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# The Mustard Seed.

A PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF BRANDON • A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL • OCTOBER 2021

## Lay Readers - A Ministry for All!

Article submitted by the Rev'd Dr. Kara Mandryk  
Coordinator, Henry Budd College for Ministry & Warden of Lay Readers

One of the fundamental truths that we have experienced over the past 18 months is that we need each other. Over and over in this pandemic, we have been told that we're "in this together". While governments or businesses might use that phrase to compel or to sell, in the Church we know it's a core value of our life and worship. We are in this together because we have been united with Christ in baptism and that means we are united with each other. This commitment to one another is evident in the way we live, the way we participate in our communities, and in the way we worship. The pandemic has challenged us in our ways of worship, and as we continue to adjust what it means to be a gathered community, we have the opportunity to extend the ministry of worship to more people in our midst.

As members of the "priesthood of all believers", all followers of Jesus have been given the task of ministry. One of the ways we can all practice our ministry is to participate in the worship and leadership of the church. The clergy have never been meant to do it all, and the ministry of lay people is essential for a healthy and thriving Christian community. One of the many ways lay people can be involved is to become a Lay Reader in the parish.



Lay Readers (sometimes called Lay Ministers) serve in the parish and in the wider community by serving alongside the clergy. Lay Ministers are taught and trained in three different levels, assisting in public worship, teaching and preaching, leading services, providing pastoral care, and doing home visitations with prayer and in some cases, holy communion.

They are mentored by local Clergy and experienced Lay Ministers, and are licensed by the Bishop. The presence of Lay Ministers in our communities remind us that we really are in this together, that Jesus has called us all to minister and serve in his name. If you are curious about serving as a Lay Minister, or if you have served in the past and want a refresher, please contact your Rector, Ministry Team leader, or Kara (Lay Reader's Warden) directly. In-person or online training for youth and adults is available in all parts of our Diocese. Together, let's find new ways of serving as we live into our calling as ministers of Jesus Christ.

**"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people who are God's own possession. You have become this people so that you may speak of the wonderful acts of the one who called you out of darkness into his amazing light."**  
*- 1 Peter 2:9  
(Common English Bible)*

*Editor's Note: For more information, contact the Rev'd Dr. Kara Mandryk either via email at [hbcm@mymts.net](mailto:hbcm@mymts.net) or via phone at 204-623-3311 (office) or 204-797-2781 (mobile.)*



From the Archives: Lay Reader Training at Henry Budd College in June of 2017



From the Archives: Lay Reader Training at the Cathedral in June of 2017.



From the Archives: Shelley Andres receives her Lay Reader's license at Synod 2017.



## A Word From Our Bishop



The Rt. Rev'd William G. Cliff  
Bishop of Brandon

Gratitude for all God's gifts is the usual theme of October letters from the Rector (or Bishop). In years past in my former parishes, I would write a letter about gratitude and how important it was and then with a less than subtle twist, include the thanksgiving envelope for the parish, hoping that the lesson I had just made out on paper would translate into generous donations to the parish in gratitude for all God's goodness. To be honest, people usually responded very well. It is as if the simple reminders of all God's blessings was enough to stir people to make an offering back to God for all they had received. This letter is about gratitude for a gift we have all received, for which we did not ask.

Years ago, while talking to a young woman who had experienced a disorienting and profound sense of God's love for her, she was protesting that this seemed unfair to her, that God would break in on her with this sense of love and belonging when she hadn't asked for it. She had been raised in the church. She came to church each Sunday, and one particular Sunday in the midst of the communion service she was overwhelmed by the sense of God's love for her. She had figured that God's love was a theoretical thing. Something we all talked about as the

basis for being good, but this experience was more than she bargained for.

The conversation went something like this:

"So what if I don't want God to love me? What if I don't want to change anything?" she asked.

"You don't get a say in whether or not God loves you, God just loves you. It's in God's nature to love you. This is like loving any other person. You can't control who loves you, you can only respond to the love you receive. You can't make anyone love you, and you can't stop someone from loving you, no matter how you might act out. You don't get to control love. It's beyond you." I answered.

A long pause followed as that was digested. "I never asked God to love me.

Don't I get a say in this?"

"Do you ever get a say in who loves you?" I answered back.

