



ANGLICAN PARISH OF
SALT SPRING ISLAND

The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island

Parish Profile 2024



May 2024

We acknowledge that we gather on the territories of the Coast Salish peoples, the SENĆOŦEN & HUL'Q'UMI'NUM'-speaking people, where we, the settler Church, now live, work, worship & play.

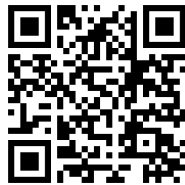
We seek a new relationship with the first peoples here, one based in honour and respect, and we thank them for their hospitality.

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<https://www.saltspringanglican.ca/>



scan me

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Table of Contents

Who We Are.....	1
“A community of faith expressing itself in love”	1
Parish Mission, Vision, and Goals	1
<i>Mission</i>	1
<i>Vision</i>	1
<i>Goals</i>	2
Faith in Action:.....	2
Faith in Formation:.....	2
Faith in Foundation:	2
Our Parish Programs.....	3
Worship and Liturgy	3
Pastoral Care	3
Faith Formation	3
Social Justice – Outreach, Reconciliation with First Nations and Faith and Climate Action.....	3
Star-of-the-Sea – Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice.....	4
Welcome and Communications.....	4
Building Renewal – in service to our community	4
Our Parish Team	5
Staff with formal responsibilities	5
<i>Paid staff</i>	5
<i>Volunteers</i>	5
Volunteer groups.....	5
Parish Photo Directory:.....	6
Our Challenges	7
Demographics.....	7
Finances.....	7
Property Management.....	8
Our Salt Spring Island Home.....	9
Salt Spring Island Foundation – 2022 Vital Signs Report.....	9
Parish Profile 2024 Drafting Team	10
Salt Spring Island BC - photos	11

Parish Profile 2024

The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island

Who We Are

"A community of faith expressing itself in love"

<https://www.saltspringanglican.ca/im-new/join-us-why-and-how>

We are the Anglican Church on Saltspring Island. We are not a large group, but we are Spirit-blessed and Spirit-empowered. We worship with joy and enthusiasm. We love God and want to show it.

We also want to share God's love... with everyone, so *all* who come to the table are welcome. No one is excluded.

Our worship is about participation, by everyone, in singing, in prayer, in lay-leadership and in the gentle guidance of our retired clergy. It is worship in fellowship that begins with the music of praise and carries on through teaching and Eucharist to a cup of coffee and a cookie.

We are ambitious. We have defined our goals and strive to meet them. We are doing God's work.

Most of us have gray hair, or no hair, but we are beginning to see more colour. There are younger faces, new faces, and we celebrate all and hope for more. They will be our future.

Parish Mission, Vision, and Goals

Our **Mission, Vision and Goals** were initially developed in consultation with the parish and published in April 2018 as a "Parish Profile" – which can be downloaded [here](#).

Mission

To share the good news of a loving, creative, and peaceful way of life as shown to us in Jesus.

Vision

- To be a spiritual home for all who seek peace, justice, and community
- To be a place of healing
- To be an asset of great value to our island home
- To be a living testimony to the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ
- To be a place to discover and become who God calls us to be

Goals

Faith in Action:

1. To meet key needs on Salt Spring through partnering with others.
2. To learn of our part in the history of the First Nations and to be a place of truth, trust and relationship through our own education, moving towards action, beginning with entering into dialogue.*
3. To reflect the diversity of Salt Spring and be an agent for strengthening it.
4. To respond to the climate crisis by educating ourselves and taking action.

Faith in Formation:

5. To explore new liturgies and modes of worship.
6. To be more effective/organized in providing pastoral care.
7. To be an open, loving, caring, and understanding community for those who are hurting or in need.

Faith in Foundation:

8. To become evermore inclusive.
9. To be a welcoming spiritual home for all..
10. To be more skilled at stewardship.

Our Parish Programs

Our programs reflect our goals. They include *Worship and Liturgy* to help us maintain the joy and vitality of our worship, *Pastoral Care* to ensure that mental, physical and spiritual needs are met beyond our Sunday services, *Faith Building and Bible Study* to dig deeper into God's word, *Welcome and Communications* to draw people in and make them feel at home, *Building Renewal* to make our buildings more relevant and more useful to the community around us and *Social Justice* for outreach, to explore our responsibilities around climate change, and to make truth, trust and relationship with our First Peoples more than just words.



