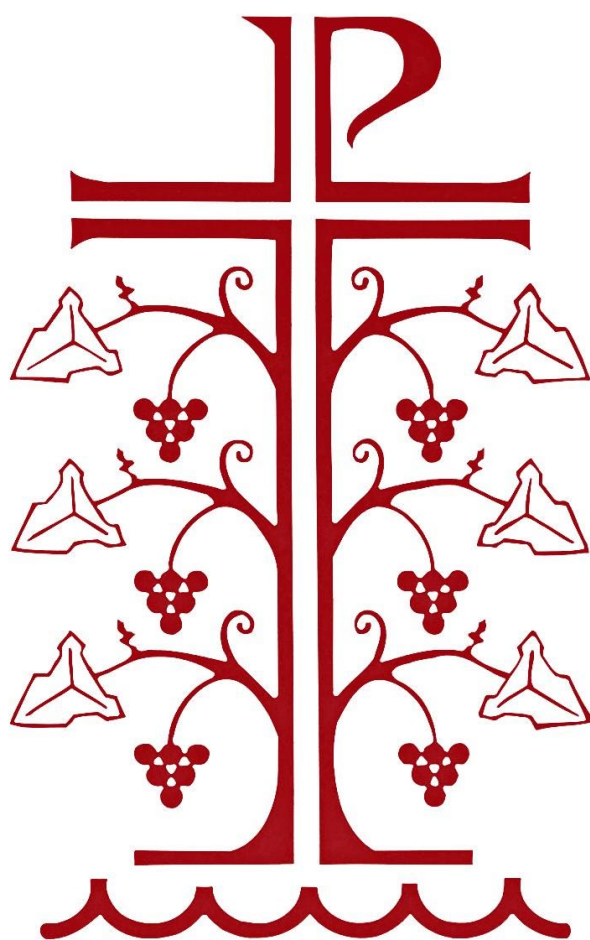


ST JOHN THE DIVINE, COURTENAY  
2026 ANNUAL GENERAL VESTRY MEETING  
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22 2026

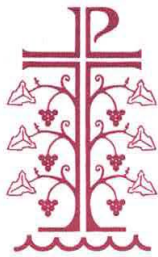


# VESTRY REPORTS

PART 1 - MINISTRIES

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## CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN THE DIVINE

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

579 FIFTH STREET, COURTENAY, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA V9N 1K2

### Rector's Report to Vestry

February 2026

*"Where there is no vision, the people perish." - Proverbs 29:18 (cf. Habakkuk 2:2)*

Vision matters. It gives direction, coherence, and hope. As people of faith, vision isn't something we manufacture, but something we prayerfully discern; listening for where God's Spirit is already moving and inviting us to walk faithfully in response. At St. John the Divine, our vision isn't held in isolation. We're part of something larger: the Diocese, a body of faith communities scattered across these Islands and Inlets. This fall, we'll gather in Victoria for Synod. The word *synod* literally means "walking together along the road," and it's a powerful image for where we find ourselves at this moment in our common life.

Bishop Anna has begun important conversations with clergy and laity across the Diocese about refreshing our diocesan vision. For nearly fifteen years, the vision articulated under Bishop Logan's leadership (*renewed hearts, renewed faith, renewed people*) has served us well. It has grounded us, shaped us, and sustained us through times of change. Yet, with all living things, vision must be revisited and renewed. The question before us now is: how might God's Spirit be calling us afresh in this season?

At the parish level, over the past five years since I've had the honour of serving as Rector of St. John the Divine, we've intentionally focused our life and ministry around three core areas: Worship, Inreach, and Outreach. These have served as touchstones ("faith areas / zones," if you will) helping us remain attentive to how we serve God and our wider community.

**Worship** lies at the heart of who we are. Our deep and cherished Anglican traditions continue to feed and sustain us, grounding both our personal and collective faith.

**Inreach** reminds us to care for one another through fellowship, pastoral care, bible study, and shared life. It's here that we grow together, engage one another, and deepen our faith.

**Outreach** calls us beyond ourselves; into our neighbourhoods and the wider world..blessing and serving others through practical acts of compassion and justice.

As we prepare for Synod in the coming months, I'd like to suggest that we reflect prayerfully on how our local expression of faith in these three areas might connect with (and contribute to) the wider diocesan vision as it continues to take shape. Our ongoing *Futures* discussions would provide an excellent forum for this shared discernment.

Before concluding, I would be remiss if I didn't offer my heartfelt gratitude to the many tireless and committed people who pour their heart and soul into St. John's. I cannot name everyone, but I'd like to extend particular thanks to our wardens, Cary and Marj, for their faithful leadership; Rev. Marion (and David) for her many gifts and guidance; Kathy for her tireless dedication during a very challenging season with the rectory; Dagmar and Ginny for their good and faithful work; and to our Parish Council, lay leaders, altar guild, greeters, and all who serve quietly and faithfully behind the scenes. I could go on, but space runs out long before my gratitude ever could.

Thank you to each and every one of you for the love, care, and support you show to our beloved parish. May our Lord continue to guide and bless us as we walk together into 2026 with hope and trust.

In Christ,

**Alastair+**

Incumbent, St. John the Divine, Courtenay



Phone: (250) 334-4331

E-Mail: [admin@sjtdcourtenay.ca](mailto:admin@sjtdcourtenay.ca)

Website: [www.sjtdcourtenay.ca](http://www.sjtdcourtenay.ca)

## PARISH COUNCIL

*The duty of parish council shall be to assist and support the incumbent and the churchwardens in the general business and the programs of the parish. (Canon 7.8A)*

By design the above is overly simple, offering little in the way of guidance to the members of Parish Council on how to do their job. Every parish is different and each must develop their own rhythm and process. At a recent Futures meeting someone said, “I don’t understand who does what.” Think about this sailing analogy.

- Synod articulates a path toward discovery and marshals the ocean’s waters
- Vestry sets the course and chooses the vessel focusing on local options within the Diocese’s vision
- Parish Council diligently watches the ship’s progress, anticipating challenges and opportunities
- Rector attracts and nurtures the crew while steering the ship
- Wardens act together as First Mates to manage operations
- Parishioners set the sails, swab the deck and act as lookouts for course correction

While parishioners may be the last bullet on the list, everything actually flows UP the chain. WE elect representatives including the Bishop, who was elected at Synod by the Synod Delegates WE elected. Parishioners ARE Parish Council. Parish Council IS Vestry. And as someone else at that Futures workshop said, “WE are Synod.” So yes, it can be confusing and extremely hard to put on paper.

2025 Parish Council membership included clergy (Rev A Hunting, Deacon M Edmondson) Wardens (Marj Aitken and Cary Davis), Synod Delegate (Bev Worbets) plus members at large (Barb Neid, Andrea Davis, Corina Grossman and Fred McAffrey) for a total of 9 voting members. Early in 2025 Shirley Jodrey resigned and Bill Henderson left later in the year. The Treasurer (Marcia Haley) and PC Secretary (Kathy Coulthart-Dewey) were non-voting resources.

