



Meet our new  
ordinands, p. 11  
Photo by Janet Best

## New and Exciting Possibilities: A Regional Ministry for the Eastern Townships

TYSON L. ROSBERG

*The Rev Tyson Rosberg is Assistant Curate in the Regional Ministry of Brome Shefford*

Out here in the Eastern Townships (where I have started my ministry as a newly pandemic-ordained priest) a radical, new, experimental form of team ministry is being born.

Prior to the pandemic, our region was comprised of 16 small rural churches spread out across over 80km, most of which rarely received more than a dozen people on any Sunday. In response to COVID-19, many of our parishes opted to worship together online, as a single, united regional service using Zoom — even now, only a few of our church buildings have decided to reopen for “in person” worship.

Despite being closed, Zoom truly flung open the doors of what it means to be a Christian community in a rural context. At the height of the pandemic we were hosting over 80 people each Sunday, with regulars joining in from as far away as Ottawa, the Laurentians, Brit-



Folks gather at the Covid-style bring-your-own socially-distanced picnic. Photo supplied.

ish Columbia, Vermont, and Europe.

Worshipping online allowed for the birth of a genuine regional spirit in this area: we got to know one another from across a large geography, made new friends, shared our stories, laughed and prayed together.

This past summer, we also

held two outdoor regional services, which allowed people to come together in person for worship and a COVID-style bring-your-own-socially-distanced picnic — another opportunity for building community.

People who attended the services really appreciated being part of “something larger”

than their usual little neighbourhood churches. During these gatherings, there is a sense of life, joy, and vitality, in spite of all the uncertainty and fear of living through a global pandemic.

Now the task at hand is to further this sense of community and vitality, as we strive to

create a new model of shared, regional ministry in the Eastern Townships. And, the importance of building community here cannot be over stated — otherwise a regional ministry is nothing more than a business agreement.

Encompassing 13 parishes, the Regional Ministry aims to provide its member congregations with worship, pastoral care, discipleship, and other ministry resources; through the sharing of leadership support (priests, deacons, lay readers, worship leaders, and retired honorary clergy) and financial stewardship.

The Regional Ministry offers Eucharistic services throughout the region, based on a regional schedule; in addition to a regular midweek online service via Zoom. We are equipped to provide services in English, French, and Spanish (with the new curate to the area Fresia Saborio working towards launching a Hispanic church-plant at St. George’s/San-Jorge’s Church in Granby).

Each parish in the Regional  
*continued on page 6*

MICHELE RATTRAY-HUISH

*Mrs Michele Rattray-Huish is the People’s Warden, Christ Church Cathedral and a member of the CCC Ecological and Social Justice Action Group (ESJAG)*

COP 26 is on-going as I write this. Leaders from across the world are taking the microphone to address the Opening Plenary, including Prince Charles, Boris Johnson, Emanuel Macron, Antonio Guterres and Sir David Attenborough. However the person who has made the biggest impression on me so far is the Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley.

Her speech called out the lack of leadership in the world and highlighted the fact that with a relatively small amount of money, the Climate Crisis could be addressed in time — what is lacking is the will, the resolve and the ambition.

She noted that when they wish to, the central banks of the wealthiest countries can find the money — 25 trillion dollars of quantitative easing in the

past 13 years (9 trillion alone in the last 18 months to address the pandemic), yet the leaders cannot come up with the 500 billion dollars a year for the next 20 years to address the Climate Crisis. They haven’t even managed to meet last year’s pledges to developing countries — of 100 Billion dollars to address climate adaptation.

The cameras panned to the faces of the powerful during her speech — to Joe Biden, Boris Johnson, Justin Trudeau and other European leaders. What I saw on those faces in that split second was shame. They know full well that 80% of carbon emissions come from the activities of the G-20 countries.

She also called out the leaders that were missing — not mentioning any names — but we know who she meant — Where was China? Where was Russia?

The broad message coming from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in their report of August 2021 is that in order to save our planet — we need to keep the

increase in temperature below 1.5 degrees Centigrade above pre-industrial levels. 2 degrees Centigrade is a death sentence.

It means: “...stop using coal as soon as possible, stop deforestation and start reforestation and move to a more plant-based diet and definitely cut down the amount of beef we produce. Not only will this reduce our carbon emissions but it will also save millions of lives due to massively improved air quality and diet.”

Churches and congregations (people in general) must take action to spread the word and move the needle if we are to avoid the most serious and irreversible damage to the planet.

We must act now. Code Red! Code Red! There is a clear and present danger. There is no time to lose. For more information go to:

- [www.montrealcathedral.ca/social-justice-outreach](http://www.montrealcathedral.ca/social-justice-outreach)
- [www.anglican.ca/publicwitness/season-of-creation](http://www.anglican.ca/publicwitness/season-of-creation)
- [www.montreal.anglican.ca/stewardshipoftheenvironment](http://www.montreal.anglican.ca/stewardshipoftheenvironment)

## Earth in the balance We must act now



Photo by Lightstock

## Bishop's Message December 2021

In the middle of October, I visited the Territory of the People for their Assembly (what we know as a meeting of Synod). They don't meet every year and this year's Assembly was hampered by a recent increase in cases of Covid-19 in parts of the Territory and also by the wildfires this summer that had burnt down the town of Lytton where we would have been meeting. As a result, four regional gatherings were organized, one of them on Zoom. My husband Mark and I drove from Vancouver to Kamloops and carried the love, care and a few gifts from the Diocese of Montreal. I found myself wondering whether we would just be nuisance visitors but we were welcomed and thanked for coming in person and bringing encouragement and hope. It was a way of standing with them in their feelings of discouragement and fatigue, as they contemplate their future and as they pray about who might be a suitable candidate to be their next bishop.

Archbishop Lynne McNaughton led the Assembly through some lamenting and visioning exercises. National Indigenous Archbishop Mark MacDonald was also present, reminding everyone that Jesus is with us in a sacred circle wherever two or three gather and that keeping the Gospel at the center of our lives is a great force for us and a powerful agent of change. The way forward for all of us will demand more compassion, courage, wisdom, vision and faithfulness than we have had to use before. At the Eucharist on Sunday morning, Archbishop Lynne preached an inspiring and hope filled sermon. At the end of the service, our two dioceses renewed our partnership covenant for five more years. It was a promise to continue to be present for one another in mutual love and prayer.

The season of Advent reminds of us of God's promise to come to us in Jesus, and Christmas celebrates the powerful presence of God-With-Us, of the fleshly presence of God in Jesus. As our churches have reopened for worship, many of us have been able to experience what it feels like to be together in one place again and not just online. We are able to receive the Body of Christ in the powerful presence of the sacrament and the gathering together as Christ's body. Together we are able to encourage and help one another as disciples and followers of Jesus.

I think it means being present to one another as God is present to us in Jesus Christ. For as God came towards us filled with love to be tangibly with us, so we too can be present to others. After all we have been through, this may be the greatest gift we can give!

+ Mary



With Archbishop Lynne McNaughton, (acting bishop of the Territory) and retired bishops Barbara Andrews and Gordon Light on Sunday October 17th. The covenant of partnership between our dioceses was renewed for another five years and gifts from the Diocese of Montreal were presented. Photo by Barbara Liotscos.

## Message de l'évêque décembre 2021



With Captain the Rev Isabel Healey-Morrow, Chair of the Partnership Committee. She was presented with a blanket with the Mohawk insignia. I am wearing the pectoral cross which was presented to me by Bishop Barbara Andrews in 2016. It was made by renowned indigenous artist and Kamloops residential school survivor Opi. Photo by Barbara Liotscos.

À la mi-octobre, j'ai visité le Territoire des peuples pour son Assemblée (ce que nous appelons réunion du Synode). Ils ne se réunissent pas tous les ans et l'Assemblée de cette année a été entravée par une augmentation récente des cas de Covid-19 dans certaines parties du Territoire et aussi par les feux de forêt de cet été qui avaient incendié la ville de Lytton où nous aurions dû nous réunir. Par conséquent, quatre rassemblements régionaux ont été organisés, dont un sur Zoom. Mon mari Mark et moi avons fait la route de Vancouver à Kamloops et avons porté l'expression de l'amour, l'attention et quelques cadeaux du diocèse de Montréal. Je me suis demandée si nous n'allions pas être des visiteurs gênants, mais nous avons été accueillis et remerciés d'être venus en personne et d'avoir apporté encouragement et espoir. C'était une façon de les accompagner dans leurs sentiments de découragement et de fatigue, alors qu'ils envisagent leur avenir et qu'ils prient pour savoir qui pourrait être le candidat idéal pour devenir leur prochain évêque.

