



A heartfelt thank you to our proofreaders!

I would like to publicly thank Mother Wendy Telfer for diligently and skillfully proofreading this paper for the last six years. In doing so, she saved me from misspellings, grammatical errors and public embarrassment. As she recently retired from this volunteer position, I will miss her steadfastness and abundant good nature!

Fortunately, Scott Davidson has stepped in to fill her metaphorically large shoes. Looking forward to the next six years of being corrected!

Nicki



Bishop's Spring Dinner 2026 Celebrating community and culture

VICTOR-DAVID MBUYI
BIPUNGU, BISHOP OF THE
DIOCESE OF MONTREAL

I invite you to join me and my team on Friday, May 1 for a special fund-raising dinner in celebration of community, culture, and Christian fellowship.

During my years as a parish priest, gatherings such as these were among the most meaningful and memorable moments in our shared walk with God. In that same spirit, we have invited members of La Nativité to help bring this vision to life, offering a diverse culinary and cultural experience—only now, I am serving as your Bishop, and this dinner is an offering to the whole diocese.

This gathering is a chance to savour good food and reconnect with one another, while

supporting the work of the Anglican Diocese of Montreal.

In alignment with my core values, I have chosen to dedicate funds from this dinner to support youth ministry.

I am committed to creating opportunities to listen to our young people as we look towards building a strong sustainable future. Your presence at our dinner will not only enrich the evening, but help ensure that our shared witness of faith, hope, and love continues to flourish for many years to come.

In order to accommodate families, we will offer a child-friendly meal, while an animator will lead activities for children so that parents can relax and enjoy themselves.

We hope you can join us. For tickets montreal.anglican.ca.

Dîner printanier de l'évêque 2026

Je vous invite à vous joindre à moi et à mon équipe pour un dîner spécial de collecte de fonds afin de célébrer la communauté, la culture et notre communion chrétienne unique.

Au cours de mes années en tant que prêtre de paroisse, les rassemblements comme celui-ci ont été parmi les moments les plus significatifs et mémorables de notre cheminement commun avec Dieu. Dans le même esprit, nous avons invité les membres de La Nativité à nous aider à concrétiser cette vision en proposant une expérience culinaire et culturelle diversifiée. Aujourd'hui, je suis votre évêque, et ce dîner est une offre de fraternité à l'ensemble du diocèse.

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Bishop's Spring Dinner
Friday, May 1st, 6pm Fulford Hall
Haitian Meal \$100/adult
For tickets go to www.montreal.anglican.ca

\$25/child with animator & pizza!

To benefit the Diocesan Youth Fund

ANGLICAN DIŌCÈSE MONTREAL

The challenges and Joys of a Multi-parish Ministry

By Lee-Ann Matthews in conversation with The Rev Tyson

Serving the Church in a rural, multi-parish context requires resilience, creativity, and a deep commitment to people spread across great distances. In the Eastern Townships, one priest ministers eight parishes, navigating long drives, shifting church landscapes, and the emotional weight of change—all while discovering new signs of hope and renewal. In this interview, he reflects candidly on the realities of rural ministry, the challenges and joys of walking with congregations in transition, and the ways tradition and innovation can coexist in the life of the Church.

What are the biggest challenges of serving multiple rural parishes?

The biggest challenge is the geography. From end to end, my region spans almost 100 km. Having multiple Sunday services in different locations often



Photo of Father Tyson taken by Tim Smart.

makes it feel like I'm always on the run; there's never enough time to spend with the first congregation as I dash out the door to the next service. It isn't easy to connect with people when you're always on the move.

Another personal challenge is that it's all too easy to get despondent sometimes. The Anglican landscape of the Eastern Townships has changed significantly in the five years that I've been here: I've been

part of a dozen church closures and building sales. That's quite something to go through within your first years of ordained ministry! It has been a genuine privilege to walk alongside these congregations in this time of transition, but it is hard and emotional work.

Are there assumptions people make about rural or multi-parish ministry that you'd like to challenge?

A lot of people seem to think that I have an idyllic, easy life in the country. Yet, multiple parishes come with multiple challenges — multiple building problems, multiple personalities, multiple administrations. I have no secretaries or administrative assistants. I spend a lot of time in my car, regularly driving hundreds of kilometres each week. I am the only full-time priest across eight parishes. And, even in those places where we have sold a church building, I still get called upon

to do pastoral care or funerals — the building might be gone, but the ministry continues. Life in the country is wonderful, but the work is hard!

How do you manage fatigue and avoid burnout?

I try to make time for things other than the Church, and take full advantage of all that country life has to offer. I love to cross-country ski and hike, I split my own firewood, bake sourdough bread, keep chickens and have a big vegetable garden: I planted 250 garlic bulbs this year! I go to the gym 3-4x a week and I have my rambunctious, but loveable dog, Roxy.

Does anyone help you in your ministry?

I am the only full-time priest, but I am not alone. I am very grateful for the support of two retired priests (Archdeacons Linda Borden Taylor and Tim Smart), as well as two deacons

continued on page 9

Pastoral Letter, Lent 2026

Conversion: A call to walking together

“... Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity ...” (Ephesians 5 :14-15).

To you, brothers and sisters, grace and peace in Christ.

This passage from Paul calls us as disciples to spiritual awakening, urging us to rise from spiritual slumber, receive Christ's light, and live wisely by making the most of our time in a world facing evil, not as foolish people but as those who understand God's will and opportunities. It's a call to purposeful living, emphasizing walking in wisdom and light.

I am writing this second pastoral letter as we enter the season of Lent. According to the liturgical church calendar, Lent provides us with the opportunity for self-examination, prayer, fasting and repentance; and to read and meditate on God's holy word (BCP, p 265) so that we may be adjusted to God's will. This lenten season, beginning on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, I invite you to join our faith community as we undertake a special journey of meditation on the commandment to love God and our neighbour, and consider the meaning of this fundamental recommendation in our daily lives as disciples. That's why I have titled this message: **“A call to conversion and to walking together”**.

In fact, to convert means precisely turning one's heart back to God, turning one's eyes to Him, letting one's ears listen to His word and obey His commandments. In this perspective, the most important thing is not what we do but what God wants to do for us. As long as our hearts are kept open to God and His love, there is already a good chance that Lent bears fruit in our lives. Good fruit of conversion, that is the result of a deep transformation of our being as God our Father intends it.

One of the positive consequences of that conversion is walking together, being reconciled to one another. This makes us truly God's family and Christ's church. In this way we will know how to care for one another by loving each other as God has loved us, and make our world an anticipation of the Kingdom of God, a kingdom of joy, justice and peace. Our families and communities will be transformed as well.

For this to be possible, fasting, prayer and almsgiving are being suggested as ways of spiritual training. I invite you to follow the one you feel is the most appropriate way for your personal growth as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Together we will therefore walk forward in our life's journey. Let us have the courage to stand before God and review our priorities in accordance with what He asks us to be.

One of our priorities this year is the review of our *Safe Church Policy* as, in the course of the last year, serious concerns have been raised about the effectiveness of the past policies. This lenten season offers us an opportunity to better understand how vital this work is. Our parishes and faith communities need to be safe spaces, in which people can bring their hopes, their dreams, and their vulnerabilities and open themselves to the healing and transformation we have been offered in Christ.

As I announced to the Synod on October 4, 2025, I would like to reaffirm my unwavering commitment to working to restore trust in our relationships. It is therefore our collective responsibility to implement a more effective Safe Church Policy. I am aware that the people of our diocese have high expectations on this matter. For that reason, Diocesan Council has commissioned a *Safe Church Review Committee* to conduct a thorough review of our policies and write a new, permanent



Photo by Stephensstudiophotography.

policy which will be aligned with best practice, both in its process and in its care for those who have been harmed. To do that work well, however, will take time, but it is important to safeguard our communities now.

It is with this in mind that the Chancellor, the Vicar General, and I have worked to develop an interim *Safe Church Policy* which is clear, simple to use, and will ensure that any complaints are addressed in a fair and impartial manner, and that both complainants and accused parties receive appropriate pastoral and spiritual support during the resolution of any issues raised. That interim policy was unanimously adopted by Diocesan Council at its meeting in January for immediate implementation.

That policy is already on the website of the diocese. Please read it. It is important that you understand both the standards to which we are now accountable (Section 3) and the process for resolving any issues which arise (Summarized in Appendix I). Please note also the guidelines for working with children and youth (pp. 29-30). Any complaints which arise need to be brought to the attention of the Ombudsperson, whose contact details are available on our website.

I wish you a fruitful lenten season! May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church, wake up from our slumber, rise from the dead so that Christ may shine upon us.

With every blessing in Christ,

+ Vic-David (Bipungu) 13.

