

July 2026

# The Contact

Connecting With Your St. Paul's Family



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## Warden's Corner

*Lynda A.*

When Joy asked me to write this article, she asked me to keep it light and funny. I've tried to comply!

Who are the Wardens and what do they do?

There are two wardens and two deputy wardens at St. Paul's, elected at the Annual Vestry meeting. They serve alongside Rev. Vernon to support and assist him in all church operations, financial, corporate, and congregational.

The Wardens currently are Joy A. B., Greg B., Michele C., and Lynda A. Each warden brings a particular skill set and different life experience to the table. A wise priest, and Rev. Vernon is a wise priest, utilizes the strengths of each warden.

That's the nitty gritty, now let's talk about the team!

*Continued on the following page...*

## *The Warden's Corner Continued...*

Here at St. Paul's, with the wardens, it's all about teamwork not unlike The Three Musketeers, plus one, makes four, in the Alexander Dumas novel. That's Musketeers not MOUSEKETEERS.

Many of you know I have a bit of an obsession with mice which goes back to my childhood, when I was a card-carrying member of the 50s TV Mickey Mouse Club. I never missed a chance to wear my mouse ears and I'll still dress up as a mouse at the slightest hint!!!

Anyway, back to the Four Wardens. We each bring something to the team.

It is not difficult to imagine Greg striding down the hall in pantaloons and feathered hat, sword in hand, as he is always willing to take up a cause. He does it all, liturgical assistant, coffee host, furniture mover. He's a jack of all trades. He's keeper of the keys and king of the condensers (A/C units on top of church roof). Where would we be without him?

Then there's Joy with her pixie hairstyle, briefcase in hand, always ready for another meeting. She'd have no trouble fighting off a foe! She's dependable, organized, and confident, with information sheets, agendas, Church Canons, statistics, and spreadsheets all at her fingertips. Ask her anything! She'll know the answer. What a gem!

Then we have Michele, petite in stature but big in talent, energy and expertise. She can draw a mouse in tails which makes her big in my book!!!! She can play guitar, direct a pageant, sing, edit a book, mediate, lead a bible study, and make a great salad (of course even I can do that!) St. Paul's hit the jackpot when Michele moved to town!

Then, there's me, the fourth musketeer! I'm not sure what I bring to the table but I know it is a privilege to be there.

We're "One for all, and all for one!"



*Churchwarden Greg B., as the Easter Bunny*



*Lynda A., as 'Clement the Mouse'*

# From the Church Office

*Gillian B. & Sólveig H.*

## **“Wellspring” - a source of continual or abundant supply**

We’ve been thinking about that word a lot in recent weeks. With Rev. Vernon being on leave, it could have been a concern as to where the source and direction for all of our St. Paul’s ministries would come from. Being here in the office, it quickly became obvious there was no need to question.

Just take a look at the front page of the weekly bulletin:

|                    |                                                           |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Deacon:            | The Venerable Helen L.                                    |
| Hon. Assistant:    | The Revs. Pat H., Susan H., Will H.,<br>The Ven. Brian E. |
| Director of Music: | Charles H.                                                |
| Organists:         | Freeman D./Kyle M.                                        |
| Church Warden:     | Joy A. B.                                                 |
| Church Warden:     | Greg B.                                                   |

Each and every one of the names listed above have supported us here in the office, and all of our parishioners, as they worked together to cover all the services and other ministries. A big thank you to all!

## **The Women’s Group**, at the brunch they catered recently





# A Collation at St. Paul's

Rev. Helen L.

Up until a few months ago, when Rev. Vernon and I travelled down to Victoria to see Rev. Jenny R. collated as Executive Archdeacon, I had never heard the word collation before, except when referring to something a photocopier does.

So, not surprisingly, many people came up with all kinds of interesting terms when referring to it – “when is your coronation?” or “what time is your ordination?” But those who were present on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. heard the Right Reverend Ansley Tucker, in her very enlightening sermon, refer to it as the ceremony that occurs when a bishop appoints a clergy member to take on certain responsibilities.

A collation has never taken place outside of the cathedral in this Diocese so this was a first. And, didn't St. Paul's just rise to the occasion! What a beautiful ceremony it was – truly the result of so many people's gifts and passions coming together in one service.