L'archevêque Lynne McNaughton a dirigé l'Assemblée à travers des exercices de lamentation et de vision. L'archevêque national autochtone Mark MacDonald était également présent, rappelant à tous que Jésus est avec nous dans un cercle sacré partout où deux ou trois se réunissent et que le fait de garder l'Évangile

au centre de nos vies est une grande force pour nous et un puissant agent de changement. La voie à suivre pour nous tous exigera plus de compassion, de courage, de sagesse, de vision et de fidélité que ce que nous avons dû utiliser auparavant. Lors de l'Eucharistie du dimanche matin, l'archevêque Lynne a prononcé un sermon inspirant et plein d'espoir. À la fin du service, nos deux diocèses ont renouvelé leur alliance de partenariat pour cinq années supplémentaires. Il s'agissait d'une promesse de continuer à être présents l'un pour l'autre dans l'amour et la prière mutuels.

La saison de l'Avent nous rappelle la promesse de Dieu de venir à nous en Jésus, et Noël célèbre la présence puissante de Dieu-avec-nous, de la présence charnelle de Dieu en Jésus. Alors que nos églises ont rouvert leurs portes pour le culte, beaucoup d'entre nous ont pu faire l'expérience de ce que cela fait d'être à nouveau ensemble dans un même lieu et pas seulement en ligne. Nous sommes en mesure de recevoir le corps du Christ dans la présence puissante du sacrement et du rassemblement en tant que corps du Christ. Ensemble, nous sommes capables de nous encourager et de nous aider mutuellement en tant que disciples et adeptes de Jésus.

Je pense que cela signifie être présent les uns aux autres comme Dieu est présent pour nous en Jésus-Christ. En effet, de même que Dieu est venu vers nous plein d'amour pour être tangiblement avec nous, de même nous pouvons être présents aux autres. Après tout ce que nous avons vécu, c'est peut-être le plus beau cadeau que nous puissions faire !

+ Mary



The site of the former residential school in Kamloops.



# Canada's Children Deserve an Advocate

Photo by Lightstock

**PENNY RANKIN**

*Mrs. Penny Rankin is Convenor on Children and Youth for the National Council of Women in Canada and Chair of the Diocesan Standing Committee on Mission*

Halfway between the beginning of Advent and the joy of Christmas is a date of importance that few of us will take note of; on December 13th, 1991 Canada ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The most widely accepted human rights treaty in history, the CRC sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children and youth. It calls for governments - and by extension society - to faithfully nurture, educate, and care for the world's two and a half billion children - including the eight million who call Canada home.

The Convention also calls for the protection of children from violence and abuse, including (in an addendum that was added this past February) measures to be taken to protect children from harms easily encountered in the digital world.

In the 30 years since Canada ratified the Convention, the country has been moving slowly to adopt laws and policies to help us meet our obligations to our children as designated by the CRC.

Regrettably, in what is a review process conducted by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child that typically takes place every five years, we continue to be assessed as having fallen short. In fact, Canada has been steadily dropping in global rankings over the past decade and, according to a 2019 report by UNICEF Canada, we rank 25th of the 41 richest na-

tions in overall child and youth well-being.

Concerns being raised in the most recent UN review focus on questions such as: "What is being done to reduce the overrepresentation of indigenous and African Canadian children in the criminal justice system?" and "what measures and comprehensive programme of action targeting the sexual exploitation of children and the sharp increase in reported cases of online child pornography are being made"?

These concerns, along with housing and poverty reduction strategies (areas the church has traditionally taken a stand on) directly impact the wellbeing of children. Our own Diocesan grassroots community programming in local missions and parish outreach efforts are themselves part of a support network that is of critical

**Quick facts:**

**1 in 7 Canadians living in shelters are children, 1 in 3 foodbank users is a child, and 1 in 2 First Nation, Metis and Inuit children live in poverty.**

**Senator Moodie 2019**

importance to families and children living in poverty.

There is one recommendation that has been made to Canada that I am hopeful the church will embrace: the appointment of a national dedicated advocate for Canada's children.

While most provinces and territories have officially appointed "Advocates" or "Commissioners" no federal equivalent has been established despite two decades of community organizations and Canadians of all political affiliations urging the Government of Canada to do so.

What is envisioned is a non-partisan Commissioner, whose office would be mandated by statute, and led by an independent Officer of Parliament responsible for protecting and promoting the rights and wellbeing of Canadian children and youth (0-18). Such a mandate, it should be noted, is backed by Recommendation 12.9 of the Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's call for justice.

This lack of a national framework for implementing children's rights continues to undermine the wellbeing of our children- who, despite being regularly invoked in terms of planning for the future, cannot expect their rights to be

intentionally included without an advocate...which brings me to Jesus...who reprimanded his disciples when they tried to dismiss or undermine the importance of children saying: "Let the little children come to me, and stop keeping them away, because the kingdom of God belongs to people like these." International Standard Version Luke 18:16

With eight million children looking for support and an advocate of their own, perhaps this is an opportune time for the church to join Senator Moodie, author of Bill S-210, in calling for a Children's Commissioner.

For more information on why and how Canada should move swiftly to appoint a Commissioner for Children please refer to the following documents:

- It's time for a National Children's Commissioner for Canada-UNICEF Canada 2010
- Press Release UNICEF Canada 2019
- Bill S-210 An act to establish the office of the Commissioner for Children and Youth in Canada - Senator Moodie 2020
- The Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates' Alternative Report to Canada's Combined Fifth and Sixth reports on the Convention on the Rights of the Child

## Children's Ministry Matters - Inspiration in nine minutes or less!

**LEE-ANN MATTHEWS**

*Lee-Ann Matthews is the MTL Youth Project Coordinator and Web & Social Media Coordinator for the Diocese of Montreal*

This Fall I recruited a small team of experts in the area of children's ministry to address the urgent need to provide quality ministry to children as we are nearing a post pandemic future.

The response was impressive - it was wonderful to receive close to 60 people on a Saturday morning in October for a three hour webinar.

There were thirteen speakers, each given nine minutes or less to share their best ideas to inspire leaders of children, youth and family ministry in a post pandemic world.

Here are few points from each speaker. The full webinar is available for you to view on our youtube channel or at [www.montreal.anglican.ca/youth](http://www.montreal.anglican.ca/youth).

**Sheilagh McGlynn: A View from the National Church**

Sheilagh emphasized how those who work with young people are often the most creative, and the vision and creativity of these leaders are

desperately needed by the Church right now. She stressed the need to offer programming that puts connection before content and to be strong in our faith and to be present, grounded and nurturing. [smcglynn@national.anglican.ca](mailto:smcglynn@national.anglican.ca)

**The Rev Grace Burson: Telling the Story**

Grace explained that the bible is one story - an overall arc that makes sense and is the most fundamental element of what we do in Christian community. Stories such as these allow faith to grow with children and images and stories help imagination and creativity to flourish. [gburson@montreal.anglican.ca](mailto:gburson@montreal.anglican.ca)

**Valerie Taylor: Come Together, A New Resource**

Valerie described a new resource she is producing called *Come Together*, that focuses on the feasts and festivals of the church year with an emphasis on all-age gatherings for the whole community. She explained that gatherings, in particular worship outside the box, cannot be implemented by one person but instead require a strong team (musical, technical, planning etc.). This new

children's ministry resource will be launching soon! [office@crostalkministries.ca](mailto:office@crostalkministries.ca)

**Dr. Jonathan White: Music Ministry for Children**

Jonathan acknowledged that initiating a music ministry program is not a straightforward task and we must think outside of the box, including being flexible about Sunday morning scheduling.

It is important for clergy to be involved; without their support there could be no program. He concluded with a reminder on how we must provide a positive experience for children as this will often "make" or "break" their future involvement in the Church. [jonathan.white@aya.yale.edu](mailto:jonathan.white@aya.yale.edu)

**Caitlin Reilley Beck: LGBTQ +Inclusion**

Caitlin asserts that gender and sexuality are about understanding ourselves, our bodies, and our relationships which are all central to kids' lives. She reminded us that children are sorting these things out as of age two. They learn what is "OK" from stories: bible, liturgy, sermons, art, what is deemed funny, what clothes are being

worn, what is being whispered. She emphasized that LGBTQ+ as curriculum isn't just "extra" it is in fact central.

Caitlin also stressed the importance of all-ages ministry saying that we need people at different ages and stages of life because we can help care for each other.

