



in the Diocese of British Columbia

ANNUAL REPORTS
for 2025

VESTRY MEETING
Tuesday, 24 February, 2026

St. Philip Anglican Church, Oak Bay
2928 Eastdowne Road, Victoria, BC V8R 5R8

We acknowledge and respect the land and territories of the Lək'wəŋən, Songhees, Esquimalt, and WSÁNEĆ people where we gather to worship.

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St. Philip AGM package 2026 with reports for 2025 – Contents

2026 AGM AGENDA	4
Minutes of St. Philip 2025 Annual Vestry Meeting.....	6
St. Philip Parish—In Memoriam 2025-6.....	8
PARISH STATISTICS	9
REPORTS for 2025	11
Rector’s Report	12
Wardens’ Report.....	15
Children’s Ministry	18
Book Studies 2025.....	20
Ushers & Greeters.....	21
Music.....	22
Altar Guild	23
Sunday Coffee and Tea Volunteers.....	24
Lesson Readers and Prayers of the People	24
Contemplative Prayer	25
Parish Picnic report	26
Beach Service	26
Board Game Night.....	27
Karaoke Night.....	28
Prayer Ministry.....	30
Safe Church Report	31
Pastoral Care report.....	21
Envelope Secretary’s report.....	32
Office Administrator’s Report.....	33
Missions Committee	35
Precious Jewels Ministry (PJM).....	37
BALLOT: Parish Council 2026	38

ST. PHILIP ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

Tuesday, 24 February 2026

2026 AGM AGENDA

Chair: The Rev. Allen Doerksen

Attendance: (in-person) (online) -

1. WELCOME

Collect – BAS p. 676 “For a Synod”

Lord’s Prayer

‘In Memoriam’, giving thanks for the lives of those parishioners and their loved ones who have died since the last AGM; followed by a minute’s silence.

2. APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES for last year’s Annual Vestry Meeting on 25 Feb 2025

as circulated with the 2025 Reports

4. St. Philip and the Process of Revitalization – Fr. Allen

5. ST. PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL 2026 Elections

5.a. WARDEN election

Rector’s Warden – to be appointed. Larry Anthony has completed the maximum 3 consecutive 2-year terms as a Warden.

People’s Warden – Judith Armstrong’s first 2-year term continues until Vestry 2027

Nominations for Assistant Warden

Election

Elections take effect following the meeting.

5.b. SYNOD DELEGATES: 3-year term

The next scheduled diocesan synod will be in fall of 2026.

- Evelyn Savage and Jackie Prowse complete their 2023-26 terms
- Dave Conway continues his 2025-28 term.
- Nominees for Synod delegates and alternates are welcome ahead of the meeting and from the floor.

5.c. TREASURER

Mark Laidlaw's appointment as Treasurer is renewed/confirmed (2023-).

5.d. PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS-AT LARGE - 2 year terms

- Gerianne Knowles-Robson continues a 2025-2027 term.
- Judith Slimmon stepped down at the end of 2025.
- Marcus Schlag completes a 2024-26 term.
- Dave Conway continues a 2-year term (2025-2027) as a regular member.
- Nominees for Parish Council members-at-large: Paul Scambler, Evelyn Savage. Further nominations are welcome ahead of the meeting and from the floor.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT & Financial Review of 2025 from Mark Laidlaw

See separate Treasurer's Report and 2026 Budget.

Adoption of Financial Report for 2025 and Budget for 2026

7. Appointment of Accounting Review Committee for fiscal year 2026:

Appointment delegated to Parish Council.

Adoption of Accounting Reviews for 2025

8. MOTION to accept OTHER REPORTS as circulated

9. Doxology and Blessing

10. ADJOURN

Minutes of St. Philip 2025 Annual Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 7 pm

The Annual Vestry Meeting was chaired by the Rev'd. Allen Doerksen, rector

Attendance: 23

Welcome

Fr. Allen opened in prayer following the BAS p. 676 with Collect "For a Synod" and the Lord's Prayer.

He then read the parish "In Memoriam", giving thanks and remembering previous parishioners who have passed on in the last year: Charlie Etchell, Betty Marshall, Brian Rush, Bob Watts. A moment of silence was observed.

Minutes: Anna Sander from audio recording

Adoption of 2024 vestry minutes

Motion to receive the minutes as printed: moved, Mark Laidlaw; seconded, Clayton Savage.

Received without corrections.

Asking the Questions of Renewal and Revitalization – Fr. Allen

- a) General Q&A
- b) Fr. Allen's presentation of the "Congregational Life Cycle."
- c) An insight and a question: small group engagement with formational questions from b)

St. Philip Parish Council 2024 Elections and Status Confirmations

Wardens: Larry Anthony continues as Rector's Warden (1 year remaining in current 3rd term). *Acclaimed.*

Ceal McLean is stepping down after 1 2-year term. Much appreciation expressed for Ceal's energy and commitment in the role of Warden, and a presentation from Fr Allen and Larry.

Nominations for People's Warden: Judith Armstrong has agreed to let her name stand. No further nominations were forthcoming from the floor. *Acclaimed.*

Deputy Warden: would be desirable, with an eye to succeeding Larry next year. No nominations were forthcoming.

Synod delegates: D. Conway, E. Savage, J. Prowse, continuing terms. *Acclaimed.*

Treasurer; M. Laidlaw took over position in September of 2023 from former treasurer M. Graham. Has agreed to continue in position. *Acclaimed.*

Parish Council; all holding positions agreed to continue their terms except Z. Urquhart who has stepped down.

M. Schlag and E. Savage 's 2 year terms ended in 2024; both agreed to continue for another 2-year term. *Acclaimed.*

No further nominations received.

Treasurer's Report

M. Laidlaw provided report overview with presentation – see Treasurer's Report.

2023 deficit \$36,200

Parish Assets \$1,236,000.

Q&A discussion: Discussion was held on issues including: parish access to trust funds; use of funds from designated bequests; details of 2023 spending; possibilities and models for different Missions funding.

Motion: to amend proposed budget, adding Missions funding of \$18,700, increasing the proposed deficit to \$57,800. Moved by G McLean, seconded by Z. Conway. Motion carried (unanimous).

Motion: to direct parish council to have a mid-year meeting presenting alternative funding for Missions, derived from consultation with missions stakeholders.

Moved: G McLean; Seconded K. Van Rheenen. Motion carried (unanimous).

