

# The Flame and

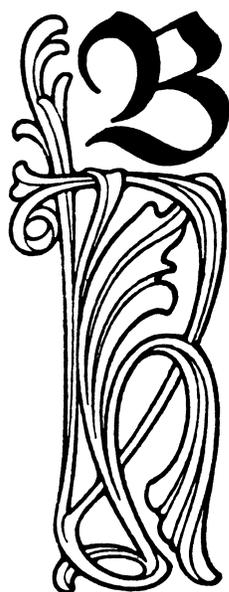
# The Cross

The newsletter of St George's Church

11 September 2011

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514-457 6934



## Back to church Sunday, 25 September

This year, along with the whole of Diocese of Montreal, St George's is participating in Back to Church Sunday, which is now the largest single local-church invitational initiative in the world. It is based on the simplest and shortest step in evangelism - that we should invite someone we already know to something we love: - invite our friend to our church.

We are encouraging everyone at St George's to:

**Pray** and ask God to show you the person (or people) He has already prepared for you to bring.

**Invite** a friend or friends *back to church*; don't poach someone from someone else's church! Remember the question: *would you like to come to Church with me?*

**Bring** your friend to church. Agree to drive together, or to meet at the entrance of the church and go in together. Sit together during the service.

**Introduce** your friend to members of St George's at lunch afterwards! We are planning a pot-luck lunch after the service, a great way to introduce friends to our wonderful family.

**Spend a moment**, and pray about whom it is God has prepared for you to bring. You can trust that God will find a way to show you. That is the wonderful thing about this kind of work; we are not alone and do not labour in our own strength. God is with us, God is ahead of us preparing the way. What is the worst that can happen - they say "no, thank you." The real success of B2CS is that you go out on a limb and invite.

**Statistics in the UK show that** participating churches welcomed an average of 19 extra people in 2009 compared to 14 2008. Of those welcomed, 12-15% went on to become regular members. Across the UK, this meant **9,900 new members** in local Churches, all based on the simple premise of inviting people we know to something we love. Last year at St George's we had a congregation of over 110 people on B2CS. Let's make that even bigger this year! For our part, we will ensure that the service is as accessible as possible to newcomers, whilst still reflecting our essential character.

*Neil*

**B**iblical first names seem to have fallen out of fashion, especially those from the Old Testament. Very well, we still use David, Sarah and Ruth. I am aware of the odd Jeremiah, or should it be abbreviated to Jeremy? Prejudices remain; when my eldest was baptised as Gideon, an uncle asked facetiously why not go the whole hog and call him Jehoshaphat or Nebuchadnezzar. Such names do have historical baggage and they are long-winded. But one name we ought to remember is Asaph.

Neil brought up this name in his sermon on Psalm 73 as part of this summer's series of sermons on the Psalms. Asaph was one of the major writers of the Bible. He wrote more of our Holy Scripture than most of the "minor" prophets. As King David's "music director", he may have written the music to many of David's psalms, music now lost. He also is believed to have written at least twelve Psalms (50, 73-83) on his own. His importance lies in that he faced many of the same challenges each of us faces almost daily in our walk of faith and expressed them in such contemporary ways.

Could we not all sing as jealousy is followed by redemption:

*My feet had almost slipped,  
my foothold had all but given way,  
because the boasts of sinners roused my  
envy  
when I saw how they prosper.*

*...they do not suffer the torments of mortal  
men.*

*...even though they say, "What does God  
know? The Most High neither knows nor  
cares."*

*So wicked men talk, yet still they prosper,  
and rogues amass great wealth.*

*When my heart was embittered  
I felt the pangs of envy, ....  
Yet I am always with thee, thou holdest my  
right hand;  
thou dost guide me by thy counsel  
and afterwards wilt receive me with glory.*

*....God is my possession for ever.*

Excerpts from Psalm 73 in The New English Bible, OUP 1970

Now for a smattering of history when Biblical names were de rigeur: Asaph is the name of a 6<sup>th</sup> Century Welsh saint. Saint Kentigern had been exiled from Glasgow and came to Wales in AD 545 and in about AD 560 founded the Celtic Monastery of Llanelwy (the church on the Elwy), as the Welsh still call the town of St. Asaph. When he returned to Glasgow in AD 573 he left Asaph as his successor. Saint Asaph's Cathedral, begun in the thirteenth century, is the Mother Church of the Diocese of St Asaph, one of the six dioceses of the Church in Wales.