She reminded us that we share ourselves with children so that they can follow in the pattern of God by putting those in the margins at the centre of a caring community. [nilt.r.s@gmail.com](mailto:nilt.r.s@gmail.com)

**Edward Yankie: How do we teach kids about Christianity and where does Social Justice fit in?**

Edward declared that there is no dichotomy between spirituality and social justice. The worst conversation you can have about race with kids is no conversation at all. He said that it is crucial to start talking about race early, often and honestly in children's ministry.

There are resources on the Anti Racism web page on Diocesan website [www.montreal.anglican.ca/antiracism-task-force](http://www.montreal.anglican.ca/antiracism-task-force) to support ministry to young people.

*"We know that children under-*

*stand concepts of justice and kindness. We need to be transformed to build a world with less bullying where people can reach their full potential."* [yankie.edward@hotmail.com](mailto:yankie.edward@hotmail.com)

**ArchBishop Mark MacDonald: An Indigenous Perspective**

Bishop Mark said that the most stern and challenging statements and promises that Jesus made were about children. These are among the most urgent and pressing issues confronting the Church today.

He went on to say that if we need a reminder about the urgency of this matter, we should look at the missing children and residential schools. Mark cautions that children are aware of what is going on and when they encounter images of little shoes on doorsteps or thresholds, they will see this with fear. "Our children are being faced with shock, fear and disintegration and we are trying to grasp wholeness".

Mark stated that the acceptance of land acknowledgement across the Church reflects an attempt to repair the damage of the racist narrative. The task now is to find a new

*continued on page 5*

# Reconciliation and the power of listening

NEIL MANCOR

*The Rev Canon Dr Neil Mancor is the Congregational Development Officer for the Diocese.*

One of the most powerful things we can do to change the world is to listen.

Too often during conversations, when one person is speaking the other is already forming their response. True listening allows us to hear the stories of another, to understand and know them and their experience.

The last week of September was a powerful one for us as a Diocese and as a country.

- On the Monday our Supper Club watched the Pray Away documentary that addresses reparative therapy for gay, lesbian and trans people.
- As the week of National Indigenous Reconciliation, it was a focal point for us all to address difficult truths about the history of white settlement in this country and the experience of Indigenous Peoples both historically and in present.
- During the weekend our Anti-Racism task force hosted Dr Myrna Lashley for a powerful workshop: Confronting the past, Looking to the Future.

On Monday, September 27th, members of our Supper Club gathered to watch the documentary Pray Away which told the stories of gay people who went through reparative therapy to try to “cure” them of

their sexual orientation and turn them straight, under the umbrella of Exodus International, the now closed ex-gay ministry.

It is a harrowing film to watch. In it we hear the stories of how many people’s lives were affected by a pseudo-psychological approach mixed with spirituality to help “heal” people but which caused deep suffering. At its core was the admission by many of the leaders of Exodus International that it was all based on lies: they themselves admitted they had not found that their sexual orientation changed.

Yet they continued to promote their ministry in ways that deeply affected those who were involved. But the power of this documentary lies in the stories that were told by the victims themselves. Painful stories that need to be acknowledged.

There has been a lot of argument about this in the wider Church for many years. But sometimes these are the stories we need to hear which silence the arguing and help us treat one another as human.

On Tuesday, in honour of Truth & Reconciliation, we hosted two Indigenous priests, Norm Wesley and Rosalyn Elm on Pew & Beyond. Both had removed their collars in response to the news of mass graves at residential schools.

Norm decided that for him the best response was to consider himself to have given up his priesthood. Rosalyn did not take that view but saw the removal of her collar as a sign of the misused authority it represented.



*“let the wise listen and add to their learning,*

*and let the discerning get guidance”*

Proverbs 1.15

Photo by Lightstock

Norm wove together a tapestry of stories of past injustice perpetrated against his forbearers with ongoing injustice being experienced now, today, by members of his own family.

We wonder why people are bitter, but if the past is not acknowledged and the present remains the same, surely bitterness is the correct response. This was the first time I had heard the past and the present brought together like that.

Rosalyn spoke prophetically about actions we could take to bring healing. She said we should sell our Cathedral and come and worship with them. She laid out a beautiful vision of all our children playing together. I found that compelling.

On Friday and Saturday our Diocesan family held the

anti-racism workshop with Dr Myrna Lashley. A powerful advocate, she challenged all of us to confront our own complicity in racism and racist structures.

In addition to her teaching, one of the things I found most powerful was hearing the stories of ongoing racism experienced by members of our diocesan family. I found this powerful and unsettling because we are all one big family in our Diocese and many of those who shared their stories are people I know and consider to be my friends. We see each other in Church and at Diocesan events. We know and care about each other.

Yet I had not ever heard the stories of their experiences of being targeted by police because the car they were driving in was

“too good” for a black person or of being singled out for special treatment in the security line at the airport because of the colour of their skin. I learned about lived racism and the pain and frustration it causes in a whole new way.

These were the stories of people I know and care about. It was powerful to hear.

Whenever we are confronted with prejudice or injustice, our natural response is to want to spring into action, to fix, to educate, to make sure it never happens again. These are natural and important responses.

But the first and, I think, most important step, is to listen. Listening to the stories of someone else of being coerced into reparative therapy, of

*continued on page 10*

## Baptism and Confirmation at St George’s Place du Canada, Sunday, November 6, 2021



Evelyn Hadley prepares the altar. Photo by Janet Best.



Bernard Cayoutte and Celine Giangi. Photo by Janet Best.



Bishop Mary and Gregory Abedi. Photo by Janet Best.



Pedro Paulo Burgarelli is baptised. Photo by Janet Best.



The Rev Dr Maylanne Maybee, the Rev Holly Ratcliffe, Mr Ramy El-Masri, Bishop Mary, Mr Pedro Paulo Burgarelli, Mr Gregory Abedi, the Rev Deborah Noonan. Photo by Janet Best.



## Montreal Diocesan Theological College Growing our Learning Community

EMILY STUCHBERY

Ms. Emily Stuchbery is the Communications Coordinator for the Montreal Diocesan Theological College

Montreal Dio is helping widen the scope of Christian formation by offering a series of courses each semester open to anyone interested in deepening their Christian faith and knowledge, and developing their skills for leadership in the Church.

These courses serve a diverse group of lay and clergy leaders in the Church and help them respond to the changing context in which the Church finds itself. To reach the widest possible audience, many of these courses take place over zoom.

There is often a group registration option which allows participants to build on course material through group discussion after each class. "The best part of the open enrolment online courses offered by Montreal Diocesan Theological College," said Gail Turnbull, "is that it gives interested people (whether lay or clergy), the opportunity to study without restrictions or requirements of tests, writing of papers or opinions. We can sit back, breathe

and enjoy the study."

This past fall Dio offered six open enrolment courses (three of which were taught in French), including a bible study on Luke's Gospel, an in-person retreat at the Villa Saint-Martin in Pierrefonds, and a preaching workshop.

The first course of the fall semester, "Reading the Bible in the Season of Creation: Christian Discipleship in a Time of Climate Crisis", tackled themes of creation care in the bible in order to help students explore how to respond as Christians to our global climate crisis. Overall, the course reached about 70 people, some connecting from as far away as Chicago and B.C. Brenda Linn noted that the instructor, the Rev. Dr. Jesse Zink, gave to the chosen passages "a unique power to heal and restore us. This healing power was something that I think many of us felt directly as we engaged with the readings."

Dio will continue to offer open enrolment courses during the winter semester. Topics include faith and childhood, pastoral care, the Book of Acts, and a training module on leading a bible study, among others. For more information visit [montrealdio.ca/our-courses](http://montrealdio.ca/our-courses).

## Children's Ministry Matters continued from page 3

narrative, one that is inclusive and offers hope. "There has been a radical breach of trust and repair has to be a part of this narrative."

*"The Ghost dancers who danced across turtle island believed that Jesus will come back and will make something new. We must weave this together."*  
mmacdonald@national.anglican.ca

### Canon Dr. Neil Mancor: Messy Church

Neil said that Messy Church provides an opportunity for open ended, meaning-making, process-oriented ministry that creates intentional space to explore and experiment.

Neil asserted that *"The Spirit works through creativity."* As such, children are considered active agents in shaping their spirituality through a combination of Prayer, craft and celebration that nourishes.

Dinner is a very important aspect of Messy Church and it is a gift of love for the community. The table is the place where family happens. "All of us together, at the table, sharing the meal and children are full members, worthy of being included."

