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News and events:

This afternoon there is a Deanery Evensong in St. George's Church Lennoxville at 4:00pm, commemorating HM the Queen as the Longest Reigning Sovereign, Music included in or inspired by the Coronation: Vaughn Williams, William Batten, Maurice Green, and Mendelssohn's Sonata IV. Wine and Cheese Reception to follow.

Next Sunday, October 4th, only one service. It will be the **annual EDV Parish meeting in St. Paul's Bury at 9:30am** which will be followed by Holy Eucharist at about 10:30am, or slightly earlier, and then a potluck lunch after the service. Please try to attend.

Sunday School: We are pleased that Mary and Craig McBurney are again offering Sunday School for the children in St. Paul's Church hall, Bury from 9:30 to 10:30am beginning on October 4th.

Also on Sunday, October 4th there's a Gospel Hour, with a Harvest theme, at 2:00pm in St. Augustine's Church, **Danville**. Refreshments (pumpkin and apple pie) will follow the service.

Our Happy Birthday wishes to for Carrie Powers on Wednesday, Lydia Judge on Friday, and Vanessa Savage on Saturday.

Messy Church for families with children will begin on Wednesday, October 7th. Please register with Canon Lynn for the planning of supper. Place: St. Paul's Church hall in Bury from 5:15 to 6:45pm.

Opening to the Spirit Retreat – Friday, October 16 at 5:30pm until Sunday, October 18th at 4:00pm

All are invited to join the authors of the weekly "Opening to the Spirit" column for a time of spiritual reflection, relaxation, worship, and nature. Options available during the retreat include: walking the labyrinth, collage-making, writing, singing, guided meditation, mindfulness, and more. Come to engage; come to relax; come to create. Cost of the retreat starts at \$200 and included overnight accommodation in Eastman, six meals, and all workshop materials. Please contact lynnndillabough@gmail.com for a registration form or more information. Registration deadline is October 1.

Lectio Divina every Tuesday morning from 9:00 - 9:55 am in the Upper Room at St George's, Lennoxville, beginning in October. All are welcome to this gentle service of meditation on the Word. Be prepared for holy silence and an encounter with God. Led by Canon Lynn.

Sentence: Your word, O Lord, is truth; sanctify us in the truth. *John 17.17*

Collect: Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered by your Holy Spirit into one, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

This week please pray for:

- We pray for God's people throughout the world; for Dennis, our Bishop, for Lynn, our Priest, and for all who are in leadership, both lay and ordained. Grant them the gifts of wisdom and courage as they lead the church. We pray that God will guide us in our search for a new Shepherd to lead us in the years ahead.

- In our Diocesan Fellowship of prayer, we pray for St. George's, Lennoxville and St. Barnabas, Milby, for The Ven. Edward Simonton and Lay Readers Robert Hall, Sylvain Fontaine, Kathleen Hartwell, Lorna Gordon-Tomlin, Violet Konrad, Edouard Lebeau, Gabriel Kwenga, and Roy Stinson; we pray for our Companion Dioceses, The Diocese of Moray Ross and Caithness in Scotland and Bishop Mark Strange, and the Diocese of Bujumbura in Burundi and Bishop Eraste Bigirimana.

- In the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada, we pray for Bishop Mark McDonald, National Indigenous Bishop and for the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples; in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Rt Revd James Waggoner of the Diocese of Spokane, USA.

- In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle we pray for Christian faith communities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

- We pray for our families, friends, and communities; we ask blessings for Carrie Powers, Lydia Judge, and Vanessa Savage on their birthdays; we pray for the congregation of Christ Church, Canterbury following the closing and deconsecration of their church yesterday.

- We ask, O Lord, for your comfort and healing for all who are sick and suffering in any way, and for their families, remembering especially: Joan Dougherty and Robert Coleman.

- We pray for the refugee crisis in Europe; we pray for a world of peace and justice for all. **Amen.**

More News & Events:

There will be a meeting of all the Deanery churches which are members of the team ministry model on **Saturday, November 7th** at St George's Church in Lennoxville from 10:00 to 12:00. This will be an information and discussion meeting with an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. Treasurers and wardens are expected to attend, but the meeting is open to all interested members of the Deanery.

Used Book Sale, October 22, 23 and 24 Benefits the Bishop's University/Champlain RC Refugee Student Sponsorship Committee. The sale will take place at The Lennoxville United Church, 6 Church Street on the following days: Thursday, October 22 from 4 – 8 p.m.; Friday, October 23 from 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. and Saturday, October 24 from 9 a.m. – noon with a \$3 bag sale from noon – 1 p.m. All proceeds go to supporting sponsored refugee students.

A Reading from the Book of Job... There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. ²One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. ²The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." ³The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason." ⁴Then Satan answered the Lord, "Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. ⁵But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." ⁶The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life." ⁷So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes. ⁹Then his wife said to him, "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die." ¹⁰But he said to her, "You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips. *Job 1:1; 2:1-10*

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A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews... Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ² ⁵Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them?" ⁷You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, ⁸subjecting all things under their feet." Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, ⁹but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." *Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark... ²Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" ³He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" ⁴They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." ⁵But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' ⁷'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." ¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked

him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." ¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. *Mark 10:2-16*

A short reflection on the gospel: In our Gospel lesson for today, Jesus takes on the casual attitude of the Jewish leaders about divorcing a wife. In that setting, a woman could not divorce her husband. Only the man had the legal right to divorce his wife. They knew that fact very well when they asked the question "is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" Notice they asked "is it lawful?", not "is it godly?" or "is it right?" or "is it harmful?" They seemed to approach it as a matter on a par with dividing up the family inheritance. Jesus knew what they were up to, so he had them repeat it for him: "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." In this case, the Law wasn't prescribing divorce, it was trying to protect the woman by making the husband give her some way to be able to remarry. If not, she would have been reduced to a life of begging or worse to support herself. But Jesus went to the heart of the matter, literally. He knew that their casual attitude toward sending a wife away was one that came from their hard hearts. In other words, it was a selfish act that created suffering for the wife, and they couldn't care less. He confronted them with the fact that "from the beginning" it was not the case. They appealed to legalistic hair-splitting, and he trumped them by going back to the Creator's original intention for marriage. Jesus says that God's intention for marriage was to create one family out of two separate people. It was intended to unite two people in such a way as to make it as if they were one person. But he goes even further than that. They wanted to talk about the "Law," so he trumped them again. They cited an off-handed stipulation of Moses regarding divorce and remarriage (Deut. 24:1-4), and he appealed to the Ten Commandments! He said that for a man to casually divorce his wife was the equivalent of committing adultery against her! Once again, it was the casual, hard-hearted, selfish attitude that Jesus was addressing. When a man sent his wife away due to selfish reasons, he not only did her irreparable harm, he also violated the Creator's intention for marriage, and thus was guilty of committing adultery. Divorce is an unfortunate and painful reality in our world. Living in marriage with another human being is anything but easy. These days, both men and women have the "right" to send their spouses away with a "certificate of dismissal." It would be a mistake to think that everyone who divorces does so casually or selfishly.

Chuckle: One autumn afternoon, I came home to find two little girls on the steps of my building. Both were crying hard, shedding big tears. Thinking they might be hurt, I dropped my briefcase and quickly went over to them. "Are you all right?" I asked. Still sobbing, one held up her doll. "My baby's arm came off," she said. I took the doll and its disjointed arm. After a little effort and luck, the doll was again whole. "Thank you." came a whisper. Next looking into the tearful eyes of her friend, I asked, "and what's the matter with you, young lady?" She wiped her cheeks. "I was helping her cry," she said.

If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried

