



The Right Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee
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Dear friends,

I am writing to let you know that our property in Gordon Head, where the St. Dunstan's parish has been worshipping since the 1960s, will be listed for sale in the new year.

The members of St. Dunstan's have made the faithful and difficult decision that the best way to live out their ministry and to focus their energies on worship and community is to let go of their large and aging facility. Just as families often make the decision to move or downsize, so has the parish of St. Dunstan's decided that leaving behind their building is best for their family as a whole.

Our people, not our properties, are our greatest assets. I commend the people of St. Dunstan's for the courage it took to come to this decision, and I am particularly grateful to the people of Two Saints parish who are welcoming St. Dunstan's to their worship space at St. Peter's. From Epiphany to Easter, the two congregations will be worshipping together, with Heather Robinson serving as priest. Following this trial period there will be further discussions about what ministry will look like for St. Dunstan's and Two Saints.

Decisions about how to best steward our properties are neither simple nor straightforward, especially in Greater Victoria where we have an abundance of properties, often in close proximity to one another. Our strategy has been and will continue to be deliberately iterative. All the ideas that our communities generate regarding potential building projects need to be tested in the community and need to consider municipal policy, our limited capital, and the exorbitant price of renovating and building.

The first iteration in looking at redeveloping the St. Dunstan's site began in 2022 when we received a \$150 000 grant from CHMC to explore the possibility of adding affordable housing as well as a new worship space. That process revealed that it would not be possible to generate enough capital from the land value and housing to be able to also build worship and community space.

Following this realization, we decided to list the meadow, or undeveloped section, of the St. Dunstan's property in the hopes that a developer might buy that section of property from us to generate some capital in hopes of redeveloping the remainder of the site. While many developers looked at and responded to the request for proposals there were ultimately no offers on the meadow, and the developers did not believe that the municipality would easily grant the desired subdivision.

Given this information, Diocesan Council decided to list the property as whole when it met last month. Offers will be solicited through the use of a realtor and will go back to Diocesan Council for a final decision. The motion from Diocesan Council stipulated that offers must be at least \$7.1 million to be considered. No decisions about proceeds of the anticipated sale have been made and decisions will not be made quickly or without consultation.

We will continue to keep you informed as to what does and does not happen with the St. Dunstan's property. Updates on this and all our properties that are under consideration can be found at [this site](#). I would also invite you to read the [land stories](#) we have recently published on our website, and the [report on property](#) that was in the convening circular for our November Synod and that outlines some of the context and considerations as we look at our landholdings.

Each of our properties has its own history and context. Many of our parishes are involved in faithful conversations about their buildings and property. Decisions about land and property are not easy, as competing values and commitments often arise. The process at each site will be different and the process at every site will be iterative.

At our Synod in November Scott Sharman spoke about how as Anglicans we are synodical, a word that means, literally, 'together on the way.' He reminded us that our life as Anglicans is best lived out when we are relational, dialogical and provisional. May we have the wisdom to approach every aspect of our life as church, especially our relationship with our buildings, with these concepts in mind. It is not, ultimately, our buildings that we are to preserve but our ever-changing and always-constant life together as Christ's body in the world.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anna Greenwood-Lee". To the left of the signature is a simple blue cross symbol.

The Right Rev Anna Greenwood-Lee
bishop