



open gate  
CHURCH

## PARISH PROFILE

MARCH 2021

*For no one can lay any other foundation than the  
one we already have- Jesus Christ.*

1 Corinthians 3:11

## Introduction

Thank you for your interest in The Open Gate Church. The Open Gate Church is a member of the Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC), and as such, takes its theological orientation and direction from the Holy Scriptures, the Anglican Church in North America, and the Jerusalem Declaration. We hope this profile, which is a compilation of information gleaned from parish members, church records and community websites, assists you in discerning if God is leading you to serve at The Open Gate Church as our Pastor.

## Values and Purpose (inclusive of Vision and Mission)

**Values:** To be a Christ centred church, scripturally based, glorifying God, and showing God's love to all and to be messengers of God's love and grace for salvation.

**Purpose:**

The purposes of the Open Gate Church Society read in part:

- (a) To develop and maintain a church of Christian ministries to believers who are committed to abiding by the Holy Scriptures and to doing the will of God on earth, both locally and globally;
- (b) To promote the emotional, physical, social and spiritual welfare of its members and adherents, individually and collectively, equipping the saints to maturity and assisting them to find their place of ministry in the Body of Christ;
- (c) To prepare and encourage its members and adherents to fulfill the Great Commission, making disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ and sharing spiritual and material resources to serve Jesus Christ and his creation;
- (d) To glorify God and grow as a local congregation both qualitatively and quantitatively that loves Jesus Christ and witnesses to His atoning death and resurrection, with local Christian churches in Canada and especially those committed to the Anglican tradition;
- (e) To gift funds to qualified donees as defined in subsection 149.1(1) of the Income Tax Act that carry out programs, projects or activities that, in the opinion of the directors of the Society, bring the message of Christ to the world and meet the purposes described in articles 2(a) through (d);
- (g)
  - xiii) To fulfill our **vision statement**, which is know Christ and to nurture Christian disciples for ministry to the lost and hurting.
  - xiv) To fulfil our **mission**, which is to establish a biblically orthodox congregation worshiping in the Anglican tradition based in the Province of British Columbia with all God's providence, presence and power in order to prayerfully:
    - Worship God in a manner rooted in Spirit and Truth.
    - Witness to Jesus Christ with servant hearts by clearly communicating the good news ('gospel') of God's saving work as it is articulated in the Bible; teaching, warning and proclaiming Jesus Christ in a variety of settings, so that people may come to faith in Him.

- Disciple Christians with the goal of growth in biblical knowledge, so that they may be built up in the likeness of Christ, strengthened, and equipped for the work of ministry.
- Fellowship as a consequence of the cross of Jesus Christ.

## ANiC Ministry Priorities

The Open Gate Church fully embraces ANiC's five ministry priorities:

- To be biblically grounded
- To be bold witnesses
- To love children and families
- To be on mission globally
- To be planting and growing churches

## History of The Open Gate Church

The Open Gate Church has its historical roots in The Churches of St Mary the Virgin and St. Mary of the Incarnation, Metchosin. St. Mary the Virgin Church was consecrated on October 22, 1873.

Significant growth in the congregation took place under the leadership of Rev. Harry Silvester, incumbent from 1968 to 1987. Rev. Silvester was a leader in the Charismatic Movement in Victoria in the 1970s & 80s. Teaching and manifestation of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit were introduced to the congregation and St. Mary's experienced a powerful renewal. Home Bible Studies, healing services, teaching series and guest speakers contributed to growth in the congregation, both in The Holy Spirit and in numbers. Rev. Silvester retired from parish ministry in 1987 and the Rev. Charles Alexander became Lead Pastor.

Under the leadership of Rev. Alexander, St. Mary's continued to grow in numbers and in depth of knowledge of the Scripture and the power of The Holy Spirit. As a result of this growth, it was evident that the facilities at the St. Mary the Virgin site were inadequate and plans for a new church were made. A new church was built largely with volunteer labour on donated land. On Sunday, September 15, 1991 Rev. Alexander led a procession of about 150 people from St. Mary the Virgin church to the new church, St. Mary of the Incarnation. A few years later, the parish supported the Montreal Declaration and became part of the Anglican Essentials Movement. Rev. Alexander retired in 1996 and the Rev. Sharon Hayton became the first female Lead Pastor of St. Mary's of the Incarnation.

Rev. Hayton, brought her excellent knowledge of scripture, teaching and pastoral skills to the congregation and built on the work of previous rectors. She also shared with the congregation her passion for The Holy Land of Israel and a vision of a move of The Holy Spirit across Canada. Part of this vision included developing a connection with Anglicans in the Diocese of the Arctic. In 1999 Rev. Hayton became the first female Archdeacon in the Diocese of BC. Shortly after this, the Rev. Andrew Hewlett was hired as Associate Pastor.

