



ANGLICAN PARISH OF  
SALT SPRING ISLAND

# **The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island 2024 Annual Report**



**Annual Vestry Meeting  
Sunday February 16<sup>th</sup> 2025**

**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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scan me

# 2024 Annual Report

## The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island

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# Incumbent's Report

Rev Paul Schumacher – Interim Priest-in-Charge

Over the past year, the Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island has come a long way toward the appointment of our next incumbent. The prayerful efforts of so many of our congregation has been a blessing to my time with you as interim priest-in-charge. Thank you all for your support and care of Lynn and I through these past months of personal health issues.

During our worship cycle in 2024, we made some changes which helped us establish liturgy patterns that have new meaning and that also have accommodated BC ferry schedules, With the help of our active retired clergy, visiting clergy, and our licensed lay ministers, we have been able to share in meaningful worship during the weeks when I was unable to get to Salt Spring Island. With their generous assistance, we enjoyed festival celebrations throughout the church year when it was impossible for me to get to the island and then back home in reasonable time. Thank you all!

Our pastoral care team has been active throughout the past year offering home visits and communion when possible. Our Prayer chain continues quietly in its work. For this, I am so very thankful.

I wish to thank the wardens, the parish administrator, the parish council, the altar guild, servers, lay ministers, flower arrangers, music director, musicians, and choir members, plus everyone who has made my introduction to the parish easier than I had anticipated. Blessings to all of you. You are a gift and you give me hope for the future of our church.

The continued use of your nametags during Sunday worship has made it so much easier for me to get to know people's names. Thank you for helping me get to know each of you. When our next incumbent arrives, please continue to wear your nametags at all services, as this makes knowing you by name a much less onerous task.

Thank you also to Synod staff and Bishop Anna for all their support in this ministry here on Salt Spring Island.

2024 has been an opportunity for us to visit some new patterns of worship, to share many celebrations, to share the loss of several parishioners, and to enjoy a wonderful music program and of course our community involvement here at All Saints. With the Holy Spirit's guidance, the future is indeed bright, and God knows where we will be called to serve as a parish. I somehow don't believe the journey will be boring for anyone attached to the Parish of Salt Spring Island.

2025 will be a time for more discernment which will lead us onto a path toward the arrival of our next incumbent for our island parish. I ask for your prayers and support as we journey together in hope and in faith with God's Spirit guiding us onward.

# Churchwardens' Report

Ruth Picket Seltner, Bishop's Warden

It has been an eventful year. I am extremely grateful for **Rev Paul's** gentle leadership as we navigate this time of transition.

We are extremely grateful for the continued support of many people which allowed us to not only survive but to thrive. Our strong Parish Council continues to meet regularly. Our ministries, including everything from prayer to pastoral care provide much needed support. **Joe Egan** our administrator went above and beyond at all times. Our strong music ministry continued under **David Storm's** guidance with many musicians contributing their gifts to services on a regular basis. Our retired clergy and visiting clergy blessed us with their gifts.

Special thanks goes to **Lolla Devindisch and the "Music Makers" group**. They are retiring from their role as leaders of the Tea à Tempo program. This has been a tremendous outreach effort for our community and we are very grateful.

This year saw the planning and start of renovations and renewal of the kitchen at All Saints and the work to ensure that St Mary's was safe, warm and suitable for reopening. We are excited to start discussion on the use of both these places. I thank **John Metzger** and his team (kitchen), and **Simon Wheeler** and his team (St Mary's). I am also grateful to **Walter Stewart** who continues in the work of preparing the St Mark's property for sale.

*Gabriel's Kitchen* continued to prepare and serve meals at All Saints. We worked with this community to make sure that their goal of feeding people could come about. While not without its challenges, we should be proud of the work that was done.

Our final goal of 2024 was to make sure that we were moving forward towards appointment by the Bishop of an Incumbent. We, like many parishes face the reality of tight finances. The decision was made to seek a part-time incumbent. We are well positioned to support someone in this role and look forward with anticipation to a final decision. I am grateful for the continued support of both **Bishop Anna** and **Canon Jenny Replogle** as well as **Debbi Toole** and **Gloria McEachern** for joining me in this work and to everyone who contributed questions or communicated thoughts as we entered our interview stage. We anticipate a decision very soon.

Thanks to all, mentioned and not mentioned who have supported me in this role.

# Parish Executive Report

**Interim Priest-in-Charge:** Rev Paul Schumacher

**Churchwardens:** Ruth Pickett Seltner, Bishop's Warden; Simon Wheeler, Deputy Bishop's Warden; Sally Carr, People's Warden; Gloria McEachern, Deputy People's Warden

**Treasurer:** Andrew Peat

## *Roles and Responsibilities*

### **Parish Executive**

*"In collaboration with the incumbent, the churchwardens are responsible for administering and managing the business (temporal) affairs of the congregation."<sup>1</sup>*

*"The churchwardens, with the assistance of the treasurer, are responsible for the care and accounting of all money given by the congregation for any purpose and from any source."<sup>1</sup>*

In carrying out these responsibilities, the "Parish Executive" (**Rev Paul Schumacher, Ruth Pickett Seltner, Simon Wheeler, Sally Carr and Gloria McEachern**) is grateful for the support of our treasurer, **Andrew Peat**, and that of our envelope secretary, **Carolyn Evans**, for their advice and diligence in carrying out day-to-day financial tasks.

### **Churchwardens**

*"The duties of the churchwardens whether chosen by the incumbent or the parishioners, shall be the same" and are as specified in Regulation R7.7.1 C of the Canons<sup>2</sup>. Notably, "Churchwardens must always act jointly; they cannot exercise their powers separately, nor can one act without the consent of the other. Additionally, they must always function in concert with the incumbent."<sup>1</sup>*

### **Parish Council**

*"The duty of parish council shall be to assist and support the incumbent and the churchwardens in the general business and the programs of the parish." ref. Canon 7.8 A<sup>2</sup>. The Parish Council is thus the **Advisory Committee** for the Parish elected from and by the parishioners at the **Annual Vestry Meeting**.*

Our Parish Council presently comprises a minimum of six parishioners, three of whom are elected each year for a term of two years.

Additional *ex-officio* members of Parish Council are the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, the Parish Treasurer, and the Chair, Outreach Committee.

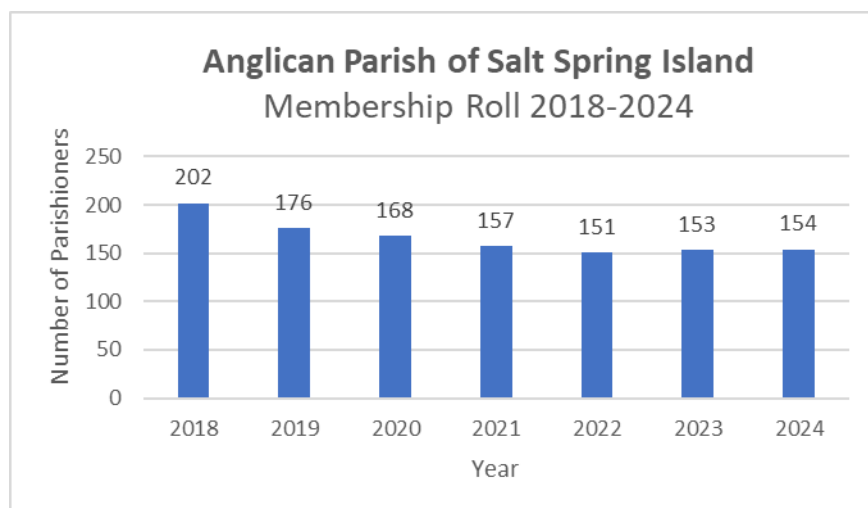
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<sup>1</sup> Anglican Diocese of BC, Churchwardens' Manual, January 2022: <https://www.bc.anglican.ca/resources/guides-and-manuals>

<sup>2</sup> Constitution, Canons and Regulations of the Anglican Synod of the Diocese of British Columbia, November 2024: <https://www.bc.anglican.ca/resources/canons-and-regulations>

## ***Parish Membership***

Our January 2025 roll identifies 107 “active” and 47 “associate” parishioners for a total of 154.



## ***Stewardship Campaign 2024***

Walter Stewart and John Metzger, co-chairs

The 2024 Stewardship Campaign was launched on Sunday, November 10th and concluded with the blessing of the pledge forms for time, talent, and money on Sunday, November 24th.

The campaign focused on our need to give in order to be both spiritually and psychically healthy. Giving back some portion of what we are given is how we give thanks to God. 38 pledges of time and talent were received. Those have been collated and the pledges for each area of activity, e.g. readers, intercessors, pastoral care, gardens, etc. have been passed to the leads for those areas.

The Treasurer reports that 40 financial pledges for 2025 have been received for a total giving of \$139,340 as compared to 30 pledges in 2024 for givings of \$107,040 - a 33.3% increase in number of pledges and a 7.7% increase in total givings.

The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island is alive and healthy in all forms of Christian commitment.



# Financial Report 2024 and Proposed Budget 2025

The preliminary summary financial report for 2024 and the proposed budget for 2025 as recommended by Parish Council on February 9th 2025 follows.

