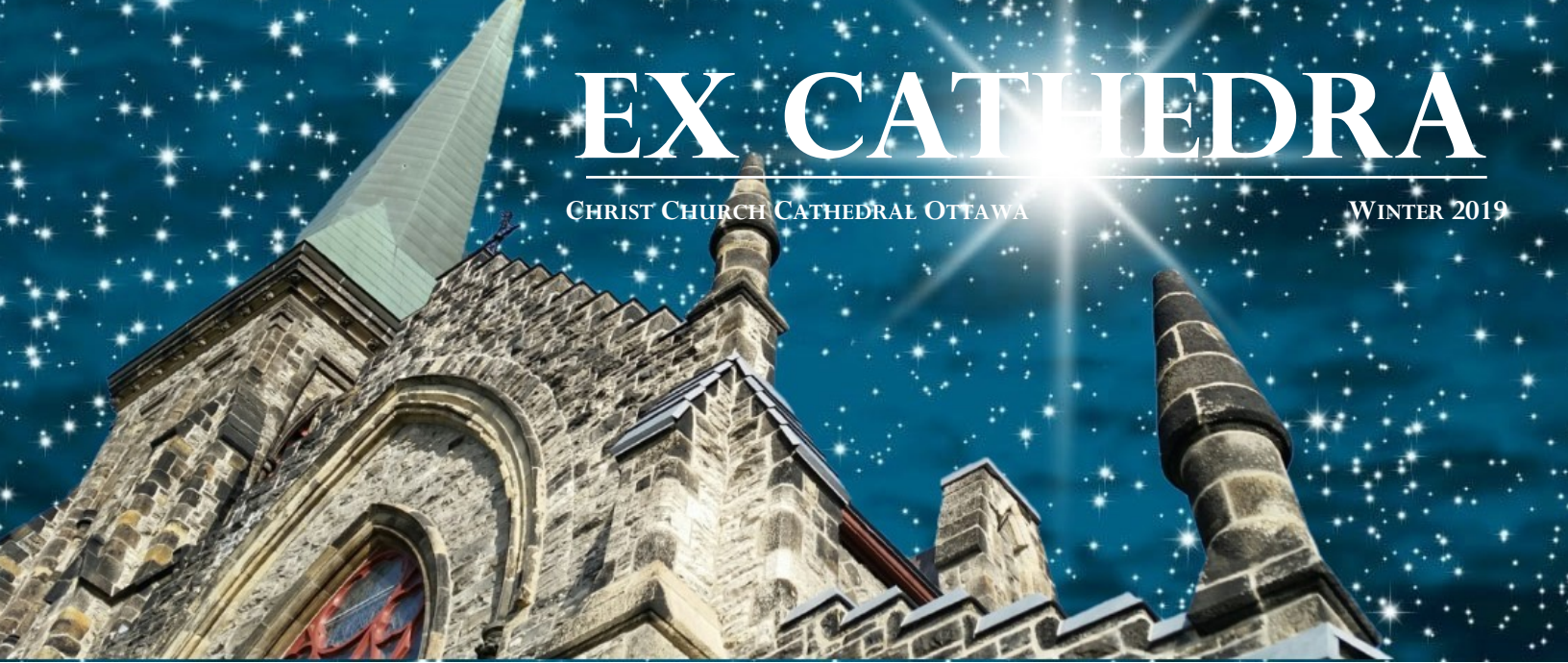


EX CATHEDRA

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL OTTAWA

WINTER 2019



THE CHURCHMICE CHECK IN FOR CHRISTMAS

The mood in the Good Shepherd Chapel was very bleak when the Dean met with the Cathedral churchmice on the long night of the Winter Solstice. He had been hoping for a light-hearted chat as they shared their thoughts for *Ex Cathedra*.

In previous years, there had been much unpleasantness among the churchmice concerning the order of their storytelling, so the Dean was prepared with an “elders first” approach (something he had picked up from our Algonquin friends). But there was no unseemly jockeying for position when he approached the churchmice, who were speaking in hushed tones under the glow of the presence lamp. What was wrong?

He gently asked them if everything was okay. Bishopmouse looked at him with a solemn expression and said, “We have heard that our new Vicar, Canon Doug, has two *cats* in his household... And that one of the *cats* is Maggie, a mouse-terrorizing tuxedo, and the other is Cassie, a mouse-murdering calico!”

Lecternmouse chimed in, saying, in an accusatory way, “And we heard that both of YOUR granddaughters have *cats*, and that they are bringing a black marauder named Jarvis and a grey monster called Jasper with them at Christmas!”

Pulpitmouse joined in, saying, “Canon Hilary has that lovely dog Pepper, but she, too, has a *cat* called Max—as in maximum damage to mice!!”

Bishopmouse rose to her full height and declared “This is a catastrophic situation! We are not amused! Something has to be done about this band of vicious cats! They are pure evil!!”

The Dean was taken aback. Even though he was all too familiar with how gossip and rumour can distort information and upset members of the Cathedral community, the churchmice had always seemed to be above the fray. What had happened to fill them with such fear and indignation?



continued on page 12

RISE TO DANCE IN THANKSGIVING

By Albert Dumont

a prayer

O Great Spirit

Into a gentle breeze I softly sing
And I rise to dance in thanksgiving
That You have created human beings
I promise to continue each dawn
To heap praise on the goodness
You have placed before the Peoples
To teach us, to feed us
To nurture and sustain us

The great trees growing
Out of a narrow blanket of earth
Covering the rocky hillside

The small bird flying against ferocious winds

The sparkles of playful fish
Under dark, ice-covered waters

The sun, the wind and waters
Which grant us joyful lives

For them
I rise to dance in thanksgiving

For I am aware
That if not for them, the drumming
Of human hearts would forever fall silent



Dear Friends,

At this spiritual time, as Mother Earth sleeps, we ponder the beginnings of our faith beliefs. We rise as one, to acknowledge the right all human beings have to embrace and love, spiritual teachings they feel are filled with Creator's blessings.

My spiritual guides, those who arrived here with the first moon of winter, speak to me. Through them, we request a joyful and accident-free winter for all our family members, friends and also, for all the good people who make up the citizenry within the perimeters of the Algonquin Homeland.

May Creator bless you all,

Albert Dumont

FROM THE VICAR—CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE

By Canon Doug Richards

These are the first words of the opening song heard when ‘A Charlie Brown Christmas’ begins. For me, it is not Christmas until I watch the special. I can’t remember a Christmas that I have not watched it at least once. It is one tradition that has been a part of my life, for as long as I can remember.

I remember gathering around the old black and white television as child, with a cup of hot chocolate and a couple of my Mom’s homemade cookies to watch the show. Each of us kids had a favourite part of the show. My sister, Cindy, really liked the scenes where the children were dancing. My brother, Bryan, thought that Charlie Brown and Linus hunting for the ‘perfect’ Christmas tree was the best. For me, it was when Charlie Brown shouted out at the top of his lungs, “Isn’t there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?”

I liked this part because of the way that Charlie Brown

feels at that point in the special. He has been trying to get everyone following his stage direction, but they all want to do their own thing. Lucy wants to be the Christmas Princess; Snoopy is standing behind Charlie Brown making fun of him; the other children really do not want to follow any direction at all, they just want to dance and have fun. Out of exasperation, Charlie Brown exclaims his frustration: He knows that there is something more to Christmas, but he is just not sure what that ‘more’ is. Great memories!

When Charles M. Schulz first wrote the script, he narratively demonstrated how the message of the birth of the Christ Child can be overshadowed by the cares and concerns of the world around us.

When Charlie Brown exclaims, “Isn’t there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?” Linus tells him that he can tell him what Christmas is all about. Linus



then walks out onto the stage and, with one spotlight on him, he tells a story. This story is a very simple story, but one that has changed the world.

