

A New Website for You, the Parish of Central Saanich

– December 1, 2014

We are very excited to introduce you to our new Parish website! You have probably seen a few stories about the new website, and now it is here for you.

Why did we develop a new website?

Early thoughts about a new website were to combine the two existing websites to make one website that will represent the Parish of Central Saanich while also being representative of St. Stephen's and St. Mary's. Then, we identified two key objectives that the new website needed to fulfill.

1. The first objective was to focus on the potentially new parishioners. These are the group of people who are motivated enough to use the internet to help them select a church to attend that would have interests and practices that closely matched their own. While people used to visit a church on a Sunday and perhaps talk to the minister, they now use the internet. We therefore shifted our focus from having a freshly painted entrance to the church, to offering a clear, concise and focused presence on the internet - our "front door" has become a meaningful presence on the internet. We need to excite the web surfer to want to revisit our website and progress to being a casual drop-in, and ultimately become a member of our parish who has chosen to continue along their spiritual journey with us.
2. The second objective was to provide new and improved ways for our parishioners to enhance the communication between and amongst parishioners. By doing so, we would help each parishioner along their spiritual growth and path. The information shared amongst our parishioners is more private and confidential, and must be kept private.

We are excited to introduce you to the new Parish website that we feel will successfully deliver on both of those key objectives. Furthermore, you can access the system on a Windows PC, or Mac laptop, or on a tablet, or iPad or iPhone!

What's Next?

Yesterday, December 1, the new website was available for all parishioners, and of course the general public who are motivated enough to perhaps do a Google search for Anglican churches on the Saanich Peninsula. So, jump aboard and enjoy a tour of the new website. The internet address of the new website is www.ParishCS.ca. The name is a short version of the ParishOfCentral Saanich.

FYI, to go along with this new website name, we also have a new email address which is similar to the website name – our new email address is ParishCS@shaw.ca. We have also chosen a new logo, and it is now used throughout our website, and on letterhead, documents, and elsewhere. It is an elongated cross. If you rotate it slowly, you may be able to pick out a C and an S (could it be that it stands for Central Saanich?). If you have a need to use a copy of the new logo, please contact Leslie Pedlow or Tracy Stubbs.

You will begin to use the new website address immediately, because effective yesterday (December 1), the addresses for the old St. Mary's and St. Stephen's websites will also direct you to the new Parish website. In fact, for a period of time, even if you try to use the old address, it will automatically send you to the new Parish website.

We are in the final stage of testing the process and documentation that you will use to get access to the Member's Area. This area includes the Parish Calendar, online Directory, minutes of reports, bulletins,

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and other reports. You will be receiving the instructions and your personal temporary password as soon as the testing is completed. **Content Enhancements:**

We are committed to refreshing the content of our website about every 3 months. As priorities and resources permit, you will be advised when we are introducing new features and enhancements.

We fully tested the version of the system that is available for you now. We also used a small group of parishioners to test the system. However, if you find something that fell through the cracks, please let us know. We have detected a bit of behaviour difference if you are using Internet Explorer versus Chrome, and that issue is being worked on. If we have missed any errors or omissions, spelling errors etc. with the content in this new Parish website, please let us know by sending an email. We think we caught all of our mistakes, and we think that we tested every link (to an email format, to an external website, and within our website). But if you find something, please email Derek Osman (at ParishCS@shaw.ca), and gleefully tell him what you found.

New Photos:

Also, as a picture is as good as a thousand words, we'd like to have more pictures, and fewer words. As it is our intension to refresh our website about every 3 months, then with fewer words ... well you get the picture!

The photos will change as the weeks go by, to reflect current activities within the Parish. If you have a photo suitable for the website, let John Beresford know (again at ParishCS@shaw.ca). He will be compiling images that can be used for future events. Please ensure that, if you take a photo of someone, you get their permission to have it appear on the website. Also, you should contact John for the guidelines for the size and resolution of the images.

The Challenge:

Just to make the challenge for improving our website and making it more interesting, for every correction or improvement in content (that could also include pictures) that you send Derek or John, your name will be entered into a contest. Then a winner - one from St. Mary's and one from St. Stephen's - will be randomly selected to receive a mystery gift!

So have fun navigating your way through our new website to tell us how it can be improved (only the content or pictures though - we are not interested in design recommendations at this stage!!).

Good luck - this challenge is only open for 2 weeks, until December 14.