‘A time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance’

Ecclesiastes 3:4
Three ‘partners’ to enrich October synod

For a third time since the Diocese of Montreal began enriching its annual synod every third year with special educational attractions in addition to the usual business, a “conference” synod will take place Thursday to Saturday, Oct. 18 to 20. All are invited – not just voting delegates to the business sessions. The “conference” sessions, on the Thursday and Friday, will be on the theme of partnerships. Three special guests will include the bishops of a diocese and near-diocese – one in Africa, the other in the British Columbia Interior – with which the Diocese of Montreal has special partnerships, as well as a top official of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, a partner of the Anglican Church of Canada in a full communion that has now existed for 11 years. Everyone, delegate or not, is also required to register. Registration forms are now available on the synod website and at the office. The registration deadline is Sept. 15. The $35 fee is payable with registration or at the door.

The spacious Shatford Hall in the downtown Church of St. James the Apostle has been selected to accommodate what is hoped to be a good turnout of non-delegates, but if need be, registrations from non-delegates will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. Arrangements are being made for child care and for participation in small-group discussions in French. Those who want to avail themselves of either of these are asked to indicate this on the registration forms.

Three ‘partners’ to enrich October synod

The Montreal Anglican accepts display advertising. Rates are available on request.

Bishop Barry’s Calendar

SEPT (subject to change without prior notice)
1 Preaching at two marriages at St. Georges Place du Canada
6 Ministry Action Plan meeting at the Chapel
8 Stewardship Café at St. Barnabas Anglican Church
11 Episcopal Council meeting and Diocesan Council meeting
15 Volunteer Appreciation Day, Celebrating Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral
19 Provincial House of Bishops meeting
20-23 Provincial Synod
23-25 Clergy Conference
30 Preaching at two marriages

Making a World of Difference Walking Together into the Future
MONTREAL CONFERENCE SYNOD 2012
St James the Apostle Church 1439 St Catherine St. W. Montreal
Oct 18 pm, Oct 19 all day, Oct 20 am.
Come Listen Share
Come and worship with friends.
Listen to our partners:
Bishop Barbara Andrews, Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior, BC.
Bishop Patrick Mwachiko, Diocese of Masasi, Southern Tanzania.

The Rev. Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

Share our thoughts and experiences in carrying out God’s Mission in our churches, in our communities and in the wider world
All are welcome.

The Diocese of Montreal
Stewardship Council

presents

A day of
SHARING, LEARNING & SKILL-BUILDING
Saturday, Sept. 8 2012
9:00 am to 4:00 p.m., St. Barnabas Anglican Church
13601 rue Colmier, Pierrefonds QC

2 is great — 4 is better
$10.00 per person OR bring a group 4 or more for $40.00
Registration: email nhronjak@montreal.anglican.ca or call (514) 843-6577

The Montreal Anglican accepts display advertising. Rates are available on request.
Send subscription changes to: Anglican Journal, 80 Hayden Street, Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2

Anglican Journal & Montreal Anglican $10.00 per year

A section of Anglican Journal
Legal deposit: National Library of Quebec, National Library of Canada
Journals on microfilm at University of Toronto, North York, ON

The Montreal Anglican is an official, editorially autonomous newspaper of the Diocese of Montreal.
Deadline for October 2012 issue: September 5th

Editor: Harvey Shepherd

Editorial Assistant: Peter Denis – Circulation: Ardyth Robinson
Secretarial Assistant: Helen Wiegand – Production: Studio Melrose
Editorial Office: 1444 Union Avenue, Montreal, PQ H3A 2B8
Phone: 514 843-6577 – Fax: 514 843-6344
E-mail: editor@montreal.anglican.ca

Published monthly except July and August
The Montreal Anglican accepts display advertising. Rates are available on request.

Deadline for October 2012 issue: September 5th
Cela me fait peur que je compren des si peu le souffle

Paul Kennington

(Vinci l’homme français, prononcé en ce langage d’un autre temps, par le très réverend Paul Kennington, doyen de la cathédrale Christ Church, à la célébration à la cathédrale des ordinations de Donald Boisvert au diaconat et de Robert Camara et Rhonda Waters au presbytère le 3 juin.)

Nicodème, le pharisien, n’était pas bête! Il cherchait sincèrement la vérité, il avait l’esprit humble, assez humble pour aller voir un certain rabin en dehors de la religion établie, un rabbin qui avait dénoncé la loi, les prophètes, les traditions qui étaient chères à son cœur. Il est allé voir un rabin, un Christ, un pharisien, les pharisiens comme Nicodème, de hypocrites, de serpents, de rivaux, de tombeaux. Oui, Nicodème était un homme courageux, un homme qui est venu à Jésus pour comprendre, pour changer...

Moï aussi, j’ai eu beaucoup à apprendre. Il y a 20 ans, quand j’étais vicaire dans une paroisse à Choford, j’avais peur de l’ordination des femmes – la peur peut-être que j’aurais peur de l’église catholique, peut-être parce que j’avais peur que l’église catholique ne nous considère plus être une vraie église, je ne sais pas – mais l’esprit le saint esprit de Dieu, souffle où il veut, et la prédication des femmes dans l’église anglaise m’a libéré, moi, un homme, pour vivre vers l’avenir sans avoir ni crainte du passé, ni besoin de l’approbation des autres.

Mais l’ordination des femmes n’est qu’une évolution dans l’église anglaise, parmi bien d’autres – le mariage de ceux et de celles qui sont divorcés, par exemple, et peut-être, un jour, le mariage des homosexuels dans nos églises, et dans l’avenir, qui sait encore? Il y aura des choses que je ne veux, sans doute, il y aura des choses que je ne veux pas. Mais le peuple catholique a le droit de comprendre – même?

Selon des recherches récentes en sciences sociales, les gens ne cherchent pas le baptême, les sacrements, la communauté en cet ordre là, ils cherchent plutôt la vie communautaire d’autre, la grâce des sacrements ensuite, et le baptême après tout ça – ils cherchent plutôt la vie communautaire d’autre, et les marques de l’église apportées à côté. Comme Église anglicane à travers le monde se démarque avec les détails de la législation de l’accord anglican, les gens ont soif de l’esprit qui souffle, ou il veut – eux aussi, ils veulent renaitre, être né à nouveau.

Mais qu’est-ce qu’on peut faire, nous? L’église? Comment vivre cette église, sans souffrir à s’émouvoir de la sée, sans s’arrêter à rior pour quelque maine et folie de notre age? Comment sauvegarder la vérité? Malheureusement en posant cette question là, je pense que nous ne posons que la même question que posait Nicodème – « Comment un homme peut-il naître une fois vieux. … est-ce à dire? … Comment peut-il se réaliser? »

Jésus lui-même a dit: « Ce n’est pas moi qui ai créé mais Dieu. » Il est vrai que pour moi, vingt ans après l’ordination de Donald Boisvert, je crois que pour moi, en ce moment, je ne suis pas bien loin. … c’est-à-dire que je me sens plus que jamais fusionné à l’église catholique, de la même manière de l’intérieur, de la même manière de l’extérieure. »

Je crois que nous sommes amoureux de l’église catholique, de la même manière de l’intérieur, de la même manière de l’extérieure. »

Cela me fait peur que je compren des si peu le souffle...
The Spirit is blowing...

continued from the previous page

Robert, like all your clergy, will be seen not in disguise, but in broad daylight – and representing not just God, or Jesus, or the Spirit, but the Church with all its history. They oppress and continue to oppress. My friends, I ask you to pray for them. In fact, pray constantly for all your clergy who wear that label "Christian" so visibly, so bravely, on this road. So they are once more led by the streets. Nicodemus came to Jesus by night. I'll bet he did! We clergy don't have to do that. As a pious curate in Oxford in the 1890s I feared the ordination of women for the priesthood. With hindsight, I realize that I felt insecure as an Anglican and as an Anglo-Catholic, so seriously longed to be accepted by the Roman Church, the real Church. But, you see, the Spirit blew, where we stood and the Spirit knew best. The ordination of women to holy orders has not only been one of the greatest blessings for the Catholic Church, in my youth, but also because it still has a great deal to offer. But I am gay, and I have more and more determination and Vate faith in God teachings on human sexuality, including its position on women and their role in Church life. More broadly, however, the Catholic Church remains a deeply enigmatic institution, particularly with an authoritarian and rigid governing structure.

"The Anglican Church, ours a breath of fresh air by comparison. It doesn't bother me that there were debates about homosexuality within the Communion; I find this both refreshing and necessary. Nor am I surprised by women-celebrating at the altar. That strikes me as a very natural and quite necessary thing, too, and I am reaffirming in my faith by it..."

A biological note on the Concordia University website notes that Dr. Boisvert has been teaching in the department of religion since 2003. "Previously, he occupied a variety of academic administrative positions at Concordia, most notably as dean of students. From 2000 to 2007, he was co-chair of the Gay Men's Issues in Religion Group of the American Academy of Religion. From 2000 to 2009, he also served as a guide and board member of the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Cen- tre and Museum. He currently sits on the editorial board of the online Journal of Men, Masculinities and Spirituality.

