

Feast of St Dunstan of Canterbury
19 May 2026

Dear friends in Christ,

The time of year has come when many minds turn to summer, vacations, and relaxation. This is also the time of year when, for some, planning for the next program year comes to mind.

You are warmly invited to participate in St John’s 2026/2027 Program Planning Session—also called Herding Cats—on Sunday, 14 June 2026 during fellowship after both the 9:30 and 11:00 liturgies. This is a time for us to pray, dream, and discern together how the Church of St John the Evangelist will live out its calling in the coming year. In particular, this is a chance to look at the calendar for the upcoming year and consider where and how all of the planned activities will fit together.

Grounded in our Mission Action Plan

St John’s is a community blessed with many wonderful and exciting opportunities. So many of these would make for good and worthy ministries. No community can do everything. We must be thoughtful and intentional about the opportunities that we pursue and the ones that we let pass for another community to consider.

In February, we engaged in a careful process of discernment and identified three interconnected Mission Action Plan (MAP) priorities that will shape our common life over the next few years. As we plan together, we ask that each program, activity, or initiative that we propose be considered in light of these priorities.

Programming that clearly connects to one or more of our MAP priorities will help us move together with focus and intention. Proposals that do not connect to any of these priorities should be reconsidered. Not because they lack value, but because this is a season for focused, purposeful action rooted in the priorities that we have discerned together.

Our Three Map Priorities

Priority	What This Looks Like
Missional Church—Good Neighbour	Listening before acting. Understanding actual needs. Responding relationally to our neighbourhood. Being able to speak naturally and confidently about our faith in the context of those relationships.
Life in the Neighbourhood	Hosting neighbourhood events that neighbours want to attend. (See above about listening.) Creating welcoming, accessible spaces and gatherings that build genuine relationships. Ensuring our hospitality is tangible and visible, including to those who may not have felt safe in church before, e.g. 2SLGBTQ+ people.
Faith Formation	Deepening everyday discipleship through prayer and small groups. Equipping people of all ages to articulate faith naturally. Ensuring children are central—not peripheral—to the life of our parish.

How to Prepare for the Program Planning Session

As you think about the activities that your ministry or group would like to undertake in the coming year, we encourage you to reflect on the following questions:

- What is the program, initiative, or activity you are planning?
- Which MAP priority does it connect to, and how?
- Who in our community or neighbourhood does it serve?
- What resources (people, time, money, space) would it require?
- What would success look like?

At the session, there will be opportunities to mark activities and events on a shared calendar. The calendar will be pre-filled with important dates in the life of the parish and the church year. There will also be informal opportunities to discuss with each other what is being planned and get a sense of where cooperation or consolidation might be to everyone's benefit.

All are welcome to attend the session, but please nominate someone from each group or ministry to do the marking on the calendars. It will save much time if we do not have duplicate entries to try and sort out.

Following the session, the Corporation will be in touch with ministry leaders about possible timing conflicts or parts of the year that seem out of balance.

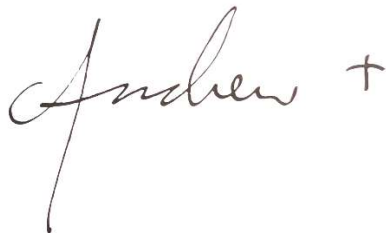
Session Details

Date	Sunday, 14 June 2026
Time	During fellowship after 9:30 and 11:00 liturgies
Location	The Gymnasium in the Activity Centre

We hope that you will take this time to discern, pray, reflect, and plan what might serve our neighbourhood and congregation best over the coming year. Your presence, your ideas, your prayers, and all of your many ministries matter deeply to the life of this parish.

Blessings on your planning.

On behalf of the Corporation, I am yours in Christ,



The Revd Andrew Rampton
Rector