



Annual Vestry Meeting Holy Trinity Cathedral

for the year 2025
Sunday February 22, 2026
beginning at 10 am

514 Carnarvon Street
New Westminster, BC V3L 1C4
www.holytrinitycathedral.ca

A Prayer for Vestry

Creating God,

We give thanks for the foundation of faith
laid by all the saints before us in New Westminster.

May this holy place be a beacon of light
and a sanctuary of belonging to all who seek your presence.

Give us courage to help build your kingdom here on earth
with the materials and partners you supply.

Help us not to be content with what is
but to keep looking up to what will be.

Reshape us in the image of your Son,
so that through the power of your Holy Spirit
we may show your love to the world.

This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Welcome to the Vestry Reports

Within these pages, you will catch a glimpse of the ministry and mission of the community of Holy Trinity Cathedral for the year just past. Your contributions of talent, time, and treasure help make possible for the light of Christ to shine through this parish. Enjoy learning about the many groups and activities that we support, and bring your questions and ideas to the gathering on Sunday February 22, 2026, beginning with worship at 10 am.

Voting Members of Vestry

All are welcome to attend the Annual Vestry Meeting. To be a voting member of Vestry for the Parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral, you need to be a baptized person 15 years old or older who is:

- An accustomed worshipper within the Parish, and
- Whose name has been on the Parish List for at least 3 months.
An accustomed worshipper is someone who has attended frequently, given a material commitment of time, talent, or financial resources, or has been in receipt of the pastoral care of the Parish due to illness or incapacity.

The 2026 Annual Vestry Meeting

Takes place on Sunday February 22, 2026 at Holy Trinity Cathedral,
514 Carnarvon, New Westminster BC.

- * Beginning with worship at 10 am in the Cathedral.
- * Refreshments served in the Parish Hall at 11:30 am
- * The Annual Vestry Meeting will commence at 11:45 am.

Table of Contents

Agenda for 2026 Annual Vestry.....	5
2025 Vestry Minutes for Approval.....	6
Leadership Team Reports.....	11
Rector's Report.....	11
Rector's Discretionary Fund.....	14
Wardens' Report.....	15
Financial Reports.....	16
Parish Statistics and Sacraments 2025.....	17
Attendance at Special Liturgies.....	19
Ministry Reports.....	19
Altar Guild Report.....	19
Community Breakfast Report.....	20
Community Group Facility Use Report.....	21
Envelope Secretary's Report.....	22
Music Ministry Report.....	23
Social Events Report.....	24
Synod Delegates' Report 2025.....	25
Thursday Evening Zoom Vespers.....	26
Women's Prayer Group Report.....	26
Wednesday Bible Study.....	27
Parish Nominations and Appointments 2026.....	27
Nominations: Lay Administrators 2026.....	29

Agenda for 2026 Annual Vestry

- Opening Eucharist in Cathedral
- Reconvene in Parish Hall with Refreshments
- Prayer for Vestry
- Roll and Regrets
- Orientation to the Annual Vestry Meeting
- Adoption of Agenda
- Reception of Vestry Reports
- Approval of 2025 Annual Vestry Meeting Minutes
- Reception of Financial Reports and Statements
- Consideration of 2026 Budget
- Election of Parish Officers
- Appointments
- Recommendation of Lay Administrators
- New Business to Consider
- Votes of Thanks
- Motion to Adjourn
- Doxology

2025 Vestry Minutes for Approval

February 16, 2025 Annual Vestry Minutes

Call to order	The Annual Vestry Meeting was chaired by the Reverend Stephanie Shepard. The Chair called the Vestry to order at 11:30 am In the Cathedral. This meeting was livestreamed to the Holy Trinity Cathedral Facebook page.
Opening Prayer	An opening prayer was offered by the Chair.
Participation in the Meeting	The Chair explained the canonical requirements for voter eligibility. 43 individuals registered as present and eligible to vote.
Roll Call	The Chair asked whether there were any persons in attendance who were not eligible to vote but would wish to speak in this gathering. Moved/Seconded Brian Dobbin/Shawn Shenfield <i>"that Richard MacAlpine and Pamela Martin be allowed to speak if they have something to say during the meeting"</i> Carried
Rules of Order	The Chair introduced the rules of order using the Canons of the Anglican Church of Canada and according to respectful communications: R+ Take responsibility for what you say and feel E+ use empathetic listening S+ be sensitive to differences in communication style P+ ponder before you speak E+ examine your own assumptions and perceptions C+ keep confidentiality T+ trust ambiguity
Agenda	The Chair introduced the agenda for the 2025 Vestry Meeting. Moved/Seconded: Robert Rothwell/Linda Gravlin <i>that the agenda for the 2025 Annual Vestry Meeting be adopted as circulated.</i> Carried

