



## Polar swim for refugees

On December 5th at 10 am Pacific time people across Canada and the world took to the water to support refugees. Swims were held in British Columbia, Ontario, New Brunswick, Mexico, Dominican Republic, a couple of Hawaiian Islands, Madagascar, Senegal, Philippines and on the of high seas. It was a polar dip fundraiser where everyone raised funds for their local refugee sponsorship group wherever they were.



Bradley Rasmussen, Stephen Sherran Photo Linda Hoy

In North Hatley a brave group of six swimmers led by dip expert Stephen Sherran raised \$2000 in support of Syrian refugees. Carlton Monk, a North Hatley polar swimmer since 2000 and member of St Barnabas, now living on the west coast organized this world wide event. In Victoria BC the weather was stormy and terrible, but still 20 people braved it. They had to careful as the waves picked up huge logs the size of telephone poles and threw them like match sticks. That Victoria group made up of two United Churches and the local mosque raised \$140,000 in order to sponsor 3 families. It was cold but as Monk put it "For us it was a lark, we were cold for a few minutes, but we could go back to our warm homes with our family. Refugees cannot, it is a way of life, cold hungry, broken families and nowhere to go back to."



Swimmers in Victoria. Photo H. Monk



North Hatley swimmers: Bradley Rasmussen, Stephen Sherran, Tom Walsh, Eliane-Marie Gaulin, Claire Grogan and Bob Hall. Photo Linda Hoy

## St Francis Deanery Syrian Refugee Project

By Edward Simonton

In response to the global humanitarian crisis affecting Syria, the Vestries of St George's Lennoxville and St Barnabas North Hatley passed motions to guarantee the \$30,000 needed to sponsor a refugee family. There was much speculation about whether the Deanery could raise this amount quickly enough and even whether the Deanery would be able to reimburse the two Parishes. In the end both vestries went forward with faith that the monies would be raised. Within three weeks, and therefore without the need of the funds guaranteed by the two parishes, \$36,000 had been raised. As of January 1st the amount is \$46,000. And all this is before the formal fundraising projects have even begun.

The congregations of St George's Lennoxville, St Barnabas' North Hatley, St Luke's Magog, St Steven's Coaticook, St George's Ayer's Cliff, St George's Georgeville, and The Church of the Advent Sherbrooke have all donated

monies from their church corporations. Several other Deanery activities, such as the Monthly Soup Luncheon and the Country Gospel Hour, donated their proceeds to the refugee fund. Stephen Sheeran, husband of the Rural Dean, had a special polar bear swim in Lake Massawippi to raise funds for Syrian refugees. Twenty-nine individuals also donated to the fund. In the new year there will be several Deanery wide special fundraising events to raise the additional \$15,000 needed to sponsor another family of five to come to Sherbrooke.

St George's hosted a Refugee



Photo LTAIC Oliver St-Onge

Christmas Dinner organised by a group of students from the University of Sherbrooke on the 23rd of December. There were over 200 people in attendance. It was touching to see the dozens of children, some that had only just arrived from refugee camps in Lebanon, screaming with delight to see Santa Claus. I could not help but be struck with how precious their safety was and how wonderful it was to see them behaving like kids.

The Deanery Refugee Project is being run in co-operation with St Ephrem's Syrian Orthodox Church in Sherbrooke,



## Bishop's University welcomes its first Syrian Refugee

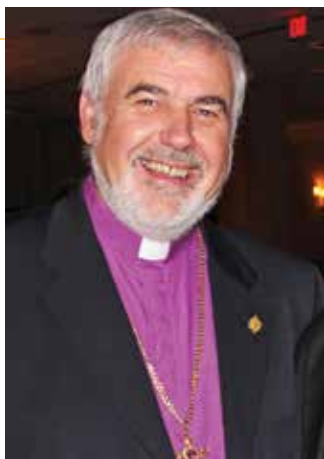
By Heather Thomson

Campus Ministry in closely linked with the World University Service of Canada local committee on the campus, the Bishop's / Champlain Refugee Student Sponsorship Project, and the Campus Ministry office is also the WUSC office. Each year since 1992 the group has sponsored refugee students, we now sponsor two young refugee students per year to settle in Canada as permanent residents and continue their studies at either the university or the college. We welcomed two young Burundians in late August. This year we have exceptionally agreed to sponsor two additional students who have fled the conflict in Syria. One Syrian student arrived between Christmas and New Year's, and is our 40th sponsored student. We expect the second in the coming months.

