

# *The Open Gate*

## *Anglican Network Church*

"To know Christ and to nurture Christian disciples  
for ministry to the lost and hurting"



## *Parish Profile*

*January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012*

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 church of the Anglican Network in Canada and as such takes its theological orientation and direction from 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 worship with us at The Open Gate Church.

## **History of The Open Gate Church**

The Open Gate Church has its roots in The Churches of St Mary the Virgin and St. Mary of the Incarnation, Metchosin. St. Mary the Virgin Church, a Heritage building, 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 at St. Mary's and we experienced a powerful renewal. Home Bible Studies, healing services, teaching series and guest speakers contributed to growth in the congregation both in spirit and in numbers. Rev. Silvester retired from parish ministry in 1987 and the Rev. Charles Alexander became Rector.

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 a plan for a new church was 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 to the new church, St. Mary of the Incarnation. A few years later, the parish supported the Montreal Declaration and became part of the Essentials Movement. Rev. Alexander retired in 1996 and the Rev. Sharon Hayton became the first female Rector of St. Mary's.

Rev. Hayton brought her excellent knowledge of scripture, teaching and pastoral skills 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 also 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 Artic. 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 Priest. Since 1994, this congregation has been committed to hiring paid youth workers. Many of these young men and women have since been ordained.

Many of the members of The Open Gate Church were long time members of these two churches and were very involved in the building of the church and in numerous aspects of church and community life in Metchosin.

The Open Gate Church was one of the first Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC) churches to make the move from the Anglican Church of Canada (ACoC). 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 the church. Their desire was to remain faithful to Holy Scripture, as the inspired Word of God and to the teaching and leading of the Holy Spirit. As Christians and members of the Anglican Network in Canada we took a stand for the faith and stood on solid ground with the Word of God and Christ as our foundation. We voted on February 17, 2008 to leave the Anglican Church of Canada with 86% majority. The Rev. Sharon Hayton and the Rev. Andrew Hewlett were among the first priests to relinquish their ACoC licence.

Despite hopes of negotiations and mediation with the Diocese of BC, we were not permitted to remain in our building in Metchosin. We relocated in June 2008 to Lighthouse Christian Academy in the City of Langford.

### **Leadership & Structure**

At The Open Gate Church we are blessed by strong and dynamic leadership. We currently have an Associate Priest and a Youth Director as paid clergy and two retired clergy, one who serves in a volunteer capacity, and one who despite illness continues to be a strong prayer support for our leadership. We also have Executive Council (aka Corporation), a Board of Directors (aka Parish Council), and lay leaders in various areas of ministry. The Bylaws of The Open Gate<sup>1</sup> state that each member of the Executive council must meet the spiritual requirements set out in **1 Timothy 3** and in **1 Peter 5:1-3**.

#### ***Clergy, Paid Staff and Volunteer Leadership***

Our Associate Priest, the Rev. Andrew Hewlett, is half-time at The Open Gate Church, and is also employed as a Chaplain in the Naval Reserve. Andrew is also working with a church plant in the Mill Bay/Shawnigan Lake area and he is currently The Priest in Charge at The Open Gate Church.

The Youth Director, the Rev. Andy Withrow, has a half-time contract at The Open Gate Church, and works half-time at The Table – a church plant in downtown Victoria. Andy's focus at The Open Gate Church is leading and supporting other leadership of our various youth groups and young adult groups.

Our clergy believe in the authority of Holy Scripture and teach accordingly. They are men of prayer. They are skilled at encouraging and raising-up lay leadership in the congregation.

Paid staff in our congregation is The Worship Director<sup>2</sup> and the Office Administrator. Volunteer leaders include, the Treasurer and Bookkeeper, Home Group Leaders, Altar

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<sup>1</sup> Available @ [www.theopengate.ca](http://www.theopengate.ca)

<sup>2</sup> Similar to a "Music Ministry Leader"

Guild president, Youth Leaders and **KinGS** Club (Sunday School) leaders.