Some members were aligned with specific areas of interest in the parish operations. Their role was to monitor activities within their sphere of interest, communicating and supporting activities and concerns. Every Parish Council agenda includes an item for “Roundtable Updates/Areas of Interest”. It is an opportunity to freely report and chat about anything affecting the parish. This time is often more important than specific motions/decisions. This report is structured to reflect those areas of interest.

Finance – B Neid  
InReach – M Aitken

Buildings/Property – C Davis  
Worship – C Grossmann

Outreach – M Edmondson  
Communications - ?

Parish Council met 11 times in 2025, hosting 7 ministry leaders who enlightened members on how their various groups operate: their successes and vision (Restaurantours, Celtic Service, Events, GIG, Men’s Guld, Pastoral Care/Prayer Chain, Garden Appreciation). Considerable time was spent on building/property issues and the money needed to maintain for them (kitchen, perimeter drains, furnaces, blinds, doors, signs, earthquake insurance, renters and groundskeepers). The year started with an orientation on roles and responsibilities, synod policies (privacy, respectful conduct, safe church, HR) and ended ready for 2026 with renewed contracts for the Parish Administrator and the Korean Church. One fun thing that doesn’t fall into any of the areas of interest? Rev Alastair made contact with a descendant of founding father Rev Xavier Willemar. A new artifact is soon to be donated!

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

By motion passed in 2018, the Executive Committee comprises the Rector, Deacon, Wardens and Treasurer. Their meetings offer a forum for discussion on routine operations and preparation of options/issues for Parish Council consideration.

### RECTOR – Rev Alastair Hunting

See Rev Alastair's opening letter above for a reporting of his observations.

### DEACON – Rev Marion Edmondson

Outreach: During 2026 I continued to volunteer with the Soup Kitchen on Thursdays and as Treasurer and a Director of the Sonshine Lunch Club. We have a team of approximately 25 volunteers from the community and from St. John's who volunteer on Thursdays to provide lunches to an average of 70-75 people. The soup kitchen is run through the co-operation of six churches. Each church has 1 or 2 representatives on the board of directors which makes decisions on general policy and management. Menus are up to the individual Church. St John the Divine looks after Thursdays and has been doing so for more than 25 years.

With the help of many volunteers and support from our leadership, we opened a free store in January 2021. The store, Blessings Boutique, is open to all people in the community. We have had as many as 100 'guests' who have come in and found items they need at no cost. We average around 50-60 guests per week. We have about 12 volunteers from the parish and from the community who help sort and wash clothing, set up and take down the Boutique. Our guests are people who live on the street, housed in our community and people who just come in to visit. We continue to need donations of gently used adult clothing, small household items and toiletries (travel size are great)!

I continue to order food from Loaves and Fishes in Nanaimo. This food is reclaimed food that we receive at no cost. The food is used to stock our Blessing Box that sees active use from the community. Boxes of veggies, canned goods and dried goods are received once a month. The veggies are taken to the soup kitchen and used in soup. The Blessings Box has been in front of St John the Divine for almost 10 years.

We are currently running a blanket and coat drive which has been very successful. We have stocked the Blessings Boutique and have taken truck loads of blankets and coats to Connect.

I am on the Board of the Comox Valley Community Justice Centre and recently stepped into the role of Treasurer. Since one of the aims of the Justice Centre is reconciliation, it is a good fit for our church with the focus on reconciliation in our Diocese. I am on several sub-committees with the Justice Centre and started volunteering as a Community Representative in Resolution Conferences.

Together with Barb Neid and Martha Benoit, I assist with the "Community Lunches" we were holding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. We did not see a lot of people from the community, but the lunches were well-received by the parish. The lunches have been put on hold while we get our kitchen renovation completed. Hopefully we will see community participation as we move forward. We will need parish members to step forward and assist with the lunches. It is a lot of work for a small number of people. We are grateful to those who have assisted.

Liturgical Involvement: I take part in worship services every Sunday and Wednesday, occasionally preaching. I assist the rector in special Christmas and Easter services, as well as funerals. I also do interments when needed and some summer services at St. Andrew's. With our lay ministers, and I lead morning prayer when Alastair is absent.

Parish Ministry: since the Deacon's role is largely out in the community, I am less involved with In-reach. However, I am on the Executive, Parish Council, Worship Committee and Ways and Means Committee. I oversee the people who prepare the Prayers of the People and the Servers. We are very short of people to lead the prayers on Wednesdays but are fortunate to have a good number of people willing to take part in that ministry on Sundays.



Diocesan meetings: I attend regular meetings with the Chapter of Deacons and clergy meetings in Victoria and on-line, as well as a Clergy Retreat. I continue to be the Clergy Diocesan Rep for the North Island. I am also on the Diocesan Finance Committee and the Investment Trusts Committee.

Education: I continued my studies through Vancouver School of Theology. Some very interesting courses in 2024 and I am enrolled in further courses for 2025. I will obtain my Diploma in Anglican Diaconal Studies this year, and I expect to continue taking course through VST (Vancouver School of Theology).

I am thankful to Alastair for his support and encouragement over the past year and to the congregation and leadership of St. John the Divine for their support of my ministries, my studies, and my ministry in the church. You are a wonderful group of people, and I am a very grateful that my diaconal ministry is here at St John's. Thanks be to God!

#### PEOPLE'S WARDEN – Marj Aitken

It's been my joy to serve you over the past year as your People's Warden as we watch our Church attendance grow and our parishioners remain steadfast and willing to be active in their various interests within the parish and the entire community.

As the Bishop from Alaska once told me, we take Jesus with us wherever we go whether in Church related activities or the secular world. Jesus in us goes with us and He shines through all our activities.

May we continue to show forth the love of Jesus, along with God's great mercy and grace as we charter unknown courses over the coming year.

#### RECTOR'S WARDEN – Cary Davis

I was appointed Rector's Warden in September 2021. Which means I have served more than 4 years now. I am happy that the congregation pulled together to make our Budget deficit not as bad as predicted. You all deserve applause for your hard work. Coming out of Vestry we started Futures; a look at what we like about our Parish, things we can improve and things we need. I am impressed with the turnout and participation. Music, Fellowship and welcoming. I actively serve during worship, read on Wednesday and fill in where necessary. I officiated at a funeral this year, led a communion service at Casa loma and preached a sermon in Saint John's. I continue to be a part of the Indigenous Prayer Team. We lead Fellowship and prayers at Eureka Support Club every Second Friday evening, Worship at Saint Johns and Saint Andrews.