Minutes for 2024 AVM	<p>Moved/Seconded: Diane Rowse/Greg Kennelly <i>"That the Minutes of the February 25, 2024 Annual Vestry Meeting be adopted as amended"</i> Noted the following name corrections: Brian Dobbin, Anne Parker, Richard MacAlpine. Carried</p>
Reports for 2024	<p>The Chair introduced the Reports as printed in the Annual Reports as circulated online.</p> <p>Moved/seconded Gerry Rowse/Sanda Turner <i>"That the 2024 Annual Vestry Reports be adopted as circulated"</i> Carried</p>
Treasurer's Reports	<p>The Chair called on Betty Macdonald, Treasurer, to present her reports.</p> <p>The Treasurer reviewed the financial reports for 2024 with the Vestry. Moved/seconded Betty Macdonald/Marney Godkin <i>"That the Financial Reports for 2024 be received as circulated"</i> Carried</p> <p>The Treasurer presented the Operating Budget for 2025. Moved/seconded Betty Macdonald/Brian Dobbin <i>"that the proposed Operating Budget for 2025 be approved as circulated"</i> Carried</p> <p>The Treasurer presented the proposed Memorial and Capital Budget for 2025. Moved/seconded Betty Macdonald/Shawn Shenfield: <i>"that the proposed Memorial and Capital budget for 2024 be approved as circulated."</i> Carried</p> <p>The Treasurer recommended that the parish withdraw funds as necessary from the Consolidated Trust Funds (restricted and unrestricted) in order to support these budgets.</p> <p>Moved/seconded. Betty Macdonald/Don Neilson <i>"that the Vestry authorizes the Parish Council, as necessary, to withdraw from Capital Funds to support the approved budgets"</i> Carried</p>

Treasurer's Reports (cont.)	<p>Moved/seconded Betty Macdonald/Vi Calhoun <i>"that an audit be waived for 2025 and that a level of financial review be undertaken as determined by the Treasurer in accordance with accounting practice."</i> Carried</p> <p>The Treasurer presented the proposed signatories for 2025: Moved/Seconded Alysia Ker/Brian Dobbin: <i>"that the following be signatories for 2025: Betty Macdonald, Glynn Crew, Sybil Collett, Kate Abel; Carla Jones, Bruce Macdonald, Geoff Clements, Susan Stensgaard, James Roberts"</i> Carried</p>
Nominations for 2025	<p>The Chair presented the nominations for Parish Council 2025, including Alternate and Youth Synod Delegates and Lay Administrators for 2025. The Chair called for any Nominees for Parish Council from the floor.</p> <p>Moved/seconded Anne Parker/Gerry Rowse: <i>"That the Nominees for Parish Council listed in the Vestry Reports be elected to the offices indicated:</i> <i>Bishop/Rector's Warden- Sybil Collett (appointed)</i> <i>People's Warden- Kate Abel</i> <i>Associate Warden- James Roberts</i> <i>Synod Delegate- Joyce Harwood</i> <i>Synod Delegate- Greg Kennelly</i> <i>Synod Delegate – Tope Adewale</i> <i>Alt. Delegate- Shawn Shenfield</i> <i>Alt. Delegate- Antony Yang</i> <i>Alt. Delegate- Fiona Barnard</i> <i>Member at Large - Betty Macdonald, Treasurer</i> <i>Member at Large- Susan Stensgaard, Donations Officer/Envelope Secretary</i> <i>Member at Large- Carla Jones, Property Redevelopment Committee</i> <i>Member at Large- Dr. Robert Rothwell"</i> Carried</p> <p>Moved/seconded Janet Taylor/Susan Stensgaard: <i>"That the following Nominees for Lay Administrators be recommended to the Bishop for licensing:</i> <i>Sybil Collett, Brian Dobson, Marney Godkin, Terry Godkin, Linda Gravlin, Joyce Harwood, Valerie Hobson, Carla Jones, Greg Kennelly, Jackie Lewis, Carol Murdoch,</i></p>

Nominations for 2025 (cont.)	<p><i>Anne Parker, Lynda Rivers, Robert Rothwell, Rob Sider, Susan Stensgaard, Sandra Wrigley, Alysia Ker</i></p> <p>Carried</p>
Update from Property Redevelopment Committee	<p>Carla Jones presented an update from the Property Redevelopment Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Conversations with a potential developer -Changing market trends -New proposal for funding -Options going forward
Remembrance	<p>The Parish paused to remember those who died in 2024-2025 in a moment of silence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jill & Frank Allder • Betty McRae • Douglas Parker • Antony Ranger • Robert Taylor • John Wrigley • <p>Greg Kennelly offered a prayer of remembrance.</p>
Welcomes	<p>The Chair welcomed new members of the Parish who joined in 2024-2025. The Chair Welcomed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Adewale family: Gbenga, Tope, Dara, Sinmi, & Lolu • The Chionumba family: Herbert, Rose, Francis, Daniel, Melvin • Natacha Warwick • Hudson Ker • The Rev. Stephanie Shepard