The Rt Rev'd Victor-David Mbuyi Bipungu
Bishop of Montreal



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Lettre pastorale Carême 2026

La conversion : un appel à marcher ensemble

« ... Réveille-toi, toi qui dors, ressuscite d'entre les morts, et le Christ t'éclairera. Veille donc à ta conduite, ne sois pas imprudent, mais sage, tirant parti de chaque occasion... » (Éphésiens 5, 14-15).

À vous, frères et sœurs, grâce et paix en Christ.

Ce passage de Paul nous appelle, en tant que disciples, à un réveil spirituel, nous exhortant à sortir de notre torpeur spirituelle, à recevoir la lumière du Christ et à vivre avec sagesse en tirant le meilleur parti de notre temps dans un monde confronté au mal, non pas comme des insensés, mais comme des personnes qui comprennent la volonté de Dieu et les opportunités qui s'offrent à elles. C'est un appel à mener une vie pleine de sens, qui met l'accent sur la marche dans la sagesse et la lumière.

Je vous adresse cette deuxième lettre pastorale alors que nous entrons dans la période du Carême. Selon le calendrier liturgique de l'Église, le Carême nous offre l'occasion de nous examiner nous-mêmes, de prier, de jeûner et de nous repentir, ainsi que de lire et de méditer la Sainte Parole de Dieu (BCP, p. 265) afin de nous ajuster à sa volonté. En ce Carême, qui commence le mercredi 18 février 2026, je vous invite à vous joindre à notre communauté de foi pour entreprendre un voyage spécial de méditation sur le commandement d'aimer Dieu et notre prochain, et à réfléchir à la signification de cette recommandation fondamentale dans notre vie quotidienne de disciples. C'est pourquoi j'ai intitulé ce message : « **Un appel à la conversion et à marcher ensemble** ».

En effet, se convertir signifie précisément tourner son cœur vers Dieu, tourner son regard vers Lui, prêter l'oreille à Sa parole et obéir à Ses commandements. Dans cette perspective, le plus important n'est pas ce que nous faisons, mais ce que Dieu veut faire pour nous. Tant que notre cœur reste ouvert à Dieu et à Son amour, il y a déjà de bonnes chances que le Carême porte ses fruits dans notre vie. Un bon fruit de la conversion, c'est le résultat d'une profonde transformation de notre être telle que Dieu notre Père le souhaite.

L'une des conséquences positives de cette conversion est le fait de marcher ensemble, d'être réconciliés les uns avec les autres. Cela fait de nous la véritable famille de Dieu et l'Église du Christ. Ainsi, nous saurons prendre soin les uns des autres en nous aimant comme Dieu nous a aimés, et nous ferons de notre monde une anticipation du Royaume de Dieu, un Royaume de joie, de justice et de paix. Nos familles et nos communautés en seront également transformées.

Pour que cela soit possible, le jeûne, la prière et l'aumône sont proposés comme moyens de préparation spirituelle. Je vous invite à suivre celui qui vous semble le plus approprié pour votre croissance personnelle en tant que disciple de Jésus-Christ. Ensemble, nous avancerons ainsi dans notre cheminement de vie. Ayons le courage de nous présenter devant Dieu et de revoir nos priorités en fonction de ce qu'il nous demande d'être.

L'une de nos priorités cette année est la révision de notre politique de sécurité dans l'Église, car au cours de l'année dernière, de sérieuses préoccupations ont été soulevées quant à l'efficacité des politiques passées. Cette période de Carême nous offre l'occasion de mieux comprendre à quel point ce travail est essentiel. Nos paroisses et nos communautés de foi doivent être des lieux sûrs, où les gens peuvent apporter leurs espoirs, leurs rêves et leurs vulnérabilités, et s'ouvrir à la guérison et à la transformation qui nous sont offertes en Christ.

Comme je l'ai annoncé au Synode le 4 octobre 2025, je tiens à réaffirmer mon engagement indéfectible à œuvrer pour rétablir la confiance dans nos relations. Il est donc de notre responsabilité collective de mettre en œuvre une politique plus efficace en matière de sécurité dans l'Église. Je suis conscient que le peuple de notre diocèse a de grandes attentes à cet égard. C'est pourquoi le Conseil diocésain a chargé un comité d'examen de la sécurité dans l'Église de procéder à une révision approfondie de nos politiques et de rédiger une nouvelle politique permanente qui sera conforme aux meilleures pratiques, tant dans son processus que dans la prise en charge des personnes qui ont subi des préjudices. Cependant, pour bien faire ce travail, il faudra du temps, mais il est important de protéger nos communautés dès maintenant.

C'est dans cet esprit que le Chancelier, la Vicaire général et moi-même avons travaillé à l'élaboration d'une politique provisoire pour la sécurité dans l'Église qui soit claire, simple à utiliser et qui garantisse que toute plainte soit traitée de manière équitable et impartiale, et que les plaignants et les parties accusées bénéficient d'un soutien pastoral et spirituel approprié pendant le règlement de tout problème soulevé. Cette politique provisoire a été adoptée à l'unanimité par le Conseil diocésain lors de sa réunion de janvier pour une mise en œuvre immédiate.

Cette politique est déjà disponible sur le site web du diocèse. Je vous invite à la lire. Il est important que vous compreniez à la fois les normes auxquelles nous sommes désormais tenus de nous conformer (section 3) et le processus de résolution des problèmes qui pourraient survenir (résumé à l'annexe I). Veuillez également prendre connaissance des lignes directrices relatives au travail avec les enfants et les jeunes (pp. 29-30). Toute plainte doit être portée à l'attention de la médiatrice, dont les coordonnées sont disponibles sur notre site web.

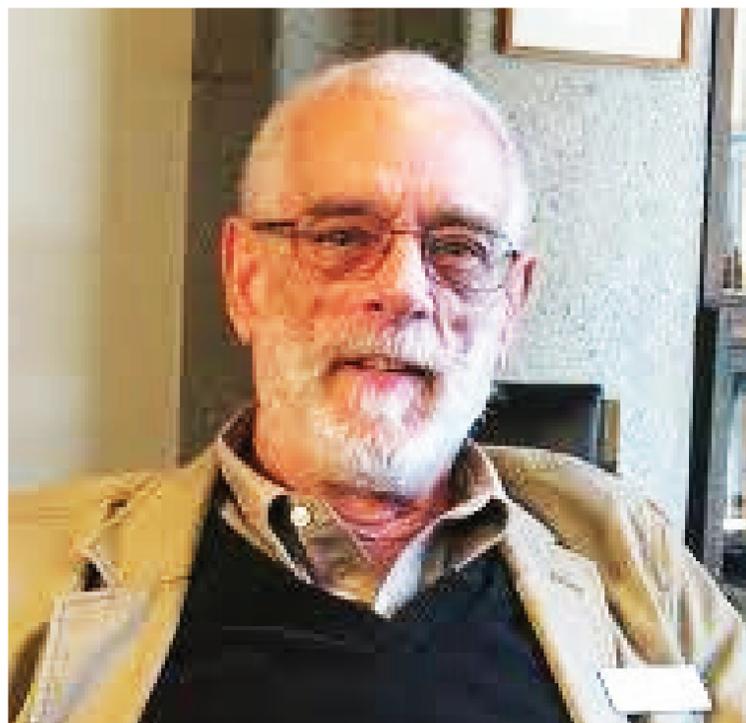
Je vous souhaite un Carême fructueux ! Puissions-nous entendre ce que l'Esprit dit à l'Église, nous réveiller de notre sommeil, ressusciter d'entre les morts afin que le Christ puisse briller sur nous.

Avec toutes mes bénédictions en Christ,

+ Vic-David (Bipungu) 13.

Mgr Victor-David Mbuyi Bipungu
Évêque de Montréal

Long-time Diocesan Archivist Richard Virr 1942-2025



SOPHIE BERTRAND

Ms Sophie Bertrand is the Human Resources & Program Manager for the Diocese.

We share with deep sorrow the news of the passing of Dr Richard Edmund Virr, who died on December 23, 2025.

For many years, Dr. Virr served faithfully as Archivist of the Anglican Diocese of Montreal, dedicating himself to preserving our diocesan memory and supporting the life of the Church with wisdom, devotion, and generosity.

We also remember with gratitude his distinguished academic contribution at McGill University's Rare Books and Special Collections, where he served as Curator of Manuscripts and later as Chief Curator. His scholarship and

leadership shaped the work of countless students, researchers, and colleagues.

According to his wishes, Dr. Virr will be laid to rest in Topeka, Kansas, beside his parents. Details concerning memorial arrangements will be shared when available.

May God grant him eternal rest and surround him with peace.

Nous annonçons avec une profonde tristesse le décès du Dr Richard Edmund Virr, survenu le 23 décembre 2025.

Pendant de nombreuses années, le Dr Virr a servi fidèlement comme archiviste du Diocèse anglican de Montréal, consacrant son énergie à la préservation de notre mémoire

diocésaine et soutenant la mission de l'Église avec sagesse, dévouement et générosité.

Nous rendons également grâce pour sa contribution académique remarquable au sein des Collections spéciales de l'Université McGill, où il a exercé les fonctions de conservateur des manuscrits puis de chef conservateur. Son érudition et son leadership ont marqué durablement de nombreux étudiants, chercheurs et collègues.

Selon sa volonté, il sera inhumé à Topeka, Kansas, auprès de ses parents. Les informations concernant les arrangements commémoratifs seront communiquées ultérieurement.

Que Dieu lui accorde le repos éternel et l'entoure de sa paix.

News from Local Ministries

Mile End Mission: A Story of Love, Home, and Stray Cats

ROS MACGREGOR

The Rev Ros Macgregor is the Honorary Chaplain of Mile End Mission.

For over 30 years, our Cherie was a member of Mile End Mission. Sometimes as a client, often as a volunteer – but always as a friend. Cherie had a huge grin, sparkly dark eyes, and a warm hug. She made the most delicious pierogies for us. She died of cancer on January 6. She was 56.

Cherie's life had been unimaginably hard from her beginning and yet, she had such a loving heart. She was determined, resourceful, courageous, loving, giving, a hard worker. Even near the end of her life, managing pain meds, she cheerfully helped fill bags on food bank day. She was in drug rehab more than once, giving it every effort with enormous courage. Now and then, she disappeared, and when she returned to the Mission we'd find she'd been in jail. Did you know sometimes people get themselves jailed mid-winter so they have food and so they don't freeze to death? I didn't.

The day before she died, Lori, Missy, and I visited Cherie in hospital. Sitting beside her bed holding her hand, I said, "If you get to heaven before



Cherie and daughter, T, in an undated photo.

I do, will you come and get me? (She knew I also have cancer.) Quick as a wink, she replied, "I'll come as a stray cat." "Like Belle," I said. "Yes." We both understood the meaning. Belle, our Mission cat, was a stray who lived with us for almost 18 years. Everyone belongs at the Mission. Even a little grey cat.

Mile End Mission is a place for stray cats and for stray people whose lives have been and are hard. Our members are no different from the rest of us in that regard. We're all stray cats looking for a home, a place to belong and people

to belong to and with. Some people's stray cat-ness may be more obvious. Some are better able to hide our stray-catness. We're all in this life together to love and be loved.

To quote Charlie Mackesy in his book *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*: "Sometimes I feel lost," said the boy. "Me too," said the mole, "but we love you and love brings you home."

"I think everyone is just trying to get home," said the mole. Yes. You're home, Cherie. Rest in peace, and I'll be watching for you, but not quite yet.



Le groupe Zo's Band aux Centre de surveillance de l'immigration (CSI) de Laval, le 17 décembre 2025. Photo by Ouadia Karim.

Un mini-concert organisé par Action Réfugiés Montréal offert aux personnes détenues

NADINE LOUIS

Ms Nadine Louis is the Executive Director of Action Réfugiés Montréal.

Laval, le 17 décembre 2025—À l'occasion des fêtes, le Centre de surveillance de l'immigration (CSI) de Laval a accueilli un événement inédit et porteur d'humanité : un mini-concert de musique *live* offert aux personnes détenues. Cette initiative a été organisée par Action Réfugiés Montréal, dans le cadre de son programme de détention.

Pour la toute première fois, les sons du saxophone, du piano, des percussions et de la guitare ont résonné dans la salle des visites du CSI. Action Réfugiés Montréal en collaboration avec le groupe Zo's Band, a offert une prestation chaleureuse mêlant jazz et blues, créant un moment de répit et de connexion humaine.

Près de 40 personnes détenues, femmes et hommes répartis en cinq groupes, ont pu assister à ce concert d'environ une heure et demie. Dans un contexte souvent marqué par l'isolement, l'incertitude et l'attente, cette parenthèse musicale a permis une véritable évasion émotionnelle.

Sur une scène improvisée pour l'occasion, les musiciens et les chanteurs ont interprété un medley de pièces, suscitant enthousiasme, danse et applaudissements.

« Ça nous a changé », a confié l'une des personnes détenues, soulignant l'impact positif de l'événement sur le moral et le bien-être des participant.e.s.

Pour Zoheir Ferdjoui, chef du groupe Zo's Band, cette

prestation allait bien au-delà de la musique :

« C'était avant tout un geste de solidarité et de partage des valeurs humaines, particulièrement significatif en cette période de l'année. »

Au-delà de son caractère festif, cette initiative rappelle l'importance des activités culturelles et bien-être en milieu de détention. La musique constitue un levier puissant pour apaiser le mal-être, briser l'isolement et contrer les effets désocialisant de l'enfermement.

À l'issue du concert, artistes et personnes détenues se sont salués chaleureusement, laissant place à des sourires et à une atmosphère empreinte de dignité, de reconnaissance et d'humanité.

À propos d'Action Réfugiés Montréal

Par l'entremise de son programme de détention, Action Réfugiés Montréal effectue des visites hebdomadaires au Centre de surveillance de l'immigration de Laval afin d'offrir écoute, soutien, information et accompagnement aux personnes détenues. Cette activité culturelle s'inscrit dans une approche humaine et respectueuse des droits, visant à préserver la dignité et le bien-être des personnes en détention administrative.

À compter du 1er février, Action Réfugiés Montréal accueillera la communauté à sa nouvelle adresse

1857, boulevard de Maisonneuve Ouest, Bureau 400
Montréal (Québec) H3H 1J9



From left to right- Joan Ellwood, Pat MacGregor, Pat Chamblin, Kristin Wylie, Olivia Staskevicius, Janice and Barry Wylie. Photo supplied.

St Stephen's Chambly Fills Stockings and Supports Community

PAT MCGREGOR

Pat McGregor is the Coordinator at St Stephen's Christmas stocking program.

With grateful hearts, we thank all who responded to our 2025 Stocking Fundraiser. The kindness and compassion were truly a blessing, and the outpouring of support from our parish and community was overwhelming.

In addition to monetary donations, we received gifts of warm socks, hand warmers,

gloves, gift cards, and lovingly hand-knitted hats and scarves from Mepec in Beloeil, along with other thoughtful contributions too numerous to mention. We are especially grateful to Familiprix Chambly for their generous donation of personal hygiene products. Used winter coats and hats were brought regularly to Randell Hall, each one a tangible sign of care for our neighbours in need.

Because of your generosity, we were able to fill 26 stockings for Mile End Mission's un-

housed community. The clothing collected was shared with two organizations that work directly with people experiencing homelessness in Montreal and on the South Shore. Your donations made it possible for us to donate to the food bank Aux Sources du Bassin du Chambly and Posa Source des Monts, who offer services to young adults in Chambly.

On behalf of the parish of St. Stephen's, we wish you a New Year filled with peace, hope, and God's abundant grace.

Parish News



St. George's Corporation with Debbie Stevens-Boyer (far right) and Gabe Spina (center) at a Celebration on December 7th which was also a farewell for Spina who has moved to Ontario with his husband, the Ven Robert Camara.

Parish Secretary Retires after 37 Years

DEBORAH NOONAN

The Rev Deborah Noonan is the Incumbent of St George's Châteauguay.

On December 7th, St. George's Church in Châteauguay celebrated with Debbie Stevens-Boyer her retirement as Parish Secretary. Mrs. Stevens-Boyer started working at the church in 1988. Back in those days, she typed everything on a Gestetner Stencil and then ran the copies off on a duplicating machine. She also remembers when the church was the official registrar for baptisms, marriages and deaths and received income for making extracts of these records.