Property: I actively am involved with property maintenance and repairs. Fire Safety reports and inspections. We were busy, cleaning up the Rectory to make it ready for tenants, thanks Kathy and Chris. New ramp at Saint Andrews, thanks Dan. Exit railing repaired, thanks Marci and Doug. Door stop and batteries, exit light and slide in kitchen, thanks Stan. Without our team of volunteers things wouldn't happen.

Fellowship: We have started fellowship meals on the second Sunday of the month we invite in strangers. It has been successful. Birthday Sundays bring fabulous cakes and singing. Pancake Supper with 50 people attending, Holly Tea and Bake Sale, well done everyone. Picnic BBQ and Church outside. We were busy. Garage / Yard Sale, Concerts and guest speakers, Rectors sabbatical and more Covid. It's been a busy year.

Cemetery: clean ups Spring and Fall continue to bring 100's of people from our community out to volunteer. Cadets, regular forces and community groups. It is amazing to see. This year we had a tree fall, luckily no one was around.

Big projects include curtain drain done by Dales Plumbing, and tree assessments. We had a lot happening. Through it all we came together in common purpose for our family here at Saint John the Divine.

I attended Executive, Cemetery, Futures , Parish Property, and Worship meetings as required. Over saw the insurance claims for rectory flooding and tree fall in cemetery. Undertook regularly check-in on Friday with Parish Administrator to make sure I hadn't missed anything. I maintained Parish Activity Calendar monthly. And I

continue to support the Blessing Boutique ministry. As a Parish Lay Leader, I led Wednesday worship 3 times, Sunday 10am service once and read as my name came up in rotation.

## MINISTRIES BY AREA OF INTEREST

### WORSHIP

#### Worship Committee – Rev Alastair Hunting

The Worship Committee meets faithfully throughout the year, typically on a quarterly basis, to plan, review, and discuss the liturgical life of the parish and our common worship together. The committee brings together a variety of voices and perspectives, which helps guide thoughtful, prayerful, and inclusive planning.

A key responsibility of the committee is the development of a worship schedule, ensuring that all necessary roles are clearly identified and filled. This includes coordinating readers, leaders of the Prayers of the People, greeters, servers, and other liturgical ministers. One committee member takes particular responsibility for organizing the lectors' schedule, ensuring that the correct readings are used for each service and that there is a healthy rotation of participants.

The committee also plans and supports training sessions for new readers, servers, and those leading the Prayers of the People. These sessions help ensure that participants feel confident, well-prepared, and supported in the important ministry of leading the congregation in worship.

The work of the Worship Committee becomes especially vital during the seasons leading up to Christmas and Easter, when services increase in number and complexity. During these times, careful planning and coordination are essential to the spiritual life of the parish.

If you are passionate about liturgy, worship, and our Anglican traditions, the Worship Committee is always open to welcoming new members. Please speak with myself or Rev. Marion if this is a ministry you would like to explore.

#### Lectors' Series - Joyce Bainbridge

##### 10AM Services

We continue to have a strong group of eleven lectors who are deeply committed to their role in our worship services. We are fortunate to have an additional number of volunteers ready to step into the role if needed. Congregation members are more than willing to act as lectors when invited. New parish members have keenly offered their service as lectors in the last year. It is gratifying to see this.

Regular lectors are:

Timothy Ray, Doug Shantz, Lynn Gray, Jessie Scott, Kathleen Bell, Joyce Bainbridge, Karen Erickson, Chris Chance, Pam Wilkinson, Patrick Warden and Nancy Booth

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#### Choir – Music Director Dagmar Killian

At choir practice EVERYONE is welcome!!!! We do warmups that focus on breath, diction and pitch which are fun, healthy and guaranteed to put a smile on your face. We practice the hymns for Sunday read through new material and work on anthems. I would love for people to drop in. No need to commit just come have fun. I am always happy with suggestions. If there is a song you would like used let me know. Singing is good for the soul!

### Greeters – Bev Worbets

SJTD has 10 dedicated “Greeters” who not only greet people before Sunday morning service but they help shepherd any folks with physical or mental disabilities; help new visitors navigate the service and encourage visitors to join us for coffee/tea following the service.

Our greeters are:

Martha Benoit	Pam Wilkinson	Bev & Bob Worbets
Marj Aitken	Kathy Coulhart-Dewey	Ginny Alliston
Laurie McWillis	Jessie Scott	Barb Neid

As we know, first impressions are often the most important and lasting in relationships and we “Greeters” at SJTD strive to present a welcoming, loving and safe place for all! A big THANK YOU for doing this important ministry. And to quote an African poet: *"Put your heart in your hands; & blow gently. Spread love like seeds."*

### Altar Guild – Peggy Tribe

Peggy has been the faithful guardian and curator of parish artifacts since 1995 and with Marion Mathews, Maureen Buting and Barb Neid’s assistance she has ensured the church is beautifully prepared for services. The number of people involved in this ministry has steadily declined, as have the number of flower donors. Never the less, flowers adorn the altar every week, except during Advent and Lent. Interest in this ministry is encouraged. And did you notice?? There’s a new Easter candle in the sanctuary which should continue to serve the parish’s needs for another 50 years.

### Indigenous Service – Andrea Davis, Corina Grossmann and Cary Davis

Highlights include a trip to Calgary for Sacred Circle and an introduction to Anglican Council of Indigenous People. And our decision to take a break from September to now, to recharge and refocus. We offer a reminder to participate in the four Indigenous dates. Language-March 31, Red Dess-May 5, National Indigenous Day-June 21, Reconciliation-Sept 30. We hope to purchase some new worship books.

### Celtic Services - Lynn Gray

Co-ordinator Lynn Gray was just accepted Feb 2nd to begin the Lay Clergy course given by the Diocese in March 2026. Lynn has been an Associate Member of the Iona Community since visiting Iona Abbey in 2023. Online worship is every Wednesday at 9 AM with the North American Iona Community Members and once per month on Thursdays with the 54 Canadian Iona Community Members. Joining the Iona Community is open to anyone. Active Members: Chris Chance, Linda McAnsh, Marcia Haley, Joan James, Readers: Joyce Bainbridge, Bev Worbets, Alison Hunting, Chris McKelvey, and another 4-5 volunteers who pull in and out depending on travel, illness, or family commitments.

Successes:

Ministry team meets once every 3 months to plan the next quarter. Theme we followed this year was “Following in Footsteps of the Celtic Saints.”

Celtic Christian Day retreat organized by the team April 5th, 2025.

- Pilgrimage leaders Frank Shirbroun and Teresa DiBiase travelled from Whidbey Island, Washington to facilitate.
- Support from Rev. Alastair Hunting and Archdeacon Elizabeth Northcott who helped advertise the retreat in our region.
- Attracted SJTD Parishioners, and five people from outside the community with Comox Valley Record advertising.

One still attends SJTD, the Celtic Prayer services and is interested in helping with Music. Another retreat participant attended twice in the summer.