Votes of Thanks/Trinitas Awards	<p>The Chair thanked all those who have contributed to the parish in the past year.</p> <p>The following recipients of Trinitas Awards for this year were announced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship Award: Terry Godkin & Brian Dobbin • Parish Life Award: Valerie Hodgson • Pastoral Care Award: Elizabeth Pticek • Learning Award: Ann Haywood (in absentia) • Outreach Award: Sanda Turner • Development Award: Don Neilson • Facilities Award: Geoff Clements • Financial Award: Glynn Crewe & Carla Jones • Leadership Award: Joyce Harwood
Adjournment	<p>The Chair asked if there was any further business to be discussed. Seeing none,</p> <p>Moved Bruce Macdonald <i>“that the 2025 Annual Vestry Meeting be adjourned”</i> Carried by acclamation</p> <p>The meeting was closed with a joyful singing of the Doxology: Praise God to whom all blessings flow!</p>

The Youth Delegate to Synod position was filled subsequent to Vestry by the election of Susan Kiconco at the April parish council meeting.

Leadership Team Reports

Rector's Report

The tempter came and said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 4:3-4

Immediately following his baptism and decision to enter public ministry, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. Here he faced doubts and questions. He struggled with the challenges of responding to God's call. Being faithful in times of uncertainty and transition is not easy for any individual or a community. The temptation is to grow weary with our efforts when we don't see our way out of the wilderness. As our parish continues to explore routes forward for redevelopment, 2025 was a year of building up resilience. Through worship, fellowship, service, and study, we have striven to keep the Word of God at the centre of our life. What has been given to us is food for our bodies, minds, and souls so that we may have the strength to grow deeper into relationship with God and each other.

When I look back on what has changed in this last year, I am encouraged by the steps we have taken together. Consider the following challenges and triumphs:

Worship

The rhythm of liturgy keeps us nurtured and balanced, from quiet moments in the pews to joyful celebrations with a full church. As your priest, I try to say Morning Prayer Monday through Thursday in the cathedral at 8 am and lift up the needs of the parish and the world. Other regular services include the Sunday 8 am traditional Book of Common Prayer Eucharist and the 10 am Choral Eucharist, as well as the midweek Wednesday service at 9:30 am. I also exercise some chaplaincy for two care facilities, and take a regular communion on 3rd Wednesdays at Buchanan Lodge and 4th Wednesdays at Queen's Park.

Holy Trinity Cathedral participated in ecumenical worship on the World Day of Prayer at St. Peter Roman Catholic in January 2025. We shared Holy Week services with St. Barnabas and St. Mary Sapperton, taking the lead in the Good Friday service and the New Westminster "Cross Walk" afterward. Thanks for helpers Joyce and Valerie warming us up with hot cross buns and beverages! We were also the host site for the April 26 service for the Order of St. George, complete with bagpipes and organ.

Some special events were Easter & Pentecost baptisms, confirmations June 14 at Christ Church Cathedral, the Indigenous Day of Prayer held on June 22, Pride Sunday August 10,

Day for Remembrance and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day) September 28, Blessing of Animals on St. Francis Day Oct 4, and All Souls Evensong November 2.

This year we began the process of introducing the minister of servers to some of our younger members, and saw two parishioners train as Lay Worship Leaders through the Diocese. Congratulations to Shawn Shenfield and Greg Kennelly, who are soon to be commissioned. We also had several worship planning meetings to share ideas and reflections on what draws us more deeply into worship.

Facilities

While we continue the path towards redevelopment, the current buildings are showing their age. Some delayed maintenance and repair cannot be delayed any further for safety sake. In early spring, concern re. cathedral walls & moisture during the wet winter led to a structural assessment with an engineer & contractor associated with our Property Development Committee. A study previously conducted in 2014 needs to be updated to assess what to do sooner rather than later.

In the parish hall, the thermostat was replaced in March. Worsening problems with the furnaces led to a couple of chilly weeks, and finally to a decision near Christmas that we had to replace the one on life support before we froze out our groups and activities. Funds were raised and the new furnace installed early this year.

Outside, our community persists in being a place of sanctuary and belonging in spite of being in a vulnerable neighbourhood with many in need. Efforts to clean up the yard and grounds in May and September have resulted in safer sight lines, less undergrowth, and a reduction in invasive species. Cheers to all the ivy pullers and bramble hackers. Security cameras were installed and the fence south of the cathedral reinforced to increase safety for all. Until our community moves off this site, we will do more than make do with what God have given us in trust.

Ministry

Spiritual formation and study helped feed our minds and souls this year in various ways. An online Book study series was ably coordinated by Valerie Hodson, with support from the Rev. Carole Neilson. There were several Trinity Tuesday courses, including a spring series on baptismal promises and a focus in the fall “For the Beauty of the Earth” Other ways to engage included the beginning of “Crafter-noons” on Saturdays and a couple of evenings to share the process of grief called “Alone Together”.