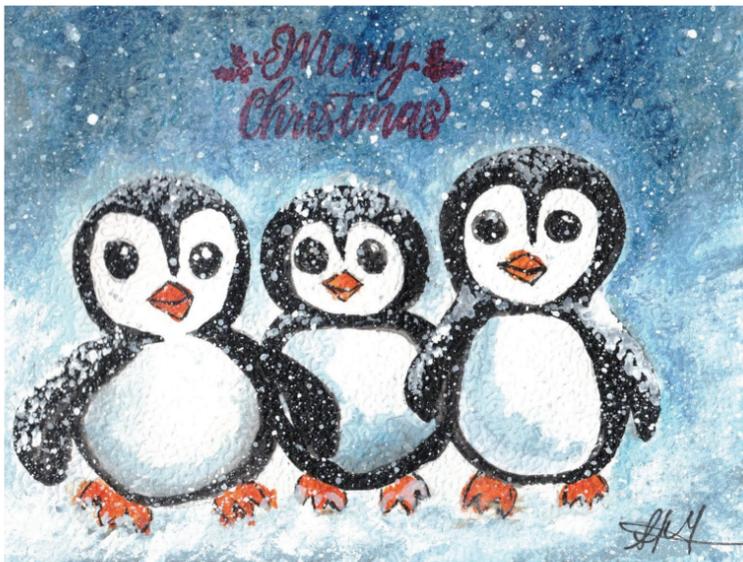
Over the 37 years, Mrs. Stevens-Boyer has worked with incumbents and many curates and interim priests. She said that at times "it was a challenge to adjust to each priest's way of working" but she has always enjoyed working with parishioners and the feeling of community at the church. The congregation made a memory book for Mrs. Stevens-Boyer with pictures from her time as Secretary and messages from church members and past and current clergy. Many of the

clergy wrote about how they had served at St. George's early on in their ministry and Mrs. Stevens-Boyer had been a great help to them. Parishioners described Debbie as like "a lighthouse" and "a stabilizing force during so many transitions."

Over the years, Mrs. Steven-Boyer has developed a deep knowledge of the parish, working to support the life events of multiple generations of the same families. She reflected that "I have always been the type of person to take an interest in people and get to know them." During the COVID-19 pandemic, she helped the congregation stay connected, hand-delivering newsletters and visiting parishioners in their front yards.

Throughout her time as Secretary, Mrs. Stevens-Boyer was an active member of the congregation and looks forward to remaining so as long as she is able. "It has been a pleasure and it is not like I have left the community. I am still a big part of it and will continue to be so as long as St. George's exists or I do. I am so thankful that I was able to serve the church in a capacity that I truly, truly, loved."

Spreading joy through art



Arlene Baird and her elves were busy late last fall drawing and painting cards for St Stephen's Chambly's Christmas mailings.



Over 250 people were in attendance for the concert on November 29, 2025. Photo supplied.

Christmas Dessert Concert 2025

GERRY ZAMPINI

Mr. Gerry Zampini is Parish Council Chair and Christmas Dessert Concert Coordinator for Saint George's Anglican Church, Ste Anne-de-Belleuve.

The Christmas Dessert Concert at Saint George's Anglican Church in Ste-Anne-de-Belleuve was held on Saturday November 29, 2025. It featured the Lakeshore Concert Band with its 38 musicians under the direction of conductor Trevor Dix, playing an array of traditional Christmas songs to help us prepare for the festive season of Christmas. The program also included several sing-

along songs where everyone was encouraged to sing aloud with the music from the band.

After the concert, free desserts, tea and coffee were provided to all who attended in our lower hall. Most of desserts were prepared by the women of our congregation. We even sold frozen apple pies that had been made by our bake team.

The concert was a huge success and very well attended. It was great so see a full church again!!!

208 tickets were sold excluding the free tickets given to children under 12. In total we estimate that there were over 250 people in attendance,

including the paid guests, the children and the band members. The concert generated \$4,170 in revenue including some upfront costs which were generously paid for by donations from members of our congregation!

I personally would like to thank all of the volunteers who sold tickets, handed out programs, prepared desserts, set up and cleaned up, decorated the church and made themselves available to make this concert a very fun and memorable fund-raising event.

We certainly plan to do it again in 2026!

Anglican Foundation Grant supports St Stephen's Restoration

ANDY O'DONNELL

The Ven Andrew O'Donnell is Archdeacon of Bedford and the Richelieu and Incumbent, St Stephen's with St James, Chambly.

The Parish of St. Stephen's Chambly would like to acknowledge the funds received from the Anglican Foundation of Canada.

In May of 2025, the Foundation awarded the parish \$7,500 to help with phase two of our church's restoration, paying over half of the \$14,000 invoice for our mason.

Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec has invested \$220,000 in this restoration (phases 1 and 2). Donations received by our capital campaign, fundraising and the Anglican Foundation grant

made up the majority of our 20% financial commitment.

St Stephen's Chambly and I personally have a membership with the Anglican Foundation. I encourage you and your churches to consider joining and supporting their work.

The Anglican Diocese of Montreal can submit up to four projects each year for consideration. In 2025, only two from the diocese were submitted. The application process is not difficult. Over several projects I have worked on, the staff from the Foundation have been knowledgeable and helpful. St Stephen's received a category "B" grant. In this category, a grant can be up to \$15,000.00, with a requirement of 50% matching funds.

Notables

THÉ D'APRES-MIDI AU PRINTEMPS
SPRING AFTERNOON TEA
 Le thé est servi sur porcelaine fine avec petit sandwichs et pâtisseries. 20\$
 Tea is served in fine china along with finger sandwiches and a selection of pastries. \$20

Samedi le 25 avril à 14h Saturday April 25 at 2pm Salle Église All Saints Hall 248 18e ave., Deux-Montagnes espace limité / limited space Reservations Requis - Billets Reservations Required - Tickets: Kathleen 450-472-3065 pilkington@sympatico.ca

For clergy

Clergy Lenten Quiet Day
 March 31, 2025 10am in Fulford Hall

Clergy Conference
 at Jouvence from the 21st-23rd of September.

YOU ARE LEAVEN
Fermenting Cultures of Spiritual Formation
 Saturday October 3, 2026 - More details to come.
 A collaboration between the dioceses of Montreal & Ottawa

Around the Diocese



Bishop Victor-David, friends and colleagues celebrate the installation of Jean Milor Medala at St Paul's, Côte-des-Neiges, December 7, 2025. Photo by Stephensstudiophotography.



The Rev Jean Milor Medala at his installation at St Paul's Côte-des-Neiges. Photo by Stephensstudiophotography.



Jen MacLean, Bridgitte Ngoudie, Mona Jean Pierre, Monica Wright and Pete Douglas at the installation of Jean Milor Medala on December 7, 2025. Photo by Stephensstudiophotography.



The Rev Jean Fils Chery, Rose Aymna Sainvil and Bishop Victor-David at Rev Chery's installation at La Nativité, November 29, 2025. Photo supplied.



Les Cinq Cuivres at a concert at Grace Church, Sutton, on December 13, 2025. Photo by Tim Smart.



The Church of St John the Evangelist introduces their new Interim Director of Music, Amiel Elfert. Photo by Janet Best.

Around the Diocese



John Hoblyn and organist Sarah Hoblyn at Nine Lessons and Carols at Grace Church, December 21, 2025. Photo by Tim Smart.



The three basses, Tim Smart, Roger Williams and Mark Cogswell at Nine Lessons and Carols at Grace Church, December 21, 2025. Photo by Tim Smart.



The Rt Rev Bertrand Olivier poses with Sophie Bertrand and Tom Sheehan at an Epiphany celebration, January 15, 2025. Photo by Leah Trineer.



The Rt Rev Bertrand Olivier and Alice Njoki Githinji at an Epiphany celebration, January 15, 2025. Photo by Leah Trineer.



Participants at the "Here Comes the Sun" Epiphany Retreat and Book Study with the Rev Grace Burson at All Saints by the Lake, Dorval, January 31, 2025. Photo by Lee Matthews.



Neil Mancor telling the Candlemas story, January 31, 2025 at St George's Chateaugay. Photo supplied.

NEIL MANCOR

The Rev Canon Dr Neil Mancor is the Congregational Development Coordinator of the Diocese.

Sunday by Sunday in our Holy Communion services we proclaim: Glory to God from generation to generation. It is a statement of faith that down the generations, God continues to be faithful and that the Church will continue its ministry and mission in the world, even as times change, as they constantly do.

The Church exists in a succession of generations, and often the shift from one to another feels entering the deepest of mysteries.

