

REACHING OUT TO FLY TOGETHER

by [Robert McLachlan](#)

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Credit: Stock Photo – Pexels-Abhinav-Priyadarshi-150086977-10514284.jpg

In late March 2024, while working together to start planning various LRA Workshops for 2025; Mark Weatherley and I reached-out to **Rev. Canon Giuseppe Gagliano, Canon for the Lay Ministries, Anglican Diocese of Quebec**; to see if he might be available in early 2025, to lead a seminar. Several years ago Fr. Giuseppe led a seminar for us, at Grace Church, Sutton, on *How to Plan and Conduct a Funeral Service*, and it was Superb!!

During April – May, after discussing our future LRA seminar needs with Fr. Giuseppe, we also informed his Montreal counterpart (our Warden) Rev. Grace Burson, that he definitely appeared interested in becoming more involved with our Lay Readers group; along with any of his similarly interested Quebec Diocese Lay Readers; who might also want to attend future LRA Zoom oriented Workshops.

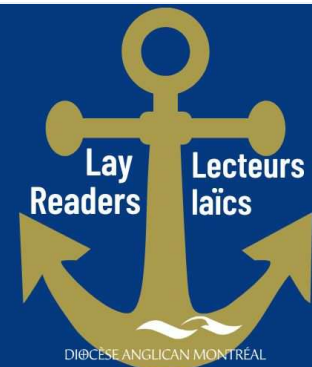
However, as Fr. Giuseppe was preparing to marry his fiancée Cristina Rosetti during the summer, he asked if perhaps we could wait until early Fall, before attempting to finalize with him specific topics and dates. Naturally we agreed.

As it usually happens, during the summer months which followed, our thoughts turned to some of our more pressing personal issues such as: gardening, summer walks, visiting the relatives or cottage, basking in the sun, etc.

Finally, by late August, Fr. Giuseppe, Rev. Grace, Mark, and I, were “willing and raring to go” by coming back together again. However this time we would **expand** our original scope, of only going a workshop or two during 2025. Instead we would explore the possibilities of **Reaching out to fly together**, by *proactively exploring joint future Lay Reader activities between the Montreal and Quebec Diocese Groups!*

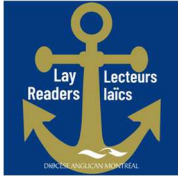
So, (after a delay for a funeral) we finally held our first joint Zoom Session on September 24th, with five of us present, (as our VP Communications, Michel Gagnon, had since moved to Trois Rivières – part of the Quebec Diocese). The theme of this session was to discuss the pros and cons, concerning the *feasibility of a 1-year Lay Reader “Operational Pilot”, between the Montreal and Quebec City Diocese Members.*

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REACHING OUT TO FLY TOGETHER (continued)

During this Zoom session, basically an opening of the “floodgates” occurred, whereby all of us began sharing ideas and reference documents together; including:

- a) ***Guidelines for Lay Readers in the Anglican Diocese of Quebec***, which Fr. Giuseppe, had put together in 2022, and is currently using.
- b) An updated and still in progress “***Lay Readers Handbook of the Anglican Diocese of Montreal***”, which had been assembled (from various sources) by Rev. Grace, and was currently being reviewed by Michel G., Mark W. and I. (We’re hoping to have it finalized for a general Membership review, by early 2025)

We also started a discussion about *Reviving and improving upon a formal 1st-Year Lay Reader Training Program*, agreed upon by both Lay Reader Groups. Which in turn could be given as a series of (monthly) hybrid sessions (in person and Zoom), held at “some specific location” within either of the Diocese’s large geographical regions – but for the benefit of **both**. Subjects to be included within the 1st-Year Lay Reader Training Program would likely be:

- a) Reading and leading the Daily Offices of Morning & Evening Prayer (BAS & BCP);
- b) Leading the Prayers of the People;
- c) Administering the Chalice during Holy Communion;
- d) Techniques for giving the homily or sermon
- e) Sharing leadership in, and planning for, other services, which might include: visiting the sick and elderly, Bible classes, assisting or giving Funerals.

