

# OTM DATA SHEET

## COMMUNITY MINISTRY PORTFOLIO

### BASIC INFORMATION

Name of Church: St. Anselm's Episcopal Church  
Diocese: Long Island Long Island  
Address: 4 Woodville Road, Shoreham, NY 11786  
Phone: 631-744-7730  
Email: parishoffice@stanselmsofshoreham.org

Position title: Rector  
Current Status: Self Study  
Receiving Names until: October 1<sup>st</sup>  
Order of Ministry: Priest

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA): 66  
Number of Weekend Worship Services:  
3-HE 5pm Saturday, 8am and 10 am Sunday  
Number of Weekday Worship Services:  
2- Morning Prayer 9:30am Monday & Thursday  
Virtual viewing of services varies from 25 to 200 each time  
Number of Other Worship Services per Month: varies

### COMPENSATION, HOUSING, AND BENEFITS

*Note: Full New Rector Compensation Package Submitted Separately*

#### Current Annual Compensation:

Cash Stipend: \$36,720  
Housing/Rectory: Housing supplied 4 bedroom, 2 bath, living room, dining room, 2 car garage, deck  
Utilities: \$2,000  
SECA: \$2,809 Representing reimbursement of half

#### Compensation Available for New Position:

Cash Stipend \$61,000  
Pension Plan: Compliant with CPF requirements  
Health and Dental: Adequate Plan Offering as set forth in the Diocese of Long Island Medical & Dental Premium Sheet  
Housing Equity: 3% as determined by CFP  
Vacation Time: One month (to include 5 Sundays)  
And the weekdays following Christmas and Easter  
Continuing Ed: 6 days per year (in addition to vacation) and \$2,000  
Sabbatical: 3 months full base package following 6 years of continual service in the parish  
Travel/Auto: Reimbursement of auto and business related expenses  
Budgeted amount \$3,000

## **INCUMBENT HISTORY & CHURCH DAY SCHOOLS**

**Name:** Rev. George Sherrill  
**Position Title:** Interim  
**Date Begun:** June 1, 2020  
**Date Ended:**

**Name:** Rev, John P. McGinty  
**Position Title:** Rector  
**Date Begun:** November 1, 2016  
**Date Ended:** February 29, 2020

**Name:** Rev. Lyndon Shakespeare  
**Position Title:** Interim  
**Date Begun:** October 21, 2015  
**Date Ended:** August 31, 2016

**Name:** Rev. Mark R. Clevenger  
**Position Title:** Rector  
**Date Begun:** January 1. 2008  
**Date Ended** September 30, 2015

**Name:** Rev. William M Viola  
**Position Title:** Rector  
**Date Begun:** October 1978  
**Date Ended** August 31, 2007

### **Church School – Messy Church:**

Number of Teachers/Leaders	10
Number of Students	20

### **Day School – Saint Anselm’s Academy:**

Number of Teachers:	8
Total Staff for Academy:	25
Number of Students:	105

## NARRATIVE

***In our baptism we promise to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ, seeking and serving Christ in all persons. You are invited here to reflect on your ministry by responding to all of the following questions (max 250 words each). You may answer in more than one language, if appropriate.***

Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognized as one of success and fulfillment.

Our former Rector left us on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. On March 15<sup>th</sup>, everything shut down due to COVID and we could no longer hold in-person worship services. We were faced with maintaining some form of communal worship without having a spiritual leader. Working mostly online, Eucharistic Ministers and Readers, members of the Choir led by our music minister, and some of our more savvy social media parishioners came together and started planning zoom session recordings of Morning Prayer and Liturgy of the Word that we could make available through Facebook Live. Within two weeks we were holding regular on-line Sunday services and continued doing so until early July when our new Interim Priest, who joined us on June 1, could start in-person services again. This experience brought us all together and strengthened our worship community even though we could not come together in person.

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

As we prepare for the future of the Church as a whole, the Vestry of St. Anselm's recently determined the following three Long Term Goals for our parish:

- 1) Increase Resources;
- 2) Engage All Segments of Our Parish Community;
- 3) Strengthen Our Presence in the Community at Large.

