

Parish Profile

St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church
Diocese of Yukon
Anglican Church of Canada
P.O. Box 194
Fort Nelson, BC V0C 1R0
Rectory: 5520 53rd St.
Church: 4903 51st Ave. West
250-774-6427

Statement of Purpose

To glorify God, as a community of love, in all that we say and do; calling people to faith in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, equipping and releasing them for service, under the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Goals

Short Term

1. To minister to our congregation and community through the strengthening of community relationships and service.
2. To support the spiritual growth of the congregation through increased involvement in Circle Ministry, Christian education and identifying new opportunities for ministry.

Long Term

1. To work towards establishing a 'seven day a week' parish family.

St. Mary Magdalene and the Diocese of Yukon

St. Mary Magdalene's parish is an integral part of the Diocese of the Yukon as it serves Fort Nelson, BC, the second largest community in the Diocese. Geographically, this parish serves the eastern and southern portion of the Diocese (Liard Region), and is approximately a twelve (12) hour drive from the see city of Whitehorse.

For more information about the Diocese, please visit the website at:

<https://anglican.yukon.net>

The Community of Fort Nelson

Fort Nelson part of the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, a vast area in the northeastern part of British Columbia, and is situated at Historic Mile 300 of the Alaska Highway. The community is currently in an economic downturn as the forestry and natural gas industries have suffered in the past few years.

The 'outdoor' experience provides significant tourism in the summer and there are many outdoor recreational opportunities throughout the year. Fort Nelson offers a wide range of amenities including: quality accommodation options (hotel/motel, camping and RV sites), a variety of banks, schools, doctors, dentists, a full range of recreation facilities, a movie theatre, and a library.

Along with our own Anglican Church, there is an Alliance Church, United Church, Catholic Church, and Pentecostal Church.

For more information about Fort Nelson, please visit:

<https://www.northernrockies.ca/EN/main/Communities/fort-nelson.html>

<https://www.travel-british-columbia.com/northern-british-columbia/alaska-highway-97/fort-nelson/>

<https://www.sd81.bc.ca>



Facilities

Rectory

St. Mary Magdalene's provides a 3-bedroom, 2 ½ bathroom rectory with a full basement and a one-car garage. In the back yard there is a wood shed and large workshop/garage. The rectory includes all appliances, and is adequately furnished in all rooms. Essential utilities are included (gas, hydro, landline phone, and basic cell service). Internet is also provided either in the rectory or at the church. TV service or upgraded internet service is the responsibility of the Incumbent.

The downstairs is currently being used one day a week by the "Comfort Quilters", a prayer ministry group. Depending on the needs of the incoming Incumbent, different arrangements can be made regarding space and time.

The rectory is situated in an established neighborhood. All amenities are a short drive away or within walking distance.



Church

Our church space is rented and is uniquely situated downtown in a centrally located strip-mall. This multi-functional space is set up to serve as our sanctuary, kitchen/fellowship seating, and parish office. Depending on the needs, the furnishings can be easily reorganized to accommodate larger groups or different seating arrangements. We are currently in year two, of a five-year lease.

Congregation

St. Mary Magdalene's parish family, like many others, is made up of mostly seniors and mostly women. There are some families but few young children or youth. Our congregation has roughly 35 households on the roster and 20 regular attenders. The average Sunday attendance fluctuates a great deal during the year; from September to May it is about 17, and from June to August it is roughly 10.



Worship

The primary liturgy currently used is the Holy Eucharist service from the Book of Alternative Services (BAS), with occasional use of Morning Prayer. The inclusion of the 1962 language service is also occasionally used. Music is provided on alternate weeks by a pianist. Every other week we use a digital audio system. There is typically a mix of traditional hymns and praise songs.

St. Mary Magdalene operates in a model of Circle Ministry. Supporting the Incumbent, there is an Associate Priest and a Licensed Lay Minister. There is a roster system in place for parishioners to take responsibility for bible readings, prayers, eucharistic administration, fellowship/coffee, and cleaning.

Ministries

Christian Education

St. Mary Magdalene's has offered a variety of program options. There is typically only one 'study' going on at a time. In recent years, studies have included: bible study of Nehemiah, studies of "A Life Worth Living" and "A Purpose Driven Life", book studies of The Shack and Rooms, a biblical overview using The Story, and will soon begin its sequel Believe.

