

The “Holy Rollers” Tour Guide,

February 21st, 2021

There are eight historic places of worship for you to visit, starting at the oldest, as well as four additional ones as extra options if you wish in downtown Victoria. How do you get to each one? Use Google maps.

Most of these churches are unfortunately closed during this pandemic lockdown, but please admire the outside designs, the devotion and dedication and needed by the early pioneers to build these historic structures.

1. **St Peter and St Paul,**

1379 Esquimalt Road

First built in Esquimalt Harbour and consecrated on December 12th, 1866 as St Paul’s Naval Church. It was dismantled and moved to its present location in 1904.

2. **Esquimalt United,**

500 Admirals Road.

Another naval and military Methodist church, was opened on September 11th, 1913 eventually becoming a United church in 1925.

3. **Cornerstone Pentecostal**

4274 Wilkinson Road.

Dedicated in October, 1913 as a Methodist church, changed in 1925 to a United church and from 1986 as a Christian Life Church.

4. **St Michael’s**

4738 West Saanich Road. Consecrated on St Michael’s day in 1883. The land was donated by a local hotel keeper, John Stevens and the materials were supplied by Hudson Roper. Total cost was \$2500

5. **Shady Creek United**

7180 West Saanich Road. Initiated by Charles and Mary Alexander in 1861- a black family from San Francisco after they were invited here by Governor James Douglas as promising settlers.

6. **Our Lady of Assumption**

7742 W Saanich Road. A small, primitive, Catholic Church was built on this site by Father Mandart, a Breton and was dedicated in 1876. The present building with the adjacent residence was built between 1893 and 1909 by Father Adrian Vullingsh.

7. **St Stephens Anglican**

7921 St Stephen's Road.

Consecrated in 1868. This is said to be the oldest church on Vancouver Island used continuously as a place of worship.

8. **Holy Trinity Anglican**

1319 Mills Road

Consecrated in 1885. There are many occupants of the adjacent cemetery who gave their names to at least 20 area roads and geographical features including George Mills and Henry Brackman.

If so desired you can also view/visit at your leisure these 4 downtown churches

A) **Christchurch Cathedral**

930 Burdett Avenue. A history of this Anglican Cathedral can be accessed via their web site – visit the Cathedral page for a building history.

B) **James Bay United**

511 Michigan Street

C) **St John the Divine**

1611 Quadra Street

D) **St Andrews Cathedral**

740 View Street

Hope that you enjoy your tour.

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