Please also refer to <https://www.saltspringanglican.ca/programs/introduction> for background on our programs, and to our 2023 Annual Report – click [here](#) - for discussions and actions for each program in 2023.

Worship and Liturgy

- <https://www.saltspringanglican.ca/programs/worship-liturgy>

Pastoral Care

- <https://www.saltspringanglican.ca/programs/pastoral-care--29>

Faith Formation

- <https://www.saltspringanglican.ca/programs/faith-formation-groups>

Social Justice – Outreach, Reconciliation with First Nations and Faith and Climate Action

- <https://www.saltspringanglican.ca/programs/social-justice>

Star-of-the-Sea – Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice

- <https://www.saltspringanglican.ca/programs/star-of-the-sea--32>

Welcome and Communications

- <https://www.saltspringanglican.ca/programs/welcome-and-communications>

Building Renewal – in service to our community

- <https://www.saltspringanglican.ca/programs/building-renewal>

Our Parish Team

Our Parish Team includes both paid staff and volunteers and it is here that so many lights shine. From those who fill our church with music and those that reflect God's glory from the gardens around it, to all those who quietly and faithfully do the work that needs to be done, this is God's work being done by God's people to reflect God's love into our community and the world.

Staff with formal responsibilities

<https://www.saltspringanglican.ca/who-we-are/our-team>

Paid staff

- Incumbent – presently a part-time interim priest-in-charge
- Parish administrator – part-time employee
- Organist and choir master – part-time contract
- Custodian – part-time contract

Volunteers

- Honourary assistants
- Lay ministers
- Churchwardens
- Parish council
- Treasurer
- Envelope secretary
- Safe church liaison

Volunteer groups

Many parish groups which rely on a multitude of volunteer parishioners – their names are simply too numerous to mention. Following is a listing of the main groups. Click [here](#) to refer to the most recent reports for each as presented in the 2023 Parish Annual Report:

- Quilters
- Anglican caterers
- Sunday coffee teams
- Music Makers - i.e. Tea à Tempo
- Christmas Bazaar
- Choir and musicians
- Altar Guild
- Servers' Guild
- Flower Guild

- Prayer Chain
- Pastoral Care Team
- Advent and Lent - Seasonal discussion group leaders
- Bible study group
- Labyrinth team
- Friday community meal team
- Gabriel's Kitchen team – click [here](#) for the April 2024 article in the *Driftwood*
- Angel tree
- Welcome and communications team
- Building maintenance committee
- Cemeteries management team

Parish Photo Directory:

Check out the photo directory of parishioners here:

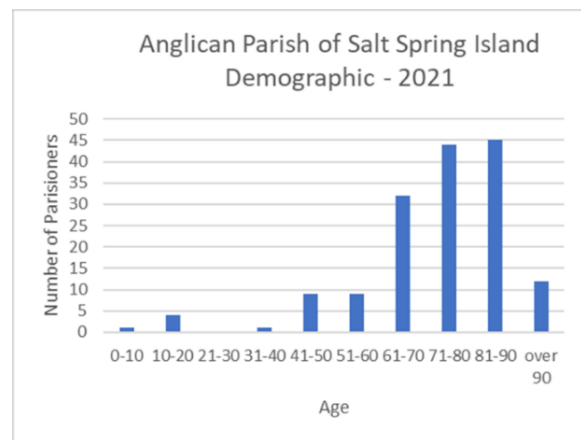
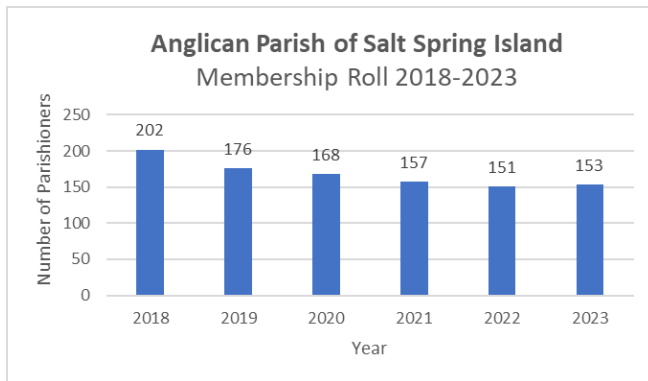
<https://www.saltspringanglican.ca/who-we-are/parish-directory> password = "ganges"

Our Challenges

Our greatest challenge is to find ways to share our joy with a world and community that doesn't realize what is missing. Only 13% attended even one faith-based activity in 2022 and we need to make ourselves and our faith relevant to them. Aside from that, we have too many buildings and not enough funds to maintain them, we are getting older (many of us have made a lot of headway in that regard), and our expenses exceed our income.