Appointment of Accounting Review Committee for fiscal year 2024;

Item not addressed.

Motion to accept Other Reports as Circulated

Motion to receive other reports as submitted. Seconded; All in favour.

Positive summary comments about history, growth, commitment in community.

Adjourned 1:50 pm

St. Philip Parish—In Memoriam 2025-6

since the last Vestry

Tony Copping

Audrey Hardwicke

Bernice Horne

Louise Ferguson

Karen Norman

Valerie Boyer

Norman Hardwicke 2020

PARISH STATISTICS

Comparing average Sunday attendance 2019/2022-2025:

	8:00	9:00	Sun Live Strm (1)	Sunday Total (in person)	Week Total (in person)
2019	16.1	106.5		150.2 (incl. 11.15 service)	169.4
	8:00	9:30	YouTube (3)		
2022	12	53	72	80	87
2023	12	72	55	84	93
2024	14.6	77	(4)	91.6	99.6
2025	13.2	77	(4)	90.2	99.8

(1) Live-Stream numbers according to YouTube – includes views after the stream

(2) average 29 live stream + 43 catch up views

(3) Facebook Live since fall 2024 – streams are kept for a month only. Stats are hard to evaluate, and the “average watch time” is nearly meaningless . Recorded streams still (Jan-Feb 2026) receive an average of 100+ views, and we know, because we hear from them, that there are still parishioners and others who tune in to the live stream and/or catch up with the video every week.

Other statistics for 2019/2022-5

Services	2019	2022	2023	2024	2025
BAPTISMS	2	1	2	1	1
CONFIRMATIONS	5	0	0	0	0
WEDDINGS	2	1	0	0	0
FUNERALS	2	3	2	0	1
Thursday Eucharist 10:00 AM avg.	6	7	9	9	9.6
Thursday Book Study avg.	-	8 in person	12-15	10 (varies depending on book!)	12-15
Good Friday 10:00 AM	90	In person 63 YouTube 44	In person 56 Not streamed	55	not recorded
Easter Sunday	290	In person 169 YouTube 80	In person 157 (8 + 9.30)	12 (8am), 198 (9.30) total: 210	17 (6.30am) 12 (8am) 151 (9.30) total: 180
Christmas Eve: Family Eucharist	188	In person 120 YouTube 90	In person 155 YouTube 40	143	142

REPORTS for 2025

Financial report and Budget are circulated under separate cover.

Rector's Report

I give thanks to God for you everyday in my prayers, for your faithfulness, for your commitment to Christ and for your commitment to the St. Philip Community and our shared ministry.

The State of Affairs

In many ways life has become stranger this past year, at least with the larger political perspective in view. Things have been happening that perhaps many of us never would have imagined. In certain parts of the United States bishops are asking their clergy to prepare themselves by having their wills in order should they be asked to stand between the illegal activities of ICE and vulnerable people who need protection.

The good news is that light shines brightest against a background devoid of light. In those circumstances even a candle stands out. St. Philips is and will be one such candle. Our presence and work in this city is important even if enough people don't yet know we exist.

We too, as Jesus constantly teaches, are called to prepare, if not our last will and testament, then our hearts, so that we may be watchful and ready to act if and when we are called on to do so.

Even as we are a vibrant community in many ways with people helping each other and their neighbours, we are also seeking God's guidance for the development of a new sense of "what are we here for?"

"Who are we now?" "What is the Holy Spirit calling us to be and do together?" and "Who are our neighbours and what does it mean to be a light in their midst?" These are the questions of "revitalization" as well as "spiritual planning."

Since the Bishop proposed that we consider whether we should sell our property and use the proceeds to re-locate to St. Matthias, a building that may (or may not) have better potential for a renovation as well as more flexibility around spaces, and the possibilities those spaces suggest, those questions have been in the air.

I'm proud of the way our Wardens, Larry and Judith, have given of themselves to explore this option with the Wardens of St. Matthias and provided our parish with information as they've been able to glean it.

There's more discernment to come, that's for sure, and it's surely the case that such a decision would have implications for many of us. At this stage we don't have enough information to make a prayerfully informed decision, but that information will come (hurry please 😊) and we'll then be in a better position to say if staying put makes the most sense or pulling up our tent pegs is the way to go.

As the person privileged to be your priest for you and a fellow parishioner with you, I believe God will bless us on our joint adventure ahead, twists and turns though there may be, and regardless/in spite of decisions we make.

Revitalization

Beyond decisions about finances and buildings, the place of vision in a community that is both vibrant and needs revitalizing is akin to a 50-55 year old person who feels in good health but upon an annual check-up is told by their doctor that there needs to be “changes made if that good health is to continue.” Up till this age many people simply work hard, go on vacation, do the occasional bit of exercise and try to be generally smart about how they live.

In many ways the life cycle history of St. Philips is similar; from the mid-1970’s forward, St. Philip bucked the trend; through a series of gifted clergy, a welcoming environment that was well-placed in amongst a sea of families, St. Philip thrived and grew, not much thought to how this happened was required.

But we are in a new time, in a different neighbourhood environment, and in a new cultural space. Now we, like the 50-ish year-old human, must make choices if we are to continue to thrive and flourish. What does it mean to invite our neighbours? Which neighbours? What programs will we offer that will welcome and connect newcomers? I wish I had all the answers to these questions, but I don’t. This is the kind of wisdom that only comes communally and then becomes visible through shared risk-taking and service. It’s very exciting when it happens but it also can raise anxieties and fears about the future.

Week by Week

I continue to find personal revitalization as I’m able to meet with St. Philip parishioners and participate in St. Philip study groups and as I do the weekly work of planning worship and writing sermons. It is a great privilege to be invited into your spaces and listen to some of your stories. Please keep it coming!

My work is for you and with you as together we move, as our Bishop says, “at the speed of trust,” and as together we seek to do the “main and the plain:” loving God and our neighbour as ourselves; staying faithful to our calling when things get chaotic, celebrating our small victories and enduring hardships together.

I have had a great year working with the Wardens, the Parish Council and many others; I will miss working with Larry Anthony, Rector’s Warden on a weekly basis; he’s served 6 years in that role and canonically it’s time for him to take a break; he’s been a wonderful support and thoughtful, energetic booster of our common life. Thank you, Larry!

It's been a privilege to work with Melinda Budgell Weicker, our new Children's minister; her energy and that of her faithful helper, Jenni Jennings, as well as the great group of kids and families has been a source of encouragement this past year.

