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lunching? page 3

Which parish welcomed over 250 people at
their Fall Festival? page 6

And who do you know in this issue's
photos? pages 4 & 5



ANGLICAN MONTREAL



Bishop's Action Appeal 2023
Look for your envelope in this issue!

Winter 2023 • A section of the *Anglican Journal*

Official Publication of the Diocese of Montreal

Anti-Bias Training to be offered in the Diocese: A Focus on Love

EDWARD YANKIE

Edward Yankie is a member of Christ Church Cathedral and co-chair of the Diocesan Task Force for Racial Justice and Equity.

Aslan is still on the move. Christ is a lion. With a love more powerful than any lion.

Also powerful are the forces of history; so much bigger and mightier than any one of us. They can move slower than an iceberg in some ways and faster than quicksilver in others. And, as some of us are learning the hard way, sometimes things go backwards!

We all play a role in this magnificent drama called Life and World History. Each of us is important and we all have our work to do. For history belongs to God. This is a source of peace which passes all understanding. But - that history belongs to God should not cause us to become complacent, but rather light a divine fire within us that compels us to urgent action.

Right now the **Task Force for Racial Justice and Equity** is looking back on over three



Pencil drawing by Remrov.

years of work while the world (as of this typing) threatens to plummet into yet another global war. So many of us are

praying for peace and for the building of bridges and a tearing down of walls, including barriers of hatred and misun-

derstanding.

We know that racial equity is not something that can be one-and-done, or won and done, in a three-year mandate. The forces of intolerance, dehumanisation, and oppression will be with us for centuries.

What we are trying to do is empower our church with creative tools to face them, overcome them, and eventually - as much as possible - lovingly obliterate them. And learn to watch and recognise them; from within ourselves as well as everywhere else.

We are not facing the end of the beginning but rather the beginning of the beginning. The lion's share of the work (Aslan's) is ahead of us.

Here is some good news. At the meeting of Synod last June our work and our mandate was given overwhelming support by the entire diocese. Most importantly, Synod voted unanimously to impose mandatory anti-bias training upon all church leaders and to make it available to all. This has been a source of inspiration not only within our own diocese, but for

Anglicans and others of good will all across Canada - and even a beacon of hope for some folks in the States.

The workshops, to be led on zoom by the Kaleidoscope Institute, are open to anyone in the diocese, and will begin in Lent 2024. As the Rev. Deborah Meister says, "*The training will be a powerful Lenten discipline. Lent is a time to grow in love, and this training is designed to increase our capacity to love our neighbour, and even ourselves.*"

The training sessions are scheduled for Saturday, February 24th from 10am to 12:30pm, and Sunday, February 25th from 2:30 to 5pm. The third and fourth instalments will take place two weeks later on Saturday, March 9th from 10am to 12:30pm, and Sunday, March 10th from 2:30 to 5pm (like the weekend in February). So save the dates. (If these times are a challenge for you the workshop will be offered again in the first half of November.)

Change will happen, the leaders of Kaleidoscope teach, in the space between comfort and fear. And, with respectful

continued on page 3

The Post-Everything Church: The model that isn't a model

NEIL MANCOR

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

There have been many models proposed to us to grow our churches or re-grow them. And recently there has been a deluge of articles, events and conferences all dedicated to the theme of church "post-pandemic". Even before the pandemic was over, many were analysing its impact and the lessons we learned.

But despite the overwhelming trends of decline which began around 1965 for many mainline denominations, there are flashes of light and inspiration happening all over the place. If there is a model to be

found, it lies in Jesus himself, and in particular, his death and resurrection. For there needed to be death before there was new life. So it is with the Church - and resurrection is happening right before our eyes.

1. Ingrid Harloff Brown: *Weird Church Cumberland BC*

Ingrid never set out to plant a new church. As a younger United Church minister living on Vancouver Island, she offered pastoral support for members of a local church that was closing.

Congregants said that they would miss getting together for coffee and meaningful conversation. In response, Ingrid set

aside time in a local coffee shop every Friday morning for coffee and meaningful conversations. She put up posters around the town and, to her surprise, a large number of people came to the coffee shop.