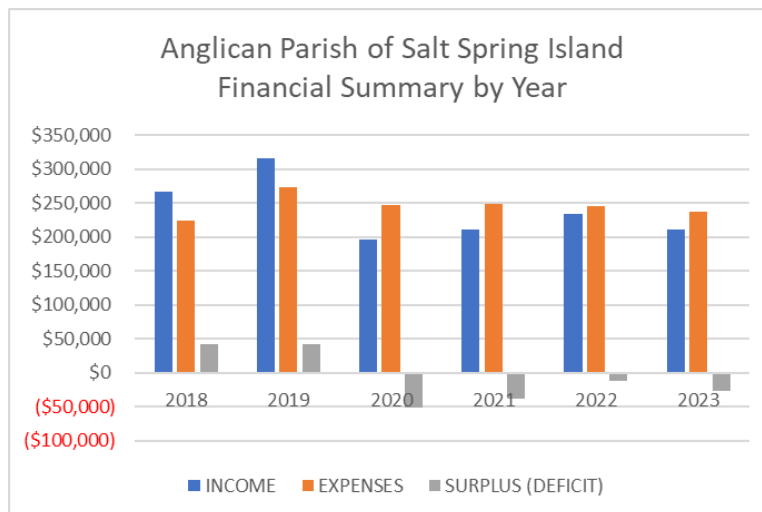
Demographics

Our parish membership numbers are declining and ageing:



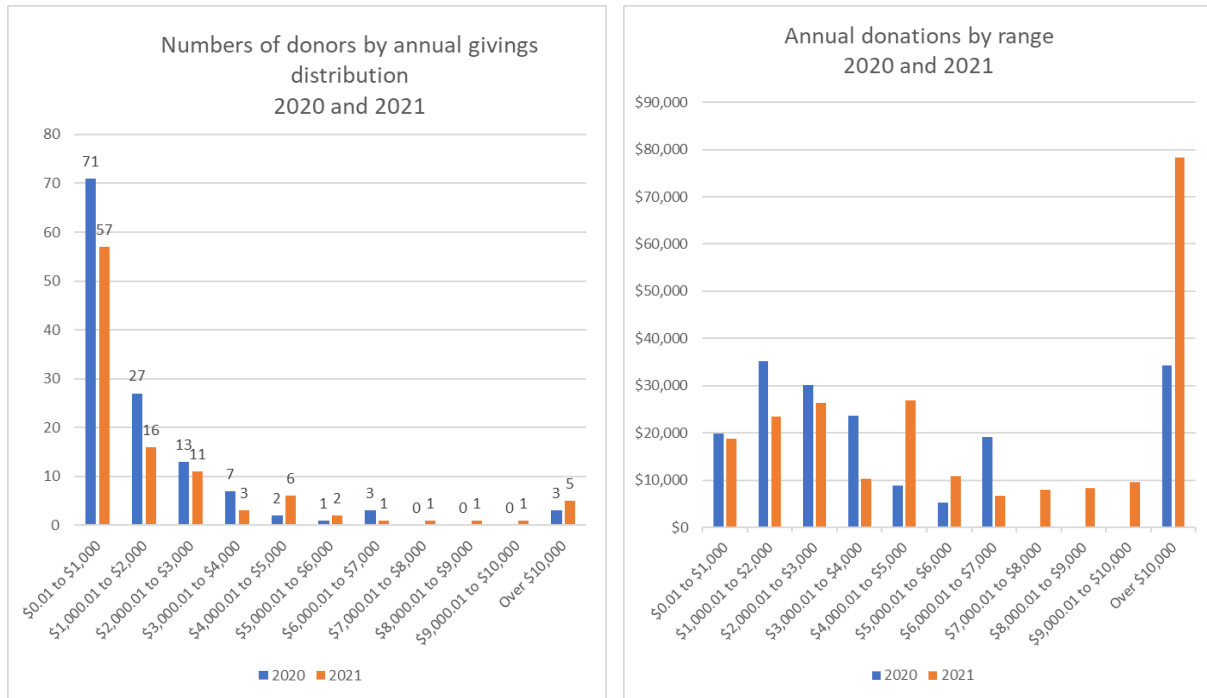
Finances

Our operational deficits over the past 4 years are *unsustainable* - especially if we wish to pay the salary of a full-time incumbent.