The website adds, "Dr. Boisvert's current research interests and activities are focused on two broad themes: the construction of sexual pedagogies within religious communi- ties, and masculinity and same-sex desire. He is working on a collection of essays which examines the ways in which the Roman Catholic Church has used adolescent saints as a privileged means of elaborating a sexual pedagogy for Catholic young people. Parallel with this, he is look- ing at religious cultures of child- hood, particularly as these relate to incidents of abuse. A second area of research is concerned with furthering explo- rations of issues of same-sex desire, more specifically how historically institutionalized fear and hatred have been used to maintain 'righteous community' and to maintain the fear we feel and the Spirit which blows are always with us, and always with them. Our Community, our Catholic, baptism, lay presidency, things I support, things I never want to see - the future will bring things. I am sure, that I have not imagined. Like Nicodemus, I – a teacher in the New Israel. I have no idea what is staring me in the face.

But then, why should I, or you, understand what it could be better than he was. Nicodemus sat face to face with the Master Teacher and even then, did not understand. Do we really think that Calvin, Luther, Aquinas, Cranmer, Barth, our teachers, our professors, our priests and theologians – even we ourselves – are better theologians and teachers than we are?

Or might we be missing the point? Let's be honest: Somehow Nicodemus never really asked Jesus one question and Jesus goes off on a totally different answer. He wants to know how Jesus does the signs – how Jesus is a rabbi sent by God – and Jesus tells him to be born again again. "The wind blows where it chooses, you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

Poor Nicodemus – he probably wants Bible verses and Talmud teaching, explanations of why things are as they are; above all why things are true. But the Spirit blows..."
It’s about relationships, says new diocesan youth consultant
‘We find ourselves in a place we have not been before’

New youth specialist has a message of hope

Mark Dunwoody

Mark Dunwoody recently arrived from Ireland to take up his duties as youth consultant for the Montreal Diocese. “Bonjour/Hi”

He said he remains convinced the importance of these two words as I go moving forward in the context of our parish. The same two arguments come up in every country I have worked in, and they are “we have no money” and “we have no leaders.” I have never accepted these arguments as folk spend their time and money on what they believe in. The challenge is for us not to do more programs, but rather to look at ways where we can build relationship ships that enable a progression of trust with those individuals, families and communities we are called to serve. It is from this place that people will “value” Church and allow us to come alongside them in their faith journeys.

It is truly very special when a parish creates: a safe space for young people to grow as individuals: a supportive and affirming environment where youth workers can reflect on their practice. Parents are empowered with the latest knowledge and skills that help them navigate through the many issues that affect their children and priests are given the support, encouragement and resources they need to provide a relevant ministry to young people. When all these things come together, yes it is great!

In conclusion, I want to thank you for offering me this opportunity to work here. Over the past few weeks, I have seen some fantastic youth ministry going on in this diocese, from the Youth Ambassadors to various day camps. Let’s all move forward in a spirit of imagining what we can do!

I can assure you that I am here to “serve” anyone who wants the needs of young people. Please keep me and all those who seek to serve our young people in your prayers.

Harvey Shepherd

Hope was the keynote of Mark Dunwoody, the new youth ministry consultant on the staff of the Dio cese of Montreal, at the lectern of the annual bishop’s fundraising dinner June 13. “Please join me as we seek to be dealers of hope in our various ministries,” said Mr. Dunwoody, recently arrived from Ireland, where he had been youth officer for the Dio cese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross in the Republic of Ireland for six years as the latest stage in a diverse interna tional career.

He said he remains convinced the church can make a difference, espe cially on the margins of society.

“God can work in all circum stances and I have no greater joy than when I can look into someone’s eyes and see hope.”

“When we engage in a journey to serve others, we often think we are going to make a difference in their lives, but the biggest difference often happens in our own life.”

He hopes the church in Montreal will be able to create a forum where youth can express themselves.

“A lot of young ministry, like a lot of any ministry, is just listening.”

He and Executive Archdeacon Janet Griffen later told the Diocesan Council that they are working to set up the framework for a new Youth Council of people, youth and others, “with an interest in and passion for youth ministry” from across the dio cese.

Fees from over 100 at the dinner, sponsorships and other revenue totalled $28,000, of which a net $15,000 is going to support the mis sions of the diocese.

We now have young people and families who want to do their own thing, their own way. Some research I did a few years ago revealed that while most young people (in South West Ireland) had a faith, they did not belong to a church as a prerequisite for living out their faith. This offers huge dilemmas as we try to minister in the context of our local parishes.

Over the past couple of months, I have had many opportunities to risk opening a dialogue of hope. This has enabled me to have conversations with priests and parishioners who have a heart, a desire to engage with young people and their families. I have taken much encouragement from these conversations and the spirit of humility and generosity of everyone I have met thus far.

It is not going to be an easy task going forward to engage young peo ple in our church. We all have lots of work to do. You will quickly realize that my heart is for helping parishes connect with the young people in their local context. Thus, a lot of my time will be spent travelling across the diocese encouraging, advising, researching and equipping our parishes to take steps forward in this vital ministry. It may seem daunting, but as a diocese if we take seriously our mission to young people we will progress!

The same two arguments come up in every country I have worked in, and they are “we have no money” and “we have no leaders.” I never accepted these arguments as folk spend their time and money on what they believe in. The challenge is for us not to do more programs, but rather to look at ways where we can build relationship ships that enable a progression of trust with those individuals, families and communities we are called to serve. It is from this place that people will “value” Church and allow us to come alongside them in their faith journeys.

It is truly very special when a parish creates: a safe space for young people to grow as individuals: a supportive and affirming environment where youth workers can reflect on their practice. Parents are empowered with the latest knowledge and skills that help them navigate through the many issues that affect their children and priests are given the support, encouragement and resources they need to provide a relevant ministry to young people. When all these things come together, yes it is great!

In conclusion, I want to thank you for offering me this opportunity to work here. Over the past few weeks, I have seen some fantastic youth ministry going on in this diocese, from the Youth Ambassadors to various day camps. Let’s all move forward in a spirit of imagining what we can do!

I can assure you that I am here to “serve” anyone who wants the needs of young people. Please keep me and all those who seek to serve our young people in your prayers.

Harvey Shepherd

“Bonjour/Hi”

He said he remains convinced the importance of these two words as I go moving forward in the context of our parish. The same two arguments come up in every country I have worked in, and they are “we have no money” and “we have no leaders.” I have never accepted these arguments as folk spend their time and money on what they believe in. The challenge is for us not to do more programs, but rather to look at ways where we can build relationship ships that enable a progression of trust with those individuals, families and communities we are called to serve. It is from this place that people will “value” Church and allow us to come alongside them in their faith journeys.

It is truly very special when a parish creates: a safe space for young people to grow as individuals: a supportive and affirming environment where youth workers can reflect on their practice. Parents are empowered with the latest knowledge and skills that help them navigate through the many issues that affect their children and priests are given the support, encouragement and resources they need to provide a relevant ministry to young people. When all these things come together, yes it is great!

In conclusion, I want to thank you for offering me this opportunity to work here. Over the past few weeks, I have seen some fantastic youth ministry going on in this diocese, from the Youth Ambassadors to various day camps. Let’s all move forward in a spirit of imagining what we can do!

I can assure you that I am here to “serve” anyone who wants the needs of young people. Please keep me and all those who seek to serve our young people in your prayers.

Harvey Shepherd

Mark Dunwoody

Mark Dunwoody is arrived from the Republic of Ireland to take up his duties as youth ministry consultant, checks out some of the Montreal kitchen with Kisha Joseph (in black) co-ordinator of the diocesan Youth Ambassadors Program, and two of the ambassadors.

Two Diocesan Activists, Penny Noon and Ann Cumyn, share a few thoughts with the new youth consultant.

New youth specialist has a message of hope

Mark Dunwoody

Mark Dunwoody is arrived from the Republic of Ireland to take up his duties as youth ministry consultant, checks out some of the Montreal kitchen with Kisha Joseph (in black) co-ordinator of the diocesan Youth Ambassadors Program, and two of the ambassadors.

Two Diocesan Activists, Penny Noon and Ann Cumyn, share a few thoughts with the new youth consultant.

New youth specialist has a message of hope

Mark Dunwoody

Mark Dunwoody is arrived from the Republic of Ireland to take up his duties as youth ministry consultant, checks out some of the Montreal kitchen with Kisha Joseph (in black) co-ordinator of the diocesan Youth Ambassadors Program, and two of the ambassadors.

Two Diocesan Activists, Penny Noon and Ann Cumyn, share a few thoughts with the new youth consultant.

New youth specialist has a message of hope

Mark Dunwoody

Mark Dunwoody is arrived from the Republic of Ireland to take up his duties as youth ministry consultant, checks out some of the Montreal kitchen with Kisha Joseph (in black) co-ordinator of the diocesan Youth Ambassadors Program, and two of the ambassadors.

Two Diocesan Activists, Penny Noon and Ann Cumyn, share a few thoughts with the new youth consultant.
The Council on Aging (Anglican) Diocese of Montreal

Invites you to

BEFORE YOU FORGET:
A conference on Alzheimer’s Disease

Friday, November 23, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Featuring: 10:30 a.m. – noon
Teresa ANUZA, M.A., Cognitive Psychology, Coordinator, Educational Services Alzheimer's Society of Montreal (ASM), Topic: Talking about Alzheimer’s Disease: what it is and what you can do (presentation & discussion)

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Dr. Serge GAUTHER, McGill Professor, Director, Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders Center, McGill University, Topic: Update on the Treatment and Prevention of Alzheimer’s Disease (presentation; Q & A – question & answer session)

FULFORD Hall, Cathedral Place 1444 Union Ave., Montreal (Québec; McGill)

LUNCH included. Registration & coffee available: 10:20 a.m. Suggested donation to defray the costs of lunch: $10

For information & early registration: CONTACT: Mrs. Carol Hutton: 450-653-8768 candhhutton@hotmail.com

Staff

Such ubiquitous interactive Web-based and mobile techniques as email, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, blogging, texting, and cell phones offer wonderful opportunities, but also special chal-

lenges for clergy and church staff and volunteers.

