

## OUTGOING EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Falling leaves and cool nights tell us we are in Autumn. Lay Readers are looking toward workshops and the Study Day and Commissioning on November 19, 2022, in-person and via Zoom.

The Executive Team has been working on making our Facebook Page accessible and we have expanded our membership in leaps and bounds.

In this newsletter, you will learn some things we have learned in our workshops, and I encourage all to attend as you are able.

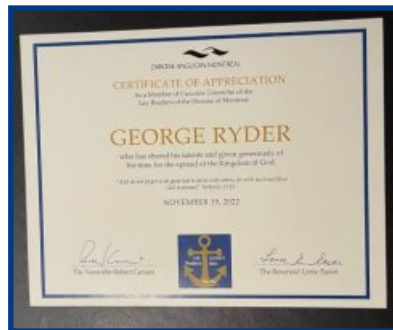
Pour nos lecteurs francophones, nous avons des articles pour vous dans notre infolettre et nous espérons avoir de vos nouvelles.

We await the appointment of the Pastor to Lay Readers, as our present Pastor, The Rev. Lorne Eason, retires on December 31, 2022. Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson is on sabbatical until January 2023. Fall, and then Winter is at our doorstep.

But we have a limitless God, and the Promise of Ephesians 3:20. *“Glory to God, whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.”*

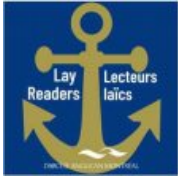
Peace be with all who read this newsletter.

**George Ryder**



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### MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING EDITOR

Just like seasons come and go, sometimes with a drastic change of scenery, this newsletter comes to you a bit later than usual, but with lots of contents as well as a “new and improved” design.

Right on the cover, you will see our new logo, part of our rejuvenated image. In the following pages, you will read articles by our Pastor to the Lay Readers and by the President of our association.

Incidentally, you will notice quite a few new names around. At our annual general meeting last May, we elected quite a few new members to the executive. We wish to thank all those who have worked diligently for many years. Some of them will continue to do so, others have already passed the baton to new blood.

This newsletter continues with a somewhat technical article on the peculiarities of using our Anglican Lectionary to organize a service in French.

With *Who is my neighbour*, Mark Weatherly talks of a workshop in the Laurentians and of the November Study Day that both offered a practical approach on ecumenism. We are all in favour of ecumenism, but do we even know who are the “others” we speak of?

Next, in *From Beacon to Deacon*, Bob McLachlan talks about Randy Gates, a former Lay Reader recently ordained as Deacon in our diocese. Then Mark goes on with a reflection on our training activities with the famous question: “What do you want?” What should we do to better support you as Lay Readers? Other articles cover various aspects of the life of Lay Readers, including a message of Encouragement from Bob McLachlan as well as photos of the Study and Commissioning Day, and a word on our upcoming Spring Retreat.

### MESSAGE DU RÉDACTEUR EN CHEF ENTRANT

Un peu comme les saisons qui passent et transforment le paysage, cette infolettre vous parvient plus tard qu'à l'habitude, mais chargée de contenu et avec un concept « revu et amélioré ».

Dès la première page, vous verrez notre nouvelle signature. Vous pourrez ensuite lire un article de notre pasteur des lecteurs laïcs et un autre du président de notre association.

Remarquez d'ailleurs tous ces nouveaux noms. À notre assemblée annuelle de mai dernier, nous avons élu un bon nombre de nouveaux membres à l'exécutif. Nous voulons donc remercier les anciens membres de l'exécutif qui ont travaillé d'arrache-pied toutes ces années. Certains continuent de vous servir tandis que d'autres ont passé le témoin.

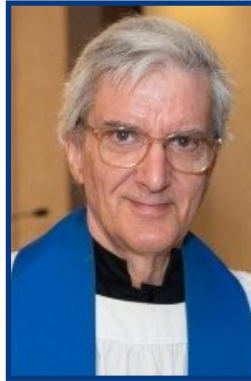
On continue avec un article un peu technique, je l'avoue, sur les points à surveiller lorsqu'on utilise le lectionnaire anglican pour préparer une liturgie en français.

Avec *Qui est mon voisin*, Mark Weatherly revient sur un récent atelier et la journée d'études de novembre qui offraient tous deux une approche pratique de l'œcuménisme. Nous sommes tous et toutes en faveur de l'œcuménisme, mais connaissons-nous seulement « les autres » ?

Dans *De messenger à diacre*, Robert McLachlan nous parle de Randy Gates, un ancien lecteur laïc récemment ordonné au diaconat. Puis Mark poursuit ensuite avec une réflexion sur nos activités de formation et pose la sempiternelle question : « Que voulez-vous ? » Que peut-on faire pour mieux vous soutenir ? Les autres articles couvrent divers aspects de la vie des lecteurs laïcs, incluant un message « d'encouragement » de Robert McLachlan ainsi que des photos de la journée d'études et de commission des lecteurs laïcs, et, pour terminer, un mot sur notre retraite du printemps.

## MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING EDITOR

## MESSAGE DU RÉDACTEUR EN CHEF ENTRANT



*(Photo credit: Janet Best)*

At this point, let me address a message to George. The LRA Executive wishes to thank **George Ryder** who has started as Editor.

Unfortunately, he had to retire for health reasons. Our prayers are with him.

To replace him, **Michel Gagnon** has been nominated as the new editor. We would like to publish an interesting newsletter at least twice a year. But this newsletter is only as good as the Lay Readers who write articles in it. So please send your contributions to me for our Spring issue at [michel@mgagnon.net](mailto:michel@mgagnon.net). Thanks

Finally, did you know we have a fair number of Francophone Lay Readers? At last count, there are six at La Nativité, two in Sorel-Tracy and two at the Cathedral, and there are a few others elsewhere. And our association needs to serve ALL Lay Readers.

That's why you'll notice that we want to increase French content and make this a truly bilingual newsletter. We also want to organize activities to answer the specific needs of our Francophone Lay Readers. If you have any idea for an activity or an article in French, please tell us.

**Michel Gagnon**  
Editor

Permettez-moi ici de souligner que l'exécutif de l'association remercie **George Ryder** qui avait commencé à titre de rédacteur en chef.

Malheureusement, il a dû se retirer pour raisons de santé. George, nos prières t'accompagnent.

Et c'est **Michel Gagnon** qui a été choisi comme nouveau rédacteur en chef. Nous désirons publier une infolettre intéressante au moins deux fois par année. Toutefois, celle-ci ne peut l'être sans la participation de lecteurs et de lectrices comme vous. Alors n'hésitez pas à me transmettre vos articles pour notre numéro du printemps à [michel@mgagnon.net](mailto:michel@mgagnon.net). Merci.

Enfin, saviez-vous que nous avons un bon nombre de lecteurs laïcs francophones ? Aux dernières nouvelles, il y en a six à la Nativité, deux à Sorel-Tracy et deux à la cathédrale, et il y en a d'autres ailleurs. Comme association, nous devons répondre aux besoins de tous et de toutes.

Vous constaterez donc que nous voulons accroître le contenu en français de notre infolettre pour en faire une infolettre bilingue. Nous souhaitons également organiser des activités pour répondre aux besoins spécifiques des lecteurs francophones. Alors si vous avez des idées d'activités ou d'articles en français, dites-le-nous !

**Michel Gagnon**  
Rédacteur en chef

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

*For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." - Ephesians 2:10 NLT*



*(Photo credit: Janet Best)*

This past Thanksgiving my wife and I made a "Thanksgiving Tree" for display at our annual family Thanksgiving gathering. It was a simple construction really. It consisted of a branch I had cut from one of our apple trees, cut outs of various shaped leaves that had been drawn on coloured construction paper, a word or two written on each leaf naming what we were thankful for, and some yarn to tie the leaves to the twigs on the branch.

The idea was to have the family decorate the branch with the thanksgiving leaves and perhaps share some thoughts on what they were thankful for. It was a fun project that produced a long list of thanks that just seemed to flow.

In thinking about our little family exercise, I was reminded of the many things I have been thankful for in my role as your Pastor to the Lay Readers for the past 7-½ years.

This likely being my last article for the newsletter as your Pastor, I wanted to share with you in a word or two a few of the "leaves" of thanks that adorn my Thanksgiving Tree that has grown over the years.

- Your Faithful Ministry
- Time and Talent offered By Workshop Leaders
- Dedicated Commitment of Executive Committee
- Ongoing Support of Bishop and Archdeacon
- Undying Help from Nicki Hronjak
- Encouragement and Backing from Saint John the Baptist
- Wisdom and Wit of Guest Speakers at AGM,
- Spring Retreat, Study Day
- Support of Lay Readers by their Clergy
- The Real yet Mysterious Guidance of the Holy Spirit

Thank you to all for your ongoing witness and faithfulness in the Lay Reader ministry, and for being an encouragement to me in my service to you.

"Always remember that you matter, you're important and you are loved, and you bring to this world (your ministry) things no one else can." Quoted from the book, The Boy, the mole, the fox and the Horse, written by Charlie Macksey,

Yours in Christ,

**Lorne+**

Pastor to the Lay Readers





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*"Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself." Ephesians 2:20, NLT.*