### ***Executive Council and Board of Directors***

The Executive Council is made up of the Associate Priest, The People's Warden, The Rector's Warden, Treasurer & Secretary. When the position of Rector is filled, the Rector will sit on this council and the Associate Priest will have no obligation on this council. The Executive Council meets monthly.

The Board of Directors consists of the members of the Executive Council, Synod Delegates and 9 members at large. The Board meets monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

At the Parish Day, the members present voiced a need for leadership to continue in firm biblical teaching and be ready to step out in faith and have a vision for our congregation and community.

## **Worship**

At The Open Gate Church we define worship as praising God in music, prayer, words and deeds. All we do in the name of Jesus is worship. The part of our worship described here is our formal services. Our worship is scripture based and focuses on Jesus. The clergy at The Open Gate plan and conduct the services. Sermons are usually preached from the lectionary with the occasional sermon series. Rev. Andrew includes a short talk to the children, usually a simple object lesson which speaks to everyone! The clergy encourage and enlist the assistance of lay members as readers, prayers, sides-persons, servers and chalice bearers. Music and praise are a significant part of our worship. We are blessed with a large and talented music team, under the skillful direction of our Worship Director. We are open to other forms of worship within the Biblical framework.

### ***Worship Services***

#### **Sunday Services**

8:30 to 9:30am

- Book of Common Prayer
- Holy Communion, at least, 3 times per month and Morning Prayer once per month.

10:15 to 11:45am

- Block of Praise (3-5 songs)
- Book of Alternate Services (BAS), Global Anglican future Conference (GAFcon)
- Holy Communion, at least, 3 times per month and Morning Worship once a month
- contemporary music and hymns led by our worship team
- **KinGS** Club (Sunday School)
- Prayer healing ministry available weekly during 10:15 Communion.

We allow freedom within the liturgy for the Holy Spirit to move in our midst. Spiritual gifts of singing or speaking in tongues, words of prophesy and knowledge and

spontaneous prayer may be manifested.

### **Midweek Services**

Wednesday: 10:30am

Mid-week Communion is held at The Alexander Mackie – an Assisted Living facility in the community. Two of our long time parishioners live there and they along with other residents and members of the congregation attend this service.

### **KinGS Club**

Kids in God's Service meet each Sunday during the 10:15 service. It is a small group of children ranging from nursery to 13 years old. Although small they are faithful. Growth of our ministry to children is a priority and concern for The Open Gate Church.

### **Music Ministry**

Music is an integral part of our worship at both Sunday services. At the 8:30 am service we have piano accompaniment to traditional hymns selected from The Book of Common Praise (1963).

At the 10:15 service, a block of praise starts the service with a combination of hymns and contemporary songs are led by our music team. Our Worship Team is led by Music Director, Lisa Guthrie, a qualified music teacher with years of experience in leading worship. Lisa is on contract with The Open Gate church. The Worship Team is made up of many talented people (11) including vocals, piano and various instruments. This ministry provides meaningful songs which are scripture related. The music team meets weekly for prayer and practice.

### **Our Physical Worship Space**

As ours is not a traditional worship space, a transformation from hall to church and back to hall again, takes place each week. A dedicated team of people set up our worship space; a task which is performed faithfully and with little complaint. A roster of 4 teams of members 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 also responsible for decorating for special services such as Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas They also purchase and maintain the supplies for the Altar.

*The joy of the Lord is our strength*

## **Missions**

Open Gate 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. Open Gate has a policy of tithing 10% of total giving towards missions and local outreach plus the additional 10% tithed to ANiC. There is a Missions Committee that has been delegated responsibility to apportion the monthly tithe as they feel the Lord leads. We believe that God wishes us to continue to support missions even though church financial realities, at times, cause us to delay our gifts until the funds become available.