Celtic Evening Prayer Service



- We offered 6 services May SJTD, June/July/August at St. Andrews, then back to SJTD for Sept/Oct/Nov/ and have continued into 2026 at SJTD with Jan. service
- Attendees ranged from as low as 4-5 to 17 in July. Average now 10 people.
- Rev. Stephanie Woods and two parishioners from St. Peter Anglican Church, Campbell River attended a fall service. Interest in building ministry.

#### Additional SJTD Service - participation

- Celtic Ministry members were readers at Alastair's Nov 30th, St. Andrew's Feast Day Service at St. Andrew's.
- Celtic Ministry members were readers at Alastair's Blue Christmas Prayer Service on Dec 21st.
- Our Advent Labyrinth Installation has been created this fall from an Iona Community idea. Postponed and ready to go for next Advent Season in our hall.
- There is an offering of service every month

The Celtic Ministry's intent is to continue to attract new community members to our Parish.

In our Prayer services, we have travelled from Iona Abbey in the Inner Hebrides to Holy Island in the Farnes, Durham Cathedral in Northumbria, Whitby Abbey in England, across the Irish Sea to the Monastic City of Glendalough, back to Whithorn in England and Kildare, Ireland.

The Celtic Saints we have celebrated to date:

St. Columba IONA, Scotland

St. Aiden LINDISFARNE, England

St. Cuthbert NORTHUMBRIA, England

St. Hilda WHITBY, England

Sr. Kevin of GLENDALOUGH, Ireland

St. Ninian of WHITHORN, Scotland

St. Brigid of KILDARE, Ireland

"Future" Celebrations of Saints.

Feb. 2026 St. David of WALES. His Feast Day is March 1st.

Mar. 2026. St. Patrick of IRELAND – His Feast Day is March 17th

April 2026

May 2026 St. Brendan of Clonfert, Scotland. His Feast Day is May 16th.

A Pilgrimage to Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria has potential, possibly in September, for Anglicans interested from the mid-north Island. I met Jonathan, Dean of the Cathedral at the We Together Gathering in Nanaimo last fall and more extensively at the Bishop's Dinner in Victoria Jan 27th. He is enthusiastic about north Island Anglicans visiting our Cathedral and is checking to see what special services involving Bishop Anna are in the works. The woman who organizes the Cathedral Tours is Maureen Applewhaite and she sat beside me during dinner.

#### Challenges:

- Lack of advance advertising in our regular SJTD service leaflets and Parish online newsletter has been resolved by Alastair for our Oct/Nov/Jan Services. We are advertising on Facebook and Alastair has graciously been posting to our exterior sign.
- Having to use external catering services for April Retreat seriously cut into donations collected. Fundraising Committees (Fashion Show/Bake Sale) and other outreach Ministries at SJTD (Safechurch dinners/ Monthly lunches) were able to use internal cooking & baking – we would like to be given the same allowances in 2026.
- Parish Council has indicated they would like to give us a budget for 2026

## Tuesday Bible Study (The G.I.G. "Group Investigating God") – Rev Alastair Hunting

The G.I.G. Group (Investigating God) is a weekly Tuesday Bible study that meets online over Zoom at 3:30 p.m. and runs for approximately 45 minutes to one hour. The group has been meeting consistently since January 2021 and continues to be a stable and meaningful ministry within the parish. We take a break from June to September. Attendance consists of a committed core group of approximately 5–7 regular participants. The study follows the practice of Lectio Divina (Sacred Reading), also known within the Indigenous Anglican Church as Gospel-Based Discipleship. Each gathering begins with an opening prayer. We then select an upcoming Sunday scripture reading, most often the Gospel. Before the reading, a brief synopsis is offered to provide theological, historical, or social context.

The selected passage is read three times, with silence and reflection between each reading. After each reading, participants reflect together using the following guiding questions:

1. What stands out to me in the passage (a word, image, or phrase)?
2. How is this passage speaking to us personally, and to us as a parish community?
3. How might this passage be calling us into action? How might God's Spirit be leading us?

Following this shared reflection, the group takes a short break and then returns to Zoom for approximately five minutes of centering and silent prayer, allowing time to meditate on the scripture. The session concludes with the sharing of prayer requests and a sung benediction.

This Bible study continues to be a spiritually nourishing and accessible opportunity for parishioners to engage scripture together. New participants are always welcome, and anyone interested is invited to contact me to be added to the weekly mailing list.

## INREACH

### Prayer Chain – Jessie Scott

Prayer Requests - 13

Parish members / Volunteers -8

Purpose : it is to provide daily prayer support to all folk who have been referred whether in the parish or outside in the community .

The program tries to keep contact with the referring member or purpose themselves from time to time to ascertain progress

The program also keeps the parish volunteers up to date on status of the various people being prayed for . It is, we hope a comfort to those we pray for.

### Pastoral Care – Jessie Scott

Members: Joan James, Evelyn Bowers, Dolores Kincaid, Jessie Scott and Rev Alastair

Families visited Cora Beddows, Audrey Calvori, Audrey Owen's , Colleen Davis, Ron and Yvonne , Vicki Perry

Purpose : To visit our parish members who are unable to attend church to have a warm , and engaging relationship with a dedicated church volunteer . The volunteers are interested in their health and welfare , bring news of the church and its progress and to keep a strong connection.

The volunteers meet every 3 months to report on status of the families visited.

### Funeral Receptions – Nancy Booth

A kind and caring group of ladies are dedicated to offering the families of parishioners who have passed a place to gather and share after funeral services. In 2025 St John's celebrated the lives of Mary McArthur, Anjali Thomas and Virginia Lowrie. In gratitude, these families donated a total of \$1,550 to the kitchen project.

### Safe Church – Kathy Coulthart-Dewey

The Diocesan training program aims to ensure our churches are places of safety from the harm of misconduct that can occur in situations when there is an imbalance of power, that our parishes are places of safety and wholeness for those who are seeking the love of Christ, and that trainees are equipped to manage personal risk as well as referrals for assistance.

Who is Safe Church Training for:

- A. Clergy, wardens, postulants, and all employees.
- B. Treasurers, envelope secretaries, and folks handling money.
- C. Anyone supervising or working with children or vulnerable people.
- D. Anyone who has a key to the church.
- E. Anyone in a named position.

What is required:

- A. View diocesan recorded training video
- B. Acknowledge and agree to Respectful Conduct Policy
- C. Obtain Criminal Record Check (positions falling in E. above are exempt)

I assumed the role of Liaison from Lynn Gray in 2025, finding everything clear, up-to-date and wonderfully simplified. Only a few small training sessions were required to bring new leaders onboard and to keep others current.