I've also enjoyed getting to know more about the work of the Missions Committee and find their work inspiring. Bless all of you who participate in the different fund-raising and practical service that goes into having a vibrant Missions Committee and ministry.

We've had a good year worshipping together; thank you to all of you who make it a regular practice in your spiritual life and thank you to all who participate in the leading of our gatherings, from our musicians, diverse as they are (a special thanks to Dave for all the work he has done "herding cats" and sorting things out besides leading the majority of the Sundays! Wow!), to our readers, to those serving in the challenging but very important ministry of Prayer of the People, you've taken up the voice of all of us and bring our requests to the very Source of grace and love.

Thank you for all the gifts of time, talent and treasure that enables the flourishing of the parish, helps the needy to be fed, and keeps food on my table. I don't take it lightly or for granted.

And finally, thanks to those of you who help out administratively; from our admin person in the office, Anna Sander, to Kathy our bookkeeper and Mark our Treasurer, without their work my ability to focus on priestly ministry would be far more difficult.

A parish like ours is runs on the fuel of love, God's love poured out in our hearts, flowing through our hearts and hands and feet in so many interesting and often hidden ways. Only God could stitch together such a constantly shifting "living mosaic" of desire, service and joy.

As I say when I introduce the peace, "Friends and siblings in Christ..." may our common life flow from the joy that is Christ himself!

Allen+.

Wardens' Report

Greetings from the St. Philip Wardens!

As Wardens, we have a unique perch with which to overlook all the parish goings on and we are grateful for this vibrant and caring community where we see life bursting forth in so many ways. Our report provides only a glimpse of this life together, with so much more contained in other reports.

If the liturgical year begins with Advent, Vestry 2025 seems to begin a new year in the activity our calendar. As we have learned, so much of church life involves gathering around food, and the past year has been no different! Lent began with a delicious Shrove Tuesday fellowship dinner, prepared and served by a gallant crew of unpaid workers, which included children and youth group folks. This was, of course, followed by Ash Wednesday, with its sombre imposition of ashes at two services.

A highlight of Holy Week was the second iteration of The Stations of the Cross, which was a wonderful way to reflect upon the meaning of the cross in our lives. Easter was, as usual a joyous time of celebration, with a new addition to our worship: a sunrise service on Easter morning, during which we relit the Paschal candle from a fire pit in our labyrinth. Then the lovely easter morning worship services. Both morning worship activities were followed by you guessed it, sharing food together, while the children searched for Easter treats, hidden by the youth group

As we transitioned into summer, we had our traditional year-end parish picnic, with games for children and, yes, great food! Thanks to Clayton and Evelyn for their organizational expertise, expertise gained from years of practice!

In early June, we sent an email to the congregation titled A New Conversation which broached the idea of entering into a conversation with St. Matthias church to determine if we may have a future together on the St. Matthias site. As a start to this conversation, we were happy to welcome many of St. Matthais' parish to our church picnic so our communities could get to know each other.

In July, our congregation gathered after worship to hear thoughts and questions concerning the St. Matthias opportunity. We were very encouraged at such a display of interest, and our time together generated over one hundred questions. After grouping these into themes, we shared them with the St. Philip community and set about finding answers. It is our hope that our information gathering would lead our parishioners to decide if we should discern the future location of St. Philip's ministry in a more formal

manner. It is important to re-emphasize that any decision about the future of St. Philip will be made exclusively by the people of St. Philip.

Jesus promised us abundant life, and it should go without saying that difficult seasons are part of abundant life. For some, our approach to information gathering is taking too long, whilst for others, it is proceeding too quickly. As part of this information gathering, we, as St. Philip Wardens, have met several times with our St. Matthias counterparts. Updates from those meetings have been communicated to our own parishioners. As we write this, we continue in dialogue St. Matthais, awaiting further clarity from them. Critical information we hope to obtain soon are professionally commissioned reports describing the physical conditions of both church's properties. These reports, too, will be shared with the people of St. Philip.

In early January, Shannon Carmichael, our children's ministry coordinator of 15 years, stepped down from this position, and we are grateful to Melinda Budgell Weicker, Jenni Jennings and Gerianne Knowles-Robson for contributing their time, energy and creativity to keep our children's ministry alive on Sunday mornings while we discerned how to move forward to September when Melinda accepted the position of Children's Ministry Coordinator.

Also at this time, we were very grateful when Ruth McGhee stepped in to offer her time and her passion for youth, to support the youth ministry until many of our youth graduated in June. We continue to seek and discern what will come next for our youth ministry.

Other activities that have enhanced our parish life this year include

- A second round of bridge lessons, taught by Mel Zimmerman, which raised nearly \$1700.00 to support the Shelbourne Community kitchen
- The fall marked the one-year anniversary of Board Game Night, a monthly outreach to young people led by our own Karishma Iyer.
- A spinoff of board game night has been Karaoke, a monthly event for all ages to come together organized by Anderson Wang
- Our Advent and Christmas season saw opportunities for people to come together to sing, one group led by Chris Harvey and the other by Dana Reiter.
- Over the holidays two more fellowship opportunities in our church hall were offered; a movie night organized by Karishma Iyer and Tim Kilgore, in which we watched the Alistair Sim version of A Christmas Carol and enjoyed snacks and a hot festive drink;

a great time was enjoyed by all. Finally, we saw out the old year with young and old gathered for a rousing and fun cribbage tournament, thanks to the leadership of Ruth McGhee and Scott Alexander.

As we wrap up this year, January brought us to our Epiphany parish retreat, held on the beautiful setting of St. Stephen's church property. Allen led us through the journey of the Magi and on stars that have guided us both personally and as a church community. It was special time of coming together, gathering once again around food and a desire to see how community life together unfolds. May this upcoming year bring us clarity as we work and look to the Holy Spirit to guide us these next months.

Judith and Larry

Children's Ministry

After volunteering in the position January-September 2025, on September 15, 2025 with great joy I began the position in an official paid capacity. Jenni remains in a volunteer position and continues to be a faithful substitute; she also creates our seasonal décor for the Sunday school space and the children's corner and at the back of the church. I greatly appreciate her.

I meet with Fr. Allen regularly to discuss the direction and happenings of Children's Ministry.

Each week I create a lesson based on the reading from the Liturgical calendar focusing primarily on the New Testament, but I do include the classic Old Testament stories.

