



The Montreal Lay Reader Le lecteur montréalais

The newsletter for lay readers of the Anglican Diocese of Montreal
Le bulletin des lecteurs laïcs du diocèse anglican de Montréal

March 2006
Mars 2006

Our Mission Statement: We, the Lay Readers, licensed by the Archbishop of Montreal, believe that we are called by God to affirm the Lordship of Jesus Christ in teaching, preaching and leading worship services. We exercise this ministry in our parishes and throughout the diocese. We use our diverse gifts, traditions, cultures and languages to be Lay Leaders within the body of Christ and in our daily lives.

Notre mission : Nous, lecteurs laïcs mandatés par l'archevêque de Montréal, sommes appelés par Dieu à affirmer le règne de Jésus-Christ par l'enseignement, la prédication et la direction de services liturgiques. Nous exerçons notre ministère dans notre paroisse et aux quatre coins du diocèse, faisant bon usage des dons, de la tradition, de la culture et de nos aptitudes linguistiques pour être des chefs de file au sein du corps du Christ et dans notre propre vie.

MARK THIS DATE
IN YOUR AGENDA

Annual General Meeting of the Lay Readers' Association

All lay readers are urged to attend this meeting. Remember: this is *your* association. If you don't attend, you don't have a voice!

- 5:30 **Holy Eucharist** (in the Church)
- 6:30 **Supper** (in the Hall)
- 7:30 **Business meeting, with election of officers**
- 9:00 End of meeting

Wednesday May 17th, 2006

St. George's Church
1101, Stanley Street, Montreal
Corner of La Gauchetière
Metro Bonaventure, Bell Centre exit

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Assemblée générale annuelle de l'association des lecteurs laïcs

Lecteurs laïcs, vous êtes tous invités à participer à cette assemblée. N'oubliez pas : c'est *votre* association et votre présence est essentielle !

- 17h30 **Eucharistie** (dans l'église)
- 18h30 **Souper** (dans la salle paroissiale)
- 19h30 **Réunion annuelle, et élection des officiers**
- 21h00 Levée de l'assemblée

Le mercredi 17 mai 2006

Église Saint-Georges
1101, rue Stanley, Montréal
Au coin de la rue de la Gauchetière
Métro Bonaventure, sortie Centre Bell

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INSCRIVEZ
CETTE DATE À
VOTRE AGENDA

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- The Annual Retreat:** May 5-6, 2006
- The 2005 Commissioning:** A Report
- The 2006 Commissioning:** Don't Miss It!
- How to Request the services of a Lay Reader?**

DANS CE NUMÉRO

- La retraite annuelle :** 5-6 mai 2006
- La journée d'études 2005** comme si vous y étiez
- La journée d'études 2006 :** Soyez-y !
- Comment retenir les services d'un lecteur laïc ?**

WEDNESDAY MAY 17TH, 2006

The Annual General Meeting. Be There!

The Annual General Meeting of the Lay Readers' Association will be held on Wednesday May 17th at Saint George's Church.

Remember that **this is *your* association**. If *you* don't attend, *you* don't have a voice and our activities cannot reflect *your* opinions. The schedule is on the front page.

Call us to tell us that you are planning to attend, so that we have enough food for all! (Phone numbers at the bottom of the page.)

And by the way, if you are interested in becoming a member of the 2006–2007 Executive Committee, don't hesitate to speak to one of the present Executive!

ANNUAL COMMISSIONING AND STUDY DAY

November 11th, 2006

St. Thomas Church (N.D.G., Montréal)

Speaker to be announced

New More Efficient Procedure to Request a Lay Reader

EXTRACT OF THE PURPLE PROSE, JANUARY 4TH 2006
BY JAN DIJKMAN, WARDEN OF LAY READERS

After discussions with the Executive Committee of the Lay Readers' Association, it is thought that Lay Readers would serve the diocese more effectively if **clergy and/or parish leaders requiring the services of a Lay Reader would direct their requests to Mr. Greg Weeds**. Mr. Weeds can be reached by phone at **(450) 672-2462**.

He has a list classifying Lay Readers according to the distances they are able and/or willing to travel. When Lay Readers are directly invited by clergy and/or parish leaders, it limits his flexibility in covering all requests for Lay Readers on a particular Sunday. By following this new scheme, we can avoid situations where an outlying parish has to go without a Lay Reader because all the Lay Readers who are able to travel are busy somewhere else.

Canon Jan Dijkman, Warden of the Lay Readers, has also asked me to pass on his request to be kept informed when Lay Readers in your Parish celebrate a special occasion, are ill or pass away. Canon Dijkman can be reached by phone at (450) 466-3338 or by email at jdijkman@montreal.anglican.ca

Expenses: New Mileage Rate for 2006

The new mileage rate for 2006 for church-related travel costs paid by the parish is \$0.44 per km driven.

Une nouvelle façon pour retenir les services d'un lecteur laïc

EXTRAIT DE LA PROSE ÉCARLATE DU 4 JANVIER 2006
PAR JAN DIJKMAN, RESPONSABLE DES LECTEURS LAÏCS

**You need
a Lay Reader
for your Parish?
Call Greg Weeds
at (450) 672-2462**

Après discussion avec l'exécutif de l'Association des lecteurs laïcs, nous avons conclu que **les prêtres et les responsables de paroisses qui désirent retenir les services d'un lecteur laïc doivent maintenant contacter directement M. Greg Weeds**. M. Weeds, que l'on peut contacter au **(450) 672-2462**, a une liste classifiant les lecteurs laïcs selon le territoire qu'ils couvrent, et peut ainsi optimiser les ressources en fonction des besoins des paroisses et des lecteurs disponibles.

Soulignons que lorsqu'une paroisse contacte directement un lecteur laïc, cela nuit grandement à la planification des ressources. Cette nouvelle procédure fort simple permettra d'éviter des situations où certaines paroisses éloignées doivent se passer de lecteur laïc parce que les lecteurs qui auraient pu s'y déplacer avaient été retenus par d'autres paroisses.

Le chanoine Jan Dijkman, responsable des lecteurs laïcs, souligne également qu'il aimerait être informé lorsqu'un lecteur laïc de votre paroisse célèbre un événement particulier, souffre d'une maladie... ou meurt. On peut contacter le chanoine Dijkman au (450) 466-3338 ou par courriel au jdijkman@montreal.anglican.ca.

Le taux kilométrique monte en 2006

Le taux 2006 pour le remboursement des frais de déplacement reliés aux fonctions cléricales est de 0,44 \$/km.

Executive of the Lay Readers' Association for 2005–2006

Warden: **Rev. Canon Jan Dijkman**
Vice President: **Simon Hartroop** (514) 694-4529
Secretary: **William Griffith** (514) 481-3139
Publications: **Michel Gagnon** (514) 273-0685
Registrar: **Marcel Bourgeois** (514) 931-5045
Asst. registrar: **Margery Brown** (450) 462-4397

Executives: **Gloria Augustus** (450) 969-1967
Ivan Austin (514) 367-1899
Eric Fox (450) 464-2832
Carol Gingera (514) 933-8904
Sharon Jolley (514) 481-2868
Past President: **Greg Weeds** (450) 672-2462

LAY READERS MINISTRING TO THE COMMUNITY

The Château Westmount Seniors Residence

Lay Readers have taken part in quite a few ministries apart from the “traditional” helping hand at the Sunday Eucharist or the equally “traditional” Morning Prayer.

For the past 2 years, a few Lay Readers of our diocese have been involved in Christian services at the Château Westmount. These are short prayer and praise liturgies seem to soothe the soul of residents and workers alike. Each Lay Reader serves once a month on a roster, and there is also a monthly Eucharist.



TOP: Lay Reader **Sharon Jolley** reading a lesson during the annual *Christmas Carols and Lessons* service, last December at the Château Westmount.

LEFT: Three of the four Lay Readers who lead the services. From left to right, **Ron Yeoman**, **Greg Weeds** and **Sharon Jolley**.

LAY READERS WORSHIPPING AND HAVING FUN TOGETHER AT TRINITY MEMORIAL

The February Hymn Sing In was a Success!

On February 8th, about 35 Lay Readers gathered together for a fun evening of Praise. Accompanied by the organist of Trinity Memorial Church, we sang modern and traditional hymns, joyful and thoughtful hymns, praise songs as well as old favourites. Each participant suggested hymns they like, so we all had the opportunity to know each other's tastes, and to sing the glory of God... until we had almost no more voice left!



LRA Budget Slashed by more than 33%

Due to the fact that the Diocese has reduced the Lay Readers' Association operating budget over the past 2 years by \$800 a year, in addition to downloading \$500 per year in costs that they previously absorbed, we are obliged to increase the charges for events.

Therefore, we will now charge **\$20 per event** instead of \$15 as it was in the previous years. The extra \$5 which is over and above our actual cost for the lunch and refreshments will be used to help finance the Association.

Preaching from the Old Testament

The 2005 Commissioning and Study Day

BY IAN SINCLAIR

Where could you read about incest, murder, hate and love? In the Old Testament, of course! The human dilemma and human joy in God are presented in a document over 1000 pages long in the Bible, with over 1000 years of history written by many authors.

Over 60 diocesan lay readers spent a day in November listening to Professor Patricia Kirkpatrick expound on some of the subtleties of the Hebrew Scriptures. (Thanks to Church of the Resurrection for hosting us!) With enthusiasm, she said that University courses amounting to 480 hours, plus essays and exams, were just enough to give you the tools to begin studying the Old Testament.

It takes a lifetime to know it, and she urged us to have at least an Oxford Study Bible and The Oxford (one volume) Bible Commentary to help with the job. Are you preparing a sermon? It should take at least three hours to get to know the text, and seven more to contemplate how this text speaks to today's world.

The Old Testament contains the story of an encounter between God and a people having the same frailties and strengths possessed by people of any age. They laughed and loved the same as we do, and they were proud, boastful and arrogant just as we can be. When we read of David seducing Bathsheba and arranging for her husband's murder, we think, "There but for the grace of God go I". David tries to distance himself from the death of Bathsheba's husband. "Don't let this upset you", he says, "the sword devours one as well as another." Lust, greed, lying and self-justification – they are all in the Biblical text. But so is the grace of God – when David was finally convicted of his wrong-doing, God again assured him of his love, although the consequences of sin continued throughout his reign as king.

The Old Testament speaks of an unconditional covenant (as well as a conditional one), and we hear the echoes of those promises of God – "I will not leave you, even if you are a liar, an adulterer or a murderer." Thus the preacher, having understood the passage and its context, attempts to build a bridge between then and now. Professor Kirkpatrick asked us, "Has anyone read 'Harry Potter', or 'Two Solitudes', or a John Grisham novel? The tragedy and the hope of the stories of the Old Testament are set in a land far away and in a time long ago. So the story is retold for succeeding generations. We make the bridge the same way we would ask why James Joyce wrote 'Ulysses' in that strange way. Who did he write it for? What world was he reflecting? What was his home life like, his world? How what have they seen in it?"

So lay readers put these questions to the Old Testament, and see, for example, a world in which God has a senate around him, as he considers His servant Job. We often talk of the patience of Job. If you read the text, you will see that Job was not patient at all. He was angry and frustrated, and he does come close to blaspheming God. In the end, God rewards him. Why? Because Job questioned the established theology whereas his 'friends' went to great lengths to try to support what had become an empty and brutalizing theology of reward and punishment. And in the end, there was actually no answer to Job's question – "Why?" And we may ask, what theologian wrote this?

As preachers of the Good News, we look at these passages in the light of what Jesus did for us. Our sermons are Christocentric, because the Gospel, the good news of the Kingdom, is what we proclaim. Jesus Himself proclaims the Kingdom values, and we as Jesus people live out these values as we go about His ministry.

We also look at these passages through an Anglican lens. It's a dialogue with Scripture, in which tradition and reason have their part in our understanding. How did the church see the stories of Job, or David, or the Holy Spirit speaks to us today as we read this material. We wonder, "What is the Spirit saying to the churches of today?" We dare not pick and choose passages that we like. Instead, we submit to the Lord of the Bible, who may indeed convict us and show us that we, too, are like David or Job.

But there is another lens that the preacher needs to use as well. That is, to know the people to whom we would speak. It's unlikely that you can hit a chord coming in to an unknown congregation. What are their fears, their hopes and dreams? What hurts have they felt, what shared celebrations? Together, you can feel the pain and confusion of Job, wondering why you were laid off well before retirement, why your kids had become estranged. Or perhaps you relate to Hosea, whose wife left and whose heart longed for reconciliation.

Is there an answer? Sometimes, it's a lesson of perseverance. Like Jeremiah, hang in there for the long course. It's the best way. Sometimes, it's a message of hope – in a beautiful love story, Hosea's wife did come back. God says, "I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her." So his loving kindness shines through the pages of the Old Testament, the same God who continues to lead us and speak to us today.



