

ANGLICAN PARISH OF SALT SPRING ISLAND

PARISH PROFILE (April 2018)



All Saints By-The-Sea (1994)

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Salt Spring Island, V8K 2R7
250-537-2171
Website : saltspringanglican.ca
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St. Mark's (1892)

961 North End Road
Salt Spring Island



St. Mary's (1894) Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice (2016)

2600 Fulford Ganges Road
Salt Spring Island

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF SALT SPRING ISLAND

WHY STATEMENT

All You (*Really*) Need is Here

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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WHO WE ARE

We live and worship on the traditional lands and waters of the Sencot'en and Hul'qumi'num speaking people. We are grateful for their historic care of our island home and for their continued hospitality.

The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island was founded in 1889. Bishop George Hills, the first bishop of the Diocese of British Columbia, consecrated St. Mark's with the assistance of Salt Spring's first resident Anglican priest, J. Belton Haslam.

Central settlement was a natural choice of location at the time. Over the years, other churches were built for Anglicans on Salt Spring: St. Mary's at Fulford (1894), St. Paul's in Ganges (1913-1939), which was later replaced after a fire with St. George's (1940-1994) and St. Nicholas' (1945) in Vesuvius (now a private residence).

In the mid-1990s, St. George's was moved across the street and incorporated into the new building, All Saints by-the-Sea. Now the main church of the parish, it looks out over Ganges Harbour and is a centre for the congregation that worships and serves the entire island from there. Many community groups and activities, and particularly musical events, also take place there.

Today, all who seek God and a greater spiritual depth in their lives are welcome to Christ's table in the Anglican Parish of Salt Spring. Children are welcome in church and in the nursery or church school.

Our community is diverse – men and women; young and old; families, couples, singles; straight, gay, differing gender identity; lifelong Anglicans and first-time members of an Anglican community. All are welcome.

At the end of 2017, 211 adults and youth over 16 were on the parish list of whom 115 are identifiable givers. The average Sunday attendance is 120 with 21 people, on average, attending weekday services.

The parishioners of the Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island are open to change and welcome innovation in programs, leadership, and worship.

OUR ISLAND HOME – SALT SPRING

Salt Spring Island is the largest and most populous of the Gulf Islands of the Salish Sea between Vancouver and Victoria in south-western British Columbia. Salt Spring has a year-round population of 10,557. Those numbers swell in summer with second home owners coming to the island together with a number of tourists that grows each year.

Salt Spring is connected to the mainland, Vancouver Island, and other Gulf Islands by BC Ferries. From Long Harbour on Salt Spring there are sailings to Pender, Mayne, (transfer to Saturna), and Galiano Islands as well as Tsawwassen Ferry Terminal some 38 kilometres south of Vancouver. From Fulford Harbour, a ferry connects to Swartz Bay on Vancouver Island some 32 kilometres north of Victoria. From Vesuvius a ferry connects to Crofton on Vancouver Island some 45 kilometres south of Nanaimo.

In addition to ferry connections two sea plane companies run services from Ganges Harbour to Vancouver Harbour or to Vancouver Airport. Flight time to Vancouver Harbour is 35 minutes; flight time to YVR is 20 minutes.

Salt Spring Island remains a significantly rural community with 374 designated farms. 55% of the 7218 acres on the island within the Agricultural Land Reserve is actively farmed. A significant number of additional properties outside the reserve are several acres in size. The most densely populated section of the island is in and around the main centre, Ganges.

Salt Spring is well served by retail outlets including the legendary Mouat's Department Stores in business since 1907, Thrifty Foods, Country Grocer, The BC Liquour Stores and two additional private outlets, three pharmacies, two building supplies companies, and numerous bookstores, clothing, art, home furnishing, specialty foods, galleries, and restaurants. There are currently four hotels together with multiple vacation rentals and resorts.