Interestingly, only a small handful of people from the closed church came. In those gatherings for coffee, and later for meals, a community was formed, a church came into existence. But there was no intention of moving into a traditional church building.

Things came to a head when the coffee shop filled to overflowing and they needed a larger space. One of the original members of the closed Church, who was a regular at the coffee gathering, still had the keys to

the building which had not been sold. With the agreement of the local conference, they moved their coffees and meals into the building.

One of the benefits they found, as church planters, was the discontinuity with the previous congregation. This meant they could go in and clean up, throw junk out, use the cups and saucers and re-imagine the building in a new way without having to worry about how things were done before, or territorial claims to control of the kitchen. The death of



continued on page 8

Ingrid Harloff Brown

Dean's Advent Message, December 2023

I write this in early November, as we continue to see the unfolding of the conflict between Israel and Hamas in the area of the world referred to as the Holy Land - the promised land of the Israelites and the place of the birth of Jesus, and a significant place in Islam too. It is hard to know how that conflict will evolve, and of course we continue to pray for peace in that region, for safety for all civilians, and specifically for the Anglican Palestinian community under the leadership of Archbishop Hosam Naoum.

The season of Advent which has just started takes us on a journey through the great ancient prophecies which foretold of the coming of the Messiah, the anointed of God. Our Advent carol services lead us from darkness to light, and our hope – like that of all those who wait in darkness – is that there would be a show of power and strength to fulfil those prophecies.

Instead, as we know, God disrupted our human expectations and turned the pyramid of power upside down. Jesus the Messiah, though a King, turned out not to be a warrior with great strength. Instead, a powerless baby born in the unstable environment of occupied Palestine under Roman occupation. Miraculous signs and significant unexpected visitors highlighted the birth of Jesus, which was followed by a horrifying massacre driven by a ruler hellbent on keeping his position of power and influence.

It would take another thirty years to see Jesus take on the work for which he was sent – by continuing to challenge and subvert human assumptions, not ruling from on high but mostly going about healing, teaching, and reconciling people dealing with their powerlessness in the chaos and injustice of their world.

Many at this time feel powerless – powerless in the face of intractable world conflicts that do not seem to have a solution in sight; powerless at a time of escalating climate change with consequences that cannot yet be fully comprehended; powerless as governments lose control and transnational corporations seem to rule their lives and the world.

And yet – God did face power with powerlessness, and in the person of Jesus – an innocent babe, later an itinerant preacher, he showed the power that comes from attending to God's people. The power that comes from spending time with God.

As we prepare to celebrate the incarnation of the Christ, may this season of darkness and preparation be for all of us a time to ask God to strip us of the power we think we have in the eyes of the world, and instead continue to build us up into today's people of reconciliation, healing and peace.

Bartrand

Message de l'Avent Décembre 2023

J'écris ces lignes au début du mois de novembre, alors que nous continuons à assister au déroulement du conflit entre Israël et le Hamas dans la région du monde appelée Terre sainte - la terre promise des Israélites et le lieu de la naissance de Jésus, ainsi qu'une place importante dans l'Islam. Il est difficile de savoir comment ce conflit évoluera, et nous continuons bien sûr à prier pour la paix dans cette région, pour la sécurité de tous les civils, et en particulier pour la communauté anglicane palestinienne sous la direction de l'archevêque Hosam Naoum.

La saison de l'Avent, qui vient de commencer, nous entraîne dans un voyage à travers les grandes prophéties anciennes qui annonçaient la venue du Messie, l'oint de Dieu. Nos chants de l'Avent nous conduisent des ténèbres à la lumière, et notre espoir - comme celui de tous ceux qui attendent dans les ténèbres - est qu'il y ait une démonstration de puissance et de force pour accomplir ces prophéties.

Au lieu de cela, comme nous le savons, Dieu a bouleversé nos attentes humaines et a renversé la pyramide du pouvoir. Jésus le Messie, bien que roi, ne s'est pas avéré être un guerrier doté d'une grande force. Il s'agissait plutôt d'un bébé impuissant né dans l'environnement instable de la Palestine occupée par les Romains. Des signes miraculeux et d'importants visiteurs inattendus ont souligné la naissance de Jésus, qui a été suivie d'un horrible massacre perpétré par un dirigeant déterminé à conserver sa position de pouvoir et d'influence.