The campus Refugee Student Sponsorship Project involves undertaking a legal agreement with the government to provide material and emotional support for our young sponsored students for a period of one year so that they get their feet on the ground and have a chance to begin life anew as Canadians-to-be. Emotional support includes helping them jump through the hoops of government bureaucracy and all the challenges of adaptation to life as North American students and as members of our community. Material support includes shelter, food, clothing, text books, a laptop, dental care and processing fees. The estimated total cost is \$18,000 per student. Our institutional partners, Bishop's and Champlain, have generously offered to provide rooms in residence during the school year and to waive tuition and student fees for the two Syrian students we are sponsoring. Sodexo, the food provider on campus, will contribute meal plans during term for both students. This is over and above the support they give to our regularly sponsored students. If you would like to know more about the scope of this sponsorship project, please visit our website: <http://www.refugeeproject.ubishops.ca/home.html>

the oldest Syrian congregation in Canada. The founders of this congregation were themselves refugees from previous periods of persecution in the 1940s and the early 1900s. The Deanery of St Francis is one of the few Anglican communities in Canada that has a sister Syrian community to work with. We support all the refugee initiatives for Christian and Muslim refugees flee-

ing the destabilisation of Syria, but feel the pre-existing relationship with our local Syrian community is a sign of our mutual witness in Christ. The other factor that plays into this is the warning by the United Nations that many Christian refugees are attempting to stay out of the refugee camps because they are afraid of further persecution. They are



## FROM THE BISHOP

## Just a word...

## Juste un mot...

Chers amis,

L'un des mots les plus méconnus du vocabulaire chrétien est le mot « intendance ». Dès qu'on le prononce en chaire, les paroissiens devant nous se transforment : yeux vitreux, expression éteinte et gestes nerveux. Ceci est dû au fait que le sermon dans lequel il est utilisé porte habituellement sur les difficultés financières éprouvées par la communauté religieuse en question. « Si seulement les gens donnaient plus généreusement! »

Ne vous méprenez pas sur mes propos. Le manque de générosité de la majorité des anglicans est un scandale que la grande majorité des laïcs et du clergé refuse d'aborder franchement. S'il y a une chose que j'ai apprise au cours de mes 34 années de ministère, c'est que les gens n'ont pas de difficulté à soutenir une cause en laquelle ils croient. Il est évident que pour plusieurs de ceux qui fréquentent nos églises, le travail œcuménique ne constitue pas une priorité.

Ce sont ses fidèles, et non pas son argent, qui constituent la plus importante richesse d'une Église. Et lorsque l'on se met à parler d'intendance, la vraie question que les chrétiens doivent se poser est la suivante : dans un monde plongé dans la guerre, la pauvreté, la faim, la maladie et le déracinement humain, que pouvons-nous faire en tant que serviteurs de Dieu?

Lorsque la Bible mentionne les êtres humains au titre d'intendants, elle nous place dans un état subalterne. Nous ne sommes pas propriétaires mais bien plutôt administrateurs. Ce qui signifie que nous devons rendre des comptes à une autorité supérieure. Notre rôle d'intendants exige aussi de nous de la réflexion, de la planification, de la discussion, de la prise de décision et enfin la réalisation de gestes concrets dans l'optique de l'atteinte d'un objectif particulier. Nous sommes donc responsables de nos actes. Le mot « actes » étant ici le mot clé. Le rôle d'intendant exige l'action responsable. Le but du soutien financier que nous accordons à notre église est qu'à travers ce geste, nous voulons rendre **le monde** meilleur, et non pas rendre notre **Église** meilleure. La crise des changements climatiques et l'avenir de la Création sont des objectifs évidents pour nous inciter à nous engager dans de telles actions d'intendance.

L'erreur critique que nous avons commise avec l'utilisation du mot « intendance » est que nous lui avons donné une définition trop restreinte qui en est venue à ne correspondre qu'aux sommes d'argent offertes au soutien de l'église. Ironiquement, le mot « intendance » est devenu très populaire depuis quelques années alors que scientifiques, économistes, environnementalistes et autres se le sont approprié pour décrire l'importance d'une prise de conscience et d'action collectives face à la crise écologique.