	Preliminary December 31, 2024	Approved 2024 Budget	Proposed 2025 Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
4301 Envelopes	\$ 144,165.80	\$ 145,000.00	\$ 145,000.00
4302 Festival Envelopes	11,312.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
4303 Other Identifiable Givers	33,064.40	15,000.00	35,000.00
4304 Open Offerings	4,070.27	4,500.00	4,000.00
4305 Donations via CanadaHelps	2,525.00	3,000.00	2,400.00
	<b>\$ 195,137.47</b>	<b>\$ 177,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 196,400.00</b>
4360 Parish Org Donations	5,267.73	4,000.00	1,000.00
4370 Money Raising Revenue	7,802.26	5,800.00	8,000.00
4410 Hall Use Donations	21,127.50	19,500.00	22,300.00
4420 Interest & Invest Income	2,174.71	6,000.00	2,000.00
4450 Miscellaneous Income	12,684.18	3,000.00	5,000.00
4460 Family Place Rental	14,700.00	19,100.00	18,525.00
4480 Directed Investment Income	4,472.32	7,100.00	4,500.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 263,366.17</b>	<b>\$ 242,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 257,725.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
5035 Rector's Discretionary Fund	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
5020 Assessment	60,318.00	60,318.00	50,400.00
5035 Parish Outreach (Missions)	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
5110 Advertising Expense	414.33	750.00	500.00
5120 Telephone, Postage & Bank	4,050.31	6,900.00	4,350.00
5140 Church Supplies	1,089.09	1,250.00	1,250.00
5160 Office Supplies	1,730.67	3,000.00	1,500.00
5170 Organists Expense	23,615.00	24,900.00	24,000.00
5175 Secretary Expense	34,596.63	37,050.00	34,450.00
5190 Treasurer Expense	1,350.00	1,425.00	1,350.00
5200 Office Equipment	891.70	600.00	900.00
5240 Miscellaneous Exp	2,723.80	2,500.00	3,000.00
5290 Additional Clergy	2,700.00	2,000.00	2,400.00
5310 Stipend	41,908.00	38,400.00	51,250.00
5315 Clergy & Staff Benefits	17,012.08	16,200.00	28,800.00
5329 Parish Comm.& Organiztions	1,671.25	2,000.00	2,000.00
5530 License & Taxes	2,262.78	250.00	2,325.00
5550 Janitor	19,965.00	15,900.00	19,500.00
5555 Janitorial Supplies	1,742.49	1,750.00	1,750.00
5560 Utilities & Services	11,226.16	12,000.00	11,700.00
5580 Repairs & M (St Marks)	-	-	-
5581 Repairs & M (St Marys)	497.98	650.00	1,000.00
5585 Repairs & M (All Saints)	3,961.20	3,000.00	3,000.00
5587 Grounds Maintenance	768.68	2,500.00	1,000.00
5600 Repairs & Maintn (Equip)	223.16	250.00	250.00
5640 Insurance	17,202.00	17,750.00	18,000.00
5650 Security (Hall)	1,278.36	1,200.00	1,325.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 260,698.67</b>	<b>\$ 261,043.00</b>	<b>\$ 274,500.00</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>\$ 2,667.50</b>	<b>-\$ 19,043.00</b>	<b>-\$ 16,775.00</b>
Bequest to Parish (General Fund)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Transfer from Prior Years			
Unallocated Surplus/Equity	\$ -	\$ 19,043.00	\$ -
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 2,667.50</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>-\$ 16,775.00</b>

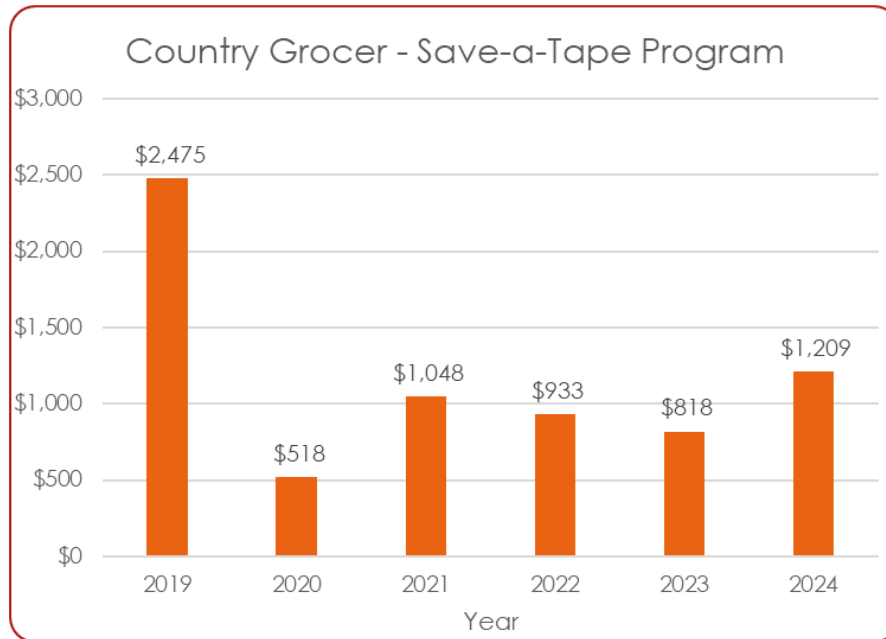
February 9th 2025 - 2025 General Fund Budget Worksheet.xls

# Parish Fundraising in 2024

## Country Grocer – “Save-a-Tape” Program

Ron Dyck

In 2024 the Parish received \$1,209 from Country Grocer, representing 1% of the grocery tape receipts placed into the Anglican Parish box #14 or dropped off at the church before December 2024. Tapes received after December 19<sup>th</sup> will be included in next years total. Thank you to all who contributed!



## Quilters

Marjorie Radford

There are five of us: **Ann King, Sarah Mathieson, Caroline Whereatt, Doreen Hewitt and Marjorie Radford.**

Over the last year we sold 3 quilts plus other handmade items for a total of \$275.00.

Also, many items including a quilt at the craft table at the Christmas bazaar with the proceeds going in with the bazaar total.

We have another quilt which is for sale and one more we are working on which is already sold.

The quilters meet Thursday mornings from 9:30am to noon in the St. George room in All Saints' unless we're working on a big quilt when we'll be in the upstairs hall.

Visitors and newcomers are welcome.

We take orders.

## *Anglican Caterers*

Marjorie Radford

Tea à Tempo was held every Wednesday during July and August and once a month the rest of the year except for January and February.

The Tea Teams provided tea, coffee, sandwiches and goodies for several memorial teas with proceeds going directly to the church.

Thank you to those who provided tea, coffee and homemade goodies: **Doreen Davidson, Ruth Mills, Bridget Metzger, Debbi Toole, Solveig Brickenden, Ann King, Marilyn Walker, Molly Cunningham, Darcy Garneau**, and I also took my turn.

Handed over to the church for Tea à Tempo: **\$2,393.10**

**Sarah Mathieson, Caroline Whereatt** provided a delicious lunch at the bazaar.

**Debbi Toole and Marjorie Radford** made 11 jars of vegetarian mincemeat which sold at the Christmas bazaar.

**Sarah Mathieson, Carolyn Evans, Solveig Brickenden, and Marjorie Radford and her daughter Joanne Stolz** made 41 jars of antipasto which sold at the bazaar.

We also provided tea for the 30th anniversary of All Saints' consecration in October.

## *Sunday Coffee and Bakers Report*

Sally Carr

We are very grateful for the four teams that serve coffee/tea every Sunday after our 10:30am service and serve the goodies (usually made at home) by their baking team.

Coffee baristas, are: **Don and Molly Cunningham, Ann King, Ros Woolley, Doreen Davidson, Ruth Mills, Sally Carr and Cheryl Doubt.**

Our bakers are: **Claire Pickering, Ruth Pepin, Wilma Haig, Marjorie Radford, Bridget Metzger, Gloria McEachern, Debbi Toole, Ros Woolley and Helen Bruce.**

We are very glad to welcome back Wilma after her injury, however Ros is in recovery now, and we are short-staffed. Anybody who would be able to step in for a week or two to help in covering for health issues or vacations, please contact Sally at (250) 537-1556.

Meanwhile, enjoy your coffee and tea and goody, and enjoy a conversation with someone new... or old!

And... **Good News!!!** Our new coffeemaker is now 100% reliable, and we are glad to share the use of the machine to renting groups. We also appreciate the funds individuals donate to help cover the replacement cost of the new coffee machine. Thank You!

## Music Makers - Tea à Tempo

Lolla Devindisch

The Music Makers' team for 2024 was comprised of **Linda Floyd, Sarah Mathieson, Anke Smeele,** and **Lolla Devindisch.** We are grateful for the continuing collaboration with Anglican Caterers, led by **Marjie Radford,** who make the tea portion of our Tea à Tempo concert series possible. Thank you also to **Ralph Dom** for his faithful assistance in setting up for the events.



We offered twenty Tea à Tempo performances with only a few last-minute cancellations resolved by the willingness of standby performers to step in at short notice. The continued support of our enthusiastic audience which averaged forty-nine was rewarding.

We also produced two afternoon concerts in January which lifted the dark days out of the doldrums. The first with **Simon Millerd and Nomad,** a jazz band comprised of Simon and friends from Montreal. The second was provided by internationally acclaimed organist **Edward Norman.** Both were greatly enjoyed by the community.

Another highlight of the year was the **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** concert, a performance of music, movement and song, by a large cast of Friends of Tea à Tempo, which included singers **Jennifer Ashley, Connie Holmes, Andrea Metzger, Anke Smeele, Deb and Jim Smith,** musicians **John Metzger, Simon Millerd and Alex Pinto,** movement artists **Lolla Devindisch, Sue Newman and Robbyn Scott,** with **David Storm** providing the musical accompaniment throughout. Our appreciation and gratitude to all these artists who gave us an afternoon to remember.

The annual **Carols for Christmastide** community carol sing-along, produced by Music Makers and led by All Saints' Choir, was a huge success. Soloists included the duos of **Anke Smeele and Connie Holmes, Jennifer Ashley and Ellen Vesterdahl, Deb Smith and Andrea Metzger,** accompanied by **John**

**Metzger, flute. David Storm,** at the organ and piano had prepared, with the soloists, a stellar program. This annual event is a Salt Spring Food Bank fundraiser, and we were pleased to be able to forward \$980 to the local cause.

The budget for Music Makers is administrated by the Parish and will be found in the annual budget report. A sum of over \$2,000 was raised in 2024.



### **Music Makers Farewell:**

*Anke Smeele, Ralph Dom, Linda Floyd, Lolla Devindisch and Sarah Mathieson*

The team has enjoyed fifteen years of producing the concert series and now feel it is time for us to retire, as one, and hand over the torch. Above and beyond the hard work and commitment of providing a wealth of music for the community, the rewards of mentoring and supporting the musical life of the island has been a joy. It is with gratitude and celebration we say farewell. It has been a pleasure to reflect on many past successes, while continuing to look forward with an eye to the successes envisioned for the future in the hands of a new team which is currently being formed.

PERFORMING ARTS

# All Saints' parish musical journey recounted

A 30-year Music Makers retrospective

BY LOLLA DEVINDISCH  
FOR MUSIC MAKERS  
OF THE ANGLICAN PARISH

When I look back over 30 years of my involvement with the musical outreach of the Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island, I am filled with gratitude and amazement at the profound creativity, harmonious collaboration and satisfaction it has brought to me and so many in the community.

Music took its place in the heart of the parish in worship and beyond when All Saints by-the-Sea was dedicated in 1994. From then on it opened its doors to a variety of singers and musicians from both on and off the island.

Most music lovers on Salt Spring will have heard of or experienced something of the musical events in the parish in the form of Music and Munch, Simply Organic and, most recently, Tea à Tempo. Perhaps less well known is Music Makers, the name of the production team behind the recital series offered over the years.

It all began in 1996, when I was excited to become a founding member of the Liturgy and Arts Society together with Margaret Jardine, Alan Robertson



PROMOTING TEA A TEMPO EVENTS IN 2022 ARE, FROM LEFT, ANKE SMEELE, CONNIE HOLMES, DAVID STORM, LOLLA DEVINDISCH, JOHN METZGER, DEBBI TOOLE, JEAN MCCLURE AND SUE NEWMAN.

and our newly appointed priest Bryan Bjerring. The aim was to assist the members of the parish and wider community to express their creative gifts through the arts. Anglican Caterers and Music and Munch were born on June 12 that year, the brainchild of Barry Valentine, music director, and Ed Petty, gourmet chef. The concert was attended by an audience of 12, who were treated to fine music followed by a delicious lunch. Word soon got around, and Wednesdays became regu-

lar concert days for the next 20 years, serving hundreds of meals to a growing fan club.

When the Liturgy and Arts Society came to an end in December 2000, Music Makers took over and became responsible for Music and Munch, which was already noted as an ideal venue for not only experienced musicians to promote their work but also for the support of young musicians, students of the middle and high schools, and young choirs. Music Makers also pro-

duced an annual Flower Festival concert, a Remembrance Day concert, several benefit concerts and the annual Carols for Christmastide event, which continues today.

Valentine's friendship with internationally known organists Nicholas Fairbanks, Jeffrey Smith, Hugh McLean and Gerald Wheeler led to some remarkable organ recitals. Eventually, in 2002, Simply Organic was added to the musical events when Music and Munch summer concerts were not in full swing. Played almost exclusively by Valentine, the morning recital followed by muffins, coffee and lively discussion was enjoyed by a surprising number of organ enthusiasts.

Tea à Tempo began in the fall of 2016 when the long hours and dedicated lunch contribution of Anglican Caterers was no longer sustainable. Disappointed audience members talked us into continuing with a less taxing offering of tea and treats in the afternoon following a concert. Despite the pandemic shutting us down in 2020, we soon picked up where we left off the following year.

The success of the several long-running concert series can be attributed to the excellent acoustics of All Saints, the generous support of island musicians, warm and loyal audience members, the much-enjoyed collabo-

ration with Anglican Caterers, and the unending support of the Driftwood and other local events calendars.

I am a member of the most recent Music Makers team, including Ralph Dom, Linda Floyd, Sarah Mathieson and Anke Smeele. We have enjoyed 15 years of producing the concert series and now feel it is time for us to retire as one and hand over the torch. Above and beyond the hard work and commitment of providing a wealth of music for the community, the rewards of mentoring and supporting the musical life of the island have been a joy. It is with gratitude and celebration we say farewell.

It has been a pleasure to reflect on many past successes, while continuing to look forward with an eye to the successes envisioned in the future in the hands of a new team with renewed energy and creative ideas. Renovations to the kitchen in All Saints are slated for January, which makes the startup of a new series unpredictable. However, plans are in place for a family-friendly Silent Movie Night in March, accompanied by internationally renowned organist Ed Norman.

If you feel called to be part of the exciting future of music in All Saints, Music Makers needs you! Please contact [musicmakers@gmail.com](mailto:musicmakers@gmail.com)

Driftwood Article - January 8th, 2025

## **Christmas Bazaar**

Dovene Steele

We met at the end of July to discuss the planning and organization of our Christmas bazaar. We choose a date and committees are formed.

Our Christmas bazaar was held on Saturday November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10am to 2pm. We met on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> to decorate the hall and start setting up the tables and displays. On Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> we spent the day finishing the set-up. We had arranged to have people drop off their baking, and several people priced items and sorted cookies for the cookie boxes as well as arrange the goods for the baking table. All the tables – jewelry, needlework, crafts, baking and treasures – were covered with lovely tablecloths and designed and arranged to display the items for sale in an inviting and beautiful setting. Card tables were set up for coffee and lunch with festive cloths and colourful centrepieces.

As well as all this, a delicious lunch with a heart-warming soup, artisan bread and mincemeat tarts were being prepared for Saturday along with aromatic muffins for the morning.

In practical terms the bazaar was a great success. Funds raised were as follows:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Lunch and Muffins	\$604.00
Preserves	\$250.00
Crafts	\$176.50
Donations	\$67.85
Stuffed Toys	\$38.00
Jewelry	\$737.85
Needlework	\$997.50
Baking	\$2,884.00
Treasures	\$1,100.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,856.20</b>

An event such as this does not happen in a vacuum. There are so many people to thank for their time and talents. I know that if I start to name them, I will leave someone out and I certainly do not want to do that. I am so grateful to everyone who contributed in their own way.

Our bazaar has become such a staple in the life of our parish and our Salt Spring Island community. It is a wonderful, festive way to begin the Christmas season. I also see it in its own way as an outreach to the community. As well, it is a lovely way for our parishioners and others to gather for a delicious lunch, conversation, fellowship and camaraderie. Thank you to all for your contribution to this wonderful event.

## Hall Use

Joe Egan

In 2024 public use of our two Hall spaces and church Sanctuary continued with moderate year-over-year increase both in number of groups and events, as well as in total revenue, this, despite the Salt Spring Middle School, located directly across the street from All Saints, having turned into a Community Centre with over a dozen spaces available for rental use by the community.

Hourly rates for use of our Halls and Sanctuary spaces have not increased over five years so it is recommended that Parish Council consider review in 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Q this year and potentially increase rental fees as appropriate. Should we elect to increase hourly and event rate(s) for 2026, all current Hall Use groups must be provided 6-months' notice as a courtesy.

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Regular Hall Use</b>			
Adult Dance	\$490	--	--
Bach on the Rock	\$2,050	\$2,230	\$1,640
Belly Dance	\$180	\$326	--
Graffiti Theatre	\$1,050	\$180	\$610
Kid's Dance	\$360	\$787	\$225
Newman Productions	\$310	\$175	--
Salt Spring Baroque	\$450	\$300	\$450
Salt Spring Singers	\$1,463	\$1,235	\$1,040
Scottish Country Dancers	\$1,440	\$1,350	\$360
Special Olympics' Club Fit	\$240	\$276	--
StageCoach Theatre	\$460	--	--
Tango	\$1,830	\$1,360	\$210
Taoist Tai Chi	\$2,005	\$1,576	--
Ubuntu Song Circle	\$1,760	\$1,912	\$780
Zen Meditation	\$1,800	\$2,110	\$660
*Groups not active in 2024	--	\$539	\$2,235
<b>Concerts, Workshops, and Rehearsals</b>	\$5,260	\$5,112	\$2,315
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$21,148</b>	<b>\$19,468</b>	<b>\$10,525</b>

# Parish Programs

## Overview

We continued to align our parish activities to the recommendations of our Parish Renewal Task Force which also endeavours to align with the diocesan vision (<https://www.bc.anglican.ca/vision>) and our 2018 parish mission, vision and goals published in our Parish Profile (<https://www.saltspringanglican.ca/who-we-are/mission-vision-and-goals>) and updated in the November 2021 special meeting of the Vestry – ref. also the last page of this report.