We were not only instructed and nurtured by the Rev. Patricia Kirkpatrick (left), but we also sang praises to the Lord

MAY 5TH AND 6TH, 2006

Annual Lay Reader's Retreat: Diversity of Christian Anglican Worship

As previously announced, our 6th Annual Retreat will be held again this year at **Maison Sainte-Marie** in Vankleek Hill (Ontario). This is the venue we used for last year's retreat, and for those who did not come, travel directions are *very* simple and for most people, travel time should be shorter than it was at our previous location.

In this our new location the only things beside yourself you need to bring are a **Bible** and a **BAS**. Everything else is provided, even an extra pillow if you need it! And every room has its own sink with face cloths and towels provided.

Our Theme and Spiritual Leader

The theme for this retreat will be The Diversity of Christian Anglican Worship. Our spiritual leader for the retreat will be The Rev. **Peggy Hudson**, rector of St. James the Apostle Church in Kemptville, Ontario. Peggy has taught this subject at the Diocese of Ontario Lay Reader's Summer School in Kingston and in other places. Two members of our Lay Readers' Association who took the course in Kingston found it not only worthwhile, but also fun.

The Programme

Have you ever wondered if the Anglican Church in Kenya celebrates the Eucharist in the same manner we do, or if the service of Morning Prayer is the same in South Africa as it is here? Have you ever wondered when preparing a service what you can change and what you cannot? This hands on seminar will answer these questions and show us what we can do and what we should not do in a service. Using the forms of the BCP and BAS, we will learn how to prepare services using various formats of Morning Prayer and Eucharist as used in Anglican Churches around the world.

Register Early

The retreat is fast approaching. There are only 32 rooms and many are already booked, so **register early**, because rooms are booked on a first come first served basis. As you have seen on the *Budget* section, we had to increase the price, so it's \$60 if you register before April 1st and \$65 afterwards (if there is any room left).

Diversity of Anglican Worship The 6th Annual Retreat May 5th and 6th, 2006

Friday night

- 6:00-7:00 Arrival and check in
- 7:00 p.m. **Fellowship**,
light supper and refreshments
(i.e. don't stop at a restaurant before)
- 8:15 p.m. **Prayer and Praise**
- 8:30 p.m. **The Rev. Peggy Hudson**
- 9:30 p.m. **Compline**
followed by an informal Sing In
around the guitar