Il faudra attendre encore trente ans pour voir Jésus accomplir l'œuvre pour laquelle il a été envoyé - en continuant à remettre en question et à renverser les hypothèses humaines, non pas en gouvernant depuis le haut, mais surtout en guérissant, en enseignant et en réconciliant les personnes confrontées à leur impuissance face au chaos et à l'injustice de leur monde.

Nombreux sont ceux qui, à l'heure actuelle, se sentent impuissants - impuissants face à des conflits mondiaux insolubles qui ne semblent pas avoir de solution en vue ; impuissants à une époque où le changement climatique s'intensifie avec des conséquences qui ne peuvent pas encore être pleinement comprises ; impuissants alors que les gouvernements perdent le contrôle et que les sociétés transnationales semblent régir leur vie et le monde.

Et pourtant, Dieu a confronté le pouvoir à l'impuissance, et en la personne de Jésus - un bébé innocent, devenu plus tard un prédicateur itinérant - il a montré le pouvoir qui découle de l'attention portée au peuple de Dieu. Le pouvoir qui découle du temps passé avec Dieu.

Alors que nous nous préparons à célébrer l'incarnation du Christ, que cette période d'obscurité et de préparation soit pour nous tous l'occasion de demander à Dieu de nous dépouiller du pouvoir que nous pensons avoir aux yeux du monde, et de continuer à nous construire pour devenir aujourd'hui un peuple de réconciliation, de guérison et de paix.

Bartrand

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

Heavenly Father, Creator and Lord of Heaven and Earth, we praise you for your care and protection but most of all for your constant presence with us.

We count it a real privilege to be able to converse with you and to allow ourselves to be guided by your grace, wisdom, and mercy. We know that Jesus has promised that whatever we ask for in his name will be granted to us. It is for this reason that we pray without ceasing not just for our own needs, but for those of others, known and unknown to you our Lord and Savior. We give thanks in every instance for answered prayers, delayed requests, and unexpected outcomes.

Wonderful Counselor, Healer and Prince of Peace, we thank you for being our light and salvation in times of darkness and trouble.

We long for peace in our world, peace in our homes and peace in your hearts. As we anxiously wait for your coming again, we pray for economic stability, for better employment opportunities, for

improved housing, for solutions to our environmental woes, for abstinence programs from addiction, for healing, and, especially at this time, for comfort to those who mourn.

Emmanuel, Protector, and Lord of Hope, we ask for your inspiration to help us to witness to others so that they too will experience the awesomeness of your strength and friendship.

Through this Advent season, we pray to you Lord to help us understand the Prophets, announce like Angels, respond like Shepherds and honour like the Magi. These skills will prepare us to do the work to fix your broken kingdom. We beseech you to mold us into healers and peacemakers. We pray that by using these gifts, we will reach the lost and broken-hearted and encourage them towards the incredible joy and comfort that prayer with you can offer.

*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
Valerie and Stacey*

For more information on AFP-C, email Valerie Bennett & Stacey Neale valstacey@bell-net



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Marketing Lunch and Learn Series for Church Leaders

LEE-ANN MATTHEWS

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

By now we are aware that marketing is an essential component of growing and engaging not only our congregations, but also reaching out to the wider community. Effective marketing strategies can help to communicate our values and mission, and connect with those who might be curious about our offerings.

For some church leaders, however, the term marketing can be controversial, often stemming from differing perspectives on how faith and religious institutions should be promoted and communicated.

Taking all of this into consideration, we hosted a series of **Marketing Lunch & Learn** events in October and November where key industry experts

were selected to guide and teach us. This was a creative and informative occasion for learning and reflection, delivering deep insights and practical takeaways specific to our unique context.

In the first session we were guided through a process by marketing coach, Jen De Tracey. Each participant made a wheel where we were encouraged to not only document but also to rate our core values and beliefs. This delivered important insights and action steps. With this newfound clarity we acquired the foundation to embark on further marketing endeavors.