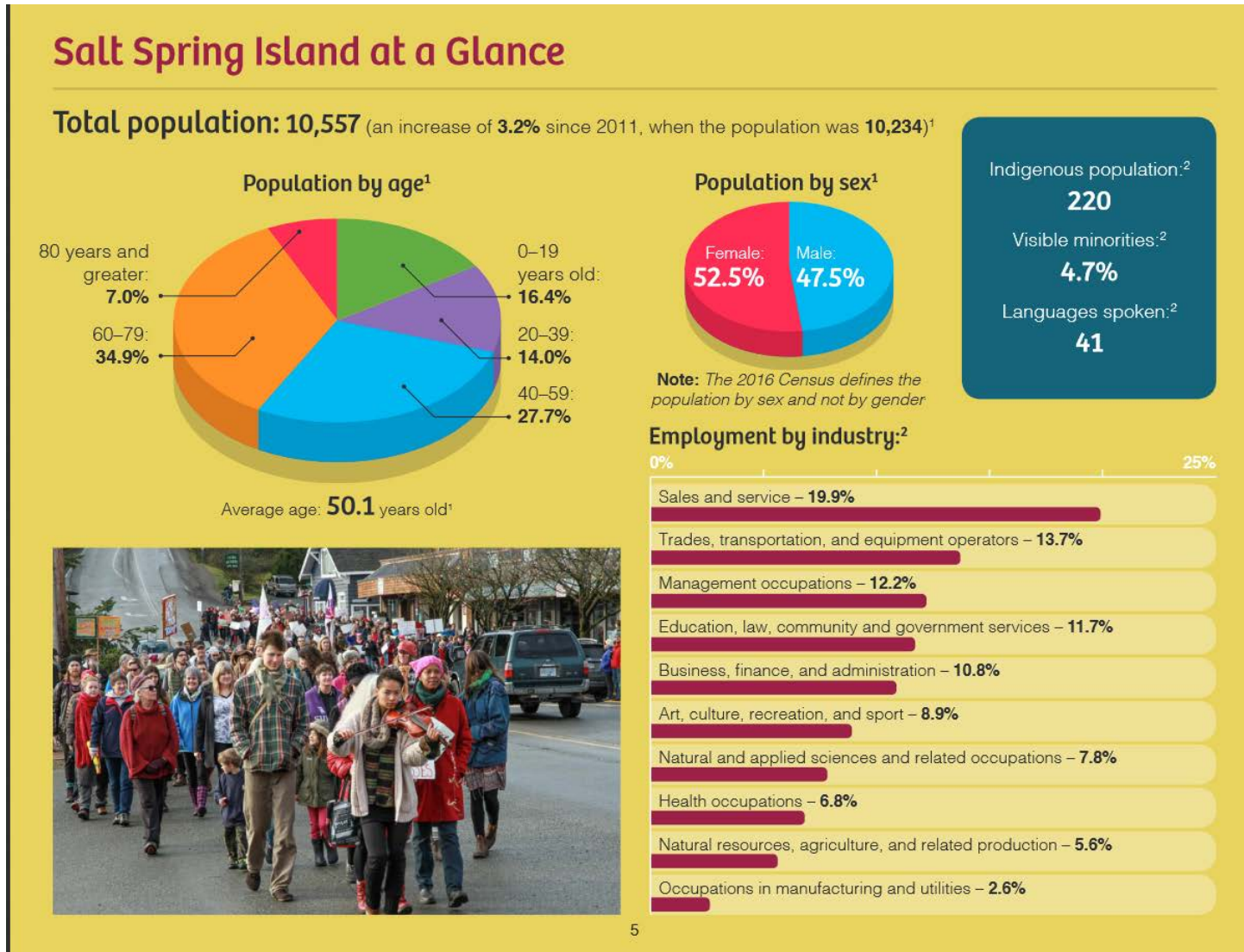
Life on Salt Spring is paradise for many, but the island has its problems. Housing availability and affordability is a growing challenge. Of the non-waterfront houses sold on Salt Spring in 2016, the average price was \$588,346. The rental vacancy rate is less than 1.5%. Housing issues impinge on business capacity to recruit staff and on the ability of people to accept employment on the island. For the homeless and low-income people, the absence of a laundromat and easily accessed shower facilities presents a real difficulty. In a recent transition day with the Bishop of British Columbia, the Anglican Parish identified affordable housing as the single greatest problem besetting the community.

Salt Spring has a temperate climate – warmer than the mainland in winter, somewhat fresher in summer. The average growing season on Salt Spring is more than 170 days among the longest in Canada.¹

