

Parish Profile

of the

Church of St John the Baptist, Pointe-Claire



The congregation of the Church of St John the Baptist gathers for worship, Sunday, 30 April 2023

<https://nexthome.ca/news/top-9-reasons-to-live-in-pointe-claire/47987/>

www.churchsjb.org



Extracts from the Bishop's Message Montreal Anglican June 2023



...Acts 2:42 says "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." We hear that line whenever we repeat the promises at Baptisms or Confirmations. What do you suppose that looked like in the lives of those converts? I wonder what that means to you? What does it mean as we help nourish new believers? How do we stay fresh in our own faith?

...Many of our churches found ways to thrive in the pandemic, and have learned how to reach out beyond themselves and their comfort zones. We are becoming more diverse linguistically and culturally. We are doing good work caring for our neighbours, who are God's beloved friends. I am excited about what God is up to! I believe that we are becoming something new.

+Mary

Call for Applications

The Bishop of Montreal invites applications for the full-time position of Incumbent of the Church of St John the Baptist, Pointe-Claire.

The bishop is looking to appoint a priest who will both serve and lead the parishioners of the Church of St John the Baptist, Pointe-Claire in their efforts to organize for its future. In the profile that is outlined in the following pages are detailed stimulating challenges and exciting opportunities for the right candidate. As a priest of the Diocese of Montreal, in addition to your parish duties you will be expected to support your colleagues in ministry and share in the wider work of the Diocese. As such, attendance would be expected at inductions, ordinations, meetings of the deanery clericus, Synod, and clergy conferences and participation in continuing education and information days would have to be considered as a priority. From time to time you would also be called upon to take part in committee work outside the parish. Your example should help inspire the laity in your parish to also share in the life of the broader church.

If selected, you are encouraged to seek opportunities for ecumenical collaboration and for building mutual understanding and respect among religious institutions within your parish. You should make yourself known to other community leaders and to cooperate with them and others who work for the common good in the surrounding area.

With a letter of permission from their bishop, interested applicants may submit their curriculum vitae with covering letter, outlining why they feel called to this parish, to the Bishop of the Diocese of Montreal by mail or email:

The Rt Rev Mary Irwin-Gibson
1444 Union Ave, Montreal, (QC) H3A 2B8
bishops.office@montreal.anglican.ca
(514) 843-6577

Closing date for applications: Applications will be considered by the Bishop's Office until **September 1, 2023**.



The Parishioners of the Church of St John the Baptist form a Christian community called to serve, follow and worship God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. By God's grace we strive to follow the example of Christ in our love for God and for our neighbours. We proclaim the gospel through worship and prayer, and also by using our gifts to serve others. We recognize we must build our presence in the community much as our predecessors did when, with missionary drive, they established the Church of St John the Baptist here one hundred years ago.

We are in need of an energetic, mission-oriented priest to rally us and guide us and help us organize the sustained effort necessary to reach out to our neighbours and to local community groups that we

might help fill their needs and, realizing our importance to them and the importance of welcoming Jesus Christ into their lives, they might help us with ours. Although we function in the English language and the community itself is bilingual, some knowledge of French is necessary in order to successfully interact with the larger community. Music features strongly in our Sunday services and our incumbent should work with our organist/choirmaster and lay readers, who comprise the **Worship Committee**, to plan services that successfully incorporate music, the readings and a strong, concise sermon into a meaningful whole that Sunday by Sunday renews our faith, our determination to build and, it is to be hoped, could stimulate a good many conversations during coffee hour.

Our church is located at 233 Ste-Claire Ave in the West Island of Montreal suburb of Pointe-Claire. Parishioners are drawn from the surrounding and largely English-speaking, mostly middle-class community comprised of increasingly diverse ethnicities. West Island households feature a mix of single-family homes, senior's residences, townhouses, and condo/apartment buildings. With its quick access to highways 20 and 40, together with mass transit (bus, rail, light rail) networks, Pointe-Claire is five minutes away from Montreal's international airport and 20 minutes from downtown.

The City of Pointe-Claire boasts a public library and soccer, tennis, curling, lawn bowling, hockey, figure skating, aquatic, ringette and baseball associations - all using modern facilities, including three artificial turf fields, an Olympic-size pool, two hockey rinks and a fully equipped gym complex (former YMCA). The city is also home to the Beaconsfield Golf Club and the Pointe-Claire Yacht Club. In the community there are three French-language public elementary schools, two English-language elementary schools, one French high school and two English high schools together with three shopping districts and a regional mall. Several schools of the arts are nearby as well such as Ballet Ouest and the Pointe-Claire Conservatory of Music.