The second session was offered by Martha (Matte) Elias Downey who is an author, theologian and holds a PhD in dramatic theology. We explored marketing through the lenses of theology. Dr. Downey then led us in a revelatory storytelling exercise, inviting us to be

playful, authentic and human. We discovered how - in learning how to tell our stories - we may better understand how to communicate and leverage marketing strategies.

In the final session we were led by Melissa Matalanis who has an MBA and is a marketing specialist and teacher at Concordia University. Melissa imparted her wisdom and practical hands-on information in the areas of church-specific effective websites and search engine optimization. It was so impactful to receive this training and to receive tools to further our desired outcome of digital marketing success.

You may find the entire three part **Lunch and Learn** series on our Diocesan website or our YouTube channel under the webinar playlist.

Contact us if you would like to learn more or be a part of future learning opportunities. lmattews@montreal.anglican.ca



Members of the congregation at the Anniversary Evensong service.

Montreal Dio Commemorates 150 Years of Ministry

EMILY STUCHBERY

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

On Sunday, October 29th, Christ Church Cathedral hosted a special service of Evensong in thanksgiving for 150 years of ministry at Montreal Diocesan Theological College.

The service included the debut of a new hymn for the anniversary entitled "Ascend, O Friends, With Gladness" with text written by The Rev. Canon Giuseppe Gagliano, a member of the Dio Board and a priest in the Diocese of Quebec.

Many stayed for a reception, which included a historical display that explored the college's history through a lens of ecumenism and mission, and drew attention to key

events that shaped Dio into the college we know today.

Montreal Dio was founded in 1873 by Bishop Oxenden of Montreal. At the time, the college was run out of the library at Synod Hall and overseen almost entirely by The Rev. Joseph Lobley who was appointed the first principal of the college.

There have been many changes over the decades, including three different buildings, various models of field education, many ecumenical partnerships, and, of course, the ordination of women, as well as shifting perspective on mission and intercultural relationships, which have slowly transformed the college community.

During his words of commemoration, Principal Jesse Zink noted that "sometimes we

look at this history and see the college moving in a direction of openness and generosity faster than the church itself. Other times, the college took steps that seemed to constrain possibility... This evening therefore we commemorate 150 years of faithfulness, but also of flaws, 150 years of fortitude, but also of failings. It is right, therefore, that we place our focus not on the college itself but on the God whose faithfulness has sustained this work and sustains it to this day."

The commemorative service of Evensong was a joyful occasion of giving thanks for the blessing of Dio, its legacy, its surrounding community, and its capacity for transformation and innovation by the grace of God. It is with faithfulness, hope, and excitement that we look ahead to the next 150 years.

Anti-Bias Training *continued from p. 1*

dialogue, truth-telling, noticing, and wondering together, we will ardently pursue how might we follow Christ's call to seek and serve Christ in every person and respect the dignity of every human being.

Our hopes and ambitions in the course of the coming years for the entire Anglican Church of Canada are high. Within a few years, we hope - with the assistance of Kaleidoscope - to train our own trainers, and to have the work spread into other dioceses. And to have such training become the norm for the church as a whole, as it is in the United Church - from whom we have also learned much.

Meanwhile, the diocese is diversifying the images surrounding Fulford Hall. The historic portraits of the bishops, all White men of a bygone era, will respectfully remain. After some discussion, we agreed that, for good and ill, this is our history, and we are connected to our past.

But having our collective 21st century gathering place appear to be simply The Hall of Whiteness, we also agreed, is no longer the vibe we are looking for. So we are supplementing these austere portraits with photos which will reflect our diocese now - in all of its gor-

geous diversity. The new images will be a way of joyously giving thanks for the present and future as well as the past. No doubt it will also dignify and celebrate, in addition to every blessed hue of human skin, the existence of women and children. The goal is to make the space warmer, and more welcoming, to everyone. Information on how you can participate will become available in the coming weeks.

As we revamp the space around Fulford and prepare for the upcoming lenten training, task force co-chair Dion Lewis says: "I am so excited. This program, so needed, will allow us to completely live with, encourage, and respond to each other at all times with the love that God has for us."

