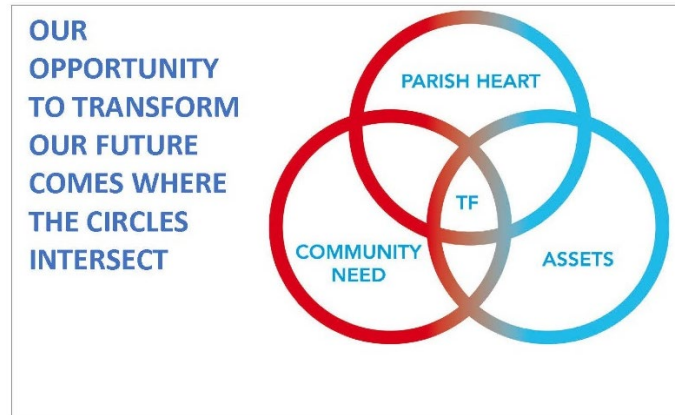




REPORT TO THE PARISH FROM THE PARISH RENEWAL TASKFORCE

Feast of St. Mary the Virgin – August 15, 2021

The Parish Renewal Taskforce has continued its work since our last report to the parish on Pentecost Sunday, although at a somewhat slower pace given summer and a relaxation of pandemic restrictions enabling travel. In the Pentecost report, the taskforce indicated that its next step was to identify a set of initiatives that could be explored in the nexus between our parish heart, our parish assets, and our community's needs.



Identifying those initiatives has been the core of our activity since Pentecost. We have prayerfully reviewed a number of possibilities. From those, so far, we have identified 5 on which we are doing significant work to define action plans.

Initiatives Identified:

1. **Welcome:** A significant broadening of our efforts on welcoming people to the parish that goes well beyond the experience in the narthex on Sunday morning. Such efforts would include getting our message out more widely about who we are, ensuring that those who join us feel included and welcomed in services, coffee hour, and in invitations to join parish activities. We also want to ensure that those who may not be interested in joining us for worship feel welcome to join us in work of community service.
2. **Reconciliation:** Any efforts we might make to aid in reconciliation between the settler community and first nations must be preceded by our own education and orientation to issues and the experiences and positions taken by those on whose unceded territories we live. Any efforts must be undertaken with humility and a willingness to listen.
3. **Worship:** Building on our traditions, we seek to include contemporary rites and resources including those from indigenous and Celtic traditions that might inspire a deeper connection with God and each other.
4. **Spiritual Formation:** Building upon the recent successes with a variety of study groups on Zoom during the pandemic and on the initial success of



“Breaking Bread” before the pandemic prevented in-person gatherings, we wish to make spiritual formation and development a focus of parish life. We anticipate this initiative involving bible study groups, groups for spiritual community, discussion groups, study groups associated with particular seasons of the church year, and education in historical and modern Anglican approaches to spirituality and to worship.

5. **Environmental Issues:** With the context of our obligation to be stewards of God’s creation, educating ourselves on our individual and corporate contributions to our changing climate and the mitigation and adaptation measures that we can make within our Salt Spring Island community.

In addition to these initiatives we recognize existing parish activities are potentially of great value in parish renewal including Mission & Outreach, Building Renewal Plans, and Star of the Sea.

In addition to these initiatives, we will also be recommending to the parish a reworking of the Parish Goals identified in March 2018:

Parish Goals – (*italics indicate proposed revisions*)

1. To become ever more inclusive – links with goal 4.
2. To expand our demographic range.
3. To meet key needs on Salt Spring through partnering with others.
4. To reflect the diversity of Salt Spring and be an agent for strengthening it.
5. To be more effective/organized in identifying needs for and providing pastoral care.
6. To explore new liturgies and modes of worship.
7. *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.*
8. *To be an open, loving, caring, and understanding community for those who have been hurt by the church.*
9. To be more skilled at stewardship particularly with reference to money and talent
10. To respond to the Climate Crisis by educating ourselves and taking action relevant to our Salt Spring Island community as good stewards of our planet.

The task force’s work going forward to its final report at the end of September will be fleshing out these initiatives into action plans. Anyone interested in one or more who would like to join a sub-committee to work on an initiative is welcome. Please indicate your interest at parishrenewal@saltspringanglican.ca

More information on the Taskforce on Parish Renewal is available at: <https://www.saltspringanglican.ca/about/parish-renewal-taskforce>. You can send a message to the taskforce at: parishrenewal@saltspringanglican.ca .