## Worship and Liturgy

### Evening Prayer Services

Walter Stewart

Evening Prayer at 17:00 on Thursdays replaced the Eucharist in June of 2024 when the Venerable Dennis Hayden was no longer available to preside at a Eucharist. The licenced lay leaders of worship took on the responsibility for officiating at Evening Prayer. As the lay leader with the Bishop’s permission to preach, Walter Stewart has taken most services. Whenever Walter is unavailable, he prepares a homily for one of the other lay leaders to deliver. Debbi Toole has taken the service most frequently on those occasions. When Gabriel’s Kitchen moved their lunch on Thursdays to Thursday dinner as fall began, we moved the service to Wednesday at 17:00.

Most weeks, 8 to 12 people attend. It is a quiet service that provides the opportunity to re-centre in the midst of a busy week. All are welcome to join us.



## **Organist & Choirmaster**

David Storm

We've had another very interesting year in music at All Saints as we progress through this liminal time. While there are many challenges, there are also many successes, and I want to thank those who have helped make the music ministry at All Saints as wonderful as it was last year. First, I want to thank **John Metzger and Deb Smith**, who together with me on piano play most of the preludes we've been blessed with over this past year. And as a special treat, **Anne Parker** who, together with her husband **Brian Dobbin** join us in the choir every six weeks or so when they visit from Vancouver, let me know that she plays violin and has now joined John, Deb and me in playing preludes. I'm just thrilled! **Simon Millerd** brought his trumpet to church a number of times last year, playing along with the hymns but also playing preludes and communion music with me, usually his own compositions. This was really special and a definite treat.

Thanks are also in order to **Jim and Deb Smith** for their musical offerings as solos and as music during communion. My favourite (right now, anyway!) song they've sung last year was the James Taylor song, *Another Way Home*, that they sung at the Epiphany service (technically this year!). Jim's singing and guitar playing was just perfect, as was Deb's accompaniment on her double bass. We were also blessed with a number of solos and special music over the year from **Lolla Devindisch, Betty Rothwell, Debbi Toole, Jennifer Ashley, Dion Hackett, and Ellen Vesterdal**. The two Christmas duets **Jennifer and Ellen** sung were quite spectacular and tons of fun! I would be remiss in not mentioning the beautiful solo our ageless **Betty Rothwell** sung at our Christmas Eve service, the gorgeous spiritual *Sweet Little Jesus Boy*. What a year it has been!

The choir is small in numbers right now, but we have still been providing a strong lead for the congregational singing and often we have offered pieces as Anthems and special music during communion. I want to thank all our dedicated members who come out every Saturday to practice at 10:30 (new members ALWAYS welcome!). This year our choir members were:

- **Sopranos:** Lolla Devindisch, Jean McClure, Deb Smith, Joan Warren
- **Altos:** Betty Rothwell, Anke Smeele, Dale Storm, Anne Parker
- **Tenors:** Ron Dyck, Jaqui Roussin, Ruth Mills, Carole Scott, Jim Smith
- **Bass:** Ken Rootham, Brian Dobbin

A final thank you goes to **Lolla**, who does just about everything at All Saints! For the music ministry, she looks after all the music the choir performs (and there's a lot!) filing and sorting everything, (with her trusty helper, **Jean**) keeping our library in order and helping me in so many different ways. You are invaluable, Lolla, and I don't know what I'd do without your help!

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation for all the love and support I feel from our congregation. As I enter the third and hopefully final year of hormone therapy, that support is especially needed and I thank **Nancy Wigen and Bridget Metzger** and all those who offer healing and prayers at the healing station after communion. I am most thankful to them and feel very blessed every Sunday; that is a very special and important time for me.

## ***Altar Guild***

Judy Tyson

Our Altar Guild membership now stands at three loyal members of the congregation, each of whom can claim well over 30 years of active participation in the life of this beloved Parish of Salt Spring Island. The duties remain the same as always with the care of the sanctuary in preparation for the celebration of the Eucharist. The weekly flower arrangements are now managed by the Flower Guild.

One of the duties of this membership is the occasional care of the 12-foot altar cloth. If there is anyone who loves to iron and would like a challenge, please see one of the members: **Doreen Davidson, Molly Cunningham or Judy Tyson**. It is in itself a ministry and two of our members who rose to the occasion with enthusiasm and accepted the challenge to iron the cloth have retired.

New members for regular duties are always most welcome.

## ***Servers' Guild***

Peg Gabor

It is an honour to serve the Parish as the new lead for the guild. Thanks to the other members: **Dave Phillips, Debbi Toole, Doreen Davidson, Josh Catt, and Elaine Hunt**. We are also happy to report that new parishioners **Anna and Matthew Van Maanen** have completed Safe Church training and will start serving in the coming year.

We need more servers! Please let me or any member of the guild know if you are interested in joining us.

## ***Flower Guild***

Lolla Devindisch

Members of the flower guild in 2024 were **Lolla Devindisch, Wilma Haig, Ann King, and Jean McClure**

It was another busy year for us arranging flowers for regular Sunday services, and for memorials that took place. It has been a joy to use the gifts we have been given in arranging flowers for our beloved friends.

This year the opportunity for parishioners to request flowers in celebration or in memory of a friend or family member was reintroduced. We ask for a preferred choice or colour of flowers and a suggested donation of \$50. The book with available dates is in the narthex, and we ask for an appropriate lead time so the acknowledgement can be placed in the relevant Sunday bulletin.

We also worked together with the Altar Guild in creating the Advent wreath and decorating the church for Easter and Christmas.



*Memorial Flowers – April 2024*

## ***Pastoral Care***

Noreen Davies and Bridget Metzger, Coordinators

The **Pastoral Care Leadership team** presently consists of 3 people, **Noreen Davies, Bridget Metzger and Dale Storm**.

The **Ven. Dennis Hayden and Canon Doreen Davidson** stepped down from the team during the year due to the weight of other responsibilities.

In September another meeting was held with the Pastoral Care Team of Volunteers (total in attendance was 7) who agreed to help out in the following various ways:

1. Visit parishioners in long-term care homes on an on-going basis.
2. Join the Hymn Sing at Greenwoods once monthly.
3. Take home communion to people unable to attend church.
4. Visit people who need support, especially the elderly who are living alone.
5. Visit people in hospital (acute care).
6. Provide a ride to church for a parishioner, as needed.
7. Provide a meal (or more) for someone returning home after hospital or for someone who is grieving.
8. Provide support on a one-to-one basis to new widows and widowers during the first 6 months.
9. Keep vigil with the dying who do not have family members with them, or relieve family members who are keeping vigil.
10. Retired clergy, when available, offer Spiritual help to those at the end of life, confession, absolution and anointing with oil; and counselling to the bereaved family.
11. Prayer: privately, through the Prayer Chain, the Prayers of the People, the Healing Station.

There are presently 11 parishioners living in Assisted Living at Meadowbrook, Heritage Place and Braehaven; 7 parishioners in Full Time Care at lady Minto and Greenwoods; 4 parishioners who are in their 90's and living independently at home. Of those, 9 parishioners need a ride to church and an additional 7 have requested to be prayed for in the prayer chain and/or the Prayers of the People. **This is a total of 29 people who are vulnerable in one way or another.**

It is our hope and prayer that the new incumbent will be able to give their strong support to this ministry in our Parish in the coming years.

### ***Prayer Chain***

Bridget Metzger

The Prayer Chain offers ongoing prayers by request. There are currently 25 people, including clergy, who offer these confidential, private prayers on a regular basis. Updates are sent out regularly to the people who pray ("*pray-ers*") so that their prayers can stay current. At the end of each bi-monthly period a newly updated version of prayer requests is sent out to the *pray-ers*, with thanksgiving for answered prayers.

Many folks, especially those battling with cancer or chronic conditions, are prayed for on an ongoing basis. We pray for healing where possible and for health of body, mind, and spirit.

Requests for prayer may be made directly to [prayers@saltspringanglican.ca](mailto:prayers@saltspringanglican.ca). Prayers will be sent out as soon as possible, usually on the same day they are requested.

To respect confidentiality, please ensure that you have the permission of the person for whom you would like to request prayer.

According to Diocesan policy, the Prayer Chain members are appointed by the Incumbent and Churchwardens. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact the Priest-in-Charge or one of the Churchwardens.

## **Safe Church**

Lynne Fraser, Safe Church Liaison

### **Overview**

*"The Safe Church program ensures that our churches are places of safety from the harm of misconduct that can occur in situations when there is an imbalance of power."*

Safe Church training is designed to:

1. Ensure our parishes are places of safety and wholeness for those who come to us seeking the love of Christ.
2. Ensure all of our volunteers and employees are aware of their own personal safety and are equipped to manage their own personal risk."

The Safe Church Program and a Criminal Record Check (CRC) are required for parish council members, paid staff (including clergy), organist, choir director, envelope secretary, children and youth workers, pastoral visitors, treasurer and all others who handle money and volunteer staff including parish administration, and grounds and janitorial maintenance.

