

CALEDONIA CONNECTOR

Serving Anglicans in Northern BC

Upcoming Diocesan Events

Morning Prayer

Monday - Saturday ~ 8 am

St. Mark's, Dawson Creek
Facebook Page

Mid-day Prayer

Daily ~ 12:15 pm

St. Andrew's Cathedral
Facebook Group

Compline

Nightly

9:00 pm PT on Facebook

9:30 pm PT on Vimeo

Diocesan Service

Sundays

10:00 am PT on Facebook
and Vimeo

Follow us

Current new items and
prayer lists are on our
website and Facebook page.



For a time like this.

by Bishop David Lehmann

A few weeks back, I wrote my article for this edition of the Caledonia Connector. It's truly amazing the difference a few days can make. The COVID-19 pandemic will redefine contemporary society, in the same way 9-11 and other major historical events did.

A Wounded World

9-11 established a theme of fear and mistrust, which we can see throughout pop culture. Some of this fear was directed at a specific racial group. There have been mentions in the media about fear being part of our daily lives in a new way. It is not some foreign threat, but a scarier unseen threat of a virus. The repeated message has been to socially distance ourselves and to wash our hands. For those with compromised immune systems and other health issues that

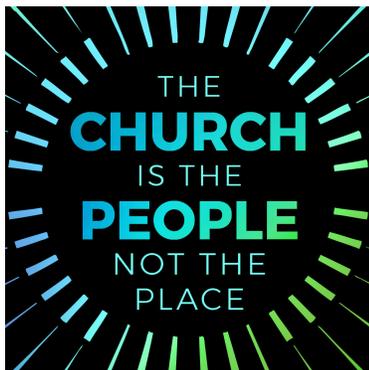


ANGLICAN DIOCESE
OF CALEDONIA



Bishop's Travels

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all of Bishop David's travels have been canceled until further notice. As we do not know when social-distancing will end, please watch our Facebook page for updates!



Camp Caledonia

At this time, plans for our Summer Camps remain the same.

Week 1 - July 6 -11

Week 2 - July 13 - 18

www.campcaledonia.ca

call was for self-isolation. In a world that rewards busyness, we are now called to stop and be still.

Anglicans are prepared for times like these

As a teenage convert to Christianity and Anglicanism, I developed a marked appreciation for the daily offices. They are for me a key component of Anglicanism that helps form a rhythm of life that is steeped in Scripture and prayer. As part of our Diocesan response to our current situation, the Dean is offering mid-day prayer at 12:15 pm PT for the Cathedral Facebook group (which is then shared to the Diocesan Page), I am offering Compline at 9:00 pm PT on Facebook and then shared to Vimeo for 9:30. There is a weekly Diocesan Service on Sundays at 10:00 am on both Facebook and Vimeo. These are but some offerings across the Anglican Communion. For the daily offices shape a beautiful practice of prayer and devotion. Please consider participating in an online service or by opening a service book and praying!

A call for thanksgiving

It is possible to become filled with anxiety and fear as we wonder if we or a loved one will become infected, or return to work, or cope with the economic hardship of this crisis. There are many things that can pre-occupy our thoughts, but by turning our minds to things to give thanks for, we can prevent some of this anxiety. God has seen each of us through many troubled waters, and God will do so again. Not saying there might not be a few bumps and bruises, or even worse, but by focusing on the positive, we can see the blessings that abound. And that will give us hope for today!

I am thankful for the compassionate leadership of the clergy of this diocese and of the Executive committee. Please pray for our clergy and church committees as they find new ways to minister to all God's people in the Diocese. And pray especially for our medical staff, first responders, and all who are leading us through this pandemic. Above, remember God loves you

Synod Postponed

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Diocesan Executive unanimously moved to postpone Diocesan Synod. The new dates are **October 16-17, 2020**. Details will follow.

Ruby's Suggestion

A prayer from Ancient Anglo-Saxon quoted from The Divine Hours Prayers for Springtime by Phyllis Tickle.