I have come to realize that the personal reason I need to watch “A Charlie Brown Christmas” is to remind myself of the message of the angels to the shepherds in the fields.

“Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

A simple message of hope, peace and love that shines

See Vicar on page 11

EXPERIENCES OF CHRISTMAS: A REFLECTION

By Canon Hilary Murray

This has been a rather busy fall with the change in my position here at the Cathedral and my being appointed as the half time chaplain at Cornerstone Housing for Women 10 weeks ago.

Cornerstone is made up of five residences—Booth Street, the Shelter, McPhail House, McLaren House and the newest Princeton House. The kitchen at Princeton House was built with funds raised by the Cathedral community.

All together, Cornerstone houses just over 170 women. As chaplain I provide spiritual direction and pastoral care not only the residents but also the staff at Cornerstone. My work also includes overseeing a small spiritual care team of four lay people. Those volunteers assist with the monthly Eucharist services at Booth street and Princeton House, as well as co-lead weekly midday prayer services at Booth Street and evening prayer services at the Shelter. We will con-



sider how their work might be expanded in the future.

Working at Cornerstone is very different from the work I have done as a parish priest or at the Cathedral. The women come from a variety of social and cultural backgrounds and life experiences. I've met women who grew up in the Caribbean, Central and South America and Europe, and many who come from Canada's Indigenous peoples.

Sadly, one common denominator for many, beyond sharing issues related to homelessness, is having experienced trauma from childhood into adulthood. Yet despite the difficult life situations the women have come out of or are still dealing with, I have found a genuine welcome to their community and are willingness open to share the sto-

See Canon Pastor on page 11

A DETERMINED PATH TO SERVICE—MEET THE NEW VICAR

By J.B. Coutts

A new job is always a big change, but for the Rev. Canon Douglas Richards, who started as our Vicar on December 1, that was quite literally true.

“Most of the churches I have worked in, the average Sunday attendance is 25 to 30 people—I could stand at the chancel steps and look into the faces of all the people in the church. I won’t be able to do that here,” Doug said in an interview.

Everything about the Cathedral’s size strikes him. The space itself, how much goes on every day, the number of services a week, and all the people involved, staff and laity, who make it happen.

That last one’s a blessing, Doug says, because there is always someone you can turn to for help.

“In a smaller church you’re the one in charge of everything. You have to be aware of everything, you have to make sure everything happens.” At the cathedral, he’s found the servers, sidespeople and the duty wardens organize things. “I don’t have to be the one in control all the time.

Doug was the son of a bank manager, and as a result, moved several times around southern Ontario

when he was a child, following his father’s job. Finally, faced with another transfer, his parents decided to move back to their home town of Smiths Falls, where Doug went to high school and to church at St. John the Evangelist. At one point he and his sister, his father and his grandfather were all singing in the choir at the same time.



It was there, at the age of 12 or 13, that Doug first began to think he might like to be a priest. “I went to one of the priests and said ‘What do you think?’ and he said ‘Run!’ but he took me under his wing. We had conversations and he helped me articulate some of the things I was thinking.”

His mother also helped him understand himself when she asked him “Is God calling you—or are all the old ladies in the church saying you should be a priest?” Doug—despite some hankering to be an airline pilot—decided he was pretty sure it was God.

The young would-be priest went to Lakehead University in Thunder Bay to study philosophy, finishing up his bachelor degree at Carleton. A spell of bartending in Toronto only reinforced his conviction he should be a priest (the two professions, he says, had a great deal in common).

He came back to Ottawa and enrolled in St. Paul’s for his theology studies. Some hesitation about being a priest lingered, and at one point he put his studies on a hold for a year to work in a book store—where the manager often talked to him about his studies and beliefs and wound up reinforcing his vocation. He was ordained in 1992. “I couldn’t do anything else,” he says now.