I bring an art activity for the children to demonstrate and remember their learning and also offer supplies for the children to create their own response if they choose. Their creations are wonderful

Each Friday I send an e-mail to families reviewing what we learned the previous week and letting them know what to expect the upcoming Sunday. I include photos to help parents see what we are doing. With Fr. Allen's support I invited the parents to encourage their children to participate in the service for the first 15-20 minutes until we head down for our time together. We want them to know that children are an important part of our congregation. Once we come back up and they participate in Eucharist they play at the back of the church.

The fall began in Ordinary Time and we explored the creation story. A main theme was our responsibility to love and protect God's creations including each other. The children sang the song 'One World' during the last 9.30 Sunday service of this Season of Creation.

Advent was of particular significance as we prepared for the birth of Christ. Each week we focused on one of the elements of Advent; Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. The families participated in the lighting of the Advent candles each week.

Currently we are preparing for Lent and Easter. Each child or sibling group received a package to take home with a calendar of events and a 40 day Lent paper chain activity. Each day children are encouraged to cut out the link to add to a chain tracking the days of Lent. Each link has words of encouragement or learning on it.

Shrove Tuesday saw many of our families in attendance and Ash Wednesday has children participating in the service.

While I create lessons each week to present to the children, I am also studying the Godly Play curriculum.¹ Fr. Allen and I are excited about the prospects of implementing this

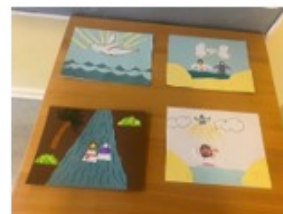
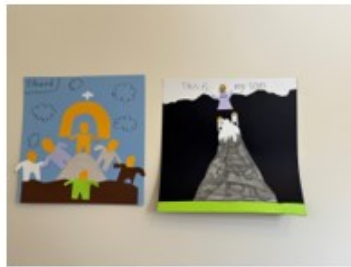
¹ See <https://www.godlyplay.ca/>

curriculum or at least key aspects of it next fall. I am beginning to use some of the language and simple structures as I become more familiar with this curriculum. However, we will need to invest in materials for the implementation of the program.

We have 10 children who are regulars, 6-10 each week. One Sunday we had 13! And recently a new boy joined our group. His grandmother attends St Philip and after the first Sunday he decided he wanted to come regularly. What a highlight of our year!

I am working on completing a welcome pouch for any children who visit. In the pouch there will be a postcard with Sunday school information, a pencil, a bookmark, and a treat for the children. I hope to have them ready by Easter. In the meantime, the postcard with a chocolate attached is gifted to any new kids who show up at church. It is our hope to grow our Children's Ministry as we continue to make St Philip a welcoming place for families.

Yours in joyful service,
Mrs. Melinda
A.K.A. Melinda Budgell-Weicker



Book Studies 2025

When I was in seminary, a professor of mine told us that surveys report that parishioners who engage in ongoing education with regard to scripture, theology and spiritual practices report a greater satisfaction with their church community than those who don't engage in such. Engagement brings greater fulfillment. Make of that what you will, but I can report that we have a highly engaged "ongoing education cohort" at St. Philip. Not everyone in the cohort participates in all the different studies all the time, but overall there is somewhere between 30-40 people who have participated in at least one study over the past year.

We began 2025 by looking at Pope Francis' *Laudato Si*, his call to the Church to take "grassroots action" for the sake of the earth and the multiple environmental crises that beset it.

We followed this up with a study that also involved others from the diocese, Catherine Kellar's book *No Matter What: Crisis and the Spirit of Planetary Possibility*. This was a difficult book because it was written from the perspective of Process Theology, a theological perspective that not many of us had encountered previously. We may revisit this topic at some time but using a study source that would help us make better sense of the underlying issues and differences from "traditional" theology.

Next up was the bracing and highly relevant book *Jesus and the Powers: Christian Political Witness in an Age of Totalitarian Terror and Dysfunctional Democracies* by the famous Anglican biblical scholar and former bishop, N. T. Wright. He wrote this with Michael F. Bird. It was instructive to see how when things go sideways politically, Christ is still at work in our political commons, calling Christians to a type of political action that is "for the good of all!"

In the late summer I was asking the group what they would like to study next when someone piped up, "what about the cross; how do we make sense of the cross?" My mind went immediately to S. Mark Heim's brilliant *Saved From Sacrifice: A Theology of the Cross* but I wondered if the group would be up for a longer work and the discombobulation that comes from the way this book upends the traditional categories. Group participants dove into the material, complained about it, but stuck with it! After twelve sessions we had the opportunity to meet the author on a Zoom call, a fitting way to end an epic study group.

Life's a journey, let's keep reading!

Allen+

Ushers & Greeters

When you come in the front door at the 9:30 am service, you are greeted by Bruce Richmond, Bruce Fyfe, Daniel Vargo, Louise Bluck and Susan Smith. The ushers also count the parishioners, gather the offering and guide people up for Communion. Thank you all.

Being an usher is a great way to get to know people and we need one more to add to the team. If you would like to be part of this important ministry, please let the office know or speak to an usher.

Susan K. Smith

Pastoral Care report

At St. Philip's Church, Pastoral Care is a vital part of our community, reflecting Christ's love and compassion through service and support. Our Rector Father Allen and many parishioners reach out to fellow members in times of need. This could be in the form of a friendly visit, a phone call, a prayer, having their names or loved ones on the Prayer Chain, providing some practical assistance or coordinating a meal train for those in times of need.

Father Allen visits those in the hospital or homebound worshippers who cannot attend services in person. His visits offer both prayer and the opportunity for communion, as desired by those he visits. Whether through a prayer or the sacrament, Father Allen's presence ensures that the spiritual needs of the community are attended to with great reverence and compassion.

We believe that the strength of our congregation lies in the bonds we form with one another, especially when life's challenges arise. Pastoral Care from the Rector and parishioners offers spiritual support, comfort and practical assistance, ensuring no one feels isolated or forgotten.

Evelyn Savage

Music

We continue to be blessed by the leadership of six music groups (with variations):

- John, Andrea, Kate and Luke Andrachuk
- Dana Reiter, Merle Campbell, Jenni Jennings and Christina Armstrong
- Shannon Carmichael, Stacy McGhee, Amanda Weinerman and Bruce Fyfe
- Zita Conway, Mary Howarth and Mike Pipes
- Jordie Maaz and Habbous Deeb
- Chris and Alix Harvey, Sharon Richmond, Gillian Rhodes, and Ged and Ceal McLean.