[hide] Climate data for Saltspring Island (St. Mary's's Lake) 1981–2010 normals													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °C (°F)	14.0 (57.2)	15.0 (59)	19.5 (67.1)	25.5 (77.9)	29.5 (85.1)	31.5 (88.7)	33.5 (92.3)	32.0 (89.6)	31.5 (88.7)	25.5 (77.9)	16.0 (60.8)	17.0 (62.6)	33.5 (92.3)
Average high °C (°F)	6.5 (43.7)	7.8 (46)	10.4 (50.7)	13.5 (56.3)	17.1 (62.8)	20.1 (68.2)	22.7 (72.9)	22.8 (73)	19.5 (67.1)	13.8 (56.8)	8.8 (47.8)	6.1 (43)	14.1 (57.4)
Daily mean °C (°F)	4.3 (39.7)	5.0 (41)	7.0 (44.6)	9.6 (49.3)	12.9 (55.2)	15.8 (60.4)	18.1 (64.6)	18.4 (65.1)	15.4 (59.7)	10.8 (51.4)	6.6 (43.9)	4.1 (39.4)	10.7 (51.3)
Average low °C (°F)	2.0 (35.6)	2.2 (36)	3.5 (38.3)	5.6 (42.1)	8.7 (47.7)	11.5 (52.7)	13.5 (56.3)	13.9 (57)	11.3 (52.3)	7.7 (45.9)	4.3 (39.7)	2.1 (35.8)	7.2 (45)
Record low °C (°F)	-10.0 (14)	-10.5 (13.1)	-6.0 (21.2)	-1.0 (30.2)	2.0 (35.6)	4.4 (39.9)	5.0 (41)	8.0 (46.4)	5.0 (41)	-3.0 (26.6)	-10.0 (14)	-11.0 (12.2)	-11.0 (12.2)
Average <u>precipitation</u> mm (inches)	162.1 (6.382)	98.5 (3.878)	88.6 (3.488)	56.8 (2.236)	43.0 (1.693)	37.4 (1.472)	23.2 (0.913)	28.0 (1.102)	33.1 (1.303)	94.0 (3.701)	167.9 (6.61)	154.3 (6.075)	987.0 (38.858)
Source: Environment Canada ^[20]													

¹ Agriculture Canada

The following chart is taken from *2017 Salt Spring Island's Vital Signs*[®] courtesy of the Salt Spring Island Foundation. It provides a very accurate snapshot of the island.





Leaving Fulford Harbour on SSI bound for Swartz Bay

Health services are of high quality on Salt Spring. The life expectancy from birth on the island in 2015 was 84.43 years – slightly higher than either Vancouver or Victoria. The Lady Minto Hospital provides primary hospital services including emergency care, acute care, and long-term care. BC Ambulance provides transfers to larger hospitals on Vancouver Island and the mainland as required by helicopter and ambulance. Again, all is not wonderful. Finding a general practitioner can be difficult, mental health services are in short supply, and emergency dental services do not exist.

In September 2016 there were 1331 students registered in Kindergarten to Grade 12 on Salt Spring Island. Students on Salt Spring regularly achieve results above provincial averages. The Salt Spring population is highly educated. In 2011, 64.2% of Salt Spring residents aged 15 and over hold post-secondary credentials compared to a provincial average of 55.7%. 22.4% of the population hold advanced degrees compared to a provincial average of 14.5%.

Salt Spring has an active and diverse cultural life. There are 18 organizations that encourage participation in the arts, 42 studios on the Art Walk and Studio Tour, 15 galleries, and the Gulf Islands School of the Performing Arts. Art Spring the island theatre and gallery brings international artists to perform on the island. Recent performers include, the Rolston String Quartet, Jan Lisiecki, the Remi Bolduc Jazz Ensemble, The Gryphon Trio, and the Victoria Baroque Ensemble. Art Spring is also heavily used by the local theatre, music, and dance communities. In 2016 more than 20,000 tickets were purchased for Art Spring hosted events. A number of other venues on the island have regular performances of music and dance particularly in the summer. Each February, the Salt Spring Film Festival brings documentary films to the island from across the globe. In 2018 there were 47 screenings of 41 different films. 2018 marks the 50th anniversary of Artcraft the province's longest running arts and crafts exhibit and sale.



Courtesy of the Salt Spring Photography Club

The visual arts scene is no less vital. The island’s galleries showcase local artists and artists from the mainland and Vancouver Island and the other Gulf Islands. Every second year, the Salt Spring Arts and Craft Council stage the Salt Spring National Art Prize. The intent of the Salt Spring National Art Prize (SSNAP) is to encourage artists whose practice demonstrates originality, quality, integrity and creativity, resulting in significant work with a real visual impact and depth of meaning. This competition promotes creative dialogue and collaboration between the Salt Spring Island arts community and artists from across Canada.