Beneath a sense of duty and importance of the work to be done, is gratitude and joy to be a part of this movement. To be our little drops in the ocean. To work together. And to feel the love of so many kind people who have supported and continue to support our work. Christ the lion continues to move, teach, and inspire. And we as a church together will learn and follow. The next year promises to be life-changing for all of us. The Spirit beckons us.

Around the Diocese

For more photos go to montreal.anglicannews.ca!



The Rev Heather Liddell administers communion to Claude David at her induction service at St George's Place du Canada, on September 16, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.



Tara Tallentire (left) and Julie Faulkner with the Rev Heather Liddell at her post-induction celebration St George's Place du Canada on September 16, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.



The Rev Andy O'Donnell at the Clergy Conference at Jouvence in Orford, September 18th-20th. Photo by Tim Smart.



The Rev Jacqueline Daley was the guest speaker at this year's Clergy Conference September 18th-20th at Jouvence in Orford. Photo by Tim Smart. For more on Rev Daley, see page 8.



Francis Larouche assists Bishop Mary at the baptism of Helena Gravenhorst, while Helena's mother, Yanik Therrien, holds on tight. September 24, 2023 at St George's Church in Granby. Photo by Janet Best.



Rev Fresia Saborio at the baptism of Helena Gravenhorst at St George's Church in Granby September 24, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.

Around the Diocese

For more photos go to montreal.anglicannews.ca!



The Rev Rodney Clark administers communion to Appoline Huruma at his induction service at Christ Church Rawdon September 24, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.



Vanessa Roy gives a thumbs-up at the post-induction celebration of the Rev Rodney Clark at Christ Church Rawdon September 24, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.



Primate Linda Nichols (right) and Bishop Mary (left) at the awards ceremony for Mrs Elizabeth Hutchinson who received the Anglican Award of Merit and the Bishop's Award at Grace Church Arundel on September 10, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.



Mrs Elizabeth Hutchinson received the Anglican Award of Merit and the Bishop's Award at a ceremony at Grace Church Arundel on September 10, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.



David Blizzard with Bishop Mary at his ordination to the Diaconate at St Barnabas, St Lambert on October 14, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.



The Rev Deacon David Blizzard poses with his fellow deacons at his ordination to the Diaconate at St Barnabas, St Lambert on October 14, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.

Parish Happenings

Christ Church Beaufort Fall Festival attracted over 250 visitors!

PETER LEKX

Peter Lekx is the Family Ministry Intern at Christ Church Beaufort.

As I looked around the room filled with seasonal decorations, the tantalizing smell of homemade chili, fun games, and most importantly, hundreds of visitors, I knew we'd made the right call. What had started as a parish potluck quickly snowballed into a much larger event in the hopes of welcoming guests who might otherwise never walk through the door; what we didn't know was just how many visitors we would be blessed to receive.

It turns out, when your job is to develop Family Ministries in your local neighbourhoods, parish events may need to change in order to be accessible to today's busy families.

Most have decided, either consciously or not, that Sunday morning church is not a priority for their families, or even



Carolyn Hill, with children Colten and Ella, at Christ Church Beaufort's Fall Festival, October 27, 2023. Photo supplied.

that faith as a whole holds little to no relevance in their daily lives. When you are working with so little to go on, it might take a "go big or go home" attitude simply to get folks in the door!

And so our main cook, activities planner, interior decorator and all-around event cheerleader (who is also my wife) insisted we prepare for hundreds, even when the doubtful among us privately

expressed that a few dozen would be a good turnout.

Five massive stock pots of chili were prepared and 40 lbs of potatoes were scrubbed and ready to be turned into loaded baked potatoes. Promises of bread, fruits, salads, and baked goods from our parishioners were eagerly anticipated, with faith that our hard work would pay off - not necessarily in ways we expected, since God so often subverts our expectations, but somehow it would.

And oh, did God ever show up that evening. God was there in the wide-eyed visitors who walked through the doors; God was there next to the bowling alley made from hay bales, butternut squashes, and pumpkins; God was there when friends excitedly said they were putting up more tables because they'd rather welcome more folks than ask others to leave; God was certainly there when the chili was running low, then miraculously lasted to the end of the night.