It is our belief that if we can implement appropriate strategies to achieve these goals in our parish, St. Anselm's will continue to be a viable presence in the future of the Church at large. We are fully cognizant of the need to experiment with new and innovative strategies to achieve these goals and perhaps to also encounter some disappointments and obstacles along the way! Recognizing the reality that many folks are otherwise engaged during the times of our regularly scheduled worship services, we have worked hard at expanding our presence on social media by both recording and live streaming our Sunday and weekday services on outlets such as Facebook and YouTube. We have also experimented with innovative and non-traditional programs such as 'Messy Church' and 'Living Church' to grow our Christian Formation programs for families with children. We are also brainstorming ideas and ways to more fully integrate the senior citizens of our community into all aspects of the life of our parish. We recognize the challenges of 'being church' in the post pandemic world and we are open and receptive to

exploring new programs and strategies that are presented to us by our own members, the Diocese of Long Island, and the national church.

Please provide 4–6 words (separated by commas) describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

Compassion, understanding, tolerance, patience, enthusiasm, open-mindedness – these are the qualities we need as leaders to be true servants to our worship community

Describe your liturgical style and practice. If your community provides more than one type of worship service please describe all.

Our liturgical style is basically Anglo-Catholic. We have three eucharistic services each weekend at 5pm on Saturday, 8am on Sunday, and 10am on Sunday. All services have vestments, candles, etc. The 10am service is a choral service with the Choir. The Altar faces the congregation. We also have morning prayer services on Monday and Thursday mornings led by Lay Leaders

How do you practice incorporating others into ministry?

St. Anselm's has a rich tradition of promoting and upholding the participation of the laity in the various ministries of our parish. We have a robust and dedicated group of Lectors, Lay Eucharistic Ministers/Visitors, Acolytes and Crucifers. It is worth noting that since March 2020 St. Anselm's has functioned without the benefit of a full-time clergy presence. In June 2020, we were able to hire Fr. George Sherrill as a part time Interim Priest. In addition, during that time period our building was closed due to the constraints of the COVID 19 pandemic. However, due to the strength and dedication of our lay leaders we were able to record and 'stream' our regular weekly Sunday services replete with the participation of our choir! In recent months, we have regularized a schedule of weekday Morning Prayer services that is coordinated and led by a dedicated cadre of lay leaders. In addition, in spite of the challenges presented to us by the presence of COVID 19 in our lives, our lay leaders have been able to continue (often with modification) to maintain our various outreach programs.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional, and physical wellbeing?

Caring for each other is one of the core values that have sustained the St. Anselm's community throughout the history of our parish. We are blessed to have a veteran Parish Administrator (Barbara Dougherty) who always manages to keep us connected by publishing a weekly electronic newsletter and quarterly 'snail mail' newsletter. We lift each other up in prayer in the

context of both our communal worship services and in our own personal devotions. We celebrate both the good news in our lives and comfort each other in times of need, grief and trouble. Over the years, we have *gathered* to learn about the words of Scripture and how they relate to our life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We have a core group of Lay Eucharistic Visitors who are available to bring Holy Communion to the homebound and hospitalized members of our parish. St. Anselm's 'Culinary Angels' prepare and deliver meals to members of our parish *in times of illness* and bereavement. Our 'Prayer Shawl Ministry' knit and crochet blankets and shawls *for* parishioners and friends in times of celebration *or* need. *We often gather to enjoy* each other's companionship at social and fund-raising events. *In response to the COVID* pandemic, members of the Vestry and *parish* pastoral leaders *reached out* to elderly and vulnerable members via telephone to ascertain any needs we could help them with. *As* restrictions regarding social gatherings have eased, *we are* once *gathering* for Coffee Hour after *Sunday* Eucharist!

How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

St. Anselm's is particularly proud of our strong outreach programs that attempt to meet the needs of those beyond our worshipping community. Our year-round programs include: St. Anselm's Academy, Anselm's Attic and our Food Pantry. We also engage in outreach programs to designated community groups for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Mother's Day and 'Back to School.' In addition, we are constantly striving to assess the changing needs of our community at large. In preparation for calling our new Rector, members of the Vestry went on a 'Prayer Walk' in our surrounding community in order to better acquaint ourselves with the changing needs in our immediate area. One of our long-term goals is to *'engage the community around us in social, cultural and educational activities that invite our neighbors as friends and not just clients to be served.'*

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

We have extensive outreach programs serving our community and surrounding region. The largest of these is St. Anselm's Academy, a state certified full day pre-school and day care program with about 100 students. Starting this year, the Academy has contracted with the Shoreham Wading River School District to provide a universal pre K program for 32 children. We also have our thrift shop, Anselm's Attic, and our food pantry serving about 125 individuals 2 days a week. In addition, we conduct special outreach for abused women, school supplies, Thanksgiving baskets, and Christmas family adoption for those in need in our community. We also participate in regular ecumenical services with other local churches of all denominations.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

Starting with Advent in 2019, we instituted weekday worship services led by Lay Ministers. Our schedule included Compline on Monday evening and Eucharist on Tuesday Morning led by our Rector, Wednesday Evening Prayer, and Thursday and Friday Morning Prayer. With our Rector leaving in March of 2020 and the onset of COVID, we revised this to conduct Morning Prayer virtually on Mondays and Thursdays. We were able to resume in-person services last summer and have continued with the Monday/Thursday schedule. We are also live streaming those services. We usually have between 3 and 6 in-person attendees and about twice that number joining us virtually. Mary Collins, our Junior Warden, is the contact person for this ministry.