In 1911, a group of Anglican lay people decided to establish a new church in Pointe Claire and, in 1912 construction of the mission church of St John the Baptist was begun on donated farm land. One hundred years ago, in 1923, the new congregation became the Parish Church of St John the Baptist. In 1992 an electrical fire destroyed the chapel and most of the main structure. Three years later the first service was held in the newly re-built Church of Saint John the Baptist. This modern, accessible facility follows much the same plan as its predecessor, with both chapel and main nave. The other public spaces include a kitchen, a meeting room, a church hall with stage, and basement classrooms that accommodate a private daycare. There is also a two-bedroom apartment above the kitchen and hallway which is currently home to a verger couple who, in return, provide basic caretaking and security services. This St John the Baptist's Day (Saturday, 24 June 2023), marks our official centenary and an important celebration is planned on that day (which is also Québec's Fête nationale holiday) and the Sunday which follows.





Organist/Choirmaster Olivier Lavoie-Gagné



St John the Baptist Choir

We have traditionally offered two Sunday services, one at 08:00 am and the other at 10:00 am. As worshippers arrive for the 10:00 am service they are met at the door by a member of our team of greeters and then given a second welcome by one of our sides people who also offer them a program as they walk into the nave. We have a regular coffee half-hour following the 10:00 o'clock service. During the interregnum period we are conducting one 9:30 am Sunday service. In the past, we provided a Sunday Church School and creche. This was interrupted by the pandemic but we plan to offer both once more, starting the fall of 2023. To encourage the full participation of young families in our worship services and to provide an additional opportunity for the congregation to meet at table and enjoy each other's company, in the past we have organized a successful monthly family service which was followed by a light lunch.

Our church organist, playing either the Casavant pipe organ in the nave or the tracker organ in the chapel, leads our Choir in the much-loved musical elements of our worship. Our lay reader and honorary assistant assist in the weekly 10:00 AM services and deliver the sermon several times over the course of the year.



Christmas Bazaar

The Women's Guild supports the church's needs by organizing several events such as the Christmas Bazaar, rummage/garage, plant, book, bake, and craft sales. **The Mission Team** responds with outreach needs to various non-profit organizations as well as the Christmas collection of non-perishable food items and gifts collected at the White Gift Service. **The Altar Guild** members ensure the preparation of the Church for Services and special occasions for worship are provided and attended to. Various outside groups rent the facility for activities, social, and physical, which help the Church with financial support.

Sunday afternoons the church becomes home to a congregation of the Chinese Alliance Christian Church, for which they make an important financial contribution. Both our congregation and theirs understand that this relationship is to be reviewed periodically. A private daycare operates Monday to Friday, providing pre-school care for young children.

Just under 200 names appear on our parish list, including 127 families. We engage our incumbent minister full-time following the diocesan scale for pay and housing allowance. Stipend discussions will occur with the Bishop's Office. To assist the incumbent we employ a half-time administrative assistant, a part-time choirmaster/organist and a vergers couple (apartment accommodation in lieu of salary). For the past number of years, we have been fortunate to have the support of an honorary assistant. As mentioned earlier, we also boast an active Women's Guild, Alter Guild, Missions Team, and Worship Committee. In our 2014 Parish Profile it was reported that our worship service uniquely followed the Book of Common Prayer and the BCP service is an enduring component of our heritage as a Christian worship community. Since then, however, we have begun to work elements of the Book of Alternative Services into our worship form. This gentle

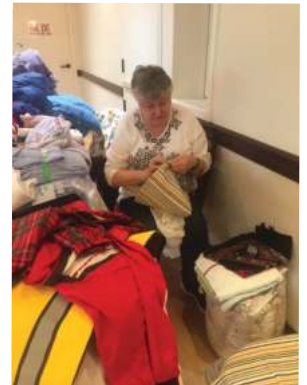


introduction to the BAS was cautiously received at first but there is general recognition now of the value in the liturgy's more contemporary language and flows. **The Missions Team** is very active knitting Memory Muffs freely given to Alzheimer's patients and made with donated materials. The story was featured in the Suburban weekly



newspaper and on Global TV News. Monetary donations as well as receipts from the sale of trellis yard necklaces are donated to Camp Amy Molson to send inner city children to summer camp. Another ongoing Missions project is the knitting of baby blankets for Project Linus whose goal it is to provide a security blanket to young children. The group has also taken over the delivery of towels, toiletries, etc. to St. Michael's Mission in downtown Montreal and non-perishables collected at the church are delivered to the On Rock Food Bank. A recent project is the creation of Fairy Doors to give a garden a little extra magic. Proceeds from these sales are earmarked for the Montreal charity, Dans La Rue.