### **Safe Church Training**

I am pleased to report that 48 volunteers have now completed their Safe Church Training. We also have 4 volunteers who are in the process of completing the requirements. And, we have 5 paid employees who have completed all requirements for Safe Church.

### **Changes Are Coming in 2025**

1. We no longer have an option to submit hard copy CRC applications to the Criminal Records Review Program (CRRP). Please contact your Safe Church Liaison for the link to the online submission process.
2. The diocese is no longer using *Praesidium* as part of our Safe Church program requirements. Those who need to complete the program may watch the 35-minute video instead. Please connect with your Safe Church Liaison.

I would like to once again thank **Ron Dyck** and **Joe Egan** for assisting me in running group and/or small training sessions and to all those who made the commitment to participate and complete the Safe Church Training.

## ***Faith Formation***

### ***Seasonal Discussion Groups – Living Compass***

Claire Pickering

Over the past years many of us have been using the seasonal discussion guides in groups or for personal reflection from Living Compass (<https://www.livingcompass.org/>) during Lent and Advent and continued to do so in 2024.

In 2025 we look forward to continuing use of the Living Compass guides for Lent and Advent.

### ***Bible Study / Homegroup***

John Metzger

A small group of parishioners has continued meeting for more than three years for weekly evening Bible study. We usually meet on Zoom but find opportunities through the year – especially during the summer – to meet face-to-face. The group initially evolved from the 2020 Lenten study when it was suggested by some to continue meeting for “Bible study”.

Leadership rotates amongst the group members each week. This past year we have focused our studies on the forthcoming Sunday’s lectionary readings. We find this helps us better understand the context of, and often connections between, the readings, and they don’t hit us “cold” when we hear them on Sunday mornings!

We meet Monday evenings by Zoom for about one-and-a-half hours, finding time before we close to share prayer-requests and to pray together. We bring varied perspectives to our discussions not always agreeing but certainly encouraging each other as we share in our faith journeys.

Our group presently comprises **Ann King, Jim and Joan Warren, Noreen Davies, Gloria McEachern, Ken Affolder, Claire Pickering, Ida Marie Threadkell, Elizabeth and Don van Akker,** and **John and Bridget Metzger**. We encourage others to join us, or even better yet, to establish another group. We are willing to assist and advise – please contact any of us!

### ***Having Jesus for Dinner***

Rev Chris Levan

The **Rev Chris Levan** hosted a bible study series called "Having Jesus for Dinner" on four Wednesday evenings in the September and November. The series was an exploration of the three miracles that are

embedded in the Jesus meal and is based on Chris's book entitled *"Having Jesus for Dinner, Community or Cannibalism - Can Christians Reset the Table for a New Expression of Jesus' "Holy" Meal?"*.

We spent four sessions during September to November examining what it means to "have Jesus for dinner". Each session began with parts of a traditional Middle Eastern dinner.

1. We first examined the cultural/political matrix of Jesus--how living in his time meant facing Roman occupation, enculturation and commercialization.
2. Next, we looked at the logistics of meal preparation and presentation. How hard is it to eat with Jesus? What did it look like? What did we eat?
3. We then examined the two basic meals of Jesus... one in which he is the host and the other in which he becomes the meal. We'll examine how his meals were changed over time and what that meant for the Christian community.
4. And finally we had an actual full meal "with Jesus" – a group of 15 of us from the parish and community ate what he ate (and more) and shared community together – thanks to John and Bridget for hosting this at their new digs in Kingfisher Cove!

### ***Faith in Doubt - God Talk for Secular Ears***

Rev Harold Munn

The **Rev Harold Munn** is no stranger to our parish having been a frequent visitor over many years. A large part of his latest book entitled *"Faith in Doubt – How my dog made me atheist and atheism made me a priest"* was written during sojourns on our island! He introduced this new book in 2 events in October:

1. At All Saints – where Harold, an experienced church leader spoke about the challenges facing religion in secular society and where he proposed some fascinating and unexpected opportunities that science and secularism may offer.
2. At the Salt Spring Public Library – where Harold introduced his book to the wider audience on Salt Spring Island.

### ***Community Labyrinth: A Dream Becoming a Reality***

Rev Sarah Belknap

The dream that Salt Spring Island might have its own Community Labyrinth is being realized thanks to teamwork, parish council support, the support of island organizations and businesses, and thanks to the generous support of our donors! The funds required to build the labyrinth have been raised by the Labyrinth Team from individuals in the parish and community, and from The Salt Spring Lions Club and the Salt Spring Is. Foundation.



*Community Labyrinth - January 2025*

In 2024, the foundation of the Labyrinth was built (picture heavy equipment and 8 truckloads of chipped rock), the brick of the pathways was laid, good topsoil was spread, and the seed of native plants (Yarrow and Field Chickweed) was sown. Then a weed barrier was laid all around the Labyrinth to protect it.

Now, while we wait for the Yarrow and Chickweed to grow and bloom, the Labyrinth Team is planning the signage that will welcome community members and recognize our donors and the organizations and businesses that have supported the Labyrinth Project.

If you have not yet seen the Labyrinth, it's easy to see over the fence at the Purdy-Cunningham Cemetery at 710 Upper Ganges Road, just a long block from the 'central' intersection.

We heartily thank our Wardens, the Parish Council, and the Manager of Cemeteries for their support. We thank our parish Treasurer, who records all donations and issues cheques for the Labyrinth Project's receipted expenses. And, again, we most heartily thank all our contributors!

The Labyrinth Team,

**Sarah Belknap, Jacquie Byron, Susan Grace, Gloria McEachern, Gail Robinson and Ros Woolley**

A personal note: *My hope and prayer for the Community Labyrinth*

*I hope the Community Labyrinth and its peaceful green setting, will come to be recognized as what the Irish call a 'thin place,' a place where Heaven and Earth, the sacred and the ordinary, come close together. I hope that our neighbours, especially those unlikely to attend a church service, will more eagerly step into the labyrinth's path. As walkers begin to relax and breathe easily making their way around the labyrinth, I pray the Holy Spirit may whisper in their ears— words of hope, healing, guidance. It happened to me once long ago, standing before graves in an old church yard. I pray the same grace for others.*

*Sarah Belknap*

## ***Social Justice***

Social justice refers to a *fair and equitable* division of resources, opportunities, and privileges in society. As Christians we emphasize the intrinsic value or worth of the individual. Gender inequality, racism, LGBTQ+ discrimination, and more broadly the social and economic inequities attributed to colonialism and environmentally unsustainable development are frequent subjects of social justice advocacy.

In our parish we are attempting to address some of these issues through programs of outreach, awareness and action as follows:

### ***Outreach***

Lynda Turner

Once again Outreach was given \$7,500 from the parish budget. This plus donations from individual parishioners allowed the Committee to support a lot of various projects this year.

### **International**

- Somos Learning Villages - Guatemala
- Diocese of Jerusalem Emergency Appeal
- Nakuzali Education for girls in Tanzania

### **National**

- Indigenous Responsive Grant Fund (support for emergency projects in Indigenous communities)
- Midwifery in Indigenous Communities
- Pimatziwin Nipi - help towards a water truck for an indigenous community
- Advent Conspiracy - Water upgrades in Indigenous communities
- Canadian Disaster Relief Fund (support for emergency disaster relief in Canada)

PLEASE NOTE - ALL international and national donations were funnelled through the Primates World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF).

### **Local**

- School supplies and food for school students (money raised on 4 summer "Giving Sundays")
- 6th Annual Blanket and Clothing Drive for Community Services
- Tuesday Market support for a local family (\$17 gift card weekly for 16 weeks)
- Angel Tree (Christmas presents and gift cards for a local family)
- Lunch support for Family Place
- Christmas Gift Cards (given out through the local schools)

Once again, I want to thank all members of the Committee for their hard work and for those outside the Committee who were "volunteered" to help. Here I must mention our new secretary, Mary Beckett, who has done yeoman's duty in the challenging job of keeping our meeting minutes. I particularly want to thank the members of the Parish who gave and continue to give so generously to these projects. Nothing happens without your support.



*Friday Community Meals*

Bridget Metzger and Susan Grace (United Church)

The Community Meals, held in the lower hall of the United Church at noon on Fridays, continues to be a gracious, welcoming place for those who come to eat, visit, and volunteer. We are blessed by our collaboration with each other. Volunteers come from the United Church, the Unitarian, the Anglican Church, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Those who have volunteered from All Saints this year are **Sarah and Chas Belknap, Ron Dyck and Walter Stewart, Sally Carr and Ethel Magnus, Carles Roch-Cunill and Bridget Metzger, Peg Gabor and Elaina Hyde-Mills, and Dave Phillips and Tim Hayes** as substitutes.

We serve about 25-30 people each week. The meal tends to be a hearty one, prepared by Community Services, and we round it out with fruit, cookies and sometimes homemade desserts which are very much appreciated!

Over the cold months, our guests come in to warm up and can pick up winter clothes as needed.

On Friday December 20<sup>th</sup>, a delicious turkey dinner was served with all the trimmings, and each guest received a gift of new warm socks and a bag of homemade cookies, and they could help themselves to toiletries as needed.

The community meal touches each of us in different ways, and we each express our commitment to service in our own unique manner. There is a place for all at our table and we are grateful.