A highlight social event was the Celtic Quiz Night on March 15th championed by Marney Godkin with much help. Another noted occasion was the book launch by parishioner Celeste Snowber in July. Parish lunches offered opportunities for people to get to know each

other better and enjoy some good food. We have celebrated birthdays and anniversaries on a monthly basis, marking the joys in each others' lives.

Outreach

Last spring saw a clustering of events that helped me better understand the needs of our neighbourhood. Connect Day on March 6, the BC Homeless count on March 10, and a City Food Forum City in April put me in touch with member agencies and those with lived experience on our streets.

I try to attend at least two Saturday community brunches a month to be present as chaplain. In spite of one power outage and the furnace failure, we have managed to provide between 70-95 meals every single week of 2025. At the Homeless Action week in October, attendance was lower than the previous year but I am grateful for the many agencies that are ready to help us minister.

HTC also hosted a number of events that invited our neighbours into our buildings. The cathedral Open House on September 1 had surprising "walk-in" traffic with some interesting questions. We invited Danielle for a Bat Talk in the fall, and although the bats had all flown south by our All Hallows Eve Concert, it was a wonderfully spooky evening for those who attended. Other highlights were laying a wreath with Greg Kennelly at the Remembrance Day ceremony at the cenotaph, and the packed "New Westminster Christmas" concert.

Property Development

As co-chair of the parish Property Development Committee along with Carla Jones, a fair amount of my time was spent liaising with the Diocese, our consultants at Terra Social Housing, and various levels of government and community bodies. This year has advanced us in our vision of a building that will provide some affordable rental housing, but has also thrown up challenges in securing the financing needed for the next step. A report will be presented at the Annual Vestry Meeting by Carla.

Leadership

This year the parish council has been very busy, meeting monthly except in July. We had a potluck dinner in June and a Christmas party in December. I was pleased to attend Diocesan Synod May 30-31 with the elected delegates from HTC along with retired deacon Carole Neilson. We try to find new ways to connect with the other Anglican parishes in New Westminster. On September 7 a good turn-out of HTC parishioners joined St. Mary Sapperton for a worship service and picnic in Hume Park.

As we think through the next steps for transition, an October forum was held to explore the questions of what are we going to take with us, what are we going to let go of, and what can we do in preparation? Several small groups have begun doing inventories, cleaning out parts of the building, and considering files and archival materials. There will be more to do this year for sure.

Personal

In June 2025 I was a delegate from the Diocese of New Westminster to General Synod in London (Ontario). I also managed to take a spring reading week and some vacation time at Christmas break. As a priest in the first year of my new charge, I attended the Diocesan “New Beginnings” monthly sessions. I also met regularly with my Anglican colleagues in clericus and leaders from area churches in the New Westminster ministerial group. I am supported through my fellowship with Third Order Franciscan Companions and with circles of friends and family. And yes, I do get to the gym twice a week. Starting this January, I have been asked to become a member of the Finance & Property Committee of Diocese. I am blessed to be serving in this parish and with such dedicated and loving people. Special thanks to Sybil, Kate, James, and Betty as my leadership team.

The Reverend Stephanie Shepard

Rector’s Discretionary Fund

The Rector’s Discretionary Fund is for the purpose of assisting those in need. Sources of the Fund are any amounts set aside in the approved parish budget, donations from individuals earmarked for the fund, and any honoraria or financial gifts that the priest receives personally during the course of her ministry for the parish. Donations made as contributions to the parish may be eligible for the benefit of a tax-deductible receipt.

The funds are dispersed to individuals or groups at the discretion of the priest for the relief of poverty, distress, and need. These can be in the areas of food, rent, medical, or other immediate needs. Secondly, the clergy person may use the funds for needed purposes that benefit the parish but are not possible within the parish budget. The fund may not be used for the personal benefit of the clergy. Confidential records are kept of the recipients of the fund, and the expenses are reported by category in the Annual Vestry Reports.

At the beginning of 2025, the Rector’s Discretionary Fund held \$2648.99.

In 2025, the following needs were supplied:

Housing/Security Assistance	\$5939.87
Food Assistance	\$208.55
Clothing Assistance	\$225.57
Counselling Assistance	\$43.12
Medical Assistance	\$300.00
Program Access	\$60.00

On December 31, 2025, the Rector's Discretionary Fund had a balance of \$8479.92.

Wardens' Report

Over the past year, the three wardens have worked closely together as a cohesive and supportive team, assisting the Rector in the day-to-day operations and broader stewardship of the parish. This year has been an active one, with significant attention given to the safety, maintenance, and community life of the cathedral.