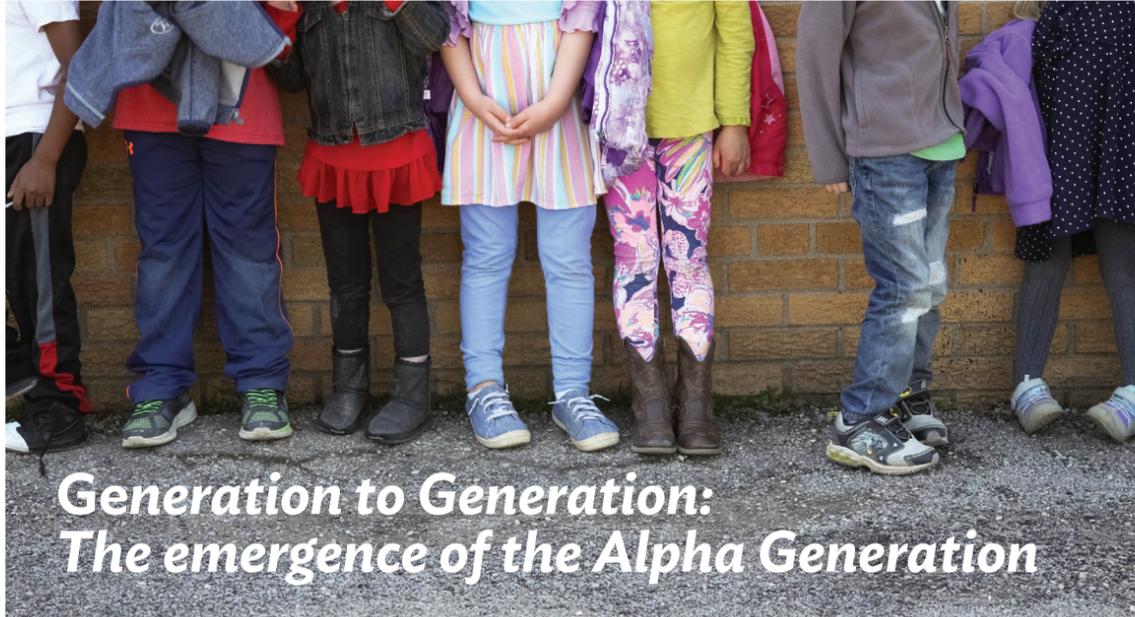
I don't need to tell you that times have very much changed! Many of us still remember the times when many more people went to church regularly, and our buildings hummed with energy. We often struggle to think about how we can entice young people back to church, when in fact the movement away from organized religion has been ongoing for decades.

When I was ordained in 1999, we spoke of Generation X and why they left the Church. We are currently in the middle of Generation Z as now Generation Alpha makes its presence known with implications for all religions.

Gary Nicolosi talks about this in his book *Culture Shift: Leading a Growing Church in Uncertain Times* which a group of us studied this past fall. Understanding the succession of generations can help us to make more informed decisions as we strategize the best ways to be the Church in the present.

Great Times: Institutional Shifts

Much of our current parish infrastructure dates from the baby boom - a generation born



between 1946-1964 during a time of growth and prosperity. The parents of the baby boomers belonged to the Silent Generation (1928-1945), of whom more than 80% were active in Church.

Growing suburbs were where many mainline dominations planted churches with the assurance they would thrive. During this time the Canadian family had on average 4 children; it was a massive demographic cohort. Sunday Schools were full, and every church had a youth group. Church was an important social hub for the community beyond just the Sunday morning gathering; it was a place where much of life played out.

It was our heyday. With nostalgia we wonder: what happened? Was there something we could have done to stem the exodus? As baby boomers reached adulthood, many rejected the faith of their parents. We begin to see the emergence of "Dones", those who may have grown up in Church but left it behind. For many, it became irrelevant to them.

This demographic change,

over which we had no control, had profound impacts upon our parishes. The worst response has been to blame: our clergy, ourselves, our society – even Sunday shopping!! It caused splits in the Anglican foundation as we disagreed over the causes of this shift and blamed each other.

We cannot control demographic trends, but we can control how we respond and think creatively about the structures that sustain us. Many of our beloved parishes were constructed during the boom times, but as we strategize how to flourish today, it is important to honour our vibrant past but plan for a sustainable future.

Changing Times

Subsequent generational cohorts have emerged each with evolving views of church, faith, and religion. Generation X (1965-1980) moved more clearly away from organized, institutional religion. Now spiritual practice became more and privatized. At the same time, the religious "market-place" became increasingly diverse, offering more choices

than the mainline denominations alone. Think of the rise of churches like Willow Creek, for example.

Millennials or Gen Y (1981-1996) saw the emergence of the Internet and were the first to use early social media platforms. This brought new access to information and the sharing of ideas. This generation grew up with few memories of cultural Christianity, and for whom traditional religious language and terminology felt obsolete. It is not that millennials are not spiritual; it is just that they find little meaning in an institutional faith and theology in which they were not raised.

The biggest shift here is that spiritual practice has become individualized and removed from religious institutions. People do not feel the need for Church as they practise yoga, meditation or spend time in nature. For the Church, this does not mean abandoning our core beliefs and the traditions that anchor us, but acknowledging that we are no longer the only spiritual place in people's lives.

Our opportunity lies in

the creation of community that invites and welcomes the experience of others beyond the Sunday morning liturgy. People are far more interested in sharing spiritual practice than we may realize: are we willing to extend ourselves and make space for this?

We are amid Generation Z (2001-2024) who are the least religious generation in history. Yet, with the uncertainty in the world including the COVID-19 pandemic, the rising cost of living, war in Ukraine and the rise of Trumpism, a return to religious observance of this generation has been noticed.

Talk of a Gen Z revival is overblown, but a plateauing out of the exodus from Church is happening. Why? Gen Z craves connection, purpose, and substance, leading some to explore faith for deeper meaning. They have been drawn towards traditional forms of faith including Orthodox, Roman Catholic and (surprise!) Anglican churches. Organized religion can offer community and security that is critical for Zoomers, which goes to show you that you never know how times might change.

The Alpha Generation

Which brings me to the emerging Generation Alpha (2010-2024). Worldwide this is the largest generational cohort ever with more than 2 billion and growing. This is the most technologically savvy generation for whom smart phones are the way they interact with their world. They went through COVID-19 which interrupted their education, and they are part of a global experiment, for screens were placed before them from the youngest age. We are all living now in a great screen age, but with over three hours of daily screen time has

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Synod Nominations Now Open - Nominations Ouvertes

SOPHIE BERTRAND

Ms Sophie Bertrand is the Human Resources & Program Manager for the Diocese.

Business Session of Synod will be on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at the Synod Office. Further details about this event will be shared in the spring. In the meantime, nominations for elections at Synod are now open. Nominations must be received by March 16. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

To confirm a nomination, send an email to sbertrand@montreal.anglican.ca with the following:

1. Full name
2. Email address
3. Deanery and parish/church
4. Position for which they are being nominated

OPEN NOMINATIONS

1. Synod Planning Committee (2027-2029)

Synod 2026 must elect eight members, of whom at least six must have been members of Synod in 2026, and at least four must be lay members, for a three-year term.

2. Provincial Synod Delegates for 2027 (Synod Delegates only)

Provincial Synod is scheduled for June 11-12, 2027.

Synod 2026 must elect:

- Two clergy and two lay delegates
- Two alternates of each order
- One lay delegate aged 16-24, plus one alternate

Eligibility & Requirements

- Nominees must be members of Synod at the time of the election.
- Delegates serve until replaced and may be called to special meetings, Synods, or conventions convened by Provincial Synod.
- No person may serve more than three consecutive terms; a three-year gap is required before re-election.
- Nominees must confirm

willingness and ability to serve on at least one Provincial Synod committee or task force.

3. Diocesan Council (by Synod 2026)

Synod must elect three clergy and three lay members for a one-year term.

Deanery nominations and independent nominations are accepted.

Nous préparons progressivement la séance de travail du Synode, prévue pour le samedi 20 juin 2026, au bureau du Synode. Les mises en nomination pour les élections au Synode sont maintenant ouvertes. Bien que des nominations puissent également être faites sur place lors du Synode, veuillez transmettre cette information aux membres de votre paroisse ou église.

Pour confirmer une nomination, veuillez m'envoyer un courriel à sbertrand@montreal.anglican.ca incluant toutes les informations suivantes :

1. Nom complet

2. Adresse courriel
3. Doyenné et paroisse/église
4. Poste pour lequel la personne est mise en nomination

NOMINATIONS OUVERTES

1. Comité de planification du Synode (2027-2029)

Le Synode 2026 doit élire huit membres, dont au moins six doivent avoir été membres du Synode en 2026, et au moins quatre doivent être des laïcs, pour un mandat de trois ans.

2. Délégués au Synode provincial 2027 (Délégués du Synode seulement)

Le Synode provincial est prévu les 11 et 12 juin 2027 (lieu à confirmer).

Le Synode 2026 doit élire :

- Deux délégués du clergé et deux délégués laïcs
- Deux substituts pour chaque ordre
- Un délégué laïc âgé de 16 à 24 ans, plus un substitut

Admissibilité et exigences

- Les personnes mises en nomination doivent être mem-

bres du Synode au moment de l'élection.

- Les délégués demeurent en poste jusqu'à leur remplacement et peuvent être convoqués à toute réunion extraordinaire, tout synode ou toute convention convoqués par le Synode provincial.

- Nul ne peut exercer plus de trois mandats consécutifs, et une pause de trois ans est requise avant une nouvelle mise en nomination.

- Les personnes mises en nomination doivent confirmer leur volonté et capacité de siéger à au moins un comité ou groupe de travail du Synode provincial.

3. Conseil diocésain (par le Synode 2026)

Le Synode doit élire trois membres du clergé et trois membres laïcs pour un mandat d'un an.

Les nominations provenant des doyennés ainsi que les nominations indépendantes sont acceptées.



Photo of MMI participants by @timchinphotography.

Who is the Greatest? MMI participants deepen their faith through service.

ALAN MA

Mr Alan Ma is the Montreal Mission Internship Program Director for Montreal Dio.

When people imagine missions, some may associate the call with heroic acts of sacrifice or even the prestige of a 'holier' life. Even the disciples wrestled with these thoughts.

In Luke 22:24–27, we find them arguing among themselves about who was the greatest. Jesus responds by overturning their expectations: "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves."

In these words, Jesus teaches that God's Kingdom does not follow the logic of the world. Greatness is not marked by visibility or recognition, but by a posture of humble service. Often, this is practised quietly and unseen.

Since 2022, for nine transformative weeks each summer, a group of young Christian adults has been invited to live into this vision of the Kingdom through the Montreal Missions Internship (MMI).

Designed as an action-reflection program, MMI encourages participants to deepen their faith through service, and being attentive to God's presence. Participants between the ages of 18 and 25 are placed alongside some of Montreal's most vulnerable communities: refugee claimants navigating uncertainty, migrant workers far from home, low-income families facing systemic barriers, and at-risk youth searching for stability and hope.

What sets this experience apart is not only where par-

ticipants serve, but how they are invited to serve. From the very first days, the program emphasizes that service is not a solo pursuit or a performance, but a shared way of life. One participant recalled a defining moment from orientation week during a hike up Mount Royal:

"I remember we were given the opportunity to take the easier path or the harder path, and everyone chose to take that harder path together. We were panting and we were tired, but we all took that path together... And I felt that was such an impactful moment because you're on the top of the hill with all these people that have supported you going on your way up."

That early decision, to take the harder path together, becomes a symbol for the rest of the summer. Some participants may struggle with the workload while others become challenged by the routines and silences. The experience often reshapes their understanding of ministry. Another past participant reflected:

"MMI made me realize that ministry isn't all about preaching or big actions or beautiful vestments. It's more about the quiet moments—the still, small voice of God in dark places where you wouldn't expect to hear Him. It's also about experiencing and taking on the sufferings of the world around us, and—through that—being a light to the world."

Across shelters, community centres, urban gardens, and neighborhood organizations throughout Montreal, participants encounter Christ not through grand gestures, but through presence.

Each week, the program regroups at the Montreal Diocesan Theological College to reflect on experiences theologically. Participants reflect on what it means to wait anxiously alongside a refugee claimant for a court decision, share meals with migrant workers separated from family, or showing up consistently for young people who experienced

traumatic events. In these moments, Scripture begins to feel less distant and more embodied. As one participant shared:

"It's easy to read the Gospels or Paul's letters and think, 'This was written 2,000 years ago. Does it really apply to me?' MMI shows you how the Gospel can be lived out—right here in Montreal."

By the end of the nine weeks, participants often leave MMI changed. They carry with them a quieter, more grounded faith. They have learned to recognize God's presence not only in moments of clarity and strength, but also in fatigue and struggle like that first hike up Mount Royal.

I invite you to share this opportunity with young people in your congregations and ministries.

Enrollment for the 2026 cohort is now open. Visit our website: montrealmission.ca for more information. This summer, we invite young Christians to join us in serving, reflecting, and discerning together. Participants receive a \$5000 stipend for participation in the program. We also invite the church to pray with us in supporting the growth and maturation of the participants.

To learn more about what Montreal Dio has to offer people of all ages, go to www.montrealdio.ca.

Convocation 2026!

Montreal Dio's Convocation will take place on Monday, May 4, at 7pm at St. George's Place du Canada. Join us as we celebrate our graduates and honour their achievements in ministry and theological education. Save the date and celebrate with us! Visit montrealdio.ca for updates!

Alongside Hope Review

JANE BELL

The Rev Jane Bell is the diocesan representative for Alongside Hope.

This past summer I was appointed by the Rev. Ros Macgregor to be the Diocese of Montreal's representative for Alongside Hope.

My ability to move forward on this path was abruptly halted when, in the early fall, I fell on a brand new hip replacement and broke not only the appliance which was freshly put in but also my femur bone. I was instructed to not put more than 50% weight on my right leg.

The best solution for healing was to stay in the Rehab hospital for 3 months. After that time, my Doctor gave me the go ahead to return home.

All this to say, my plans for visiting the parishes in the diocese were put on hold. But, with the New Year, I feel it is time to visit the parishes, to meet and to get to know how their support for Alongside Hope is going or beginning.

I became more aware dur-

ing my time of being with people who were in the process of healing, that our Lord is present to support us through hard times and good times. Christ is found in those who are poor in spirit, those who mourn, the merciful, the peacemakers and the persecuted. As we read the Beatitudes, we realize that that is where we find our Lord working and being present.

Alongside Hope gives hope and support around the world where there is crisis, food security support, climate resilience, needed relief and health issues. This organization listens and does not impose. The design for needed projects are local. The response to issues is shaped by cultural, social, and economic realities for long-lasting community-driven change.

Since 1958, Alongside Hope has worked with partners in the world to support communities facing injustice, poverty, and crisis. Our wish is that you would join us and follow our Lord, at work. To learn more, visit www.alongsidehope.org.

Challenges & Joys *continued from page 1*

(Randy Gates and Judy Ball) who assist in the area. I have a lay reader who serves in one of the parishes. I am also thankful for the important support of the lay leadership teams that help me in my ministry.

Can you share an example of an initiative that's made a real difference in the community?

One of my parishes, St James the Apostle, has a Youth Council. It's not a youth group or Sunday school, but a group dedicated to fundraising for initiatives that support young people and families in our region.

Since 2023, the Youth Council has donated almost \$9,000 to things like breakfast programs in elementary schools, which ensure that young students start their day with full stomachs and alert minds.

It is so rewarding to empower and equip the younger generation for leadership, and it is having a direct impact on our parish attendance: we are getting record attendance at Christmas and Easter services, higher numbers than we've seen in the past 40 years! The average Sunday attendance is also slowly growing. People want to be part of a good thing.

How do you balance honouring tradition with adapting to change?

I love tradition! I would consider myself a traditional priest: we even had incense at one of my churches on Christmas Eve. But, within that tradition, I strive to make radical space for the newcomer, and especially the next generation.

At St James the Apostle, we have our Youth Council. Our treasurer is 25 years old, and just completed a masters degree in accounting; one of

our wardens is in her 30s and brings her two young daughters with her on Sundays.

Instead of tucking children away in another room, we've made a corner for them directly in the church. Don't get me wrong, I think Christian formation at all ages is important, but this is a way of showing families that they are welcome, that kids belong in church — that kids belong in the liturgy.

What has rural ministry taught you that you might not have learnt elsewhere?

It really feels like in only five years, I've had an entire career's worth of administrative experience: I've been involved in a dozen property transitions, I've worked with real estate agents, surveyors, lawyers, municipalities, and notaries. I've been involved in major construction projects, worked with contractors, spearheaded fundraising campaigns, and applied for grants. I don't know how many other priests have that level of experience so early on in their careers. I've gained some serious business experience!

Do you have any goals for the future?

I recently applied to Carleton University's program for Philanthropy and Non-Profit Leadership. The structures that have sustained the Church for decades are no longer working: we need to pivot, we need to adapt. My learning goals for the program are to build greater confidence in envisioning and implementing strategic planning, and better ease in navigating the challenges of constrained budgets and limited resources. I want to be more capable of leadership in the Church of tomorrow.

Lifting the Veil: The Transfiguration and Black Heritage Month

CAMILLE N. ISAACS-MORELL

Camille N. Isaacs-Morell is a member of St. John the Baptist Anglican Church, Pointe-Claire. She contributed to the development and adoption of the Anti-Black Racism Action Plan to dismantle systemic racism in the Anglican Diocese of Montreal and has been a keynote speaker during Black History Month in Anglican Churches.

The celebration of the Transfiguration in mid-February 2026, which coincided with Black Heritage Month, offers a powerful message that challenges us to affirm our common identity as children of God.

The significance of the Transfiguration begins with Moses receiving God's law. When Moses encountered God, his face shone with God's glory, so that he had to veil his face in front of the Israelites.