### Men's Guild – Cary Davis

In January we started out talking about the meaning of the Land Acknowledgement, how many times does God part water in the Bible, Saint days, Church experiences were some of the Christian talks we had. We talked about the sermon from the previous Sunday. The focus of our group is fellowship and prayer. We always take the time to pray. We helped set up the Blessing boutique after our meeting. Chores the men do include clean gutters, wash windows, cut grass and do minor repairs. We participate in the fall and spring cleanup at the graveyard. And cooking for the BBQ in the yard picnic, fellowship BBQ and Pancake Supper as well as kitchen duties/birthday celebrations on the first Sunday of the month. Loss, we miss Father Brock a regular figure.

### Fellowship Hour – Martha Benoit

- 1st Sunday - Men's Group - Cary Davis
  - 2nd Sunday - Choir - Marcia
  - 3rd Sunday - Women's Group = Peggy, Evelyn, Dolores Kinkaid, Karla
  - 4th Sunday - Newcomers Group - Marylin, Mary P., Bev, Lois, Shirley Jodrey, Chris Beamish
  - 5th Sunday - Garden Appreciation Club - Joan James, Pam Wilkinson
- Check the Parish Directory for their phone numbers.

Guidelines for kitchen use -

- Co-ordinators will ensure that you have 3 people on kitchen duty.
- Check the milk supply midweek(not sure who buys this) the box should have an SJD on it and ensure there is enough for Sunday's coffee.
- Check the freezer beforehand to use up frozen cookies first.
- Try to keep cookie amounts to 2 plates. If there is extra, we will use them for Mondays.

- Extra coffee is kept in aquamarine cabinet on stage. Please list supplies needed on list in kitchen (checked weekly)
- 

### Book Nook – Linda McAnsh

The Book Nook seems quite established unless someone wishes to take it up a notch and implement an actual library system. At the moment, it runs on the honour system with easy to follow book donation and borrowing guidelines. Several people over the past year have both donated books and borrowed. The donated books have been added to the white reference binder sitting on a shelf along with the sign-out sheets.

Guidelines:

- 1) Donated books are placed, with thanks, in the appropriate basket with the donation sign on it. Please keep your donations to 1980 and onward going forward.
- 2) Re-shelving your book is easy if you've filled out the 'book section' on the borrowing sheet. The book sections, such as Spiritual Formation, Creation, Indigenous, Christian Thought, Celtic, Biblical Studies etc, are on the edge of the shelf above the section a book lives. The white binder can also be used as a shelving guide for many books as authors are listed in alphabetical order. Thank you in advance for doing this; it's a great help.

Thank you very much to those of you who have donated books. They bring knowledge, greater awareness and support for interested readers. And thank you to those who borrow and show an interest in having a place to easily find something useful, thoughtful and uplifting to read. Enjoy...

### Garden Appreciation Club – Joan James

We enjoy meeting together, sharing tea and cookies and our gardening experience for the benefit of all members. We sponsor the annual plant sale and we donated \$170 to Alongside Hope. There is a spiritual element in every meeting. 😊 A highlight was visiting the Gardens on Anderton twice and the Filberg Lodge Park.

### Restaurantours – Maureen Polard

This year we have 21 on our list of restaurants but I will only include here the most popular. In fact, by far the most popular is the White Spot, but our list includes Chinese, Japanese, Indian, Thai, Greek and Pubs. Some members have particular likes and dislikes, which we consider as much as possible, but we also have to consider ease of parking as some people have mobility problems. In winter we go to lunch on Sundays at 12 30 after church, but in summer we dine on Thursdays at 5 30 pm as there is more light for drivers.

I am always open to suggestions from the group, as it is nice to please others, and in fact it makes my job easier as I don't always have to make the decision on my own. Also, I am most appreciative of Evelyn Bowers, who helps with the 24 calls on the list, which comprises 34 people in total. I usually book for 14, then call the restaurants to confirm after the calls are made. There are usually those who say they will come, then don't, or others that come unexpectedly. We can have anywhere from 10 to 16, but 14 is the best guess. Some people don't usually come, but like to remain on the list. Perhaps they like to have the calls from a friendly voice. Some of the members cannot afford an automatic 18% added on so we no longer go to places like Boston Pizza. There are many others on the list but the above are most liked by our members. I welcome suggestions from the group, and love hearing of new places that will accommodate a group this size. Also I would love to have any suggestions for places in Cumberland. It would be nice to know of any new (to me) choices, as it is a good place to go, especially in the summer when we do dinners and travel farther.

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## OUTREACH

See Rev Alastair and Rev Marion's reports under EXECUTIVE. The parish is extremely fortunate to have both leaders. They are dedicated to discipleship in the community. Their voice and presence is known, respected and appreciated. One new avenue for Rev Alastair is participation with the Comox Valley Community Integration Group aimed at easing the challenges of people new to the region.

### Musical Mosaics – Marcia Haley

Musical Mosaics was pleased to host three wonderful concerts in 2025. At Valentine's, we were treated to Love Duets by Shanté Horlick, soprano, and Michael McKinnon, basso, with Scott Knight on piano. Their brilliant, powerful vocals delighted an audience of about 50 people. In the Spring, we were a chosen destination for the Christ Church Cathedral Choir. Some 50 singers in burgundy choir gowns stood before us and sang to perfection a stunning program of sacred music. The audience filled the church from the front to the back and listened in rapture to the beautiful, perfectly-tuned voices. Before the concert, we put on a barbecue supper for the Cathedral troupe. That was fun to organize and enjoyed by all. In Autumn, our own Dagmar, piano, and Jenn Razor, soprano, performed an exquisite hour of Serenades. Jenn's high notes reaching the rafters, with Dagmar's dulce accompaniments and solos.

Hosting concerts is mostly about getting the advertising out in a timely manner, especially to the Record newspaper. Monies need to be estimated: how many in audience, what price for tickets and how to sell them. Performers' pay, incidental costs, piano tuned, money for the church. There needs to be posters created and printed, large and small, and distributed round about, and surely advertised on social media. Programs need to be created and printed and a few of us on hand to 'work the gate' or maybe a small reception after. It gets easier with practice. As of yet there are no concerts booked for 2026, but we'll see what we can conjure up.