*Gabriel's Kitchen*

Gloria McEachern

Gabriel's Kitchen, initiated by Kajin Goh and the Chuan Society, is a remarkable program in that it is organized and mostly staffed by the housing-challenged folk it is designed to serve. All Saints, in consultation with parish council, has been hosting Gabriel's Kitchen as an outreach to our community. Gabriel's Kitchen is named after Gabriel Bonga, an individual who served, on his own initiative, soup in the parks. Gabriel, unfortunately, died in a boating accident in 2020.



*Gabriel's Kitchen at All Saints - 2024*

The meals at All Saints began in October 2023 as a Thanksgiving potluck dinner. Since then, a growing mix of Salt Springers including members of our congregation – notably **Gloria and Lucky McEachern, Sally Carr, Chas Belknap and Toto André Rodrigues**, volunteered Thursdays to cook and share meals. The final event was on December 26<sup>th</sup> when the All Saints' kitchen was closed for renovations.



*Some of Gabriel's Kitchen volunteers: Keith Delaney, Alexandra Aristera, Kajin Goh, Sarah Kaplan, Gloria McEachern, Laura Porter, Christina Chua and Toto André*

Each dinner was prepared and served by a rotating crew of about 20 volunteers who cooked, set up, served and cleaned up in shifts. We served on average between 40 to 60 dinners. Supplies for the dinners are provided largely through donations from local restaurants, grocery stores and individuals. Recently the Community Foundation has stepped up to support the program

Gabriel's Kitchen moved in December to "The Hearth" – a large portable building on the site of the recently closed Phoenix School on Drake Road. The long-term vision for Gabriel's Kitchen is to run as a daily operation on a permanent site.

#### *Angel Tree* Dovene Steele

As one of our outreach programs, our parish has participated in the angel tree project for several years now. The idea is that we sponsor a family in the community who may need a little extra support at Christmas.

I am in touch with Family Place in late October, early November who in conjunction with community services pairs us with a family. This year, we sponsored a family of six: mom and dad, a 20-year-old boy a 17-year-old girl, a 12-year-old boy and a 4-year-old girl.

They forward me a list of items and/or family interests and hobbies that the family could use or may wish to have. I take the list and make gift tags with the wishes written on them which I hang on the tree in the narthex.

Many parishioners choose a tag and buy that gift. They wrap the gift, attach the tag and return it to the church. When the gifts are all received, I take them to Family Place before Christmas where they are picked up by the family. As well as specific items, I also include tags for gift cards for local grocery, pharmacy and hardware stores which of course are so useful and appreciated. Toys, books, pajamas, board games, sweaters, imaginative art supplies are just some of the great gifts received.

Our parishioners always give such heartfelt, beautiful and thoughtful gifts. The family is so appreciative and thankful. I too am overwhelmed and so grateful for your generosity and kindness.

## *Family Place*

Ruth Seltner

The Rectory is currently utilized by Family Place which is overseen by Community Services. This has been an ongoing Outreach Program for the Church. This year, the rent for Family Place increased to \$1,375 from \$750 per month, closer to being in line with the true cost of rentals on Island.

The time may be approaching for us to consider repurposing the Rectory for housing. In the meantime, we will discuss renewal of the Family Place lease on a month-to-month basis starting in April 2025.

## ***Reconciliation with First Nations***

Ruth L Pickett Seltner

*"Getting to the truth was hard but getting to reconciliation will be harder. It requires that the paternalistic and racist foundations of the residential school system be rejected as the basis for an ongoing relationship. Reconciliation requires that a new vision, based on a commitment to mutual respect, be developed. It also requires an understanding that the most harmful impacts of residential schools have been the loss of pride and self-respect of Aboriginal people, and the lack of respect that non-Aboriginal people have been raised to have for their Aboriginal neighbours. Reconciliation is not an Aboriginal problem; it is a Canadian one. Virtually all aspects of Canadian society may need to be reconsidered." – Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC), Canada*

As a parish we have committed to actively living into our responsibility to acknowledge our living history and act upon it, to support a way forward as Christians with our indigenous brothers and sisters. The first step in this process is truth. The parish has been taking steps towards increasing our knowledge on history and issues surrounding our relationships. Without this knowledge, it is difficult to move forward in a better way.

## ***Faith and Climate Action***

John Metzger

As a Parish we have committed ourselves:

- To educate ourselves on our individual and corporate response to climate change, climate justice, and sustainable living,
- To learn how we can mitigate and adapt to a changing climate right here on Salt Spring Island,
- To take actions relevant to our Salt Spring Island community such as: water conservation, reduce plastics, reducing our consumption of meat, etc.,
- To collaborate in actions with other faith communities, and
- To support and collaborate with existing local action groups, e.g. Transition Salt Spring:  
<https://transitionsaltspring.com/>

Through this we hope to increase our awareness of our responsibility as people of faith in addressing climate change, climate justice, and sustainable living on Salt Spring Island, and as individuals, do what

we can to responsibly implement adaptation and mitigation measures within our home and our community.

As a preliminary conclusion of this exploration, we developed a reading list of faith and climate resources available to download (<https://www.saltspringanglican.ca/programs/social-justice>). The Anglican Church of Canada's approach to climate action with links to related resources can be found here: <https://cpj.ca/anglican-church-canada-climate-action/>. We seek interest from parishioners in continuing these discussions – please contact **John Metzger**.

## ***Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice***

at St. Mary's Church, Fulford

Heather Martin, Star of the Sea Planning Team Secretary

Star of the Sea aims to host a wide variety of spiritually based programs at St. Mary's church.

Star of the Sea aims to provoke reflective thinking and exploring the inward world of spirit, while deepening our awareness and understandings through a wide range of spiritually related areas of interest.

The intimate atmosphere at St. Mary's Church encourages sharing and learning from participants as well as from the programme leaders.

In 2024, the planning team, which guides the Star of the Sea activities, consisted of: **Elaina Hyde, Heather Martin, Cate McEwen, Lolla Devindisch**, and webmaster and registrar **Ron Dyck**.

Since the water issue was resolved in the fall of 2023, Star of the Sea was able to offer some programmes in the first few months of 2024, including:

A Buddhist Meditation Day long Retreat, two Quiet Mornings (Christian), some Death Cafés, ongoing Sacred Poetry evenings, Spiritual Conversations, and monthly New Moon Meditations.

No programming was scheduled for the summer months of July and August, after which the building was closed by the Diocese in the fall, with no Star of the Sea programming occurring there since June.

Once the final repair of the bathroom wall is completed, and once we are notified that the building is ready for activities again, Star of the Sea will require 6 – 8 weeks to plan programs, which we hope will start up in either April or in September 2025.

We invite everyone to come and share one or more of our programs. For details, please visit our website: <https://www.staroftheseassi.ca/>.

## **Welcome and Communications**

Debbi Toole

The **Welcome and Communications Committee** met once in 2024. The committee comprises 6 individuals: **Debbi Toole, John Metzger, Lynne Fraser, Sarah Mathieson, Walter Stewart and Claire Pickering**. The committee oversees the following aspects of being welcoming, greeters at the entrance, name tags, the large sign on the front of our property, and the maintaining of the website and newsletters.

**Greeters** - led by Lynne. Through discussion and experience Lynne developed a clarified list of duties for the greeters (see below). Lynne keeps a roster of individuals to act as greeters every Sunday.

**Name Tags** - led by Walter. The name tags have been created and used at our Sunday services. They have been met with great enthusiasm. There is tweaking to be done but a very successful completion of initiative. This will need ongoing vigilance (perhaps monthly) as new people join tags will need to be created. As our dear parishioners pass it was decided that we would place the name tags in the memorial garden out back.

**Large Sign on Lower Ganges Road** - led by Debbi. I endeavour to change the quote every week - not always possible. When we have special events or services, for example the Christmas Bazaar, the Christmas Eve service; we advertise it on the big sign as well.

**Website and Newsletter** - led by John and Joe. The parish website (<https://www.saltspringanglican.ca/>) continues to be improved and kept up to date. **Chas Belknap** continues to photograph new parishioners so they can be added to the password-protected Parish Photo Directory – contact Joe, Chas or John for the password. The parish executive has been keen to communicate regularly with the parish during this interim time and since the fall have initiated weekly newsletters to keep us informed of parish news and events.

**Other Initiatives:** Our rack cards and bulletins were corrected by Claire and Sarah so they stated the new 10:30am time for the Sunday worship service. With Marjie and the committee there was an attempt to plan a *Welcoming Potluck Lunch* in September. Unfortunately, it became a timing issue with people being away etc., so it was dropped. Hopefully we will be able to create that event in 2025.

**Closing Remarks:** I would like to take this opportunity to thank the welcoming/communications individuals for their thoughtful role of leadership. Please remember that we all play a role in being welcoming and kind to all who enter our doors. Reach out, join coffee hour, chat or introduce yourself... in a very real sense we are all the welcome committee.