Doug had a childhood wish that he would live in the

See Service on page 10

BATHROBES AND TEA TOWELS, SHEPHERDS AND KINGS

By J.B. Coutts

A crowd of very young boys is abiding at the back of the church, clad in the striped bathrobes of their big brothers. On their little heads are carefully pressed and folded tea towels, held in place with braided string — the symbol of their role in this pageant, shepherds. Behind them, out of sight of the congregation, angels, barn animals and the Holy Family are still giggling and shushing each other. But the wee shepherds, in the face of this congregation, a long aisle and organ music, are frozen. Finally, after a few nudges, gripping each others' hands and bumping into one another and the pews, they proceed.

“They had small sheep in those days,” a parishioner observes. Surrounding grownups collapse in laughter.



'Tis the season for Christmas pageants: those glorious events when overexcited children, unaccustomed to being the centre of attention in a lofty space, are pressed into service to perform. It's just days, or hours, before Christmas; it's in front of grownups; and there's lots of other kids around.



What could possibly go wrong?



Many a December-born baby has been cast as the Christ child. Everyone thinks this will add a lovely touch of realism. One Cathedral parishioner had that honour, in another parish, in a country across the ocean. Only nobody much noticed her, not after Angel Gabriel, sporting magnificent wings made of pampas grass, fell off the back of the stage. When he strug-

gled back up, the glorious wings were in tatters.

The congregation struggled not to collapse in laughter.



Parishioners at the Cathedral were probably thankful Jesus was being played by a doll the time a young cast member decided cartoon-style antics would spice things up, and grabbing the baby out of the manger, swung him round and round his head.

The choir collapsed in laughter.



Then there was the girl (OK, it was me) playing the lady who got all the presents on the Twelve Days of Christmas. Kim (the partridge) was supposed to hand me a pear every verse, only some how we managed to lose one of them. In a master piece of sleight of hand — for a six-year-old — I slipped it back to her.

The audience collapsed in titters. Apparently not quite as subtle as I thought.



One time at the Cathedral, the donkey, faced with the crucial role of taking the Holy Family into Bethlehem, balked. Go up that aisle, among all those strangers, he would not. But

the show must go on: one brave mother donned the donkey mask as best she could and went up the aisle on her hands and knees. It's a very long aisle.

The audience should have cheered.



A couple of years ago, at a brand-new church not far from here, they went all out for the pageant on Christmas eve. An actual donkey was featured, and for a touch of realism, bales of hay stacked all around the chancel steps. Mass hay fever was triggered.

The audience collapsed, in wheezing and sneezing.



Which, let's face it, might have been easier to deal with than the sheep brought in for last year's pageant here at the Cathedral. Apart from chewing on the poinsettias, the animals, er, *decorated* the aisle in their own special way.

Some people were certainly laughing.



Every pageant is a Christmas miracle.



LOOKING FOR MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND SERVICE

By Sarah Graham

On one of December's wintriest nights, a group of young souls gathered at the Cathedral to embrace fellowship and share a warm and hearty meal.

Our purpose in getting together (beyond digging into lasagna, salads, bread and a whole bunch of desserts) was to start a discussion about revitalizing the place of young adults at Christ Church Cath-

edral. The young adult fellowship is open to everyone aged 20-45 in the parish. We want to be a place for people to get together, where a sense of community would enable us to participate in work and activities to benefit the parish and the wider community. Guidance and leadership will be provided by Rev. Canon Hilary Murray, the Cathedral's Canon Pastor.

These ideas about the purpose of the group formed our discussion at dinner — along with chat about pop culture, the cathedral and what activities the group could undertake in the New Year. Ideas for those included a board game night, pot luck lunches after church, volunteer work and outreach we could do as a group and ways we could help with Cathedral ministries and events or get involved with diocesan activities. We're looking forward to hearing more ideas to promote fellowship and community.

Our group needs a name! So, if you're creatively inclined, or if the Holy Spirit gives you an idea — let us know! We'd appreciate receiving suggestions by January 3rd so voting can be done early in the New Year. Please send your suggestion to either the Cathedral office or to Canon Hilary.