### Kitchen Renovation Project - Rev Marion Edmondson and Marj Aitken

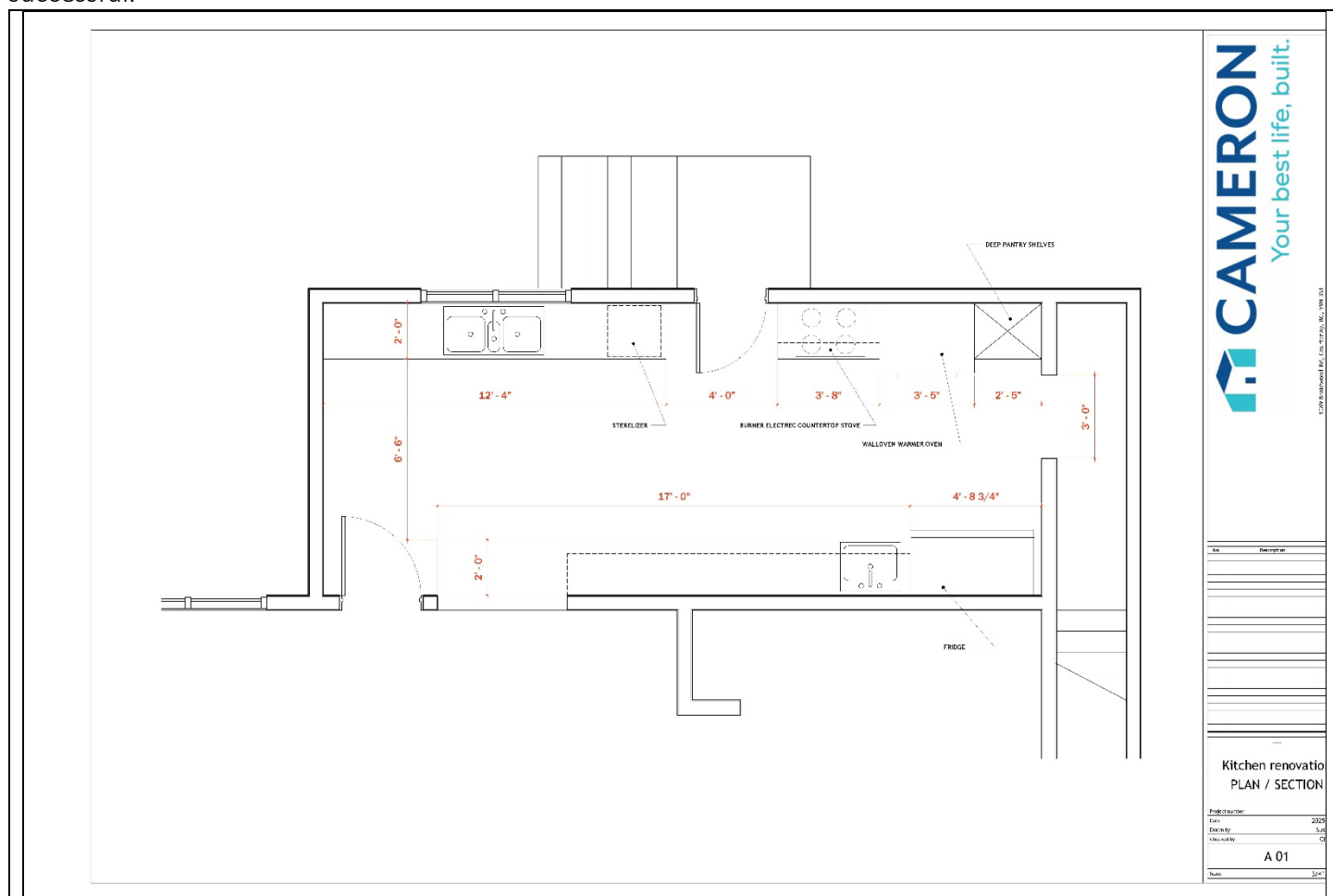
For a number of years there has been a desire to renovate our very dated kitchen to improve InReach fellowship and to direct OutReach efforts into the community. About 18 months ago plans were drawn up by two parishioners and an estimate of costs (\$105,000) for an extensive renovation were presented to the Vestry last year. A decision was made at the meeting to proceed with obtaining approval of the Diocese to proceed with renovations. The plans include rewiring, insulating the exterior walls, and separation of food preparation and clean-up. Mark Oldnall, the Property Liaison for the Diocese visited the kitchen and made some revisions to the plans. He advised against installing a gas stove and suggested moving the stove to the exterior wall. He also stated that volunteer labour is not recommended by the Diocese due to insurance and liability issues.

The kitchen committee was formed with Marj Aitken and Marion Edmondson taking the lead. Discussions were held around fund-raising and obtaining quotes from several contractors. The committee chose Cameron Construction and engaged them to produce plans and a quote. A project brief was sent to the Diocesan Council who approved the initial down payment of \$5,000 to Cameron Construction. Cameron provided an estimate and plans in November which were provided to the Executive and Parish Council. The cost of the project is now projected at \$140,000. The difference is largely due to the additional labour costs since we cannot use volunteer labour and recent tariffs that have increased prices on many materials.

Diocesan Council approved the revised project brief in November and supported our application to the Anglican Foundation for a grant of \$15,000. As at December 31, the parish has raised over \$63,000 from fund-raising and the receipt of \$20,000 from the sale of the Fanny Bay property. In January we received \$90,000 from the Comox Glebe fund of which \$65,000 is a loan to be repaid from further fund-raising.



The kitchen committee is very grateful for the support received from the parish, and we hope this will continue as we go through this project. We pray the renovation and fundraising will be successful.



## Leader Needed !!!

We continue to search for a Leader to take on co-ordination of communications. Despite this being identified during Futures workshops as a key weakness, we've not found anyone to make this a focus. And so much could be accomplished both internally and externally. Having said that we are communicating, if not as effectively as we might. Internal groups are "doing their own thing" and the congregation has learned to assume familiar, routine things/events will be happening. Cary keeps the calendar in the Hall updated monthly and Marci updates the givings thermometer. The bulletin, newsletter and website are good sources of information, although focused review might add value, interest and polish so people gravitate toward rather than away from them. Facebook posts are regularly made particularly by Rev Alastair. Are you a follower?

### “Fun” Fundraising Events – Bev Worbets and Barb Neid

The efforts of this small group of two span many Areas of Interest (Finance, InReach, Outreach and Communications). Their report has been placed here because the success of parish events is enhanced incredibly by good communications. They’ve made some headway, at least in terms of events.

It was a very busy fundraising year at SJTD and a huge thank you to all our parishioners who helped make over \$8,000.00 for our various projects. We hosted over 3 musical concerts, a fabulous fashion show with high tea & silent auction; plant sale; garage sale; church calendar sale; Holly Tea; Christmas Craft Bazaar; Rerturn-It , recycle; & Guess Who Is coming To Dinner events!

The energy, time,& enthusiasm of our parishioners is commendable as we strive to not simply BE Christians ; but to LIVE our Christian convictions.

## BUILDINGS/PROPERTIES

### St John’s and St Andrew’s Churches – Cary Davis

In 2025 Committee Lead C Davis revived this ministry with not only meetings but also walkabouts for each of the parish’s 4 properties. The goal is to become more proactive than reactive in asset management by identifying and documenting issues early. At St Andrew’s Church the key project was replacement of the retaining wall leading to the basement. This work was done by volunteers at little cost to the church. At St John’s Church the key project is the kitchen, yet when one of the two furnaces failed Parish Council chose to not only replace the furnace but also add a heat pump allowing for air conditioning in the Hall. Throughout the year, this group deals with myriads of small issues common to the maintenance of aging buildings. See Cary’s Rector’s Warden report above for more details and thank you’s to his crew.