During the Transfiguration, in plain sight of his disciples, Jesus appeared alongside Moses, who received the law, and Elijah, representing the prophets. As Moses and Elijah faded, Jesus alone remained. God then affirmed Jesus' divine mission, which is to fulfill prophecy and, more importantly, to fulfill the intent of the law, which is love.

The Role and Limitations of Law

Religious and secular laws are essential, defining right and wrong. The Transfiguration calls us to let love lead us to act beyond mere legal requirements, a lesson particularly relevant during Black Heritage Month.

A significant part of Black Canadian history is rooted in the struggle for civil rights and the establishment of anti-discriminatory laws. Through their advocacy against injustice and demand for equality, Black Canadians have contributed to a robust framework of constitutional rights that benefits all Canadians.

Visible minorities continue to experience the persistent fear of racial profiling, systemic racism, and challenging encounters with law enforcement.

Despite the enactment of anti-discriminatory laws, racial discrimination persists. Visible minorities continue to experience the persistent fear of racial profiling, systemic racism, and challenging encounters with law enforcement. This reality prompts us to ask why, despite



these laws, our society continues to wrestle with racism—the very issue these laws aim to resolve.

The Power of Love Over Law

There are two key reasons for this ongoing struggle. First, love cannot be legislated or mandated. Second, individuals

may follow the letter of the law while hiding behind veils of political correctness and indifference toward the impacts of racism on minorities.

Throughout his ministry, Jesus grounded his teachings in love, which motivates us to act for the greatest good, for ourselves and others. There is no law against love.

The Transfiguration viv-

idly depicts love, embodied in Jesus, rising above the constraints of the law and removing the veil that distorts our relationship with God and our interactions with others. The Transfiguration invites us to examine our motives and intentionally go beyond the limitations of anti-discriminatory laws in Canada.

Transformation and Our Shared Identity

Going beyond the limits of the law is possible through our personal and collective transformation into the image and likeness of God, who, in Jesus Christ, is love personified.

In his letter to the diverse church in Corinth, Paul explains the importance of removing the veil of legalism to embrace our shared identity in Christ. He writes, "... when (we turn) ... to the Lord, the veil is removed. ... And all of us, with unveiled faces, ... are being transformed into the same image, ... for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit." (2 Corinthians 3:12-18.)

As God's children, love is our common identity and heritage. Jesus says, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 3:35.)

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Safe Church Review Committee developing new diocesan policy

SOPHIE ROLLAND

The Ven. Sophie Rolland is the Archdeacon of St. Lawrence, Incumbent of the Parish of Vaudreuil and member of the Safe Church Review Committee.

The Safe Church Review Committee, established by Diocesan Council, has been charged with reviewing the current Diocesan Safe Church policies and developing a new, comprehensive policy that reflects current best practices.

The aim of this work is to prevent, as much as possible, harm experienced within the Church and, where harm does occur, to provide a clear and compassionate framework for responding in ways that remedy or at least mitigate that harm. We are working toward completing this process in time to present the new policy to Diocesan Synod in 2027.

The Committee has been meeting every two weeks over the past several months, including a dedicated meeting with the newly appointed ombudsman. These conversations

have been instrumental in clarifying our mandate, deepening our understanding of the issues involved, and preparing us for the significant work ahead.

The members of the Committee are the Ven. Deborah Meister, the Rev. Jen Bourque, Mr. François Morin, Mrs. Nancy Longworth Hamilton, and the Ven. Sophie Rolland. Together, we bring a breadth of experience, expertise, and a shared commitment to justice and compassion.

We are eager to develop a policy that is comprehensive, written in clear and accessible language, and supported by well-defined procedures. Above all, it will be grounded in a victim-focused approach that encourages reporting while minimizing unnecessary complexity and avoiding the risk of compounding trauma for those who come forward.

We expect to provide regular updates to Diocesan Council and Synod. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact us at montrealsaferchurch@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE FIND REST O MY SOUL Spiritual Retreat March 10th-12th, 2026

"Earnestly I seek you; My Soul thirsts for you.. your love is better than life" {psalm 63}

In these turbulent times, when we are assaulted by news of injustice, violence and conflict around the world, we long to respond to the invitation of Jesus to "come apart and rest awhile". We invite you to join us for two days of REST and deep spiritual nourishment at the newly-renovated Villa St Martin, on the peaceful shores of the Lake of Two Mountains. Together, we will explore spiritual practices which draw us closer to the Lord. To revive our Souls.

Individual Spiritual Direction will be available throughout the retreat.

Cost, including two nights, meals and materials: \$280

For more information please contact: retreats@montreal.anglican.ca.



YOU ARE LEAVEN

Fermenting Cultures of Spiritual Formation

Saturday October 3, 2026 - More details to come.
A collaboration between the dioceses of Montreal & Ottawa

ANGLICAN
DIOCESE
MONTREAL



+

Join AFC's 2026
Say Yes! to Kids campaign
Register by April 1

The Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC) is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the 2026 Say Yes! to Kids (SYTK) campaign, the Foundation's national fundraising initiative supporting children and youth-focused ministry across the Anglican Church of Canada.

Parishes, dioceses, and Anglican-affiliated organizations are invited to register by April 1, 2026, at: www.anglicanfoundation.org/apply/sytk.

Now in its sixth year, Say Yes! to Kids equips local ministry partners with fundraising tools, matching incentives, and communications support to help strengthen programs that serve children, youth, and young people in their own communities. Campaign teams will fundraise locally in the spring, with Say Yes! to Kids Sunday taking place on Sunday, June 14, 2026.

"At the point of registration, we simply ask teams to tell us what the focus of their Say Yes! to Kids fundraiser will be and to share any background information they feel will help us support them and develop a strong team marketing kit," says Michelle Hauser, AFC's Development & Communications Officer.

Since its launch in 2021, Say Yes! to Kids has raised nearly \$1 million in support for youth-

focused ministry nationwide, funding initiatives in areas such as faith formation, mental health, food security, arts and music, outdoor education, and leadership development.

To support teams who are new to the campaign—or those who would like to learn more before registering—AFC will host a series of Say Yes! to Kids Info Sessions via ZOOM throughout February. These sessions will take place on Wednesdays at 12p.m. (EST) on February 4, 11, 18, and 25.

"The info sessions are ideal for newcomers to the campaign or for anyone who is interested but unsure and would like to hear more about how Say Yes! to Kids works," says Hauser.

Participants can register for a ZOOM Info Session at: www.anglicanfoundation.org/sytkinfosession.

Participation in the 2026 campaign is limited. Teams are encouraged to register early.

For questions or more information, please contact:

Michelle Hauser | Development & Communications Officer, Anglican Foundation of Canada.

Home office: Toll-free at 1-877-354-6387 or text 613-305-8876 | mhauser@anglicanfoundation.org.

www.anglicanfoundation.org | Facebook | YouTube

Lifting the Veil continued from page 10

Black Heritage Month: Learning, Honouring, and Transforming

Black Heritage Month presents an opportunity for us to discern the steps that God is calling us to build a better world where love surpasses the rule of law.

Established in 1926, Black Heritage Month aims to share the history of people of Black African slave descent in North America and the Caribbean. Their stories of survival and their outstanding contributions in all areas of society remain largely absent from mainstream history books—a reality that explains the persistent negative stereotyping of Black people and underscores the continued need for Black Heritage Month.

The Church's Role in Black Heritage Month

The Church needs Black Heritage Month. In times past, the Anglican Church in Canada perpetuated racist beliefs, relegating Black Anglicans to segregated, veiled worship behind curtains, denying them sacraments and leadership opportunities, ultimately forcing them to form ethnic enclave congregations.

Today, ethnic enclave

congregations are a lingering legacy of past practices of segregation and marginalization. However, there is hope in the work being done in the Diocese of Montreal to address these issues. In 2020, a diverse group of clergy and laypeople met to discuss ways to address the legacy of racism in the Church. Their efforts led to a motion at the 161st Synod for the adoption of the Anti-Black Racism Action Plan.

The Action Plan calls for the acknowledgment of racism within the Diocese and the active engagement of congregations in ongoing dialogue, redress, and atonement. The Plan aims to provide clergy and parishioners with the awareness and skills needed to foster vibrant, multicultural, and multi-ethnic parishes that support the spiritual growth of all God's people.

Next Steps and Recommendations

Beyond the Action Plan, congregations in the Diocese should consider the following actions:

- Advocate for a day in the Anglican Calendar to honour the pioneering work and ministry of Black Anglicans in Nova Scotia who persevered in

faith despite racism, paving the way for the Anglican Church in Canada to "acknowledge that God is calling us to greater diversity of membership, wider participation in ministry and leadership... and a stronger resolve in challenging attitudes and structures that cause injustice" in its Mission statement. It is time to honour these Black Anglican pioneers.