Asaph is a name we should possibly bestow on our children more frequently.

**A**saph's concern, but not his conclusion, may also be expressed in the ditty as quoted in *Sands of Time* by Walter Sichel:—→

The rain it raineth on the just  
And also on the unjust fella:  
But chiefly on the just, because  
The unjust steals the just's  
umbrella.



# eadership Team

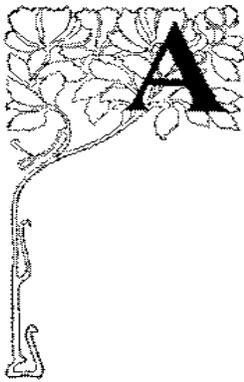
The Leadership Team met throughout July and shared with each other the duty of overseeing daily church functions during Neil's August vacation. We were pleased with the support for the combined 9.00 a.m. summer worship services at which we shared BCP and BAS liturgies and a relaxed fellowship in July and August. Services at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m. have resumed.

Over the summer, the entire church was cleaned; we are also trying to find economical ways to wax the lower hall floor and to repair the roofs over Neil's office and the tower. Unfortunately, we know that installation and maintenance of an elevator are far beyond our financial capabilities. We are hoping to install a washroom to accommodate individuals with limited mobility on the main floor of the church. New hard surface flooring will be installed in the Youth Office; its carpet has already been removed.

We are concerned with financial matters because we are currently experiencing a considerable budget deficit. In the fall we shall present details of a focussed financial report and stewardship plan. Please check the lower hall bulletin board for a monthly summary of our financial position. On a positive note, the combined earnings of the two spring garage sales totalled \$2,210. We owe many thanks to Joanne Jackson and June Woodward, who coordinated the events, and to all who donated, purchased, and volunteered their time to make these sales such a success.

In accordance with diocesan guidelines, we are planning to establish a Safe Church Policy. Details of this process will be presented to Parish Council.

You may have heard by email that St George's has been approached by a Romanian Orthodox congregation wishing to share our facilities on Sunday afternoons. Responses from our congregation have been very positive, although there are some concerns and no decisions have been reached. While there appear to be many benefits from such a sharing of our space, St George's services and functions are our first priority. There will an opportunity to obtain information and to discuss the proposal before any agreement is finalized.



## New kind of church

In May, Neil and Marian attended a workshop on “Back to Church Sunday” presented by Michael Harvey. In his presentation, Michael discussed the importance of being an invitational church rather than a sedentary one and how “Back to Church Sunday” is all about the people who are not with us yet. He enumerated twelve steps to Becoming an Inviting Church which among other things included a vision to invite, using our stories of how we were invited to church, how to build the courage through prayers and after numerous practices to ask the simple question:

“Would you like to come to church with me?”

and if necessary to pick up guests.

25 September is “Back to Church Sunday.” It will be a joyous day with a special baptism and a potluck luncheon. Have you been asking God who he has prepared for you to invite? Have you practised saying “*would you like to come to church with me?*” Have you invited someone?

If your family name begins with

A to M

please bring sandwiches



N to Z

please bring desserts



The next meeting of the Leadership Team will be held on 21 September.

# Choir



This is the chorus of Hymn 405 in our blue hymn book. We all know that Alleluia or Halleluia, (the H seems to be optional) means *Praise the Lord*.

But why?

*hallelū* is the plural imperative of the Hebrew *hallel* to praise + *yāh*, short for Yahweh.

The rehearsals of St George's Choir will resume on 8 September. Rehearsals are held

every Thursday from 7.15 p.m. to 9.15 p.m. The music ministry at St George's is looking for energetic choral singers interested in working under the professional guidance of the Choir Director, in an exciting vocal ensemble with a varied repertoire of sacred music. If you enjoy singing and want to get involved in the musical life of the parish, you are invited to come 5 or 10 minutes before the beginning of rehearsals on Thursdays. The Organist and Choir Director, Jean-François Gauthier, will meet you and will hear you for a short audition in order to have you sing in the relevant section.

For more information, please telephone the Church Office at 514-457-6934.