- I want to sincerely thank our new 2022 Executive for their "superb team efforts", accomplished and on-going, since June. They are: **Mark Weatherley** (Vice-President & Chair-Workshop Committee); **Ann Cumyn** (outgoing Treasurer & Chair-Study Day Committee), **Karen Birkett** (incoming Treasurer & Workshop Committee), **Anne-Claude Geoffrion** (former President, now Secretary), **George Ryder** (outgoing Newsletter Editor), **Michel Gagnon** (incoming Newsletter Editor & Chair-Communications Committee), **Dave Blizard** (Study Day Committee), **Guy Grolimond** (Communications Committee). In early 2023, we will be looking for several additional Executive members. **If you feel that this might be your "calling", kindly contact me at: (514) 928-7390, to discuss further.**
- Working together we have been able to: **a)** Modernize and bilingualize our **Facebook Group**, (which now has 59 members and growing) **b)** Also plan, design, write, and bilingualize a **more modern website**, which we are targeting to have online, during early 2023 **c)** Interfacing with Bishop Mary, to better understand her needs from the Lay Readers' Association (LRA); as well as **analyzing existing Diocesan Parishes and to which ones are our Lay Readers (LR) are part of**; as well as those parishes which have few, or no Lay Readers, and to **interview such Incumbents over the coming year to see how our LRA can better serve them!**
- In addition, our Communications Committee also conceived and received Diocesan approval for our **new bilingual LRA Logo**, which "adorns" this Newsletter, as well as in all our present and future communications.
- On September 24th, at Grace Church, Sutton QC - **one of our former LRA Executive Members – Randy Gates, was ordained by Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson, as a Vocational Deacon.** Approximately 10 of Randy's fellow LR's were present. (See article in this Newsletter, for some insight on Randy's "calling").
- On **November 19th**, at St. John the Baptist Church, Pointe Claire, QC - **a VERY successful Study & Commissioning Day was held.** Due to the superb work of Ann Cumyn and her fine team; as well as a "telephone-marathon" by ALL members of the Executive (coordinated by Anne-Claude Geoffrion); our expectations were exceeded by over 50%! ... **44 persons attended the Study Day Workshop! (34 "in-person", 10 "on Zoom")**. Prof Rev Professor Patricia Kirkpatrick (Chair of Old Testament/Hebrew Bible Studies - McGill University) mesmerized, entertained and involved the whole audience for 3 hours, within her subjects of: Who is my neighbour, and must I really come to know their scriptures? (The practice and theology of Interfaith Dialogue). Truly appreciated by ALL!
- In the afternoon, from 4pm to 5pm, the **2022 Commissioning Service for Lay Readers** was held in the same Church. The Ven. Robert Camera (Executive Archdeacon and Vicar General) presided over the Service. Overall there were a favorable number of LR's (**19**), receiving their **Licenses or Medallions**. Specifically: **a)** New 1 Yr. License = 1; **b)** New 3 Yr. License = 1; **c)** 1 Yr. License Renewal = 1; **d)** 3 Yr. License Renewals = 12; **e)** Emeritus License = 1; **f)** Emeritus License & Medallion = 3. After the License and Medallion presentations, the Vicar General also presented a newly conceived award – a Diocesan **"Certificate of Appreciation"** to **11** former, and outgoing Members of the LRA Executive Committee (2 of which had moved on to become ordained Priests).

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Also want to disclose to all our LR's who have *“been quietly curious and patient, over the last few months”*, that a **“New Pastor to the Lay Readers”** has discussed with, and been chosen by, Bishop Mary. She will make an “official announcement to the Diocese in January 2023”, upon her return from her sabbatical.
- Last, but far from least, I **wanted to save the best to the end!** This concerns the well-earned retirement of our **“current Pastor of the Lay Readers” – dearest Rev. Lorne**, who has been our “Pastor and Shepard” for the past 7-½ years! Therefore on November 19th at Lorne’s own St. John the Baptist Church - after the presentations of “LR Licenses and Medallions”, as well as the “LR Exec. Certificates of Appreciation”; and in front of ALL attending (In person & Zoom) LR’s, as well as with a number of Lorne’s own Parishioners present; our cherished Rev. Lorne was presented an **“Outstanding Achievement Award”** plaque, by Vicar General Robert Camera. This plaque was from ALL the various Members of the LRA Executive who “had or are still serving” during his tenure, (with their names listed).

***“They say that a picture is worth a 1000 words”***  
 Many thanks to you Lorne, from the bottom of our hearts  
 & God Bless you, and your family, on your future travels with our Lord!



*(Photo credit: Janet Best)*



In closing, I wish to ALL of our Lay Readers and their families Advent & Christmas Blessings. This season is about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes, for Christ's birth within the tumultuous world that we live in each day of our lives. Thus it is a time for us to pause daily ... for faith communities and families to remember ... through prayer, reflections, special music, and good deeds ... what the true meaning of Jesus' birth really is for us ALL!

Yours in Service +

**Robert (Bob) McLachlan**

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

### A Christmas Prayer:

*“Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.*

*Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen”*

(Robert Louis Stevenson - 1887)



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DIOCÈSE ANGLICAN MONTRÉAL  
PWRDF

# Decolonizing fundraising

Diocese of Montreal  
PWRDF Project 2022-2023  
in support of PWRDF's  
**Indigenous Responsive Grant Fund**

Indigenous-led communities determining their needs and priorities in:

- Climate Action
- Community Health
- Safe Water

**Launching October 2**  
National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day)

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



## LE LECTIONNAIRE ANGLICAN EN FRANÇAIS

La plupart d'entre vous connaissent déjà les pages du site national et du site du diocèse où figurent différentes ressources liturgiques en français. Ce sont :

- <https://www.anglican.ca/about/liturgicaltexts/french>

Le Service de la parole II (au bas de la page) est une superbe liturgie qui peut être utilisée comme prière du matin ou prière du soir

- <https://www.montreal.anglican.ca/liturgy>

Plusieurs ressources bilingues y sont offertes (et rassurez-vous, le français des documents est meilleur que celui de la page web)

### Mais qu'en est-il du lectionnaire ?

L'Église anglicane du Canada utilise le Lectionnaire œcuménique révisé qui est disponible aux deux endroits suivants : <https://lectionary.anglican.ca> et <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu>. Malheureusement, aucun de ces sites ne présente le lectionnaire en français.

