

**The Anglican Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador
Bishop's Charge to the Synod
18 September 2026**

**From Harbour to Horizon:
Charting Christ's Course 1976 to 2026...and Beyond**

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

May the light of Christ be our compass.

May the wind of the Holy Spirit fill our sails.

*And may the love of God be the safe and eternal Harbour
to which we will one day all return.*

To the glory of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

We gather this weekend not simply as delegates to a Synod, but as a crew: bishops, clergy, and laity sailing together, who have shared fifty remarkable years in this vessel we call the Anglican Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador. In 1976, guided by the Holy Spirit, this Diocese launched as a new vessel when the historic Diocese of Newfoundland was reorganized into our three dioceses: Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, Central Newfoundland, and Western Newfoundland. We give thanks today for the strong relationships we continue to share with our fellow dioceses. I am deeply grateful for the presence of Bishop John Watton, Bishop of Central Newfoundland, and the Rev. Mickton Phiri, the Administrator of Western Newfoundland, here at our Synod. Though we chart our own courses, we sail as companions, helping each other in mission and ministry across our beloved Province and Church.

We are especially grateful this weekend for the presence of our Primate, the Most Reverend Shane Parker, who joins us to help celebrate the 190th anniversary of St. Thomas' and the 200th anniversary of St. Luke's in Port de Grave. We also warmly welcome the Most Reverend Christopher Harper, our National Indigenous Archbishop. Archbishop Harper brings Godly wisdom and a call to walk more honestly with the Indigenous peoples of this land. Your Graces, your leadership and encouragement mean a great deal to us as we mark these historic parish milestones, our Diocesan golden anniversary, and the unfinished work of truth and reconciliation.

Our Diocese looks forward to hosting General Synod in 2028. This will be the first time we have hosted Anglicans from across Canada since 1989. In addition to the regular business of General Synod, the election and installation of the next Primate will take place here in our Cathedral. Planning is already underway. We will need volunteers to welcome and host the hundreds of delegates and visitors who will come. If you are willing to help, please speak with the Diocesan Executive Officer, Archdeacon Charlene Taylor, during this Synod.

And I am overjoyed to welcome you, Synod delegates, here. You are not a tiny box on my computer screen. For the first time since 2019, you are live and in person. Thank God for you.

Our theme for this 50th Anniversary Synod is “From Harbour to Horizon: Charting Christ’s Course 1976 to 2026...and Beyond.” It flows from our strategic plan, *Set Sail: Charting the Course for Christ’s Church*, and from the Four SHIPS that have shaped our life these past three years: Deepening Relationships, Transforming Discipleship, Renewing Stewardship, and Engaging Partnerships. The Baptismal Covenant remains our foundation. What we promised at the font still sets our course: to continue in the apostles’ teaching, to proclaim the Good News, to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to strive for justice and peace, and to safeguard the integrity of God’s creation.

I am grateful beyond words for the way this Diocesan family has carried one another - and has carried me - through these past years. We do not sail as strangers. We sail as companions and beloved friends in Christ.

From Harbour to Horizon

Every person who has lived along our vast coastlines understands the power of that image. The Harbour is the safe, sheltered place where boats rest at the wharf, where storms are ridden out, and where our stories are told, and our songs are sung. For us as a Diocese, the Harbour represents our deep Anglican roots on these rocky shores, the faithful communities that have long existed, and the deep heritage of the past five decades. It is home. It is memory. It is the place where we have known God’s faithfulness in good times and in hard times. These shores were home to Beothuk, Inuit, Innu, and Mi’kmaq peoples long before our Church arrived.

Any honest memory of this Diocese begins there.

Along these coasts we know what it means when a harbour is left behind. On the Island, through government resettlement of outports, families were moved from places they had loved for generations. Some went hoping for new schools, work, and a more secure life. Many felt they had little choice. Churches were closed, and people carried their faith to a new shore. In Labrador, Inuit and Innu know another story: being moved from their own land, with wounds that have not closed. Those are not the same history. We still live with all of this inheritance. So, when we speak of leaving a harbour, we do not speak lightly. We know the cost.

And we know that the Church is called to walk with those who were displaced, not to bless the displacing.

We build upon the shoulders of faithful forebears. We remember with profound gratitude Bishop Edward Feild, who served as Bishop of Newfoundland from 1844 to 1876. I had the blessing of being in Battle Harbour, Labrador, in August to worship in St. James Church, consecrated by Bishop Feild 170 years ago. To worship in that church, and to remember both what Bishop Feild built and the peoples who already called that coast home, was a humbling experience for me as your Bishop.

Bishop Feild oversaw an extraordinary expansion of church buildings, schools, and missions right across Newfoundland and Labrador. His vision, energy, and deep pastoral heart laid foundations that we still stand on today. We also tell the truth that the Church’s

expansion in this land was bound up with colonization, and that schools and missions did harm as well as good, especially among Indigenous peoples.

Queen's College is part of that inheritance, and it is part of our future. We need a college that forms priests, deacons, and lay leaders for the Church we actually are: formational, adaptive, and deeply pastoral. We currently have eight postulants in training. I give thanks for those who teach, study, and serve there, and I commit this Diocese to walking with Queen's College into its next chapter. I am pleased to announce that, effective January 1, 2027, the Rev. Dr. Robert Cooke, Interim Administrator of Queen's College, will serve as our Canon Theologian.

At the heart of our history has always been the ministry of lay people. Lay Readers, catechists, and faithful parishioners carried the Gospel into isolated communities when clergy could not be present for weeks at a time. They taught, led worship, visited the sick, buried the dead, and kept congregations alive. That ministry is not optional now. It is essential. Since our last Synod, in partnership with Queen's College and our two fellow dioceses, we have pioneered an online Lay Ministry Program. Over forty lay ministers from this Diocese are taking or have completed the first phase. If we are to sail into waters we have not sailed before, we must keep raising up local leaders.

But no ship is built to stay forever tied to the wharf. Sooner or later the sails must be raised, the lines cast off, and the bow turned toward the open sea. The horizon calls. Sometimes it looks bright. Sometimes it looks stormy. Yet Christ is already waiting on the far shore, saying, "Come. Follow me."

The Voyage Thus Far

In these past fifty years we have sailed a long way. We give thanks for the bishops who have served us since 1976: Archbishop Seaborn, Bishop Mate, Bishop Harvey, Bishop Pitman, and Bishop Peddle. We give thanks for clergy who have travelled by boat, snowmobile, and plane, and for lay leaders who have carried heavy loads with grace. I want to say a particular word to those who are tired. Many of you have kept watch through pandemic years, parish transitions, long vacancies, and the grief of congregations growing smaller. The call to put out into deep water is not a call to exhaust the crew. We are a family. We must notice and respond when a sister or brother is struggling. These are not extras. They are how a family stays afloat.

We remember with love those who have completed their earthly voyage and reached the eternal Harbour. Attached to this Charge are my Episcopal Acts, remembering members of our Diocesan Family who have died since our last Synod.

+Rest eternal grant upon them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. Amen.

We have not sailed through calm seas alone. Economic shifts, the decline of traditional industries, shifting populations, and the storms of COVID-19 have marked us all. So has the long, unfinished journey of healing and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Here in our Diocese, we have closed Lavrock, our beloved Diocesan camp, and the Diocesan Resource Centre and Book Room. We have closed some church buildings and, with heavy hearts, disestablished two parishes: St. Michael's and St. Augustine's.

We are a smaller Church than the one that set sail in 1976. Fewer people are in our pews. Many buildings cost more to heat and repair than the congregations who love them can easily bear. Our assessable income has not returned to where it was before the pandemic. We have fewer stipendiary clergy, and some parishes now share ministry across vast distances. None of this is said to bring shame. We say this so our hope has ballast. God is not waiting for us to become the Diocese of 1976 again.

God is calling us as the Diocese we actually are.

Some may look at these changes and see only failure. I see essential course corrections. When the wind and current change, a wise sailor does not keep the old heading simply because it once worked. Faithful navigation sometimes requires us to adjust course, even when it is painful. These decisions were made after prayer, consultation, and discernment. They do not erase the witness that happened in those places. They free us to direct limited resources toward new opportunities for mission.

Through fair winds and storms, God has been our strong anchor. As the Psalmist sings in Psalm 107: “Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the mighty waters; they saw the deeds of the Lord, his wondrous works in the deep... They cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out from their distress; he made the storm be still... Then they were glad because they had quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven.”

This has been our story for fifty years.

Called and Sent

The year this Diocese was founded was also the year the Anglican Church of Canada opened the priesthood to women. Fifty years later, we give thanks for that gift and for the women who have ministered among us ever since. We will celebrate this milestone at the Cathedral on Thursday, October 1st at 7:00 p.m., with Archdeacon Charlene Taylor presiding and the Rev. Roberta Woodman preaching. I hope many of you will come.

Only a few days ago in Ottawa, I had the honour of preaching at the Consecration of the Right Reverend Jennifer Gosse-Vingerhoeds as Bishop Ordinary of the Anglican Military Ordinariate. Bishop Jennifer is a daughter of Newfoundland and Labrador and a priest of this Diocese. We congratulate her, we assure her of our prayers, and we give thanks that the Church in this place has helped form a bishop for the wider Church.

