

# The Guardian

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St. Michael And All Angels

November 2011

**Welcome to St. Michael and All Angels!**  
**Special welcome to visitors and new comers!**

**We hope you feel at home in this community of faith.**

## Directory

Parish Priest: Rev Michelle Eason  
Wardens: Brian Hammond  
Debbie Wolowicz  
Treasurer: Dominick Merle  
Music Director: Sean Mayes  
Youth Director: Jaclyn O'Connor

## Priest's Office Hours:

Monday evenings from 5pm to 7pm  
Wednesday & Thursday mornings from  
10 am to noon.  
Please drop in during those times or  
call the church office for an  
appointment.

The Parish Office will be open when  
our parish secretary is in on Mondays  
noon to 2.00pm, Tuesdays 8.30am to  
9.30am Wednesdays & Thursdays from  
9.00am until noon.

## Address:

15556 Cabot St Pierrefonds QC H9H 1R5  
Phone Number: (514) 626 4205  
email: [st.michael@videotron.ca](mailto:st.michael@videotron.ca)  
Website: StMikesPierrefonds.com  
Bus route #207 Jacques Bizard

## Weekly Services

### Sundays

Holy Communion at 8.00am  
Holy Communion at 10.00am  
Sunday School & Youth Church

Wednesdays Holy Communion at 7pm

## Upcoming events

Sun Nov 20, Reign of Christ with  
Baptism - Please attend this service to  
welcome and support the newly  
baptized and their families.

Sun Nov 27, 5:00 PM Advent Candle  
Lighting Service followed by POTLUCK  
SUPPER

Sun Dec 18, 7:30 PM Service of Nine  
Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve: Dec 24, 4:00 PM  
Family Service of Holy Communion with  
Sunday School Presentation  
10:30 PM Carol singing  
11:00 PM Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, Sun Dec 25 TBA

New Year's Day, Sun January 1, 2012  
- ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM

Sun Jan 22, 2012 ONE SERVICE ONLY  
- Annual Vestry Meeting



# *From the Parson's Quill*



November 1, 2011 All Saints

*"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you." Isaiah 60:1*

*"The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." Matthew 4:16*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ in the Church of St. Michael and All Angels,

On All Saints day do you ever take time to remember those who were instrumental in your formation as a Christian, remembering them as those among the saints we celebrate this day? God has placed people in our lives to help us become more faithful, more trusting. People who have shown us love and mercy and tenderness and also people who have challenged us and pushed us a little further, or believed in us that we could do what we believed we could not. We all need such people and to remember them from time to time reminds us of their encouragement and affirms us all over again. I was reminded today and I am thankful for those people in my life.

When we celebrate All Saints we know that the church year is almost over and on the 27<sup>th</sup> of this month we will be marking the First Sunday of Advent. Our days now begin in the dark, the sun already rises over an hour later than it did during the summer months. Already I long for the light to return!

In Advent there is the repeated theme of inviting the light into our darkness. "The people living in darkness have seen a great light" (see Matthew 4 and Isaiah 9). There are places of darkness around us. The darkness is where deceit prevails, where the poor and vulnerable are taken advantage of, places where the most fragile of our communities, like the children and the elderly, are neglected. Let us bring the light of Christ there by bringing hope. This is how we prepare to meet Jesus. We cast off the works of darkness, that is, we abandon our self serving ways and try to focus more and more on the ways Jesus would have us live, the ways that he described in His teachings such as in the Sermon on the Mount. We also prepare by anticipating the liberation from the sinful nature that makes it so difficult at times for us to remain focused. We anticipate the joy and the peace and the love that we hope for in all that Christ can do in and through us. As we prepare our hearts and our lives to receive Him in a new way we also prepare to celebrate the mystery of the incarnation at his first coming. This advent season let us look for the light, the light of Christ, until we find it and when we do keep our eyes on it, focus on it, learn from it and follow where it leads that we might become reflections of that light.

With love in Our Lord's Service,

*Rev. Michelle+*

## ***A new Liturgical colour for Advent***

Prepare for a new look in the church this Advent season. The colour blue has been used for Advent for many years now in the Anglican Church. Although traditionally purple has had a place in this season, there have been times in the past as far back as medieval times when the colour blue was used. We are making the change at St. Michael's for a couple of reasons. First of all, we have been using the colour purple for Lent and for Advent. These seasons are theologically quite different. So to use different colours is fitting. Secondly, the colour blue is a colour of hope, which better represents Advent.