And for those of us who had worked behind the scenes, never quite sure how it would come off, God was certainly in our hearts as we saw our modest parish hall welcome 250+ visitors who were fed and hopefully nourished by our food and our love.

Yes, it could be argued that events like these are not sustainable either financially or from a volunteer perspective, and the number of guests we receive will not translate directly into more parishioners; and yet, I believe that God takes our offerings both big and small and can move in the strangest of ways.

If guests see our community as a place that will welcome them, feed them and maybe eventually journey together as followers of this amazing Jesus-love that we know, we have fulfilled our mission as Christians. We are all called to hospitality, radical generosity, a willingness to serve and love our neighbours, and to trust in God; He will handle the rest.

Regional Service at All Saints, Dunham October 29th



Sarah and John Hoblyn at the regional service All Saints, Dunham on October 29, 2023. Photo by Tim Smart.



Tim Smart and Weldon Hadlock at the regional service at All Saints, Dunham, October 29, 2023.

Saving Grace: Restoring Grace Anglican Church Sutton

PRESS RELEASE

For nearly 200 years, Grace Church's building and steeple have been an iconic part of the physical and cultural landscape of the town of Sutton — and the Eastern Townships. However, the decades have been hard on the church's beautiful historic architecture. Now it's up to us to take the necessary steps to restore this important historic church.

Severe dry rot threatened the structural integrity of the church's soaring steeple, requiring it to be removed and restored in 2022, at a cost of over \$100,000. The community responded generously and raised all the needed funds.

Now a new roof is desperately needed, as are updates to heating systems, masonry,

and interior facilities. The cost of this work is estimated to be \$215,000, of which \$40,000 has already been raised. Now the remaining \$175,000 is urgently needed.

Grace Church is the "digital hub" of our growing Eastern Townships Regional Ministry, whose online presence now reaches over 250 people a week. More still, Grace Church is the oldest still-worshipping Christian congregation in Sutton, with a mission rooted in the town and community it serves.

In addition to Sunday worship, Grace Church engages in life-giving prison ministry and literacy support amongst inmates at the Cowansville federal penitentiary. The church is also involved in refugee sponsorship, addictions recovery, and so much more.

Grace Church is also a beautiful cultural oasis within the town of Sutton, hosting space for musical and theatrical events, recreational activities, and social gatherings.

Your support in this urgent capital project is crucial so that Grace Church can continue to be a meaningful part of Sutton's physical and cultural fabric, serving the needs of the community with love and grace — saving grace!

Donations can be sent to:
Grace Anglican Church
52 Rue Principale S
Sutton, Quebec J0E 2K0

Or www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/grace-anglican-church-sutton-quebec/

All donations are tax deductible. Thank you!

Deconsecration of St. Martin's House Church in Otterburn Park

ANDY O'DONNELL

The Rev Andrew O'Donnell is Incumbent of St Stephen's with St James Chambly.

St. Martin's was formed as a parish on April 28, 1958, originally worshipping in the Legion. Their new Church was dedicated January 19th, 1961. The congregation started to worship in the former rectory on June 25, 2011.

During the 2022 annual Vestry meeting, a motion was passed to request permission to sell their building. The Service of Thanksgiving & Deconsecration was held on November 1, 2023.

I would like to express my appreciation for the work and care of the past clergy, lay-readers, wardens, organists and members who supported this church and the community of Otterburn Park.



October 27, 2023. Ms. Laura Derry (left), President of the Legion in Otterburn received the WW1 memorial window from St. Martin's house church from the Rev. Andy O'Donnell (right). It will be added to their Legion's Memorial wall. Photo supplied.

Parish Happenings



Wassail & Sing-along Christ Church Beaurepaire

The Wassail at Christ Church Beaurepaire is a traditional community event for people of all ages. This year will feature a sing-along Hallelujah chorus from Handel's Messiah, in collaboration with All Saints by the Lake! Bring along your family and friends.

Free admission - all donations go to Christ Church's Christmas Basket Program for needy families. If you would like to join in the chorus there will be a short rehearsal at 6:30 (music will be available or download the score). Otherwise, just come and sing!

