



## Fall 2019



Dear Friends,

It's time for a 'welcome back' letter for those of you who have had chance to get away, and a 'thank you for being here' letter for those of us who have stayed around our beautiful city! As we are trying to keep communicating throughout the year, on the website, in the bulletin, and through announcements and discussions, you may have noticed that these letters are getting shorter all the time, and I don't plan on filling up too much paper (real or virtual depending on how you receive this) this time.

### A busy summer

It has been an eventful few weeks, with some highs and some very low lows. At General Synod in July, as most of you will know, the amendment to the Marriage Canon fell which would have enshrined equal marriage in the laws of the Anglican Church of Canada. I have written at some length about this on our blog at <https://stjohnthedivine.bc.ca> and alongside statements from our

Bishop Logan and all of us who were Synod Members from this Diocese on <https://bc.anglican.ca> (all of these documents can be provided by the office if you would like copies) therefore I don't intend to say much more except two things: Firstly, the fall of the canon does not mean Equal Marriage cannot take place in the Church, and we will continue to offer marriage to all who are legally able to be married. Secondly, the way in



which this happened points towards a need for deep reform within the governance of the Anglican Church of Canada, something being tackled by the Lay and Clergy and Episcopal members of the Council of General Synod. It was, in the end, an exhausting, but ultimately hopeful Synod, and many good things came from our time gathered together in Vancouver.

I HAVE CALLED *You* BY NAME

 GENERAL SYNOD OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA, JULY 10 TO 16, 2019, VANCOUVER, B.C.

On my return from Synod it was my pleasure to be married to Dr. Sabina Singh by Bishop Logan at St. John's – it was a wonderful day, and for me very much a celebration of community as well as a joyful wedding. Thank you all for your support, not just on the day, but over the past few months and years – I wouldn't have made it without you. And for the many folk who helped set up, serve, clear up, and make the celebration such a feast both liturgically and physically – thank you so very much.

I also managed to take some time off following the wedding, and I am grateful to our staff team for all the work they have put in over the summer time – though we all have cause to be grateful for the work they put in all of the time!

### Not just looking back

We celebrated very recently the 'Revalidation' of the Rev. Grant Croswell's Orders of Ministry, which means from now on Grant will be able to preside at the Holy Eucharist and able to offer his ministry as a Priest within the Church. Bishop Logan also announced that Grant will continue to work, as a





voluntary Priest Associate, here at St. John's until God, or the Bishop, or a combination of the two, have other work which will suit his particular gifts and talents for Grant to do. We're very glad to have you on board, Grant!

Of course we continue to move ahead – in our Strategic Plan revision and implementation, which there will be an update on in September; in the ongoing work of maintenance and renewal of the fabric of our building; in our worshipping life; in our learning and discussions; and in our social life as we celebrate and enjoy being community.

### Discussions, plans, considerations

This fall, as well as the usual events and strategic planning, we are seeking to address and explore changes we need to make as a community, to consider our pattern of worship, to look at the leadership of some of the activities we undertake and the viability of other activities. There are exciting possibilities and challenges ahead, so please look out for announcements – online, in the bulletin, in church – regarding discussions we will be having on worship, on Social Justice and Social Action, on Refugee Ministry, on the future of 'Divine Brunch', on our Social Activities, fundraising, and Stewardship; as well as the opportunity to find out about and get involved in our many and varied ministries within the community. We continue to seek to make as clear as possible our financial reporting, making changes to our Administration to make our work as efficient as possible. All these things are ways in which our life as community is lived out and I encourage us all to be involved in discussion, volunteering, supporting, and encouraging the rich life of St. John's parish.



There is always plenty happening at St. John's – and I continue to be excited by the life of this church and by all that we are doing – as well as all the possibilities for the future of our growing, living, loving, community. Thank you to all of you, and thank you to the staff and volunteers who work so hard as we serve this community and the wider world together.