He wonders, if we realize that all of this is just as important for us as adults too?  
nmancor@montreal.anglican.ca

### The Rev Amy Crawford: Godly Play

Amy said that children come to us as spiritual beings and already have an understanding of the Holy. Godly Play themes explore the capacity for us being with God and God being with us.

The main elements of a Godly Play curriculum are:

- Greeting: intentional crossing of threshold
- Gathering: with a centering song or prayer
- Story
- Wondering
- Responding: art / play
- Feast

- Dismissal

Learn more about Godly Play <https://godlyplay.ca/>  
acrawford@united-church.ca

### Archdeacon Linda Borden Taylor: Spiritual Direction for Children

Linda highlighted the importance of play in childhood but alongside this, stillness and wonder. She described moments in time where a child is pulled through an invisible barrier into what is seemingly another realm, oftentimes when in the natural world.

She encourages us to observe a child in their stillness. Children are in fact, naturals at contemplation, meditation and storytelling.

Linda provided some helpful resources and creative tools for Spiritual Direction with children and reminded us that children love to play and our job is to take on the role of the Holy listening friend. She left us with an invitation to ask the following question to a child in our lives: "Will you tell me?" and to listen deeply from your heart.  
taylorlinda325@gmail.com

### The Rev Jean Daniel ODonacada: On Hard Topics in Children's Ministry

Jean Daniel said that children are already spiritually mature and adults are not necessarily more mature than them. He challenged our understanding of spiritual maturity and reminded us that we are called to be like children asking why repeatedly. *"We need to be childish in order to understand."*

We must honor the agency of children and be a safe person for them. He offered the following advice:

- Listen to them
- Be precise
- Keep your discomfort to yourself
- Answer what they asked

Jean Daniel concluded with clear instructions on how to talk

about the hard topics in church ... because the children are ready. The question is, are we?  
jd@stemarthe.ca

### The Rev Judy Steers: Children's Ministry in a Pluralistic Society

Judy emphasized the importance of "meaning-making" through story, mythic narrative and community based rituals. There must be a sense of freedom and mutual accountability in the process of faith formation.

Judy also cautioned us about the univocal perspective and asked us to consider who is not in the room? Who are we excluding? She emphasized the importance of providing opportunities for multi faith learning and appreciation.

In conclusion Judy said we must learn to embrace diversity and work for a common inclusive vision where we learn from one another and see faith as a tapestry in which we are threads.  
steers@interlog.com

### Bonus Speaker: Tanya Moxley: Let Kids Play

Tanya provided a definition of play as any activity that is freely chosen, intrinsically motivated and self directed. If we are made in the image of God then surely God must want us to play!

She explained that play is how we effectively work through pain, suffering and trauma. Tanya suggested that when implementing a play based ministry we start with asking "why?".

Tanya reminds us that children are intelligent, empathetic, curious and built to learn. She invited us as leaders of children's ministry to say yes to play!

As these are just brief summaries, I encourage you to watch the webinar online. And stay tuned for the next segment of our youth and children's series - when we listen to the children!



We are asking for your help with the **Bishop's Action Appeal 2021**

To learn about this year's Bishop's Action Appeal go to [www.montreal.anglican.ca](http://www.montreal.anglican.ca)

## Notable

In this issue of the Anglican Montreal there is an envelope enclosed - your opportunity to contribute to the Bishop's Action Appeal. Please make a donation if you can. The Mile End Community Mission, Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre and Action Réfugiés are counting on our support. Thank you!



## ANGLICAN MONTREAL

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# Parish News



Folks got creative at the Halloween party at St James Drop-In Centre on October 27, 2021. Photo supplied.

## St James Rosemere re-opens popular Drop-In Centre

LILLIAN BONNEVILLE

*Ms Lillian Bonneville is the Parish Communicator for St James Anglican Church in Rosemere*

Our ever-popular Drop-In Centre (325 Pine, Rosemere) opened for the first time in 18 months on October 13th to a happy group of 22 people who arrived early and did not want to leave at closing.

On October 27th, folks got dressed in their most creative costumes to enjoy a Halloween party in the decorated hall - complete with hand-made treats.

The Drop-In Centre will



Lovely ladies in festive garb.

remain open throughout the autumn and then will close for the Christmas holidays on December 15th following a Christmas Celebration.

The Centre will then re-open on Wednesday at 10am on January 5th.

Join Lynn Walker and her team for this important community outreach and share a coffee, a light soup lunch and fellowship.

Please note that Covid 19 protocols are in place and must be adhered to.

Call St. James for information at 450-621-6466.



**Induction of Joel Amis at Christ Church Beaurepaire  
November 6, 2021**

The Rev Joel Amis speaks at his induction. Photo by Janet Best.



Bishop Mary at the induction of Joel Amis. Photo by Janet Best.



Joel with his wife Yevgeniya Zvereva Amis. Photo by Janet Best.

## Working towards a Regional Ministry for the Eastern Townships continued from page 1

Ministry exists independently (with its own parish structure), but also as a part of the larger shared ministries. All of the member congregations contribute toward the costs of ministry through a central fund: each parish contracts according to its needs and financial abilities. Stephen Tam (the Financial Controller for the Diocese) will act as central treasurer for the new Regional Ministry.

Grace Church (located in Sutton) has recently invested in high-end video and microphone equipment, and installed it into the very infrastructure of the church, including the necessary electrical upgrades for bringing this new technology into an old building; the parish will act as the "digital hub" of the Regional Ministry, live-streaming its services over Zoom. Moreover, a dedicated and tech-savvy team of Zoom volunteers (namely André Gagné, Wendy Gardner, and Terry O'Regan) make this ministry possible!



André Gagné and Wendy Gardner at the "digital hub" of the Regional Ministry. Photo by Tim Smart.

Parishes in the Regional Ministry without a priest on any given Sunday have choices. They can hold Morning Prayer worship (with a deacon, lay reader, or worship leader) on their own, they can commute to another parish with a Sunday Eucharist, or they can tune into the live-stream from Sutton.

Grace Church also recently installed a new, digital Ecclesia T-170 organ by Johannus in the Netherlands, paid for entirely by generous parish and community contributions: this instrument ushers in a new era of music possibilities for Grace Church, and will add support to the streaming of services for the region at large.

While the financial relationship of the Regional Ministry is still being discerned, it is clear that alone, each of our small, rural parishes has a very tenuous and uncertain future; yet working and praying together, this region is more securely equipped to face the future and

lean into the calling that God has for this place. Something like this new ministry has never been tried here, and it is full of exciting possibilities. The Eastern Townships is home to a Christian community that is very much alive and moving forward with God.

**A Prayer for Regional Ministry:**

*O God, you have called us together in this Regional Ministry to bear witness to your loving presence here in the Eastern Townships. Scripture teaches us that while we are many, we all make up one body — the Body of Christ. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we may fulfil the work you have given us to do in this place; for the sake of Jesus Christ and his Kingdom.  
Amen.*

# Parish News



The Rev Fresia Saborio and The Ven Tim Smart pose on one of the mosaic benches from Atelier 19.



Mosaic birdhouse from Atelier 19.

## St George's Anglican Church in Granby Biodiversity Garden

FRESIA SABORIO

*The Rev Fresia Saborio is the Deacon in Charge, St George's Granby.*

On September 17th of this year, St George's Anglican Church in Granby celebrated the installation of the Biodiversity Garden on their front lawn. The project is part of a new initiative in Granby of creating emblematic public spaces that are not only recreational but educational.

The church's location is ideal - in terms of visibility - for the Biodiversity Garden, as it

is located on the main street in downtown Granby with the bike trail running alongside the property.

With a piano, colourful hand-crafted benches and beautiful foliage, the Garden stands out. Although, more significant than the physical space is that the values reflected with the Garden are at the core of our Anglican tradition and with St George's vision of a sacred space.

The Garden is a unique collaboration between the SÉTHY Foundation, Parkview School,

the City of Granby, Atelier 19, Desjardins, the MRC de La Haute-Yamaska and St-Georges Church.

The project leader from the SÉTHY Foundation explained that the conception of the garden was presented as part of their environmental education activities.

In 2020, two grade 5 classes from Parkview School committed to the project, with the objective to make the population aware of the importance of biodiversity and the protec-

tion of natural environments in Haute-Yamaska. They prepared posters and interpretive signs that highlighted the importance of nature's ecological benefits and their cycle of maintenance through diversity.

Then, the work focused on the creation of the first flowerbeds. In the spring of 2021 the students and teachers (under the direction of the Foundation and with the support from the other partners) planted shrubs and perennials and installed birdhouses and insect nesting boxes to attract pollinators and birds. Atelier 19 provided mosaic birdhouses and beauti-

ful mosaic-decorated benches which showcased their inter-generational work expertise.