There will be a list of well-known songs to request and we will sing them together!
Friday, December 1st, 7 pm
at Christ Church Beaurepaire, 455 Church St, Beaconsfield (accessible by bus 211)
www.christchurchbeaurepaire.ca



Peter Lekx named Family Ministry Intern at Christ Church Beaurepaire

In September Peter Lekx, a graduate of Montreal Diocesan Theological College and a candidate for ordination, began working as Family Ministry Intern at Christ Church Beaurepaire, with a broader mandate of developing and supporting family ministry in the West Island (the Deanery of Pointe-Claire and St. Anne).

Peter is pictured here (centre) with his wife Rebecca, their three children - Pippa, Thomas, and Jonathan - and the Rev. Joel Amis, Incumbent of Christ Church Beaurepaire (right). Photo supplied.

St. Lawrence Anglican Church presents
Église Anglicane Saint-Lawrence présente

Holiday Crafts & Bake Sale
Vente d'artisanat et de pâtisseries de Noël

Saturday 2 December 2023
samedi 2 décembre

520 -75^e Avenue LaSalle, Qué H8R 2P5
Starting at 1:00PM À partir de 13h00

We are offering an assortment of crafts and baked goods to start the holiday season!
Nous offrons un assortiment d'artisanat et de produits de boulangerie pour commencer la saison des fêtes!

For more information, please contact the church:
Pour plus d'informations, veuillez contacter l'église:
Tél: 514-366-4652
Email: stlawrence520@gmail.com

Come and join us!
Venez nous rejoindre!

Carols & Cocoa coast to coast

Saturday December 9th
4pm-5pm EST via Google Meet

Join the Crosstalk Ministries Day Camps Community for our fourth annual Carols & Cocoa, an hour of video presentations, sing-along carols, instrumental pieces and readings, all brought to you by performers from across Canada and beyond.



Free of charge, with suggested donation of 10\$ by e-transfer to: donations@crosstalkministries.ca or via the PayPal Giving Fund <http://www.crosstalkministries.ca>.

Soirée écuménique de
Chants et Prières
Ecumenical Service of
Lessons and Carols

Dimanche Le 10 DÉCEMBRE À 19H
Sunday DECEMBER 10 AT 7PM

Église All Saints Church
248 18e Avenue, Deux-Montagnes
info: 450-473-9541 [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/agsaints)

Au profit d'AGAPÉ | All Proceeds for AGAPÉ

Cette lumière était la véritable lumière, qui, en venant dans le monde, éclaire tout homme. Jean 1:9
The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world, John 1:9

Tickets for \$20

TEAS THE SEASON

Join us for a
Christmas Tea.

Saturday December 9th, 2023
1:00pm - 3:00pm
19 Maple Street- Stanbridge East QC
St. James the Apostle Anglican Church

Christmas at the Mile End Community Mission

The Mile End Community Mission is calling upon your generosity to help make Christmas a time of greater joy for the individuals, families and children who suffer the daily effects of poverty in our area.

With your help, we hope to:
prepare 200 Christmas baskets
fill 60 Christmas stockings with personal items for our vulnerable adults
purchase gifts of warm clothing
serve a traditional Christmas dinner

To help deliver Christmas baskets or make a food donation, contact us at:
(514) 274-3401 or
general@mileendmission.org

Monetary donations can be made through CanadaHelps or via an E-transfer: <https://www.mileendmission.org/donate/#form>

Your friends at the Mile End Mission wish you a wonderful Christmas holiday!

The Post-Everything Church: The Model that isn't a Model continued from page 1

one community gave space for the new.

Why the name? Because Cumberland is an idyllic, idiosyncratic community on Vancouver Island over looking the Pacific Ocean which prided itself on its weirdness. Increasing gentrification was erasing that character, to the extent that a local campaign emerged to "Keep Cumberland Weird!"

The name of the Church then keyed into an important value for that community. This is key to Ingrid's focus: deeply local and locally connected. It is progressive, artsy with an emphasis on the beautiful environment in which Cumberland is located. It is not a model and it is not even a method of any kind. Ingrid read the local community and took an initiative. But what she does in that place would not work in another place. Which leads me across the country to Hamilton.