With thanks for our partnership in the Gospel,

*Alastair*





## Calendar of Events for Fall 2019

*(please watch the weekly leaflets for further details and updates)*

### Regular services (unless otherwise noted):

- Sundays: Communion at 8:00 am (BCP); 10:00 am (BAS) Parish Eucharist  
Laying-on-of-Hands for Healing each week after the 8:00 am service and during communion at the 10:00 am service;  
Evensong is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month at 7:30 pm
- Mid-week: Holy Communion every Wednesday at 7:45 am followed by breakfast;  
Meditative Eucharist every Thursday 12:10-12:50 pm

### Out of the Rain Youth Shelter (October 15 through April 15)

Sunday and Tuesday nights (sponsored by Beacon Services) / Monday nights (sponsored by St. John's Church)

### September

Sunday	Sept. 1	11:45 am	Sunday Reflections
		7:30 pm	Evensong
Monday	Sept. 2		The Office is closed for Labour Day.
Tuesday	Sept. 3	7:00 pm	Parish Council
Wednesdays	Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25	9:30 am	Sermon Circle
		1:30 pm	Art & Soul Group
Fridays	Sept. 6, 13, 20	10:00 am	Food Bank
Friday	Sept. 6	5:30 pm	Diviners Walking Group "Layritz and Logan Parks"
Sunday	Sept. 8	11:30 am	Welcome Back Barbecue
Mondays	Sept. 9, 23	1:30 pm	St. John's Knitters
Tuesdays	Sept. 10, 17, 24	10:00 am	Food Bank
Tuesday	Sept. 10	2:00 pm	ACW Meeting
Friday	Sept. 13	5:30 pm	Diviners Walking Group "Pat Bay Park"
Sunday	Sept. 15	2:00 pm	PFLAG
Sundays	Sept. 15, 22, 29	11:45 am	Sunday Reflections
Mondays	Sept. 16, 23, 30	2:00 pm	Book Study
Tuesday	Sept. 17	7:00 pm	Alliance Club Cooking
		7:00 pm	Parish Council
Wednesday	Sept. 18	7:00 pm	Reel Thought
Friday	Sept. 20	5:30 pm	Diviners Walking Group "Millstream Creek"
Saturday	Sept. 21	9:00 am	Safe Church Workshop – registration deadline September 18





Wednesday	Sept. 25	6:00 pm	Generous Space
Friday	Sept. 27	5:30 pm	Diviners Walking Group "Panama Flats"
		7:30 pm	"Grand Orchestral Suites" Victoria Baroque Players Concert
Friday-Saturday	Sept. 27-28		We Together Conference at St. Paul's, Nanaimo
Sunday	Sept. 29	6:00 pm	Healing Eucharist

## October

Wednesdays	Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	9:30 am 1:30 pm	Sermon Circle Art & Soul Group
Fridays	Oct. 4, 11, 18	10:00 am	Food Bank
Friday	Oct. 4	5:30 pm	Diviners Walking Group "Elk Road Walk"
Sundays	Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27	11:45 pm	Sunday Reflections
Sunday	Oct. 6	7:30 pm	Evensong
Mondays	Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28	2:00 pm	Book Study
Tuesday	Oct. 8	2:00 pm	ACW Meeting
Tuesdays	Oct. 8, 22	10:00 am	Food Bank
Friday	Oct. 11	5:30 pm	Diviners Walking Group "Uplands Park – Willows Beach"
Monday	Oct. 14		The office is closed for Thanksgiving.
Mondays	Oct. 14, 28	1:30 pm	St. John's Knitters
Tuesday	Oct. 15	7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Parish Council Alliance Club Cooking
Wednesday	Oct. 16	7:00 pm	Reel Thought
Friday	Oct. 18	5:30 pm	Diviners Walking Group "Quick's Bottom – Joe's Trail"
Sunday	Oct. 20	2:00 pm	PFLAG
Wednesday	Oct. 30	6:00 pm	Generous Space

## November

Fridays	Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29	10:00 am	Food Bank
Saturday	Nov. 2		<b>Clocks Fall Back one hour</b>
Sunday	Nov. 3	7:30 pm	Evensong
Sundays	Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24	11:45 am	Sunday Reflections
Mondays	Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25	2:00 pm	Book Study
Tuesdays	Nov. 5, 19	10:00 am	Food Bank
Wednesdays	Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27	9:30 am 1:30 pm	Sermon Circle Art & Soul Group
Monday	Nov. 11		The office is closed for Remembrance Day