## ***Building Renewal and Property Management – in service to our community***

### ***Property Management Committee***

John Metzger

In consultation with parish council a ***Property Management Committee*** was more formally re-invigorated in September, comprising the following parishioners with their main areas of responsibility:

- **Bill Morrison** – our parish maintenance contractor. In addition to routine maintenance and repairs, Bill is co-managing the kitchen renovation project with Colin and John.
- **Colin Lawler** – a long history with the All Saints’ building having served as project manager when the building was established some 30+ years ago. Colin will back-stop John and Bill during the kitchen renovation project.
- **Don Van Akker** –retired construction manager with a wide range of practical experience, is leading our efforts to address repairs to the All Saints’ entry ramp.
- **Don Cunningham** – with a long history with our parish buildings and close connections to the Salt Spring Island community, Don is our “corporate memory” on maintenance issues, notably our All Saints fire suppression system.
- **John Metzger** – committee chair, and responsible to report on behalf of the committee to parish council; and working with Colin and Bill in managing the All Saints kitchen renovation project.
- **Ruth Pepin** – with key responsibility to advise in the renovation of the All Saints kitchen.
- **Simon Wheeler** – a churchwarden and lead responsibility for St Mary’s maintenance and repair work.
- **Walter Stewart** – key responsibilities with the deconsecration and sale of St Mark’s, including liaison with the diocese, and our relationship with the real estate agent once the building goes on the market. Walter also worked extensively with John and **Dal Brickenden** in developing the building renewal projects in 2020 which remains the basis for planning maintenance and improvement projects at All Saints. This report can be downloaded here:  
<https://www.saltspringanglican.ca/programs/building-renewal>.

We seek to raise funding, possibly from the sale of St Mark’s in consultation with the diocese, for continued renovations and improvements to ensure we have a building that is an effective community resource well into the future and one that meets parish needs with a lower impact on the environment and on our annual operations and maintenance budgets.

### ***St Mark’s Church, Central***

Walter Stewart

Since the time St Mark’s was deconsecrated in 2022, with the advice of the diocese we have been working to resolve property alignment and driveway access issues. These were finally resolved in January 2025 with the construction of a new driveway enabling direct access between the property and North End Road. We thus hope to put the property and building onto the real estate market in 2025.

## ***St Mary's Church, Fulford***

Simon Wheeler

In early 2024 the diocese asked us to temporarily close St Mary's because of water damage and rot in the washroom; they were concerned that there might be health issues with the possible presence of black mold. An on-island professional mold tester was engaged to examine the extent of the problem and although a small amount of rot and fungus were found to be present the amount of mold was not of immediate concern. Subsequent examination of the area revealed that much of the upper wall and roof of the washroom will need replacing before the building can be re-opened for general use. This work is expected to take place in the spring of 2025.

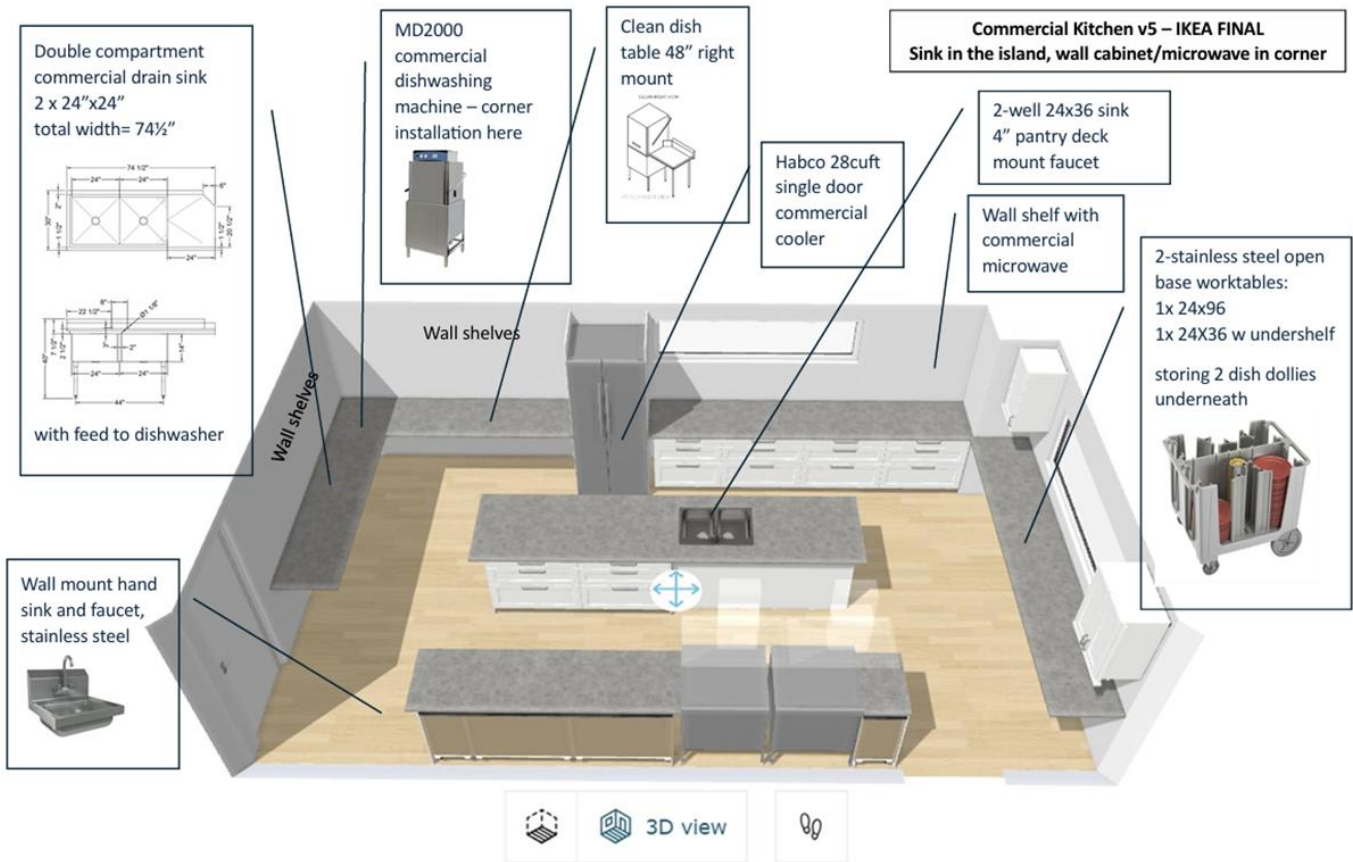
The oil-fired heating furnace was replaced with an electrical heat pump system, this was combined with an upgrade to the electricity supply to the church. The heating is now working well and is able to be controlled remotely through the building's Wi-Fi. The money for the heating upgrade came from part of the bequest from former parishioner **Margaret Mather**.

In the autumn the diocese directed us not to use the existing well for water as it is deemed to be too close to the cemetery, Island Health require a 100-foot clearance. We plan to have a potable water tank installed close to the building and will plumb that into the existing internal pipework. The tank will require refilling annually with good quality drinking water.

## ***All Saints Kitchen Renovation***

John Metzger, Bill Morrison, Ruth Pepin and Colin Lawler

We are grateful to **Margaret Spencer** for her bequest enabling the parish to renovate the All Saints kitchen. Preliminary plans were prepared in 2023 with the project brief formally approved by both parish and diocesan councils. On the recommendation of the diocese, in September 2024 a **Kitchen Committee** comprising **Bill Morrison, Marjie Radford, Ruth Pepin and Molly Cunningham**, visited the recently renovated commercial kitchen at St Paul's Nanaimo. Following this visit, our design was revised and finalized, and procurement initiated for the appliances, components and cabinets, and our general contractor confirmed.



Work, including plans to replace the cabinets in the lower hall kitchenette, commenced in January with plans to complete the work by the end of March 2025. Project supervision is being shared between **Bill Morrison, Colin Lawler and John Metzger**. Our main suppliers and contractors are:

- Michael Hunsberger - Lighthouse Ventures, Salt Spring Island – general contractor, including plumbing and electrical
- Russell-Hendrix, Victoria – supply of commercial kitchen appliances (dishwasher, cooler, microwave) and accessories including stainless steel sinks, worktables, dishdollies, etc.
- Hubenig Bros. – Benjamin Moore, Salt Spring Island – commercial kitchen flooring supply and installation
- Millstone Heating & Sheetmetal, Duncan - custom stainless steel countertops and backspashes
- IKEA – wall and base cabinets and fittings



## ***All Saints Entry Ramp Repairs***

Don Van Akker and Don Cunningham

The ramp to the main entrance of All Saints has been deteriorating over the past years. Temporary repairs to the ramp were made in 2010 by **Don Van Akker and Don Cunningham** with the installation of the wood beam under the low end. At that time, we projected a five-year life. A post near the upper end was installed a few years later and an additional post was installed a year or so ago at the recommendation of our engineer. Permanent repairs or replacement are therefore urgently required.

During 2024, working in consultation with a local structural professional engineer, **Don Van Akker** developed plans and a project management approach to repair the existing ramp without the need for complete replacement. These were submitted in the form of a "project brief" approved by parish council in September 2024 and submitted in October to the diocese for presentation to diocesan council. However, since submission to the diocese, the project has been put "on hold" by parish council subject to the following:

1. Project financing: The financial position of the parish since initially approved by council in September 2024 has changed. Funding as initially approved is now not available.
2. Scope of work and project management: The diocesan buildings advisor (Mark Oldnall) expressed reservations on the proposed scope of work and approach to project management. Mark and Don Van Akker are in discussion to reach a common understanding on the way forward in order 1) to ensure good value for money and 2) to minimize financial risk to the parish and diocese.

The project specifications and detailed engineering drawings remain available once the parish and diocese agree to re-submit the project brief. We encourage the diocese as owner to apply for a building permit through the CRD as soon as possible, thus enabling repairs to commence as soon as funds are available.