Current International Missions supported include:

- New Hope School Society, supporting the Victoria Primary School in Uganda.
- ERDO, supporting a micro-business income generation organization in the Congo
- YWAM Vancouver
- Precious Jewels, an orphanage in Manila

## **Local Outreach**

Open Gate feels the Lord is leading us to outreach in several areas in the local community. The move to the Lighthouse Christian Academy was accompanied by the vision that we would have an outreach to the students at the school and their families. At LCA, only 65% are currently involved in a Christian community. Unfortunately, this has not yet been realized to any extent.

We also believe we have also received the vision to outreach to the rapidly growing suburban area in close proximity to the school. This area includes many young families.

Current local outreach that Open Gate is involved in and supports includes:

- The Table at Open Gate (20); led by our Youth Director, Rev Andy Withrow. It is a growing and vibrant community that is affiliated with 'The Table' – a downtown Victoria church plant which focuses on the younger generations.
- Street Hope, an outreach to street youth in downtown Victoria, part of Threshold Ministries (formerly Church Army)
- Christ Church of the Valley; an ANiC church plant led by Rev Andrew Hewlett.
- Alpha
- Langford Food Bank
- Refuge Bus; led by Rick Wismer – an outreach to youth on a nearby aboriginal reserve.
- Ladies Tea
- Options Pregnancy Centre Victoria
- Vacation Bible School

## **Other Involvements**

- Open Gate has a strong attachment to the Holy Land and many of its parishioners have visited and support mission activity in Israel.
- David Rand is on the Provincial Board of ACNA and holds the position of Lay Secretary in ANiC
- Rev. (Ret'd) Sharon Hayton is on the ANiC Board
- Cindy Denman, Laura Rand and Leslie Spray were part of the planning and welcoming of the ANiC Synod held in Victoria, November 3-6 2011.

## **Discipleship/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 helps 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 both children of all ages and adults alike. The children's time appeals and speaks to all. We are always encouraged to go deeper into the Bible as individuals and as a parish and 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 & 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 6 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.

Our KinGS Club (Kids in Gods Service), Youth and Young Adult groups, focus on attracting and interacting with the youth in our parish and community. The Open Gate Church is historically committed to youth. Rev. Andy Withrow our Youth Pastor oversees the Senior Youth ages 14-18 and leads "The Table at Open Gate", a group for young adults ages 18-30. Children and youth are a vital part of our Christian community.

Prayer groups, Bible studies led by our Pastor and Alpha courses all provide ongoing discipleship. Potluck lunches and the Men's Breakfast 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 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, Bible Studies and Alpha through websites, bulletins and social media would provide a much broader reach out to the community. Continuing and encouraging more personal testimonies and more interaction among the parishioners is needed to build "togetherness".

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

### **Acts 2:42**

## Financial Statements

*Our budgets and finances are faith based...*

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

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
	<b>ACTUALS</b>	<b>ACTUALS</b>	<b>ACTUALS</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 190,169.31</b>	<b>\$ 202,718.07</b>	<b>\$ 221,132.95</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b><u>\$ (181,588.97)</u></b>	<b><u>\$ (219,435.93)</u></b>	<b><u>\$ (222,464.45)</u></b>
<b>NET PROFIT (LOSS)</b>	<b>\$ 8,580.34</b>	<b>\$ (16,717.86)</b>	<b>\$ (1,331.50)</b>

	<b>2011 BUDGET</b>	<b>JAN-MAR/11 ACTUALS</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>\$ 209,300.00</b>	<b>\$ 48,061.14</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
TOTAL STAFF SALARIES	\$ 86,537.00	\$ 27,265.67
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	<u>\$ 43,625.00</u>	<u>\$ 10,562.45</u>
<b>TOTAL STAFF SALARIES &amp; BENEFITS</b>	<b>\$ 130,162.00</b>	<b>\$ 37,828.12</b>
ANiC Parish Contribution (Assessment)	\$ 19,900.00	\$ 4,774.70
Fellowship	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Honoraria	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 260.00
Insurance	\$ 1,590.00	\$ 1,590.00
Occupancy Costs	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 4,500.00
Office Expenses	\$ 5,148.00	\$ 1,221.91
Education	\$ 200.00	\$ -
Outreach	\$ 20,400.00	\$ 4,774.70
Retreats/Conferences	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
Worship & Programs	\$ 2,900.00	\$ -
Youth/Young Adult	<u>\$ 500.00</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>\$ 209,300.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 54,949.43</u></b>
<b>NET PROFIT (LOSS)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (6,888.29)</b>