Building and Grounds Security and Maintenance

Following extensive discussions regarding the security of the parish's buildings, parishioners, clergy, and staff, we contracted an electrician to replace several exterior lights around the cathedral. These improvements have increased visibility and helped to discourage overnight camping, fires, and other concerning activity. While some issues persist, conditions have noticeably improved. Further refinements are planned in the coming weeks, as remote controls required to program lighting schedules—previously difficult to source—have now been located and ordered. We also organized repairs to the fencing surrounding the cathedral grounds. Since the completion of this work, there have been no further incidents of camping or drug use in the areas behind and beside the cathedral. In addition, one of the furnaces in the parish hall required repair and then replacement, which has now been completed, ensuring reliable heating for parish programs and rentals. Significant grounds maintenance was undertaken this year, including the removal of a large volume of ivy and overgrowth, improving both safety and appearance. Following the resignation of our custodian, we conducted a search, met with several potential contractors, and ultimately engaged the services of Jani-King to look after the ongoing cleaning of our buildings and grounds.

Parish Life and Community Engagement

This year we launched a family movie night series and have held two events to date. The first, a Christmas-themed program, was well attended, with 18 participants. The second, held on Groundhog Day, had slightly lower attendance but was nevertheless an enjoyable and successful evening. Each event features a short film followed by a family-friendly feature film and has been well received by those who attended.

Ongoing Parish Support

All three wardens continue to contribute regularly to other areas of parish life, including greeting parishioners and supporting the Saturday breakfast program through shopping and cooking.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve the parish in these ways and look forward to continuing this work in the coming year.

Kate Abel
Sybil Colett
James Roberts

Financial Reports

Circulated Separately

Parish Statistics and Sacraments 2025

Baptisms (7)	<i>Welcomed into the body of Christ...</i>
Mosinmiloluwa Oluwadamlare Adewale	20 April 2025
Sinmisolaoluwa Funmilayo Adewale	20 April 2025
Oluwadarasimi Gbenga Adewale	20 April 2025
Natacha Janaina Warwick	20 April 2025
Sanda GeorgellaTurner	20 April 2025
Kyle Michael Carter	8 June 2025
Mary Dick-Wing Shyng	8 June 2025

Confirmations (6)	<i>Affirmed as Disciples...</i>
Annbel Kobusigye	June 14 2025
Albert Mugasha	June 14 2025
Susan Mary Kiconco	June 14 2025
Mosinmiloluwa Oluwadamlare Adewale	June 14 2025
Sinmisolaoluwa Funmilayo Adewale	June 14 2025
Oluwadarasimi Gbenga Adewale	June 14 2025

Marriages (1)	<i>Joined in holy covenant...</i>
Hilary Smith & Kym Cheeseman	25 October 2025

Funerals & Scattering of Ashes (6)	<i>Received into Life Everlasting...</i>
Ian William Murdoch	27 March 1942 - 29 March 2025
The Rev. Edythe Doreen Becker	12 December 1927 – 14 May 2025
William Wilson Cameron Durward	6 January 1944 – 13 July 2025
Cecil George Williamson	27 May 1947 - 31 July 2025
Eleanor Margaret Kendall	6 December 1939 – 18 August 2025
Michael James Pallant	20 April 1966 - 24 October 2025

Regular Communal Worship	# of Services	Average Attendance in Person	Average Views Online
8 am Sunday BCP Eucharist	52	8	79
10 am Sunday Choral Eucharist	51	57	99
11 am Tuesday Women's Prayer Group (bi-monthly)	5	5	-
9:30 am Wednesday Midweek Eucharist	48	13	79
11 am Wednesday Buchanan Lodge Eucharist (monthly)	11	24	-
2 pm Wednesday Queens Park Eucharist (monthly)	10	19	-
5:30 pm Thursday Vespers on Zoom	51	-	7

Attendance at Special Liturgies

Special Liturgy	2025 Attendance	2024 Attendance
Ash Wednesday	58	18
Good Friday	51	51
Stations of the Cross	26	25
Order of St. George Service	90	-
St. Francis Blessing of Animals	16	32
All Souls Evensong	38	33
Christmas Eve Family Service	59	59
Christmas Eve Carol Mass	72	73
Christmas Day Christ Mass	27	23

Households on the Parish Roll: 155 (As of Dec. 31, 2025)

Ministry Reports

Altar Guild Report

The Altar Guild is responsible for the care and setup of the elements and fine linens required for the Eucharist. We also take care of various services and celebrations including weddings, Baptisms and Funeral services. AltarGuild also assists with annual holy events such as Easter, Lent and Christmas. Our members are Geoff Clements, Kate Abel, and Lynda Rivers who takes care of the lovely flower displays. We are very grateful to Valerie Hobson who always helps out when needed. The Altar Guild has been more active this year, as our congregation continues to grow. We are always looking for new members to join the Guild. Also we would welcome help with cleaning the brass and silver.

The Altar Guild is very important and we are blessed to be able to be part of Holy Trinity's Ministry.