Si vous devez préparer un service en français, voici quelques différences qui valent la peine d'être soulignées.

- **La versification est différente pour près de la moitié des Psaumes.** Très souvent, les Psaumes qui ont une introduction sont numérotés différemment dans les deux langues. Par exemple, Psalm 3:1-8 devient Psaume 3, 2-9; ou encore, dans le Psaume 17, le verset 4 ne commence pas au même endroit dans les deux langues.
- Dans certains documents en français, la numérotation des Psaumes eux-mêmes suit celle de la Vulgate. Bien que cette tradition ait été officiellement abolie par l'Église catholique-romaine peu après Vatican II, le Bible de Jérusalem affiche encore la double numérotation et certains sites comme celui de [l'Association épiscopale liturgique pour les pays francophones](#) et certaines églises évangéliques francophones utilisent encore l'ancienne numérotation. Concrètement, le Psaume 23 est alors appelé Psaume 22 à ces endroits. Bon à savoir si vous recherchez de la documentation en français pour préparer votre sermon !
- Outre la versification des Psaumes, il existe un couple d'endroits – tous dans l'Ancien Testament – où la versification diffère d'un ou deux versets entre les deux langues. Un exemple classique est celui de la première lecture de la vigile de Noël, identifiée comme Isaiah 9:2-7 en anglais, mais Ésaïe 9, 1-6 en français.
- À la cathédrale, on utilise la [Nouvelle Bible en français courant](#). Il s'agit d'une édition récente relativement facile à comprendre et relativement inclusive.

*suite à la page suivante*



## LE LECTIONNAIRE ANGLICAN EN FRANÇAIS

### Et pour la notation

Vous avez sûrement déjà remarqué quelques différences dans la manière de présenter les versets de la Bible. Normalement, on sépare par une **virgule** le chapitre et les versets et par un **point** des versets discontinus. Donc :

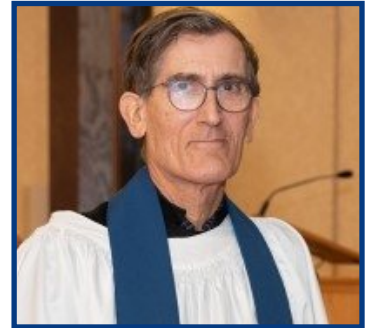
- Luc 18, 1-4. 8-12 signifie chapitre 18, versets 1 à 4 et 8 à 12
- Luc 18, 12 – 19, 4 signifie à partir du chapitre 18 verset 12 jusqu'au chapitre 19 verset 4.

*Michel Gagnon*

## WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

This was the core of the theme for the Study Day this fall, which was led by Rev. Dr. Patricia Kirkpatrick from McGill, with whom many of you are acquainted.

*Earlier this year in the annual "Theology in the Laurentians" workshops we began studying interfaith questions with Professor Kirkpatrick and Rabbi Grushcow entering and drawing the participants into a discussion of the Passover Haggadah. This last month in October Professor Kirkpatrick along with Adriana Bara, Executive Director of the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism, coordinated 2 complete days on the theme of "Who is My Neighbour" as a symposium at the College of Religious Studies at McGill.*



*(Photo credit: Janet Best)*

These were two excellent days on this theme. We can expect each of the presenters to provide papers in the late winter or early spring.

We began the first day with Professor A.J. Levine (Hartford International University of Religion and Peace and Vanderbilt University) speaking about "Who is My Neighbour? Interfaith Dialogue from a Jewish-Christian Perspective".

The second presenter was Professor I. Mattson (Western University) on "Who is My Neighbour? Interfaith Dialogue and the Public Square."

The third presenter, on Friday morning, was Rev. Professor Robert A. Hill (Boston University) on Theological Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century".

And the final speaker was Rev. Dr. Chukwuemeka Anthony Atansi (McGill University) on "Theological Education in the Global Village".

The whole event included Jewish, Christian and Muslim Scholars.

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## WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

While the topics look as though the subject is spiraling to a wider and wider sphere, I found myself wondering on the Friday if we had not come full circle and redefined what it means to be a neighbour with a much more intentional view and a challenge. Father Atansi referring to his heritage in Nigeria, refined for us the concept of neighbour as someone with whom we have a connection, a link, a mutual sight and a mutual vulnerability. This brings us to radically rethink our approach to neighbour and all outreach. No longer can it be a vague other. Now it needs to be a connected other, who can see me as vulnerable as they themselves are.

