

Dear Friend of the Cathedral,

The cathedral building on Sunday morning was clean and tidy – a testament to the wonderful clean-up crew who restored the cathedral to order after the last visitors to Nuit blanche left shortly after 1:00 am. The evening got off to a brilliant start with a very well-attended Oasis concert at 4:30 pm featuring Spanish music played by Nadia Monczak, violin and Gaspard Tanguay-Labrosse, piano. There was then a pause while people were invited to view the art video and exhibition created by Jason McKechnie, look at the vestments display created by Amy, and peruse the exhibition about the cathedral's history and current activities, arranged by Peggy and Ann. Meanwhile candles were lit in all the windows and the stalwart hot chocolate makers filled thermoses and prepared to serve a horde of visitors, nearly 4,000 this year. Carlos did an amazing job of organizing the hot chocolate volunteers. The drink was free, but during the evening generous visitors donated \$1,173 in strategically placed baskets – enough to cover most of the expenses for the evening.

The programme of concerts started at 7:00 pm with a performance from the Montreal Civic Band whose rousing toe-tapping music brought smiles to people's faces. The ever-popular Gay Men's Chorus followed with a rendition of songs about love. These two groups played three sets each during the evening. We reminded visitors that we are a place of worship by singing the monastic service of Compline at 9:15 pm. Our Dean, Bertrand, was the officiant and choir soloist Anna Lewton-Brain was the cantor. The small choir who accompanied them sang beautifully. People listening with reverent attention held lighted tapers. In the final hour of the evening the Nicole Arrange trio filled the soaring spaces of the cathedral with mellow jazz. It was hard to get people to leave when the evening ended.

The success of the evening was due to the large number of volunteers who helped in many ways and especially to the very efficient hard-working team of organisers led by Cassidy which included Boran (Music), Jason (Art), Carlos (Hot chocolate making and serving), Ben and Bertrand, (Compline), Amy (Vestments), Peggy and Ann (Cathedral history and activities display). Besides being our unflappable leader, Cassidy was also the creator of the selfie station. Thank you also to Jasmine and Ben for compering the evening, to George for his long stint as security and to Greg and Jen our indefatigable vergers who made sure everything proceeded safely and smoothly. Finally, a huge thank you to the greeters, clickers and hot chocolate servers who shivered at the back of the cathedral but offered everyone a warm welcome as they came through the door. Amazingly, many of the people who volunteered at Nuit blanche were back at the cathedral on Sunday to participate in the service or make coffee hour possible and then again on Tuesday to help create a splendid Pancake supper in Fulford Hall. You are too many to mention by name, but you are the unsung heroes who glue the cathedral community together.

Lent began on Wednesday with three special Eucharists. It was fun to keep bumping into members of the congregation afterwards in the metro, all with black crosses on their foreheads.

The Anglican Church of Canada is following the example of the Church of England in suggesting people use the "Less Plastics for Lent Calendar" (Sic. The purists might prefer to say fewer plastics)

This is the message on the original English calendar:

For Anglicans Lent is the time when we remember the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, facing challenge and temptation. It is a time when we reflect on God's purpose for our life. This year we challenge you to give up single-use plastics – to reduce the actions which damage God's Creation. Over 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic have been produced since the 1950s. That's enough plastic to cover every inch of the UK ankle-deep more than ten times over. Just 9% was recycled. 'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth' is the Anglican Communion's Fifth Mark of Mission.

If want to add a discipline you might like to consider joining the Lent Book Study on Sundays in Lent. Speak to Amy. You need a copy of the book "Being Christian" by Rowan Williams. There are also small devotional cards for Lent at the back of the church which you can use every day.

Brenda Linn is inviting the congregation to a short presentation this Sunday. "In keeping with the support for aboriginal communities that the cathedral has shown over the past several years, there will be a very short presentation during the coffee hour this Sunday morning, March 10th. Brenda Linn, who has spent the past year living in the Inuit village of Kangirsuk is hoping to share some good news, some very disturbing news, and an urgent plea."

Lots to do this Sunday – The Fair-Trade Kiosk will be selling a great assortment of fairly traded items including tea, coffee, chocolate, oil and spices. We are in the middle of the annual celebration of a fair trade fortnight when we are encouraged to think about justice for farmers in poorer countries.

Don't forget Evensong at the end of the afternoon with music by Byrd, Palestrina and Philippe de Monte. Nicholas Capozzoli will direct and Jeffrey Mackie officiate.

It was exciting to learn last Sunday that our new Director of Music will be Dr Jonathan White. He was born in the UK and has degrees from both Oxford and Yale universities, and wide experience playing the organ and conducting choirs. He will take up his position at the cathedral in June.

Your prayers are welcomed by Bertrand who is having surgery on Monday to repair a torn meniscus in his knee. He hopes to work from home for a few days next week but expects to be mobile fairly quickly. He went home today carrying a pair of borrowed crutches. Once the knee has healed, we hope to see him running marathons again!

Notices:

The Annual Vestry Meeting of Christ Church Cathedral will reconvene March 17, 2019 following the 10:30 am service.

Cathedral Forum Tuesday, March 19, 6:30pm. the sounding board of the community. All congregation members are invited.

The Cathedral Reading Group is reading *Across the China Sea* by Gaute Heivoll, for discussion on March 24. It received glowing reviews for its touching story about a Norwegian family living in Southern Norway at the end of World War II who provide a loving home for a large group of mentally challenged children and adults. Speak to Ann, Jane, Edward or Diana if you would like to join the discussion. You can find a list of the books we have read over the years on the cathedral web site.

Baptism, Confirmation, Reception and Renewal of Baptismal Vows
If you would like to have a conversation about being baptized, confirmed, received into the Anglican Church or to renew your baptismal vows at the Easter Vigil please speak to or email Amy.

Students and Young Adults. We meet often for meals, Bible study and small faith discussion groups, and lead twice monthly worship services together. To learn more, please contact Jean-Daniel jeandaniel.williams@montrealcathedral.ca.

Flowers for Easter Please speak to Vera Burt or contact the Cathedral office if you would like to donate Easter flowers in thanksgiving or in the memory of a loved one. Suggested donation: \$60-\$80.

Wishing you a blessed Lent

Ann Elbourne
March 7, 2019