Thus now, all five of us truly feel that we are on the right “flight path!” However there are still a LOT more work and discussions to be held together, and agreed to, before finalizing all details. In fact our next follow up “***Reaching out to fly together***” Zoom session, is November 14th, so please do “stay tuned”, as we’ll be updating you more in our next LRA Newsletter!

PS: In the meantime, if perchance you do have any questions or helpful insight, kindly don’t hesitate to contact me, or one of the four above-mentioned members of our “flock”

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” [Jeremiah 29:11]

Thanks for now and Blessings to you all,
Robert (Bob) McLachlan

TENDRE LA MAIN POUR VOGUER ENSEMBLE

par [Robert McLachlan](#)
président de l'Association des lectrices et des lecteurs laïcs
et étudiant à la maîtrise en théologie, Université Western / Huron

Lisez cet article en français à la page 1

À la fin de mars 2024, alors que nous travaillions ensemble à la planification de divers ateliers de l'Association des lecteurs laïcs pour 2025, Mark Weatherley et moi-même avons contacté le **révérend chanoine Giuseppe Gagliano, chanoine pour les ministères laïcs du diocèse anglican de Québec**, pour savoir s'il serait disponible au début de 2025 pour animer un séminaire. Il y a plusieurs années, le père Giuseppe avait animé un séminaire pour nous, à l'église Grace de Sutton, sur la *façon de planifier et de diriger un service funèbre*, et c'était superbe !



Crédit : Stock Photo – Pexels-Abhinav-Priyadarshi-150086977-10514284.jpg

En avril et mai, après avoir discuté avec le père Giuseppe de nos besoins futurs en matière de séminaires, nous avons également informé son homologue de Montréal, (notre directrice) la révérende Grace Burson, qu'il semblait aussi intéressé à s'impliquer davantage avec notre groupe de lecteurs laïcs, et que beaucoup de lecteurs laïcs du diocèse de Québec seraient également intéressés à participer à certains de nos futurs ateliers sur Zoom.

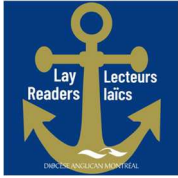
Cependant, comme le père Giuseppe se préparait à épouser sa fiancée Cristina Rosetti au cours de l'été, il nous a demandé si nous pouvions attendre jusqu'au début de l'automne avant de finaliser avec lui des sujets et des dates spécifiques. Nous avons naturellement accepté.

Comme c'est souvent le cas, pendant les mois d'été qui ont suivi, nos pensées se sont tournées vers des questions personnelles plus urgentes telles que le jardinage, les promenades estivales, les visites à la famille ou au chalet, les bains de soleil, etc.

Finalement, à la fin du mois d'août, le père Giuseppe, la révérende Grace, Mark et moi-même étions prêts à « passer à l'action ». Nous nous sommes donc de nouveau réunis, en **élargissant** notre champ d'action initial qui consistait à participer seulement un ou deux ateliers au cours de l'année 2025. Au lieu de cela, nous allions explorer les possibilités de **voguer ensemble**, en explorant de manière proactive les futures activités conjointes de lecteurs laïcs entre les groupes des diocèses de Montréal et de Québec !

Ainsi, (après un délai pour des funérailles), nous avons finalement tenu notre première séance conjointe de zoom le 24 septembre, avec cinq d'entre nous présents (puisque notre vice-président aux communications, Michel Gagnon, a depuis déménagé à Trois-Rivières... qui fait partie du diocèse de Québec). Le thème de cette séance était de discuter des tenants et aboutissants et de la *faisabilité d'un « projet pilote opérationnel » d'un an pour les lecteurs laïcs, entre les membres des diocèses de Montréal et de Québec.*

suite à la page suivante



TENDRE LA MAIN POUR VOGUER ENSEMBLE (suite)