In 2022 our year-end expenses came to \$245,000 against revenues of \$191,000. In the years prior to the pandemic our annual expenses had exceeded income by between five and seven percent. During the pandemic years, reduced expenses combined with government subsidy allowed us to balance the books. But there is no fat. Because the Church of Saint John the Baptist has an investment of \$500,000 in the Anglican Fund, a deficit budget, while of serious concern, is sustainable while we organize for the future - provided we organize for the future. We seek to find ways to seed a concerted effort to attract people and generate revenue such that our church will continue to provide a welcoming and inclusive centre for Christian worship, community life, and mission. We were once a program-oriented church. And we would like to be such again. With the right leadership, we are confident we can be.



Our mission is to follow God's path as laid out for us by our Saviour Jesus Christ and to invite others to accompany us on our journey in Christian fellowship. In order to achieve our mission we know we must:

Reach up in faith for the helping hand of God and for inspiration from our Lord Jesus Christ;

Reach inwards to prayerfully seek new ideas for building a secure future and the wisdom and strength to bring them to fruition; and

Reach out in love to each other and to our surrounding community that people might be drawn together in Christian fellowship and shared faith in Christ.

We feel we can best advance our mission with our focus on the social reality of Christian life. The breaking of bread has been central to Christian life and spirituality since the first Communion was freely shared by our Lord Jesus Christ at the Last Supper. We invite community connection and involvement such that our presence is known, our mission is understood and, by God's provision, our future is made secure and sustainable. Through building bridges between our congregation and the surrounding community it is our intention that the fellowship we ourselves enjoy will extend to our neighbours whose support we need. Our Sunday services are broadcast on Facebook Live. The Church of St John the Baptist Pointe-Claire and much Church news and information is accessible through the website at churchsjb.org. **Our church publication, The Messenger**, with its content of parish news, opinion, and shared stories, is a valuable means to encourage a sense of increased Christian fellowship within the parish and, potentially, the broader community. Past issues may be downloaded from our website. Continued emphasis on the contribution of music to our regular worship service, and especially to those services of particular importance in the Christian calendar, helps congregants express their worship of God and interpret the Christian message from the readings and the sermon. Our respect for tradition helps us maintain those bonds that keep us together, yet our awareness of the changing world around us helps us adjust to meet new challenges and to continue offering a welcoming spiritual home for both new parishioners and those of long-standing. We are and aim to remain a comfortable church, both for us already here and for others who may pass through our doors.

The tools are there for you to pick up and use.

We have the strength of our institutions that have lasted one hundred years through many trials, including periods of financial stress, and much transformative social change. We also have the willingness of the current generation to do what is necessary to rebuild. We have people. The neighbours living around our church largely self-identify as Christian, at least nominally, or adhere to Christian traditions and, like so many others in our secular society, are contributing members of no church at all. Yet they walk or drive by our church every day. Many participate in group activities and associations that meet regularly in our church or they send their children to the daycare that operates out of our church basement. They take comfort from our church's physical presence and yet have no sense that that comfortable presence may be at risk. We have access to capital - if you can help us put together a convincing plan that will invest and not consume the accumulated wealth of past generations. We have a church publication that can convey our news and our message beyond our congregants to the surrounding community. We are eager to support your ministry and to follow your inspirational leadership if you are up to the challenge of the mission we have outlined above. Are you? If yes then please apply.



Church sign as it appeared on Ste-Claire Street in front of the church during the unparalleled twenty-five year rectorship of the Reverend Canon James Allen which began in 1944.

Church of St John the Baptist Search Committee



Malcolm has been a member of St John the Baptist since 1976. He is head sidesperson and, with a background in finance, has served as auditor for many years. He was chairperson of the previous search committee. His wife taught Sunday School, served as Deputy, and People's Warden, Women's Guild member and chorister. They have two adult daughters.



