

May 6, 2020

Pastoral Letter to the Churchwardens and Treasurers of York-Credit Valley

My sisters and brothers in Christ,

I expect that when you took on the position of Churchwarden or Treasurer in your Parish, you were warned of the countless and varied responsibilities that came with the role. I am certain, however, that no one told you that you would be fulfilling your duties in the midst of a global pandemic! These are extraordinary times that have thrust us all into new, and sometimes uncomfortable areas of expertise and decision-making. I won't take up your time by attempting to list the tasks and concerns you have been coping with since the closure of our church buildings. They are myriad and many, and you know them well enough. But so also are your efforts well-known to God, who is blessed and glorified by your sacrificial gifts.

So, let me just say this,

- I am profoundly grateful to you for the time and energy you are spending in support of the gospel of Jesus Christ, of your parish, and your clergy.
- I am appreciative of those in your life (friends, spouses) who make it possible for you to dedicate yourself to your commission as a parish lay leader.
- I am praying in thanksgiving for your servant hearts and in confidence that God, the great Physician and Healer, will continue to strengthen and protect you.

I do not know when or how this will all end, except to say that I believe that the church can emerge from this season stronger and better disciplined, and equipped to be used as an instrument of the Living God in our rapidly changing world. And this will in some measure, be a testament to your ministry in this crisis.

If there is anything you need, please do not hesitate to reach out to this office through my assistant, Arlean Ralph, at aralph@toronto.anglican.ca. If we cannot help you, we will connect you with the Diocesan staff person or volunteer who can.

Please know this comes with my prayers for the well-being of you and your loved ones and for a safe and timely return to worship in our beloved buildings.



The Right Reverend Jennifer Andison
Area Bishop of York-Credit Valley
Bishop Suffragan of Toronto