There arose in the Anglican Church of Canada (ACoC) a divergence of theology that resulted in a vote on February 17, 2008 to leave The Anglican Church of Canada. Eighty-six percent of the congregation decided to step out in faith and join The Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC), part of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) and part of the global Gafcon network of Anglicans in the world. The Rev. Sharon Hayton and the Rev. Andrew Hewlett were among the first pastors to relinquish their ACoC license. This move was not an easy one. A team of members of

the Parish Council and other lay leadership as well as the clergy prayerfully sought The Lord's guidance on the future of St. Mary's of the Incarnation. Their desire was to remain faithful to the Holy Scripture, as the inspired Word of God, and to the teaching and leading of the Holy Spirit, which remains our commitment today.

Despite hopes of negotiations and mediation with the Diocese of B.C., we were not permitted to remain in our Church building in Metchosin. We relocated in June of 2008 to Lighthouse Christian Academy in the City of Langford and formed as a new body of faith, The Open Gate Church. We were in fact, one of the first churches in Canada to make the move away from The Anglican Church of Canada to ANiC. As Christians and members of ANiC, our Church took a stand for the authority of scripture and Christ as our foundation.

The Rev. Sharon Hayton continued to lead the congregation until her retirement, followed by The Rev. Chris Zoephel from February 2012 until August 2013 at which time The Rev. Andrew Hewlett took on full time responsibilities as Rector of the Open Gate Church. Rev. Hewlett announced his retirement, to be effective the end of February 2021.

## Leadership & Structure

### *Clergy*

The Rev. Andrew Hewlett was the most recent Pastor at The Open Gate Church. Andrew also served as a Chaplain in the Naval Reserve. Additionally, we have several qualified pastors who are members of the congregation who serve occasionally when called upon in a volunteer capacity.

Our leadership holds to the authority of Holy Scripture and teaches accordingly. They are people of prayer, and skilled at encouraging and raising up lay leadership in the congregation.

### *Executive and Parish Councils*

We have an Executive Council (aka Corporation), a Parish Council (aka Board of Directors). The Executive Council is made up of the Pastor, Rector's Warden, People's Warden, Treasurer and Secretary. The Bylaws of The Open Gate Church state that each member of the Executive Council must meet the spiritual requirements set out in Acts 6:1-3 and in 1 Timothy 3:1-7. The Executive Council typically meets monthly, a week ahead of the Parish Council meeting.

The Parish Council consists of the members of the Executive Council, Synod Delegates and up to nine members at large. The Parish Council meets monthly, usually on the third Wednesday of the month.

### *Paid Staff and Lay Leadership*

The paid staff at The Open Gate Church include the Rector, the Music Director, worship leaders, KidZone leader and the Office Administrator, and pending approval, tech support. Volunteer workers include, the treasurer and bookkeeper, home group leaders, altar guild, youth leaders, music team, KidZone (Sunday School) teachers, Parish Council members, and many more.

The Open Gate Church does not currently have a Youth Director or Youth Pastor, but we are hoping to open a new staff position in the future.

# Worship

At The Open Gate Church, we define worship as: praising God in music, prayer, words and deeds and other forms of worship within a Biblical framework. Our worship is scripturally based and focuses on Jesus.

The Priest/Pastor In-Charge at The Open Gate Church plans and conducts the services. Sermons and the music selections are usually from the lectionary with the occasional sermon series. Children are included at the beginning of the service and return from KidZone in time for Communion. The clergy encourage and enlist the assistance of lay members as readers, prayer leaders, sides-persons, servers, chalice bearers, the alter guild and set-up team. We have a strong tradition of every person ministering.

Music is an integral part of our worship at both Sunday services. We are blessed with a diverse and gifted music team. At the 8:30 am service we have piano accompaniment to traditional hymns selected from The Book of Common Praise blended with some contemporary music. The 10:15 service incorporates contemporary music led by our praise and worship team. The worship team meets weekly for prayer and practice. Music at the 10:15 service is under the primary direction of our Music Director in collaboration with our Pastor.

## *Worship Services*

### Sunday Services:

8:30 to 9:30 a.m. - Elements of this service include hymns, the Book of Common Prayer, a sermon and Holy Communion.

10:15 to 11:45 a.m. - Elements of this service include contemporary worship music, KidZone, Contemporary language liturgy projected to screen, a sermon, Holy Communion, Prayer healing ministry available weekly during 10:15 Communion. We encourage freedom within the liturgy for the Holy Spirit to move in our midst.

KidZone - Meet each Sunday during the 10:15 service. It is a small group of children ranging in age from birth to 13 years. Growth of our ministry to children is a priority for The Open Gate Church.