Please refer to the financial reports and budget forecasts presented in the 2023 Annual Report (pages 5 – 8) for recent discussion on our financial and related challenges - click [here](#).

The following distribution of donor contributions reflects the significant dependency on a small number of generous donors with a majority of the parish contributing more modestly:



Property Management

We are blessed to have a welcoming facility in the centre of town which was built to be used and shared by the community.

We are challenged by our limited financial and human resources to maintain and steward all our Parish properties. See <https://www.saltspringanglican.ca/who-we-are/parish-history> for some of our parish history on the island:

- 3 Church Buildings:
 - All Saints by-the-Sea, Ganges – our main parish worship and community centre for the island,
 - St Mark’s, Central – deconsecrated in 2022 and being readied for sale, and
 - St Mary’s, Fulford – now home for the “Star of the Sea” program.
- Rectory – located adjacent to All Saints and presently provided at below market rental rates as a parish and diocese outreach and service to the community to Salt Spring Island Community Services: <https://saltspringcommunityservices.ca/>
- 4 Cemeteries:

○ Purday Cunningham Memorial	○ St Mark’s II
○ St Mark’s I	○ St Mary’s

Our Salt Spring Island Home

Salt Spring is the largest of a group of islands loosely scattered off the southeast coast of Vancouver Island.

It is a unique and special place, and we are richly blessed to live here. It is a beautiful mix of forest and farmland and mountains and meadows where all roads lead to the sea.

It is home to a broad range of people including a much larger than average contingent of retirees who discovered this place and stayed, a significant group of working people from all walks of life and a large contingent of young people that populate the island's three excellent schools.

It is a place of contrasts. There is great prosperity but, largely because of the cost of housing, many struggle to make ends meet. There is also poverty and homelessness and all the horrors of addiction.

It is a place of culture with a large and active artistic community. There is an orchestra and community choirs that give remarkable performances, there are painting and photography groups that give exhibitions regularly and there are renowned artists in almost every discipline that call the island home. All of it is nurtured by an arts center that draws stunning performances from away.

It is a place of history that goes back far beyond the arrival of the first settlers that came here to make a new life. The Coast Salish peoples have been here for millennia. Even now their shadow and their spirit remains with us.

Like them, you can only get here by water.

Like them, you will not want to leave.

Salt Spring Island Foundation – 2022 Vital Signs Report

For more detailed information about our island home, please download the Salt Spring Island Foundation's most recent "Vital Signs 2022" report:

https://ssifoundation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/SSIF-Vital-Signs-2022_digital.pdf

Parish Profile 2024 Drafting Team

This parish profile was drafted by a small parish team comprising:

- Ruth Pickett Seltner – Bishop’s Warden
- Don van Akker
- Elizabeth van Akker
- Debbi Toole
- Toto André
- John Metzger

The profile assumes the reader will readily access and/or download supporting information through the hyperlinks provided.

Salt Spring Island BC - photos¹



Entering Ganges from the south



West of the Moon Toy Store



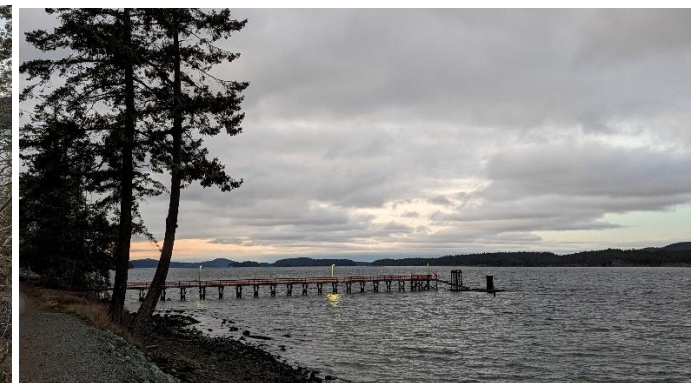
Tree House Café in Ganges



Moby's Pub at the Harbour Front



View of Harbour from Moby's



Fernwood Dock – popular walking area

¹ Photos thanks to parishioner Dale Storm



Fernwood area looking towards Galiano Island



Grazing Sheep at North End Farm



Channel Ridge East looking at St. Mary Lake, Trincomali Channel & Galiano Island, and in the distance the Lower Mainland. On a clear day, you can see the high rises in Vancouver.