### Rectory – Kathy Coulthart-Dewey

2025 was not a good year for the Rectory. The boiler heat system failed in late December and the resulting cleanup work in the basement, being well-timed with atmospheric river rains, revealed the perimeter drain had also failed. The full basement area was wet and unavailable to the tenant, plus they were plagued with contractors and heavy machinery coming and going for 5 months. Delays were caused by a number of things: obtaining repair estimates and approvals, continuing rain, time to completely dry the area before replacing drywall/carpet/tile and determining a fair sharing of responsibilities because the boiler damage was insured but the perimeter drain damage was not. Costs peaked at about \$30k (new boiler, drain work, deductibles, our share of restoration) and we lost about \$8k in rent revenue. The good news is we have a new boiler for heat, approximately 2/3 of the perimeter drain is new, better granular on the curtain drain is catching/flushing seepage from the cemetery, the washer is new and two of the protected Garry Oaks on the property have been trimmed as directed by a professional arborist. In 2026 the saga is expected to continue as we grapple with more atmospheric river conditions and the need to replace the more challenging sections of perimeter drain. But we are grateful for a tenant who expresses a desire to stay and a property manager who is willing to work with us through the challenges.

### Cemetery Committee – Ginny Alliston

- Thirteen cremation plots were sold during 2025. Available Cremation plots for sale equals 146.
- 53 additional cremation plots became available when Block J became available for sale. The plots in Block J have been allotted to 2 cremation spaces per plot instead of 6 to allow for green/meadow space along the

fenceline (McQuillan Road). Also, J-33 through 37 were designated protected greenspace due to unmarked/unconfirmed pioneer burials in this area. Note: Plots available for sale can vary as there are a number of questionable plots that have duplicate names or are reserved for unknown persons. These plots will be dealt with at a later date as we have plenty of confirmed available plots for sale.

- Seven interments were carried out in 2025.
- Four Last Post Markers were approved in 2025 but have still not been finalized/installed.
- A new Cemetery Bylaw was slowly developed and finally approved in Dec 2025, meeting the new Canon regulations and Diocesan standards. The Cemetery Purchase Agreements also reflect changes.
- Continue to have high turnouts for our Cemetery Cleanup (especially in the fall) thanks to email alerts at least 2 months ahead of date. Some group leaders have actually been contacting us ahead of time for date.
- Repairs to damaged graves from 2024 tree fall were completed in summer 2025. Grave sites affected: Creech, Curran & Yates all in Block O. Repairs were paid through Insurance claim, save and accept the deductible.

## FINANCE

Envelope Secretary – Joan James

Duties:

- always works with an assistant
- records all donations ( open cash, envelopes, direct deposits, E-transfers) in the computer
- makes bank deposits
- prints, signs and delivers tax receipts before the end of February
- counts and deposits miscellaneous income from sales, special events or rent as required
- 😊 the highlight of this past year and indeed the many years I have either been the secretary or assistant is working with lovely Christian women who have become good friends.

**See Part 2 of the Vestry Report package for the following:**

2025 Year-End – Nancy Booth

Examiner's Report on 2025 Records – Kathleen Bell

2026 Proposed Budget – Nancy Booth

VESTRY (AGM) MEETING – ST JOHN’S HALL  
MINUTES – SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23 2025 (11:30AM)

1. **Call to Order – Opening Prayer:**

At 11:30am, Father Michael Booth lead an opening prayer offering thanks and appreciation for God’s guidance.

In the absence of Rev Alastair Hunting due to illness, the parish council secretary confirmed quorum had been achieved with 46 parishioners in attendance, including Fr Michael Booth and Rev M Edmondson as well as churchwardens Cary Davis and Marj Aitken.

The new Canon’s require the election of one of the churchwardens as chair, should the Rector be absent for any reason. The parish council secretary invited a motion to appoint a chair.

*Moved by: M Aitken Sec’d by: D Shantz*

*That Cary Davis, Rector’s Warden, be elected to chair the 2025 Vestry meeting.*

*Carried*

2. **Adoption of Agenda (att#1)**

*Moved by: M Aitken Sec’d by: A Davis*

*That the Agenda, as amended to show the Kitchen/Rectory Projects and 2025 Budget Approval as items 8a and 8b respectively, be approved.*

*Carried*

3. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Vestry Meeting (previously circulated att#2)**

*Moved by: L Gray Sec’d by: K Ericson*

*That the minutes of the February 25, 2024 Vestry Meeting be approved as circulated.*

*Carried*

4. **Receipt and Approval of Reports (previously circulated att#3)**

*Moved by: J Bainbridge Sec’d by: Marg Misner*

*That the non-financial reports contained in the 2025 Consolidated Vestry Report package be approved as circulated.*

*Carried*

5. **Acknowledgement of Appointments of Treasurer and Secretary**

The Chair noted the appointments of Marcia Haley and Kathy Coulthart-Dewey as Treasurer and Secretary respectively, with those appointments being confirmed by Parish Council on February 20.

6. **Review and Receipt of 2024 Year End Financials (att#4 and 5)**

Treasurer M Haley noted the parish had risen to the occasion and the deficit is far less than originally projected. She noted upgrades to the rectory, cleanup of the cemetery after damage from a fallen tree and increased rental income due to long term tenants at the rectory and in the church. The parish

mourns the loss of a few members while welcoming new people to the pews. Offerings from parishioners have grown, with some of those funds securing stable year-round funding through the PAR process. Fundraising income has increased allowing outreach programs to continue. Congratulations was extended to all for keeping expenses down and givings high.

B Neid announced that despite a projected \$47,000 deficit, the final year-end calculations show a \$27,000 surplus due primarily to an exceptional return on investments. Trust Funds increased \$88,000 over last year even though we withdrew \$56,500. In addition, the parish received \$15,500 from the Diocese as reimbursement for expensed vacation accruals for employees. It was noted the \$27,000 surplus includes \$20,000 drawn from the Glebe fund meaning the real surplus is \$7,000, less any designated funds. Therefore 2024 ended slightly above the break-even point. Of special note, general offerings were up \$20,000 and rentals increased by \$7,000. Congratulations for the parish-wide effort were extended.

*Moved by: D Hessel Sec'd by: J James*

*That the 2024 Year End Balance Sheet, Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison and Profit and Loss Statement, all dated February 18 2025 , be approved.*

*Carried*

7. Examiner's Letter re. 2024 Year End Financials (deferred)

This item was temporarily deferred to allow the Treasurer time to retrieve the Examiner's Letter.