## 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 “West Shore” area. This municipality is the heart of the business district with large retail and wholesale stores, light industrial companies and many small businesses. There are several new developments in Langford creating new neighbourhoods and increasing the population. Langford offers an affordable housing program. One of the major developments in Langford is the Westhills development. This project is on the doorstep of The Open Gate Church in our current location at Light house Christian Academy. Also near the church are two sports fields and the City Centre Park. In addition to LCA there is a public High School (Belmont), a Middle School (Spencer) [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca) and several elementary schools within Langford Municipality. Langford's population is flourishing with a growth of 19.2% between 2001-2006. The population of Langford in 2001 was 18,840, in 2004 was estimated at 21, 130. **It is estimated that in 2016 there will be 42,100 living in this municipality.**

For more information on Langford and events in Langford check out their website <http://www.cityoflangford.ca>

### Lighthouse Christian Academy

Lighthouse Christian Academy (LCA) [www.lighthousechristianacademy.com](http://www.lighthousechristianacademy.com) offers kindergarten to gr. 12 and has been in the same location since 1996. The school leases the land from Mr. Barry Fischer. The current lease has been renewed for 5 years. There are 84 families represented at LCA. Sixty-five percent of these families have a home church. There are 87 children in the elementary school (K-7) and 40 students in the high school. The school has a staff of 20.

The Open Gate Church rents space for worship and an administrative office from the school. The Open Gate Church office is staffed by an Office Administrator Tuesday to Friday 9am to 1pm. The small office is available at other times for clergy appointments or small meetings. Classrooms in the school are available to the church for evening meetings and youth gatherings. The office administrator co-ordinates the use of space with the office staff of the school.

Neighbouring municipalities to Langford are Colwood, Highlands & Metchosin.

Websites for these municipalities:

[www.colwood.ca](http://www.colwood.ca)

[www.metchosin.com](http://www.metchosin.com)

## Demographics & Character of the Community

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

### Age of Parishioners

Under 16 years – 15  
16 – 25 years – 22  
26 – 35 years – 9  
36 – 45 years – 13  
46 – 65 years – 61  
65 – 80 years – 33  
Over 80 years - 8  
Total Parishioners – 161

### Parish Statistics

#### Number of Services – 2010

Morning Prayer – Sunday	22
Holy Communion – Sunday	81
Holy Communion – Wednesday	52
Special Services and Holidays	5
Parishioners Confirmed	0
Baptisms (# baptized)	4
Weddings	2
Funerals and Memorial Services	1
Average Sunday Attendance	20 (8:30) 75 (10:15)

## Summary

The people called The Open Gate Church want to continue to be a church who is alive in its faith, grounded in Holy Scripture, Christ centred, 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 for one another. We desire to continue to be a church that cares for its aging members and attaches value to a vibrant youth ministry. As a congregation we are a caring people whose love for the Lord extends into 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 that nurtures and supports its members through ministry and in home groups. Each member of the Open Gate church is challenged to obey Christ and walk in holiness.

We plan to continue to be a church that reaches out and is involved in many areas of the community. As a body we are physically located at a Christian School and have the opportunity to partner with them.

We are beginning to move forward with our newly appointed Rector Chris Zoepfel with God's guidance. We are at an exciting time where our new leader will help shape this community. We are so happy to welcome him and his wife Sara, and their two children Paul and Trevor.