*At the study day on Saturday Nov 19th*, we listened and participated in a master class on the Roman Catholic pronouncement that came from the Second Vatican Council, *Nostre Aetate*.

The themes of the three sessions during the day were:

1. *What is Theology?* How do we arrive at theological treatises? Who decides theological doctrine? What are councils of the Church? Do Anglicans have councils? What is the role of the World Council of Churches?
2. *Why bother with Interfaith Dialogue?* *Nostre Aetate* and *Lumen gentium*.
3. *The Gospel of John and "the people of the World"*. Witnessing does not necessarily translate to church membership. Converted by what and whom?

*Nostre Aetate* was issued on October 28, 1965 by His Holiness Pope Paul VI. We are just beginning to appreciate and adjust to the implications of what is said. Now though it is leaving academe to join us in the pew, the community and the world.

***Mark Weatherley***

## FROM 'BEACON' TO 'DEACON'



*(Photo credit: Randy Gates)*

Personally, I have known Randy Gates, as a fellow member of the LRA Executive, since becoming Secretary 3 years ago. During those early times Randy was primarily involved with the planning and execution of our Annual General Meetings. He was always polite, smiling and carried an aura of peacefulness, confidence and friendliness about himself.

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## FROM 'BEACON' TO 'DEACON'



(Photo credit: Janet Best)

Then, in Spring 2022, I had the opportunity to work directly with Randy, (as well as Mark Weatherly) on a LRA Executive sub-committee project to help determine three key LRA future directions **a) Which** Diocesan Incumbents in specific Parishes, have need of more LR's?; **b) What** Diocesan Incumbents would like to have for Theological/Pastoral Training for their LR's?; **c) Where** can we find a proven Theological & Spiritual Program approach for the training of New LR's, Potential LR's, and interested Parishioners?

Within a relatively short period of time, working together weekly on Zoom, the 3 of us were able to: Establish a Diocesan Incumbent & Lay Reader "matching" list; as well as an Incumbent Questionnaire for face-to-face/Zoom interviews, for **a) & b) above**; plus recommend an existing and "budding" laity Theological & Spiritual Training, called "Revive"; for which Randy was very familiar with, and had actually

been a Session Leader for a Diocesan Zoom "pilot", held during 2021.

Thus working with Randy, a *true professional Theological "team leader"*, was a pure joy, and a great learning experience for both Mark and myself. Together, the three of us were able to quickly discern, complete and write-up our Diocesan findings and recommendations - for eventual approval from our LRA Executive Board. Without Randy's knowledge, background experience and "guiding light", this whole process would have taken much, longer.

(Unbeknownst to Mark and myself, at the time; Randy was also in parallel, privately preparing, under the mentorship of Rev. Tim Smart, to become an ordained vocational Deacon, in fall 2022!

Now, what I also want to share with my fellow Lay Readers, for reflection and comparison, towards their own current level of service to our Lord; are a few "*personal background extracts about Randy*", who just became ordained in his mid-sixties!

Randy grew up in a small Eastern Ontario town, where his mother ensured that he and his siblings had a basic religious upbringing, and were "*part of the local church community*". Afterwards, as he grew into his middle age, he was very much a *passive Christian*. He believed in God and while he prayed daily, he did not participate in the traditional Christian activities of going to church on a regular basis, reading the Bible or belonging to an active community of faith.

However later in life (10 years ago), he and his partner attended an 8 am morning Eucharist service at Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal; and *there felt like he had finally come home!* They became active members of the congregation, and Randy eventually was nominated as a people's warden.

Randy was involved in the community life at the Cathedral, with their mission of "*reaching out to the homeless*", doing "*home visits to shut-in's*", and in the day to day life of the cathedral through "*welcoming and hospitality*". He then discovered and enrolled in the "*Education for Ministry (EfM)*" program; and truly felt that his following *four years in the EfM program were instrumental in the further awakening and development of his faith.*

During this same time, he and his partner decided to *move to the Eastern townships*, and once again, God directed him in the right direction: Putting him in the path of Rev. *Tim Smart* and the congregation at *Grace Church, Sutton QC*. Randy finished his EfM program with Rev. Tim and his group, and was recommended to become one of our Commissioned Lay Readers (LR), within the Diocese of Montreal.

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## FROM 'BEACON' TO 'DEACON'

During his time as a LR, Randy had various opportunities to *assist in a multitude of services at Grace Church*, as well as *lead Morning Prayer services*, and to *deliver homilies*. In *parallel*, Randy also became *involved with and co-led* (and still does...) along with (Spiritual Guide) Sally Harrington-Philippo; a *Diocesan*, (now a Lay Readers Association) *Zoom offering of the "Revive" program*; which is about *"Equipping Lay Leaders to become Spiritual Leaders"* - through Prayer, Scripture and Discernment. - [<https://revive.forwardmovement.org>]. Thus after years of Spiritual travels, Randy has finally reached his destination with the help of God; via his *calling*, to *fully serve the Lord*; progressing from *"Beacon to Deacon"* – certainly an *"option, for some of us LRs to consider!"*