How Set Sail Is Taking Shape Among Us

Let me now give Synod an account of how we have been sailing under “Set Sail.” I want to begin not with statistics, but with your stories. You will find many of them in Appendix A. They are not a report of programs completed. They are a living portrait of a Diocese learning, in ordinary and sometimes surprising ways, what it means to follow Christ here and now. This evening I will lift up only four: one for each of the SHIPS. Please read the rest when you receive this Charge.

We see *Deepening Relationships* in the Parish of St. Mark the Evangelist in St. John's, through a four-year partnership with the Virginia Park Community Centre. St. Mark's hosts

a monthly Community Mug-Up: an evening meal open to parishioners and neighbours alike. What began with about twenty diners has grown to seventy or eighty, sometimes more than a hundred. It is offered on a “pay what you can” basis and has become self-sustaining. The hall fills with conversation and laughter. People who might otherwise eat alone look forward to a table with new friends. Neighbours who are not parishioners have donated a handmade quilt and vegetables from their gardens because they feel a connection. Cards of thanks arrive “from a grateful community.” That is hospitality with a name and a face. That is relationship.

We see *Transforming Discipleship* at St. George's in Petty Harbour. Since October 2024, the parish has nurtured Sunday Funday, a children's ministry that is growing far more than knowledge of the faith. Through stories, music, crafts, and shared activities, the children learn that they are important, valued, and never alone. They feel safe being themselves. They form friendships. They ask questions. Their laughter now enriches the wider congregation, in the children's moment, in song, and simply by being present. Families are connecting. The joy that fills that colourful little room each Sunday is a sign of what formation looks like when children know they are loved by their church family and by God.

We see *Renewing Stewardship* in the Parish of Southeast Labrador, at St. Peter's in Cartwright. Five years ago, the vestry closed the parish hall for the winter. It was a hard, careful decision. It saved more than six thousand dollars in heating and opened a door no one had planned. A partnership with the Community Youth Network followed. Grants of nearly \$100,000 renovated the hall. It is now leased to the Network for a dollar a year and remains available to the church. Stewardship here was not only about cutting costs. It was about trusting that a faithful decision could make room for new life.

We see *Engaging Partnerships* in the long companionship of St. Mark's, Churchill Falls, and St. Timothy's, Rigolet. Separated by three hundred kilometres and a ferry or a plane, two Labrador communities have shared ministry since 2009 because neither could sustain a priest alone. The road has not been easy. Yet something holy has happened. Local leaders have grown in confidence. Confirmations have returned. Across that distance, they have taught the rest of us what shared ministry looks like when both communities are seen as equals. As they put it, there is a new breeze upon the water, and together they are holding fast as they sail.

These four stories are not uniform, and neither are the many others waiting for you in the appendix. Some parishes are small and largely senior. Others are seeing new faces. Some live with ferry schedules or thousand-kilometre round trips. All of them share a common spirit: honest about the difficulties, yet quietly confident that the Spirit is at work. Set Sail was never a program to complete. It is a way of paying attention to the people God has placed among us and to the needs that appear on ordinary weekdays.

Chart and Compass: The Five Marks of Mission

Now we turn to the heart of our navigation for the years ahead. The Four SHIPS describe how we sail together. The Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion are our enduring chart and compass.

The Five Marks of Mission are:

- 1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom*
- 2. To teach, baptize, and nurture new believers*
- 3. To respond to human need by loving service*
- 4. To transform unjust structures of society*
- 5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth*

To help us live these Marks more fully and intentionally, we have recently installed and equipped lay and clergy Canons, each charged with championing one of the Five Marks of Mission across our Diocese. These Canons are:

For Evangelism and Witness: Rev. Canon Deborah Pantin

For Discipleship and Christian Formation: Rev. Canon Amber Tremblett

For Mercy and Loving Service: Rev. Canon Byron Barter

For Justice and Peace: Rev. Canon Amanda Taylor

For Creation Care and Stewardship: Canon David Morgan

These Canons bring gifts, energy, and focus, and I am deeply grateful for their willingness to serve. Synod will hear from some of them tomorrow about their work and their plans. A special word about the Canon for Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation. The fourth Mark of Mission, to transform unjust structures of society, calls us into truth-telling, listening, healing, and right relationship with Inuit, Innu, and Mi'kmaq peoples. Canon Tom Mugford is leading conversations, supporting formation, walking alongside Indigenous communities, and helping us face the legacy of the past with honesty and hope. This work is not peripheral. It is at the centre of what it means to be the Church in this land today. As a next step, I am asking every parish, with Canon Mugford's support, to begin or deepen one real relationship of learning with the Indigenous people of their own place, whether through "Mapping the Ground We Stand On" or by walking with Indigenous neighbours and elders at their invitation and at their pace, so that reconciliation is practised where we live.

My dear people, these Canons cannot do this work alone. They need you. They will lead, coordinate, and equip. The real sailing will be done by all of us together.

Voyages Already Under Way

We are already catching the wind on new voyages. The Community Connector, our mobile ministry bus, will take the Church out of the Harbour and into communities. It will offer coffee and tea, simple hot meals, basic health care, housing support, hygiene products, clothing, and a place of pastoral care and conversation. The response has been remarkable. Tomorrow we will ask God to bless the Bus and the people it will serve. I call on every parish to take part: knit mittens, prepare meals, drive, or help with operating costs. There is room for everyone on the Bus.

Through the Sowing Seeds–Growing Community Farm we are putting our hands in the dirt. Using Diocesan land, this ministry provides fresh vegetables to food banks and outreach groups. Tens of thousands of plates have already been filled, and thousands more are about to be harvested. You helped make this happen. There can be more farms and community gardens across the Diocese. We have land. Do not be afraid to get your hands dirty.

And our sailing has not stopped at our own shoreline. Through the faithful support of Alongside Hope and the Canadian Compass Rose Society, we have helped provide child health care in Mozambique and Madagascar, and supported women in entrepreneurial farming in Guatemala. Through the Compass Rose Society, we have assisted the Princess Basma Children's Hospital throughout the war in the Middle East.

Looking toward the horizon, the Five Marks call us to bold evangelism; deeper discipleship, especially among children and youth; compassionate service; continued reconciliation and justice; and faithful care for God's creation.

We cannot speak of a horizon if we do not make room for those who will sail after us. We cannot call ourselves a missionary Church if we only tend the people we already have. I reviewed parish statistics from 2020 to 2024. After the pandemic, baptisms in the Diocese increased and remained strong from 2022 to 2024. Provincial live births declined from 3,645 in 2020 to about 3,214 in 2024. From 2021 to 2024, our Diocese baptized, on average, 32 percent of province-wide births. Families are still turning to the Church for baptism. That is a strong sacramental witness. At the same time, weekly attendance and identifiable givers remain fragile. Most worrying is the decline in children and youth ministries: Sunday schools down 30 percent, Sunday School students down 16 percent, youth groups down 33 percent. If these trends continue, we will struggle to nurture those we baptize into lifelong disciples.

I have asked the Canons for Evangelism, Discipleship, and Formation to convene those who teach Sunday School, prepare candidates for Confirmation, walk with youth, and have a heart for speaking the Good News in ordinary places. I want that gathering to produce not another report, but a simple plan: how we will proclaim Christ more clearly, and how we will accompany children and young people more faithfully, in the Church we actually are. I also ask every parish represented here to name, before Christmas, one concrete way it will share the Gospel beyond those already in the pews: an invitation to worship, a public witness, a ministry that says Jesus Christ is good news for all. In the Archdeaconry of Trinity, Conception, and Placentia, the ACORN prayer is already doing this work in a simple way: "Lord, today is there someone you want me to connect with outside the church?" If you need more information, speak with Father Rafiq of Harbour Grace.

Funding the Next Voyages

To support this vital work moving forward, I am announcing the establishment of the **Set Sail Mission and Ministry Fund** with an initial investment of \$250,000.

The Fund is not another slogan. It is a practical instrument for the next stretch of the voyage. It will seed new and adaptive ministries aligned with the Four SHIPS and the Five Marks of Mission. It will strengthen existing parish work, support new work, and help diocesan initiatives that take the Church beyond the Harbour. This anniversary should be more than a commemoration of the past 50 years.

It should be a launch for mission and ministry for the future.

Let me be clear about where this money will come from, and where it will not. The Set Sail Mission and Ministry Fund will be funded by a portion of the proceeds from diocesan

property sales and by other donors. It will not come from any increase in Parish Assessments. When a diocesan building or property is sold, some of that value will return to the living Church, into your parishes, so that Set Sail can grow where the people of God gather, serve, and hope. These are not funds taken from congregational life. They are funds given for congregational mission.

I will ask the new Diocesan Executive and the Finance Committee, in consultation with the Canons, to bring clear terms of reference for this new Set Sail Fund. My hope is that the first grants can be offered next year.

So I ask you, members of Synod and this Diocesan Family: What will the next ministry voyage in this Diocese be? What is the Holy Spirit inviting us to embark upon together? And what are we prepared to release, risk, or resource in order to make that happen?