Lynda has CSJB formed the Assistant

In addition, she served as currently an active member of

Jim and his wife Lucy have 20 years. His interest in the Parish Council meetings and on the previous Search Warden for several years, People's Warden, a post he the Missions Team.



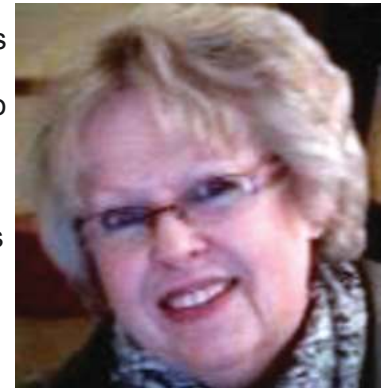
been a parishioner at since 1988. She per- functions of Administrative from 2000 through 2019.

Treasurer for approximately 10 years and is both the Altar and the Women's Guild.

been members of the Church for approximately church community led him to regularly attend eventually he became its chairman. He served Committee. His next role was as a Deputy before Vestry elected him in 2019 to be continues in to this day. Lucy is a member of



Brent is chairman of the search committee. He has been a member of the church since 1994 and previously served as Rector's Warden from 2008 to 2017 and is currently editor of The Messenger, the digital parish newspaper. He and his wife Christiane, who has served as church Treasurer, have two adult children. Brent operates a small business and, first elected in 2017, is serving his second term on Pointe-Claire City Council.



Angela is a lay reader for the Anglican Diocese of Montreal, and is happy to be serving at CSJB.

Charles and his family have recently joined themselves in church school organization, after service coffee hour.

Lucie is a high school teacher. Along with CSJB in 2018. Geert was in his process of priest in 2020 and is our Honorary Assistant and are blessed with four grand- daughters. choir and is a member of not for profit handicapped people, support their families



our congregation, quickly involving the choir, and the preparation of our

her husband Geert, she joined the discernment prior to his ordination as Curate. The couple have five children Lucie enjoys singing in the church organizations dedicated to serve and advocate for their rights.



Lyn joined CSJB in immigrant she found here. Lyn has taught been president of the Elizabeth Group, a branch of our Women's Guild. She is a member of the Altar Guild and Sidespersons' Team. Along with many others, Lyn volunteers for work in the church gardens and is currently the Incumbent's Warden.

1980. As an much fellow-ship Sunday School, now defunct St



**Can you match these faces
With their proper bio-spaces?**

STATISTICS – 2022 To 2018

	2022	2021 **	2020. *	2019	2018
PARISH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS	195	175	149	174	169
IDENTIFIED GIVERS	125	98	119	149	115
AVG. SUNDAY ATTENDANCE SERVICES AT 8 & 10 AM	59	42	63	63	67
COMMITTED GIVER OFFERING	112,737	84,989	85,581	90,208	
OTHER OFFERINGS	14,602	5,971	2,294	15,738	
RENTAL INCOME	28,461	22,007	20,520	50,389	
INVESTMENT INCOME	19,995	21,638	19,609	21,077	
TOTAL INCOME – BUDGET	143,345	142,945	198,700	174,200	183,140
ACTUAL	191,318	153,137	150,944	191,604	170,712
TOTAL EXPENSES – BUDGET	191,080	164,539	205,465	191,637	197,947
ACTUAL ****	245,140	129,597	141,851	176,634	183,504

NOTES:

- * NO SERVICES FROM MARCH 15, 2020 TO OCTOBER 4, 2020, INCLUSIVE
SERVICES IN PERSON & ON LINE OCTOBER 11, 2020 TO DECEMBER 27, 2020, INCLUSIVE.
- ** ON LINE SERVICES ONLY FROM JANUARY 10, 2021 TO MARCH 21, 2021, INCLUSIVE
IN PERSON & ON LINE SERVICES FROM MARCH 28, 2021 TO DECEMBER 31, 2021, INCLUSIVE
- *** PENDING PROJECTS TO REPLACE THE HVAC SYSTEM AND TO REPAIR PARTS OF THE
ROOF WILL REQUIRE APPROXIMATELY \$200,000 CAPITAL INVESTMENT
- **** MOST OF THE 2022 DEFICIT CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO UNFORECASTED EXPENSES
ASSOCIATED WITH THE REMOVAL OF DEAD ASH TEES AND ROOF REPAIRS