Concluding "insights" from: Deacon Randy Gates:

*"I believe that I have always been a person of faith and someone who has an inherent need to move forward, to grow, to evolve and to "être bien dans ma peau". However, I don't seem to remember having had a specific well thought out "game plan" in order to achieve this; ... somehow things seemed to just fall into place, over time... During these occasions of talking about God and my relationship with Him/Her, I find that peace that I have always been looking for. Thus now I find that I would like to share that experience, that feeling, with others ... not just as Randy Gates, a Commissioned Lay Reader; but since September 24th, 2022, as an Ordained Minister of the Anglican Church".*

Concluding "insights" from: Archdeacon Tim Smart:

*"Randy's faith not only seeks understanding, but expression in action in the community. Since joining Grace Church in Sutton and now, the Regional Ministry of the Eastern Townships, Randy has shared his faith, his humanity, and his delight in being with others.*

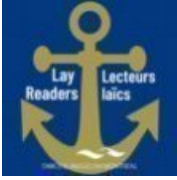
*As Lay Reader and now Deacon, he continues to explore what it means to live the Christian life in the 21st century. Instead of pedaling easy answers in a complex age, he invites us to journey forward in faith, courage and love, trusting that it is God who is leading the way!"*

### Randy & Friends – His Ordination – Grace Church Sutton, QC – Sept 24th 2022



(Photo credit: Janet Best)

**Bob McLachlan**



## WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN?

As lay readers we have all made a commitment to learning (Among other things). Each year the executive of the association arranges various Saturday seminars, a study day and a retreat weekend. We choose topics that we hope reflect your interests based on our access to specific speakers. The question is always what do we do in the next 6 months to a year. For a Saturday seminar we need between 1 and 6 months lead time to tie down a date and topic with a selected speaker. For a Retreat or Study Day we are looking at a planning timeframe that is more like 6 to 12 months.

When I began training as a lay reader the programme of weekend courses was laid out for the year ahead they were all organised by the “then” Pastor to the Lay Readers. Then we had no Study Day to accompany the commissioning nor annual retreat. Over the course of the year we spent time with someone on the Old Testament, the Gospels, The Epistles, Morning Prayer and the prayer book resources, how to prepare a sermon, how to speak and project our voices. We also had homework. I recall one was to evaluate and write a paper explaining how the different elements of a service worked together (the liturgy, the choir the congregational singing, the participation of the congregation, the sermon, the prayers of the people). As it happened, I was travelling for work and in Rome the weekend that I needed to prepare my homework, so I proceeded to the Anglican church in Rome on Sunday and did my report.

Back to our Saturday morning training program, because we felt it was important to give each of you who wanted to participate in the presentations on Saturday October 29, at the church in in the borough of Saint-Laurent, that were organised by the Diocese, we postponed the session on Morning Prayer until the New Year.

Now the rest of the calendar needs to be filled in.

What would you like to hear about to help you in your learning and ministry?

To let us know: call, or text me at 514-710-8066 or write an e-mail to [mark.weatherley@sympatico.ca](mailto:mark.weatherley@sympatico.ca)

***Mark Weatherley***

P.S. I personally will not be proposing a reintroduction of homework.

## ENCOURAGEMENT

This article is an “extract” from a Sermon which I gave on 28 June, 2020. Hopefully it will give readers some insights towards various ways to gain “encouragement”; when faced with a task which initially appears *quite daunting*. After the service that Sunday, I did receive back considerable positive comments, which is also WHY I wanted to share it with our Lay Readers.

*Matthew 10. 40 – 42.] 40 “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. 41 Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, 42 and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”*



(Photo credit: Janet Best)

While discerning about what to preach on the three brief above verses, I began to have considerable doubts about what I would say, and how I might say it. After a lengthy time, I thought ... well a couple of approaches might be to:

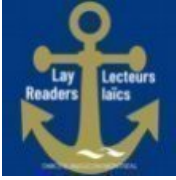
- a) *Simply talk slowly, and dissect each of the three verses*, but even then I suspected that my Sermon wouldn’t last more than 5 minutes or so, and I wasn’t sure that I would get the right message across!, or:
- b) *Just take these three verses and surround them with many of the earlier parts of Matthew 10 (V1-39)*, and put all of them into the perspective of: What the rewards and risks are to us, if we all try to become Disciples of Christ? But that would become too lengthy, and I would likely lose, and/or put some of our Parishioner’s to sleep!

So “How would I be able to please everyone?” ...Well, I certainly needed some “encouragement!” ...