Au cours de cette session Zoom, les discussions se sont ouvertes et nous avons tous commencé à partager des idées et des documents de référence, dont les suivants :

- a) ***Les lignes directrices pour les lecteurs laïcs dans le diocèse anglican de Québec***, que le père Giuseppe avait élaborées en 2022 et qu'il utilise actuellement.
- b) Une mise à jour, toujours en cours, du « ***Manuel des lectrices et des lecteurs laïcs du diocèse de Montréal*** » assemblé à partir de diverses sources par la révérende Grace, et qui est en cours de révision par Michel G., Mark W. et moi-même. (Nous espérons qu'il sera finalisé pour être examiné par l'ensemble des membres au début de 2025).

Nous avons également entamé une discussion sur la ***relance et l'amélioration d'un programme formel de formation des lecteurs laïcs de première année*** qui pourra être utilisé par les deux groupes de lecteurs laïcs. Ce programme pourrait prendre la forme d'une série de sessions hybrides (mensuelles) (en personne et en ligne), organisées dans un lieu spécifique au sein de l'une ou l'autre des grandes régions géographiques du diocèse, pour le bénéfice des **deux groupes**. Les sujets à inclure dans le programme de formation des lecteurs laïcs de première année seront vraisemblablement les suivants :

- a) lire et diriger les offices quotidiens de la prière du matin et du soir (BAS et BCP) ;
- b) diriger les prières des fidèles ;
- c) administrer le calice à la communion ;
- d) connaître les techniques de prédication ;
- e) partager la direction et la planification d'autres services, tels que les visites aux malades et aux personnes âgées, les classes bibliques, l'assistance ou la célébration des funérailles.

Aujourd'hui, nous avons tous les cinq le sentiment d'aller dans la bonne direction. Cependant, il reste encore BEAUCOUP de travail et de discussions à mener ensemble, et à accepter, avant de finaliser tous les détails. En fait, notre prochaine session de suivi est prévue le 14 novembre. Alors, restez à l'écoute, car nous vous tiendrons au courant dans notre prochaine infolettre.

PS : Entre-temps, si vous avez des questions ou des idées utiles, n'hésitez pas à me contacter ou à contacter l'un des quatre membres de *notre équipe* mentionnés ci-dessus.

« Car moi, le Seigneur, je sais bien quels projets je forme pour vous ; et je vous l'affirme, ce ne sont pas des projets de malheurs mais des projets de bonheur. Je veux vous donner un avenir à espérer. » [Jérémie 29, 11]

Merci pour ce moment et que Dieu vous bénisse !

Robert (Bob) McLachlan

MY CHURCH IS BURNING!

by Nigel Holehouse
Treasurer at St. James Church (Hudson)



On April 14th, 2024, my wife and I were driving to church to set up for coffee, snacks and livestream, we found the road barred.

“There is a fire,” they said.

We set off on foot, cake in hand, wondering where it could be.

We approached the church. We saw the flames. We saw the firetrucks. Realization dawned, and turned to horror.



The Church is burning.

We met other parishioners, asked for details ‘is everyone OK?’

Everyone is ok. Relief. Thick black smoke coils upwards, but it is at the back of the church, only in the link buildings.

My church is burning.

My wife is in shock, I leave her with others and go towards the fire, to see what is happening, to hope that all the dozens of firemen have it out soon, but I see the flames reach higher, licking hungrily onto the next roof, reaching inexorably into the sacristy.

Our church is burning.

The fire wasn’t stopping, no matter the heroics from the fire brigade, no matter the prayers and exhalations from the onlookers, it jumped into the roof of the main church and ever so slowly crept its way towards the tower.

It Burns.

We have to leave, we are emotionally spent, go home, sit down, drink tea. Later on we call people and find out that the fire is finally out, but severe damage was done.

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OUR CHURCH IS BURNING *(continued)*

The church is burnt.