How We Shall Sail

To sail well into this future, we shall need deep trust in the One Captain of us all, an openness to adapt when the wind changes, and unity of purpose that is larger than any one parish. As we move through this Synod, I invite you to carry three things in your hearts:

- *gratitude of memory for fifty years and for all those who went before us;*
- *the honesty of the present;*
- *and the boldness of faith for the future journey still before us.*

Fifty years is a wonderful milestone. It is not the end of the voyage. The Harbour of fifty years ago is behind us. A wide, hopeful, and challenging horizon still lies ahead. With the Baptismal Covenant as our guide, the Five Marks of Mission as our chart, our Canons and their crew helping to read the waters, and the wind of the Holy Spirit filling our sails, we shall move forward in confidence and joy in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

May the light of Christ be our compass.

May the wind of the Holy Spirit fill our sails.

*And may the love of God be the safe and eternal Harbour
to which we will one day all return.*

To the glory of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

In Christ's love,

The Rt. Rev. Samuel V. Rose

6th Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

Appendix A: Set Sail Stories from Across the Diocese

Parish of All Saints, CBS

Little People's Church, the children's program that meets during the 10 a.m. service, is a living expression of *Set Sail* among the youngest members of the congregation. Each week the children hear a Bible story, make a craft to help them remember it, share a snack, and enjoy one another's company. The atmosphere is deliberately open: "It doesn't matter who you are or how often you come, you're always welcome." At the heart of the teaching is a simple, repeated truth the children readily affirm—"Jesus will always love us"—and the recognition that everyday acts of kindness, even a hug, are ways of being a disciple.

The link to *Set Sail* is clear in the relationships that have formed. Many of the children see one another only on Sundays, yet they have become genuine church friends. When they return to the main congregation with their crafts, they explain to the adults what they have made and how it connects to the story. In doing so, they both practise discipleship and teach the wider parish.

Through welcome, friendship, and the quiet confidence that Jesus loves them, Little People's Church is forming young disciples and deepening relationships week by week.

Parish of All Saints, Pouch Cove

The parish hall is the largest in the community and has become a prominent gathering place. Relationships with walking and exercise groups, the food bank, and town cultural events have given the church a positive presence in Pouch Cove.

The All Saints ACW hosts a community breakfast where people gather without distinction of age, gender, or social status—a gesture of giving back to a community that in turn supports the parish's own fundraisers.

Shared Ministry Initiative (Bell Island/Portugal Cove/Pouch Cove)

Across these three communities, *Set Sail* is lived through many ministries that naturally cross the lines of relationship, discipleship, stewardship, and partnership. The Marks of Mission are alive in ordinary, ongoing work rather than in isolated programmes. All three parishes participate in the Community Connector Bus, a cross-diocesan project. In each place, the work is already underway. The task is less to sort every activity into a single "ship" than to notice, nurture, and keep sailing.

Parish of the Ascension, Mount Pearl

The Parish of the Ascension reports that its "Ascension Outreachers" group sustains a regular pace of mission by organizing at least one outreach project every month. In May, in honour of Mother's Day, the group collected baby items—diapers, wipes, gift bags and other essentials—for donation to the local food bank. The collected goods were displayed in a large wooden boat prop labelled "Saint Margaret," its white sail clearly marked "SET SAIL."

This simple, recurring practice of monthly outreach embodies *Set Sail's* call to respond to human need through loving service. The deliberate use of the boat and sail imagery further roots the parish's practical discipleship in the language and vision of the diocesan strategic plan.

Parish of Bay de Verde

In Bay de Verde, *Set Sail* has been lived out for many years through a dedicated group of fourteen women—the Anglican Church Women—who do not use the formal name but have long practised its spirit of relationship, service, and care for neighbours.

Every November the group hosts an ornament exchange open to all women of the community. They gather to laugh, talk, exchange ornaments, and each brings a financial gift for O'Shaughnessy House in Carbonear. The same women make lap quilts that are presented to local women when they turn sixty-five. Cards and small tokens are sent to those who are sick or who have suffered a family loss, offering quiet signs of love and concern.

The group has opened church services to the wider public with a clear focus on deepening relationships with God. They have given financial support to the local fire department, especially after the forest-fire crisis of the previous year. When the Salvation Army in Lower Island Cove ran out of spaghetti sauce while providing groceries for people in need, the women heard about it and, within a couple of hours, delivered forty cans.

Always attentive to the needs of their neighbours, these fourteen women continue to share love and practical support in every season. In their steady, unassuming way, they have been sailing for years—building relationships, serving the community, and living the heart of *Set Sail*.

Parish of Bay Roberts-Coley's Point

In response to the pastoral letter *Set Sail – What Does It Look Like in Your Parish*, two clear expressions of the strategic plan have taken root.

Transforming Discipleship is evident among the youth. Young people are stepping forward with energy and initiative: leading Sunday School classes and Vacation Bible School activities, offering both contemporary and traditional music in worship and in outreach beyond the church walls, and actively shaping the faith conversations of the youth group itself. At times, the young people initiate the theological questions—searching online, for example, and bringing their findings about the Trinity into group discussion. The Spirit is clearly moving through them, even if the direction of that movement is not yet fully known.

Deepening Relationships is being lived out through a sustained seniors' outreach begun at Christmas 2023. Regular seasonal gatherings—Christmas, Easter, Halloween, spring, and summer parties—bring seniors from the parish and neighbouring communities together for music, games, prizes, food, and laughter. The events address loneliness by creating space for people with shared life experience to connect and support one another. When asked what more is needed, the consistent reply is "keep doing what you are doing." A committed volunteer team makes the ministry possible.

Together, these two streams—youth-led discipleship and intentional relationship-building with seniors—show *Set Sail* taking practical shape in the Parish of Bay Roberts / Coley's Point: discipleship being owned by a new generation, and relationships being deepened across generations.

Parish of Bell Island

The Church of St. Cyprian & St. Mary (Anglican Parish of Bell Island) reports active progress across all four Ships of the *Set Sail* strategic plan:

Deepening Relationships: Monthly Seniors' Luncheons offer meals, music, dancing, bingo and seasonal themes, drawing the wider community into the life of the parish. A Lent Bible Study led by Rev. Eli, a growing Confirmation class (13 confirmed in 2024; 15 currently preparing), children's programs, and the annual Fall Fair further strengthen connections within and beyond the congregation.

Engaging Partnerships: In partnership with Bell Island Tourism and supported by a Government of Canada wellness grant, the parish hosts a 10-week Wellness Group (now in its second year) offering yoga and painting workshops. When the elementary school needed space, the church welcomed more than 50 children for a Kids' Fair of games and activities.

Renewing Stewardship: Following the December 2025 Ditwah floods in Sri Lanka, the parish donated 50 packs of kitchen utensils (in collaboration with the Anglican Church of Sri Lanka and the Church of Ceylon Youth Movement) for St. Luke's Church Marawala and St. James Church Chillaw, plus care packages for 50 families in the Pasara area. The Anglican Church Women continue their essential, often-unseen work of preparing funeral receptions, cleaning, and supporting daily parish operations.

Transforming Discipleship: A children's Nativity program (now in its second year) invites young people to explore the Christmas story, while children are intentionally included and given freedom to move within Sunday worship.

Taken together, the parish presents itself as a lively, outward-looking community that uses its building, people and resources to serve seniors, children, the Bell Island community and partners overseas, while encouraging faith formation among its own members—expressing the four strategic directions of *Set Sail*.

Shared Ministry Initiative (Bell Island/Portugal Cove/Pouch Cove)

Across these three communities, *Set Sail* is lived through many ministries that naturally cross the lines of relationship, discipleship, stewardship, and partnership. The Marks of Mission are alive in ordinary, ongoing work rather than in isolated programmes. All three parishes participate in the Community Connector Bus, a cross-diocesan project. In each place, the work is already underway. The task is less to sort every activity into a single “ship” than to notice, nurture, and keep sailing.

Parish of Carbonear

The Parish of Carbonear shows steady, practical progress across all four “Ships” of the *Set Sail* strategic plan:

Deepening Relationships: The parish has woven the Baptismal Covenant into regular worship, joined ecumenical services (World Day of Prayer at St James in 2025 and an invitation to Bethany United in 2026), and supported the Salvation Army Christmas Kettle campaign, deepening bonds both within the congregation and with neighbouring churches and community partners.

Transforming Discipleship: Confirmation preparation has been offered jointly with the Parish of Harbour Grace in both 2025 and 2026. A new Healing Service has been introduced, and the parish has marked National Indigenous Day of Prayer and the Season of Creation with intentional liturgical attention, encouraging faith formation and spiritual growth.

Renewing Stewardship: Partnerships with local food banks (St Vincent de Paul and Salvation Army) have channelled Advent, winter, and Lenten giving. Weekly Season of Creation Walk and Talk gatherings on the George Earle Promenade combine exercise, scripture, and reflection. Parishioners are encouraged to practise creation care through reduce/reuse/recycle habits and to direct recycling proceeds to the church's work.