I am particularly thankful for the inspiration of Freeman, Charles and Reverend Vernon, who selected the Holden Evening Prayer service by Marty Haugen and for the choir and musicians who sang and performed it so beautifully. Bishop Anna and Rev. Jenny for their planning, presiding and presence. There were so many other contributions from our St. Paul's family – Barb and Gwen for reading, Joy for serving the wine (a necessity at an Anglican celebration!), Greg for liaising with the caterer, Gwen for setting up and all who assisted. And, to all who turned up on a Monday evening to be part of the service – it wouldn't have been a celebration without you!

*Continued on the next page...*



## A Collation at St. Paul's, contined...

Part of the ceremony is being vested with a cope (which looks like a cape). I had ordered one about four months ago hoping it would arrive on time but it got turned back at the border for some reason and is still out there in the ether somewhere (a prayer would be helpful here...). Rev. Jenny was gracious enough to lend hers for the evening – apparently most copes are still made for men so finding one that is short enough is a challenge. This one has been lent out to women so often lately that Jenny refers to it as “the sisterhood of the travelling cope”.

In this new role I will assist the Bishop and have particular responsibility for the raising up of the Diaconate on the Island. We currently have five ordained deacons and about another 6 or 7 in discernment so a growing entity. I am honoured to be asked to serve in this way.

Thank you for your love and support. It is my deep privilege to serve here as your Deacon and to live out our baptismal covenant together.



# Treasurer's Report

Syd G.

A review of our financial statements shows that our operating expenses continue to significantly exceed our operating income. In other words, we continue to have an operating deficit. However, we see an increase in the number of folks attending services and our Sunday community lunches. So, the parish is growing! Our operating income is increasing when compared to May 2024 YTD (up 12%) and May 2025 (up 4%).

Our Focus on Finance working group (struck to address our financial situation and brainstorm ways to improve it) has met several times since April 14<sup>th</sup>. Current members of this group include Lynda A. (Deputy Churchwarden), Marilyn B., Christina P., Cheryl P., Kathy M. and your humble treasurer. As well, Colin S., Carol S., Joy A. B., Heather L. and Joanne B. have been helpful in the early stages of the working group.

Some fundraising and community building events are being planned – a celebration of the 165<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Paul's on September 26, 2026 and some summer events – garden art sale on July 11<sup>th</sup> and a hot dog sale to celebrate the Nanaimo bathtub parade on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

A fall meeting of parishioners is planned where a Five-Year Plan to address the financial situation will be presented. If you have any ideas or thoughts about what should be considered in this plan or how the financial situation of the parish can be improved, I encourage you to reach out to me: [treasurer@stpaulsnanaimo.ca](mailto:treasurer@stpaulsnanaimo.ca)

## We ask you to prayerfully consider making a donation

*How:*

1. By cheque (made payable to St. Paul's Anglican Church)
2. Credit or debit card
3. E-transfer to [treasurer@stpaulsnanaimo.ca](mailto:treasurer@stpaulsnanaimo.ca) (please note the purpose of the transfer in the comments & include your contact information if you wish to receive a receipt)
4. Online via Canada Helps at <https://www.stpaulsnanaimo.ca/pages/give>.

# St. Paul's in the Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century

In celebration of our 165<sup>th</sup> anniversary

*Taken from Don Sale's History of St. Paul's (1986)*

*Edited by Sue G.*

Reverend James Reynard preached his first sermon at St. Paul's on August 27, 1871. He had come to this parish after many years of missionary work in the Cariboo. He had witnessed the destruction by fire of Barkerville in just 1 ½ hours, and its rebuilding in 6 weeks. He had built St. Saviour's which still stands in Barkerville. Ill health impaired his efficiency at St. Paul's. He did, however, open the first church-run day school in Nanaimo and, in 1872, he formed the Nanaimo Brass Band, which is still running as the Nanaimo Concert Band.