Especially those working with youth.

That, at least, is the view of a di-

ocean human resources committee that published a set of ‘media guidelines’ in July.

Human relations co-ordinator on the diocesan staff, invited feedback.

The guidelines were developed after consulting documents from the United Church of Canada, the Epis-
copal Church of Canada, the Connecticut Conference of United Church of Christ and the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America.

“Above all,” the guidelines docu-

ment says, “remember:

• You are responsible for what you

say, whether online or offline.

• Adults have more power than children and youth, and this includes in online relationships.

• Clergy who want to connect via a social networking website with parishioners are strongly encour-

aged to set up a group account that all parishioners may join rather than use a ‘profile’ that may be available to the public.

• Clergy should not submit ‘friend’ requests to parishioners and in general should be cautious about making or responding to ‘friend’ requests.

• When a clergy assignment at a parish or other ministry setting ends, the cleric may need to con-

sider removing themselves from related groups.

• Electronic communications are appropriate for basic factual infor-

mation such as the time of an event or a text of a document but may not be appropriate for matters that are

pastorally or legally sensitive, emo-
tionally charged or require more
clear and private conversation and explanation.

• Clergy who want to connect with one’s

clergy are encouraged to set up a group account that all parishioners may join rather than use a ‘profile’ that may be available to the public.

• Clergy should not submit ‘friend’ requests to parishioners and in general should be cautious about making or responding to ‘friend’ requests.

• When a clergy assignment at a parish or other ministry setting ends, the cleric may need to con-

sider removing themselves from related groups.

News in brief

BISHOP SUFRAGAN Ogé Beauvoir of the Diocese of Haiti

Stewardship Café September 8

Stewardship will be examined from a number of angles at a “Stewardship Café and Workshops” for parish leaders gathering on September 8 at St. Barnabas Church in Pierrefonds. The event is being planned under the direction of the diocesan stew-

ardship committee, in consultation with the finance and human resources committees. “Work-

shops will address a number of issues of concern to every church and diocesan stewardship officer,” said Paul Scott, St. Hélène and St. Luc in the Rosemont area, said she is to remain at the parish “on contract part-time for a while” to give Rev. Roslyn “time to sort out the parish as we move into an uncertain future.”

She wrote that at the mission, “I have worked with a team of people who trust in my life and we all grow from one another, we share our hardships, our gladness, our fun – lots of fun. I still love the work and the people (understatement) and they will always be part of me, woven into my heart and soul. I am still at good work at the (that, too, is an understatement) and will miss it.”

However, she wrote, “The mission needs a full-time director. I am tired, I have had cancer and come back, and I want to write.”

The benefit dinner will be at the Auberge St. Gabriël on St. Gabriël St. at Old Montreal on Thursday, October 25. For details, see the announcement on page 11.

Clarence succeeds primate as dialogue co-chair

Stewardship Café September 8

Stewardship will be examined from a number of angles at a “Stewardship Café and Workshops” for parish leaders gathering on September 8 at St. Barnabas Church in Pierrefonds. The event is being planned under the direction of the diocesan stew-

ardship committee, in consultation with the finance and human resources committees. “Work-

shops will address a number of issues of concern to every church and diocesan stewardship officer,” said Paul Scott, St. Hélène and St. Luc in the Rosemont area, said she is to remain at the parish “on contract part-time for a while” to give Rev. Roslyn “time to sort out the parish as we move into an uncertain future.”

She wrote that at the mission, “I have worked with a team of people who trust in my life and we all grow from one another, we share our hardships, our fun – lots of fun. I still love the work and the people (understatement) and they will always be part of me, woven into my heart and soul. I am still at good work at the (that, too, is an understatement) and will miss it.”

However, she wrote, “The mission needs a full-time director. I am tired, I have had cancer and come back, and I want to write.”

The benefit dinner will be at the Auberge St. Gabriël on St. Gabriël St. at Old Montreal on Thursday, October 25. For details, see the announcement on page 11.

Clarence succeeds primate as dialogue co-chair

The new Anglican co-chair of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Bishop's Dialogue in Canada, Bishop Barry Clarke of Montreal, succeeds Archbishop Fred Hiltz, pri-

mate of the Anglican Church of Canada, in that role. Bishop Michael Ingham of the Diocese of New West-

minster filled in for the primate on occasion. Incorrect information appeared in a previous issue.

New assistant controller for synod

Jennifer James Phillips began working as assistant controller August 13 in the synod accounting depart-

ment. Ms. Jennifer Tam, the UGM financial services, had been alone since the departure in recent months of Chantal Gravel, payroll administrator, and, more recent-

ly, the UGM accounting clerk. Ms. Tam’s new experience includes working as the assistant controller of a healthcare organization specializing in the delivery of innovative medical technologies to hospitals and medical clinics and working as the accounts payable specialist of a distributor of hardware supplies.

Words on fire author to speak at Ottawa conference

Paul Scott, Wilson, professor of homiletics at Emmanuel College in the University of Toronto and author of the recently published Words on Fire, Put-

ting God at the Centre of the Sermon, (Abingdon Press) will be the speaker at the 2012 Montreal Diocese Clergy Con-

ference on September 23-25 at the Marriott Hotel de l’ouyve in Châteauguay. Registrations are now open – get in touch with the synod office as soon as possi-

ble.

Ros to say goodbye at benefit dinner

The main event this year’s fundraising benefit dinner for the Mil End Mission in north-central Ontar-
io will be a swan song for its director, Rev. Roslyn Macgregor, about to retire from that job after 17 plus years of wonderful, challenging, life-changing ministry.” In a note to clergy of the Montreal Diocese, she said she will be retiring from the mission at the end of Octo-

ber, Rev. Roslyn, who held the post at the mission along with serving at the parish of St. Barnabas Church in Pierrefonds, succeeds Archbishop Fred Hiltz, pri-

mate of the Anglican Church of Canada, in that role. Bishop Michael Ingham of the Diocese of New West-

minster filled in for the primate on occasion. Incorrect information appeared in a previous issue.

New assistant controller for synod

Jennifer James Phillips began working as assistant controller August 13 in the synod accounting depart-

ment. Ms. Jennifer Tam, the UGM financial services, had been alone since the departure in recent months of Chantal Gravel, payroll administrator, and, more recent-

ly, the UGM accounting clerk. Ms. Tam’s new experience includes working as the assistant controller of a healthcare organization specializing in the delivery of innovative medical technologies to hospitals and medical clinics and working as the accounts payable specialist of a distributor of hardware supplies.

He did parish ministry in Montreal for more than two years and later served on the national staff of the Anglican Church of Canada and as a Canadian missionary in Haiti. He received an honorary doctorate from the Montreal Diocesan Theo-

logical College in 2009.

He was received into the Episco-

pal Church in 2000 and was on the Trinity Wall Street staff from 1999 until 2004. He served as a mission-

ary in Haiti, appointed by the Epis-
copal Church, between 1991 and 1996 and again since 2004. (This report was prepared mainly by Peter A. van der Slikke, Archdiocese of the United Church of Canada, with files from the Diocese of Chicago Episcopal News Service.)
Sri Lanka Tamil refugees three years later

Nora Arsenian-Carmi

Canada has had excellent policies on Israeli-Palestinian issues in the past but the Canadian government’s current support of Israeli government policies is “a breach of morality,” a leading Palestinian peace activist said in Montreal at the end of May. Nora Arsenian-Carmi of Jerusalem, for 17 years on the staff of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Centre, told a gathering sponsored by the support group Canadian Friends of Sabeel and by Christ Church Cathedral that many people are “blind and deaf” to the continuing confiscation and destruction of Palestinian homes, irrigated fields and land in the Occupied Territories and imprisonment of Palestinians by Israeli occupation forces.

“What is the role of the Christian in peacemaking today?” asked Ms. Carmi, a Christian. “For us, Jesus Christ is close, present as the Saviour but also as a person who lived in this land, suffered in this land and knew what it was like to be a refugee.”

Non-violent resistance is what we should be doing.

She said boycott, divestment and other sanctions directed against actions of the Israeli government will actually help Israel, encouraging it to become an equal rather than dominant in the community of nations. This is something that is being run today as a ‘Jewish monopoly’.

The end of the PWRDF delegation, I stayed on for a few more days and visited Batticaloa, further south on the east coast. This was also a former conflict zone and it was one of the places most affected by the devastating 2004 tsunami. There were several memorials for the many, many victims of the tsunami.

Situation of Tamil refugees.

Many of the refugees are very conscious that the issues that led to the war are still not resolved: the issues of basic rights and protection for all, and the place of the Tamil community within a country with a Sinhalese majority.

For the second part of our trip, we travelled to Sri Lanka, so we could learn something of what awaited the refugees if they did decide to go back.

We arrived in the capital, Colombo, and immediately headed out to the East Trincomalee and to the north (Vavuniya) – areas in which the war was fought.