Engaging Partnerships: The annual Good Friday Walk with the Cross continues through the town. The parish joins the Royal Canadian Legion for Remembrance Day, Memorial Day, and Battle of the Atlantic commemorations, and welcomes guest ministries from O'Shaughnessy House (Iris Kirby House) and Teen Challenge Canada (Atlantic Hope Women's Ministry Team).

Taken together, these projects show Carbonear deliberately sailing the four strategic directions of *Set Sail*—deepening relationships, forming disciples, practising faithful stewardship, and building outward partnerships—in ways that are both local and collaborative.

Cathedral Parish of St. John the Baptist

The Cathedral is living out *Set Sail* Goal #5 in a concrete and visible way: examining its environmental footprint in light of the climate emergency and taking tangible action to reduce the negative impact of the faith community on God's creation.

In May 2026, the Cathedral turned off its oil-fired furnaces for the last time, permanently ending its dependency on oil. This single step eliminates a main source of greenhouse gas emissions and substantially reduces the building's carbon footprint. Work has already begun on the transition to a new electric heating system, scheduled for completion in time for the fall of 2026.

The decision is framed explicitly within three related commitments:

- *Set Sail* Strategic Plan Goal #5 of the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador,
- Mark 5 of the Anglican Communion's Marks of Mission ("Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth"), and
- Anglican Church of Canada General Synod 2025 Resolution A201-R2, which calls dioceses and congregations to reduce building-related greenhouse gas emissions to zero as quickly, safely, and realistically as possible, and by 2035 at the latest.

By retiring the oil system and moving to electric heat, the Cathedral is modelling the kind of practical stewardship of creation that *Set Sail* invites every parish to pursue.

Parish of the Good Shepherd, Mount Pearl

The Parish of the Good Shepherd strongly supports the *Set Sail* vision and continues to work intentionally toward its goals across the four ships.

Christian fellowship remains a cornerstone. The parish hosts a monthly cost-free Community Coffee Morning, regularly visits local seniors' homes, and offers bi-weekly Free Community Meals. A 'Second Beginning' clothing boutique has raised more than \ \$1,200 for the Diocesan Ministry Bus. The congregation participates in the annual Pride Parade and is active in the Mount Pearl Ministerial Committee.

Practical care for neighbours is visible in several ongoing ministries. After vandalism closed the outdoor Community Pantry, the parish moved it indoors; families in need now access it whenever cars are in the parking lot, with additional support from the bi-annual Ladies' Teas. Community Garden Beds, refurbished through grants, are offered free to anyone in the community, with remaining produce directed to the pantry.

Youth and formation ministries are thriving. A bi-weekly Anglican Youth Group welcomes young people from other denominations and those with no church connection, leading them into faith-focused activities. The group raised over \ \$1,500 through the 'Heads Without Beds' fundraiser and participates in the national CLAY conference. The parish is an accredited Godly Play Canada training centre and now holds twenty large stories shared with other congregations.

Community-facing gatherings include regular Men's and Ladies' Nights, as well as quiet days and presentations open to all (Advent and Lenten series, Coping with Grief, An Evening with the Angels, and more). In partnership with the City of Mount Pearl, the Community Labyrinth has been enhanced with memorial benches and a prayer station for peace; the prayer basket regularly overflows. Summer services and Christmas Carol Singing take place there, and informal conversations about faith arise naturally for those who pause. Two new memorial stained-glass windows were installed this spring.

Numbers in the pews are increasing, and conversations about faith and discipleship are becoming more open. The parish's reputation for service was underscored when a local elementary school chose to donate leftover food specifically because "you do so much for the community."

Through consistent hospitality, practical care, youth engagement, and partnership with the wider community, the people of the Parish of the Good Shepherd are actively Setting Sail as disciples of Jesus in this time and place.

Parish of Harbour Grace

In 2025, the parish focused on *Set Sail* Goal 6: recognizing God in and through others, and partnering across and beyond faith communities in shared work, witness, and ministry that upholds the dignity of every person.

Worship and Ecumenical Connection: The long-silent church bell at St. Paul's is now rung each Sunday by a dedicated group, offering a public call to worship. Every third Sunday, a guest Gospel singer from any denomination leads in Morning Prayer, strengthening ties with non-Anglican believers. The parish also shares full ecumenical services with the United Church and Roman Catholic congregations, rotating leadership, choirs, and readers so that the churches experience themselves as one body in Christ.

Pastoral Presence and Hospitality: Monthly visits to seniors' homes include personal conversation, listening to life stories, and distributing Sunday bulletins—offered without distinction of faith. St. Paul's hall hosts community card games that draw people from the wider area, providing simple hospitality and relationship-building. An Intergenerational Tea brings children, youth, and seniors together for music, conversation, and games, fostering mutual respect across the generations.

Formation and Invitation: After a long absence, Sunday School has been restarted. Special outreach to families prepared eleven candidates for Confirmation through catechesis, equipping them to live and witness their faith. A parish retreat created space for deeper relationship with God and one another and for reflection on discipleship and mission. Parishioners have also been encouraged to invite a friend or family member to worship, opening the door to new relationships through shared prayer and praise.

Through the restored bell, ecumenical worship, steady pastoral visiting, open hospitality, and renewed attention to formation and invitation, the Parish of Harbour Grace is living Goal 6 of *Set Sail*—partnering widely and recognizing the dignity of every person as a bearer of God's image.

The Parishes of Churchill Falls and Rigolet

Engaging Partnerships: St. Mark's Congregation in Churchill Falls and the Parish of St. Timothy in Rigolet may be separated by 300 kilometres plus an additional ferry or plane ride, but they have been partners in ministry since 2009. Both are small, isolated parishes in Labrador; their desire to find a way to secure priestly ministry in their worshipping communities brought them together. Full-time residential ministry was not financially possible for them alone, but they came up with a plan together. St. Mark's was able to house clergy and fund three quarters of a full-time salary; Rigolet was able to meet the other quarter. Sharing the cost of travel, a new model of ministry was born.

This model served these communities well until recent years, when COVID lockdowns limited movement between communities, and financial pressures at St. Mark's meant they could not meet the budget for $\frac{3}{4}$ salary. To their credit, the congregations worked together to find a contract model of ministry that would allow them to maintain a priestly presence in their communities, if only a little more spread out than originally planned.

The spiritual support they have offered each other in holding up their shared ministry has been the highlight of this partnership. When a small, isolated, indigenous community that had long relied on outside support for its leadership and success came to fully realize that they were equal partners and that they were not just dependent on Churchill Falls but that Churchill Falls was dependent upon them as well, many built-up assumptions were torn down and new independence found.

This past year has been the hardest year for all partners. St. Mark's could not afford even half-time ministry. Archdeacon Julie Brace was helping at the local school and after-school program, which provided her with some salary, and leading worship on Sundays. These new partners understood the importance of ministry not just in Churchill Falls but also the importance of the partnership with Rigolet. They made their schedules flexible so she could travel for pastoral emergencies and meetings as needed.

There have been struggles along the way, but there are two important learnings to celebrate this year: The decrease in priestly visitation ministry in Rigolet has seen Rev. Sarah Baikie and their lay reader, Jennifer Michelin, grow in their leadership and find confidence in their skills, and the community has become more self-reliant in their day-to-day ministry. They are leaning more into the gifts they have had all along-deepening their relationships and transforming their discipleship. The upcoming service of confirmation, the first in several years for Rigolet, will be a sign of this.

In Churchill Falls, a year of struggle and seeing their clergy, "Miss Rev. Julie," as called by some of the students, working in the community in secular roles has also highlighted how the Church does indeed work outside the building, as the relationships built between clergy with families and young children translate across life. This is directly related to the fact that four young people presented themselves for confirmation last year, and a new program is in place this Fall. St. Mark's and the wider community are hearing the call to renew their stewardship and are planning a new contract model to begin this Advent.

This year of parish ministry, this year of personal ministry for Archdeacon Julie, may not be anything like they planned, but they have supported each other and worked together to share the gospel in Jesus' name. There is a new breeze upon the water, and together they are holding fast as they sail.

Parish of Heart's Delight / Islington and Heart's Content (Epiphany Church and St. Mary's Church)

Under the leadership of Rev. Verna Chislett, the two congregations are actively living out *Set Sail* through intentional relationship-building, community outreach, and careful stewardship.

Deepening Relationships: The parish has strengthened the bond between its two churches. One shared Sunday service is held each month, alternating locations and followed by a fellowship meal. Additional shared potluck gatherings take place twice in the spring and twice in the fall. These occasions have been warmly received and have deepened friendship and Christian fellowship across the parish.

Partnership and Community Outreach: Weekly card games continue at both churches and are well attended, offering hospitality and reducing isolation. In summer, Epiphany hosts weekend flea markets with affordable take-out meals that support local charitable work. The parish contributes \$500 annually to the Whitbourne Ministerial Christmas Food Hamper Program and joins the Salvation Army and United Church for two ecumenical services that raise further funds for hampers. Both congregations also support the local

Food Bank. Successful community take-out events (Fishermen's Brewis at St. Mary's and a Moose Supper at Epiphany) have combined fundraising with outreach.