What do we do now? We can only pray, we can be thankful that no-one was hurt, we are thankful for all the firemen who tried so hard for us. But for us, our home of countless years, the very center of our soul had been taken from us.

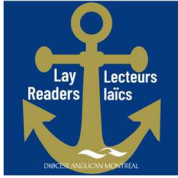
Our church is gone.

It's been a week now, I think I can face it, I visit the church. It's a mess, they had to literally peel the burning roof off with a crane, piece by piece. Everything is wet, everything smells of smoke, inside the church is a jumble of plaster, charred beams and debris, all lying on top of the pews, it makes me feel ill, but I look up and see that the original stone walls from 1842 stand proudly, the stained-glass windows are almost intact, their images still silently talking as before, the St James window is still magnificent.



*All photos taken by Nigel Holehouse on April 14th, 2024.
The first ones before and around noon, and the last three ones at 7:00 p.m.*

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OUR CHURCH IS BURNING *(continued)*

My church still feels like home.

This is fixable, the damage is just 'stuff', roof, plaster, things that can be replaced. There is hope, it is not as bad as I imagined. The large hall is still intact, everything else is gone though, but we have a firm foundation.

Our church will survive.

We have our first corporation meeting, we are all grieving, but the miraculous has happened, we have passed the turning point – we all firmly believe that we can rebuild, and we will rebuild.

Our church will rise.

It is 6 months later. We have so many fantastic people helping us, dealing with everything: fundraising, communication, logistics, managing the rebuild plan, not only parishioners, but the community also, there is such a positive feeling in the teams. We will have a new roof on the church by Christmas, we hope to have our large hall operational by Christmas.

Our church is saved.

It will be a long road. Two years or more, perhaps, before we return to normal. But at the end, our church will stand again, its windows cleaned and restored – brighter than before. New, more efficient heating will warm our halls. New layouts will welcome our congregation and community. What began as tragedy has become opportunity.

Our church will live on!

Would you like to support your Lay Reader Association with a donation?

Here is an opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the development of our ministry!

You have the option of donating to the **Bursary Fund**, to support the education of our Lay Readers, or towards **General Operations**. Please indicate your selection on your donation.

Important

Please reach out to our treasurer by emailing Karen Birkett at karenbirkett@sympatico.ca *before you make a donation.*

Donations of \$25 or more qualify for an income tax receipt and are handled differently (and our treasurer will guide you through the process).

BEING A VOCATIONAL DECON... FOR ONE YEAR

by Rev. Deacon Dave Blizard
Lay Reader–Deacon Liaison

When I last wrote something for the Lay Reader newsletter, I gave you a brief story of my life walk towards being a Vocational Deacon in the Diocese of Montreal. On October 14, 2023, this dream of mine came to reality, with my ordination and off I went as Reverend Deacon.

The past year and a couple of weeks, has given me a higher feeling of being present, directed by God. When you look at the roles of Licensed Lay Reader or Permanent (Vocational) Deacon, the functions undertaken are similar in many ways. Reading the Gospel, preparing the Prayers of the People, leading Morning Prayer are all done, by both, on a regular basis. In my parish, I am also arranging the weekly readers and a second chalice administrator for the Eucharist service.

We have all been called to servant ministry and whether we hold the license of a Licensed Lay Reader or a Vocational Deacon, it is indeed our Lord who directed each of us to the road we now follow.



Rev. Deacon Dave Blizard, with the
Rt. Rev. Mary Irwin-Gibson
at his ordination service

Photo: Janet Best, Diocese of Montreal

Our up-to-date calendar of events is always online

Here is an **Follow all the latest news at <https://layreaders.org/events.htm>**

And please email Mark Weatherley if you have any ideas for new workshops.

Notre calendrier des événements en ligne est toujours à jour !

Consultez-le à <https://layreaders.org/events.htm>

Et n'hésitez pas à écrire à Mark Weatherley si vous avez des idées d'ateliers.