8. Review and Approval of 2025 Budget

a. Kitchen (att#6) and Rectory Projects

M Aitken and M Edmondson presented a plan for complete renovation of the kitchen including repair and insulation of the exterior wall, electrical upgrades and separation of food preparation and cleanup areas. The initial floor plan has been shared with the Diocese and their Property Manager has inspected the site with support and suggestions provided including elimination of the gas stove and service. Prior to submission of a final plan input from local contractors will be required. The logistics of operating without kitchen facilities needs to be addressed but construction during the spring/summer months will allow outside activities. Project cost is estimated at \$95,000 with the initial breakdown of income including \$20,000 from sale proceeds of Fanny Bay Hall, \$25,000 from the Glebe Fund, \$7,000 has already been donated from parishioners with the remaining \$45,000 to come from fundraising events and donations/pledges from parishioners and the community. Success will require engagement by all parishioners and if approved all are asked to consider a lump sum or monthly donation, support for and attendance at fundraising events and extension of invitations to friends and family to do the same.

During discussion it was clarified no contractor has been hired yet and the \$95,000 estimate takes into account hard and soft costs as well as the recent elimination of the gas stove, although the impact of tariff threats has not yet been considered. The estimate will be tested when contractor bids are received. The plan before Vestry today does not include additional meeting space but does not preclude additional work being done at a later date. In closing M Edmondson and M Aitken stressed that discussion and input from parishioners, contractors and the diocese may result in adjustments. Open communications will continue but Vestry approval is required before further steps are taken.



*Moved by: F McCaffrey Sec'd by: C Chance*

*That the parish support the proposal to completely renovate the kitchen at an estimated cost of \$95,000.*

*Carried.*

With respect to the Rectory, K Coulthart-Dewey explained the draft budget includes expenditures to cover the insurance deductible associated with failure of the Rectory boiler, boiler replacement, gutter repair and trimming of 2 trees. A \$13,000 draw from the Rectory fund is proposed to cover the costs. The cost is below the threshold requiring a separate motion by Vestry but approval of the overall budget will allow that work to proceed quickly.

b. **2025 Budget (att#7)**

B Neid referenced the revised draft budget noting income from Trust Funds has been adjusted upward in light of the 2024 year-end results, the Music Director has been properly shown as an employee, Rectory revenues have been decreased given disruptions caused by the boiler failure and a small allocation has been added for pulpit coverage recognizing emergencies and illnesses may require relief clergy. The draft budget now shows expenditures of \$361,500 (rounded) and income of \$362,000 (rounded and including \$19,000 drawn from the 2024 surplus) projecting an overall surplus of \$500.

In discussion, it was acknowledged the current budget format may require adjustment to make clear distinction between St Andrews Church and Cemetery, as well as Cemetery operating versus perpetual care funds as required by the new Canons. For example, the St Andrews grant from the Comox Valley Community Foundation is interest earned on bequest funds they manage and while the charter allows for expenditures at St Andrews Church or Cemetery the income may need to be shown in 2 separate areas of the budget. Leasehold depreciation was also clarified as being associated with the previously completed Narthex/Office/Hall renovations.

*Moved by: N Booth Sec'd by: A Davis*

*That the 2025 Budget dated February 22 2025, showing an overall surplus of \$536, be approved.*  
*Carried*

7. **Examiner's Letter re. 2024 Year End Financials (revisited)**

The Treasurer was unable to locate the Examiner's Letter but confirmed receipt. No concerns had been raised by Kathleen Bell, Examiner.

*Moved by: L Gray Sec'd by: C Chance*

*That Parish Council be authorized to formally receive the Examiner's Letter regarding the 2024 Year End Financials.*

*Carried*

9. **Acknowledgement of Retiring Parish Council Members**

Timothy Ray, Doug Shantz and Dan Jodrey will not be returning to Parish Council in 2025. Their valued contributions were recognized. A donation to a charity of their choice will be made in their name as a small token of appreciation.

## **10. Election of Officers by Parishioners**

Marj Aitken announced the Rector and Clergy licensed to the Parish are ex officio voting members of Parish Council meaning Rev Alastair Hunting and Rev Marion Edmonston will be returning as regular members and Fr Michael Booth is welcome at anytime. The churchwardens are also ex officio voting members and according to the new Canons they, and most other Officers, need to be either appointed or elected annually. Cary Davis has been appointed in writing by Rev Hunting as Rector's Warden (att#8).

Cary Davis, on behalf of the Nominations Committee, nominated Marj Aitken for the position of People's Warden and called for additional nominations from the floor a first, second and third time. There being no additional nominations Marj Aitken was acclaimed to the position of People's Warden.

Marj Aiken resumed facilitation of the election process noting the Nominations Committee nominates Bev Worbets to the ex officio voting position of Synod Delegate and called for additional nominations from the floor a first, second and third time. There being no additional nominations Bev Worbets was acclaimed to the position of Synod Delegate.

The Alternate Synod Delegate is not a member of Parish Council and is rarely called upon, the exception being last year when Marci Haley attended Synod instead of Timothy Ray who was unable to do so due to illness. The Nominations Committee nominates Marcia Haley to the position of Alternate Synod Delegate. M Aiken called for additional nominations from the floor a first, second and third time. There being no additional nominations Marcia Haley was acclaimed to the position of Alternate Synod Delegate.

The Canon's allow 3 to 12 parishioners to be elected as voting members of Parish Council. On behalf of the Nominations Committee M Aitken nominated Corina Grossman, Barb Neid and Andrea Davis as potential returning members plus Shirley Jodrey as a potential new member. M Aitken called for additional nominations from the floor and C Davis encouraged and agreed to nominate more interested people given challenges in achieving quorum. Bill Henderson and Fred McCaffrey put their names forward. M Aitken called for additional nominations from the floor a second and third time. There being none, M Aitken announced that Corina Grossman, Barb Neid, Andrea Davis, Shirley Jodrey, Bill Henderson and Fred McCaffrey were acclaimed as Parish Council members.

Note was made of the ex officio non-voting status of the Treasurer and Secretary positions.

C Davis announced no election would be held for the Youth Delegate position since the parish has no eligible youth.

Examiner of Financials is now an elected position as well. M Haley nominated Kathleen Bell and C Davis called for additional nominations from the floor a first, second and third time. There being no additional nominations Kathleen Bell was acclaimed to the position of Examiner of the 2025 Financials.

At the close of elections, Rector's Warden Cary Davis and People's Warden Marj Aitken read and signed their respective Oaths of Office.

11. Other Business – None raised

12. Adjournment with Prayer

Moved by A Davis and on consent the 2025 Vestry Meeting adjourned at 12:50pm. All in attendance joined in the prayer of fellowship.

Attachments (8)

**Recommended Motion for March 20 2025 meeting of Parish Council:**

That the minutes of the February 23 2025 Vestry (AGM) meeting be recommended for approval at the 2026 Vestry meeting.

*Approved by Consent: March 20 2025*

*Kathy Coulthart-Dewey  
PC Secretary for the Rector*

**Recommended Motion for the February 2026 Vestry (AGM) meeting:**

That the minutes of the February 23 2025 Vestry (AGM) meeting be approved as circulated.

*Approved by majority vote: \_\_\_\_\_*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Rector*