Stewardship and Future Ministry: A major project is the planned development of a Columbarium in the Heart's Delight/Islington cemetery, with hope for completion by 2027. Similar installations may later be considered for the parish's other graveyards. The project is understood as both a ministry to families and a means of caring for sacred burial grounds for future generations.

Worship and Lay Leadership: Sunday services are livestreamed from either church, keeping former residents and those unable to attend in person connected. Lay Reader Judy Bishop is currently studying through the Queen's College Lay Reader Training Program, reflecting the parish's commitment to developing local leadership.

Through shared worship, steady community presence, practical care for neighbours, and thoughtful planning for the future, the Parish of Heart's Delight / Islington and Heart's Content continues to set sail with faith and hope.

Parish of Holy Innocents' Anglican Church, Paradise

Deepening Relationships through Radical Welcome: Holy Innocents' has focused on creating an open, safe space under the simple invitation "Come As You Are." People from many different backgrounds—those with other faith traditions, no faith background, or painful past experiences of church—are finding a place where they feel welcomed rather than judged.

The congregation expresses particular joy in seeing individuals who once felt unable to attend worship because of hurt caused by the church now becoming part of the faith community. This intentional hospitality is deepening relationships and opening pathways for discipleship among those who might otherwise stay away.

Together, the expanded community use of St. Nicholas and the deliberate culture of welcome at Holy Innocents' illustrate *Set Sail* through active partnership, generous stewardship of facilities, and the patient work of building relationships that make the Gospel accessible to a wider circle of people.

Parish of the Holy Spirit

As part of the *Set Sail* initiative, a Volunteer Appreciation Service was held at St. Mary's Church in Hodge's Cove on 28 April 2024.

Organized by the local Set Sail Team and led by Laura Drover, the service recognized 23 volunteer groups from across the South West Arm region. Laura also designed a "Set Sail" banner that was displayed in the church. A reception followed under the theme "Setting Sail into Love and Service to Others."

The strong turnout and encouraging response highlighted the value of honouring those who give their time and gifts. By publicly celebrating local volunteers, the gathering deepened relationships and strengthened a shared culture of service—exactly the kind of intentional community-building that *Set Sail* seeks to foster.

Parish of the Holy Trinity

Parish of the Holy Trinity: Two clear expressions of *Set Sail* have taken shape in the parish.

Transforming Discipleship, Deepening Relationships, and Renewing Stewardship. In 2024, a Parish Revival Mission was planned under Transforming Discipleship. Out of that experience, and following the diocesan ACW's decision to cease operations, a new group formed: FOG (Fellowship Outreach Group). With no formal programme, up to thirty people (mostly women) now gather weekly for worship, fellowship, outreach, and shared joy. The group rotates among the parish's church buildings so that heating costs and hosting are shared.

FOG supports Alongside Hope each fall and a local ministry (most recently the Mobile Ministry Bus) in winter and spring. Members participate in Advent and Lenten Bible study, share stories of following Jesus, and have become a trusted sounding board for parish ideas. In the spirit of Renewing Stewardship, other parish programs- choir practice and Confirmation classes- "piggyback" on the already-warm building.

Most significantly, FOG has drawn together people from the five congregations, members of other denominations, and anyone who wishes to join. Relationships have deepened across former boundaries. As the parish puts it: "It's not logical, but we have *Set Sail* through the FOG and found ourselves in a good place."

Partnership for Community Need: In 2026, the parish joined with the local SUF Lodge and clergy from the Salvation Army, United Church, and Roman Catholic Church to form a community Mental Wellness Committee. Prompted by concern over local suicides and the lack of safe places to talk about mental health, the committee—supported by Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services staff and local businesses—offered a Mental Wellness Day on 9 May that drew approximately eighty people, followed by a smaller evening session in June.

A New Horizons for Seniors Grant application has been submitted to sustain a full year of programming beginning in early 2027. Health Services personnel noted that previous sessions they had offered received limited response; the churches, by contrast, were able to gather people effectively. The experience confirmed that even among those who no longer (or never) attend church, a trust endures in the local church representatives known in the community.

In both the organic life of FOG and the deliberate work of the Mental Wellness Committee, the Parish of the Holy Trinity is living *Set Sail* through renewed discipleship, deepened relationships across congregations and denominations, careful stewardship of resources, and active partnership for the sake of the wider community.

Parish of Labrador West

St. Paul's, Labrador City continues to chart its course by the four ships of *Set Sail*.

Deepening Relationships: Core practices of men's fellowship, ecumenical gatherings, and parish meals remain central to shared life. The parish hosted another Christmas Pageant, and Rev. Rowena and Justin organized the Graduation Church Service and Celebration in

May 2026. These gatherings help form an inclusive, supportive, and non-judgmental community for those seeking connection.

Transforming Discipleship: Lindsey Hulan has taken up youth ministry and successfully restarted Sunday school. Looking ahead, the parish plans to re-engage past Confirmation students through community outreach projects, enabling baptized members to grow into the fullness of their discipleship and to lead others.

Renewing Stewardship: The parish donated \$1,000 to the "Solar Power Initiative: The Light for St. Luke's" project in the West Bank, facilitated by Alongside Hope and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. The gift supports the installation of 407 solar panels at a hospital in Bethlehem, ensuring reliable power for its wards. This action reflects both a holistic understanding of stewardship and a tangible response to the climate emergency.

Engaging Partnerships: The men's band and church choir make regular visits to the local hospital, performing music for long-term patients. This ministry takes the church's witness beyond its walls, offering dignity and comfort in partnership with the wider community.

In these varied expressions of relationship, discipleship, stewardship, and partnership, St. Paul's is actively living out the baptismal covenant in Labrador West.

Parish of Lake Melville, Happy Valley–Goose Bay

Ministry in Happy Valley–Goose Bay under Rev. Nellie is wide-ranging, relational, and deeply rooted in the community. It offers a clear picture of *Set Sail* lived out in a northern Labrador context.

Deepening Relationships: Regular gatherings build connection: a community Halloween party, Christmas Prayer Breakfast, celebration of a long-time member's 92nd birthday, and the "Circle of Friends in Faith" (begun by Angela Woodward) as a supportive, Christ-centred group. The parish also celebrates high-school graduates, welcomes new community members (including Filipino workers), and marks personal milestones such as a Lay Minister's birthday. Anglican worship is offered every second Sunday in North West River in partnership with the United Church, and a Christmas Candlelight Service is held there.

Transforming Discipleship: Confirmation candidates participated in Alpha for Youth, an interactive series creating space for honest questions about life, faith, and purpose. The class also shared food, learning, and fun, and took responsibility for the Cake Walk at the Spring Fair. A Blessing of the Backpacks supports students and educators at the start of the school year. Lenten mid-week services and active music ministry further form the congregation.

Engaging Partnerships and Community Service: St. Andrew's works closely with others. It partners with the Happy Valley–Goose Bay Housing and Homelessness Coalition; Rev. Nellie offered prayer at the grand opening of new supportive homes for seniors. The parish runs a Thanksgiving Food Drive for the Friendship Centre Food Bank, delivers furniture to those in need, and brings Halloween treats to people experiencing homelessness. The

men's band and choir, along with other musicians, contribute to community events including a well-supported Gospel Hour.

Rev. Nellie chairs the Lake Melville Ministerial Association (Anglican, United, Pentecostal, Moravian, Salvation Army, Baptist, Base Chapel, and Roman Catholic), which together mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and World Day of Prayer. She also serves as Chaplain to Legion Branch 51. She provides regular worship at the long-term care home, as well as pastoral visits to Labrador Grenfell Health patients (including Anglicans from the North and South Coasts). Practical care extends even to roadside assistance on the Labrador highway.

Through consistent presence in worship, formation of young people, open hospitality, and active partnership with community agencies and other churches, St. Andrew's and its wider Lake Melville ministry are charting a course of relationship, discipleship, and service that embodies *Set Sail*.

Parish of the Living Water

In the Parish of the Living Water, *Set Sail* has come alive through intentional welcome that reaches beyond the usual boundaries of the congregations.

Deepening Relationships and Engaging Partnerships:

A Eucharistic celebration was held for members of the Filipino community in Arnold's Cove and the surrounding area. It was not simply a service offered to one group, but an occasion to listen, welcome, learn, and worship together around the same table, recognizing that the gifts, traditions, and experiences of others enrich the Church.

Not long afterward, the parish hosted an event for international students living and working in the area. The emphasis was again on hospitality and relationship: these young people were received not merely as temporary workers, but as people whose presence mattered and whose stories were worth hearing.

A further expression of this spirit came in a Summer Gathering held after Sunday worship behind the rectory. Parishioners and guests shared food and conversation, and members of other local churches—United, Pentecostal, and Roman Catholic—were intentionally invited. The response was warm; relationships were strengthened, and the gathering became more than a parish social. It was a simple, joyful recognition of a shared identity in Christ.

Transforming Discipleship

These occasions have helped the parish see that setting sail does not always require a large programme. Sometimes it means opening the door, extending an invitation, sitting at the same table, and discovering that the Holy Spirit is already at work. The mission is not only to maintain the Church as it has been, but to move outward, deepen relationships, and find new ways of being the people of Christ together.