The presence of the military was very noticeable during our travels. Despite the end of the war, there has been no demobilization of soldiers. In Sri Lanka, OERR works to support people who have been displaced by the war. For example, we met one family forced to flee their homes in 2006 who had been able to come back in 2008 to their original homes, although they had lost a lot, including all their cattle and coconut palms. Others are worse off and have been living for years in temporary shelters.

Worst of all was the situation of internally displaced people living in a camp near Trincomalee that the government claims no longer exists. Tamil refugees who had been forced to leave their homes in 2006 were able to come back in 2008 to their original homes, although they had lost a lot, including all their cattle and coconut palms. Others are worse off and have been living for years in temporary shelters.

When we asked about their plans for returning to Sri Lanka now that the war is over, many refugees told us they did not believe that it is safe or wise to return yet. They worried that they would still face discrimination (because they are Tamil), under made-in-Israel labels in places like Canada; Canadian shoppers could demand to know the provenance of such goods.

She strongly advocates tourist visits to Israel/Palestine using “morally responsible” travel agencies, some of whom are sympathetic to the issue and the plight of the many, many, many victims of the tsunami.

Nowhere in Sri Lanka, however, did we find another group of people to dominate all the others,” said Ms. Carmi, who was on a speaking tour of Canada. The beautiful religion of Judaism is being missed today for political ends.

The boycott efforts she suggested were selective. For instance, she said, goods made by Jewish settlers in the Occupied Territories are being sold to these camps nine years ago. She told us that she thought about all the things that had happened in her life during those nine years - children growing up, job opportunities, vacation travel. For the refugees, some of whom remembered her last visit, nine years later they were still in the same place, with very limited prospects for themselves or for their children to make something of their lives.

In both camps there were active Self-Help Groups of women, set up and supported by OERR. These groups are designed to offer women education and skills training, mutual support and income generation.

One of the projects is the cultivation of spirulina, a nutritious, health-boosting algae that is an effective nutritional supplement. This initiative meets both health needs in the community and provides a modest source of income.

OERR also supplies spirulina to HIV/AIDS orphans in Tamil Nadu, as a way of contributing to the wider community.

OERR is now something of an expert in spirulina cultivation, and people come from around the world to learn from OERR how to do it.

When we asked about their plans for returning to Sri Lanka now that the war is over, many refugees told us they did not believe that it is safe or wise to return yet. They worried that they would still face discrimination (because they are Tamil), and that they would struggle to find a job or ensure good education for their children. Would they be able to reclaim the land that belonged to them?

Someone I met described the situation in Sri Lanka as “post-war, but not post-conflict.” Many of the refugees are very conscious that even if the war is over, the basic issues that led to the war are still not resolved: the issues of basic rights and protection for all, and the place of the Tamil community within a country with a Sinhalese majority.

For the second part of our trip, we travelled to Sri Lanka, so we could learn something of what awaited the refugees if they did decide to go back.

We arrived in the capital, Colombo, and immediately headed out to the East Trincomalee and to the north (Vavuniya) – areas in which the war was fought.

The presence of the military was very noticeable during our travels. Despite the end of the war, there has been no demobilization of soldiers. In Sri Lanka, OERR works to support people who have been displaced by the war. For example, we met one family forced to flee their homes in 2006 who had been able to come back in 2008 to their original homes, although they had lost a lot, including all their cattle and coconut palms. Others are worse off and have been living for years in temporary shelters.

Worst of all was the situation of internally displaced people living in a camp near Trincomalee that the government claims no longer exists. Tamil refugees who had been forced to leave their homes in 2006 were able to come back in 2008 to their original homes, although they had lost a lot, including all their cattle and coconut palms. Others are worse off and have been living for years in temporary shelters.

When we asked about their plans for returning to Sri Lanka now that the war is over, many refugees told us they did not believe that it is safe or wise to return yet. They worried that they would still face discrimination (because they are Tamil), and
‘We must do it!’ Aboriginal Day participants are told

Harvey Shepherd

More than 70 clergy and laity from the Montreal Diocese sought to broaden and deepen their awareness of Aboriginal culture and issues through information, comment, music, song, dance, ritual and even role-playing at a day-long program marking National Aboriginal Day June 21.

The first event of its kind in the diocese, the program drew on the talents of people including Rev. Norm Casey of the Six Nations Anglican Parish near Brantford, co-chair of the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples, Anne S. Douglas, who has taught and researched First Nations and Inuit communities over the past 25 years, and the three members of Broken Walls, a Christian band led by Jonathan Maracle of the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory on the Bay of Quinte.

Bishop Barry Clarke and Dean Paul Kennington of Christ Church Cathedral were among those in attendance.

"Since the beginning of time, not only the Mi'kmaq but all Aborigi-nals have been taught that the Great Spirit, whom we call Gitchi Mani-tou, sent his messenger, Atan-kawikan, which means the Great One, who taught us that the Holy Spirit is in all of us, including human beings," the chief organizer of the day, Lee Greyfeather, a Mi'k-maq and a shaman, said.

He and his wife Saweena Greyfeather, also known as Leslie West, were the main organizers of the day. They attend the Church of St. James in London, Ontario, the bitter legacy of residential schooling and its devastating effects on First Nations language, families and culture, and the rich spiritual traditions, Anglican and traditional, of the communities.

He said the relation of the Six Nations with the British Crown and the Anglican Church goes back before the American Revolution and the Six Nations' presence along the Grand River has its origins in prom-ises made by the Crown during that conflict.

Father Casey described decision-making rules still used in the com-munities today. All decisions must be unanimous and respect the seven-generation rule, which re-quires members of an assembly to ask themselves how a proposed change will affect the way of life seven generations from now.

"Today we are trying to do our best to revive our language and cul-tural traditions. Everyone on the reserve recognizes they have a strong tradition of spirituality."

But they also recognize that one of the largest challenges they face is the problems confronting their brothers and sisters in cities. "Many of our people are on the street, in rehab centres or in prisons."

He said there is relatively little antagonism between Christianity and advocates of the traditional way of life represented by the Longhouse, especially among younger members of the community.

His talk was a profound reminder that we are keepers of God’s planet and maybe we do need to think fur-ther in the future than our current pocketbooks.

Dr. Douglas, who has a doctorate in educational anthropology from McGill University and is a parish-ioner of Christ Church Cathedral, discussed daily spiritual practices and offered reflections on her expe-riences living in an Inuit communi-ty. She has worked with the James Bay Cree, the Mi'kmaq of Cape Bre-ton and the Mohawk of Akwesasne, near Cornwall.

She talked of the spiritual pres-ence she felt among the Inuit, of their strong connectedness to one another in their own families and to their community and of their pro-found respect for the environment and for the animals with which they share it.

Saweena Greyfeather offered an overview of the prehistory and his-tory of the Aboriginal peoples of Eastern Canada.

"The impacts of European contact changed the lives of Canada’s Abo-riginal peoples forever," she said.

Ms. Greyfeather cited the effects of disease, the fur trade, firearms and liquor.

"The Christian missionaries, whether Catholic or Protestant, fer-vent to convert the Aboriginal Peo-ple to Christianity, worked hard but, with few exceptions, made no effort to connect the teachings of the new religion with the traditional spiritual beliefs of the Aboriginals, holding these to be pagan or evil, or at best ill-advised. The forcing of Aborigi-nal peoples from their lands and the introduction of the reservation sys-tem was another severe blow. These developments, followed by increas-ing efforts to meld Aboriginal peo-ple into the majority population, have led to the situations they face today."

(This article incorporates material, with thanks, from a review by Nancy Greene-Gregoire in a joint newsletter of Trinity Memorial Church and the Church of St. Columba.)

Golfers support mission of diocese

IT WAS A GOOD DAY ON THE LINKS for the third annual Mission Works Golf Tour-nament July 9, this year at the Whitlock Golf and Country Club in Hudson. The event raised an estimated $8,000 for the missions of the diocese. At left, golfers line up in their carts to head out to the links. Centre, Bishop Barry Clarke is on the green with diocesan human relations co-ordinator Sarah Wilson. Right, a member of a four-some tees off.
do not swear allegiance to a piece of bunting – a chiffon rouge, a flag, we do not swear allegiance to a piece of paper, a constitution, we swear allegiance to a person. And we do not swear allegiance to that person as our head of state because in our system the monarch is the state, personified. In saying that, I am conscious, this evening, that I am speaking as a Christian to Christians, in the context of a liturgy. Christians should be well able to relate to the basic principle of monarchism, that our allegiance is to a person, because our allegiance to the person who is our Lord Jesus Christ. It is true that some Christians give the impression that their allegiance is primarily to a book – “Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so” – as if the Bible were the primary authority, and not the Lord of whom it speaks. But orthodox Christianity is about persons – the three Persons of the Holy Trinity and the person of our Lord Jesus Christ. In an age when we are so conscious of persons – their individual rights and responsibilities, their freedoms ( alas, with little or no emphasis on their civic responsibilities), a person-centred monarchical system should have an instant appeal, not just to Christians, but to everyone – especially when the monarch whose jubilee we are celebrating is herself such an exemplar of civic responsibility.