We were also delighted by the instrumental contributions of Ceilidh Briscoe and Annabelle Fieltsch at several services.

For the first five months of 2025, we continued monthly Taizé services, thanks to the leadership of Judith Slimmon and her team, and the contributions of the choir including David Bird, Liz Vickers, Ruth McGhee, Tim Kilgore, Ceal, Dana, Zita, Stacy and Mike.

Chris Harvey has organized afternoon singalong and playalong music sessions and they have proven to be a hit.

In spring, Ged McLean completed installation of the wireless microphone components of the new sound system initiated by Bob Watts' generous donation in the months before his passing. The new system sounds great, and despite my longstanding tradition of tangled cables as a way of life, I admit that it is far easier and more convenient to go wireless where we can.

We continue to be grateful to all those other folks who put in so many hours supporting the church music and liturgy in less audible (though sometimes more visible) ways. Clayton Savage and Anna Sanders continue to put in many hours creating the Power Point slide shows that show the lyrics and liturgy during the 9:30 services. We continue to be blessed with our team of overhead projectionists, including Marcus Schlag, Neil Ryan, Stacy McGhee, Mark Evans-Ehrich and Larry Anthony. Clayton and Ged have struggled with the aging and shaky projection technology and recently upgraded the system to be more reliable.

Once again, I want to express my continuing gratitude to Kathy Fyfe and Anna Sander for greatly lightening my prep and administrative load by looking after singers' binders and the reporting of worship music for copyright licensing on a weekly basis.

Thank you again to all those who have stepped up to support our worship through their work in music and technology this past year.

Dave Conway

Altar Guild

Each week at St. Philip, we encounter the love and mystery of God through the beauty of our liturgy. The Altar Guild provides careful preparation of the Altar and the Eucharist, and supports Father Allen as he leads us in our worship.

The Altar Guild prepares the sanctuary for all services, plus decorating for special festivals and celebrations such as Advent, Christmas, Holy Week and Easter. Again this year we explored new ways of decorating for the special festivals. Each member has the opportunity to express creatively their ideas to prepare for the joyful celebrations. We have particularly enjoyed preparing for Advent and Christmas by decorating in a progressive manner toward Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We are grateful for the members of our congregation who join us to help decorate.

We include Thanksgiving in our decorating, and use greenery and flowers from members gardens to help augment the floral cost. A flower calendar for those wishing to sign up to donate flowers in memory of a person or occasion is available, and donations for decorating at special festivals are always welcome.

Part of our preparation for services is incorporating church banners that have been created over the years by members of the Altar Guild and of our congregation. They are designed and hung to contribute to our worship. You will notice that the colours change according to the liturgical seasons. If this interests you, let the altar guild know!

Our current membership includes Felicity Bradley, Kathy Fyfe, Jenni Jennings, Nancy Kirshfelt, Beth Macdonald, Jackie Prowse, Karen Fenimore, Bethan Samaroo, and Amanda Weinerman, with Norma Laidlaw, Marnie Phillips, and Iris Thornton as associate members. We would encourage anyone who might be interested in joining us as a member or simply to help with flowers or other tasks that may arise to please contact Felicity Bradley through the office.

Karen Fenimore

Sunday Coffee and Tea Volunteers

This team of volunteers at St Philips and the many others who contribute cookies after the Sunday Service offer a special time for the community to connect and share together in a social time.

Thank you to Karen Van Rheenen, Louise Bluck, Lillian Konkin , Jennifer Clarke, Jackie Prowse, Tim Davidge, Sharon and Bruce Richmond, Bonnie Bailey, Mike Pipes, Amanda Weinerman, Barb Britton, Barb and Mark Evans Ehricht, Maja and Milek Armstrong Bukuru, Linda and Jeff Monty, Clayton Savage and many other helpful hands for your ongoing support and for being such an integral part of the church community.

Evelyn Savage

Lesson Readers and Prayers of the People

The reading of Scripture and leading of intercessory prayers are key elements in the Proclamation of the Word each Sunday, as we prepare for Communion. The BAS says, "The eucharistic community is the assembly of the baptized who are gathered to hear the word of God and to celebrate the eucharist. Word and sacrament stand in a dynamic relationship to each other. The readings, the psalms, the homily, and the intercession form a cohesive whole which leads into the sacramental celebration."

Many thanks to the readers in 2025:

Lisa Alexander, Larry Anthony, Bonnie Bailey, David Bird, Yvette Bird, Bruce Fyfe, Kathy Fyfe, Pat Kilner, John Laidlaw, Beth Macdonald, Catherine Morris, Stacy McGhee, Mike Pipes, Bruce Richmond, Marcus Schlag, Susan Paula Smith, Gaye Stone, and Florie Varga.

Many thanks to those who led the Prayers of the People in 2025:

Lisa Alexander, Chris Harvey , Ruth McGhee, Gillian Rhodes, Sharon Richmond, Paul Scambler, Joan Sedgwick, and Florie Varga.

If you are interested in finding out more about reading the lessons or leading the Prayers of the People, please speak to Fr. Allen any time. We are always glad to have more people on both schedules!

Anna Sander on behalf of the readers and intercession leaders

Contemplative Prayer

Having begun during Lent 2023, we continue to gather on Tuesday mornings, seeking God's presence in silence.

Some have joined through our website/media exposure and some through the old-fashioned sign on our church lawn (thank you Anna!). Most are from our parish. Anyone is welcome to drop in and try it out.

We meet in the nave of the church, chairs in a circle with a candle in the centre. At 10:30 the sitting bell is rung and we remain in silence for 20-25 minutes. There's a reading following the closing bell, after which people may leave silently, or remain for a time of spoken and silent prayer.

To sit in silence with others who are seeking God's presence is a deeply quieting and mysterious experience. Relationships deepen; it is curious how God works, knitting us together in silent, invisible ways.

A prayer by Thomas Merton:

I beg You to keep me in this silence so that I may learn from it
The word of your peace
And the word of your mercy
And the word of your gentleness to the world:
And that through me perhaps your word of peace may make itself heard
Where it has not been possible for anyone to hear it for a long time

*"A Prayer to God the Father on the Vigil of Pentecost",
Conjectures of a Guilty bystander 178*

Sharon Richmond

Parish Picnic report

The highlight of this year's picnic was the welcome presence of more than a dozen parishioners from St Matthias. It was an enjoyable way to get to know another community in our diocese.