Channel Ridge looking west, Samsun Narrows and across the water is Crofton BC on Vancouver Island.

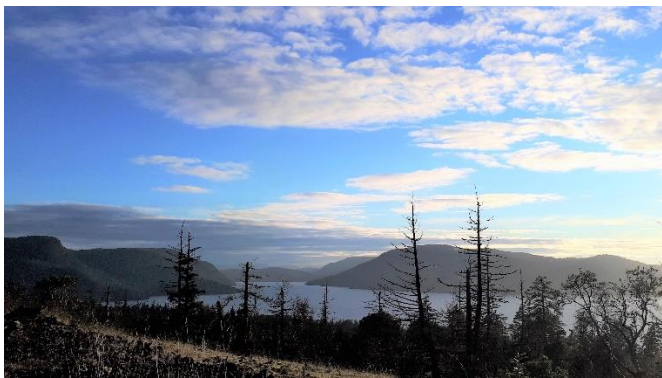


Our annual Fall Fair in September has all the elements of a great country fair! Pictured here is the Zucchini Races, each contestant making & decorating his/her own zucchini cart.

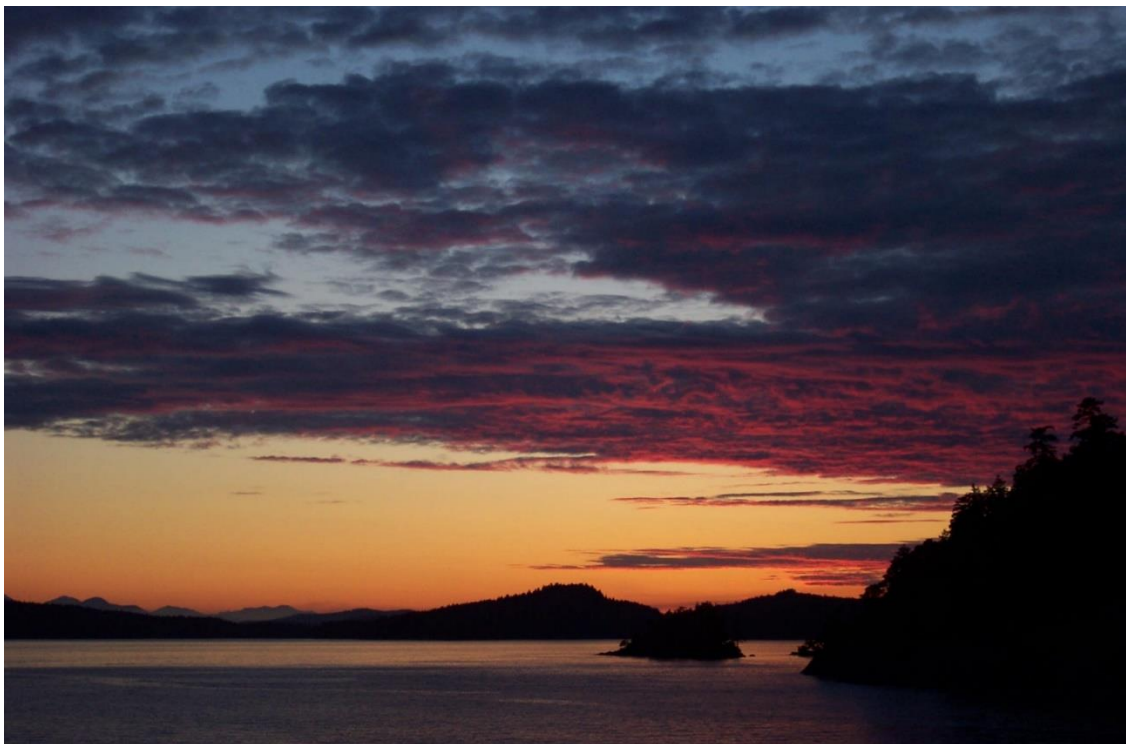




The Fall Fair features local musicians performing throughout the day; pictured here is our own Valdy. The Fair also has sheepdog demonstrations several times a day.



The many moods of Samsun Narrows looking towards Vancouver Island.



A typical Gulf Islands' sunset!