Kate Abel

Flower Report

Flowers at the altar are offered to the glory of God and to celebrate or commemorate people or occasions that are dear to the hearts of parishioners. During the season of Lent preceding Easter there are no flowers, but on other Sundays parishioners are welcome to contribute a donation and name whom they would like to remember before God. This year we also received special contributions for Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. An advent wreath was prepared and decorated by the Crafter-noon group. Otherwise, the floral display was purchased and arranged by Lynda Rivers (with some Saturday morning family support). On the couple of occasions when Lynda was away, Christine from “Beautiful Roses” around the corner from the cathedral provided an arrangement in an HTC vase.

If you would like to donate flowers to celebrate a family occasion or remember a loved one, please contact the parish office, and Weijin will help you find a suitable date in 2026.

Lynda Rivers

Community Breakfast Report

Every Saturday, even when we have endured power outages and furnace failures, the volunteers at the Saturday Community Breakfast have delivered hot food and warm welcome to the surrounding neighbourhood. There are several groups that help: the Kitchen crew that prepares the hot entrées; the Upstairs crew that sets up, serves, and cleans up; the Shoppers who purchase and deliver supplies weekly; and the Pastoral crew who greet, listen, and interact with our guests.

We are blessed to have 9 people who help cook (in rotations of 3 per week), 4 pairs of weekly shoppers, and a cadre of about 30 individuals in total, from which a minimum of 7 a week are needed to assist in the set-up, serving, and clean-up.

Depending on the time of the month in relation to when government assistance cheques are released, we serve anywhere from 70 to 95 meals. The brunch includes a hot breakfast burrito with egg, ham, potato, and onion (with egg only and potato only for those with dietary restrictions), along with a take-out bag of juice, a piece of fruit, and an individually wrapped cookie pack. As well, hot coffee, water, and hot soup are available. Asking for “cluck” (chicken) or “dirt” (vegie) always brings a smile. Once a month a local business, Greens & Beans, supplies freshly baked scones as a treat.

The Saturday brunch clientele is steady and some express gratitude for being there every week. A few of them help us after closing time, mainly wiping down the tables and putting away tables and chairs, and we welcome their assistance. Over the past year we've had several new volunteers, even some from St. Mary Anglican Church in Sapperton.

Brian still does his "rounds" on the street to get the word out. He's schooled to following safeguarding protocols -not to approach too close and to stay safe.

Connect Day in October 2025 went very well with over 20 agencies present. We made an extra brunch meal that day midweek.

We still get donations of clothes, shoes, toiletries, towels, pots and pans and miscellaneous items that are well received. Warm and waterproof jackets and fleeces and men's pants are especially appreciated.

Ellen Scott/Fiona Barnard/Carla Jones

Community Group Facility Use Report

Holy Trinity Cathedral is a hub for local organizations, and we are proud to host 11 groups that serve diverse needs in our broader community including a variety of sport and dance groups, English classes, N/A groups, and more. Our facilities are well used and we have regular groups booked for every single day of the week.

In addition to our regular facility bookings, we also hosted a number of one-time rentals including the following:

- Anne Unger Piano Recital
- Order of St. George Service
- New Westminster Homelessness Coalition Society Connect Day
- Various strata and tenants union meetings
- SFU Choir Christmas Concert
- Halloween Concert "Come Away Death: An Anthology of Opera Ghost Stories"

Most notably, we rented our facilities to a film crew for the TV show *Mayfair Witches*. Three episodes of the show were filmed in the Cathedral and Upper hall between November 2025 and January 2026. The Upper Hall was transformed into a spa complete with live trees in the background and full massage tables. The Cathedral was a place of safety and sanctuary for one of the main characters. Improvements as a result of the production were the

removal of the cedar hedge on the West side of the church, and the trimming of the North hedge along Carnarvon. Season 3 of *Mayfair Witches* will be released sometime in 2026.

Looking forward into 2026, we have implemented a facility rental fee increase which will take effect on March 1st. We have also had one of our community groups end their regular rentals with us which leaves our facilities open on Wednesday afternoons and evenings for Parish events throughout the year.

Weijin Ross

Envelope Secretary's Report

At the close of 2025, Holy Trinity Cathedral had 69 envelope subscribers, down 7 from 2024. Moving, changing jobs, and the death of a parishioner are some of the reasons for the decline.

As well as donations for the general running of the parish, envelope givers also designate funds for Alongside Hope (PWRDF), flowers, the Saturday Brunch program, the Rector's Discretionary Fund, Deacon Education and a variety of other programs. The PAD (pre-authorized deposit) program gained 1 and lost 3 people this year leaving 33 people donating through the program. PAD allows you to specify a monthly donation to HTC by direct debit or Mastercard/Visa.

If you have any questions regarding the envelope program, would like to become a program participant, or would like to go on PAD, please contact me at susans@holytrinitycathedral.ca or speak to me at coffee time. Thank you for your commitment to Holy Trinity Cathedral and its programs.