### Other Services:

- A monthly hymn sing at the Priory Long Term Care Facility.
- A regular communion service at a home in Sooke for a small number of time parishioners.

## *Our Physical Worship Space*

Currently ours is not a traditional worship space. A transformation from the hall of Lighthouse Christian Academy (LCA) to church and back to hall again, takes place each week. A dedicated team of people set up our worship space. A roster of teams set up the chairs, music equipment, banners, sound equipment and other furniture needed for worship. Altar Guild members assist with the set-up of the Altar, vessels for Holy Communion, flowers and other things as necessary. The Altar Guild is responsible for decorating for special services such as Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. They purchase and maintain the supplies for the Altar.

The Open Gate Church rents space for worship and an administrative office from the school (LCA). The Open Gate Church office is staffed by an Office Administrator Tuesday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The small office is available at all times for clergy appointments or small meetings. Other space in the school can generally be arranged

in non-school hours for Parish Council meetings and special teaching series. Special service times such as Christmas and Easter are specified in the LCA rental contract.

It is our desire and prayer to secure a space for our dedicated use and ultimately our own building (rent or own).

*The joy of the Lord is our strength!*

## Missions

The Open Gate Church has always put a high priority on Missions. Many of the parishioners are or have been intimately involved with mission activity, both at home and abroad. The Open Gate Church currently has a policy of providing funding on a monthly basis towards international and local outreach missions. There is a Missions Committee that has been delegated responsibility to apportion the monthly funds as they feel the Lord leads with the approval of the Executive Council.

Inspired by a number of Neighbourhood Markets in Greater Victoria operated in cooperation with LIVING EDGE, our own congregation felt called to adopt this ministry for our Langford Neighbourhood. In November 2017, the weekly Langford Community Market was launched, supported by our own faithful volunteers who, while gladly serving people in need feel greatly blessed at the same time. In our facility we offer a large variety of produce, bread, dairy and fruit. Our clients range from low income and single parent families to seniors and homeless persons, who thankfully benefit from a free source of essential foods and who appreciate the kindness and love they experience in their interaction with our team.

The Open Gate Church feels the Lord is leading us to outreach in several areas in the local community. We believe that one area of particular importance is the rapidly growing suburban area in close proximity to the school where we meet. This area includes many young families and people who have recently retired.

*Current local outreaches that we are involved in or financially support:*

- Langford Community (Living Edge) Market with Open Gate Church and community volunteers
- Threshold Ministries – Street Hope Victoria
- Goldstream Food Bank
- Youth for Christ Blue Bus; indigenous youth outreach
- Victoria Pregnancy Centre
- Open Gate Children's KidZone outreach events: KidZone Community Party in the Park, Easter egg hunt, etc.

*Current international missions supported include:*

- Anglican Relief and Development Fund Canada (ARDFC)
- Mexico Mission Trip in partnership with Saanich Baptist Church
- YWAM Vancouver
- YWAM India
- Precious Jewels, a ministry to orphan children in Manila and Uganda
- OM Canada, the Eckerts in Nepal
- Reformed Episcopal Churches in Cuba

## Discipleship and Teaching

*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who still believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. – Jesus Christ*

*John 17: 20-21*

Discipleship and teaching help us build a foundation of unity and love.

The Open Gate Church has always had strong teachers whose sermons are Biblically based and are related to today's world. Our pastors reach children and adults of all ages. We are always encouraged to go deeper into the Bible as individuals and as a parish to share our faith on a daily basis. Our pastors provide counselling and pastoral care.

Discipleship and teaching take many forms in our congregation. Home groups, children's ministries, youth groups and Bible studies are some of the ways we grow and reach out.

Home Groups are an important part of our structure and are an essential place to disciple each other. Currently we have several home groups actively meeting on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. We think home groups are a safe and welcoming place to invite others who do not attend church but have a desire to learn more about the Christian faith.

Children and youth are a vital part of our Christian Community.

Prayer groups, Retreats, and Bible studies led by our Pastor provide ongoing discipleship. Monthly potluck lunches, the monthly Men's Breakfast and weekly men's coffee provide much enjoyed fellowship. Personal testimonies and the sharing of spiritual gifts bring much encouragement to each other.

God is leading us to continue with strong biblical teaching, including gifts of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. Home Groups play an important role in the church and need to be supported and encouraged by the clergy and supplied with resources and guidelines in order to bring cohesiveness. More advertising of our Home Groups and Bible Studies through websites, bulletins and social media would provide a much broader outreach. Encouraging more personal testimonies and interaction among the parishioners builds community.