If you missed out on the dinner December 14, no worries, you can join us any time. We want to include as many of

See Young Adults on page 10



BEYOND OUR DOORS—WORKING FOR CHANGE

By Henry Schultz

One of the key ways in which the Cathedral reaches out to the local, national and international community is through its ongoing collaboration with its various mission partnerships. These mission partnerships are relationships the Cathedral has developed with over a dozen different organizations with varying mandates. These range from providing food, shelter and companionship to individuals in downtown Ottawa, contributing resources to the diocese and the national church in areas such as affordable housing and Indigenous self-determination, and as well as to the mission of the worldwide Anglican Communion. A list of the mission partnerships can be found on the Cathedral website.

In 2018, Cathedral Council established the Mission Partnership Panel for the purpose of raising awareness and to help ensure the Cathedral makes well-informed decisions about new and existing partnerships.

Over the past year and a half, I have had the pleasure of chairing the Mission Partnership Panel. During that time, I have begun putting together a data base of our mission partnerships. More important, I have developed a set of procedures Cathedral Council will apply when deciding whether to create a new mission partnership or (if necessary) to terminate an existing one. Those procedures were approved by Cathedral Council earlier this fall and are available upon request from the Cathedral administrator.

In brief, these new procedures require anyone who proposes to create a new mis-

sion partnership to make a presentation to Cathedral Council. The proponent will be expected to show how a new mission partnership would enhance the Cathedral's ability to make a valuable contribution to the life of the community — whether local, national or international — in a manner consistent with the Five Marks of Anglican Mission. The Mission Partnership Panel will review all proposals, but all final decisions will be made by Cathedral Council.

A similar process will be used for ending a mission partnership. Cathedral

See Change on page 10



CHANGE

continued from page 9

Council has also asked the panel to begin a review of a small number of our partnerships over the next few years. The purpose of these reviews is to ensure the Cathedral's mission partnerships remain consistent with the original aims for which they were established.

Our mission partnerships are a vital part of the Cathedral's work in the world. The aim

of the Mission Partnership Panel is to help ensure that this ministry remains focused, relevant and effective. If you are interested in joining the panel, or have questions about its work, please do not hesitate to write to me at henryk-ingschultz@gmail.com



YOUNG ADULTS

continued from page 8

the Cathedral's young adults as possible, and if you have an event or activity you'd like to do, let us know, or even better, bring yourself and your suggestions to the next event! Keep an eye out in the weekly bulletin, the Cathedral's Facebook page, bulletin boards or the announcement screen for the next event! It should take place in late January or early February 2020.

SERVICE

continued from page 5

same house all his adult life. That wasn't to be, but from his first appointment as assistant curate at St. Thomas, Alta Vista in 1992, to the one he has just left, the area parish of Prescott—North Glengarry, all his work since his ordination has been in eastern Ontario.

Along the way, Doug met his husband Richard; the move to Ottawa should make life a little easier for Richard, who is completing a PhD in American literature and gender studies at Carleton.

It's early days yet for Doug to say what he'd like to accomplish at the Cathedral, but he does have some ideas. "I want to complement Shane and his ministry but add my own flavour in unique ways," he said.

"Being a gay person, maybe that means doing something during pride week, maybe doing a pride service. It doesn't have to be big and elaborate, but to say this Cathedral is hosting a pride service that's focused on everyone in the community being brought together."

For now, he's getting to know the Cathedral and its people. "It's a big church that knows what it is and what it offers the world," he said. "People know who they are— they're a Cathedral church in the nation's capital, but they're also just a church that gathers together to worship and make a difference in the world.

"One of the things I have experienced is that if a church isn't reaching out beyond its doors, it's losing its focus. You take care of yourself by looking after others."

VICAR

continued from page 3

through the darkness that can brighten the world around us.

May the message of the Angels bring you joy, hope, peace and love.



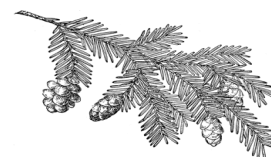
CANON PASTOR

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ries of their lives and allow me to support them in their life journey.