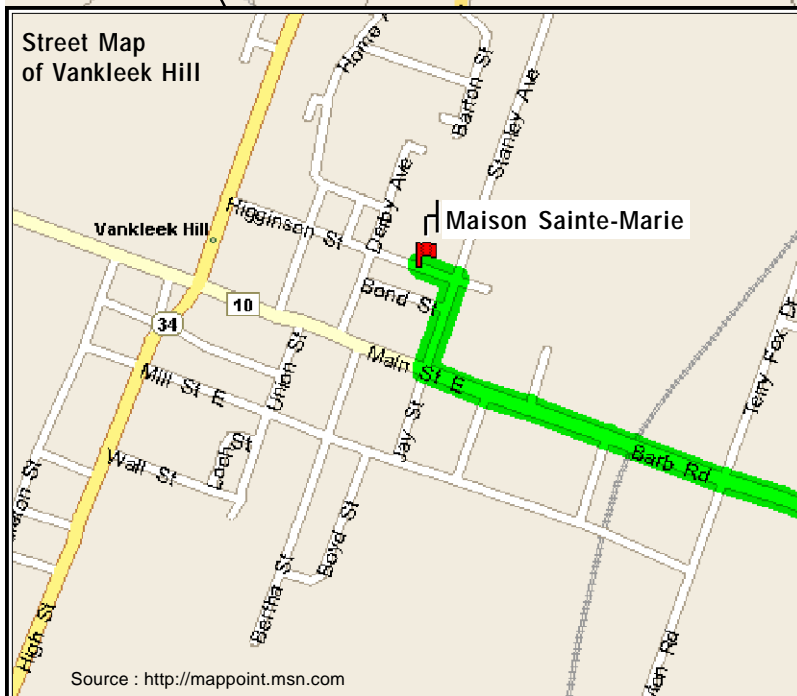
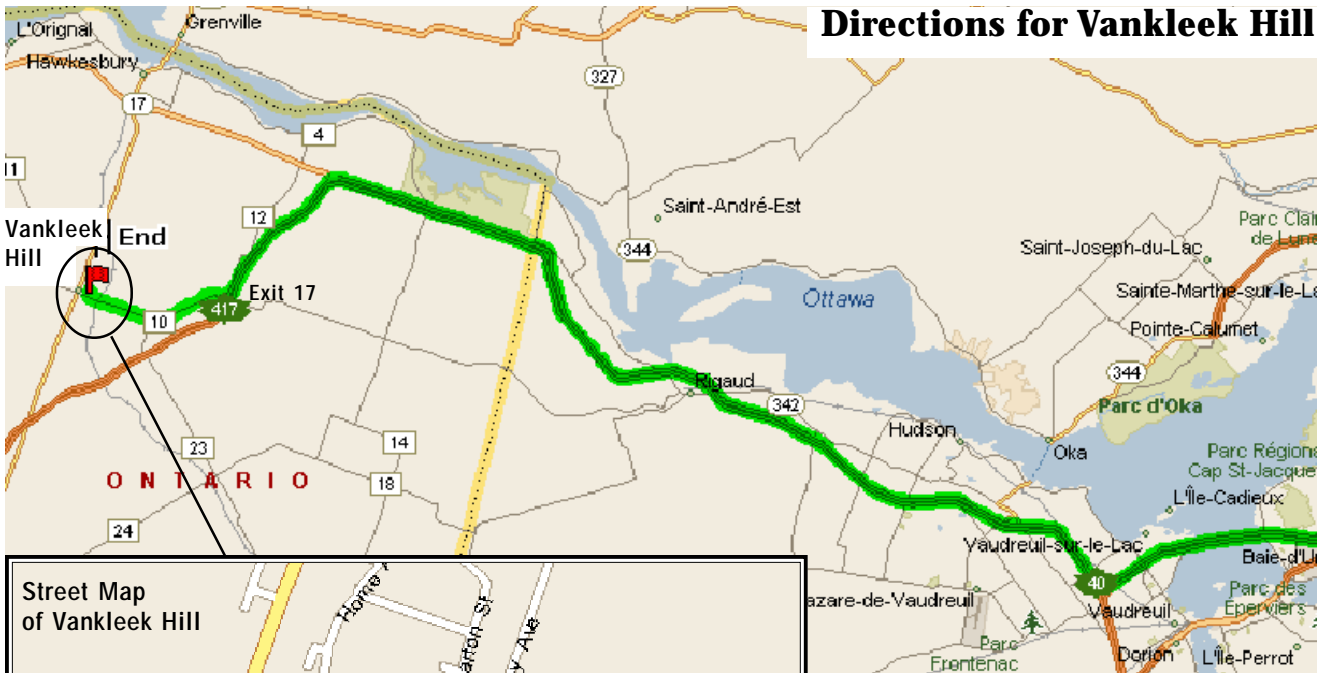
Saturday

- 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast**
- 9:00 a.m. **Morning Prayer**
- 9:45 a.m. **The Rev. Peggy Hudson**
- 12:00 p.m. **Lunch** and free time
- 1:30 p.m. **The Rev. Peggy Hudson**
- 4:15 p.m. **Eucharist**
- 5:00 p.m. **Supper** and Sign Off



Lay Readers are assembled for the traditional picture just after the Commissioning service.

Directions for Vankleek Hill



- From Montréal, take **Autoroute 40 West** towards Ottawa.
It becomes **Highway 417** in Ontario
Do not exit at exit 9!
- Exit at **Exit 17**, which is signed for **Regional Road 10, Chemin Barb Road and Vankleek Hill** (it should be open this year!)
- Turn right (i.e. go West) on **Barb Road** (Regional Road 10 West), and follow it for a few kilometres, until you enter the village of **Vankleek Hill**.
The road name changes to **Main Street**.
- Turn right onto **Stanley Avenue**.
- Turn left onto **Higginson Street**, and look for # **159**.

CUT AND MAIL TO REGISTER – DÉCOUPEZ ICI POUR VOUS ENREGISTRER

Registration to the Spring Retreat.

Name:

Address:

City:

Postal Code:

Telephone: (.....)

I can offer a ride ()
Je peux transporter quelqu'un

I need a ride ()
J'ai besoin de transport

Registration to the 6^h Annual Retreat Inscription à la 6^e retraite annuelle

Before April 1 st	Avant le 1 ^{er} avril	\$60 ()
After April 1 st	Après le 1 ^{er} avril	\$65 ()
<small>(subject to availability) (s'il reste des places)</small>		

Make your cheque payable to the Lay Readers' Association and send it to:

Libellez votre chèque à l'Association des lecteurs laïcs et envoyez-le à :

The Lay Readers' Association
541 Birch Street
Saint-Lambert, Qc
J4P 2M9