## ***Other Building and Maintenance***

**All Saints Fire Suppression System:** Working with the support of Troy Life and Fire Safety Ltd., Victoria we (thanks to **Don Cunningham** and **Joe Egan**) rectified deficiencies in the All Saints fire suppression system enabling full certification with our local the Fire Department.

**All Saints Steeple - roof leak:** We're grateful to the initiative of **Don and Elizabeth Van Akker and Don Cunningham** in resolving the long-standing roof leak under the All-Saints steeple!

**Moisture damage to the wall adjacent to the back stairwell:** A blocked permitter-drain at the back wall adjacent to the staircase was cleared in 2024 thanks to **Don Cunningham**. We remain concerned that leaks from the roof backed up from the blocked drain into the back wall and may have thus caused moisture damage. We plan to ask the contractor carrying out kitchen renovations to open the wall enabling us to examine and assess damage if any and initiate repairs if required.

**Salt Spring Island Emergency Program – Emergency Reception Centre:** The All Saints building was designated in 2019 as an *Emergency Reception Centre and Recovery Facility* available to be used as safe gathering places for people displaced from their homes as a result of an emergency or disaster. We meet with the Emergency Program Coordinator each year to carry out an inventory of our building facilities and update our Statement of Understanding for use of our facilities in the event of an emergency on Salt Spring Island – thanks to **Joe Egan** for coordinating this.

We remain grateful to **Bill Morrison** for his conscientious service throughout the year in addressing routine and emergency building-maintenance issues at all our properties.

We also express gratitude to **Gillian Pierson**, our custodian, who has moved on from her position at the end of September. We are thankful to have found her replacement in local resident **Kimoko Brown**, who in addition to residing nearby on Park Drive, has ample custodial experience in her “day job” as co-owner of a family run Guesthouse & Inn here on Salt Spring.

### ***All Saints’ Gardeners***

Lolla Devindisch

All Saints’ Garden maintenance volunteers continued their dedicated work throughout the year. Weekly gatherings on Friday mornings, began with prayer and the time proved to be nourishment for body and soul.

Regular team members in 2024 were **Bridget Metzger, Dale Storm, Judy Tyson** and **Lolla Devindisch**. We are also grateful to the friends that dropped by on a few occasions to help. The small team is finding our energy is not sufficient to keep things at their best and we need help, either professionally or with more volunteers. Nevertheless, passers by continue to tell us how much they enjoy the beauty of the garden.

The hillside at the far end of the parking lot continues to require maintenance although wildflowers, including foxgloves and feverfew, now grace the area and the periwinkle is slowly becoming more widespread. Blackberries are tenaciously appearing and ongoing removal is required.

The grotto received the gift of a gracious statuette of St. Francis from **Doreen Davidson and Ruth Mills**. It is now firmly in place as keeper of this sanctuary.



*St Francis in the Grotto*

The oak tree planted long ago in memory of Sanchia Seward, continues to reach skyward, while the Golden Locust, planted in tribute to **Barry Valentine** has a mind of its own and required some lopping! (For those of you new to the parish and wondering who Barry Valentine was, take a look here:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barry\\_Valentine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barry_Valentine)

and have a chat with **Carolyn Evans**, our envelope secretary.)

**Sharon Neufeld** gave us a beautiful Honey Bush as a farewell gift which loves its home in the bed beside the lilac tree. We sorely miss Sharon and Ben and wish them happy gardening in Kelowna.

Our thanks to **Dave Phillips** for arranging the removal of piles of branches and debris which are not compostable.

**James Leslie** continued to keep the lawns maintained, and landscaper, **Dawson Brown**, pruned the apple trees, hedges and larger shrubs, for which we are grateful.

### ***Cemeteries Management***

Ron Dyck

Interment rights contracts for burial plots and ash plots signed and paid for in 2024:

<b>Full burial plots</b>	<b>Ash plots</b>
St. Mary's	St. Mary's - 2
Purdy Cunningham	Purdy Cunningham – 1
St. Mark's Upper	St. Mark's Upper

Burials and ash interments for 2024:

<b>Full burials</b>	<b>Ash interments</b>	<b>Marker installations</b>
St. Mary's - 1	St. Mary's – 3	St. Mary's – 2
Purdy Cunningham - 1	Purdy Cunningham – 1	Purdy Cunningham – 2
St. Mark's	St. Mark's Upper – 4	St. Mark's Lower
		St. Mark's Upper - 2

The St. Mary's cemetery continues to attract parishioners and Salt Spring residents, as one can see from the ash plot interment rights contracts signed and paid for in 2024. There are only a few full burial plots left at St. Mary's. More plots could be made available, but at a considerable expense for building up and leveling the slope at the back of the cemetery.

Purdy Cunningham does have a large number of available full burial plots and in November 2023 we marked out another section of ash plots, since the existing section of ash plots was full.

I wish to thank **James Leslie**, our groundskeeper who assists with opening and closing ash interments and oversees the opening and closing of full burials. His courteous and knowledgeable presence is appreciated by the grieving families. My thanks also to **Terri Manuck**, who provides backup when I am not able to be present at an interment and who has a wealth of local history that is very useful to me, a relative newcomer to the Island. A thank you to **Joe Egan**, who is often the first contact for families wishing to purchase a plot or preparing for the interment of a family member. And, not least, an appreciation for the priests who preside at the graveside services, providing pastoral care with empathy and compassion.

## Our Parish Team

### ***Incumbent and Priest-in-Charge***

**Rev Paul Schumacher** continued through the year as the *Interim Priest-in-Charge*. This is a half-time appointment in order to lead us in a process of discernment towards next steps. Paul has extensive training and experience in interim ministry, and we are grateful he has agreed to take on this role.

We are further blessed with leadership provided by retired clergy: **Sarah Belknap, Chas Belknap, Harold Munn, Bill Tarter, Elaina Hyde-Mills, Richard Stetson and Dennis Hayden**; and lay leaders: **Walter Stewart, Doreen Davidson, Debbi Toole and Josh Catt**; who are so ably offering spiritual leadership and pastoral care during this liminal time.

### ***Churchwardens – 2024***

The following were churchwardens during the year, working with the incumbent on the Parish Executive are also *ex-officio* members of Parish Council:

- Ruth Pickett Seltner – Bishop’s Warden
- Simon Wheeler – Deputy Bishops Warden
- Sally Carr – People’s Warden
- Gloria McEachern – Deputy People’s Warden

### ***Parish Council – 2024***

The membership of Parish Council is six parishioners, three of whom are elected each year for a term of two-years. The following were members of Parish Council in 2024.

<b>1<sup>st</sup> year on Council</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> year on Council</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> year on Council agreed to stay on<sup>3</sup></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dale Storm</li><li>• Judy Tyson</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gloria McEachern</li><li>• Ida Marie Threadkell</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ron Dyck</li><li>• Debbi Toole</li></ul>

We continue to be grateful to our Treasurer, **Andrew Peat**, who continues also as *ex-officio* member of Parish Council.

### ***Synod Delegates - 2024***

The following were elected as Synod Lay Delegates at the February 2024 Annual Vestry Meeting:

<b>Synod Lay Delegates - 2024</b>	<b>Alternate Lay Delegate to Synod - 2024</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ron Dyck</li><li>• Simon Wheeler</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Toto André Rodrigues</li><li>• Ruth Seltner</li></ul>

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<sup>3</sup> Ron Dyck and Debbi Toole agreed to a 3rd year on Parish Council to enable a full complement of 6 parishioners.

## Parish Life Events

### *Weddings – 1*

Kai & Cathy Lampard | February 29, 2024 | All Saints' | Pastor Ed Nowak

### *Interments – Ash Burials – 7*

All interments that were not preceded by a Memorial Service at All Saints included Graveside Services at the cemetery noted.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Cemetery</b>	<b>Name</b>
February 18	St. Mark's I	William Hogg
May 11	St. Mary's	Eileen Twa
June 10	St. Mark's II	Donald & Nancy MacDougall
June 16	St. Mary's	Howard Melnor Ferrabee
July 26	Purdy Cunningham	Grace Norah Byrne
October 19	St. Mark's II	Elsie Ann (Nancy) Wright
October 19	St. Mary's	David Peat

### *Memorial Services – All Saints by-the-Sea – 3*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Age</b>
January 20, 2024	Jennifer Steele	1985—2024	38
April 6, 2024	Kenneth Arthur Strike	1934—2024	90
July 26, 2024	Grace Norah Byrne	1931—2024	93

### *Baptisms – 0*

### *Confirmations – 0*

## Parish Mission, Vision, and Goals

Our **Mission, Vision and Goals** were developed in consultation with the parish and published in April 2018 as a "Parish Profile" - and 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 for those hurt by the Church
- 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*

November 2021

Our parish **Goals** were further updated in 2021 through a process led by a "Parish Renewal Task Force" and finally approved by Vestry in November 2021. For information on the renewal task force and its recommendations: <https://www.saltspringanglican.ca/programs/introduction>.

#### **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 reconciliation 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 relevant to the Salt Spring Island community as good stewardship of our planet.\*

#### **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 have been hurt by the church. \*

#### **Faith in Foundation:**

8. To become evermore inclusive.
9. To expand our demographic range.
10. To be more skilled at stewardship particularly with reference to money and talent.

\*additions and edits to the 2018 goals