Jean-François

## One hot Sunday in July,



Cedric took the service



and we had an alternative organist.

# More on our Music

In May, the Parish received this letter which I hope revives some memories:

*My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

*Fifty years ago, I was a part of your family. My father was organist, my mother the parish “organizer” and I was both a server and a member of the choir when John Kerr and then Walter Asbil were our incumbents. Had it not been for you, I would not have become a priest 35 years ago. As I retire at the end of June, I simply thank God for all you did for me in the formative years of my pilgrimage. St George’s was the jumping off point for my leap of faith and I am so grateful to have been part of your family.*

*May God continue to bless and keep you on your journey.*

*Yours in the Risen Jesus*

*Michael Fleming*

*The Reverend Canon Michael Fleming*

*The Diocese of Ottawa*

Canon Fleming’s father was Robert Fleming (1921 - 1976) who was the organist at St George’s until he left in 1970 to teach at Carleton University in Ottawa. He wrote the music for many hymns, three of which are in our current blue hymn book, #129, #142 {text by Margaret Fleming his wife (1919 - )} and #572. They left us a slim red volume of hymns which included many of theirs. Until a few years ago, we would regularly sing a hymn from that book, “Be with us now, O Lord...” just after communion. Robert Fleming not only wrote the music for many hymns but also the music for nearly a hundred films and some chamber music.

He was succeeded as organist by Ralph Purser from 1970 until 1990. Denis Ore became the next organist until 1999; then it was Ted West who took over. Since 2004 Jean-François Gauthier has been our expert and beloved Organist and Choir Master.

## Ministries

DivorceCare begins on Tuesday, 13 September at 7.00 p.m. This is suitable for anyone going through the pain of separation and divorce. Single & Parenting is a new course for anyone who is raising children alone for any reason. It too begins on Tuesday, 13 September at 7.00 p.m. Please invite anyone you know who could be supported by either of these important ministries.

Registrations are being accepted now. Further information about courses offered at St George’s can be found on [www.stgeorgesanglicanchurch.org](http://www.stgeorgesanglicanchurch.org)

## utreach

Many lessons have been learned from our Refugee Sponsorship Project. I know in my heart that Monir was doing what her grown children advised her to do, and I am sure she thinks about us. We are praying that their life in yet another new place will be fruitful and that they will find peace. Meanwhile we are no longer responsible for their support.

We needed to dismantle the apartment and move on. You will be glad to know that two families from Zimbabwe have benefitted from the abundance of furniture, linens, towels, kitchen supplies and small appliances. One of the families is expecting a new baby, and moved into a new apartment without a bed or dresser. They are so grateful for items they have received from us. Clothing and toys left behind have been taken to Mile End Mission.

The apartment was scrubbed and polished, ready for a new tenant, a family from Columbia. The hand of God is certainly in this! We discovered that this family were originally refugees, sponsored by an Anglican Church on Vancouver Island. The mother now has a job in Montreal and is accompanied by her 15 year old daughter; the son, a McGill graduate, is working outside Quebec. We cannot imagine a more fitting conclusion to this project.

Thank you all for your generous and dedicated support over the last year. We and the team from St Mary's Church will be meeting to determine the responsible use of our remaining funds. You can be certain that this fund will remain designated to a work of mission.

Sue Winn

## Suitcases for Africa.

“Eric, the children are dying. They are dying in my arms and I cannot help many of them.” So said Sister Agnes, phoning Eric Winn from Kenya. Food prices have sky-rocketed by 100% in just a few months! The money being sent was stretched to the maximum, and a child who had had one good meal a day was now receiving four meals in a week, but I don't think I really understood the situation, and what was happening, nor how critical it is. In addition, the chickens, goats, and other livestock had been stolen.

“Eric, the children are dying. There is no food.”

**How we can help:** support the Book Nook or contribute directly. Our gifts will be doubled by the Federal Government until the middle of September. Every dollar sent to Suitcases for Africa will be doubled by matching funds from CIDA to help in this war against hunger. Write Drought Relief Fund in the memo field of your cheque made out to Suitcases For Africa and send it to: Suitcases For Africa, 47 Bras d'Or Avenue, Pointe Claire, H9R 1W6 or through [www.suitcasesforafrica.com](http://www.suitcasesforafrica.com) or phone Eric Winn at 457-0736