The season of Lent is a penitential season. We begin with the Ash Wednesday service which reminds us that we are dust and to dust we shall return. We spend time during this season to reflect on our need for a redeemer who will save us from sin and death. We focus more on preparing to follow Jesus through temptations, through Gethsemane and all along the way from his betrayal and arrest to his death the cross. Lent ends with the Resurrection of Jesus. Advent is very different.

The major theological theme in Advent is hope. We look for the coming of Christ - the second coming of Christ when he is to come as King of King and Lord of Lords and every eye on earth will see him and know him to be the exalted Son of God. In our expectant waiting for his coming again we prepare the way for him, we express our longing for his coming, We sing "O come, O come Emmanuel", we sing, "Prepare the way, O Zion!", we hear the words of the prophet, "Comfort my people, says the Lord." And we welcome the babe of Bethlehem once more who comes in great humility. The themes of joy and love and peace are lifted up as we observe this season of Advent that always has an eye to the future as well as an eye to past. And so I believe it is fitting to distinguish the seasons by their colour as well.

The women of the Altar Guild have been working hard to have the hangings and decorations for Advent ready in time, and so I would like to extend our thanks to them for all their hard work.



# Your Outreach Christmas Projects

## CHRISTMAS BASKETS



It is hard to believe that it is that time of the year again. The time when we reach out and try to help our neighbours who are less fortunate than ourselves. Although this is something that we try as Christians to do all year long, it is at Christmas that the need seems to touch our hearts the most. We do not need to look very far as there are many in the borough of Pierrefonds who are in need of our assistance. This year St. Mikes has committed to providing Christmas Baskets to 23 families living mostly in the Cloverdale area.

So how can you help? Well there are many ways. You can buy food - just check the list that will be posted in Kohner Hall on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Perhaps you would like to take a tag from the Angel Tree on November 27<sup>th</sup> and buy a gift for a child whose family will be receiving a Christmas Basket. Come and discover the true meaning of Christmas by helping to pack the baskets on Friday December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. There will be carol singing, fellowship and tasty treats to eat. You can also make a monetary donation by identifying your offering as "Christmas Fund" and you will receive a tax receipt. We are always in need of drivers to deliver the baskets. This will take place early morning on Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup>.

As you can see there are so many ways to become involved. If you have never volunteered before I urge you to make this the year you do. There is so much work that lies ahead to make Christmas Basket Project 2011 a success. But I can assure you that the feelings you will experience when we all come together to be a part of this project, will be the best Christmas gift you will ever receive!

## WHITE GIFT SUNDAY



This has been a tradition at St. Mikes for as long as I can remember. Fill a bag as a Christmas gift for the men at St. Michael's Mission downtown with essential items. Items to include are socks, hats, scarves, gloves, shaving cream, disposable razors, toothpaste/toothbrushes and candy. Bags will be on sale for \$2 on Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup>. Remember to bring your bags back to church for December 4<sup>th</sup> so that they may be blessed.

This year we are very pleased to welcome Mr. George Greene who will speak to us on December 4<sup>th</sup> after the 10am service. Mr. Greene served as Interim Director at the Mission for two years and now volunteers there. Please try and attend as I am sure his short presentation will be very interesting. Afterwards he will take the bags you have filled back to the Mission with him so let us set a goal to fill thirty bags or more!!

*"Whatever you do for the least of these brothers of mine you do for me" Matthew 25:40*

The Outreach Ministry looks forward to working with you on these projects. If you have any questions or ideas please do not hesitate to call Elizabeth at 514-426-9779.

# Youth Group

It's that time of year again, school is already back in swing and it feels like September was both yesterday and ages ago.

First and foremost we are looking forward to a retreat coming up this December called *my story*. We're going to be looking at the ways in which our past can shape how we envision our future. Life events can sometimes feel like they weigh us down, lift us up, and even spin us out of control. We'll be looking at the role our faith can play in how we write and rewrite our stories, in our hopes and our fears.

How can we appreciate and treat ourselves with compassion? Why is this so hard? Can we own up to our mistakes without it threatening our sense of self worth? Why is this so hard too?

What keeps us so attached to unhealthy thoughts and ideas about ourselves that hold us back?

**Keep on the look out for brochures, soon to come!** Unfortunately our beloved Kinkora site is not available for this year for off season rentals, but no worries, as the new site shouldn't be too much of a price increase.

We'll also be looking at some new SMYCH topics for this coming year!

*Teaching through the Art of Story Telling:* as Jesus shared the good news of the Kingdom, he often employed stories that took into account the storylines of his day. We'll be looking at videos re-telling each of the stories of Jesus' parables through skits according to the storylines of our own day.