Through the welcome of Filipino neighbours, international students, and fellow Christians of other traditions, the Parish of the Living Water is quietly and practically Setting Sail.

Parish of the Resurrection, South River

The Parish of the Church of the Resurrection began exploring gardening opportunities for its members, forming a design team and planning ten small garden beds plus space for walking and contemplation.

Around the same time, the Town of South River was preparing ten raised beds intended for residents but lacked a suitable location. The parish offered space on its property, allowing the town's beds to be placed alongside its own.

The result is the shared South River Community Garden, which now provides twenty households with the chance to grow their own food.

Parish of St. George's, Petty Harbour

Since October 2024, St. George's has nurtured a children's ministry known as Sunday Funday—an expression of *Set Sail* that is growing far more than knowledge of the faith. Sunday Funday is a deliberate community of love, laughter, kindness, support, and connection. Through stories, music, crafts, and shared activities, the children learn that they are important, valued, and never alone. The space has been shaped so they feel safe being themselves, forming friendships, asking questions, and knowing they are surrounded by people who care for them. Beyond the lessons themselves, the ministry is about creating memories, building confidence, and helping the children grow up knowing they are deeply loved by both their church family and by God.

The children's presence is transforming the wider congregation. Their laughter, smiles, and energy now enrich worship—whether in the children's moment, through singing, in special services, or simply by being present. Families are connecting, and the joy that fills the colourful little room each Sunday has become a visible sign of what building community through faith can look like.

Open to newcomers, those returning after time away, and long-time members alike, Sunday Funday embodies *Set Sail* through intentional relationship-building and the patient formation of the next generation in a place where faith and belonging grow together.

Parish of St. John the Evangelist, CBS

Over three years, the parish has pursued *Set Sail* Goal 1—Deepening Relationships—through sustained, intentional formation.

2024 – "Prayer" A mid-week Lenten sermon series invited every baptized person to renew personal faith by examining the Baptismal Covenant. Under the theme "Reckless Prayer," Reverend Canon Jotie Noel led five Wednesday evenings examining daily devotions, Lectio Divina, the Jesus Prayer, prayer through breathing, and prayer through silence.

2025 – "For the Love of the Faith Community" Building on the previous year, the parish continued its focus on deepening relationship within the body of Christ. Lay Reader Gail Trewhitt presented on the true, holistic nature of stewardship and the shared responsibility for all of God's creation. In November, Canon Noel and members of Vestry met online with David Morgan, Rev. Amber Tremblett, and Amy Rose to engage in a Climate Care video and discussion, accepting the challenge to keep the conversation alive.

The mid-week Lenten series, "Who Needs a Church Anyway?", explored the character of a living faith community: one that waits with patience, learns how to live together (Habitas), is formed through catechesis and worship, perseveres through sin, repentance and restoration, and proclaims by word and example.

2026 – "For the Love of the World" The mid-week Lenten series shifted outward under the theme "Seeking Wisdom & Courage in Turbulent Times," with five sermons offered by Canon Noel.

Through consistent mid-week formation, attention to prayer, care for creation, and reflection on the nature and purpose of Christian community, the Parish of Saint John the Evangelist, Topsail has been steadily deepening relationships—with God, with one another, and with the wider world—exactly as *Set Sail* invites.

Parish of St. Lawrence, Portugal Cove

The Thrift Store is a ministry with many moving parts. Recycling and resale keep clothing and household goods out of landfills, while the energy of volunteers—drawn from well beyond the Anglican congregation—extends the life of items that would otherwise be discarded. Funds generated support outreach, scholarships, and the local food bank across the wider metro region.

The same success makes possible a distinctive Pop-Up Pantry: it does not depend on the food-sharing network, delivers to the home for privacy, offers more than typical non-perishables, and does not run on a fixed schedule.

The Outreach Committee is also exploring a partnership with the town to use the church facility as a warming and hospitality site, talks that began after a local fire required evacuations.

Shared Ministry Initiative (Bell Island/Portugal Cove/Pouch Cove)

Across these three communities, *Set Sail* is lived through many ministries that naturally cross the lines of relationship, discipleship, stewardship, and partnership. The Marks of Mission are alive in ordinary, ongoing work rather than in isolated programmes. All three parishes participate in the Community Connector Bus, a cross-diocesan project. In each place, the work is already underway. The task is less to sort every activity into a single "ship" than to notice, nurture, and keep sailing.

Saint Luke's Ecumenical Congregation, St. John's

At Saint Luke's, *Set Sail* looks like intentional growth—not primarily measured by numbers in the pews or increased givings (though both have followed), but by a deeper, more purposeful life together.

It is seen in the joy of an evening hymn sing, in the excitement of serving the community while learning the stories of those being helped, and in the steady emergence of new ideas and a renewed sense of purpose. It is experienced in time spent simply sharing life, and in relationships that are being built, nurtured, and strengthened day by day. The congregation

describes itself as a place where people care deeply for one another and actively look out for each other.

New initiatives continue to arise as people find their place and work together. In Tracy's words, the result is a humble pride in "our little parish" that is quietly becoming something richer through the daily practice of relationship, shared purpose, and mutual care—the very heart of *Set Sail*.

Parish of St. Mark the Evangelist, St. John's

Through a four-year partnership with the Virginia Park Community Centre, St. Mark's hosts a monthly Community Mug-Up—an evening meal and fellowship open to parishioners and neighbours alike.

What began with an average of about twenty diners has grown to 70–80 people each month (sometimes exceeding 100), requiring pre-registration to stay within hall capacity. The Mug-Up is offered on a "pay what you can" basis and has become self-sustaining through cash contributions and donated supplies. Dietary needs are thoughtfully accommodated, with halal, gluten-free, and lactose-free options regularly available. The deeper success of the ministry is relational. The hall fills with conversation and laughter. People who might otherwise eat alone look forward to sharing a table with new friends. Neighbours who are not parishioners have donated a handmade quilt for the church's Capital Campaign and vegetables from their gardens simply because they feel a connection. Cards of thanks arrive "from a grateful community."

Held on the second Wednesday of each month from September to June, the Mug-Up is sustained by a dedicated team of volunteers who ensure the coffee is hot and the welcome is warm. In this simple, steady practice of hospitality, St. Mark's is deepening relationships and living out *Set Sail* as a good neighbour in its own community.

Parish of St. Mary the Virgin, St. John's

At St. Mary the Virgin, *Set Sail* is taking shape especially through Engaging Partnerships, Deepening Relationships, and Transforming Discipleship.

Engaging Partnerships & Deepening Relationships: The parish has opened its buildings to partners who teach, mentor, and care for children and youth, and who now regard St. Mary's as home.

Shalloway, an internationally recognized choral organization, uses the church to offer "Lauda," a neurodiverse youth choir program in a safe, neuro-affirming environment supported by music and health specialists. Smash Volleyball, serving athletes from Grades 3 to 12, emphasizes teamwork, sportsmanship, and the physical and mental well-being of young people; the group has invested its own resources to upgrade the Canon Stirling auditorium with new paint and energy-efficient lighting. The Children's Centre continues to provide inclusive, non-profit childcare, with the children themselves helping to care for the 'Beautiful People Garden' at the church entrance.

Space is also offered freely to those who cannot contribute financially. Two Alcoholics Anonymous groups meet in the Worship and Hospitality Room as part of their healing

journey. The St. John the Baptist Indian Orthodox Congregation—the first Orthodox community in the province—now calls St. Mary's "their church."

Transforming Discipleship: A Christian Education study group has been meeting for the past year and a half. Participants have completed a series on "Women in the Bible" and book studies of *God in Messy Places* and *A Full-Hearted Life*. The group looks forward to resuming in the fall for continued study, discussion, and fellowship.

Through generous sharing of space, intentional hospitality to diverse community groups, and steady adult formation, the Parish of St. Mary the Virgin is deepening relationships and nurturing discipleship in practical, everyday ways.

Parish of St. Nicholas Anglican Church, Torbay

Partnership and Stewardship of Place: The congregation has intentionally expanded the use of its church and hall as a community resource for arts, culture, and heritage in the Torbay area. Partnerships have been formed with the Town of Torbay, Torbay History House, Torbay Folk Arts Council, The Rocky Isles Singers, local performers and bands, and the St. John's Storytellers. These joint efforts have brought a variety of performances and cultural events into the church facility.

Additional partnerships with the Northeast Avalon Food Bank and the Watts Cove Quilting Bee further extend the building's usefulness beyond Sunday worship. In this way, the parish is practising careful stewardship of its physical space while deepening relationships with civic, cultural, and service organizations in the wider community.

Parish of St. Paul's, Goulds

At St. Paul's, *Set Sail* is taking root through two growing expressions of community and relationship.

Community Craft & Social Group: In just three years, the St. Paul's Community Craft & Social Group has grown to twenty-four women from the wider community. Many of these ladies are not members of the congregation, yet they regularly show up to help at other parish and community events. One participant has come to call St. Paul's her new spiritual home. The group has become a natural place of belonging, friendship, and shared purpose that reaches well beyond the church walls.