Lord Jesus Christ, for the sake of Thy Holy Cross, be with me to shield me.
Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, by the memory of Thy blessed Cross, be within me to strengthen me. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ for Thy holy Cross, be ever round about me to protect me.
Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, for Thy glorious Cross, go before me to direct my steps.
Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ for Thy adorable Cross come Thou

Our God Who Knows No Ending

by the Reverend Michael Monkman

Many are the years I have spent watching a slow inexorable decline in the numbers of people attending our churches in the Bulkley Valley, but the shrinkage has been so gradual that we tend to forget what the congregations were like ten or fifteen years ago, let alone during the halcyon years of the eighties and nineties. I was brought up short, then, by an article in the January issue of the Anglican Journal entitled "Gone by 2040", by Tali Folkins. A thorough investigation of the core statistics of the church which included number of clergy, church membership and important indicators of church activity such as the number of baptisms, marriages and funerals by Dr Neil Elliot was presented to the House of Bishops and General Synod. What really jolted me was the statement of Dr Elliot that "The data show the church running out of members in little more than two decades if it continues to decline at its current rate." Here we have it; a date- 2040 - when as Dr Elliot says, "We've got simple projections from our data that suggest there will be no members, attenders or givers in the Anglican Church of Canada by approximately 2040." A mere twenty years is all we have then, before, as has been said somewhere or other, "Would the last person in the building turn the lights out."

I know it does not do to apportion blame or seek to find obscure reasons for the precipitous decline, but unless we do some soul searching to find what went wrong, we surely cannot make the necessary corrections. That there have been massive paradigm shifts in western society, certainly since the sixties, which have turned our societies away from strong, disciplined religiosity and bedrock values to ones where individuals are free to make their own realities is surely self evident. Biblical authority, indeed authority of any kind, is regarded as a threat to one's ability to pursue pleasure and create one's own version of moral order. But

after me to guard me.
Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, for Thy
Cross, worthy of all praise,
overshadow me to bless
me. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, for Thy
noble Cross, be Thou in me
to lead me to Thy kingdom.

Amen.

Social Media

.....
Please look for the Diocese
on

Facebook @dioCaledonia

Vimeo by searching for the
Diocese of Caledonia or
vimeo.com/user110118524

Tithing Options

.....
One of the concerns
expressed is how we can
continue to support the
mission and ministry of the
local congregations. Easy!
Either arrange to mail in or
drop off post-dated
cheques, complete the
forms on the Diocesan
website for direct debit, or
go to CanadaHelps.org and
donate to your parish or the
Diocese. For more
information, please contact
your clergy.

these are deep underlying cultural shifts which have led to the church being sidelined at best or being regarded with scorn and derision by huge segments of society. Small wonder then, that there has been a steady drift away from mainline churches with little or no replacement of those who leave. Of course, there are Anglican churches which are growing, have vibrant spiritual and community lives but they are exceptions rather than the rule.

We have so little time to turn the situation around. Let there be no more dithering around for years while the issue is discussed, argued over, shelved, tabled, put on the back burner and attempts made to keep everyone happy. I know compromise is at the heart of Anglican polity. After all that is what we are, the *via media*, the middle way. There is no time for all that now. If it is the will of the membership of our church at large to make a determined effort to create massive change then the first task is to ensure that everyone knows that they have a vital part to play in the struggle to save the church. First, I suppose, we have to decide whether or not we are prepared to face up to the reality of the situation and make determined efforts to make the necessary changes that may lead to a revitalised church and reverse the inevitable decline which leads to oblivion or to accept the status quo and watch as congregations thin out, more and more churches close and the church that we have loved quietly expires.

Here is my personal take on a few of the salient issues which need to be addressed urgently:

Congregational Age

At the heart of the reasons for the decline is the demographic make up of most church congregations, where whole age cohorts are either missing or thinly represented. Ask yourself, what is the average age of your congregation, - 55, 60, 70, 80 .? Are there any Anglican churches in Canada with an average age of under 45? How many children are there in your church of Sunday School or Youth Group age?