- Foster multi-ethnic collaboration to prevent the formation of ethnic enclave congregations and special interest groups that operate on the margins of the Church. There will always be occasions for groups to gather by shared identity. However, members of these groups should be heard, feel safe, and be embraced at the heart of a diverse and flourishing Church, not on its margins.

- Above all, create safe spaces for bridge-building, where the status quo can be questioned and challenged. This requires courage and commitment. Bible studies and book studies should help us confront difficult truths, leading us to acknowledge and release ourselves from stereotypes and self-deception. Our prayer and meditation guide us to embrace the peace that comes from following Jesus's guiding principle of love.



FAMILY ART WORKSHOP

A **Lenten** Exploration of Prayer
Workshop Theme: **Beyond Words**

SATURDAY, MARCH 21ST 9-11 AM

1444 Union Ave Montreal, Qc. H3A2B8



For more information / to register
mtlyouth@montreal.anglican.ca

Save the Date!
Réservez la date !

Business
Synod 2026
samedi
20 juin



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

Next Jesus was taken into the wild by the Spirit for the Test. The Devil was ready to give it. Jesus prepared for the Test by fasting forty days and forty nights. That left him, of course, in a state of extreme hunger, which the Devil took advantage of in [all the testing].*

God of the Living Word, each year we journey through the season of Lent by emulating your Son's trying time in the wilderness where he fasted and prayed then overcame temptation. As this prayer is published, we are about 10 to 12 days into our time of preparation in our wilderness. Be with us as we struggle to maintain our commitment to fast, to give alms, to study your word, and to pray more fervently. We take on these practices to increase our devotion to you and pray that our efforts are pleasing in your sight.

The Test was over. The Devil left. And in his place, angels!

Angels came and took care of Jesus' needs.**

God of the Heavenly Realm, you sent angels to care for Jesus after his testing was over, help us to be mindful of the angels you send us. Give us the wisdom to see them at work here and now, and to give thanks for their efforts in real time. In the mortal realm, we see first responders and those in the caring professions as angels, stepping in where others fear to tread. We pray that you will sustain them in their efforts to help and comfort others.

Stay on good terms with each other, held together by love. Be ready with a meal or a bed when it's needed. Why, some have extended hospitality to angels without ever knowing it!***

God of the Expanding Kingdom, help us to shift our Lenten journey from a personal, inward struggle to an outward expression of your radical hospitality. Despite our efforts to build community, there is still so much strife in the world. We pray for your guidance to strengthen our resolve to do more. Transform our fast into an opportunity to share our food with the hungry, expand our alms giving to include more time spent with the sick and the lonely, and extend our study of your word into the call for action it demands. With these efforts, we pray that we will support angels unaware. Amen.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer,
Stacey Neale

Notes that all scripture verses come from The Message: *Matt 4:1-3; **Matt 4:11; ***Hebrews 13:2

For more information on AFP-C, contact Stacey Neale at valstacey@bell-net.

LAY READERS' ANNUAL SPRING RETREAT: 24 - 26 APRIL, 2026

Congregational Growth and Vibrancy, Vocational Discernment for Lay Readers, and Enabling the Future Church

Friday, April 24 5 pm to Sunday April 26 1:30 pm
Manoir d'Youville, Châteauguay <https://manoiryouville.ca>)

With leader, the Revd. Canon Dr. Grayhame R Bowcott, BTh, MDiv, DMin

Presentations in English, breakout groups/questions in English and French.
In person only. This Retreat is open to ALL!

Rev. Dr. Gray will demonstrate how to motivate others so that you can become a team catalyst while exploring our key themes in lectures, break-out sessions, group discussions and group feedback.

- The Local Theologies Found in Numerically Growing Congregations
- Prayers to Foster Relational Growth
- In Service to the Community: The Parish Church as a Neighbourhood Hub
- The Ministry of First Impressions: Becoming a Porous Church
- Unlocking Vocational Discernment: Where is God Calling You to Be?

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION (Weekend Room & Meals) until 25th MARCH = \$310; Afterwards \$350; Registration closes CLOSSES 31st March 2026.

To REGISTER: Karen Birkett • karenbirkett@sympatico.ca • (514) 637-8099
FURTHER DETAILS: Robert McLachlan • rob.mclachlan@videotron.ca • 514-928-7390, or Mark Weatherley • mark.weatherley@sympatico.ca • 514-710-8066

Submission of Annual Returns

Your annual returns enable our office to update our contact information, financially assess parishes and accurately report statistics to the National Church, which is used for electoral representation.

So please enter all required information into ParishOS no later than Friday, March 27, 2026. NOTE: do not send this information by email; it must be submitted directly through ParishOS.

Each parish will receive unique login credentials for access to the web portal.

You will find three forms to complete:

1. 2026 Annual Vestry Returns (names and contact information of officers)
2. 2025 Financial Returns
3. 2025 Parochial Statistics

Important Reminders:

- Always SAVE your data before exiting a form. Unsaved information cannot be recovered.
- You may enter information as it becomes available and return later to update or correct details before the closing date.
- After March 27, the forms

will no longer be accessible.

- For your records, consider printing a copy using the Print View button at the top right-hand corner.

Support and Assistance:

If you encounter any issues accessing or using ParishOS, or have questions about the process, please contact: Jennifer James-Phillips jphillips@montreal.anglican.ca

Thank you for your cooperation and attention to these important diocesan requirements.

Dîner de l'évêque

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Cette réunion est l'occasion de savourer une cuisine riche en traditions culturelles, de partager des conversations enrichissantes, de renouer des liens et de soutenir généreusement le travail du Diocèse anglican de Montréal.

Conformément à mes valeurs fondamentales, j'ai choisi de consacrer les fonds récoltés lors de ce dîner au soutien de la pastorale des jeunes.

Je m'engage à créer des occasions d'écouter nos jeunes alors que nous cherchons à bâtir un avenir solide et durable. Votre présence à mon dîner enrichira non seulement la soirée, mais contribuera également à faire en sorte que notre témoignage commun de foi, d'espoir et d'amour continue de s'épanouir pendant de nombreuses années.

Pour accueillir les familles, nous proposerons un repas adapté aux enfants, tandis qu'un animateur organisera des activités pour les enfants afin que les parents puissent se détendre et profiter pleinement de leur séjour.

Nous espérons que vous pourrez vous joindre à nous. Pour acheter vos billets, rendez-vous sur www.montreal.anglican.ca.

Gen Alpha

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impacted this generation's view of the world.

Yet, Generation Alpha are much more spiritually engaged than we might realize. Smart phones and AI allow for a highly individualized spiritual practice. They explore faith through social media as well as practices like meditation and manifestation.

Generation Alpha learn through short, visual, interactive content, so churches reach them best through embodied storytelling (Godly Play, drama, art, music), micro-videos that invite participation, and strong partnerships with parents and caregivers. To serve them well, make church a safe, joyful place of belonging where kids can ask real questions, practice simple prayer habits, and join hands-on acts of kindness so faith is experienced, not just explained.

If you have questions as to how to put this in practice, please reach out to me; we can explore how to enrich the church experience for Gen Alpha – and perhaps for older generations too!

nmancor@montreal.anglican.ca



VALERIE TAYLOR

Ms Valerie Taylor is the Day Camp Director of Crosstalk Ministries.

For almost 50 years Crosstalk Ministries has been facilitating Day Camp programs for children ages 4-12. Children in these communities spend a week learning about God and lives are changed as campers and leaders come to know Jesus and experience His love.

Our 2026 program, "One of Us" is very dear to our hearts as it was first created exclusively by the CTM community to celebrate the millennium. It includes lovely handcrafted slides designed by talented Montreal artists, telling the story of Jesus' birth and childhood as recounted in the Gospel of Luke.

Each day, campers will experience one of five exciting stories: "Mary's Surprise", "Born in a Stable", "Let's go to Bethlehem", "Taken to the Temple" and "Talking with the Teachers". The program explores the stories through songs and games, small groups and creative media, including liturgical dance -

all geared to children 4-12 yrs.
Program Options

Classic Day Camp

A locally-led program for churches & communities with five days of content, lasting 5 hours per day. Cost: 500\$

The Extended Day Manual

Additional resources to extend content to 8 hours, per day. Cost: 50\$

Backyard Day Camp

For smaller communities unable to mount a full-day program. Includes five two and a half hour-long sessions, with content from the 5 Daily Stories including slides, songs, small group materials, creative activities, games and daily challenges. Cost: \$250

Visit the Day Camps section of the CTM website for more details. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact our office at any time. www.crosstalkministries.ca

Valerie Taylor 514-481-1414
office@crosstalkministries.ca