The Christ Church Cathedral parish has been in touch with parishes in the Diocese of Montreal seeking to organize a diocesan celebration the weekend of September 29 and 30 of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. In a letter over the summer to parish priests and parish secretaries, Ann Elbourne, chair of the Cathedral’s Jubilee Committee, wrote: “I’ve loved every minute of it,” she said during a pause as she attempted to clear her desk and niche of the impedimenta of her period as co-ordinator of the Cathedral’s Jubilee. “But it was time for a change.” In her job, a volunteer one with an hourglass duration, she worked with prayer leaders, stewards, greeters and numerous others. She was involved with the coffee hour, the Cathedral’s big Cathedral bazaar and the Christ- mas-wrapping service that volunteers offered to harried shoppers for a number of years – to mention only a few things. She also was in charge of the Cathedral Sunday school for over 10 years. Ms. Peris, who previously worked for Bell Canada for 10 years, applied for the Cathedral post when it became available a little more than a decade after she became a parishioner of the Cathedral in 1985. She has worked with four clergy who served as dean of Montreal and rector of the Cathedral – Andrew Hutt- chison, who went on to become bishop and then archbishop of Mon- treal and then Canadian primate, Very Rev. Michael Potts and, recent- ly, Very Rev. Canon Joyce Sanchez, interim rector between Deans Pitts and Kennington. For the time being, she expects to devote her new free time largely to catching up on domestic concerns at the elegant house on Dr. Penfield Avenue she shares with her husband, Julio Peris, a well-known lawyer – and, thanks to his wife, not infre- quently a volunteer gofer at Cathe- dral functions. Three of their four children – all baptised at the Cathe- dral – are also living at home, not to mention a dog, a cat, turtles (one of them 23 years old), some fish, a rab- bit and a hedgehog they accumulate- d in various ways over the years. Ms. Peris will also still be seen from time to time around the offices the Cathedral shares with the Diocese of Montreal, since she is the treasurer of the diocesan Anglican Women’s Committee, in which she is a former president, and a member of the diocesan nominating committee.

Cathedral plans diocesan fête

The Christ Church Cathedral plans diocesan fête for the jubilee. For the time being, she expects to devote her new free time largely to catching up on domestic concerns at the elegant house on Dr. Penfield Avenue she shares with her husband, Julio Peris, a well-known lawyer – and, thanks to his wife, not infre- quently a volunteer gofer at Cathe- dral functions. Three of their four children – all baptised at the Cathe- dral – are also living at home, not to mention a dog, a cat, turtles (one of them 23 years old), some fish, a rab- bit and a hedgehog they accumulate- d in various ways over the years. Ms. Peris will also still be seen from time to time at the offices the Cathedral shares with the Diocese of Montreal, since she is the treasurer of the diocesan Anglican Women’s Committee, in which she is a former president, and a member of the diocesan nominating committee.

Head of Cathedral lay ministries decides it's time for a change

After 16 years as the go-to person at Christ Church Cathedral for almost everything the clergy weren't responsible for, Verna Peris stepped down in mid-July. “I loved every minute of it,” she said during a pause as she attempted to clear her desk and niche of the impedimenta of her period as co-ordinator of lay ministries at the cathedral. “But it was time for a change.”

In her job, a volunteer one with an hourglass duration, she worked with prayer leaders, stewards, greeters and numerous others. She was involved with the coffee hour, the Cathedral’s big Cathedral bazaar and the Christmas-wrapping service that volunteers offered to harried shoppers for a number of years – to mention only a few things.
Despite more and more homeless, Mission remains upbeat

For George Greene and the volunteers and staff at St. Michael’s Mission, the numbers are daunting.

The mission, a soup kitchen providing a range of other services in its quarters under the downtown Church of St. John the Evangelist, served 88,326 meals last year, not quite twice the 2011 figure, and has currently been running at around 200 a day, often more – breakfast and lunch, five days a week. None. Brainstorming the budget just for peanut butter – a breakfast staple – has been running at around $2,000 a year.

“Our growth is unstoppable,” Mr. Greene, temporarily back in the saddle as volunteer interim executive director of the mission, told a visitor in late July. “The whole dynamic is different because of an influx of the homeless. “What worries me is, we’re in the middle of the summer now. What’s going to happen in the fall?”

Under pressures that include the growing numbers and a shortage of staff, the mission had cut back activities of its used-clothing room to two days a week and was trying to confine itself to relatively urgent cases – like, to take a somewhat extreme case, the man who not long before spent the night – fortunately, a summer night – sleeping out of doors, had his shoes stolen and turned up at the mission in his bare feet.

Mr. Greene expected the mission to have a new director by around the middle of the summer now. What’s going to happen in the fall?”

Mr. Greene said, Sherry Stephenson, who left the diocesan syndical office this summer after 15 years on the staff, the last few of them in finance, has been providing invaluable service looking after the finances of the mission part-time.

The clients of the mission continue to be 95 per cent men, and about two-thirds between the ages of 31 and 64. About 64 per cent of clients have French as their mother tongue, 33 per cent English, nine per cent Spanish and six per cent Inuktitut.

The day-to-day pressures can make it difficult to see beyond them, but “we’re trying to give them more than food,” he said.

“And it’s not all doom and gloom around here. We’re still missionaries and we’re still doing a good job.”

While there are enough perennial clients – and even second-generation ones – to be discouraging, there are also “a lot of happy clients at the end of the day.”

Why is he still upbeat?

• In his opinion, the support the mission receives from Anglican parishes and individuals continues to be among its major assets. Without it does not see how the mission could carry on. This includes financial support (from parishes and individuals, although not the diocese) as well as donations of food, clothing, toiletries and the like.

• The staff make up partway in quality for their small number: currently four. (He himself is a volunteer.) These include Caitlin Murphy, who is a relatively new crisis worker; Bruce Pawsey, who is the seasonal floor manager; Gabe Foreman, who in Mr. Greene’s view cooks up the best soup in Montreal, and another worker – recently Monica Thorrill, a university student who was there for the summer.

• There are partnerships between clients of the mission and various government and other agencies, some of them affiliated with McGill University. Among them are clinics (that focus on avoiding cancer and frost-bite), programs to deal with gambling and substance addictions, student intern projects, income-tax clinics (that may help low-income people claim various rebates and government benefits), and a federal government program that has placed 17 clients with mental illnesses in subsidized housing in the last couple of years.

• The mission has a particularly good relation with a special squad created by the Montreal police in 2009 to seek creative ways of relating to the homeless, called EMRRI or the Équipe mobile de référence et d’intervention en itinérance.

For more information on St. Michael’s Mission and how you can help, visit www.stmichaelsmission.ca on the Web.

The inspiration of a 9-year-old parishioner at St. Stephen’s Church, James in Chambly brought a little extra to beneficiaries of the Mile End Mission in north-central Montreal in late May.

Largely at the initiative of young Andrew Ferguson, members of the Chambly parish brought men’s and women’s clothing to the church on three successive Sundays. Then a team of 12, including Andrew, delivered the items to the mission.

“We were warmly welcomed by the executive director, Rev. Roslyn Macgregor, food bank director Connie Olson and the mission staff. Men from the mission helped unload the truck, and shelves that were once empty were full when we left,” reports Eileen Allen Agley of the parish Anglican Church Women.

“A wonderful feeling knowing that through Andrew’s thoughtful gesture, and the hard work of the ACW people who are really in need will benefit greatly.”

She said Rev. Eileen Steele of St. Stephen’s looks for some time for a suitable recipient and the Mile End Mission is likely to receive more food, clothing, and household needs in the future.

In a note of his own, Andrew wrote: “Thursday morning I went to the Mile End Mission. I had an idea for everyone to bring one clothing item to church. I thought we could help people by bringing clothing. I wanted to help people because their souls inside of them are the same as ours.”

“When I got to church, I saw some people brought tables and chairs too. I was suprised how much stuff that people brought that was not even requested.

“At the mission, all the people there helped us unload the truck. With all the people helping, it sure went faster unloading the truck. The people at the mission all had big smiles when they saw us, that made me happy about my idea. I was thankful for Rev. Eileen and everyone at my church for helping with my idea. It made me happy to help other people and I want to do it again.”

— ANG L I C A N M ON T R E A L AN G L I C A N — September 2012
Celebrating 85 years in Little Burgundy

Old-timers and present-day participants in the life of Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre rubbed elbows and exchanged reminiscences at a homecoming weekend June 15-17, marking 85 years of service to the Little Burgundy Community.

Activities included a cocktail reception, a barbecue with games and entertainment by groups including Jam for Justice, Beery Brothers, 5e Element and the Little Burgundy combo Reno Valer. A closing worship service featured the People’s Gospel Choir and drew on traditions of the Anglican and Presbyterian churches, which played an important part in the history of the centre.

Renowned jazz pianist and Little Burgundy icon Oliver Jones was an honorary chair for the weekend.

Makeover at Tyndale park

The city park at Richmond Square in front of the Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre, said to be long in need of new play structures, is getting a makeover thanks to the co-operative insurance firm Foresters and KalOOM!, a U.S.-based non-profit that revamps public parks for kids in deserving neighbourhoods. Kids and parents from the community have been active in helping design the park and raise a portion of the needed funds. The “dream park” will be built in one day by a team of 100 community volunteers and 100 volunteers from Foresters on September 29 in co-operation with the city Montreal. “It’s going to be a big party, with food, music and lots of fun!” says Ken de Combe, executive director of Tyndale. This is a joint project between Tyndale St-Georges and the City of Montreal Southwest Borough.