*Stories of Redemption:* stories told from all different types of people, of how the darkest times of their lives led them to different special places. We'll be taking an especially close look at how these people coped, because even though the outcomes of these stories are good, it doesn't mean that the path leading there didn't hurt. Later this year we will be broaching the topic of sex. *Goodsex2.0*, written by Kara Powell is appropriately described as "a whole-person approach to teenage sexuality and God". More info to come!

Looking forward to another year filled with laughter and friendship. Again, if you have any ideas that you want covered in SMYCH or would be a fun Friday night activity that you would enjoy - please don't hesitate to let me know!



In Christ,  
*Jackie*

## *Pure Joy of Little Girl is revived*

Christmas is fast approaching and as I prepare for Christmas with my family I can't help but think of people who are less fortunate. The homeless, the sick, people who have lost loved ones and are feeling sad and lonely; people in war torn countries who are starving as I sit down to a turkey dinner. All of these things come to mind as I prepare for Christmas and I can't help but feel a great deal of sadness for these people. I thank God not only at Christmas but every day for my family and for my health.

I look forward to Christmas with my family. I look forward to Christmas in my church, sharing with my church family, singing as part of our choir, enjoying the faces of our children from St Mikes as they put on their Christmas Pageant. Its all part of Christmas for me, a very important part.

Another important part of Christmas for me is presents. Not receiving them, (though I admit I like that too!) but best of all for me is giving them. This year I did not have to do much shopping for I made most of my gifts. I started at the beginning of November and expect to finish sometime this week. The most difficult thing for me is to wait until Christmas to give them. I love surprising my loved ones, and I guess at Christmas, the little girl in me comes out.

I like to go back in my mind to past Christmases. I can still feel that excitement inside of me when I recall times like a week before Christmas - our annual Christmas concert in St. Brendan's School in Rosemount. It was a time when we all dressed up in costumes to put on a concert for our parents, with our Parish Priest Father McManus as our guest of honour. Preparing for this big event was wonderful and exciting. We sang Christmas songs and danced and had a wonderful time. Then it was holiday time, a time when Mom and Dad took us down town to Eaton's Toyville and what we called the big store such as Simpson's and Morgan's. We saw the most wonderful window



displays we had ever seen and the most wonderful toys. I am sure some of you remember the Toyville Express at Eaton's. Children lined up for hours to have a ride on that train. You were not on it very long but that didn't matter because at the end of the ride through the tunnel you were greeted by one of Santa's elves and were given a gift of a book or a game. It didn't matter what we got, it was the anticipation as we waited in line once more. After the train ride we were off to see Santa. Awe lined up once again but that didn't matter. It gave us time to plan and think about the toys we would ask him for, as we asked ourselves if we really had been good and how much he really did know about us.

I can recall Mom and Dad preparing for my sister and I. Mom would be baking all of our favourites, mince tarts, shortbread, date and nut loaf and that wonderful frit cake and plum pudding that my Dad loved so much.

A real tree was put up a few days before Christmas and Mom wrapped up all our presents to be put under the tree on Christmas Eve. She couldn't wait to see the look of joy on our faces on Christmas morning. I couldn't disappoint her, but if she only knew! I guess I wasn't always a good little girl. I hate to admit it but I knew what was inside every present under the tree. My poor Mom couldn't hide a thing from me. She would hide things in what she thought were great places, but no matter where they were hidden I always found them. Hunting for Christmas presents with my friends was my favourite holiday pastime.

Then it was off to my friend Eleanor's house. Her Mom would wrap everything as soon as she bought it and put it under the tree. However as soon as Eleanor and I had the opportunity to do so off came the wrappings. I must say we were experts at putting the presents back in their wrapping paper, looking like they had never been touched. Christmas Eve found me singing in the choir at St Brendan's Church. That was my biggest thrill as I got to sing a solo, usually "O little Town of

# Q & A

## Questions:

What are my God-given talents?  
Where do my interests lie?  
How can I participate in the life of St. Mike's?  
How can I be a good steward?

## Answer:

We all have something we can offer and offering our time is part of being a good steward of all that God has bestowed upon us during our time here on earth. Get involved in one or more ministries or sign up for events that are going on in the church. At the very least, you will enjoy a time of fellowship with others.

