

PARISH CEMETERIES

Terri Manuck

2019 has been an interesting, but challenging year. There were six ash interments: one at St. Mary's, one at St. Mark's II, and four at Purdy Cunningham.

We set, or reset, 8 flat markers: one at St. Mary's required a lot of work as it was an old grave and needed a lot of fill before it could be levelled and a new marker installed.

We reserved four ash plots, all at Purdy Cunningham: two for two sets of ashes and two singles.

For some of the markers, the families contact **James Leslie** themselves. I often give people his contact information. They pay him directly. If it is work for the Parish, James bills the parish. This could involve digging or filling, or leveling, or resetting markers that were not done properly the first time, and must now be re-done.

The graves and plots at St. Mary's Cemetery are currently being checked for accuracy as the rows have become crooked, and corner markers will be installed by **James Leslie** in the spring. There is little space left on level ground for full burials, but ash plots are still available.

I am in the process of writing a guide book for the Volunteer Cemetery Coordinator regarding laying out of grave sites, ash plots, etc.

Fernwood Landscaping looked after the maintenance of the cemeteries in 2019. A load of fill was kindly donated to the parish by Akerman Farms Gravel Supply and delivered free of charge by Rick Andrews Excavating.

There are **four cemeteries** attached to the Anglican Parish: St. Mary's, two at Baker Road known as St. Mark's I & II, and Purdy Cunningham Memorial Cemetery. We bury both ashes and caskets at St. Mary's and Purdy Cunningham, St. Mark's being quite full.

Notes: Many thanks to **Terri Manuck** for her work as Volunteer Cemeteries' Coordinator, to **Doreen Davidson** who assisted her, and to **Dave Phillips** and **James Leslie** for arranging the open/close of ash interments.

CEMETERY STORM DAMAGE UPDATE

Doreen Davidson, Incumbent's Warden

Light in the Darkness

On December 20th, 2018, a windstorm hit Salt Spring Island blowing along Booth Canal gathering intensity and funnelling north east across St. Mark's cemetery, the golf course and across Purdy Cunningham cemetery.

Over a dozen trees were uprooted. Almost all fell across graves and fences. Many large-sized branches broke off, and there was much in the way of small debris.

One monument and one memorial stone were smashed and have been replaced. Six other monuments were repaired at St. Mark's cemetery.

Removing the trees from the graves, and the repair and replacement of memorial stones, was all covered by insurance. Fencing and landscaping to repair the indentations left by the fallen trees is work that still needs to be done and is not covered by insurance.

The west and north fences at St. Mark's II (north side of Baker Road) need replacing. At the eastern end of Purdy Cunningham, six trees fell onto the split-rail fence destroying it as well as the wire fence at the corner between the Cunningham property and the cemetery. At least two trees need to be felled as they are leaning precariously over fences.

Grateful thanks go to **Alan Cunningham** for all his help and advice at Purdy Cunningham, and to **James Leslie** for helping to repair the split-rail fence where it was possible to do so.