Si nous nous mettions à considérer l'intendance chrétienne comme le rôle que nous avons à jouer pour la suite et la survie du monde, il n'y a nul doute que nos vies d'intendants s'en trouveraient plus satisfaisantes. Et nous pourrions découvrir que nous avons bien plus de ressources humaines et financières à notre disposition que nous ne l'avons jamais réalisé. À cet égard, un excellent point de départ pourrait être un engagement fort et concerté à répondre à l'appel de la sauvegarde de la vie sur notre planète.

+ Henri Rainville

+ Henri Rainville

Continued from page 1

therefore being classed as highly vulnerable refugees. The Syrian community is able to help find those who are in this particularly dangerous position.

On New Year's Eve, St George's Lennoxville hosted the entire Syrian community for their celebrations. The evening began with a formal presentation of a cheque for the first \$30,000 from the Deanery, followed with prayers for those lost, killed, or left



New Year's Eve Photo LTAIC OliverSt-Onge

behind in the Middle East. Special prayers were said for the 16 young men who had been massacred in church the evening before in Syria. Then they partied as only Middle Easterners can, in a spirit of

hope for a better year and thanksgiving for the grace they had received. 175 people of all ages danced traditional Syrian dances, ate a traditional Syrian meal, and sang until the early hours of the morning. I think it was the first time I knew I was at the best New Year's party in town.

I would like to thank all those who have supported this project with their time, work, money, and donations of clothes and other items. There is still need for furniture, elec-

tronics (especially kitchen appliances such as stoves and refrigerators), and of course jobs for the new refugees. At this point there is no need for clothing. We look forward to seeing you at some of the upcoming refugee fundraising events. We give thanks for the honour of assisting our brothers and sisters in this distressing time and thank them for the energy, courage, and hope which they give to us by their witness to Christ under persecution.

Gazette

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## NEWS FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE



Par la Révérende Solange Vuvé

ENTREZ, LA PORTE EST OUVERTE....

Grande ouverte, même. C'est la porte d'une petite église anglicane, Saint John the Evangelist de Portneuf.

La première chose que l'on remarque en entrant, c'est le travail du bois, la voûte qui ressemble à une barque à l'envers, les bancs aussi, et les fenêtres dont deux sont les fenêtres d'origine, en verre soufflée et les autres, plus classique, dédiées à la mémoire de jeunes hommes tombés durant la première Guerre mondiale.

Cette église accueille aujourd'hui, outre des anglophones qui ont un service de Matines par mois, grâce au chanoine Jackson, une communauté francophone. En effet, le 29 mai 2011, la communauté existante a adopté à l'unanimité la célébration d'une Eucharistie en français une fois par mois à 13:30h. Cela se transforma un an plus tard en deux Eucharistie par mois, le premier et troisième dimanche du mois, à 10:30h.

Le premier novembre 2015, le Révérend Michel Royer y a célébré la 100e cérémonie en français, à laquelle participaient francophones et anglophones,

## La célébration de la centième Eucharistie en français à St John the Evangelist Portneuf

anglicans et catholiques romains, dans une belle communion de foi et d'amitié. Il a également uni deux couples et baptisé trois bébés.

Je me souviens d'une veille de Noël, la seule à laquelle j'ai pu me rendre,



dans une église bien décorée par les paroissiens, où sont venus de nombreux catholiques romains dont l'église était fermée....

Un peu intimidés au début, se demandant sans doute comment ils seraient reçus, ils ont vite senti qu'ils étaient chez eux, car le Révérend Michel a le don d'accueil et un sourire qui réchauffe tous les cœurs. Les nouveaux venus ont chanté de bon cœur des cantiques qu'ils connaissaient déjà, ils ont communié, puisque nous convions tous les baptisés au repas eucharistique. Certains sont revenus, reviennent encore, et il s'y mêle souvent des anglophones.

J'ai le bonheur d'assister au service une fois par mois, d'y prêcher parfois. J'y proclame l'évangile et je renvoie la communauté - la messe est finie, la mission commence- dans des termes, différents, choisis par le Révérend Royer.

Grâce à lui, je redeviens parfois pour la communauté, le diacre que je suis.

VOYEZ, LA PORTE EST OUVERTE.