There has also been support to bring in special presenters for weekend 'workshops.' We have had a ministry team lead a weekend going through the Lord's Prayer. We have also brought a presenter in to do teaching on healing ministry and the Order of St. Luke. Most recently we hosted a workshop on how to reach out beyond our church and build community.

Groups

The Comfort Quilter's is a healing prayer ministry who put their talents to use producing beautiful quilts for those needing healing. The group prays for each individual before, during and after the quilt making, then brings it into the church to be blessed by the congregation.

The parish also has a tradition of hosting dinners at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter which are open to the community and serve as an outreach and fundraiser. There is always more than just food, there is lots of entertainment and games as well.

Ecumenical

Hospital Worship Ministry is shared with each of the other churches in town. Approximately once per month, St. Mary Magdalene's takes its turn hosting worship at the hospital in the Long-Term Care Ward.

Also, about once per month, a Ministerial Message is prepared for the Fort Nelson News. Each church takes a turn with the intent of sharing a spiritual message to the larger community.

The Incumbent becomes part of the Ministerial Association, made up of the representatives from each church. They meet once per month to plan and deal with items affecting all the churches. This group also shares responsibility for a fund of money which is used for emergency provisions primarily for those traveling the Alaska Highway.

Other ecumenical events have included: an annual Good Friday Walk of the Cross through the community, the collection and distribution of Christmas food hampers. There have also been opportunities to have joint worship or events with the other churches.

Leadership Support

The current Vestry consists of 8 individuals and is chaired by the Incumbent or their designate at their discretion. All required positions are filled and running smoothly. In addition, there is a Bulletin Secretary, Music Coordinating team, parish level Auditor, Licensed Lay Minister and an Associate Priest.

Finances

It has been many years since St. Mary Magdalene has been self-supporting, and the diocese itself runs with financial support from the Council of the North.

The diocese calculates an amount for each parish to pay in the areas of Stipend and Shared Offering. These amounts do not represent the full cost of ministry in a parish, but a reasonable expectation of what parishes can afford. Even this reduced amount can be a difficult goal to meet each year. However, for the past several years, St. Mary Magdalene's, has been able to fully pay these amounts and maintain a balanced budget.

Finances continue to be of concern especially in difficult economic times, but St. Mary Magdalene's remains focused on supporting ministry in Fort Nelson and is committed to supporting the diocese in every way.

Financial statements are included for reference.

The Incumbent at St. Mary Magdalene's

An Incumbent at St. Mary Magdalene's needs many different qualities. The Incumbent would need to possess skills to lead strongly with a loving heart. At the same time have an ability to pastorally serve equally between parish members and the community. There is a great need for regular visitation as many Anglicans in the community are not regular attenders. The godly qualities of a minister as found described in the New Testament, as well as the qualifications and expectations defined in the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Yukon, are necessary in this highly visible position within a small community (*Canon 26 "Ministers Exercising Their Ministry/Order and Eligibility for Licensing"*). While staying true to their convictions, the Incumbent would need to show love and understanding to the congregants and the community who may hold different viewpoints, and to be sensitive to the needs of all who make the remote north their home.

The parish of St. Mary's is in transition, with a strong desire to be a strong witness for Jesus Christ in Fort Nelson; but without a 'large number of workers' the core members of the congregation need encouragement and training in how to 'serve the community'. St. Mary Magdalene is in need of a pastor with gifts in congregational development, and in building relationships within the community. Infectious energy for ministry is also key in encouraging this small and older congregation to be able to take risks and try new ministry opportunities. With the many pressures of secular life in the community and on the parishioners, commitment to congregational life is often lacking. The Incumbent at St. Mary Magdalene's would benefit by leading the congregation by example, while at the same time fostering the commitment of congregants to build greater relationships with each other, and fully participate in the life of the church.

The Incumbent in this remote northern community should be of good physical health and mobility to match the challenging winter climate and environment. A willingness and ability to travel long distances is essential. Excellent communication and spiritual health with a disciplined prayer life is necessary in an isolated community with sometimes limited resources for spiritual support.