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to breaking of bread and to prayer.*

*Acts 2:42*

## Financial Statements

*All things come of Thee O Lord,  
and of Thine own have we given Thee.*

*1 Chronicles 29:14*

Our budgets and finances are faith based. Financial statements for the church are available upon request by contacting the church office by emailing [contact@opengatechurch.ca](mailto:contact@opengatechurch.ca) Please also reference appendix A.

# The Surrounding Community of The Open Gate Church

The Open Gate Church resides in the city of Langford. Langford is one of several municipalities in the “Westshore” area. Langford is the largest municipality in Victoria's Westshore and is ranked as the fastest growing community in BC. Langford has large retail and wholesale stores, light industrial companies and many small businesses. There are several new developments in Langford creating new neighborhoods.

One of the major housing developments in Langford is Westhills. Langford also offers an affordable housing program. These projects are on the doorstep of The Open Gate Church in our current location at Lighthouse Christian Academy. Also near the church are two sports fields, the City Centre Park, Westhills stadium – home to Rugby Canada, the YMCA, swimming, skating, movie theatres, bowling and so much more. A new world class facility is under construction and will house a state-of-the-art maritime museum, conference centre and performing arts theatre in Langford. There are numerous regional and provincial parks in the area. A great website to check is [Langford.ca](http://Langford.ca)

In addition to LCA, there are public High Schools (Belmont and Royal Bay), Middle Schools (Spencer and Dunsmuir), many elementary schools and the Brookes Westshore IB World School within the catchment area of the Westshore. Additionally, the Westshore boasts Royal Roads University and Pearson College of the Pacific.

Langford's population is flourishing with a growth of 5.2% between 2018-2019. The population of Langford in 2020 was 47,183. It is estimated that by 2038 there will be over 125,000 people living on the Westshore, which includes Langford, Colwood, Highlands, Metchosin and Sooke.

## Demographics and Character of the Parish

The Open Gate Church draws its membership from a variety of demographic areas and denominational backgrounds:

Total number of members:	139 on the Parish Roll (99 voting)
Average Sunday attendance 2019:	89

## What The Open Gate Church seeks in a Pastor

Our Pastor will be well grounded in the Biblical teachings of the Gospel as defined in the Jerusalem Declaration. Our Pastor sets an example, challenging and exhorting us to uphold the essential and fundamental truths of Holy Scripture and of Christian faith and practice. S(he) will be a pastor to the people, shepherd the flock and provide pastoral care.

*Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.*  
*James 2:17*

As a congregation, we have experienced the power and vitality of the Holy Spirit. Our Pastor will lead and encourage the expression of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in ministry and corporate worship.

The Open Gate Church fosters a culture of love and grace where individuals can take a risk and learn to exercise their faith gifts safely.

Our Pastor will be an effective teacher and preacher. (S)he will support, actively encourage and develop



ministries within the congregation with special reference to the support of children, youth and the discipleship of new believers.

We seek a Pastor with excellent communication and encouragement skills, committed to growing in our ministry to our fellow members in the body of Christ, the community, and the world. The Pastor must be able to effectively utilize current and changing technology including social media.

We are a family church and seek a Pastor who will embrace our relational-based community, one who will build us up and build us out and be fully committed to this church.

## Summary

We who are called *The Open Gate Church* want to continue to be a church who are alive in our faith, grounded in Holy Scripture, Christ centered, and responsive to congregational and community needs. We look to Jesus Christ as the author and finisher of our faith. We want to be known for our love of God and one another. We desire to continue to be a church that cares for our aging members and attaches value to a vibrant youth ministry. As a congregation we are a caring people whose love for the Lord extends to love for the hurting, the sick and the lonely. At The Open Gate Church all are welcomed and valued.

At The Open Gate Church, the love of God is extended to all. We are a community of prayer, that welcomes and disciples new believers and nurtures and supports its members through ministry and home groups. Each member of The Open Gate Church is exhorted and encouraged to obey Christ and walk in holiness.

We continue to be a church that reaches out and is involved in many areas of the community. We are ready to move forward with a new Pastor with God's guidance. We are at an exciting time, seeking a pastor who will bless and lead our church family.

## APPENDIX A

### THE OPEN GATE CHURCH FINANCIAL STATISTICS FOR THE PARISH PROFILE

#### AVERAGE EXPENSES FOR THE LAST 5 YEARS

2016 – 2020

Total Average Yearly Expense                      \$ 219,519.67

#### Percentages of Yearly Expense by category:

Wages and Benefits [Clergy, Admin, Music Ministry]	61.77%
Facility Usage	10.33%
ANiC Parish Contribution	9.86%
Outreach	7.82%
Retreats/Conferences	2.47%
Office Expenses	2.30%
Worship Expenses	1.60%
KidZone	1.41%
[Expenses & Honorariums]	
Honoraria	.88%
Education	.81%
Insurance	.75%

The Open Gate Church is not carrying any historical debt.