It has been my observation that thriving churches of other denominations tend to make vibrant Youth Groups and Sunday Schools a core value of church life. How many Anglican churches outside the lower mainland and Vancouver Island have a paid member of staff whose task is to spearhead programs for children and youth? I know of only one, and that church is arguably the most successful Anglican church in the interior of BC. The fact that small churches in villages and towns do not have deep enough pockets to finance paid youth workers, is not the issue. The issue is that children and youth should be at the centre of church culture and not regarded as peripheral.

Camp Caledonia is a marvellous resource for engaging young people in church life. There has been, over the past two decades, a large input of money and effort which have made the camp into a prime place for retreats and summer camps. However, I do not see that the church has a return on its investment. Certainly the children who attend summer camp have a wonderful experience and I recognize this as a form of church outreach but is there a connection between camp and the parishes? We need to study and learn from other churches as to how they are integrating their children's camp experiences with regular church life.

We need to formulate and implement changes which attract and keep young families. In my experience, parents often support church activities for children if they feel they are benefitting their young ones.

Worship

I remember talking with Archbishop Crawley some years ago. We were discussing how we could make church more appealing to outsiders and youth. "Do what you've always done and you'll get what you've always got." he said. In other words, go on doing church in the same old way and you will see little or no growth, enthusiasm or deviation from the gloomy trajectory of failure. Over the centuries of its existence, the Anglican church has always promoted quiet, contemplative, private and orderly services. Anglicans have traditionally been suspicious of overt displays of emotional and personal open testimony in worship. Privacy, restraint and respect for the right of others to worship privately has been a hallmark of Anglican polity. These qualities no longer appeal to the modern younger generation. If our church is to make itself appealing to the majority of younger people we have to shake off the stuffy old image create a looser, more relaxed style and worship culture. The trick is to do this without losing something of the glory of the liturgy.

Priests and Laity as worship leaders.

As congregations dwindle, having enough money to pay priests, and provide them with housing and transportation will be a greater and greater problem. Assets will have to be sold off, trust funds raided and churches closed down. Perhaps in the future, we should find ways of creating

teams of lay readers, non stipendiary priests and deacons centred on a few centres, or hubs as they are known in some dioceses, to provide ministry to multiple points. Should house church worship be developed in small poor parishes which cannot afford to maintain costly buildings? Ways of achieving these things should be, in my opinion, be investigated now. There is not a moment to be lost. The clock is ticking.

We can expect vociferous opposition to change. Many people are quite content to see their church rapidly diminish to the point of non existence. Congregations need to be challenged to clarify in their minds why the Anglican Church in Canada exists and why it will continue to exist, albeit in a quite dramatically changed way, and can congregations commit to making those dramatic changes needed to stave off the threatened extinction in twenty years?

“Do not go gently into that good night.....

Rage, rage, against the dying of the light”

Dylan Thomas – Welsh poet

References:

Facing decline in the Anglican Church by David Goodhew Covenant November 19, 2019
(<https://livingchurch.org/covenant>)

6 Characteristics of Growing Churches by Victoria Heard Covenant April 15, 2015
(<https://livingchurch.org/covenant>)

Gone by 2040 by Tali Folkins Anglican Journal January 2020



ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF CALEDONIA

Online Worship Services

Weekdays

Morning Prayer

St. Mark's - Dawson Creek, BC
Parish Facebook Page
8:00 am (Monday - Saturday)

Mid-Day Prayer

St. Andrew's Cathedral - Prince Rupert, BC
Parish Facebook Group
12:15 pm (daily)

Compline

Bishop's Lodge - Terrace, BC
Diocese of Caledonia Facebook Page
9:00 pm (daily)
on Vimeo at 9:30 pm (daily)
<https://vimeo.com/user110118524>

Sunday Diocesan Service

St. Andrew's Cathedral
Diocese of Caledonia Facebook Page
10:00 am
and on Vimeo ~ <https://vimeo.com/user110118524>