“Silver and Gold for Cash”

A Christ Church, Beaurepaire Fundraising Project

Don’t turn your silver & gold over to Aaron to fashion a Golden calf! – Don’t let your silver and gold become an idol! – Don’t let it be idle in your jewelry box or drawer! – Turn your broken, unwanted and/or mismatched gold and silver jewelry into cash to meet your real needs.

Tuesday, September 11th from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m.
Christ Church, Beaurepaire, 455 Street, Beaconsfield
All transactions are done privately and discreetly.
Your items will be weighed and tested, and you will be offered cash on the spot for their precious metal value. All are welcome.
Please call Sandy Temple to reserve!
Home: 514-421-0804 or Office: 514-697-2204

Souper bénéfice annuel de l’Action de grâce

Annual Thanksgiving Benefit Dinner

Jeudi 25 octobre 2012 à 18h / Thursday, October 25th 2012 at 6pm
Pompe parle / Keynote speaker
Roslyn Magregor


In the early 1970’s, Roslyn Magregor spent two challenging and life changing years in Haiti as a sister of St. Margaret; in 1983, she returned to Montreal and broadened her knowledge in child studies, education and theology, and was ordained an Anglican priest in 1992. In 1995, Ros was appointed Director of Mile End Community Mission and Priest at St. Cuthbert, St. Hilda’s and St. Luke’s Anglican Church. She challenged the structures in society and fought forcefully for funding and recognition of the needs of those who depend so much on the Mission. For seventeen years, Ros has met the challenges of real people in real-life situations and found the strength, wisdom, and sometimes hard lessons for beyond what can be taught in seminary.

For decades, the Montreal Anglican and the Anglican Journal have been a vital communications link between parishes, dioceses and the national Church. Together, we have shared stories, ideas and opinions from a faith perspective in a way that has helped us put that faith into action.

Whether encouraging a response to human need, educating about the care of creation, or helping readers discover new ways to reach out and grow the Church, the Montreal Anglican and the Anglican Journal spark compassionate conversations in an increasingly secularized world.

Please give generously to the Anglican Journal Appeal this year. With your help we can keep the conversation going.

Keep the conversation going

For decades, the Montreal Anglican and the Anglican Journal have been a vital communications link between parishes, dioceses and the national Church. Together, we have shared stories, ideas and opinions from a faith perspective in a way that has helped us put that faith into action.

Whether encouraging a response to human need, educating about the care of creation, or helping readers discover new ways to reach out and grow the Church, the Montreal Anglican and the Anglican Journal spark compassionate conversations in an increasingly secularized world.

Please give generously to the Anglican Journal Appeal this year. With your help we can keep the conversation going.

Keep the conversation going

For decades, the Montreal Anglican and the Anglican Journal have been a vital communications link between parishes, dioceses and the national Church. Together, we have shared stories, ideas and opinions from a faith perspective in a way that has helped us put that faith into action.

Whether encouraging a response to human need, educating about the care of creation, or helping readers discover new ways to reach out and grow the Church, the Montreal Anglican and the Anglican Journal spark compassionate conversations in an increasingly secularized world.

Please give generously to the Anglican Journal Appeal this year. With your help we can keep the conversation going.

Keep the conversation going

For decades, the Montreal Anglican and the Anglican Journal have been a vital communications link between parishes, dioceses and the national Church. Together, we have shared stories, ideas and opinions from a faith perspective in a way that has helped us put that faith into action.

Whether encouraging a response to human need, educating about the care of creation, or helping readers discover new ways to reach out and grow the Church, the Montreal Anglican and the Anglican Journal spark compassionate conversations in an increasingly secularized world.

Please give generously to the Anglican Journal Appeal this year. With your help we can keep the conversation going.

Keep the conversation going

For decades, the Montreal Anglican and the Anglican Journal have been a vital communications link between parishes, dioceses and the national Church. Together, we have shared stories, ideas and opinions from a faith perspective in a way that has helped us put that faith into action.

Whether encouraging a response to human need, educating about the care of creation, or helping readers discover new ways to reach out and grow the Church, the Montreal Anglican and the Anglican Journal spark compassionate conversations in an increasingly secularized world.

Please give generously to the Anglican Journal Appeal this year. With your help we can keep the conversation going.
Del Skinner: from pro wrestler to pioneer deacon

Complete text available upon request.
As in growth, or dying, we need let go at the edge to continue further. This past summer, I was gifted with the experience of being at the bedside of a remarkable woman who let go lightly and passed on gently. My wife's mother, Wilma, had been ill for several years now. Each time she seemed at the end of her life, she would rally. This time, however, when my wife and I arrived, I knew that early morning call in late July, we knew something was different. We made arrangements as best we could, and left for New Hampshire that same day. When we arrived, our sister in-law drove us to Wilma's residence. What I first experienced there was very heartening. I saw a nurse standing at Wilma's bedside. Her attitude was one of care and compassion. In fact, the atmosphere of the whole room seemed to convey a feeling of nurturing warmth and loving presence. As I approached my mother-in-law's bed, I noticed that she was breathing with some difficulty; yet there was a radiance that seemed to be emanating from her. As the moment suddenly hit me, and I knew that we were not alone. I felt the presence of something that was not of this world, this haustible love of God. What is more, this Presence was embracing all of us in the same room with love and tenderness. We each had our moment with Wilma, holding her hands, and telling her of our love and what we had taught her individually. We said how much we would miss her, when her presence was no longer with us. Then, in the subdued lighting of that room, we gave her permission to go into the Light and love of the Divine, letting her know that we would be able to carry on in this life as well. And she felt the love she had shared with us. Although she couldn't speak, as I gazed into her empty eyes, I could sense her responding to us with love and understanding.

Iamt, members often keep their loved ones from departing by hanging on to them, and not allowing them to go. At the point of death loved ones need to hear from us not only that we love them, but also that we release them, let them go into the compassionate embrace of God. We left Wilma's room that night knowing we had been on holy ground. The ride back to my brother-in-law's house was a time of quiet reflection. My wife and I went into the guest room, and got ready for bed. A little over an hour later, my brother-in-law knocked on our bedroom door. He told us that the residence had just called to say Wilma had passed away an hour after we left her. The three of us hugged each other with a mixture of tears and gladness.

Mary Oliver ends her poem in Blackwater Woods:

"...Every year everything I have ever learned in my lifetime leads back to this: /...to live in this world you must be able to do this: to accept love when it is offered, to love what is mortal, to hold it against your bones knowing your own life depends on it, and, when the time comes to let it go, to let it go."

We are all vulnerable to change and loss. One moment you may be about to sit down to breakfast, the next moment you are rushing down a highway to be at the bedside of a dear family member. In an instant, we can lose a loved one, our health, or a job. But even though we are vulnerable to change — even though we go up and down during the course of our lives, we need to remember that we live, and move, and have our being in a divine reality that is compassionate and loving.

Furthermore, the reality of death brings us into a profound appreciation for the preciousness of life. We hear Dr. Jelal states it beautifully when he says: "Just to be is a blessing; just to live is holy." Death teaches us eyes to living in the present moment. All the sages tell us that all we have is this precious moment, and it is important to savor it and not take it for granted. Jon Kabat-Zinn puts it this way: "The key to this path (of living consciously) ... is an appreciation for the present moment and the cultivation of an intimate relationship with it through a continual attending to it with care and discernment. It is the direct opposite of taking life for granted. The habit of ignoring our present moments in favor of others yet to come leads directly to a pervasive lack of awareness of the web of life in which we are embedded."

Like Wilma, let go lightly and passed on gently with love and tenderness. May we find the internal resources to be able to give to others and receive ourselves. May I remain peaceful, and let go of the course of life, suffering, or death. I care about the pain of this person I see before me now, yet cannot control it. I wish you happiness and peace. I cannot make your choices for you. May I see my limits compassionately, and not be afraid of the limitation of others. May I see you as I wish to be seen, as big as life. Letting go is a journey that will bring you so much more than your need or your pain. Until next time, I wish you "the peace that passes all understanding".
Sales and events

St Thomas N.D.G. 6875 Somerled Ave. ($102 bus from Vendôme Métro)
THE CLOTHESLINE REOPENS FOR THE SEASON
Thurs, Sept. 13, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Offering nearly new clothing, books and household treasures, The Clotheline will reopen after the summer holidays. Open Thursdays from 1-4 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Use Rosedale Avenue side door entrance. For information, 514-484-2750.

Church of St. John the Baptist 231 Ste. Claire Avenue, Pointe Claire
ARTISAN FAIR Sat., Sept. 15, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Featuring wares of local artists and entrepreneurs. Lunch will be offered.

St. Joseph of Nazareth 725 Provencher Blvd, Brossard OPEN HOUSE Sunday, Sept. 16, preceding the 10 a.m. service Residents of the “C” Section of Brossard are especially invited. Breakfast will be served.

St. James the Apostle, Montreal Shatford Hall, 1435 Ste. Catherine St. West
EIGHTH ANNUAL SCOTCH TASTING Thursday, September 20, 7-10 p.m.
This is a fund-raiser for St. James’ ROOF Project. Tickets are $45 a person, $85 a couple. There will be a selection of single malts different from the 2011 malts, along with the usual smoked salmon and other treats to complement the “peat” and other flavours of the malts.

St. Paul’s Church, Greenfield Park 321 Empire St. GARAGE SALE Sat., Sept. 22, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Snack bar all day. Tables are being rented for $25 each. For information, 450-678-2460.