It is never too late to sign up for any ministry/committee that interests you. We always need and **welcome** new members; they **breathe** new life into our parish, offer **fresh** new ideas. Your participation **builds** and **enriches** our church community and a stronger community benefits everyone here at St. Mike's as well as those in our surrounding communities. God's blessings await you...**welcome aboard!**

Adult Christian Education  
Altar Guild  
Choir  
FundScrip  
Greeters  
Guardian  
Maintenance  
Nursing Home  
Outreach (Christmas Baskets, Luncheons)  
Overhead (PowerPoint)  
Pastoral Care  
Praise Team  
SidesTeam  
St. Michael's House (Church Apartment Project)

...to name but a few.....

**Debbie**

People's Warden

### **Adam's Apple I**

With Adam's Apple  
Lodged in his throat; "Padre, Please"  
Thoughts turn to Harvest

Stephanie

*Pure joy of a little girl -cont from page 5*

Bethlehem". After midnight mass we always went to my Mom and Dad's friends, the Pincourts, for a French Canadian reveillon which included tourtiere and other French Canadian traditions. And I got to stay up until 2 a.m.

After a little sleep I got to open my presents. I had to remember to look surprised. I'd like you to know I don't do that any more. The gifts under my tree are now a complete surprise. I guess I got to realise that it wasn't fun any more and spoiled Christmas a little for me.

Christmas Day was spent with grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins, with friends and neighbours dropping in a various times of the day, to enjoy a traditional turkey dinner with our family. After dinner our Mom would play Christmas carols on the piano and my Dad would join in on his violin. They were very happy times for my sister Dolly and I.

I am happy now that I am a mother and a grandmother to be able to look back on my childhood Christmases with fond memories. I only hope that my children and grandchildren will be able to do the same.

Bernice Hadden

Published in the Gazette December 1996

### **Overheard at La Lumière:**

*"God makes miracles out of messes and mistakes."*

*Praise the Lord!*

*(Anonymous)*

*"Does God seem far away? ...*

*Who moved?"*

*(Anonymous)*

## **Blessing of same gender unions and Shared Episcopal Ministry- What we are NOT saying and what we ARE saying.**

### **What we are not saying:**

We are not saying that people involved in same-sex marriages are bad people. They are like everyone else, created in God's Image, fallen and redeemed by Christ and free to choose or reject Him in every moment and every decision of their lives.

Heterosexual and Homosexual people are a mixture of the good, the bad and the ugly characteristics of what it means to be human.

We are not saying homosexual persons in a same-gender marriage are not committed to one another. We are not saying that homosexual persons have not contributed and are not contributing to the life of the church. We are not saying that homosexual persons are bad people. We do not hate the GLBT community, whatever they might think.

We also are not saying that Bishop Barry is a bad person. The relationship between Bishop Barry and the six people involved in this discussion has been increasing in trust, in mutual encouragement and in respect. We pray for Bishop Barry and the burdens of leadership that he carries, as well as the care of Leslie, his wife. However, Bishop Barry is also the leader of this diocese that, we believe, has set itself apart from the larger Anglican Communion and, more importantly, from the teaching of scripture.

Our distancing of ourselves from Bishop Barry through SEM is not personal, it is principled. We cannot agree with the direction he, as Diocesan Bishop, has allowed this diocese to take.

### **What we are saying:**

We are saying that we do not find compelling evidence in the usual sources and means of church discernment (Scripture, Reason, Tradition and Experience) of God's benediction to categorically pronounce God's blessing on a homosexual union. The question is not about the relative merits of same-sex marriages, but about how we decide that upon which God pronounces His Blessing.

We therefore believe that to do so counteracts Scripture, reason, tradition and experience.

We also believe that staying quiet we stifle the teaching of scripture and avoid speaking the truth of the matter as we read in Holy Scripture.

However we also believe that we are called to agape love (1 Corinthians 13) everyone, especially those of the household of faith with whom we disagree. The Shared Episcopal Ministry agreement allows us to remain together in community with a level of "gracious restraint" from the direction of the diocese.

Further, contrary to some rumours I have heard, as to blessing same gender civil marriage, I believe that God's design for Christian marriage is between a man and a woman and therefore I would not pronounce God's blessing on marriages of two people of the same gender. If there are any questions, please speak to me so I can answer as it is and avoid painful misunderstanding.

Our hope is to be able to continue in the work of God's mission entrusted to the church, and particularly St. Michael and All Angels and avoid any further decisions on the part of our parishioners and members of our parish community to walk away from each other over this matter. Rather than walk away, let us show one another the type of love that Christ has for us and work through our challenges together.

*Rev Michelle +*