In 1874, Rev. Reynard moved to Saanich and was succeeded by Reverend George Mason who began his ministry in Nanaimo on September 27, 1874. During his incumbency, St. Paul's prospered. He took an active part in charitable works, including the inauguration of the Nanaimo Hospital. As a result of a community meeting held in St. Paul's schoolroom in January 1877, a Hospital Board was established. Money was raised for the Hospital Fund by subscription and entertainment, including a series of lectures by Rev. Mason. With the money raised, buildings were initially rented on Chapel Street to provide 12 beds. In 1881, a new hospital was built on Machleary Street at what was then the edge of town.

On December 24, 1874 Nanaimo officially became a city, with Mark Bate as its first mayor. Mayor Bate was an ardent churchman and a member of St. Paul's. He served in several church offices. Civically, he was re-elected 15 times. He died at the age of 94 in August 1926. His great-grandchildren had the St. Mark window installed in St. Paul's in his memory. The face of St. Mark is a reproduction of an actual photo of Mark Bate.



*The first St. Paul's Church*

In December 1875 Reverend Mason attended the first Provincial Synod in Victoria. Starting on August 20, 1876, the Harewood Mission held regular monthly services. Mr. Mason resigned in July 1878 to move to Victoria as Archdeacon.

After two years under the Reverend H.S. Newton, St. Paul's welcomed back Canon John Booth Good as Rector, this time for a 7 year stay. Under Canon Good's guidance, the Rectory and Church underwent a general repair and painting.

Continued on the following page...

## The Beginning of St. Paul's Cont'd.



*St. Alban the Martyr Church*



*St. Paul's picnic on Saysutshun (Newcastle Island), likely around the turn of the century*

This expense was met by the sale of some property belonging to the Church on Comox Road and by leasing a portion of the Church property deeded by the HBC.

At the same time, a strip of property along Church Street was sold to the City, so as to widen the street. The Church School House was demolished, and St. Paul's Church School and Institute was erected on the site of what was formerly the Hudson's Bay Colonial Schoolroom. In order to purchase an organ for the church, Mr. G.N. Westwood loaned \$500 for 3 years at an interest rate of 1% payable quarterly. St. Paul's was once again becoming vibrant under Canon Good's leadership.

In the summer of 1891, a number of members seceded from St. Paul's. [This source does not tell us what the divisive issues were.] Bishop Hills, in spite of strong protests from St. Paul's whole congregation, acceded to their petition and divided Nanaimo into two parishes - St. Paul's, and the new St. Alban the Martyr, of which Reverend Gavin Torey of New Westminster became the first rector. In two years, St. Alban's, located on Victoria Road where the OV (Old Victoria) Arts Centre now stands, amassed a debt of over \$9,000.00. During the same period, St. Paul's also suffered financially as a result of the separation. In its twelve year history, St. Alban's had five rectors.

Meanwhile back at St. Paul's, the Reverend Charles Cooper was appointed rector in 1899, following the retirement of Canon Good. A new era and a new century were about to begin for St. Paul's. Canon Cooper's influence upon the Anglican Church and Nanaimo in particular, was to have a lasting effect. He was devoted to church music, and participated in a rendition of The Messiah which toured the Island.

*Continued on the next page...*



*St. Paul's Guild - Busy Bees - taken in 1903. Photo donated by Fanny E. W.*

On January 14, 1900 there were boys in the choir for the first time, and no ladies. Canon Cooper encouraged the revival of the Church Lads Brigade band.

In March 1900, the Vestry approved a new rectory. The old rectory was to be pulled down and replaced with a structure of stone and brick, featuring five fireplaces. The Rector and Mrs. Cooper moved into their new home on November 12, 1900.

On August 20, 1900, the St. Paul's Institute Day School opened with Mr. Skrimshin as its principal. Following a reign of 64 years, Queen Victoria died on January 22, 1901. A memorial service was held in St. Paul's on February 2. The choir of men and boys first wore their surplices.

On January 2, 1902 Canon Cooper held a special service to mark the end of the Boer War. On August 2, 1902, a Coronation Service marked the crowning of King Edward VII. Mayor William Manson and Aldermen attended St. Paul's. The Church Lads Brigade was also in attendance, having become very proficient.

On September 19, 1904, Canon Cooper tendered his resignation. The popular rector was replaced by Canon A. Silva White. On December 1, 1904, the St. Paul's Ladies Guild was organized to work for the parochial needs of the church. This group of ladies was instrumental in the next 70 years in supporting many church building projects.