Many people donated their time and energy to provide fun and engaging activities for the kids (including the reusable water balloons), set up all the furniture, prepare food in the kitchen and serve it outdoors, grill hot dogs, and clean-up afterwards. We are most grateful to all of you!

The occasional light sprinkling of rain did not dampen spirits. Everyone remained outside while enjoying the fellowship and food.

We served ten dozen hotdogs and five veggie dogs, and many salads and desserts that parishioners brought to share.

Clayton and Evelyn Savage

Beach Service

In August of 2025 we took our worship out into the wider community for our second annual "Beach Eucharist" at Willows Beach. This year's weather was warmer and sunnier than 2024's "Fog-ust" day. People sat on logs, lawn chairs or on the sand itself; certainly, the children were having nothing to do with chairs! Amazingly we had return visitors, people who had passed by and joined in 2024 also made a point to come to the 2025 service. These are people who don't come to our building! From this perspective alone, the service is worth making into a tradition.

Board Game Night

Since October 2024, St. Philip has hosted a board game night, in the church basement, on the last Friday of every month. It is open to all teens and twenty-somethings, and is frequented by young adults beyond the Parish.

Until August 2025, board game nights were from 6-9pm on the last Friday of every month. Since then, primarily due to scheduling conflicts on my end, board game nights run from 6.30-9.30pm. We do not host board game nights in December to avoid conflicting with the Christmas season.

We have, on average, 7 to 8 players per session. Attendance tends to grow in the Fall, fluctuate in the Summer, and stagnate in the Winter/Spring, though nothing substantive can be said until we have a dataset of more than one year. A small majority of overall attendees are from the SingYourJoy Young Adult Choir; their friends and classmates tend to constitute the rest. Most attendees are, or have very recently been, students at Camosun/UVic.

People are encouraged to bring their own board game night and snacks, but the church also makes sure to have games and snacks on the ready. It is a casual, open door (drop in and out at will, no questions asked) event.

Overall, it is a fun, lighthearted affair, that lends itself nicely to connection and conversation.

I'd like to personally thank the many volunteers from our Parish who have helped me set up the tables and chairs and snacks each month. I'd especially like to thank Tim Kilgore, who has always stepped up to help when scheduling conflicts arise; and Larry, who always makes sure we are well-stocked on snacks.

I'm grateful to everyone, for making a welcoming space, for me, my friends, and the friends I'm yet to make :)

-Karishma Iyer

Karaoke Night

The Karaoke Night, proposed and hosted by fellow church Parishioner Anderson, takes place on every second Friday of the month. The event aims to bring people together from the church community and beyond for a stress-free, wholesome and affordable gathering of music, laughter, socialization buoyed by non-alcoholic food and drink (usually in the forms of soda pop). It was proposed during the summer of 2025 as a way to utilize the church's basement space as a viable, affordable third space. Since its first edition in November 2025, the event has had an attendance record of between 8-12 people (including the host). The people who attend the event include church parishioners and mutual friends, with a relatively diverse range of age groups (a majority of them range from 18-35). The church provides projector (and the affiliated HDMI cable), projector screen, tables, chairs, sofas, foods (pizza and , drinks and cutleries at the church basement, while Anderson brings his laptop, 2 microphones (with mic stands appropriate from the church before they get put back to where they belong), and additional foods and drinks to the premise.

A typical karaoke night experience goes like this: Tim and/or Alan would come to the church and help me set up, I play some videos or music to set the mood when everyone arrives. The first rotation would start after 5-6 people showed up - An impromptu system is set up to ask others who wants to go first instead of the old fashioned method (physical and digital sign up sheet) because people can be indecisive or want to wait until they are comfortable to sing. After the first two rotations are over, depending on how many people have their turn (new singers are prioritized in the new turn), a break of 5-10 minutes occurs, before 2-3 more rounds depending on the remaining attendance are commenced. Usually after 30-35 songs, the event would be concluded, and the space would be cleaned up and locked up. During the course of the event, Karishma would help with coordinating turns and arranging break time. Tim and Alan would help with set up, with Tim doing the additional work of making lemonade and tea when needed. In the end, Tim and whoever is left in the building will help with the tear down and the space reorganization. Throughout the event, there are also lots of socializations and chatter happening, including when the singer's singing.

Anderson has posted this event to other public groups online, such as the "People of Victoria" Discord group, as well as spreading word of mouth to shared friends (where large crowds are guaranteed) and beyond, to increase attendance and engagement. The

church's newsletter and official website's event page features it, which helps with maintaining engagement within the church populace. Anderson has aspirations of making the karaoke night a church staple that can outlast him if he leaves, and he is willing to discuss the prospect with Larry, Judith and Father Allan among others.

Anderson would like to express his gratitude to Karishma (for helping with the coordination of turns for karaoke singers, and for inviting church members relentlessly); to Tim and Alan for helping to set up; to Larry, Judith and Father Allen for permitting and supporting this event to happen; to Larry and Judith for the proactive communication regarding the hosting logistics to make sure that the event goes off without a hitch; And everyone who has attended the event since its inception thus far. You all have made a tremendous difference on making the karaoke night the well attended, friendly and fun event that it is. Thank you to the St. Philip Anglican Church for providing the space for this event to happen. God bless you all!

Thank you,

Anderson Wang

Prayer Ministry

There are many people engaged in the important work of prayer to support St. Philip and the wider community to which its reach extends. Several formal, organized opportunities exist to facilitate prayer, but much prayer also occurs quietly and behind the scenes.

The Prayer Chain consists of a group of individuals, coordinated through email, who pray for confidential concerns shared by parishioners. Prayer requests are shared as they emerge, and a prayer list is circulated monthly.

This group has upheld many parishioners of St. Philip, its outreach ministries, as well as family and friends near and far. It is a mutually beneficial activity - strengthening and encouraging those in need of prayer, as well as the pray-ers.

A faithful few meet in the Youth Lounge at 9:00 am on Sunday to pray for the various ministries, staff and volunteers in advance of the Family Service.

All are welcome to participate on a regular or drop-in basis.