Sowing Seeds – Growing Community. Alongside the craft group, the parish continues its "Sowing Seeds – Growing Community" initiative. Photographs from the fall 2025 harvest and the 2026 spring planting show the ongoing work of tending a shared garden that both feeds and brings people together.

Through the steady welcome of the Craft & Social Group and the practical care of the community garden, St. Paul's is deepening relationships, opening its doors to neighbours, and quietly growing a wider sense of belonging—exactly the kind of everyday discipleship *Set Sail* invites.

Parish of St. Peter's, Upper Gullies, CBS

St. Peter's continues to live its long-standing motto—"Come to Worship – Leave to Serve"—as it emerges from the COVID years and navigates a generational change in leadership. The parish frames its life around the Five Marks of Mission (Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform, Treasure), which closely align with the priorities of Set Sail.

A deliberate culture of welcome is central. Volunteers connect with new visitors and invite them to parish functions and organizations such as the Men's Service Club and the Anglican Church Women. The Church Lads' Brigade has flourished and now partners with the Foxtrap Company to offer a full program for children and youth aged 5–17.

Technology has been used creatively for mission. Long before the internet, services were recorded and distributed on VHS to local long-term care homes. During the COVID pandemic, the parish installed a wireless camera and streaming system, making worship available to a wide audience online with minimal ongoing effort. Matthew Coveyduck, who is on the autism spectrum, has faithfully operated the camera software since 2020 and rarely misses a service. His younger brother Christopher, also on the spectrum, participates fully—sometimes offering spontaneous comments, showing concern for animals, and welcoming newcomers with flowers. Dennis Morgan, who supported the first video ministry, continues to encourage both brothers. Their presence is treasured; what once met occasional resistance is now widely accepted as part of the congregation's life.

The same adaptive spirit led to the installation of seven video screens during COVID so that liturgy could be followed without books. Although hymnals and prayer books have since returned to the pews, many still find the screens helpful, and the ability to look up together has strengthened the sense of shared worship.

Through intentional welcome, inclusive participation, creative use of technology, and steady service, St. Peter's is deepening relationships and opening space for people of different abilities and backgrounds to find their place—embodying the spirit of Set Sail while remaining true to its historic call to worship and to serve.

Parish of St. Philip, St. Philips

St. Philip's Parish reports that ongoing reflection on the diocesan *Set Sail* plan has sharpened its sense of responsibility in three interconnected areas: stewardship of creation, hospitality, and community engagement.

Renewing Stewardship: The parish continues to improve the energy efficiency of its buildings, deliberately lowering its carbon footprint as an expression of care for God's creation.

Deepening Relationships & Engaging Partnerships: The church is intentionally becoming more welcoming—both to newcomers who have moved into the area or arrived after the closure of other congregations, and to the wider community. Its building is regularly made available to other local groups. Public presence has grown through participation in the Christmas Parade and a Trunk or Treat event at Halloween. The parish now describes itself not only as an Anglican congregation but as a community church open to all, regardless of prior affiliation.

Transforming Discipleship: While the loss of some young families after the pandemic and after baptism or Confirmation remains a challenge, a dedicated committee is preparing outreach plans for the autumn to welcome them back and create new opportunities for lasting involvement.

The parish sees these efforts as early signs of growth arising from *Set Sail*—seeds of renewal that, with continued attention, may contribute to the wider work of the Kingdom.

Parish of St. Thomas, St. John's

The Heavy Hamper is presented as a lived example of the Diocese's *Set Sail: Charting the Course for Christ's Church* strategic plan at work in St. Thomas' Parish.

Set Sail invited parishes to discover where discipleship might take root—not as an abstract discussion, but as a concrete "door to open." In this story, that door opened on an usual Wednesday at the Emmaus House food bank. A Rohingya father and his ten-year-old daughter arrived needing a standard family hamper. The girl's quiet determination to carry more than she and her father could manage, the volunteers' immediate decision to drive them home, the discovery of a nearly empty apartment, and the parish's subsequent response (furniture, bedding, a bicycle, dishcloths, Christmas provisions, and patient efforts to connect language and cultural barriers) formed a chain of small, practical acts of loving service.

The narrative explicitly links these actions to Mark Three of the Marks of Mission ("Respond to human need by loving service") and to Matthew 25:40. It shows discipleship taking root precisely in the "tending"—the unannounced, persistent work of meeting real needs, persevering through failed translation apps and scarce halal meat, and even detouring to Signal Hill so that men without a vehicle could see a part of their new city. The story's closing reflection is that the parish, by following these small openings, became more fully itself: a community that set out to sail and discovered, in a heavy hamper and a child's resolve, exactly where the wind was blowing.

In short, we illustrate *Set Sail* in practice: discipleship rooted in concrete, relational response to human need rather than in programs or statements alone.

Shared Ministry of St. Luke's, Port de Grave and St. Mark's, Shearstown

In the Conception Bay North shared ministry, a simple experiment is opening conversations about faith.

After receiving a "pocket Jesus" from a prisoner following a funeral, the Rector, Jason+, ordered more through Nova. These small figures are now being given away as tangible reminders of God's love—encouraging recipients both in their own faith and to pass the gift on to others with the message that God loves them and there is nothing they can do about it.

The practice has people talking with one another about Jesus and who Jesus is for them. What began as a single gift has become a quiet, effective means of deepening relationships and sparking natural conversations about faith across the shared ministry.

Parish of Southeast Labrador

In this vast eight-point parish (nearly 1,000 km round trip), the Holy Spirit has long been at work through the "four ships" of *Set Sail*—relationships, discipleship, partnership, and stewardship—building on seeds planted by earlier clergy who answered the call to the "Big Land."

At St. Peter's, Cartwright, all four ships work together. Five years ago, the vestry closed the parish hall for the winter as an act of careful stewardship, saving more than \$6,000 in heating costs and partnering with the town for free shutdown services. That decision opened the door to a transformative partnership with the Community Youth Network: grants of nearly \$100,000 completely renovated the hall, which is now leased to CYN for \$1 a year while remaining available to the church. The same spirit of partnership moved the long-standing Bible study to the Sandwich Bay 50+ Centre. Even during years without a priest, the study continued under a faithful member who has since become a Licensed Lay Minister. Numbers have grown from seven to fourteen or more; the group displays deep mutual care, spiritual growth, and a gentle confidence that has drawn some who had left church back into worship.

St. Andrew the Apostle, Port Hope Simpson illustrates deepening discipleship and relationship through consistency. Regular Sunday services—first in Advent and Lent, then as often as possible—have stabilized attendance at 12–18 (sometimes more), including children. A local LLM shares the leadership. Stewardship decisions (pausing summer services when numbers and travel costs no longer balanced) have not diminished the community's life: this past Christmas Eve, approximately 80 people gathered, fifteen of them children—the first such service in many years.

St. Mark's, St. Lewis reflects shared ministry and emerging discipleship. Working with Rev. Jennifer Rumbolt (quarter-time), the congregation benefits from the musical gifts of St. Mary's Choir and has welcomed two young women willing to serve as servers. A parishioner has tailored a server's gown so they can fully take their place. The Spirit is moving.

Across great distances and limited resources, the Parish of Southeast Labrador is living *Set Sail* through practical stewardship, creative community partnerships, regular presence that deepens relationships and discipleship, and the raising up of local leaders.

Parish of Spaniard's Bay-Tilton

Since setting sail, Holy Redeemer has continued to deepen its life of worship, fellowship, outreach, and partnership under Rev. Betty's leadership.

Relationship and Worship: Weekly Sunday services with Holy Communion remain the heart of parish life. The second Sunday of each month is set aside for Baptism, and the third Sunday features guest Gospel singers for Prayer and Praise at the congregation's request. Though the congregation is small and largely made up of seniors, the sense of love and fellowship in worship is strong.

Fellowship Members and Rev. Betty regularly visit nursing homes, hospitals, and shut-ins. Afternoon Teas, held a couple of times a year, draw at least a hundred people from the

wider community. Planned and served by the Women's Church Group and local volunteers, these gatherings create a sense of belonging even among those who do not attend church regularly. The parish hopes to welcome them back without judgement.

Stewardship and Outreach: The congregation has supported the Mission Bus with funds and personal items, purchased Christmas gifts for children through the Alongside Hope catalogue, and knitted prayer shawls for the sick. It contributed to fire relief (including joint support with St. Peter's, Upper Island Cove, for a family who lost everything) and raised \$200 for the Yes to Kids Project through a Lenten coin collection laid at the foot of the cross on Good Friday. Volunteers also carried out a thorough clean-up of the parish's four cemeteries.

Partnership: Holy Redeemer has a strong partnership with the Helping Hand Food Bank and Thrift Store in Bay Roberts. Parishioners bring food donations each Sunday, volunteers help fill hampers, members serve on the Board, and Rev. Betty chairs the Board. The parish also shares mid-week Lenten services with neighbouring Anglican churches and participates in ecumenical services at Christmas.

Discipleship: The Anglican Journal, *Today Daily Devotional*, and *Daily Bread* are offered free of charge. Eleven children are being prepared for Confirmation this month by three dedicated volunteer teachers, sowing seeds for the church's future.

Through steady worship, open hospitality, practical care for neighbours, and active partnership in the wider community, Holy Redeemer continues to live out the vision of *Set Sail*.

Parish of Upper Island Cove

Over the past four years, the *Set Sail* initiative has taken shape in Upper Island Cove through relationship, discipleship, stewardship, and partnership that reach well beyond the church walls.

The clearest expression has been the annual Goods, Services, Talents evening—"GST," an ironic play on the familiar tax acronym given a Christian flair. What began as a way to bring people together has grown into an evening of music, food, laughter, entertainment, and community spirit: a celebration of what happens when people share their gifts and work together.

The event is strengthened by wide partnership: the Upper Island Cove Fire Department, Parks and Recreation, Town Council, local churches and families, parish volunteers, Walled City Entertainment, and many individuals who offer time, talent, and resources. None of the partners could create this alone; together they have.

There is a strong intergenerational dimension. Children, young people, adults, and seniors all find ways to take part. Especially encouraging is that many parishioners who do not usually join scheduled parish activities have become involved. New relationships have formed, gifts have been discovered, and people have found fresh ways to connect with the life of the parish.

This is the heart of *Set Sail* in Upper Island Cove: going out, meeting people where they are, listening to their gifts and stories, and recognizing that God is already at work in the community. The good work is happening; the parish's task is to notice it, nurture it, and continue setting sail toward the future God is calling them to embrace.

**Appendix B:
Episcopal Acts
November 2024 – August 2026**

Deaths

Mrs. Gladys Hussey – November 23, 2024, mother of the Rev. Gary Hussey
Mrs. Irene Crisby – December 5, 2024, mother of Elizabeth Crisby, Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Eva Vivian- December 16, 2024, mother-in-law of Gerry Beresford, Diocesan Property Consultant.
Mr. Arthur Cheater – February 6, 2025, former Diocesan Accountant and Finance Officer.
Mr. Graham Lynch - February 21, 2025, Brother of Mr. Don Lynch and brother-in-law of the Venerable Christine Lynch
The Rev. Dr. David Bell – March 18, 2025
The Rev. John Nicolle – March 27, 2025
Mary Sheppard – April 7, 2025, Mother of the Reverend Derrick Sheppard
The Rev. Paul Bishop – May 11, 2025
Mrs. Edith Noel – May 22, 2025, wife of the Rev. Canon Bill Noel
The Rev. Evelyn Smith – July 15, 2025
Ernest G. Reid, KC – July 19, 2025, former Diocesan Chancellor
Mrs. Enid Haines- August 5, 2025, sister of Mrs. Christina Butler and sister-in-law of the Rev. Sam Butler.
Ms. Mary Foote – August 19, 2025, sister of the Rev. Frank King.
Mr. Aaron Porter – August 22, 2025, Grandson of the Rev. Janet and Peter Pardy
The Rev. James Pollard – October 5, 2025
Mr. Walter George Cross- October 31, 2025, father of the Rev. Eli Cross
Mrs. Zita Butler – November 3, 2025, sister of the Rev. Canon Sandra Tilley.
Mr. Edgar Bonnell – December 20, 2025, father of the Rev. Edgar Bonnell, Deacon
Dr. Rasul Khan – January 15, 2026, husband of Barbara Khan, retired Bishop's Secretary.
Mrs. Isabel Rowsell – February 8, 2026, widow of the late Rev. Frederick R. Rowsell.
Mr. Gary King, Past President of DAMA – February 16, 2026
Mrs. Walega Robinson, mother of the Rev. Gail Dick – February 25, 2026
Mr. Samuel Rose, father of Bishop Samuel Rose – March 17, 2026
Mr. James Henry Mercer, father of the Rev. Dr. Joanne Mercer, the Provost of Queen's College - May 7, 2026
Mrs. Jean Parry, sister of the Rev. Jim Eveleigh, June 16, 2026

Appointments

The Ven. Christopher Fowler - Interim Diocesan Executive Officer from April 1 to July 30, 2025
The Venerable Wayne Parsons, Diocesan Coordinating Hospital Chaplain, effective May 1, 2025.
The Rev. Irene Sutton, Hospital Chaplain, effective May 1, 2025.
The Rev. Jean Smith, Weekend On-Call Hospital Chaplain, effective May 1, 2025.
The Rev. Kenneth Abbott, Priest-in-Charge, Parish of Holy Cross, effective July 1, 2025
The Rev. Rafiq Masih, Priest-in-Charge, Parish of Harbour Grace, effective October 1, 2025
The Rev. Aubrey Young, Priest-in-Charge, Parish of Upper Island Cove, effective November 23, 2025

The Rev. Gloria Wendover, Priest-in-Charge, Parish of the Holy Spirit, effective December 1, 2025.

The Rev. Derrick Sheppard, Priest-in-Charge (half-time) of the Parish of the Living Water, effective September 1, 2025.

The Rev. Dale Careen, Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of St. Thomas, effective January 15, 2026.

Cathedral Chapter, January 1, 2026 - 2029

The Venerable Charlene Taylor, Diocesan Executive Officer, Registrar and Secretary-Treasurer of Synod

The Very Rev. Roger Whalen, Dean of the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador & Commissary

The Venerable Nancy March, Territorial Mission Archdeacon of Avalon

The Venerable Christine Lynch, Territorial Mission Archdeacon of Trinity/Conception/Placentia

The Venerable Julie Brace, Territorial Mission Archdeacon of Labrador

The Rev. Canon Deborah Pantin, Canon for Evangelism and Witness

The Rev. Canon Amber Tremblett, Canon for Discipleship and Christian Formation

The Rev. Canon Byron Barter, Canon for Mercy and Loving Service

The Rev. Canon Amanda Taylor, Canon for Justice and Peace

Canon David Morgan, Canon for Creation Care and Stewardship

Canon Thomas Mugford, Canon for Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation

Bishop's Advisors

The Venerable Wayne Parsons for Institutional Chaplaincy and Diocesan Pastoral Care:

The Venerable Fred Marshall for Community Outreach

The Venerable Christopher Fowler for Liturgy and Diocesan Worship

The Venerable Eli Evans for Vocational Ministry, Chair of Postulants' Committee, and Examining Chaplain

The Venerable Gerald Westcott for Spiritual Direction & Faith Development

Diocesan Chancellor: Hilary Wicks Morrow

The Rev. Keith Sheppard- Weekend On-Call Hospital Chaplain, effective May 1, 2026.

The Ven. Edward Keeping - Priest-in-Charge (half-time), Parish of St. John the Evangelist, CBS, effective June 1, 2026.

Ordination of Deacons

The Rev. Valerie Pearce – May 14, 2025

The Rev. Byron Smith – May 14, 2025

The Rev. Paul Saunders – September 21, 2025

The Rev. Pamela Norman – November 30, 2025

The Rev. Fronie Squibb – December 1, 2025

Ordination of Priests

The Rev. Maxine Drover – November 30, 2024

The Rev. Gail Dick - December 1, 2024

The Rev. Karen Mitchell – December 1, 2024

The Rev. Bonnie Morgan - April 29, 2025

The Rev. Derrick Sheppard – September 8, 2025

Reinstatement of Ministry

The Rev. David Cook – April 24, 2026

Deconsecrations

St. Michael and All Angels Church, Hillview – July 15, 2025

St. Augustine's, St. John's – April 12, 2026

Dedication of Columbarium

St. Peter's, Upper Gullies – January 11, 2025

All Saints, Foxtrap – October 15, 2025

Coley's Point Cemetery – July 19, 2026

Forest Road Cemetery – July 28, 2026

Kenmount Road Cemetery – July 28, 2026

Disestablishment of a Parish

St. Augustine, St. John's – May 31, 2026

Retirements

The Ven. David Pilling - April 30, 2025

The Rev. Shirley Noseworthy – June 30 2025

The Rev. Keith Sheppard - August 31, 2025

The Rev. Gail Coley-MacDonald - December 31, 2025

The Rev. Canon Josiah Noel – May 31, 2026

Inductions as Rector

The Rev. Jason Haggstrom - Parish of St. Mark's, Shearstown-Butlerville and Parish of Port de Grave - April 26, 2026.

The Rev. Maxine Drover – Parish of Carbonear - May 31, 2026

Appendix C:

Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

Diocese-Wide Totals • 2020-2024

Year	Anglican Population	Confirmed	Christmas Eve/Day	Easter Communicants	Pentecost	2nd Sun of Sept	Avg. Attendance	Identifiable Givers	Sunday Schools	Pupils	Baptisms	Youth Groups
2020	15,260	9,572	4,408	1,929	1,335	1,147	5,271	5,271	23	212	172	800
2021	3,458	2,286	9	289	213	234	1,075	1,075	4	25	55	57
2022	21,053	11,344	6,725	3,080	1,971	1,448	6,408	6,408	19	162	265	531
2023	20,691	12,425	8,018	3,307	2,343	1,735	6,376	6,376	18	161	265	710
2024	18,223	9,995	7,909	3,320	1,643	2,041	4,998	4,998	16	179	227	536

Note: 2021 figures reflect incomplete pandemic-era reporting. 38-39 parishes reported in 2022-2023; 33 reported in 2024.