St. Stephen’s Anglican Church, Chambly Randell Hall, 2000 rue de Bourgogne
ANNUAL ACW APPLEFEST Sat., Sept. 22, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
For information, 450-658-5882 or Eileen Agley at 450-658-1027

Church of St. John the Baptist 233 Ste. Claire Avenue, Pointe Claire
FALL RECYCLED GOODS/ TREASURE SALE Sat., Sept. 22, 9 a.m.-noon
Help the environment! We are offering gently used clothing, books, household goods, electronics and treasures! St Mark’s Anglican Church 865 Lakeshore Drive, Dorval (just west of Dorval Ave.) GARAGE SALE Sat., Sept. 22, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Hospitality table, books and much more. For information, 514-631-3601 or www.andrewmark.org

Christ Church, Beaurepaire 455 Church St., Beaconsfield RUMMAGE/GARAGE SALE Fri., October 5, 7-9 p.m. and Sat., October 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Clothes, garage sale items, books and much more. For information, 514-697-2204.

St. Stephen’s Anglican Church, Chambly Randell Hall, 2000 rue de Bourgogne ACW BOOK SALE Sat., October 20, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
For information, 450-658-5882 or Dorothy at 514-748-7704, ext. 1198.

NOTICES FOR FALL RUMMAGE SALES AND BAZAARS Please submit the details of your Rummage Sale or Christmas Bazaar, using the format shown below, by September 7 for publication in the October paper and October 1 for publication in the November Anglican. The information should be sent to Mr. Harvey Shepherd, Editor, The Montreal Anglican.

2012 ANNUAL ACW BEAUREPAIRE BAZAAR
St. Stephen’s Anglican Church, Chambly
Randell Hall, 2000 rue de Bourgogne
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 9 AM-3 PM
Tickets $6 in advance through 514-456-8822 or Dorothy at 514-748-7704, ext. 1198.
MEALS: Pot Roast Dinner
Beverage: Wine
SWEETS: Pies, cookies, etc.
UPCOMING EVENTS at the Church of the Epiphany
4322 Wellington Street, Verdun
www.epiphanyverdun.com
514-769-5373
Saturday, September 8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Tickets $6 in advance through the parish office
Saturday, September 29, 10-2 p.m.
Garage Sale Lunch will be available
Sunday, October 14
Apples-picking trip Bus leaves following the service at 11:30 a.m.
Saturday, October 20, 6 p.m.
Roast pork dinner
Tickets $12 in advance
Contact Carin Reavon through the parish office

61st Annual Blessing of Pets Beaver Lake, Mt Royal Park Sunday September 23, 2012, 2:00 p.m.
co-sponsored by the Anglican Diocese of Montreal Church Christ Church, Beaurepaire “Paws & Pray” 514-697-2204 / christchurch@qc.acibn.com and the Companion Animal Adoption Centres of Quebec: (caacQ) info@caacQ.ca in conjunction with the Montreal S.P.C.A.
“Walk on All Fours” www.spcac.org (registration for “Walk on All Fours” begins at 1:00 p.m.)

“Saving Jesus” a DVD-based curriculum designed to stimulate thinking and conversation and promote spiritual growth, for those who have grown tired of a simplistic reading of scripture and a narrow definition of the kingdom of God
Sessions are held in the chapel and nave at Christ Church, Beaurepaire. Each 1.5-hour session includes an introductory discussion around the background readings, a 20-minute segment, and a guided discussion. Facilitated by Archdeacon Michael Johnson.

Thursdays, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
First “Flight” of 6 Sessions:
November 1 – December 13, 2012
(No Session November 29)
Second “Flight” of 6 Sessions:
January 10 – February 21, 2013
(No Session January 31)
Diocesan Clippings (and Snapshots)

Rawdon a focus of change

The rural Parish of Rawdon, where Archdeacon Edward Simonton stepped down as parish priest at the beginning of this year, is seeing a couple of comings and goings of wider significance to the Diocese of Montreal. Rev. Richard Gauther, whom Bishop Barry Clarke accepted into the Anglican church and priesthood in March 2008, has been in charge of the Parish of Rawdon – in the Lanaudière region about 70 kilometres north of Montreal and 30 west of Joliette – since June 1. Father Gauther, formerly a Roman Catholic priest, with a particular interest in architectural heritage, spent the intervening time largely in Toronto, carrying on postdoctoral studies at Trinity College and ministry in the low-income Regent Park district. He will continue at Rawdon until the end of September, when he is expected to go on to another ministry in the Montreal Diocese.

He will be followed in Rawdon by the current archdeacon of Bedford and the Richelieu in the southern part of the diocese. Very Rev. Michael Robson has served as the priest of St. Margaret of Antioch Church in St. Hubert for 20 years and also at St. Marks Church in Longueuil for the last 18 of them. This move, of course, means the bishop will need to find a new archdeacon for the southern part of the diocese. A celebration of new ministry for Michael Robson and the people of Rawdon will take place October 4 at 7 p.m.

As of September 1, Archdeacon Simonton, who has moved to a church in Lenoisville in the Diocese of Quebec, has been succeeded, as archdeacon of St. Andrew’s, in the northern part of the diocese, by Very Rev. Ralph Leavitt, who became priest of Holy Trinity Church in Ste. Agathe this summer.

Strategic facelift in Philipsburg

The Diocesan Council has endorsed a request from St. Paul’s Church in Philipsburg, on Lake Champlain near the Vermont border, for a grant from the Anglican Foundation of Canada to cover about half the estimated $14,466 cost of building a chimney, replacing bricks and mortar in other places, replacing storm windows, resetting stone stairs and completing repairs to the wooden steeple. The church dates from about 1897, the parish from 1811. Although the church has been struggling financially and is largely elderly in its membership, the incumbent, Rev. Andrew O’Donnell, thinks it is a good position to benefit from a likely influx of commuters and retirees to the attractive village and the surrounding area.

St. Philip’s bell tower: The saga continues

St. Philip’s Church in Kirkland, especially the youth group, rallied to the aid of a parish in Nova Scotia that was about $10,000 short of what it needed to bring a sponsored refugee family to Canada. Rev. Lorne Tardy suggested parishioners lend $1,000 each, with the youth group to raise funds to repay the loans. At last report loans, pledges and gifts were coming in nicely.

Helping hand to refugee project

St. Mary’s Church in Kirkland, especially the youth group, rallied to the aid of a parish in Nova Scotia that was about $10,000 short of what it needed to bring a sponsored refugee family to Canada. Rev. Lorne Tardy suggested parishioners lend $1,000 each, with the youth group to raise funds to repay the loans. At last report loans, pledges and gifts were coming in nicely.

Priest ordained in Montreal becomes chaplain in Connecticut

Rev. Robert Bergner, ordained as an Anglican priest in Montreal in 2009, has accepted the position of chaplain and director of the Center for Spirituality at Seabury, an upscale retirement community in Bloomfield, Connecticut, near Hartford. He will provide pastoral and spiritual support as a resource to residents, families and staff at Seabury, an interdenominational centre with historic links to the Episcopal Church. “Bob’s spiritual and ministry of women and men as clergy and lay leaders.”

FIVE CANDIDATES were confirmed at St. Joseph of Nazareth Church in Brossard. Getting ready to cut the cake after the more formal ceremony are, from left in the front row, Nicholas Shaw, Bethany Walls, Jamie Howison and Sutton Steele. In the rear, Joshua Shaw is between the pastor, Rev’d Christopher Belle and Bishop Barry Clarke.

June 1. He is expected to devote about one-third of his time to the parish, while continuing to serve as a Canadian Forces chaplain.

St. Peter’s petitions government on environment

Over the past few years, St. Peter’s Church in the Town of Mount Royal has developed a practice of writing parish petitions to federal and provincial governments on matters of ethical concern. Last spring a petition signed by parishioners was sent to the Prime Minister Stephen Harper and federal Environment Minister Peter Kent objecting to the stifling of federal scientists working on environmental matters. Reflecting the view that Canadians have a right not to have an informed understanding of what is happening to our environment, the petition reads in part: “We... wish to express our strong disagreement with the Federal Government’s policy of restricting federal environment scientists from making public statements... It is our taxes that pay for the work of these scientists, and we want to know their professional opinions, which we are paying for. We request in the strongest terms that federal scientists be permitted to use their professional expertise to express their professional opinions to the public.” Past petitions by St. Peter’s to various levels of government have concerned topics such as continued mining, weakening of the Federal Environmental Assessment Act and inadequate aboriginal housing.

Robert Bergner

Robert Bergner, ordained as an Anglican priest in Montreal in 2009, has accepted the position of chaplain and director of the Center for Spirituality at Seabury, an upscale retirement community in Bloomfield, Connecticut, near Hartford. He will provide pastoral and spiritual support as a resource to residents, families and staff at Seabury, an interdenominational centre with historic links to the Episcopal Church. “Bob’s spiritual and ministry of women and men as clergy and lay leaders.”

Chapman: from Châteauguay to Ottawa

Seabury chief operating officer. Since moving to the United States, Father Bergner has been a chaplain at hospitals in New Haven and New York City. An announcement quoted him as saying, “One of the principal delights of my ministry – and one of its principle catalysts – has been ministering to and with people of retirement age and beyond. I am a firm believer – participants – in life-long learning and activity.” In a note to The Montreal Anglican, his mother, Shirley Newell, wrote, “The community where Bob is now working is a sprawling residential facility that consists of cottages, apartments and skilled-nursing-care units.”