Then, after a deeper effort of discernment, I began recalling several *non-scriptural story examples*, concerning “*Trying to please ALL*”, and “*Why WE need positiveness*”:

First is a “*Medieval story*”: It’s about an old man whose grandson rode a donkey while they were traveling from one city to another. The man heard some people say, “*Would you look at that old man suffering on his feet, while that strong young boy is totally capable of walking?*” So then the old man rode the donkey, while the boy walked. And he heard some people say, “*Would you look at that, a healthy man making the poor young boy suffer. Can you believe it?*” So the man and the boy both rode the donkey, and they heard some people say, “*Would you look at those heavy brutes making the poor donkey suffer*”. So they both got off and walked, until they heard some people say, “*Would you look at the waste - a perfectly good donkey not being used!*” In the final scene: *The boy is walking, and the old man is carrying the donkey!!* -The moral of the story: “*No matter what you do, someone can or will criticize it*” ... so don’t get too concerned... just do what YOU think is right!

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## ENCOURAGEMENT

Second is a “*Contemporary story*”: It concerns *Rev. Oswald Chambers*, a great *Scottish Baptist Evangelist & Theologian (1874 -1917)*. In one of his many writings, he said the following: “*Someone who is constantly criticized becomes good for nothing; the effect of criticism knocks all the gumption and power out of the person.*” “*Criticism is deadly in its effect, because it divides one’s powers and prevents one from becoming a force for anything!* And we know that is NEVER the work of the Holy Spirit – *who alone, IS in the true position of a critic; who is able to show what is wrong, without wounding or hurting.* “*The counsel of Jesus is to abstain from judging.*” The *Holy Spirit does reveal what is wrong in others*, but His *discernment is never for the purposes of criticism*, but for the *purposes of sending positive intercession prayers to us!*”

So, after reflecting upon these two stories – I felt that my prayers were being answered, became more encouraged – and decided to entitle my sermon: “ENCOURAGEMENT”.

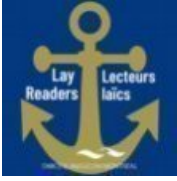
*Overall in Matthew 10 (40-42)*, Jesus is encouraging His disciples to go throughout Israel. He knows that they will encounter opposition, persecution, many of them will suffer for being His disciples, and even be put to death for their faith and witness. So Jesus is encouraging his followers to find OTHERS who will support and uplift them, so that they too can encourage these new found followers, to also go out into Israel (later the world) and do the same! Jesus is also clearly saying that He was sent from God the Father - into the world. If we want to know about God, God’s word and will, then we must look to Jesus.

*Concerning V40*, a better translation for the word, “welcomes,” is “receives” which is deeper than just friendliness. To be “received” means “taking the disciple in”, i.e. heeding the words proclaimed, accepting the teaching, praying for that disciple, and for whom he/she represents. Or putting this verse into a truer meaning: “*Whoever receives you, receives me and whoever receives me, receives the one who sent me!*” Thus, Jesus is the clearest Word from God. And as Jesus is to His Heavenly Father, so are we ALL earthly “prophets” to Jesus. Those who receive these prophets, welcome them and what they represent, and do for Jesus and His Father, will be rewarded!

*And what is the reward?* Well in (V42), those who receive any of Jesus’s disciples - will receive a “prophet’s” reward! i.e. “*Those who receive the righteous, will receive the reward of the righteous;*” ... and *those who give even a “cup of cold water” to the little ones (i.e. prophets), in the name of the disciple – they too shall receive a “prophets reward” (i.e. they will also welcomed into Heaven by Jesus & His Father).*

But ... *What will happen to those who “reject the Gospel” and do not receive these “prophets” teaching?* They will be “rejected by God.” *Earlier in Matthew 10 (V14-15)*, Jesus had told his disciples (prophets) that: “*If anyone will not welcome you— receive you—or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah, on the day of judgment - than for that town.*”

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## ENCOURAGEMENT

Well, these *two verses of Jesus's "warning against those who reject the Gospel"*, immediately brought to mind a *"Personal story"*: Fourteen years ago (2009), myself and my wife did a *2 week Pilgrimage to the Holy Land*, along with then *Bishop Barry Clarke, and 80 other pilgrims from our Montreal Diocese*. We had the opportunity to see, touch and walk through many wondrous Biblical sites. In one of our many travels we did visit and stay around the *Dead Sea, on the Israeli side. Sodom and Gomorrah are on the Jordanian side*, so we were not allowed to cross and visit there. However we did see *some photos of that site, and all that remained of those once magnificent cities, were a few hills of sand and rocks*, surrounded by barbed wire. So, *even after 4,000 years, nothing grows there, and no one lives there!!*

Thus *Jesus made it very clear to His followers, that: - some people will welcome them, receive them, listen to them and accept the Gospel*. For these individuals God will give every blessing - even the *"blessing of eternal life in Heaven"*. However, *those who reject the Gospel and the disciples who bring the Good News of Gospel - they will likewise be rejected!*

Although *Jesus's words may initially appear harsh, they are meant for "encouragement!"* God gives us the *"power to be witnesses to His love"* God gives us the *"support to live out our faith in our daily lives"* - with ourselves, family, neighbours and all humankind, (irrespective of race, gender, social scale, personal beliefs, language or nationality)... God promises every one of us, *"Blessings from Him"*, as long as we are truly faithful to Him.