In the context of climate change awareness, educating about and advocating for protecting biodiversity has become essential. As Anglicans, we appreciate the responsibility to care for our God-given creation, but more than any other element of the project, St George's was blessed by partnering with these different entities that shared a common goal. This was a spiritual journey that St George's hopes to recreate next spring.

## Ministry by Zoom at Church of St Mark & St Peter, St. Laurent

CHRIS BARRIGAR

*The Rev'd Chris Barrigar is the incumbent of St Mark & St Peter.*

As with many congregations, in-person worship has returned at "Church of St Mark & St Peter, St. Laurent". Given the 2-metre distancing regulation (with singing), to increase Sunday capacity CMP is using its hall for overflow seating, streaming the main service via Zoom both to homes and into the hall for those in the overflow space. With distancing, this overflow space provides for another ten households/bubbles to join in-person worship, in addition to the 22 households/bubbles that can be accommodated with distancing in the church itself.

This Fall CMP has six mid-week groups meeting by Zoom:

- a book group, lead by Selene Lau, reading and discussing James Bryan Smith's *The Good and Beautiful Community*;
- another book group, led by the Rev Chris Barrigar, read-

ing Peter Scazzero's *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*;

- a home bible study group (some meet in person while others participate in the same meeting by Zoom);

- a French conversation group, for anglophone and allophone parishioners to improve their conversational French;

- a GriefShare support group, led by Christine Creighton, and

- a DivorceCare support group, co-led by the Rev Neil Mancor and CMP member Heather Purdie.

The two support groups were advertised by social media to postal codes in Ville St-Laurent, and so serve as a form of local outreach, though participants come from across the Montreal area.

Although at one level people are quite tired of Zoom meetings, yet at another level people realize it is here to stay, and so continue to find ways to connect and minister through the convenience it offers.



Winter apparel created by volunteers for schools and shelters.

## A Community Coming Together

GLORIA KIDD

*Ms Gloria Kidd is the Rector's Warden at St Paul's Church in Greenfield Park.*

As the impact of Covid-19 starts to slow down, we are returning to church at a slow pace. Yet since the start of the pandemic, we at St. Paul's in Greenfield Park have not stopped working in the community. And although we were not able to gather in person to do what was needed, we found ways to continue our outreach;

- keeping our ladies in the community busy at home by knitting articles for schools in our area, for our Christmas families, for men's and women's shelters and for the homeless

- making frozen food for seniors and supplying approximately 400 sandwiches every Wednesday for Bread and Beyond, who in turn give them to seven shelters in Montreal,

- continuing the breakfast program for our local school,
- making blankets for cancer patients at the Charles

Lemoyne hospital in Greenfield Park,

- collecting for our Christmas families as well as those in local shelters.

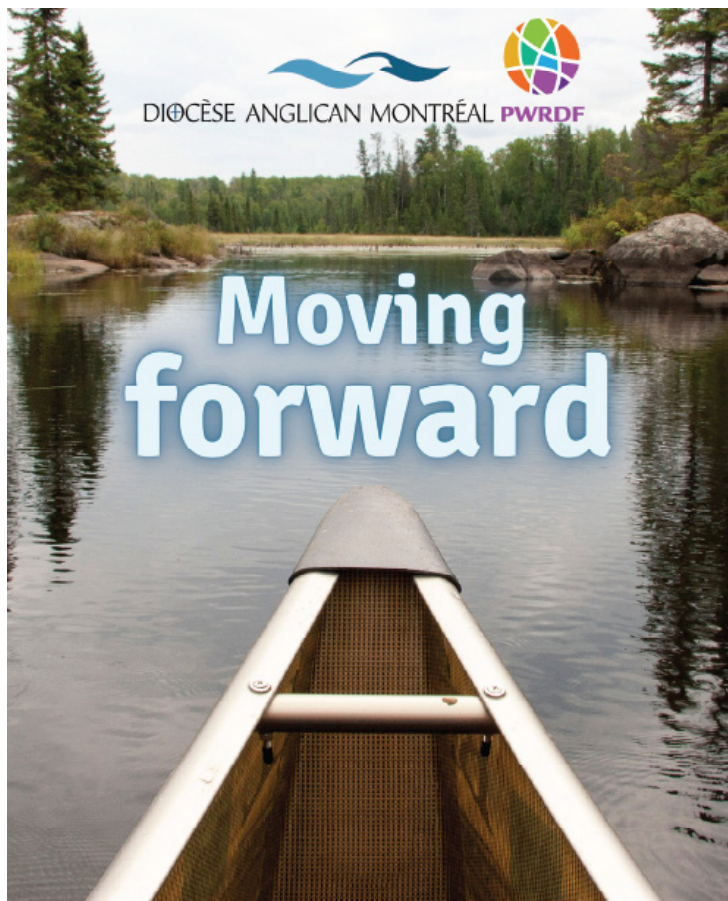
We have been able to do all of this while not being able to meet in person but with a LOT of help from our community.

In fact, the ladies and men of the Greenfield Park United church have all worked together to help with the sandwiches, knitting and blanket making. We have had strangers helping us make food for our frozen meals for the seniors, gather gifts for our Angel tree for our Christmas families, purchasing items for the homeless, offering to pick up and deliver food to the seniors, baking for our online bake sale and much more.

It is amazing what a community can do when it comes together not just as a church but as people of God. The Lord wants us to gather in his name and to help those in need and that is what our community on the South Shore of Montreal is trying to do.

Please take a moment, look around and see what you can do in God's name. A pair of hands can do a bit but many hands can accomplish a lot.

# PWRDF



## Diocese of Montreal PWRDF Project 2021-2022 in support of the Indigenous Responsive Programs Grant

Indigenous-led communities  
determining their needs and  
priorities in:



You can support this program by making  
a gift through your church or directly to  
PWRDF at [pwrdf.org/Indigenousgrants](https://pwrdf.org/Indigenousgrants),  
or indicate Indigenous Responsive  
Programs Grant on your cheque and mail  
it to: PWRDF, 80 Hayden St., 3rd Floor,  
Toronto, ON, M4Y 3G2

## The Montreal Unit of PWRDF supports the Indigenous Responsive Program

ANN CUMYRN

*Mrs Ann Cumyn, along with the  
Rev Ros Macgregor, is Co-chair of  
the Montreal Unit of PWRDF.*

All wise groups seek input  
from those who are affected by  
their actions. When PWRDF  
plans a project it does just that.

PWRDF has formed a con-  
sultative group for actions that  
affect the Canadian Indigenous  
communities.

PWRDF's Indigenous  
Program Advisory Committee  
(IPAC) includes representatives  
from the Anglican Council of  
Indigenous Peoples (ACIP).

A brief bio of the mem-  
bers of IPAC can be found  
at: [https://pwrdf.org/  
indigenous-program-advisory-  
committee/](https://pwrdf.org/indigenous-program-advisory-committee/)

ACIP's participation in the  
group is important because  
of its role in the Indigenous  
community. It's our guess that  
many people have not even  
heard of ACIP. So let's do some  
demystifying.

ACIP was formed during  
the second half of the 19th cen-  
tury and its current member-  
ship is drawn from Indigenous  
people across Canada. One of  
the criteria for membership is  
to be Indigenous.

Since its formation ACIP's  
goal has been to work towards  
self determination of the com-  
munity of Indigenous peoples  
within the Anglican Church of  
Canada. More about ACIP and  
also our Indigenous partners  
can be found on the Anglican  
church website. [www.anglican.  
ca/about/ccc/acip](http://www.anglican.ca/about/ccc/acip)

There is so much we can  
learn from and about the Indig-  
enous people. All people have  
needs, but doing things for  
others may be seen as implying  
that those others are inferior.

People often need tools not  
others taking over! PWRDF's  
new venture tries to do just  
that.

With the Indigenous Re-  
sponsive Program, PWRDF is  
fundraising to create a bank of  
funds which the Indigenous  
community can access to carry  
out their own projects, to be  
developed and managed by  
themselves.