The Word on the street

THE BIBLE HOUSE, on the mezzanine level of the entrance to the Promenades de la Cathédrale shopping centre,地下层, and Union Avenue showed some of its wares at a sidewalk sale on Ste. Catherine July 14 and 15. In the photo, Johanne Boisseau shows some of the Bibles and other books to a group of passers-by.

REV. GEOFFREY CHAPMAN, 32, priest at St. George’s Parish in Châteauguay since the beginning of 2010, moved to the Diocese of Ottawa and became priest of the Church of the Epiphany in the Gloucester district of Ottawa, effective August 15. Father Chapman came to Montreal in 2008 after studying at the University of the South in Tennessee and was ordained a deacon in 2008 and a priest in 2009. He served as assistant curate at what was then the Parish of Verdun-Ville Endm before moving to Châteauguay.

CECE CULVER-GREY, a McGill University student, at left, welcomes some casual visitors to Christ Church Cathedral. She spent the summer the summer at the cathedral welcoming visitors herself, supervising volunteers who did so and revamping guidelines, routines and pamphlets for the greeters program. The cathedral has a tour prepared for these; they want output, 80% of many visitors just have a few minutes and a couple of questions. These are many and varied. Popular questions were what an Anglican is and why there is a robed clergy. Up next just inside the entrance (to show that the cathedral welcomes diversity and includes people of all cultural backgrounds, ages and sexual orientations and spouses in the ministry of women and men as clergy and lay leaders).
An era ends in Point St. Charles

St. Paul’s Lachine prepares to close

St Paul’s Lachine is winding up. Announcing the result of a special vestry meeting June 17, Bishop Barry Clarke said he will be working with the parish, the territorial archdeacon, Ven. Michael Johnson, and Janet Marshall, the congregational development officer for the Diocese of Montreal, to assist the parish. The bishop will be endeavouring to ensure appropriate pastoral care and support at this challenging time.

He said the vestry decision followed much consultation involving a parish planning committee, Ms. Marshall, the regional dean, Rev. Karen Chalk. The bishop announced at the end of March that he had appointed Ven. Jeff Hall as the incumbent at the parish, noting that Father Hall remains a priest in good standing.

Commenting on the vestry decision, he said the administrators of the parish had responsibility for “a huge complex.”

“They made a hard decision and I respect them for it. But the bishop is said.”

The decision is especially poignant for the bishop since he himself was the rector of St. Paul’s for over a decade, from 1983 until he became bishop in 2004.

Although the parish was founded in 1874, in building and as a big part of its history are much more recent. According to a web page of the Borough of Lachine, “St. Paul is one of the newest churches in Lachine. The stone building was designed by architect Kenneth I. Robb and built in 1963-64.”

The Web page also mentions the arched vault and ceiling, made entirely of wood, the Casavant organ and stained glass panels by Gerald Mestre, all regarded as works of art. It adds that the rectory and church hall are host to many community activities. The bishop for the intellectually handicapped.

In a letter to parishioners late last year, also published on a Facebook page, the parish wardens said parish leaders and volunteers had been striving to keep expenses to a minimum.

“No for the first time in many years, the Parish did not have to dip into investment reserves and has paid its expenses, for the most part, out of monthly revenues.”

The new rector of the historic St. George’s Church Place du Canada in downtown Montreal comes from a church in Peterborough where he describes as “a welcoming faith community that affirms and celebrates the diversity of God’s people respecting the dignity of every human being.”

After 20 years as a priest in the Diocese of Huron in southwestern Ontario and another five in all Saints’ Church in Peterborough, in the Diocese of Toronto, Rev. William (Bill) Gray succeeds Rev. Canon (now Archdeacon) Ralph Leavitt, who left at the end of February to become incumbent of Holy Trinity Ste. Agathe.

Effective September 1

Bill Gray's appointment is effective September 1. A celebration of new ministry will be held October 20 in a public event.

Like St. George’s, All Saints is a historic church with members from all over the region. A recent message on the All Saints website shortly before he left, from the which above quotation was taken, continued: “Equal opportunites and respect exists for all. We value your unique spiritual journey whether you are seeking, feeling, seeking or doubter. We respect the opinion, leadership and participation of all regarding your spiritual and sexual orientation. If you are looking for a church that is inclusive, tolerant, respectful and celebrates all God's people please visit or contact us. If you are looking for a church of acceptance with opportunity for spiritual nurturance, growth and service then All Saints may be the home for you.”

It says All Saints provides “a spiritual oasis of comfort for renewal and renewal” and notes that members come from a variety of faith backgrounds.

Following the example of Jesus to nurture and serve all God’s people. We attempt to discover where God is active beyond the church. We strive to create new opportunities for connecting in service with our neighbours and the neighbours in which we all live.

We are concerned with those who are marginalized, impoverished and experience injustice. We are engaged in ways to renew and re-strategize our mission.”

Like St. George’s, All Saints makes connections with the rest of the community, cafés, especially for seniors and singles.”

The bishop, who, with his wife, Leslie James, has family roots in the Point, said that the parish “was not a large church but a part of the common community,” even as numbers dwindled through economic change, an exodus of anglophones from Quebec and secularization.

“Life has changed dramatically and the church has taken a twist as well,” he said. “We look into the future knowing full well that God will be with us where we are. The Point will always live on through you and me and our stories.”

Rev. Canon Joyce Sanchez officiated at the Eucharist, assisted by Rev. Karla Holmes. The two women, now serving churches in Point St. Charles, were among the last priests to provide regular pastoral care at Grace Church, at a time when they were on the staff at Christ Church Cathedral.

Rev. Patrick Wheeler and Rev. Deacon Michael Smith of the Church of the Epiphany in Verdun, to whom former parishioners of St. George’s Church particularly invited, were also on hand.

A FINAL EUCHARIST is served to a Grace Church congregation, including Bishop Barry Clarke, by Rev. Karla Holmes and Canon Joyce Sanchez.

The new rector at St. George’s: from one diverse church to another

Two Anglican parishes in the West End Notre Dame de Grâces district of Montreal, Trinity Memorial and St. Columba, have several months of discussion on a merger, expected to be under a new name and in the present Trinity Memorial building.

As part of the process, the two parishes held joint Sunday services in July in St. Columba, at 4020 Hingston Avenue, at N.D.G. Avenue, and in August at Trinity Memorial, at 5220 Sherbrooke Street W. not far from the Verdun Métro station. Parishioners of both parishes are to vote on the proposal at a meeting during September and St. Columba plans a farewell service, with Bishop Barry Clarke presiding, on Sunday, Sept. 30.

In a joint letter to the two parishes this summer, the incumbents of the two parishes, Rev. Canon Joyce Sanchez of Trinity Memorial and Archdeacon Gordon Guy of St. Columba, said discussions between the parishes had been “exciting, providing those involved with an opportunity to get acquainted, to share ideas, and to pray together. The time we have spent studying scripture together and sharing our faith has been particularly exciting.”

A joint newsletter reports that a survey last fall indicated that the two churches are a good match, with complementary strengths and weaknesses. It suggests a merger could release energy and resources for mission and ministry now and in the future. Present members of both parishes would have to change some of the ways they do things.

The present St. Columba building would be sold or developed. Some possessions of St. Columba (which has a rich Anglo-Cathoic heritage) would be left by donating or selling, others would be brought to the new church.

Present parishioners of Trinity Memorial “will be prayerful and understanding in support of the change and loss experienced by people from St. Columba.” They too would be open to change and loss. They would let some possessions go to make room for things St. Columba will bring and “We will incorporate the most meaningful of our and St. Columba’s decorations, icons, holy hardware into our décor and practice.”

“We will work to find new ways of sustaining and supporting our property, turning it from a burden to an asset.”

The merged church would have a new leadership group: a transitional corporation followed by a new, duly elected and appointed, corporation for 2013.

The parishes are considering a distribution of the property that says “We seek to be a Jesus-shaped community in Notre Dame de Grâces...” that ministers to the broken and marginalized of society; “that understands church’s primary role as relations, reading, moving, theatre, sympathy, and time at home.”

St. Paul’s to merge with All Saints

The parishes would have to change some of the ways they do things.

Two N.D.G. parishes may merge votes planned this month

New B.I.G. at St George’s: from one diverse church to another

The rector of the historic St. George’s Church Place du Canada in downtown Montreal comes from a church in Peterborough he describes as “a welcoming faith community that affirms and celebrates the diversity of God’s people respecting the dignity of every human being.”

After 25 years as a priest in the Diocese of Huron in southwestern Ontario and another five in All Saints’ Church in Peterborough, in the Diocese of Toronto, Rev. William (Bill) Gray succeeds Rev. Canon (now Archdeacon) Ralph Leavitt, who left at the end of February to become incumbent of Holy Trinity Ste. Agathe.

Effective September 1

Father Gray’s appointment is effective September 1. A celebration of new ministry will be held October 20 in a public event.

Like St. George’s, All Saints is a historic church with members from all over the region.

A recent message on the All Saints website shortly before he left, from the which above quotation was taken, continued: “Equal opportunities and respect exists for all. We value your unique spiritual journey whether you are seeking, feeling, seeking or doubter. We respect the opinion, leadership and participation of all regardless of your spiritual and sexual orientation. If you are looking for a church that is inclusive, tolerant, respectful and celebrates all God’s people please visit or contact us. If you are looking for a church of