Salt Spring is renowned for its Saturday market which draws visitors from literally around the world. The market occurs from Easter to Thanksgiving. Nothing can be sold at the market that is not grown, produced, or made on the island. Cheese, vegetables, fruit, fish, meat, baked goods, jams and preserves, plants, pottery, fabric art, wood working, jewellery, and other handicrafts of the highest quality are all available. From June to October, many locals leave the Saturday market to the visitors and patronize the Tuesday afternoon Farmer’s Only Market for the best of local food of which there is none better.

Recreational Activities on the island are varied and easily accessed. Parks, a public swimming pool, a golf course, lakes, and the sea all present many opportunities for hiking, walking, cycling, swimming, golf, kayaking, boating, and competitive sports.

Prospective candidates who would like to understand more about Salt Spring Island are encouraged to read the Salt Spring Island Foundation’s Vital Signs Report for 2017. <http://ssifoundation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/SSIF-Vital-Signs-Report.pdf> Unless otherwise acknowledged, statistical

information about the island in this profile comes from this report. In addition, the Salt Spring Visitor Centre has a great deal of information on the island on its website: <http://www.saltspringtourism.com/>.



Courtesy of the Salt Spring Photography Club

WHERE WE ARE NOW

The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island takes the Diocesan Vision of Renewed Hearts, Renewed Spirits, Renewed People very seriously. We are deeply aware that we have accomplished much in some areas of Faith in Foundation, Formation, and Action; we have a long way to go in others. Our previous rector was successful in leading us into new ministries that have expanded our reach; we look forward to how we can work with a new rector to reach out in different ways.

Faith in Formation:

The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island has an active and vital worship life greatly enriched by an excellent music program. Much of the principal Eucharist of the week is sung not only by the choir under the direction of a very skilled Director of Music, but by the congregation. Visitors often remark on how well hymns and psalms are sung by parishioners.

The parish is accustomed to varied and experimental liturgies and is open and eager for innovation in worship and open to worship options from other traditions. Lay people play a leading role in worship in leading prayers, as ministrants, in reading the lections including the gospel, and in giving parish announcements. Parishioners include a significant number of theological informed individuals with an understanding of scripture and of the church.

Those in the parish who prefer more traditional Anglican approaches to liturgy continue to support Book of Common Prayer services at St. Mark's and occasionally at St. Mary's.

Music is also an important outreach activity for the parish. Through the colder months the Parish's Music Makers team produces a concert series that offers music weekly in the summer and monthly in the rest of the year. These concerts are attended by many islanders and visitors and serve to introduce the parish to a wider community. All Saints Church with its first-class organ is used by a variety of community music organizations for concerts additional to those sponsored by Music Makers.

The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island makes every effort to be an inclusive church and continually examines how it could be more open and more inclusive. When asked by the Bishop what the parish does well and what it could do differently, inclusion featured prominently on both lists.

The parish is a happy place with people grateful to be engaged with each other. We are, however, concerned that self-satisfaction may blind us to the needs of others and opportunities to build God's kingdom in the here and now. Our joy in one another may distract us from being as welcoming to the stranger as we would like to be. The concern about self-satisfaction surfaced in discussions with the Bishop. The parish looks for ways to be mindful of the concern.

Members of the parish provide each other with strong mutual support. Needs are noted, and needs are usually met informally with both care and generosity. The parish has a prayer chain that is much valued for intercessory prayer. Pastoral Care is offered at care homes and the hospital.

The parish is deeply concerned with its demographic profile. The Parish takes seriously the Diocesan vision of the importance of ministry to youth and young families, but there are few young people in the parish, the majority of parishioners are over 60 and many past 80. Older members have all played active roles in the life of the parish over, in some cases, many decades, but there can be no doubt that our ability to accomplish things in the church and in the community is limited by the age of many parishioners. While the parish continually looks for ways of attracting a broader demographic, it must be admitted that our demographic is the island's demographic. Salt Spring is an older community. (See the chart on page 7). Over the years, various efforts have been made to reach out to youth. From time to time those efforts have been successful, but then have foundered as one cohort of youth grows up and leaves the island for education and work. Unfortunately, most young people do leave the island, while some return, it is not usually until later in life.

Notwithstanding our aging and aged cohort, parish members are active volunteers in the church and in the community. In the church, hospitality, elements of pastoral care, maintenance, and fund raising are all dependent on volunteers. Anglicans are active volunteers in the arts, social services, the environment, and recreation on the island. Anglicans on Salt Spring engage God's world as we find it on our island and beyond. Our presence at Christ's table on Sunday, equips us for the many "altars" at which we live out our baptism through the week.