The "spirit of this age" is the idea of the quest for total freedom: Freedom to choose our own path, freedom to chase our dreams; freedom to love and to explore without anyone telling us what the limits are; Freedom to construct ourselves according to our own choices and free from any interference. The trouble with the "spirit of the age" is that the freedom it presents is an illusion. You are loved when you didn't ask for it. You were born and no one asked if you wanted to be. Now you are living a life which is a gift, and if it is perfect freedom that you are seeking, it is found in service - to Christ and to one another. It is this paradox which is at the heart of the gospel.

The wiser ones among us know that love changes everything. Knowing someone loves you changes everything. If you have ever loved someone

and that love remained unrequited, then you already know the pain and the disappointment that comes with the rejection. If you have been loved when you didn't want to be, you know the awkward and stilted interactions that followed. Love changes everything.

Love also changes the things we should want to let go. The healing from any number of varieties of pain or trauma is generally accepted to begin when the person begins the long road to healing the wounds that created the guilt, trauma, addiction, shame or pain in the first place. The mechanism to healing is, in its most basic form, love: Loving the self enough to seek help; Loving others in a way that does them no harm and beginning to make the connections which fill the hollowness of our lives left behind when love is absent; love that sees beyond the mess we may have made to the beauty that God created in the first place.

Jesus loves us without regard to our desire to be loved, but even when we are at our most unlovely. When we are at our weakest, our most vulnerable and our least able to respond. It is not meant to be an insult to our autonomy, which itself is an illusion, but rather an invitation to complete joy, and the freedom we had been seeking all along. Our very best selves revealed in him.

This is what we are grateful for. That gift of grace, which is love we did not ask for and which we did not deserve.

Love that has been poured out over us in such a tremendous supply that our only adequate images of it are oceans or rivers of grace and mercy.

### The Mustard Seed

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The Mustard Seed is circulated ten times a year (from September to June), as a section of the Anglican Journal, to all supporting households in the Diocese of Brandon.

Contributions to the expense of the paper are normally requested each March but donations are accepted anytime. Changes of address can be made through your parish or directly with the Anglican Journal. Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Bishop or of the editor.

**Deadline for submissions:** the first of the month. *Please note:* All submissions are subject to editing for clarity, timeliness, appropriateness, or length. Submit writing to the Editor in Microsoft Word file format or in the body of an email. Photographs must be large, high resolution jpg files. Please ensure you have permission from parents or guardians of all minors who have their photos or names published in The Mustard Seed. If including a photo, please send a name of who took the photo along with it, so the Editor can give proper credit!

## From the Bishop's Office

*God willing and the people consenting,*

The Right Reverend William G. Cliff MA, DD  
VII Bishop of Brandon

intends to ordain

**The Reverend Doctor Paul Shore**

to be a priest in Christ's Holy Catholic Church

*and*

**Mr. Leon Morehouse & Mr. Barry Nadolny**  
to be deacons in Christ's Holy Catholic Church

*on*

*The Eve of St. Ignatius of Antioch, 16 October 2021*

*2:00pm*

*Cathedral Church of St. Matthew, Brandon, Manitoba*

*Your prayers and presence are requested. The liturgical color will be red.*

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page! Search "The Diocese of Brandon" on Facebook, or go to <http://www.facebook.com/brandonanglicans>

You can find an electronic copy of the Mustard Seed there each month, as well as photos from recent events in the diocese.

It also contains links to daily morning prayer services by the Dean, as well as the weekly Eucharists led by the Bishop.



# News from the Pews

**CHRIST CHURCH, THE PAS; CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH, OPASKWAYAK CREE NATION  
CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER, OPASKWAYAK CREE NATION**  
*photos submitted by the Rev'd Jann Brooks*



About 60 people of the Devon Mission (Christ Church, Church of the Redeemer and Church of the Messiah) joined together for a beautiful outdoor Healing Service and Holy Communion at Opaskwayak Cree Nation on Sunday August 29th.

The outdoor service included people and clergy from the 3 parishes. They were joined by swallows and gulls circling above, and butterflies and a giant

dragonfly circling below. There were flies, bees, and wasps and even dogs all praising the Creator. It was a beautiful service which included anointing with oil and fresh warm homemade bannock for communion. Many participants wore their tradition clothing and Cree hymns were provided in syllabic script and phoneticized lyrics. Music was led by an impromptu choir and piano. Everyone enjoyed singing together - even wearing masks.



**PELLY PLAINS PARISH**  
*submitted by Virginia Beelaert*

In June, with a display of 215 tiny orange T-shirts, Christ Church Roblin showed its support for the Every Child Matters campaign (see photo at left.)