In the intercessory Prayers of the People at Sunday services, individuals with specific needs are mentioned by name, with their consent, thus enabling the wider community to join in. Lay prayer ministers are available at the side of the altar rail to pray with individuals at the Family Service during the Eucharist. If requested, Father Allen may also anoint with healing oil at this time.

Praying for others is a privilege and a vital part of a church life. If you would like to participate in any of the prayer ministries, or if you have a request for which you would like prayer, please feel free to contact me.

Joan Sedgwick

Safe Church Report

Safe Church is a program mandated by the diocese to ensure each congregation is practicing policies which keep vulnerable people safe. The program applies to the following people who:

- work with vulnerable people, such as children, the elderly or people with disabilities
- deal with money, such as the treasurer, bookkeeper or people counting offerings
- have the keys or code to access the church building
- staff

People in these categories are required to:

- have a criminal record check (CRC)
- watch a half hour video on ways to keep our church safe
- read some church safety policies and sign a form when they have done so

These requirements need to be repeated every 5 years.

In 2025, we doubled the number of people with Safe Church training to 42. Most of these people require the training because they have access to the building code.

Thank you to everyone who has gotten the Safe Church training this year or previously, especially those who put the effort into visiting police stations in person when the online method of getting the CRC didn't work for them. I anticipate that very few additional people will require Safe Church training in 2026 because everyone who currently has the training has gotten it within the 5-year window.

With gratitude,

Ceal McLean

Envelope Secretary's report

This year our long time Envelope Secretary Betty Davidson began a gradual journey into retirement. Her duties are being taken over by Leslee Scott and Jackie Prowse.

Leslee is responsible for the “front of house” activities: finding weekly volunteers to collect and count donations, making the bank deposits and keeping the treasurer updated. Jackie is responsible for “back of house”: recording the tax-receiptable donations, balancing the recorded donation amount with the bookkeeper’s bank statements, issuing tax receipts, and updating computer records.

There have been some challenges this year with a faulty Excel program that does not save input. This has been quite problematic in both reconciling income and in ensuring tax-receiptable income is properly documented. It would be nice to have this issue resolved quickly.

Quick facts about regular donors:

- 40 people/families donate via envelopes
- 30 people/families donate via direct deposit
- 21 people/families donate via e-transfer

Donations range from ca. \$20 to \$1000 per month

For changes in address, changes to direct deposits, request for envelopes, or other related things, the contact continues to be offerings@stphilipvictoria.ca Please note this email is monitored when we are in the office which is usually Tuesdays once a week.

Thank you so much to the volunteers who collect and count the offerings each week.

Thank you Betty for your patient instruction and guidance in the transition process, and thank you for your many years of dedicated service!

Jackie Prowse and Leslee Scott

Office Administrator's Report

Office support: Each week, I prepare a 9.30 service outline with news & event notices and a full-text version for the celebrant, servers, and musicians. I also provide admin support for parish ministries and events, e.g. creating leaflets, programs or posters; creating and sharing online parish and community advertising; and printing. Between seasons of extra liturgical and event admin for Advent and Christmas and then Lent and Easter, I compile Vestry minutes and parish reports for the AGM, and submit the annual reports packages and the formal Parish Information Report to the Diocese.

Rentals: 2025 was a quiet year for rentals. Gonzales Preschool continues as our primary long term tenant, Mon-Fri mornings until early afternoon. In the autumn, a choir directed by Renn Bibeau of Red Bird Music started rehearsing in the church on Wednesday evenings.

Communications: Paul and Melissa Stabell of Postmeridian Productions have produced most Instagram and Facebook content for the parish this year. I keep the hall notice boards and the website news & events up to date, compile and send the weekly e-newsletter, upload service bulletins, and compile prayer cycles for 'This Week in Prayer'. I post occasional news and event items to the parish Facebook and Instagram accounts, and to other online advertising channels as needed. We continue to seek workarounds for Rogers/Shaw's ever-increasing wariness of all mass mailings, which results in frustrating inconsistency of delivery, and many Shaw (and Hotmail) email users not reliably receiving the e-newsletter. If you have the option to use a non-Shaw email address for St Philip emails, I recommend switching!

Scheduling: I continue to coordinate the lesson readers' and intercessors' schedule, and I finalize and circulate Parish Council meeting agendas and minutes. I also take a regular turn on the Monday afternoon offerings counting rota. The "9.30 mega-rota" for all volunteer teams has proved useful, but is not (yet) the one-stop shop I was hoping for. We continue to use a multi-faceted approach for signing up and swaps: the electronic rota, emails, and a paper sign-up sheet on the office door.

Music licensing: I register music use, from Sunday mornings and other services, online with OneLicense and CCLI, and add copyright information to song powerpoint slides, as part of the legal requirement of our music licensing agreements.

Powerpoints: this year I joined the Sunday powerpoints team, creating the liturgical "skeleton" of the powerpoints (usually 110+ slides). This complex process has been massively streamlined by Clayton Savage's ingenious creation of a system of drag and drop liturgical section templates. A lot of work by several people throughout the week goes into producing each Sunday's slides!

CPD: This year Anna Van Der Hooft and the Synod office team have started presenting a really useful series of online admin staff development sessions focused on improving skills with specific systems that all (or most) of us across the diocese need to use regularly, e.g. Microsoft Office 365 and Sharepoint; Canva, Word and Excel; cyber security; website management & copyright issues, etc. Most are live by Zoom on a non-St Philip day for me, but they are recorded, so it's easy to catch up, refer back to points later, and share the recordings.

All of the above happen at the same time as providing reception in the parish office 20 hours per week, in person and by phone and email. Please note that although I can of course relay messages, Fr. Allen manages his own appointment diary.

I have been working at St Philip since April 2022, following 2 years in a similar role at St Dunstan's in Gordon Head. I divide my full-time working week between St Philip (20h, Mon pm, all day Wed & Thurs) and Oak Bay municipal hall, where I'm the professional archivist (17.5h, Mon am, all day Tues & Fri).

Thank you everyone for making my fourth year at St Philip a good one!

Anna Sander

Missions Committee

Missions had a very active year in 2025. In addition to allocating the money dedicated at Vestry, we sought to provide more opportunities for parish involvement in the work of missions. Moving meetings to Sundays after church allowed for wider involvement and we'll continue that in 2026. Everyone's support is much appreciated.