Faith in Foundation:

The parish is financially sound and successfully meets unexpected challenges because of generous responses to special appeals. While generosity is much in evidence, the Anglican Parish does not have a widely developed culture of stewardship. Weekly offerings are in some ways more like the price of admission than an obligation as a Christian and a church person. Offerings are generous when the

donor is present, but offerings may not be made up when the donor is absent. Progress towards a culture of stewardship has been made in recent years. Automatic deductions have proven very successful at stabilizing some of the parish's financial base; some 30% of regular donors are now enrolled in the program. Continued progress is required.

The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring has a good foundation to become who God is calling us to be in future decades. Change is not a dirty word.

Faith in Action:

We are very open to other traditions in Christianity and count ecumenical relations with other churches on the island to be extremely important. Our openness does not stop with other Christians. We are committed to dialogue with diverse spiritual traditions across the spectrum of the ways humanity has wrestled with understanding of the divine. The most obvious manifestation of that openness is the Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice. (see below)

While we have a limited number of indigenous people on the island, they are drawn from across the country. We live in the traditional territories of people who became Roman Catholic in the colonial period. From time-to-time we have had positive contact with those communities even though none of these first nations maintains a permanent presence on Salt Spring.

Early settlers on Salt Spring included a number of Hawaiians. Several families remain on the island. Although they are primarily associated with St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church a.k.a. the Hawaiian Church, the Anglican Parish has an annual Hawaiian Heritage Sunday in which the remaining families participate.

Our parish is home to recovering Christians from many traditions – people for whom the church was more persecutor than sanctuary. We take our ministry to such people very seriously and make every effort to acknowledge past hurts and assist in the recovery of a spiritual life.

OUR CORE MINISTRIES

FAITH IN FORMATION

Worship and Music

Worship and music in the parish are supported by active Altar Guilds in the three churches together with a Server's Guild. Sunday School is offered at All Saints when children are present. The Music Director leads the choir; both support strong congregational singing.

The Holy Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday at 10:00 at All Saints in Ganges to a variety of contemporary liturgies authorized by the Diocese, fully supported by a talented director of music and a 25-member choir.

There is high involvement of lay people in worship at All Saints including servers, readers (including the gospel), intercessors, ministrants, and leaders of prayer with laying on of hands.

The BCP Eucharist is celebrated twice a month on Sunday at 11:45 at St. Mark's with the support of a server and an organist.

At St. Mary's, BCP Eucharists are celebrated at Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving and occasional Sundays during the better weather with the support of a server and an organist.

A mid-week BCP Eucharist and Bible study following a session of Centring Prayer is held at St. Mark's each Tuesday morning.

A Contemplative Eucharist to contemporary rites is held at All Saints at 16:45 each Thursday.

Advent, Lent, and Holy Week afford additional services – most held at All Saints.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is offered by the rector and lay volunteers to patients in the hospital and residents of long-term care homes. A group of volunteers operates the prayer chain for intercessory prayer. Another group of volunteers makes prayer shawls for persons, grieving a loss, or facing medical or emotional difficulties or celebrating a milestone. Three teams have been organized to offer home communion to those unable to make it to church.

FAITH IN FOUNDATION

Building and Grounds

All Saints has recently created a Building Committee to monitor the state of the building and to make recommendations to Parish Council on maintenance and replacement schedules for the building.

The gardens around All Saints are maintained and enhanced by a small army of skilled volunteers.

The three Anglican cemeteries on the island are managed by a volunteer committee.

Our buildings, particularly All Saints are critical to our outreach to the community. All Saints is used by multiple community groups on a regular basis. Use of our building is how many in the community come to know us.

Parish Council

In this interim period parish council is chaired by the Bishop's Warden

. There are 5 ex-officio and 11 members at large of parish council all of whom are deeply involved in parish life in addition to their service on council.

Finance

The parish's financial health is continually monitored by the Finance Committee composed of the Wardens, the Chair of Finance, the Deputy Chair of Finance, and the Treasurer.

On-going fundraising activities in the parish include revenue from donations at Coffee Hour, the Anglican Caterers, the Christmas Bazaar, the spring Garage Sale, the Pie Makers, the Quilters, and Country Grocer Tapes, Bottle Depot returns, and donations for use of facilities by groups from the wider community.