**Look for part 3: St. Paul in the 1870 & '80s in the next issue of the Contact!**

# What is an Oblate?

*Julie F.*

An Oblate is a layperson who dedicates their life to God. For me, that means a life lived not only in partnership but in a real sense on behalf of the Sisterhood of St John the Divine.

Part of the life of an Oblate is to enter into the life of the Convent each year for a minimum of two weeks, preferably more. This is where I am now.

As I write this, today is a personal day open for whatever one wishes to do: visit family, shop, visit together quietly in the Convent. For me today I walked the Station of the Cross, spent time in the chapel in prayer and reading Icon, contacted friends, sorted my room, went for a couple of walks in the garden, talked with my brother, and spent time reading. Oh and writing this article.

The rest of the week is prayer, ( 4 services daily, including a noon Eucharist), work (4 hours a day approximately, sometimes less), reflective time, and after dinner free time. Our days are silent except as needed at work. We have talking supper on Sundays and afterwards come together for community family time. There is usually a family dinner monthly, and there are talking suppers on special Feast days Like St John's.

The first week during my time here, we had a Triennial with Oblates from USA and across Canada. We had two discerners make first promises and several renew renew their promises. From June 18th to June 22nd, There is a gathering of Companions who have been walking together in this program Since September on zoom. I am thankful for the Sisters' generosity to stay here for this extended time for both events.

The life and ministry of the Sisterhood and each member of it is central in the Oblates concern, her love, her prayer. If you hear the call to be an Oblate, to live in their monastic way and commit your life to one of service, you must begin by contacting the Oblate Director for initial exploration. A woman applying to become an Oblate Discerner should be someone who is called to live a life of contemplative prayer, active service, and who has a deep longing to live the Monastic life in the world. If called, an Oblate will continue to a discernment year and go forward by renewing the promises. After 3 years, the Oblate may make life promises when called. I made my life promises September 18 last year

I am happy to talk with anyone interested or feel free to learn more by visiting [SSJD.ca](http://SSJD.ca)

Associates: Both men and women are not required to come to the Convent. They are given a Rule of Life and asked to have two Quiet days annually.

# Clement's Corner

Lynda A.

It's lonely these days, as the rest of the church mice have taken their little backpacks and gone on holiday. They didn't invite me, so here I am, just me, the big cheese, holding down the fort. Even the Organ Replacement Fundraising Committee is sort of taking a break. They had a potluck recently (see photo), lots of fun and food, sadly, no invitation for moi!

Anyway, no worries, I bounced back and I'll still be around with my shopping bag of wooden Cassie crosses and pens, if you need a last minute gift. I'll also be switching the Mini-Art Auction artwork every two weeks. So, come on up to the church library and check out the latest art offering.

Have a great summer, and with church activity at a slow-down, food is scarce, so, don't forget crumbs for Clement. Big crumbs!")



## Organ Dedication Recital



On Trinity Sunday, May 31, 2026, our new Makin Thirlmere organ (the first of its kind installed in Canada) was officially welcomed to St. Paul's.

At 10:30am that day, Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee held a beautiful service to dedicate our new organ. The service was followed by lunch with our community and a stunning recital by local organist Jenny Vincent.

Thank you so much to all who attended and represented the St. Paul's community!

*Pictured left is Jenny Vincent playing St. Paul's new organ.*

# Scenes from the Garden Party



The garden crew has been hard at work!

& their efforts have been paying off, we've had many compliments on the garden and especially the Rhododendrons this spring.

## Scenes from Easter Season



# Rest in Peace Harrison Cole

News was received of the untimely passing of Harrison Cole, the King's College Chapel organist.

Harrison played the very first recital on our new Makin Organ on April 13, 2026 (pictured here), only a few days after its installation. Our deepest condolences go to his family, friends, and King's College community.



## Stops for Sale!

*Freeman D.*

Our new Thirlmere II-36D organ has 36 Speaking Stops – an entire orchestra of sounds under the command of one player [sometimes two!] and parishioners will have to opportunity to «own» one of those varied and colourful sounds.

There will be demonstrations early in September with an opportunity to purchase the stop which sounds particularly appealing on a first-come first-sold basis.

THANK YOU to the many kind parishioners, clergy and and staff who «stepped in the gap» while I was hospitalised in May and for the many Get Well cards.

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

# Prayer Shawl Ministry

Yvonne O.

On behalf of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, welcome Deborah M. and Marilyn S..

The Prayer Shawl Ministry comforts those in need and reminds them they are held in the prayers of our parish community. If you would like to help with your skills or know someone who could benefit from a shawl, please reach out.

We knit or crochet simple patterns to create shawls. Reverend Vernon blesses the shawls during the 10:30 Sunday worship service, and the Prayer Shawl Ministry distributes them as we learn of needs or requests.

Many talented knitters and crocheters in our parish share their gifts. We are grateful to offer a tangible reminder of God's love and comfort, along with the prayers of our parish, to those in need. Thank you to the devoted women in our Prayer Shawl Ministry: Patricia, Diane, Catherine, Lynn, Shirley, Deborah, Marilyn, and Yvonne.

If you have never knitted or crocheted before but want to learn, we invite you to join us! The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the first and third Thursday of each month, from one to three o'clock in the St. Mark room. We pray, share, and work on projects together.

All are welcome—come and join our community.

*"It always seems impossible until it's done."*

Nelson Mandela



# High Tea & Fashion Show

*Marilyn B.*

A huge thank you goes out to all the volunteers that made this year's tea such a success. Organizer, Yvonne O., worked tirelessly to make sure it was a sold out event. Thank you to Solveig for designing such lovely tickets and menus. Rev. Vernon warmly welcomed every one, gave our land acknowledgment and led with a prayer for the food and community fellowship for which we deeply appreciated. The Lower Hall was spic and span thanks to Alison and Bill W., Brian H., Joy A-B. & Gwen.

Mother and daughter chefs Cheryl and Christina prepared beautifully presented delicious sandwiches and scrumptious sweets to serve our guests. They also donated the Sainsbury British tea brewed by our very own Joy. The food and tea were expertly served by our friendly waiters Syd, Brian H. , Brian C. Kevin and Greg. The room looked gorgeous thanks to our decorating team of Patricia S. Elaine C.-B., Ann W. Catherine K. and myself.

Fig Love fashions were provided by owner Adena and her assistant and professional photographer Emily. They even offered a 10% discount to everyone who showed their ticket stub and came into the store this month as they celebrated 10 years in business. Our lovely models Jenna, Michele C., Carol S. Gwen I., Sue Mc. and Julia R. looked fabulous in the clothes they wore. Levi (my nephew) took over 100 photos to capture this special event. Tony and Greg were also busy snapping photos.

Members of our women's group donated 17 door prizes. The grand prize was two tickets to the Chemainus Theatre! Our own Catherine K. Won! After the last scone was eaten the dedicated clean up crew of Barb and Brian C., Tony B., Ann W., Catherine K., Joy, the waiters, Cheryl and Christina. It was an incredible undertaking and from all accounts an amazing success! We would like to thank all who attended and supported our fundraising efforts for St. Paul's. Well done!





## Happy Pride Month, St. Paul's!



*Churchwarden Greg, putting up our Pride banner*

## Contact Us

**Parish Office Hours:** 9:30 am - 12:00 pm Monday-Friday

**Phone Us:** (250) 753-2523

**Email:** [admin@stpaulsnanaimo.ca](mailto:admin@stpaulsnanaimo.ca) for general inquiries  
[facilities@stpaulsnanaimo.ca](mailto:facilities@stpaulsnanaimo.ca) for room bookings

### STAY IN TOUCH!



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[admin@stpaulsnanaimo.ca](mailto:admin@stpaulsnanaimo.ca)

#### Visit Our Website

[StPaulsNanaimo.ca](http://StPaulsNanaimo.ca)

### REGULAR SERVICES

#### Morning Prayer

Mon-Fri at 8:30 am (online)

\*Excluding stat holidays

#### Wednesday Service

11:00 am Holy Communion

Followed by Bible Study

(in person only)

#### Sunday Services

8 am Holy Communion

(in person only)

10:30am Holy Eucharist

(in person & online)

Sunday services are followed  
by fellowship &

12:30 pm Community Lunch  
(by donation)