St Philip Mission Activities in 2025:

- Scarf donations for **Street Hope**. Many thanks to Norma Laidlaw who knitted a box of scarves for us to distribute on Pandora St with Street Hope. Feb
- David C spearheaded raising funds with Congregation Emanu-El to support a **Syrian refugee family**. The family is still waiting to come to Canada and their location is confidential due to death threats. The mother "R" is undergoing treatment for cancer but the two daughters are doing well at school. We hope 2026 might be the year they can finally arrive in Canada.
- Easter socks – parishioners donated socks and chocolates. We produced about 135 (pairs) of socks stuffed with chocolate treats that were handed out by **Street Hope** on Pandora Street over the Easter season. Many thanks to St Philip Youth and Children for putting the socks together.
- Lunch at **Our Place** – 8 members of the congregation served lunch at our Place in April. Another lunch will be provided Jan 28 out of the 2025 budget. Thank you, Karen and Evelyn, for organizing.
- Christmas socks prepared for Street Hope - Thank you Rob, Karen and Jenni and everyone one who contributed and helped out. Over 100 pairs of socks were stuffed and handed out on Pandora Street via **Street Hope** in December. Several members of the Parish: Judith A, Rob and Brenda H, Tim D, Kathy F and Jackie P volunteer with Street Hope each month.
- Sent balance of funds raised in Nov 2024 (\$2000) to **Mar Elias** church in Syria for Easter 2025.
- Syria fund raising dinner in September. We raised over \$5000 for **Mar Elias** to support their charity work in Rablah. Habbous spent the day cooking and serving! Thanks to all the people who contributed wine, homemade cider, music, time and helped prepare and clean up! Big thank you to St George's for donating the use of their hall.
- **Shelbourne Community Kitchen** "Spring into Action" grocery fund raiser – 4 large bags of groceries were donated and blessed at the Family service May 4 and then delivered next day. Thank you for those who organized and delivered!
- 7 bags of lightly used men's clothing were brought in by parishioners and donated to the **Mustard Seed** in July. Coffee, tea etc were donated for the **Mustard Seed's** Hospitality section in August when they faced a critical shortage.

- Six members of the parish joined the **Mustard Seed** Fair Start to hand out back to school supplies and new running shoes for low-income children on Aug 17. (Unfortunately, we were not able to do the Christmas hampers again this year as all the volunteer positions filled up quickly in December.)
- Thank you to Anna for helping to keep the Missions board in the basement up to date.

Missions speakers in 2025

- **Precious Jewels** - Joke spoke at sermon time at both services in April and updated us on PJM work with children in both the Philippines and Uganda.
- Gladys joined us at St Philip to update us on the work of **The Foundation for the Children of Haiti** and specifically about Hope Home.
- **Shelbourne Kitchen** sent a speaker to give us an update on their work with the food insecure in the Shelbourne/Cedar Hill area.
- Lisa from **Street Hope** spoke at both services in August and told us more about their work on Pandora Street helping the unhoused community.

Missions Budget Distribution: \$19,500 budget as passed by Vestry

International Missions (\$9500)

\$3500 - Precious Jewels Ministry

\$3500 - Hope Home (Haiti)

\$2500 Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) to support the Al-Ahli Arab (Anglican) hospital in Northern Gaza

Domestic Missions (\$10,000)

\$3500 - Street Hope Victoria

\$2200 - Shelbourne Community Kitchen

\$1000 South Island Counselling

\$1000 - Mustard Seed Food Bank

\$700 Our Place lunch in April

\$800 Our Place lunch Jan 2026 (but spent in 2025)

\$461.59 Syria fund raising dinner food -wine and cider were donated

Year-end balance (unspent) \$338.41

Once again a BIG thank you to those who donated money, volunteered their time, offered their organizational talents, and put in so much effort in the events that were held. I regret that there are too many people to thank individually by name but THANK YOU ALL!

Please join us in 2026 as we decide where to allocate money and plan our missions activities.

Jackie Prowse on behalf of the St Philip Missions Committee

Precious Jewels Ministry (PJM)

Lorrie Anderson in Jinja, Uganda and Joke Bergink in Victoria, B.C. send loving greetings. We are deeply grateful for the 40+ years the parish of St Philip has continued to support Precious Jewels Ministry through prayer and financial support.

PJM continues to minister with vulnerable children, youth and families. We have also been blessed to encourage leaders and pastors who care for families living in extremely difficult circumstances.

Through the years, the team continues to travel to Northern Uganda, helping organizations caring for children struggling with multiple losses and trauma caused by abuse, civil unrest and displacement. Their stories continue to live in us. PJM is receiving invitations to share Ang Tulay, A Journey with Children in Grief in Uganda, Philippines and surrounding nations. We continue to reach out to our neighbours - a massive slum community. In 2019 we started a Children's Bible Club. They are now our youth leaders during school holiday camps and children's festivals. Two years ago, we started tutorials in English, Math and practical Life Skills – they are eager to participate in our weekly Scripture Search and Computer trainings.

In the Philippines, PJM continues to provide care and support for children, youth and families living with HIV and AIDS. In 2025, the average number of new daily infections was 57-61 youth between the ages of 15-34. PJM continues to develop Sound the Alarm – designed to spread awareness and educate youth, community and church leaders throughout the Philippines. Recently PJM conducted a Child Protection Seminar, where almost 400 elementary school children participated. Our goal is to equip children with knowledge, helping them to recognize the difference between safe and unsafe touch, reminding them their lives are precious and worth protecting.

The Lord continues to give PJM vision for “healing to the nations”. After more than 10 years of prayer for Israel, in May, Lorrie, Joke, one of our Ugandan leaders and a Canadian couple spent 3 weeks in Israel, meeting, listening and praying with pastors and community leaders, introducing Ang Tulay and possible trainings in the future.

We are excited for the year ahead and we are confident that God who began a good work in us, will be faithful to complete it at the day of Christ Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:6)

We thank the Lord who invites us to “Follow Me” – walking and growing together for the healing and restoration of children, their families and the communities where they live.

With joy in the Lord

Lorrie Anderson and Joke Bergink

BALLOT: Parish Council 2026

WARDEN: 2-year term

Judith Armstrong (elected 2025, 1 yr of 1st 2-yr term completed)

SYNOD DELEGATES: 3-year term

Dave Conway

Evelyn Savage

Jackie Prowse

Alternates:

TREASURER: Mark Laidlaw (from September 2023)

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS AT LARGE

Gerianne Knowles-Robinson (2 years completed)

Nominees: Paul Scambler, Evelyn Savage