We provide the general  
funds and the choice of the  
use of those funds is made by  
the Indigenous people as they  
apply for monetary support  
in one of four predetermined  
areas. These are:

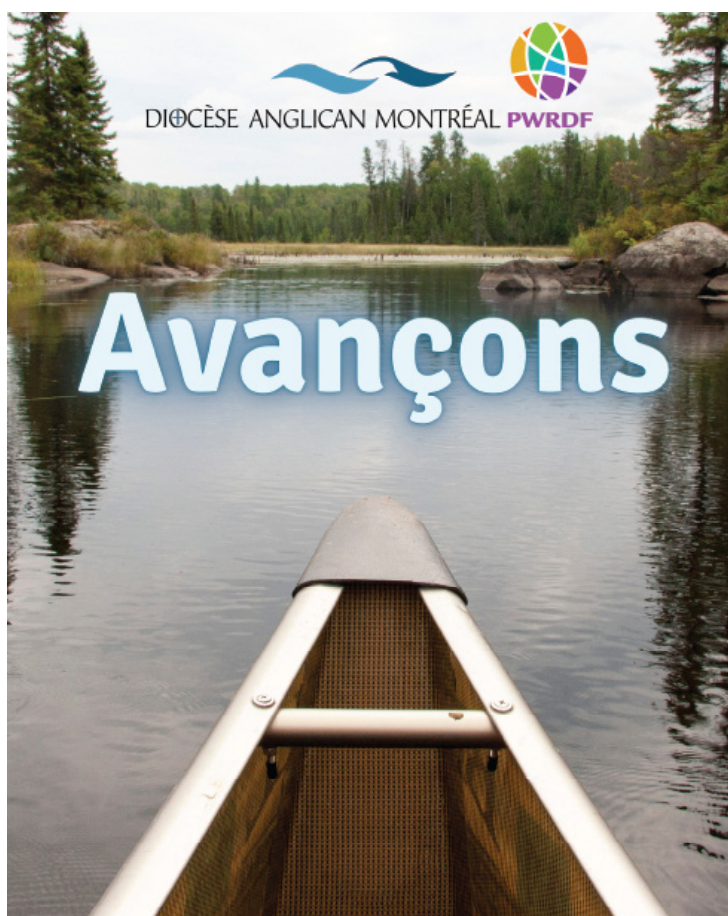
- **Community Health** -  
programs aimed to foster  
awareness, educate, deliver  
and support to the Indigenous  
community in areas/sectors  
such as suicide and addictions  
prevention, family violence, Fe-  
tal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder  
(FASD), HIV and AIDS, mental  
health promotion, traditional  
caregivers, midwives and  
doula/birth work support, etc.

- **Youth Engagement** - ini-  
tiatives that promote knowl-  
edge, expertise, empowerment,  
self-sufficiency and practice  
of traditional cultural values,  
such as youth self-esteem and  
identity strengthening, lead-  
ership and entrepreneurship  
training and development, re-  
vitalization of their culture and  
language through connections  
to the land, knowing their his-  
tory and values, etc. We affirm  
partners' priority on youth's  
aspirations for the future.

- **Climate Action** - pro-  
grams that assess and promote  
alternatives, opportunities and  
development of training and  
job creation in areas of Indige-  
nous farming, trapping, fishing  
activities, including dissemina-  
tion of community findings as  
response to climate change).

- **Safe Water** - programs  
that support work experience  
and training on maintenance  
and operation of drinking

*continued on page 12*



## Diocèse de Montréal Projet PWRDF 2021-2022 en appui à la subvention aux programmes réactifs des Autochtones.

Les Communautés dirigées par des  
Autochtones déterminent leurs  
besoins et leurs priorités en :



Vous pouvez soutenir ce programme en  
faisant un don par l'intermédiaire de  
votre église ou directement à PWRDF à  
l'adresse : [pwrdf.org/Indigenousgrants](https://pwrdf.org/Indigenousgrants),  
ou faites un chèque à l'ordre de : «  
Indigenous Responsive Programs Grant »  
et postez-le à PWRDF, 80 Hayden St., 3rd  
Floor, Toronto, ON, M4Y 3G2



## PWRDF

The Primate's World Relief  
and Development Fund

The Anglican Church of Canada

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) is the Anglican Church of Canada's agency for sustainable development and relief. With the support of Anglicans across Canada, PWRDF partners with organizations working to increase healthy pregnancies and births, reduce gender inequality, relieve hunger and break the cycle of poverty in the world's most vulnerable communities. Against a backdrop of climate change, PWRDF strives to address the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

Working towards a truly just, healthy and peaceful world.



## PWRDF'S 2021 World of Gifts

Supporting World of Gifts is  
an investment in a sustainable  
future for some of the world's  
most vulnerable communities.

This year's guide supports  
17 partners as they plan for a  
healthier and stronger future.

Programs include restor-  
ing and preserving seeds in  
Bangladesh, providing families  
with supplies to raise chickens  
in Columbia nad Zimbabwe,  
continued support of "smart"  
dairy farming initiatives in  
Kenya and of course, back by  
popular demand, giving goats  
to people in Malawi, Zimba-  
bwe and Cuba.

Go to [www.pwrdf.org/  
worldofgifts](http://www.pwrdf.org/worldofgifts).



# PWRDF

## PWRDF Refugee Network moves heaven and earth

SUZANNE RUMSEY

Ms. Suzanne Rumsey is the PWRDF Public Engagement Program Coordinator

*refugee* (noun) a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster (Oxford English Dictionary); someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion (1951 UN Refugee Convention)

**Afghanistan Evacuation Air Traffic Control, August 16, 2021:** "Okay, how many people do you think are on your jet?... 800 people on your jet? Holy f---, holy cow."

Where and what is your heaven on earth? Likely, it would involve a place, a place you call home, a place of family and community, work and leisure, a place made up of the things that define who you are.

Imagine for a moment that you have become a refugee, defined by loss of place, of home, community and possibly even family. You have been forced to flee and are now faced with the daunting task of moving heaven and earth to find safety, shelter, a new place to call home.

In its 2020 report, The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) indicated that "Despite COVID-related movement restrictions and pleas from the international community for a [global] ceasefire that would facilitate the COVID-19 response, displacement continued to occur – and to grow. As a result, above one per cent of the world's population – or 1 in 95 people – is now forcibly displaced. This compares with 1 in 159 in 2010."

Despite the growing numbers of those seeking asylum, the UNCHR also reported that "only 34,400 refugees were resettled to third countries in



Photo by Arindam Banerjee, Shutterstock

2020... This compares to 107,800 the year before and marks a dramatic 60 per cent decline – at a time when 1.4 million refugees are estimated to be in need of resettlement."

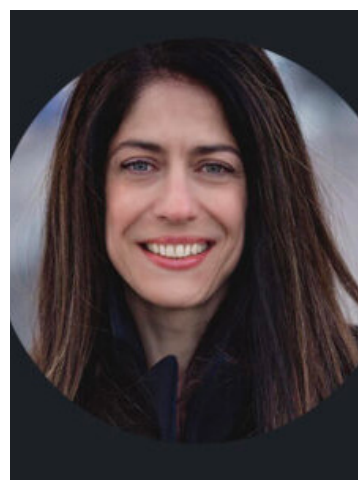
In mid-August, 640 Afghans crowded onto a U.S. Air Force CF-18 in a desperate attempt to find safety in another country. It was five times the plane's passenger capacity. The image flooding news broadcasts and social media feeds was a searing definition of moving heaven and earth.

Here in Canada, there is a small group of Anglicans who, in less dramatic but no less committed ways, go about the work of moving heaven and earth to bring to Canada those who have lost their heaven on earth.

They are the Refugee Coordinators for the 15 dioceses that hold Private Sponsorship Agreements with the federal government's Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada ministry. Some of them are lay people, others ordained,

some are paid, others are volunteers.

PWRDF provides modest networking and advocacy support to this group known as the PWRDF Refugee Network. Since COVID-19 hit, the group has gathered regularly on Zoom to check-in, offer mutual support and mentoring and to strategize.



Carolina Manganelli is the Refugee Coordinator for the Diocese of Montreal.

In the Diocese of Montreal, Carolina Manganelli is the Refugee Coordinator. Since 2015, parishes and families have welcomed 487 refugees to the diocese, no one in 2021.

When representatives of the Refugee Network gathered in July to discuss what key messages they would like to share with Anglicans in Canada, they talked about the enormous global need for refugee sponsorship; a need they are confronted with on a daily basis in the form of appeals for asylum.

As Jane Townshend of the Diocese of Huron noted, "During COVID, three or four parishes in my diocese have come forward to say they would like to consider sponsoring a refugee family. I have a waiting list of 300 refugee cases looking for a sponsor."

The refugee coordinators also spoke about the complexity of the needs of those seeking asylum. No two cases are alike. This is compounded by a labyrinthine and painfully slow

sponsorship process. "What is discouraging is the three-year wait that can be soul-destroying for family members and individuals overseas," said Tony Davis, Diocese of B.C. Refugee Coordinator.