The operating budget results for 2017, accepted at the Vestry Meeting of February 18, 2018, were as follows:

Income	\$259,550.90
Expenses	\$248,585.50
Surplus 2017	\$ 10,965.40
Surplus 2016	\$ 3,079.99

The Anglican Parish receives income from open offerings, church envelopes (approximately 30% of regular givers are now on direct deposit), weddings, funerals, donations for use of the halls, and the Christmas bazaar.

The parish has recently transferred \$15,000 from its accumulated surplus to a capital fund for repairs and renewals. In 2017, the parish spent some \$18,000 on refinishing floors at All Saints in the church, the upper hall, and the lower hall. The entire cost was covered by a special appeal to the parishioners.

In addition to the funds the parish can transfer from operating to capital the parish benefits from the interest of the Cree Shaw Trust which is, by the terms of the trust, distributed equally among the three churches for maintenance of both building and grounds.

Administration

The Parish Administrator keeps things co-ordinated and ensures that all is working, ably assisted by a cohort of volunteers.

Communication

With the support of the Diocese the parish has relaunched its website in a format that is clear and easy to edit and update. Enhancements will continue.

FAITH IN ACTION

Star of the Sea

The Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice is an offering of the Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island for people on the island and beyond who seek greater spiritual meaning and depth in their lives regardless of the traditions for spiritual development they wish to explore. While various Christian spiritual traditions will certainly feature in programming at the Star of the Sea, the program will include approaches to spiritual development across multiple religious traditions and multiple approaches from traditions outside what are normally thought of as “The Great Religions.”

The Star of the Sea was begun in 2016 and formally launched on September 30th, 2017. It is located at St. Mary’s, Fulford Harbour an historic 1894 parish church that has been reconfigured to make it available not only for Anglican worship on occasion, but to be a flexible, comfortable space for differing approaches to spiritual development including those incorporating movement, contemplation, and active discussion. Already, those who have participated in a variety of Star of the Sea activities have commented on what a difference it makes to pursue their search in historic sacred space.

The Star of the Sea’s program is developed by a multi-faith development team.

The Anglican Parish supported by the Diocese of British Columbia provides the facilities and logistical and financial support to the Star of the Sea program. Programming itself is supported by modest

registration fees. There are bursaries available to reduce even those modest fees. The Star of the Sea is committed to ensuring that economic circumstances are not a barrier to full participation in the centre's activities.

Since the formal launch on September 30, 2017, the Star of the Sea has hosted 12 events. Many events have been oversubscribed. By March 2018 more than 200 individual registrations have been received. A further 12 events are planned and announced. Work continues developing events for the summer and the next fall and winter season.

For an outline of Star of the Sea's activities both past and planned please go to <https://www.staroftheseassi.ca/>

The Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice – a place to learn, to let go, to seek and to find in the search for the true self.

- A key project of the parish of Salt Spring Island.

Outreach

Outreach is very important to the parish. We support local, national, and international activities directed by an active Outreach Committee.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

The Parish wants to become ever more inclusive. We want to become more visible in the community by telling our story more effectively through action as much as through words.

We want to exhaust every possibility for the expansion of our demographic range. We want to be much more than old white-haired people.

We want to make a difference in the key needs of the island through partnering with others who are attempting to address the issues. Meeting those needs is a step towards greater social justice.

We want to reflect our community and be an agent for strengthening it.

We want to be more organized to provide effective pastoral care.

We want to continue to explore new liturgies and modes of worship.

We want to be a place of reconciliation for those who have been hurt by the church.

We want to be more skilled at stewardship particularly with reference to money and talent.

WHAT CAN WE PROVIDE?

The Diocese of British Columbia and the Parish of Salt Spring Island will welcome our next Rector with prayerful and practical support in whatever way possible and may include the following:

1. Our Bishop's Consultation Team and Parish council will offer support and assistance for a family or individual making the transition to Salt Spring Island.

2. The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island is a well-structured organization with experienced groups and strong leadership in the areas of administration, finance, buildings and grounds and parish council.
3. Assistance with pastoral care will be provided by a number of retired clergy and trained lay people.
4. An exceptional music program with leadership by our music director provides a sound foundation for worship.
5. A variety of active and well managed ministries contributes to the life and finances of our Parish together with the needs of the community at large.
6. Enthusiastic parish members are supportive and receptive to change in leadership and preaching styles.

WHO WILL LEAD US?

We will be led by a prayerful priest who challenges us to live out our baptismal covenant, values music and innovative liturgies, embraces inclusion, and journeys into the wider community with us.



Courtesy of the Salt Spring Photography Club