Photo by Robert Chapman

## Ecumenical Candlelight Service

By Fred Richardson

MAGOG – St. Luke's, Magog hosted their 11th Annual Candle Light Ecumenical Bilingual Service assisted by members of the different religious Communities of Magog on Saturday, December 19th. Guest clergy were The Rev. Lee-Ann Hogle, St. Paul's United; The Rev. Gaëtan Baillargeon, St-Jean-de-Bosco and The Rev. Canon Fred Richardson, representing the Deanery of St. Francis and Dr. Calvin Veltman, organist.

The choir was enhanced by members of St. Paul's choir lead by Sylvie Veltman, with Thelma Ruck, and Tina Linde. The readers were Jeannette Leblanc, Louise Mongeon, Michael Davidson, Annette Dufour, Linda Comeau, Rev. Lee-Ann Hogle, Ivy Richardson, Sylvie Veltman and Paulette Leblanc with Faith Dostie

lighting and snuffing of the candles.

The bilingual programme consisted of The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, with a format of a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus – consisting of the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah and with the birth of Jesus as reminiscenced in the readings of the eight short bible readings from the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of bilingual carols.

The service concluded with blessings by The Rev. Gaëtan Baillargeon and The Rev. Canon Fred Richardson.

As this service was well attended by the Community of Magog and area with standing room only, plans are currently underway for other ecumenical events leading up to the Procession of the Cross on Good Friday.

### Tell us your story!

Our diocese covers a large territory with vast spaces between our congregations. However, we are a family and interested in what happens all across our diocese. Please send in your stories, photos of events and interesting news from your part of the diocese to share via the *Quebec Diocesan Gazette* with the rest of us.

Deadlines are as follows:

February 3rd for the March paper

March 4th for the April paper

April 5th for the May paper

May 3rd for the June paper

Photos should be in high resolution as possible (300 dpi is best) in order to reproduce well in the paper. E-mail stories and photos to [editor@quebec.anglican.ca](mailto:editor@quebec.anglican.ca)



Linda Stubbert, Lay Incumbent of All Saints Anglican Church in Sept-Iles is pictured here taking part, on behalf of the church, in the Remembrance Day wreath laying ceremony held at the Sept-Iles Naval Base November 8th 2015.

# Gleanings

*Gleanings is a monthly column by Meb Reisner Wright, the diocesan historian, who delves in to the back issues of the Quebec Diocesan Gazette to present us with interesting nuggets of our past.*

Although the announcement appeared modestly at the end of the “Diocesan Notes” column of the February *Gazette*, the Editor was obviously as pleased as Punch to declare that a member of the Diocesan clergy—Rev. Canon Frederick George Scott—had been given singular recognition by King George V.

“It was with great pleasure,” Editor Rev. C.R. Eardley Wilmot, reported, “that we learned of the Honour conferred by his Majesty the King upon Major Canon F.G. Scott in making him C.M.G.”

The title “C.M.G.” is not exactly a household collection of letters these days and so requires some explanation. C.M.G. is the acronym for “Companion of The Most Noble Order of St Michael and St George,” a British order of chivalry founded in 1818 by the Prince Regent. Recipients of this honour are appointed to the Order rather than awarded it, and it is used to recognize “individuals who have rendered important services to the Commonwealth [at this date the Empire].” As many of those so named were Governor Generals and Governors, the particular honour to Scott in being named to it is readily apparent. As a distinction it ranked as the sixth most senior in the British honours system, following the orders of the Garter, the Thistle, St Patrick, the Bath, and the Star of India. No wonder the announcement gave great pleasure!



**Canon F. G. Scott** [www.warmuseum.ca](http://www.warmuseum.ca)



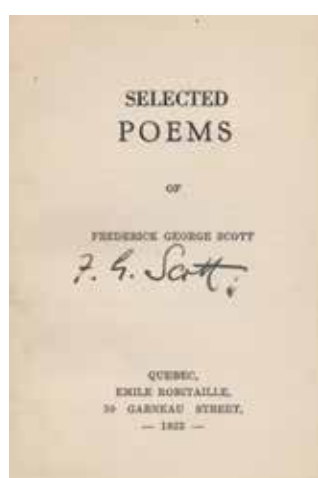
**In 2010 the Canadian War Museum acquired, for \$28,000, Canon Scott's medals at auction including his C.M.G. (Jefrey Hoare Auctions)**

Canon Scott was a well-known figure in Quebec and had been an active member of the Diocesan clergy before the war, serving first in Drummondville. As of 1896 he was named assistant at St Matthew's Church, Quebec, its High Church tradition fully in line with his preferred style of worship. In 1909, he became Rector a position he would hold until his retirement in 1935.