Yet this moving heaven and earth, of welcoming the stranger, can be transformative for refugees and sponsors alike. "It is an opportunity to encounter 'the other,'" explained the Rev. Scott McLeod, who coordinates refugee sponsorship in the Diocese of Niagara. The professional, cultural and other gifts that refugees bring to Canada, the group noted, are beyond measure. "Resilience," said Townshend, "is a key word when it comes to refugees."

At the same time, they are keenly aware that some refugees arrive in Canada deeply traumatized and in need of large measures of compassion and practical support. This can make for some very challenging sponsorships, said McLeod. "But that does not negate the legitimacy of the refugee sponsorship program which is legitimate in and of itself."

Indeed, long before the United Nations defined who is a refugee, Jesus' Judgement of the Nations spelled out clearly what our response needs to be to those who have moved heaven and earth to begin anew in Canada:

"Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25: 34b-36, 40)

To learn more about refugee sponsorship in your diocese, please contact Carolina Manganelli at [director@actionr.org](mailto:director@actionr.org).

ANGELICAN FOUNDATION OF CANADA

Behind each grant is a generous gift.  
Your gift today will make a difference tomorrow.

[anglicanfoundation.org](http://anglicanfoundation.org)

# What Did You Expect?

Finding peace now... and then.



JESSICA BICKFORD

*The Rev Deacon Jessica Bickford is Co-founder of the Phoenix Community Projects*

It was the middle of the night and quite cool in my daughter's room, as it was winter, and the wind blew on that side of the house. She was a newborn and hadn't begun sleeping through the night. I sat there with her in the rocking chair that her grandmother used to rock her father in.

To help keep out the damp air, I wrapped ourselves in a

shawl that was crocheted by my mother for such occasions. It was just the two of us rocking back and forth. The only light was from a glimmering night light in the far corner.

The room was quiet. I had never experienced this kind of silence. It wasn't a sound but, a feeling...peace.

I remember wondering, "How could I be in this peaceful bubble, when I was so tired?". Although I desperately wanted to go back to sleep, with the same amount of desperation I wanted to stay

in this moment. There were no thoughts of "what's next?", "what to do" or "how do we?" No thoughts of the next day's to-do lists, or regrets of lost moments from the past. Just us, rocking back and forth.

Every time Advent comes upon us and preparations for Christmas begin, I remind myself about that time in the rocking chair.

It is easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle, in the preparations and expectations of the holiday seasons.

I often wonder what Mary

felt like when coddling her new born babe.

Was she anxious about being in a barn? Were her expectations not met? Did she feel disappointed because this wasn't what she thought the birth of her child was going to be like?

The journey Mary had been on, since the day she found out she was going to be Jesus' mother, was anything but what she most likely had ever expected.

We must remember that as lovely and romantic we think the Christmas story is, it is also a story of danger and precariousness.

**Mary: Meek and Mild**

In Luke 1:26-38, we read of when the angel Gabriel approached Mary to tell her she was the "favoured one" of God and chosen to be Jesus's mother. In my Sunday school lessons, Mary was always portrayed as timid, obedient and almost docile.

For the majority of the passage, Gabriel informs Mary of what's going to happen. And Mary's only responses are "how can this be for I am a virgin?" and "here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

I think there would have been a bit more protest. For Mary to accept what Gabriel was proposing, she was not just putting her reputation on the line, but her whole livelihood. To be pregnant out of wedlock at that time would likely result in her arranged marriage being dissolved. Mary could have been kicked

out of her house and - even worse - been put to death.

In the scriptures, when we see God calling on men, there is usually some form of dialogue, even refusals. Yet, Mary, so willingly, just said yes? There is way more to the story here. Don't be fooled. Mary did not just lie down. Mary possessed great power in this moment. She could have very easily said no to God. By saying yes, Mary made a decision after which she not only had to have great courage, but she also had to be smart - and even cunning - to be able to convince her parents to help her in this situation.

**Elizabeth and Mary: Bump Buddies**

In Luke 1:39-56 we read the story of how Mary visited Elizabeth. This passage is always portrayed warmly as two cousins find out they are pregnant at the same time. How great is that? Yey, bump buddies! The kids can play together and grow up together. How very exciting! Though, in actuality Mary was probably sent to Elizabeth and Zachariah to hide. This would have given time for the families of Mary and Joseph to talk without putting Mary in immediate harm.

**Joseph: Step Dad Extraordinaire**

I never really gave much thought to Joseph within the Christmas story. At first my impressions were, ah what a great guy, or what guy would do that - dream or no dream from Gabriel. When Joseph says yes to accept Mary, there

*continued on page 12*

## Anti-Racism Workshop; working toward Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

NICKI HRONJAK, EDITOR

On Friday, October 1 and Saturday, October 2, 2021, via Zoom, Dr Myrna Lashley led close to 180 members of our diocese (and several from the Diocese of Quebec) in an interactive, experiential workshop on racism. Organized by the Diocesan Anti-Racism Committee, the goal of the workshop was to explore the Church's role in creating systemic racism and to discuss ideas what to do about it.

Myrna (as she asked to be called) began the workshop with her trademark gift of being thoughtful yet challenging, sensitive yet unafraid to provoke. She made it clear that, while she didn't want anyone to feel attacked, she did expect us to feel uncomfortable. And we did. As Neil Mancor mentioned in his article on page four, participants of colour were frank in sharing their experiences of racism. It was moving and humbling to hear their stories.

Myrna referenced Martin Luther King Jr and his letter from a Birmingham jail. "... the judgement of God is upon the church as never before. If today's church does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authenticity, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club



**Dr Myrna Lashley is an internationally recognized clinical, teaching and research authority in cultural psychology. Photo by Lee-Ann Matthews.**

*with no meaning for the twentieth century. Every day I meet young people whose disappointment with the church has turned into outright disgust."*

Sadly, though written in 1963, this quote is still fitting today. We were reminded that as painful as it is to hear it we must not run from this. We must face it.

We spent a good deal of time talking about people who live "above and below the line" which was another way of saying those with and without power. We learned that Black people have been primed to see themselves as inferior and internalizing this inferiority compels them to hide who they truly are, to wear a mask.

Myrna reminded us that the church is intertwined with social action. Jesus was a social activist. He challenged the status quo - reaching out to lepers, to women. She encouraged us to be bold in our activism.

She talked about the legacy of white colonialism, of the glass ceiling that is still there. For instance, we've never had a non-white primate. It is critical that we look around and see who is missing from the table.

We were reminded that that racism effects all aspects of life, even one's physical health. She talked about the importance of being an ally for people of colour and all marginalized groups.

On Friday, we worked together in the breakout rooms to come up with things that the church members must do to bring about Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in society. The following day we worked on identifying structural things that the church can do as an institution to bring about full EDI in its practice.

Following the workshop, several parishes, and the deanery, have continued to educate themselves and are searching for ways to bring about EDI in their churches and their lives.

Learn more: [www.montreal.anglican.ca/antiracism-task-force](http://www.montreal.anglican.ca/antiracism-task-force)

## The power of listening *continued from page 4*

inter-generational injustice, of prejudice that happens today.

Governor General Mary Simon said: "My view is that reconciliation is a way of life and requires work every day. Reconciliation is getting to know one another."

Being able to listen to one another does not mean doing nothing. However I cannot know what to do about any kind of injustice without hearing the stories of those who have experienced it.

What I can do, and what you can do, is hold a sacred space that allows someone else's story to be at the center and honour that story without

rushing on to the next thing. It is in listening that we find ways to grow.

I was profoundly moved when Senator Murray Sinclair pointed out that it has been 500 years of injustice for Indigenous People in Canada: it will take 500 years to move beyond it. But we can make a beginning and we can listen.

So as even as we live out our resolve to build a more just society and Church in which all are honoured as created in the image of God, let us also find ways to sit down in a circle and hold a space and listen. Then we will know what to do.

## Carols and Cocoa - Coast to Coast

Join the Crosstalk Ministries Day Camps Community for our second annual "Carols & Cocoa", an hour of videos including plenty of sing-along carols and other presentations, all brought to you by performers across Canada.

**Saturday, December 11th 4pm-5pm  
via Google Meet**

To join us that day go to [www.meet.google.com/kfq-cxmd-ihj](http://www.meet.google.com/kfq-cxmd-ihj). Mark your calendar, then make a mug of cocoa and cosy up to your computer.