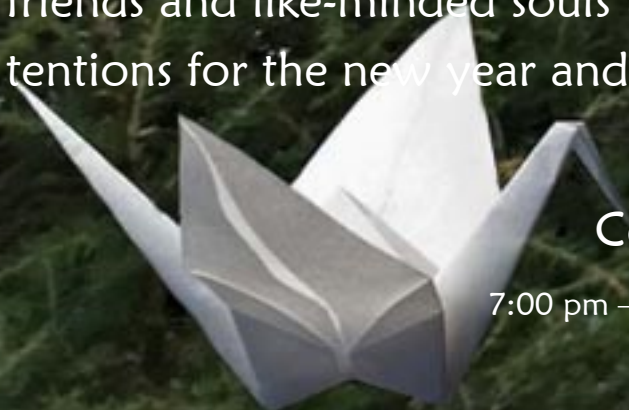
I am learning much about the power of prayer and of determination to keep moving forward and not give up from several of the women who regularly participate in the spiritual care services. Another amazing thing is observing the love and care which the volunteers offer to

the women. When I see the challenges the women who live at Cornerstone face on a day-to-day basis, I am pleased to be a part of the Cornerstone team and to be reinforcing the truth that each woman is a valuable person in our community. Through their gifts and presence we are all blessed.



NEW YEAR'S EVE LABYRINTH

Mark your calendar and join us in an alternative way to bring this year to a close. Gather round the Candlelit Labyrinth with friends and like-minded souls to close 2019 and to set our intentions for the new year and decade ahead.



Celtic Harp offered by Pat Marshall

7:00 pm —8:00 pm will be the last entry into the Labyrinth
The Labyrinth walk is free for all.

Please bring a cash donation for St. Luke's Table on Somerset Street, where meals and service are offered to those living on the street.

Consider also a small contribution of snack food for the refreshment table.

Hosted by the Cathedral Labyrinth Guild

THE DEAN ...

continued from page 1

He listened empathetically to their concerns, asking how they had come to find out about the cats' personalities. They were all a bit circumspect about who had been talking to them (saying they wanted to protect the confidentiality of their informants), until Deanmouse accidentally mentioned a troubling conversation they had with Baldric, Padre Michelle's mischievous border collie, and Farley, Archdeacon Pat's big old mix-breed rescue dog...

The Dean zeroed in on that particular conversation, and eventually the truth came out. Baldric and Farley had casually dropped phrases like "We are not saying ALL the cats that are associated with the Cathedral Clergy are vicious felines with a taste for mousemeat, but if we were mice, we would not hesitate to head up to the top of the freshly painted walls of the Nave for the foreseeable future" and other, not so subtle, chilling, cat-demonizing comments.

The Dean pointed out some things to the mice, encourag-

ing them to question what they had been hearing based on who had been doing the talking. "First of all" he said, "Dogs tend not to like cats, and therefore have a particular interest in villainizing them: Baldric and Farley would be quite pleased if everyone saw the clergy household cats as less than human—I mean animal." The churchmice all looked thoughtful as they reflected on this.

"Secondly," he said, "All creatures who visit or dwell in the Cathedral know that the rules of Isaiah's peaceable kingdom apply here: *The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.*" The churchmice looked very thoughtful as they realized how they had badly judged the cats—whom they had never spent any time getting to know.

Pulpitmouse was the first to break the silence. "I think we have all learned one of the most important lessons of Jesus: to judge others as we ourselves would be judged." "Yes, but what about those two dastardly dogs!" ex-

claimed Lecternmouse. "*Vengeance is mine, says the Lord,*" quoted Bishopmouse. "Besides," said Deanmouse, "Baldric and Farley will have to lie down for a nap with ALL the cats when they visit the Cathedral!"

And so, the chat by the warm light of the presence lamp came to a cheerful end.

Please introduce yourself to these four faithful churchmice, who love to be visited by children of all ages. If you can't find where they live, one of the clergy will gladly assist you, and would happily take the opportunity to become better acquainted.

Ex Cathedra

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