

## Ministry Report - May 2017

Apologies for the absence of myself and your other Clergy from this month's PC meeting - the annual call from the Bishop to attend the Clergy Conference is one which cannot be ignored, in fact it is a part of the requirements in the letter of appointment for all incumbents, and so we are in Chemainus where we will be learning the essentials of change management, conflict and reconciliation, with facilitation by members of the Corymeela Community of Northern Ireland - a longer and even more involved version of the day which members of our parish attended on May 13th in Duncan.

I am delighted that it is now official that our Curate Gillian will be ordained Priest on July 22nd at St John's, along with Rev Matthew Brown from the Two Saint's Ministry, and Rev Christopher Sansom from Comox. Gillian will remain in ministry at St John's as Curate and will be taking a fuller role in the sacramental life of our community.

It was with some sadness that I announced Catherine's retirement which will take effect on June 29th 2017, I will miss her diligence and hard work, as well as her wisdom and friendship, very much. This change in personnel is an opportunity to review our staffing and administration setup, and I have requested a member of our community with experience in Human Resources and management undertake such a review, and will be sharing the result of this, along with recommendations regarding the appointment of an Administrator, as soon as information is available. In the meanwhile we may have to consider the appointment of a temporary Administrator to cover as we consider our future options.

I have been grateful for the offering of people to take on the the task of creating a small 'Visioning' steering group, to assist in the planning a Vision Day in the Fall, and a strategic Vision/Action Plan. I plan to invite the Bishop to assist in the facilitation of our Vision day. We should note, however, that the issues highlighted by our Quo Vadis report have not been unaddressed and I am pleased that we have continued to see growth in our attempts at clear communications, an upgrade to our website and internet presence, the formation of a Social Justice/Social Action co-ordination group, a liturgy and worship group, and the ongoing work of addressing our Pastoral Care provision by Gillian and others, as well as work on volunteerism and conflict management.

We have some other issues to be addressed, including addressing the need for some kind of co-ordination and strategy around our Education programs, and the formation of a Finance group which will take on the overview for every aspect of our finance in partnership with the Wardens.

As I so often feel the need to repeat - all of this is only made possible, as with every aspect of the life of our community, by the generosity of the community itself - in the financial and personal support so many give. We are a unique community of welcome and worship, with I hope a growing sense of our identity and purpose of being a Church rooted in a living faith, worship and commitment to a Gospel of welcome, inclusion, affirmation, justice and grace.

With thanks for our partnership in the Gospel

Alastair