Susan Stensgaard

Music Ministry Report

Choir

The choir has had a very good year with Ms. Kyumin Lee, our director. As a result, we have welcomed Kevin Maurice to the choir. The year culminated in a wonderful Christmas Concert with the Royal Westminster Regimental Band under their Director, Gary Tse.

We were also edified to hear our various local musicians working with Kyumin, and performing wonderfully.

Kevin was also very helpful in getting the tower Bell reactivated, after it failed in October (See report below)..

Although the organ wasn't played much, it was tuned up this past fall. Council had put aside some money for Organ lessons but unfortunately these were delayed. The grand piano was also tuned this year and was used well.

In 2025 the choir entered a trial of singing from the west transept instead of the choir stalls in the chancel. This has worked out well both for the musician's sightlines and the quality of sound. It has also allowed those who have difficulty with stairs to continue to contribute their gifts.

The hymn boards are as much a part of our main service as the bell calls us to be ready to start. Many thanks to Anne Parker, Kevin Maurice, Gerry Rowse, Gerry Stensgaard, and Evan Sherwood, for the backup and service towards covering Anne and I, both in hanging the hymn boards, and doing it all when we are in Saltspring, and absent from HTC.

The choir was upset to hear that Kyumin had resigned as of January 31, 2026 for personal reasons, but somewhat mollified that it was not a result of conflict, competency or differences of vision. We wish her well and pray for her. Thanks to Joash Fang, Jasiel Fang, Graham Pudek, and Dean Thiessen for stepping in when Kyumin was not able to play. We will have some of these musicians familiar with HTC helping on Sunday mornings as we enter into a search process for a new music director.

Brian Dobbin

A Note on the Bell

I have rung our Tenor Bell for almost 45 years, since I joined HTC in 1981, and apart from weekends when travelling or working out of town.

But when trying to ring the Bell for Eleanor Kendall's service, late in 2025, it was a very hard pull and then stopped sounding entirely.

Kevin Maurice and I attended in early November, and found the following:

1. The ladder on the Teen Room wall is coming off said wall and is unsafe. Recommend a 10-12 foot step ladder for access. Need a measurement before acquiring it.
2. The access hatch is solid but must be lifted the 12 inches to clear the ceiling joists, before being pushed aside to the right as you face the wall, and access achieved.
3. Up the second half-ladder and into the Bell room and upon visual and functional inspection, the bell swung freely but did not sound. The rope comes up the pipe and around an estimated 5ft diameter wheel attached to the estimated 6x8 inch beam, to which the bell is attached.
4. I slithered under the bell (there is about 12 inches of clearance), and found that its clapper was jammed. Both its hanger and the top of the clapper have cast shoulders on them, and these had combined to jamb the clapper.
5. Some judicious jiggling freed the clapper.
6. When all was secured and we were back down in the lower tower room, Kevin gave the rope a pull, and it sounded like as of old.

Many Thanks to Kevin Maurice for his help and assistance with this matter.

Brian Dobbin

Social Events Report

In 2025, the parish held three fundraising events which raised approximately \$4000.00. The first, very successful, pub quiz night was organized by Marnie Godkin and took place on March 15th with a Celtic theme. Many thanks to quiz master Michelle Chan and all the volunteers. In the fall we had two musical events. Opera Unbound presented a spooky All Hallows Eve concert. Then on December 21st a packed house celebrated Christmas in New Westminster with the Regimental Band conducted by Gary Tse. We look forward to ideas and support for future events in 2026.

Parishioners also enjoyed several parish lunches after the Sunday service, sometimes accompanied by a festive beverage. In addition, cakes or cupcakes appeared monthly to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. A special thank you to all the coffee hour volunteers who unflinchingly and cheerfully labour in our little hall kitchen. If you enjoy the fellowship times in this parish, please consider helping out. You may reach out to the parish office or one of the wardens to offer.

Sybil Collett

Synod Delegates' Report 2025

This past year, your delegates to Synod were Greg Kennelly, Tope Adewale, Joyce Harwood and Youth Delegate Susan Koconco. Alternate delegates were Fiona Barnhard, Shawn Shenfield, and Antony Yang. In addition to receiving the reports of various diocesan associated groups and the financial statements of the diocese, most of which were published in the Summer issue of Topic, the delegates took part in a table exercise that considered parish Strengths, Weaknesses, Community Needs, and Anxieties. At the June meeting of Parish Council, we continued the exercise by examining those four areas:

Within the Strengths category, we examined three main areas:

What makes us unique?, What gives us lots of energy?, and What builds connection?

Within the Weaknesses category, we considered:

What holds us back?, and What are we less good at?

Within the Community category, we considered:

What does the community need?, Who keeps showing up at our doors?, and
How do we connect with people around us?

Within the Anxieties category, we considered:

What are we afraid of?, and What keeps us up at night?

