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CATHÉDRALE CHRIST CHURCH MONTRÉAL

Dear Friend of the Cathedral,

St John the Evangelist

We were deeply saddened to learn that our neighboring parish, St. John the Evangelist, has decided that, in light of insurmountable financial obstacles, they can no longer continue as a stand-alone congregation. The members have voted to ask the Diocese to sell their building. St. John the Evangelist has had a long history of beautiful worship and of support for the poor, and, over the years, many of us at the Cathedral have been graced by worshiping there or by serving with members of St. John's. We ask that you hold their members and clergy in your prayers as they navigate the loss of their spiritual home and seek a new worship space in which to love and serve Christ together.

St John was closely connected to the cathedral when it was founded by Bishop Fulford and given a tiny, semi-derelict Chapel of Ease as its place of worship. Its first priest and later rector, Edmund Wood, was the second assistant Minister in the cathedral as a young deacon, newly arrived from England. The bishop put him in charge of looking after the poorer members of the cathedral parish in this Chapel of Ease. The congregation grew by leaps and bounds and eventually, in 1878, the red roofed church of St John the Evangelist was built for it. Meanwhile, richer parishioners worshipped at the cathedral, buying their pews. Rather a sad commentary on the social stratification of the 19th century.

An amusing anecdote is told by Frank Dawson Adams in his *History of the Cathedral*. When Bishop Fulford took Father Wood to see the Chapel of Ease a powerful smell of decay greeted the pair as they opened the door. The Bishop turned to Father Wood and asked "Do you think, Wood, a little incense would be appropriate?" Incense was always appropriate at St John's

Diocesan College Convocation

We are invited to attend Dio's convocation on May 8 at 7 pm in the Cathedral. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Ogé Beauvoir, retired Bishop Suffragan of Haiti, will give the Convocation Address. Come and support the staff and students at Dio, some of whom regularly worship with us. Remote viewing will be available [on the Cathedral's YouTube channel](#).

Adrian's Two Hats

This Saturday, April 29, is Independent Bookstore Day. If you buy a book in an independent store that day you will be entered in a draw for a \$1000 book token prize. Parishioner Adrian King Edwards is the proprietor of the much-loved The Word bookstore on Milton Street. He also organizes the Last Sunday of the Month Lunch in Fulford Hall, provided for people in need of a good meal, so on Saturday he will be very busy with preparations for the lunch, as well as working in his store. As usual, Adrian welcomes help serving the lunch and donations towards the cost. Please contact him at wordbook@securenet.net if you'd like to help.

Speaking of Books

The Cathedral's English Book Group is currently reading *Strange Bewildering Time: Istanbul to Kathmandu in the Last Year of the Hippie Trail* by Mark Abley. Mark will join us for our zoom discussion on May 28. Do come too. The link will be in a later letter.

Parishioner Elizabeth Elbourne, history professor at McGill, has just launched her latest book, *Empire, Kinship and Violence: Family Histories, Indigenous Rights and the Making of Settler Colonialism, 1770-1842* (Cambridge University Press, 2022). According to the CUP press release:

She traces the history of three linked imperial families in Britain and across contested colonial borderlands: the Haudenosaunee Brants of northeastern North America; the Bannisters, a British family of colonial administrators, whistleblowers and entrepreneurs who operated across Australia, Canada and southern Africa; and the

peoples while also pioneering humanitarian colonialism. By recounting the conflicts that these interlinked families were involved in she tells a larger story about the development of British and American settler colonialism and the betrayal of Indigenous peoples.

Coronation Evensong

Once upon a time there were very close links between Canada and the monarchy. In 1814, George III donated the “King’s Organ” to the second Christ Church building in Old Montreal. The status of Cathedral was conferred by the crown in 1850, incidentally making Montreal a City. Royalty has visited the present building: the Prince of Wales on the occasion of the opening of the Victoria Bridge, and Queen Elizabeth with Prince Philip during the Montreal Olympics, when burly security guards stood silently in the choir during the service and sharpshooters were stationed on the roof of the Bay. Recently, our ties to the monarchy and our reverence towards the crown have become looser. The Anglican Church of Canada is no longer the “Church of England in the Dominion of Canada”. Some people consider that the king should not be Canada’s head of state. People in our congregation have a variety of opinions. However, we wish Charles III well in a difficult and unenviable job. As “Defender of the Faith” he will certainly need God’s guidance, so it is appropriate to celebrate his coronation with a special evensong in the presence of the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec on Sunday, May 7 at 4 pm. The music will be glorious, befitting a King!