What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

Another long-term goal of ours is *'to promote a deeper sense of stewardship so that parishioners realize that they are St. Anselm's and in a very real sense that without their full support St. Anselm's would cease to exist.'* Achieving this essential goal will enable us to eliminate our dependency on income from St. Anselm's Academy to support parish operations. The need to achieve this goal became painfully clear to the Vestry and Finance Committee when we found ourselves operating in 'pandemic mode.' Although, we were happy to discover that, as in times past, many parishioners generously 'stepped up to the plate' by helping us with additional financial support in a time of crisis, we also discovered that *'we need to reach the point where the level of support from the parish covers the basic operating expenses and salaries to keep the doors open.'* To that end, our Vestry and Stewardship Committee are currently developing an aggressive and sustainable approach to stewardship that will help us achieve this important goal.

What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict and how have you addressed it?

Our Vestry in general works together congenitally and we have open communication with our parishioners and general support for our decisions. Most disagreements can be addressed through mindful listening, mutual respect, and meaningful compromise. One area that has consistently produced tension in our deliberations is the matter on Parish finances. We have historically depended on our preschool and daycare ministry to provide income to cover a shortfall in our pledge giving. We are aware that this is not the best situation and continually work to emphasize stewardship and expand financial support from our parishioners. We were on track to remedy this situation when COVID hit, and the Academy closed for six months. Fortunately, with PPP loans, a part time Interim Priest, some aid from the Diocese, and continued stewardship appeal, we covered our expenses in

2020 and are on track to do so in 2021. The financial situation has created not so much conflict as tension in our Vestry between those focused on fiduciary responsibility and those focused on our Christian mission. Both points of view need to be considered and most of our discussion as a Vestry revolves around finding compromises we can all live with. In short, our approach to handling this tension is to continue to focus on stewardship and keeping our congregation aware of the cost to maintain a worship community with a vibrant outreach mission, have a strong finance committee watching the books, and trust in the Holy Spirit to guide our deliberations.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

The leadership of our parish is acutely of the fact that we are a part of an ever-changing church in an ever changing world. Like other parishes, we have discovered that not everyone in our worshipping community is always on 'the same page' about the social and political issues and controversies of our time. We do, however, all recognize the fact that because we are all followers of Christ we must strive to love and respect each other's ideas and opinions with open and discerning hearts and minds. We have also discovered that the way people 'do church' in 2021 is vastly different than it was 'back in the day.' To that end, we have tried to revamp, rethink and restructure our approach to our programs for families with young children. We were having a modest degree of success with our Messy Church program (started in 2019) but the onset of the pandemic brought those efforts to a screeching halt. As we move forward, we hope to revitalize that and other fledgling initiatives that we have undertaken in recent years that attempt to meet the changing needs of our parish and the church at large. We are also acutely aware of the importance of taking advantage of programs and initiatives provided by our own diocese and the national church that are designed to achieve this goal. Both of our current Wardens have completed the two-year DCDI (Diocesan Congregations Development Institute) program. The knowledge and leadership skills they learned from that program have proven to be valuable assets as our parish has attempted to navigate through the dual challenges of a pandemic and a new Rector search.

## **CONNECTIONS**

Worshipping Community's Website: <https://www.stanselmsofshoreham.org>  
Media Link: <https://www.facebook.com/saintanselmsepiscopal/>

Language Significantly Represented: English

## **REFERENCES**

### **Bishop**

The Right Reverend Lawrence C. Provenzano  
[lprovenzano@dioceseli.org](mailto:lprovenzano@dioceseli.org)  
516-248-4800 x131

### **Diocesan Transition Minister**

The Reverend Canon Claire Woodley  
[cwoodley@dioceseli.org](mailto:cwoodley@dioceseli.org)  
516-248-4800 x135

### **Wardens and other contacts:**

L. Robert Pokorny – Senior Warden  
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Mary Collins – Junior Warden  
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Barbara Dougherty – Parish Administrator  
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