The answers we came up with take up more space than can be dealt with in this short report, but the list is posted on the wall in the Lounge. We would encourage you to talk to any Parish Council member to learn more or to add your thoughts to the list.

Greg Kennelly

Thursday Evening Zoom Vespers

Holy Trinity Cathedral Thursday Vespers via Zoom was originated by The Venerable Richard Leggett during the “Covid years” and was a short service similar to the BAS Evening Prayer with participatory responses followed by a period of social interaction, Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 6:00 PM. When Richard retired, I decided that I would like to see the Vespers services continue so, allowing for the fact that Stephanie was going to be fairly busy for her first month with us, I undertook to keep Thursday Vespers going for a period of three months. I thank Stephanie for having sufficient faith in my abilities that, two years later, I am still leading this ministry. For those who haven’t experienced HTC Thursday Vespers, in addition to the BAS *Evening Prayer*, we also draw on material from the Anglican Church of Canada’s “*For All the Saints*” and “*Pray Without Ceasing*” as well as “*Lesser Feasts and Fasts*” (Episcopal Church of the U.S.A.) and “*For All the Saints*” (Anglican Church of New Zealand, Aotearoa, and Polynesia). Our typical attendance is six to ten people and the Zoom link is published in “*Trinity Times*” every Thursday. **Newcomers are always welcome!** I extend thanks to Shawn Shenfield, who graduated from the same Lay Worship Leader course that I did, and who will be leading HTC Vespers on at least the one Thursday each month that I leave early to join colleagues from the Society of Ordained Scientists for a service of Compline originating from the Diocese of Delaware.

Greg Kennelly

Women’s Prayer Group Report

On the last Tuesday of each month, from 11 am to noon, there is usually a gathering in the cathedral to hold an hour of prayer for the parish and the world. During 2025, the group met five times. The contemplative practices include reflecting on a Scripture reading, time in silence, and lighting candles for those who are in need of God’s healing and guidance. This is a ministry that is open to all who are able to give an hour a month to the work of prayer, and our community is grateful for this holy endeavor. The next gathering will be Tuesday February 24, 2026. Come and see!

The Rev. Stephanie Shepard

Wednesday Bible Study

Every Wednesday morning there is a fellowship time with coffee, tea, and cookies in the Parish Lounge following the 9:30 am midweek Eucharist. Some stay and some join for a weekly Bible study from 10:30-11:30 am. We read and discuss the Sunday lectionary readings for the coming week and make connections with our own lives. Each person brings their insights and experience to the text, and we occasionally settle a question through references, footnotes, or consultation with a handy cell phone. Many thanks to the Rev. Michael Deck, the Rev. Carole Neilson, and the Rev. Dr. Alain-Michel Rocheleau for their facilitations of the discussion when the Rector is called away to minister at the Buchanan Lodge Care Facility service. Bring your own Bible or explore one of the available versions. All are welcome.

The Rev. Stephanie Shepard

Parish Nominations and Appointments 2026

Parish Council/Trustees	
Rector	The Rev. Stephanie Shepard
Bishop's Warden	Sybil Collett (appointed)
People's Warden	Kate (Maureen) Abel
Associate Warden	James Roberts
Treasurer	Betty Macdonald
Synod Delegate	Tope (Temitope) Adewale
Synod Delegate	Greg Kennelly
Synod Delegate	Shawn Shenfield
Alternate Delegate	Fiona Barnard
Alternate Delegate	Dr. Bob Rothwell
Alternate Delegate	Open to Nominations
Youth Delegate	Susan Kiconco

Member-at-Large	Carla Jones
Member-at-Large	Susan Stensgaard
Other Appointed Positions	
Envelope Secretary	Susan Stensgaard
Treasurer's Assistant	Bruce Macdonald
Screening in Faith Coordinator	Weijin Ross
Accountants	Kaushal & Co.
Staff	
Parish Administrator	Weijin Ross
Music Director	Vacant
Custodial	Jani-King

Nominations: Lay Administrators 2026

Every year the Diocesan Bishop licenses individuals who assist in Eucharistic ministry by administering the chalice or distributing the bread at communion. Some of these individuals, after training, are also able to be pastoral visitors to take communion to those who are unable to attend worship services, e.g. the housebound or those in hospital.

By the Rector's recommendation, the following individuals are to be Lay Administrators:

Sybil Collett
Brian Dobbin
Marney Godkin
Linda Gravlin
Joyce Harwood
Valerie Hobson
Carla Jones
Greg Kennelly
Alysia Ker
Jackie Lewis
Carol Murdoch
Anne Parker
Lynda Rivers
Robert Rothwell
Shawn Shenfield
Rob Sider
Susan Stensgaard
Sandra Wrigley

To be noted that the license for Lay Administrators is separate from the training for Lay Readers which is being piloted by the Diocese. For more information on either of these areas of ministry, please contact the Rev. Stephanie Shepard.