The Beauty of Community

1. This year the organisers of the city-wide Journées de la culture are asking us to think about the rich cultural mosaic of our community. This idea fits very well with a fledging project of **creating a time capsule** which has been suggested by Yevgeniya Amis. A small group of people interested in the history of the cathedral is working on a plan to involve our whole community. Come to Forum on Sunday May 14 to hear more and watch for details in May newsletters.

service at 10:30 followed by a **community lunch** featuring cuisine from around the world, illustrating the multi-culturalism of Cathedral parishioners.

3. **Forum will meet on May 14**, 12 pm in Fulford Hall. This is your chance to participate in the rich life of the Cathedral, hearing reports, making suggestions and contributing your opinions. Minutes of the March meeting are available online [by clicking here](#).

Undercroft

Our Administrator Elizabeth Smith reports that the construction/renovation work on the Undercroft (necessitated by the recent flood) is beginning on Monday. The Undercroft remains closed to all. As yet, we don't know how long this process will take, and the entire Cathedral team is thankful for your patience in what will no doubt be a long process.

Climate Change and Climate Science

This week, Deborah had the opportunity to participate in a webinar offered by Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, chief scientist for the Nature Conservancy (a large, U.S.-based environmental non-profit). Dr. Hayhoe tied together climate science and cognitive science to demonstrate that when we speak about climate change, it is more effective to emphasize positive directions for action rather than terrifying facts. (Essentially, our minds are wired to “freeze” when we are terrified, and to take action not from fear, but from the hope of a reward.) You can listen to a recording of the webinar [at this link](#).

Wondering where to get hopeful climate stories which are also true? Dr. Hayhoe writes a free newsletter sharing both hopeful and sobering climate news. You can sign up [by clicking here](#).

Speaking of Saints: Athanasius of Alexandria

While no longer a household name, Athanasius was a key figure in the development of our faith. He served as Bishop of Alexandria (one of the most important centers of early Christianity) for 45 years, during which warring factions of the church were trying to shape the doctrine of the Trinity. Athanasius was a strong proponent of what we now accept as true: that Jesus is not subordinate to the Father, but is equally God. Athanasius had the key insight that "God became human so that we might become divine," and he understood that Jesus could be the bridge between humankind and God if he himself were fully rooted in both identities.

Before the Council of Nicaea, there were rumors that Athanasius had died. He himself crept into the room in a hooded garment and, at the pinnacle of the debate, cast off the hood, took the floor, and helped orthodoxy to carry the day. Even today, when the priest pours the water into the wine at the altar, it is customary to pray silently, "By the mystery of Christ's incarnation, may we share the divine life of him who came to share our humanity."

Big thanks to Deborah this week who contributed items about the closing of St John the Evangelist Church (first paragraph), the climate change webinar and her continuing series about saints. Thank you Alex for formatting and posting the letter in mailchimp and Michel for refining the French translation of the letter.

Ann Elbourne
April 28, 2023

Happening This Week at the Cathedral

Click the plus button next any event title to view the detailed event page on our website. There, you'll find the Zoom links, the event livestream, location details, and more.

Saturday

2:00 p.m. **Oasis Concert: Armonia di Paradiso** +

Sunday

9:00 a.m. **Sung Eucharist in French** +

10:30 a.m. **Choral Eucharist** +

4:00 p.m. **Choral Evensong** +

Monday

9:15 a.m. **Morning Prayer on Zoom** +

12:15 p.m. **Midday Eucharist** +

Tuesday

12:15 p.m. **Midday Eucharist** +

7:00 p.m. **Evening Prayer and Bible Discussion in French on Zoom** +

Wednesday

12:15 p.m. **Midday Eucharist** +

6:00 p.m. **Young Adult Bible Study and Supper with St. Martha's Chapel** +

Thursday

12:15 p.m. **Midday Eucharist** +

Friday

12:15 p.m. **Midday Eucharist** +

Masks are recommended during worship services.
We have masks available for anyone who needs one.

If you are experiencing cold and flu symptoms, or if you have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 10 days, please stay home and watch our livestream instead.

[Click here to join the livestream](#)

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