

**Julia Macdonald (member) & Lynne Downes (officer),
Recipients of the Order of the Diocese of BC**

Julia Macdonald – A Biography of Service and Ministry

Julia Macdonald brings to her ministry within the diocese of BC and the parish of St. Anne & St. Edmund, Parksville, a lifetime of passionate commitment to and active, thoughtful, and engaged leadership within the parish and congregation, along with significant service to her wider local communities.

Julia's beginnings were in Brisbane, baptized and confirmed in the Anglican Church of Australia, where her mother was a lifelong Anglican who taught religious instruction in school. Julia's marriage to her husband and life partner John brought her to Canada, leading to her experience in parishes in the Diocese of Caledonia, in Bella Bella, and in Kitimat, and finally to her homecoming to the community of Parksville in 1985, where she has served the parish in Parksville for over 35 years now, under 4 successive Rectors.

At St. Anne & St. Edmund, she started out with membership in the "young moms" group in the 80s, at the same time as taking a role in parish council, where she was part of the major project to move 2 church buildings and 1 hall to new locations within the parish, build a new hall, and help create a "daughter" parish at St. Mary, Nanoose Bay.

Julia has been a stalwart in the alto section of the parish choir throughout the past 35 years, coordinating the administration of our music ministry, as well as singing in the Parksville Community Choir. In liturgy, she participates as a reader, and in the prayers of the people. For many years she has also led the team making Christmas cakes for the December Bazaar.

Julia's role as chair of the Parent-teacher association in Kitimat was an initiation into civic life and local government. She spent 3 terms on Parksville City Council, from 1986-1996, also serving on the board of the local SOS (*Society of Organized Services*) from 1986-1992, the primary local social service centre for programs and volunteering in our region.

Her community spirit and level-headed approach to leadership made her an excellent candidate for Mayor of Parksville, an office she held with distinction for two terms from 1996 to 2002. She even had to intervene in the notorious Parksville "Riot" of 1997, escorted by the police with tear gas to literally "read the

riot act” late at night, to disperse the unruly gangs of drunken vandalizers at the Sandcastle Fest. She supervised a policy change to ensure the risk of similar events in future would be minimized.

After retiring from the mayor’s office, Julia moved into the position of warden in the parish, where she has served in various rotations as rector’s warden, people’s warden, and deputy warden on an almost continuous basis, with very brief interludes, for the past 20 years. Her service has included hearty participation in regional and diocesan events and programs over the years. The parish gave her an honorary life wardenship in 2019 in recognition of her exceptional long-term service.

Under her unflappable guidance, the parish has undertaken capital projects and program innovations that have helped the parish grow significantly over the past 10 years, both financially, spiritually, and in the diversification of our community presence and impact.

We celebrate Julia’s constant, reliable, and supportive presence in all aspects of our parish and community life over more than three decades, truly inspiring us to be our best, and guiding us with a compassionate heart and a steady hand through changes and difficult challenges to reach new levels of growth in our service to our community.

Lynne Downes – A Biography of Service & Ministry

Lynne Downes brings to her ministry within the diocese of BC a lifetime of passionate commitment to and vision for a world of peace and justice. She has expressed this vision in ministry through her experience gained within the church, from her Methodist beginnings in South Africa, her Anglican confirmation in South Africa in 1966, her commitment to overcoming racial injustices in her originating context, and since then in her subsequent move to Canada in 1981. In her work as a teacher with young children in South Africa, she was motivated by her faith and her spiritual sensibilities to risk defiance of unjust apartheid laws in order to provide inclusive educational experiences for her students.

Her Canadian ministry experience includes her membership at St Paul, Fort Garry, Winnipeg, prior to her move to the Diocese of BC in 1988, when she joined St. Andrew, Cowichan Station. Under the mentorship of the Rev. Ralph Cope, she

undertook theological studies through McGill University in the Diocese of Montreal, which broadened her ministry training and experience, and prepared her for a future teaching role within the Education for Ministry program of our diocese and province. Lynne also served as People's Warden for 4 years in Cowichan Station.

Lynne travelled to Cuernavaca, Mexico, as part of an ecumenical educational and immersive experience in understanding poverty. Among her many talents, Lynne has also written three stories for children on the topics of Church, Christmas, and Easter.

Following her retirement to Qualicum Beach in 2005, Lynne has been a member at St Anne & St Edmund in Parksville. She has served as a lay eucharistic assistant, and is a gifted teacher and lay preacher, who provides thoughtful and inspiring homilies in the context of local worship, and has worked alongside clergy in assisting families at the time of bereavement and celebrations of life. She coordinates the ministry of chalice-bearers, the prayers of the people, and has served on parish council.

Her teaching and mentoring work has provided the widest and most consistent avenue of ministry for her gifts in the "beyond-the-Malahat" sphere of the diocese. Since 2007, she has co-mentored and nurtured the longest-serving and most active of the EfM groups on Vancouver Island, meeting weekly during the academic year, on site in our Parksville parish buildings, from 2005 to 2021. Lynne has inspired more than 40 students to graduate from this vitally important 4-year program and interactive community of adult education.

Lynne's distinctive leadership of the EfM group has attracted students from throughout Central Vancouver Island and beyond, including people from United Church and Roman Catholic traditions, along with Anglicans. Her ministry is an exemplary expression of living out the vision of both the diocese and her local parish, and she has contributed to knitting together a highly passionate, thoughtful, and committed community within local and regional faith communities and congregations, in a way that deepens and enhances our shared wisdom and spiritual growth and transformation.