will have data on how Phase 2 is impacting churches in the Diocese. We do not want to rush into physical re-opening only to have to lockdown once again. Please note that our in-person Eucharist is coming in Phase 3.

Online Worship

We are providing on-line Service of the Word since May 24th and plan to offer online Eucharist as well in June. Patrick Finch has been a stellar People's Warden in this new-to-us online world, and we thank him for his time and talent in providing this valuable gift to our parishioners. We also thank all those who have featured so willingly and ably in these Services of the Word each week. Francine has received many emails of appreciation from delighted parishioners.

Office administration

Francine would like to share her perspective with you as follows:

Things have continued along here in the Office despite these quiet times. As you know, we have begun putting out Online Worship Services, which keeps us all buzzing and busy! I've also been tackling some projects that have been sitting on the backburner for a few years here. With a minor three-day cold about a month ago, I spent 10 days working in self-isolation from home. Though I was grateful that so much is online, I certainly came to realize how much I use the files around the office!

I am deeply missing you all. I certainly feel the heartache and pain our Parishioners are experiencing while missing their home church, communion together with God, and the fellowship that it normally brings. I am feeling the same with my own church body. My heart and prayers are with everyone here, for comfort, peace and even joy in the midst of these more lonely and isolated times, and for God's hand to bring about a vaccine and treatment for COVID-19 quickly, so we can be back to meeting regularly. Looking forward to seeing everyone again in the future.

Finances

The Church is continuing with your financial support and we are most grateful for the ability to continue to function under lockdown so we may offer online worship, maintain the building, stay connected and meet our operating expenses. Thank you for continuing your offerings through envelopes through the church door, PAD and Interac debit. You have kept our Counters and Envelope Secretary busy!!

Through this time, we have posted an extract of our financial statements on our website, so you are up to date with our financial results month-by-month.

January 1 – April 30, 2020

	Actual \$	Budget \$
Revenue	62,979.00	69,955.48
Expenses	54,138.88	67,235.24
Surplus / -Deficit	8,840.14	2,270.24

The major change in our actuals from the budget tabled at vestry, is the Priest salary relief from the Diocese and the forgiving of our Assessment. We are planning to revise the 2020 budget at half-year in order to better and more accurately reflect the actual vs budget variances in our financial reporting. Our Vestry budget reflects a final deficit of \$30,929 which is no longer a fair estimate of the situation.

Trustees

Unfortunately, since we last wrote to you, two Trustees have resigned. Helen McFadden and Carol de Boeck have resigned as trustees, yet they remain on Parish Council and we thank them for continuing their leadership roles. We thank Henry Lazar for maintaining his Trustee role with active energy for our Centennial Project

Canonical Committee search for a Rector

COVID-19 has had a remarkable effect on many aspects of our spiritual life. It has now affected our Rector hiring process. We as a committee have interviewed from the short-list of candidates and are ready to draft a Letter of Agreement. However, the candidate wishes to visit our Church and meet with us but cannot do this at this time. Travel and isolation restrictions imposed by the governments are not allowing us to move forward. In the original plan, we were hopeful to have an incumbent with us between August and September 2020. Now we wait. We pray, we listen carefully for God's message.

Here is what we do know. As a community we have stayed together strong and united. We have continued to worship and glorify God. We take strength from each other in person and on the screen. We have never heard "no" when we reach out to each other for help. We have resilient creative parishioners who find ways to raise money and raise

spirits. We are not closing our doors, we just painted them! We are beautifying our exterior with our gardens and saying to the White Rock Community “look at us!”. We are preparing, we are preparing.

Outside Our Church Building

We have always taken pride in the exterior of our church, the public face that says, “the Anglican church is here at the corner of Roper and Foster”. This year is no exception as a group of dedicated workers led by Herb Smart have laboured each morning to bring our lawns and gardens back to life. The lawn that was so severely damaged, like many lawns in White Rock, is on its way to recovery. Rotting lumber around certain beds have been removed and the endless weeding and pruning has taken place. Striking annuals have been planted, a few new Hosta and holly have appeared, and the Memorial Garden is in its full spring splendor. It is a labour of love and dedication shared by Herb, Robin, Ruth, Barb, Frieda, Audrey M. and Gerrard. We give our thanks to those that have been there each morning and ask for more hands to join this dedicated few. COVID-19 has not had any effect on weeds... they show up under all circumstances. When you are admiring the exterior, you will also notice the fleshly pressure washed walkways and garden area. This gift is from a non-parishioner, Ken, at Breitling Pressure Services, who wanted to “give back” to us in a tangible way. We have received his blessing with grace and gratitude.

Centennial Project

As many of you are aware, May 2021 marks the centennial of the founding of an Anglican church and congregation in White Rock. Thought is already being given to how this might be celebrated and what special projects might possibly be undertaken to begin a renewal of the fabric of the church, so that this generation can leave a legacy of not just an active congregation and viable organization to those who follow us, but also a church building worthy of being the centre of their community life.

Robin Inglis, former Trustee, has agreed to be the ‘Centennial Co-ordinator’ to shepherd some plans and projects along, and within the next month he will prepare the first of what will be a series of ‘Centennial Chronicles’ to provide information, and to see what other ideas might be out there among the members of the parish to help us have a great celebration to mark this important milestone in the life of White Rock and the Diocese of New Westminster. Robin will not be striking a central committee but will co-ordinate several subcommittees to tackle individual phases and aspects of this work. Please check your email inbox regularly for further details from Robin and his subcommittees!

Be kind; be calm; be safe!

Gratitude and blessings,
Wardens