Before their summer recess, the Pelly Plains Prayer Group used The International Prayer Project from The Order of Jacobs Well. The online Project offers resources to help individuals develop meaningful prayer. In July, the Hamiltons of St. Paul's Shoal Lake shared the good news that they had become the grandparents of twins.

Parishioners from Pelly Plains gathered at St. Paul's Shoal Lake August 29 for a joint service. Following the service a time of fellowship was enjoyed with bag lunches and maintaining family groups. The bottom photo on the left shows Wilbert Nernberg of Christ Church Russell and a few others gathered after the service.



**ST. PAUL'S, DAUPHIN**  
*submitted by Sandy Pacey*

St. Paul's Anglican Church Dauphin was host to a COVID Wedding ceremony. The bride is part of 4 generations of St. Paul's parishioners and was the 5th wedding in the family to be held in our church. Doreen Inkster, St. Paul's eldest parishioner at 96 years young, her son, Tim Inkster (Carolyn), his daughter (the bride), Brittany Burnie (nee Inkster) (Groom Neil Burnie), and the bride's children, Xana and Bryden Inkster. It was a very small and intimate ceremony, due to COVID restrictions, but it was a beautiful ceremony and everything went off without a hitch!





## Huron L.Th. Courses Announces Fall Lineup

written by the Rev'd Dr. Paul Shore  
Deacon Assistant, St. Matthew's Cathedral

Starting in October, two evening courses will be offered as Huron's L.Th. program in partnership with the Diocese of Brandon, continues its service to laypersons in the Diocese of Brandon and throughout Canada who want to develop their knowledge of Christianity, Anglican traditions, and the relation of both to the wider world.

The first course, which commenced Thursday, September 23, is entitled "The Good News and the Good Mind." It is taught by the Venerable Rosalyn Elm, Chaplain to Her Majesty's Royal Chapel of the Mohawks and the first indigenous woman ordained in the Anglican Diocese of Huron. The course will provide participants with the opportunity to engage in indigenous wisdom and theology from the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) perspective as it relates to and negotiates Christian theology, ultimately asking the question: how do we locate ourselves in the pursuit of Christian wisdom while honoring the theology of the Haudenosaunee peoples?

*Editor's Note: Archdeacon Elm is no stranger to this diocese. She was part of the Huron-Brandon exchange in 2017, and she was present for Synod in October 2017.*

One of the courses, starting Tuesday, October 12, is taught by our own Bishop William and is entitled "Understanding Anglican Liturgy." Bishop William will share his insights into the inner workings of the Liturgy of the Anglican Church of Canada. Topics covered include the Church Calendar, Scripture, Prayer, Litanies, Ritual, Music, Chant, Vestments, Eucharist, Daily Office, Prayer Book and the Book of Alternative Services. Past, present and future will all be addressed: Where did the Reformers succeed? Where did they fail? How has liturgical revision taken place, both at the time of the Reformation and in our own time? What lies ahead in the future direction of liturgy in our parishes?

On Tuesday, November 23 commences "The Wisdom of the Ancients: An Explanation of the Patristic Era in Christian Theology" taught by the Rev'd Dr. Lisa Wang. Dr. Wang holds a Ph.D. from the University of London and has taught at the Faculty of Divinity, Trinity College, the University of Toronto, since 2002. In this course Dr. Wang will introduce the class to the Greek Fathers, and students will become familiar with some early Christian perspectives on the Trinity, the incarnation, creation, sin and salvation, sacrament and liturgy, the Church and prayer.

All courses will be delivered via Zoom.

Cost to register is \$325 for Full Credit, \$50 to audit. For details about registration, please contact the Rev'd Dr. Grayhame Bowcott at: [grayhame.bowcott@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:grayhame.bowcott@huron.uwo.ca) or call (519) 438-7224, ext. 832.



The Venerable Rosalyn Elm



The Rev'd Dr. Lisa Wang



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### Memorial Gospel Jamboree

for the late  
Deacon Caroline Chartrand & Eileen Lavallee

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

January 14th, 15th & 16th, 2022  
7:00pm Nightly  
with various musicians,  
guest speakers & refreshments each night

Easterville Community Hall  
Easterville, MB

For more information, contact  
the Ven. Michael Chartrand, Archdeacon of The Pas  
204-329-4803