

Faith and tradition are like canvass and clay not finished museum pieces – Diana Butler Bass

A TASK FORCE ON PARISH RENEWAL AS WE EMERGE FROM THE PANDEMIC

The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island seeks to be a community of faith expressed in love for God and all our neighbours – near and far.

The Taskforce on Parish renewal is established to assess to what extent we have realized parish goals, how much more we have to do, and how we will do it in dramatically changing times.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TASK FORCE ON PARISH RENEWAL

The Task Force is asked to chart ways of moving forward. There is no expectation of a return to a pre-pandemic “normal”. Who is God calling us to become and how will we make it so is the Task Force’s commission.

The Task Force is charged with looking at all aspects of parish life and recommending paths forward that will enable God’s people in the parish to be true to Christ and to be a blessing to the community and each other.

As it goes about its work, the Taskforce will proceed with deep sensitivity, but all will be on the table for discussion, reflection, and prayer

The Task Force will be as mindful of things that we no longer need do or can do, as it is open to all the things we might do.

The Task Force will be equally focused on parish mission, recruiting and welcoming new people, worship life, and parish resources – financial and other. The Task Force may well establish subgroups to address each, but it will not lose sight that all are inextricably linked and of absolute equal importance*.

Each member of the Task Force will need to proceed prayerfully; in addition, a prayer team will be appointed to specifically focus prayer on the work of parish renewal.

The Task Force will be commissioned on Easter Sunday 2021. It will present interim reports on Pentecost 2021(May 23) and on the Feast of St. Mary the Virgin (August 15th) and a final report on the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels (September 29th).

Recommendations from the Task Force will be **S.M.A.R.T** – *Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and on a Timeline*

*The three categories in the Diocesan Vision: Faith in Foundation, Action, and Formation may be a useful model for subgroups. See goals below:

*Note subgroups may recruit others to join with a member of the Task Force chairing the group.

Background:

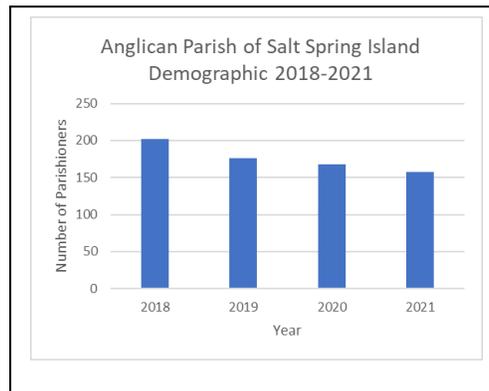
In the spring of 2018, in developing a parish profile to recruit a new incumbent, the Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island set out its goals:

- 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. **Faith in Action**
- We want to exhaust every possibility for the expansion of our demographic range. We want to be much more than old white-haired people. **Faith in Foundation**
- 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. **Faith in Action**
- We want to reflect our community and be an agent for strengthening it. **Faith in Action**
- We want to be more organized to provide effective pastoral care. **Faith in Formation**
- We want to continue to explore new liturgies and modes of worship. **Faith in Formation**
- We want to be a place of reconciliation for those who have been hurt by the church. **Faith in Action**
- We want to be more skilled at stewardship particularly with reference to money and talent. **Faith in Foundation**

Four changes since 2018:

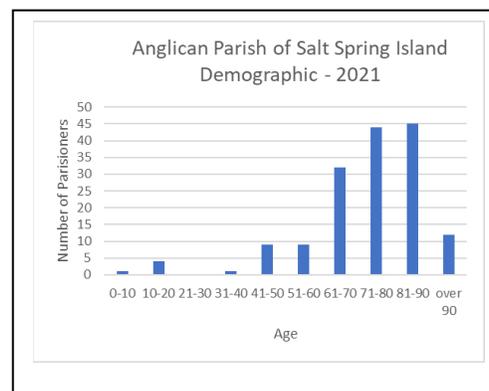
1. We are fewer:

2018	202
2019	176
2020	168
2021	157

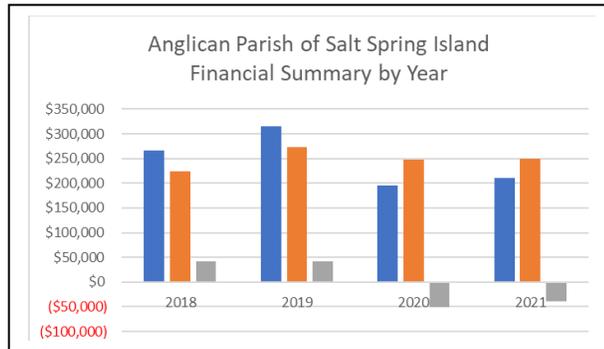


2. We are older:

CONGREGATION BY AGE	
Years Old	Number in 2021
0-10	1
11-20	4
21-30	0
31-40	1
41-50	9
51-60	9
61-70	32
71-80	44
81-90	45
over 90	12
TOTAL	157



3. We have a financial challenge:



YEAR	INCOME	EXPENSES	SURPLUS (DEFICIT)
2018	\$266,614.98	\$224,232.61	\$42,482.37
2019	\$315,722.19	\$273,125.50	\$42,596.69
*2020	\$195,581.22	\$247,113.96	(\$51,532.74)
*2021	\$210,425.00	\$249,507.00	(\$39,082.00)

*NOTE – 2020 results do not include the Federal Wage Subsidy of \$33,719.37. The actual deficit was \$14, 210.30. The numbers in the table represent income generated by the parish.

2021 approved budget further includes an expected \$15,000 Federal Wage Subsidy making the actual shortfall we are challenged to clear \$24,082. Again as I 2020 the numbers in the table reflect parish generated income.

Clearly some significant portion of our financial challenge is caused by COVID and church shut-down. We do not know how quickly or how much revenues will return to pre-Covid levels.

4. **We have found new ways** of being a community and new ways to come together in worship during the pandemic that will be valuable to meeting our goals even after the pandemic passes.

What has not changed:

- God’s call to us to serve
- Our desire individually and collectively to say yes to that call
- Our sense that the 2018 goals continue to express our mission

Membership:*

Elizabeth Van Akker
 Debbi Toole
 Gyllian Davies
 Dovene Steele
 Walter Stewart

Lolla Devindisch
 Ruth Seltner
 Emma Phillips
 Judy Tyson
 John Metzger

Resource People

Dale Storm
 Andrew Peat