So in conclusion: - *DO be encouraged daily in your faith and your witness. God is with you, and Christ is promising you a "great reward" for your faithfulness!*

- *Always support others in their own Ministries. Encourage them in their Service; Welcome them and receive them - as if your "encouragement" was from Christ Himself! ...* By helping them as well, to increase their faith and witness to our Lord Jesus Christ ... and great will be YOUR reward too - as a *"prophet" in Heaven! Amen*

**Bob McLachlan**



## STUDY DAY - NOVEMBER 19, 2022

For a writeup on the day, see part of the President's message (p. 5) and of "Who is my neighbour?" (p. 10).



(Photo credit: Janet Best)

## COMMISSION SCROLL & EMERITUS MEDALLION PRESENTATION

AT THE LAY READERS' COMMISSIONING SERVICE, NOVEMBER 19, 2022



(Photo credit: Janet Best)

## COMMISSION SCROLL & EMERITUS MEDALLION PRESENTATION

AT THE LAY READERS' COMMISSIONING SERVICE, NOVEMBER 19, 2022



*(Photo credit: Janet Best)*

**CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION  
PRESENTED AT THE LAY READERS' COMMISSIONING SERVICE  
NOVEMBER 19, 2022**



*(Photo credit: Janet Best)*

Lay Readers Association - 2023 Spring Retreat: "Background Info & Registration Form"

Topic: **"Enhancing Present and Future Directions for Lay Ministry"**

**Led by:** *The Revd. Eric Dyck*, M. Div., M.A. (Liturgical Studies), CWA, Eastern Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; **Acting Principal (January – June 2023) – Montreal Diocesan Theological College**



**When:** *Friday, April 28, 2023 (5:00 pm) to Sunday, April 30, 2023 (after lunch)*

**Where:** *Le Manoir d'Youville, (<https://manoirdyouville.ca/en/>), Châteauguay, QC J6J 5T9*

**Overview:** This retreat will provide opportunity to explore skills in leadership, worship planning, and new opportunities in which to minister both in and outside the church. *Weekend format will include: Presentations, Break-out sessions, and Discussions; focusing on Broadening and Enhancing the understanding of the Lay Reader's "Calling" to this role within the Church and the Diocese, along with a renewed discovery of Vocation.*

**Note:** This **"Interactive & Team-building"** retreat is **"In-Person only"**. Unfortunately **NO Zoom** access will be available.

**Registration Information:**

Members with **mobility difficulties** and **medical concerns** will be given **priority** for **single rooms with bathrooms** and close proximity to elevator. **Registration will remain open until 24th March 2023.**

**\*\*There's an EARLY Registration DISCOUNT of \$25 IF you "Register/Post-Mark, by 24th JANUARY 2023" or sooner\*\***

- 1) All Lay Readers are encouraged to approach their **own parish leadership** for financial assistance.
- 2) "Some" assistance from our **LRA Bursary Fund** may also be possible. Website: <http://layreaders.org/documents.htm>
- 3) **To discuss payment options:** Please contact **Karen Birkett** (Registrar and Treasurer) at [karenbirkett@sympatico.ca](mailto:karenbirkett@sympatico.ca) or by phone at 514-637-8099
- 4) **For any other questions regarding the Spring Retreat:** Please contact **Bob McLachlan** (President) at [rob.mclachlan@videotron.ca](mailto:rob.mclachlan@videotron.ca) or by phone at: 514-928-7390

**To Register:**

- a) **If paying by cheque:** make it payable to the "Lay Readers Association"; then send your cheque, and completed Registration form to: LRA 2023 Weekend Retreat, c/o Ms. Karen Birkett, 952 - 10th Ave. Lachine, QC, H8S G2.
- b) **If paying by e-transfer (Interac):** make payment "contact name" ONLY as "Lay Readers Association of the Diocese of Montreal", (we now have **auto-deposit**), then e-mail your completed Registration form to: [karenbirkett@sympatico.ca](mailto:karenbirkett@sympatico.ca)

\* **Please Print/Type Clearly - Mark an "X" on 1 of the Room choices below. (\*EARLY Registration = BETTER choice of Room!)**

Name: (1 pers.) \_\_\_\_\_ Name: (If 2nd pers.) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Cell#: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency contact # (?) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Any Dietary Restrictions? No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Please list: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Any Handicap Assistance Needed? No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Please list: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Note: BOTH Weekend Room prices below also INCLUDE your 6 MEALS, plus am & pm SNACKS & BEVERAGES\***

**["Regular Registration": 25th Jan 2023 to 24th March 2023] [\*EARLY Registration\*: By 24th JAN 2023= LESS \$25!]**

\_\_\_ **Single room: (1 pers.) Bathroom in hallway: \$275 (total) \$250 (total)**  
*(This Single room has a sink, for washing)*

\_\_\_ **Shared Room: (2 pers.) Private bathroom: \$210 (per person) \$185 (per person)**

\_\_\_ **Single Room: (1pers.) Private Bathroom: \$340 (total) \$315 (total)**

\* **If requested:** - Receipts will be provided to you.\*

**\* Une version française de ce formulaire est disponible sur demande. \***