Prior to the pandemic, the CTM Day Camp Committee held a fall fundraising event. This is in lieu of that and is free of charge. If you can make a donation, it would be gratefully received. Via our PayPal Giving Fund [www.crosstalkministries.ca](http://www.crosstalkministries.ca) or by e-transfer to [donations@crosstalkministries.ca](mailto:donations@crosstalkministries.ca)

# We welcome Fresia, Susan and Benjamin to the priesthood and diaconate

NICKI HRONJAK, EDITOR

On Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at Christ Church Cathedral in Montreal, Fresia Saborio and Susan Searle were ordained to the priesthood

and Benjamin Stuchbery was ordained to the diaconate.

There was a joyful congregation with as many present at the Cathedral as permitted given pandemic restrictions. In addition, a good-sized congre-

gation watched the proceedings on Youtube live.

Bishop Mary presided and the Rev Canon William Blizzard preached. Dean Bertrand Olivier, Archdeacon Robert Camara and the Cathedral staff,

musicians, choir and servers were thanked by the Bishop for their roles in creating a memorable celebration.

I asked the recent ordinands to answer a few questions - some serious, others not - so

that we can get to know them better. As you'll see, they graciously cooperated... for the most part.

We welcome Fresia, Susan and Benjamin as they take on new roles in the diocese.



Photo of Fresia at her ordination is by Janet Best.

## The Rev Fresia Saborio is Deacon in Charge at St George, Granby and Assistant Curate in the Regional Ministry of Brome-Shefford

**What are your hopes for ministry in this post-pandemic world?**

My hopes are turned towards a new sense of togetherness and of the importance we may give to walking our spiritual journey together.

My hopes are turned towards a new understanding of our need to experience meaning, purpose, connectedness and transcendence.

I believe firmly that through the gift and grace of the sacraments, by the presence of God amongst us, we are participating with the church at large in being the reflection of God's love to the world, building a society that is more compassionate, forgiving and just.

**What song would you sing if persuaded to participate in karaoke?**

Gracias a la vida - Violeta Parra

**What is your favorite junk food?** Chocolate - and more chocolate!

**What is your pet peeve?** Definitely pretentiousness and arrogance

## The Rev Susan Searle is Assistant Curate at St John the Evangelist and Associate Priest at St George's, Place du Canada

**What are your hopes for ministry in this post-pandemic world?**

That we will see and use this as an opportunity to NOT go back to "normal"

**What inspired you to pursue ordination?**

A combination of a desire to serve God and make sense of my own life (what a priest-friend referred to as "redeeming the time")

**What song would you sing if persuaded to participate in karaoke?**

Boulder to Birmingham by Emmylou Harris

**What is your favorite book or movie?**...Chocolat (movie) Outlander series (books)

**What is your favorite junk food?** Mac and cheese

**What is your pet peeve?** Time! It either moves too slowly or too quickly. Too easy to get stuck in "kronos".



Photo of Susan with Bishop Mary is by Janet Best.



Benjamin with wife Erica and son Charlie. Photo by Tim Smart.

## The Rev Deacon Benjamin Stuchbery is Assistant Curate at the Parish of Vaudreuil

**What are your hopes for ministry in this post-pandemic world?**

My deepest hope for ministry in a post-pandemic world is that all of us in the church come to a deeper understanding of our need for one another. God made us for one another. We are all beloved children of God. In my mind, ministry describes the quality of relationship to which all God's children are called, that is, mutual loving service. This is the way of being exemplified in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a way of being that can only be lived out in community.

**What inspired you to pursue ordination?**

This way of being, as it is embodied in my particular life, revealed itself as a call to ordained to ministry. My ordination is my response to God's loving initiative in my life. It is my response to the love of the church. And it is my response - my 'yes' - to all those who pointed to this vocation and said to me, "Ben, become who you are." Like all sacraments, ordination reveals what is already true. My ordination continues to reveal its truth to me, each day when I choose to assent anew to God's activity in my life.

When pressed, Benjamin admitted to enjoying salt & vinegar chips

## A Prayer from the Diocesan Representatives The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer - Canada

Heavenly Father, we thank you for bringing us safely into this Advent season of great anticipation. With restless hearts and trepidation, we are cautiously planning for festive events within your church and at home. We long to enjoy our beloved Christmas bazaars, pageants, concerts, and worship free from the anxiety of COVID. We humbly acknowledge that this year will still be different from pre-pandemic celebrations, but we are delighted to be able to gather again with family and friends and to hear our choirs sing cherished carols.

Gracious Emmanuel guide us as we continue to work out the COVID guidelines for worship and in-door gatherings. Ease our anxiety as we welcome strangers to our parishes who might not share our passion for being vaccinated, wearing masks, and keeping our distance. We pray for patience among your faithful who are growing weary of these rules and for hope that one day soon this pandemic will leave us. Wonderful Counselor, we thank you for giving us this time of deprivation. Through this



journey we have come to realize just how many blessings we have and how we take them for granted. Help us to move out of this pandemic world as a more welcoming people, quick to love and help others, and slow to anger and fear. Prince of Peace be with us as we walk in your ways. Help us to serve you by supporting those in need, visiting the sick and lonely, and reaching out to refugees and captives. We thank you that we can once again experience the joy of sharing with others in-person and witnessing their delight in being together.

Light of the World bring us your joy and peace this Christmas and protect us from the disappointment of unforeseen circumstances. Help us to never lose sight of the real meaning of Christmas and to do everything possible to keep you at

the centre as you are the reason for the season. To you, O Lord, belong all glory and honor.

Amen.

God bless, Valerie and Stacey

For more information on AFP-C, contact Valerie Bennett and Stacey Neale at [valstacey@bell-net](mailto:valstacey@bell-net)

## Notable

All are welcome to Christ Church Cathedral on Sunday, December 19 at 4 PM for a service of Nine Lessons and Carols. We will follow the story of Christ's birth in biblical readings, diverse anthems from the Cathedral Choir, and your favourite Christmas hymns. The beautiful music and candlelight will surely put you in the Christmas spirit!

### What did you expect?

*continued from page 10*

was no turning back. He would have to ensure there were no suspicions about Mary. Not only that, I am sure Joseph didn't expect to become a refugee and flee to Egypt knowing King Herod was after Jesus.

Each year many of us get wound up in the preparations and expectations of Christmas. I don't think that Mary and Joseph expected all they had to go through. What challenges they would face to bring Jesus into the world. Joseph didn't expect to have a pregnant wife. Mary didn't expect to be travelling (according to google maps)

30 hours by foot while pregnant. Neither of them expected to be giving birth in a barn.

When we strip away all the expectations of Christmas, we are simply left with what is. A family, in one form or another. Together with no thoughts of "what's next?" or "how do we?". No thoughts of the next day's to-do lists, or regrets of lost moments from the past or words spoken. Just Mary, Joseph and the baby rocking back and forth, in that moment of peace, joy, hope, love and light.

## PWRDF Program

*continued from page 8*

water infrastructure, including water treatment plant; as well as skills development in installation of water and wastewater systems as part of local strategic initiatives aimed to ensure safe, clean, drinking water in Indigenous communities).

A brief description of this venture can be found in the World of Gifts, and more on the PWRDF website [www.pwrdf.org](http://www.pwrdf.org).

Montreal PWRDF will work hard through 2021-2022 to raise funds for this Program. Posters and other tools will be available to churches and other groups.

Contact Ros Macgregor ([roslyn.macgregor@gmail.com](mailto:roslyn.macgregor@gmail.com)), Ann Cumyn ([acumyn@sympatico.ca](mailto:acumyn@sympatico.ca)) or your local PWRDF rep for information.

ANGLICAN  
FOUNDATION OF CANADA

Behind each grant  
is a generous gift.  
Your gift today will make  
a difference tomorrow.

[anglicanfoundation.org](http://anglicanfoundation.org)

## Together, we can spread Christmas joy a long way!



With your help, the Mission can:

- Include special treats, personal/ homecare items and grocery store gift cards in the 150 Christmas baskets that we will be distributing.
- Provide gifts from Santa for 80+ children.
- Prepare 50 special Christmas stockings for our most vulnerable members that include winter clothing, coffee & sandwich gift cards...
- Provide a traditional take-out Christmas dinner for over 100 individuals and families.
- Continue serving 150+ free hot & healthy take-out meals each week.
- Distribute over 200 bags of groceries at our free weekly Food Bank.
- Continue to help our members with any needed Covid-19 follow-up.

Please know that your kindness goes a long way in helping to nourish our community, especially during these challenging times!



Donations can be made: [www.mileendmission.org](http://www.mileendmission.org)  
or 99 Bernard Ouest, Montreal, H2T 2J9