When news of his receiving this honour was announced, Scott was in France serving as Senior Chaplain of the First Division, Canadian Expeditionary Forces.

Although well over 50 years old when war was declared, he had enlisted in 1914, having decided that July, even before war was declared, that if the call came, he would have to volunteer and serve the troops. As he described it in his autobiographical account, *The Great War as I Saw It*, (published in 1922), “It was a queer sensation, because I had never been to war before and I did not know how I should be able to stand the shell fire. I had read in books of people whose minds were keen and brave, but whose hind legs persisted in running away under the sound of guns. Now I knew that an ordinary officer on running away under fire would get the sympathy of a large number of people, who would say, 'The poor fellow has got shell shock,' and they would make allowance for him. But if a chaplain ran away, about six hundred men would say at once, 'We have no more use for religion.' So it was with very mingled feelings that I contemplated an expedition to the battlefields of France ...”

Scott would continue to serve the Canadian forces throughout the war, often in considerable personal danger. His vivid descriptions of events as they unfolded, sent to inform and encourage his St Matthew's parishioners, were frequently featured in the pages of the *Gazette*, as were occasional samples of his poetry for which he is perhaps as well remembered today as for his valour.



## TENDING THE GARDEN

By Marie-Sol Gaudreau, Executive Director



### Good news for St Michael's

The Parish of St. Michael's, Sillery, faced some difficult decisions in 2008; close due to the lack of funds or find a solution to staying open. An urban parish, the property where the church is located is about the size of a football field. On the property the church, that was built in 1864, a hall that was built in 1948 and a rectory. The parish had an average attendance of 754 parishioners in 1948 when the hall was built. In comparison, in 2014 the average attendance was 55. After numerous discussions the vestry, the corporation and the Bishop came to an understanding that selling the assets that surround the church would offer the possibility for the parish to continue in its ministry as the interest from the sale of those assets would be given to the parish.

Various options were reviewed and the option that would benefit the parish the most would be to sell off the land were the rectory and the hall presently stood. A group of parishioners that wanted to safeguard the hall and bring a community project to the neighbourhood. In 2011 they formed “Développement St. Michael” (DSM). DSM's mission was a project to expand the current vocation of the hall in an integral vision of the community's spiritual, emotional and physical well-being. Their plan was to modify the hall into office spaces and hopefully a day care for the neighbourhood something that wasn't present and much needed. As well, to use the remaining property for an affordable housing coop project of 32-36 units in a three and a half story level building. This project would have melded quite nicely with the neighbourhood. In 2012 an agreement was reached between DSM and the Bishop and the various environmental studies and zoning change requests were started.

Right from the onset, DSM and the Bishop were met with resistance from both the neighbourhood association and the local Historical Society. These two groups banded together and started a campaign against any development on the property. The zoning request was tied up in the city of Quebec's “Plan Particulier d'Urbanisme” (PPU). The PPU's purpose was to create an urban plan for all projects for that sector. The zoning for the church property was partially residential and partially institutional. It became clear that any changes to permit building units for condos would never pass with the city or with the neighbours. The issues being the height of the building and the number of units. That unfortunately meant the end of the DMS project and any social community development.

The only way for St. Michael's to survive as a parish would be to eventually find some sort of residential project that would permit the sale of the surrounding property. Work continued with the city, depositing various plans and ideas in the hope that when the PPU would be published we would receive the necessary changes. In May 2015, the PPU was presented, unfortunately, no changes were proposed for our property. It seemed that the closure of St. Michael's was eminent. On June 2, 2015, the diocese went to the city's public consultation and deposited a memoir of our situation requesting that modifications be made. In the following months numerous meetings with the city and more plans deposited.

The main contention of the residential project was the request to demolish the hall as in January 2014 the city had declared the church, hall and rectory as being of a historical significance. The fact that the parish could no longer maintain the hall was of no consequence, we had to find some way of incorporating it into our project. After many meetings with architects and specialists a new plan was deposited with the city that turns the inside of the hall into residential units without major changes to the exterior. On December 21, the city approved a modified PPU that allowed for the creation of single dwelling homes on the north side of the property and residential units in the hall. This will permit the Bishop to move forward with the sale of part of the property. The diocese has an offer from a developer and after almost nine years of work the future for St Michael's Parish now looks very bright.