2. Kevin Makins: *Eucharist Church Hamilton*

Kevin founded Eucharist Church in 2010 and has written a book about it: *Why Would Anyone Go to Church?* As he works through the story of his church he answers his question: **because it matters.**

You might think that with a name like that, Eucharist Church is firmly Anglican. Far from it! Kevin grew up in the Lutheran church before moving into evangelical circles.

He was drawn to create a church in downtown Hamilton. This is an area of great deprivation but the more they put



Kevin Makins

down roots in the community, the more diverse and eclectic they realized it was. This gave their church its character. Their first location was in a disused factory space, and they met on Sunday afternoons because everyone wanted to sleep in.

They called their church "Eucharist" because they wanted to use the meal imagery and convey a sense of a diverse group of individuals, gathered around a table with room for everyone. For him, the ancientness of the name juxtaposed nicely with the hipster space they rented: a re-claimed factory space.

A telling part of their story occurred later in their development as a community, when they rented space from an historically significant, but dwindling mainline church – that shall go nameless!

Every Sunday they had to upack and re-pack everything they needed to create their space but it became increasingly clear that the existing congregation didn't like having them in their building. One

Sunday when they arrived to set-up and there were yellow sticky notes all over the building. They were absolutely everywhere. They found a note which said: "EVERY YELLOW STICKY NOTE IS A SCRATCH THAT YOU PEOPLE PUT IN THIS BUILDING."

Shortly thereafter, their lease was abruptly terminated. It is tragic that a dwindling church would rather dwindle than make space for a new congregation. The lesson is that we cannot put new wine into old wineskins. There sometimes needs to be death before resurrection.

Eucharist Church, though coming from an evangelicalistic background, is also deeply progressive and affirming. This comes from their name and vision of everyone gathered around a table with room for more.

3. Jacqueline Daley: *St Margaret, New Toronto*

Jacqueline came and led our recent clergy conference and talked about the impact the pandemic had upon their ministry. Before she came the parish was slowly dying, and she only went to be an interim priest. This turned into a permanent position.

The pandemic may have shut down worship services, but it did not shutter St Margaret's. Instead, it accelerated the development of their community engagement and placed this work firmly to the forefront of the Church.

They were able to open as a

place where the food insecure could go. That work drew the financial support of charitable organisations. The church demonstrated its relevance by meeting local needs.

A key part of the work they do is Jacqueline's own listening. She listens to people, listens to other organisations. She listens to people walking in the park or sitting next to her at community meals. The fruit of this is to attune their ministries to the needs expressed.

For example, when listening to parents in the local park she learned where the gaps were in the local summer camp offerings. These camps are essential to parents who work full time. So, she scheduled their Bible camp to fill that gap. This may be a small example, but it makes a big difference to the vitality of their programmes. They are not guessing and hoping for the best. They listen and plan.

St Margaret's is now a community hub. Food is central and their ministries attract much support. During COVID a group of local charities gathered to coordinate their collective work. They invited Jacqueline which means the church is at that table. The church can show that it is relevant and worth supporting by actively engaging with the needs of the local community. (A picture of Rev Daley is on page 4.)

What can we learn from each of these stories?

The big lesson I take away is that there is no single model that ensures a vibrant

church. Each of these leaders has been deeply implicated into the communities in which they are placed and go from there. Which means that each church is wildly different in its character. Being in the community, being truly incarnational in the community is the starting point. Everything else flows from there.

Second, liturgy follows the mission. Instead of coming with a ready-made liturgical expression, community connection comes first and then liturgy and worship are formed. This brings a new kind of freedom to the worshipping life of the church which we may find surprising.

As an ex-evangelical, Kevin has been discovering Anglican liturgical resources and in particular the *Book of Common Prayer*. They are finding much depth and spiritual vitality in resources we may take for granted.

Yet they use them in flexible ways which we would do well to pay attention to. For Jacqueline, the mission to the community drives the vitality of the church and financial resources come to support that work. The Sunday morning is not the most important time of week

Finally, the pandemic seems to have served as the final nail in the coffin in some of the ways we have operated our churches. There are communities that never re-opened after restrictions were lifted. But other churches, like St Margaret New Toronto, found a whole new vitality through the pandemic.