

## LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

March 31 - Celtic Music  
Presenter: Jim McDermott

'The music of what happens, that is the finest music in the world' - Fionn MacCumhaill.  
Music is at the very center of Celtic life, the Celtic soul. Tiny Ireland even today boasts of more traditional musicians per capita than almost any other place in the world. Irish music in particular and Celtic music in general has a strong spiritual quality that is not necessarily overtly religious. This will be explored in the workshop which will concentrate on airs and dance tunes with a few songs. There will be a mix of live performances on traditional instruments supplemented with some recorded material.



April 14 - Celtic perspectives on Creation  
Presenter: Moira Carley

A look at how the ancient Celts perceived creation as a whole, how they were equally at home in the visible and invisible elements of human experience and how they can help us listen for the presence of the silent God in our lived secular culture.

## BELTANE RETREAT

led by Sara Terreault at  
*Manoir d'Yberville, Chateauguay*



Saturday, May 2nd 10:00 am. - 4:30 pm.

A shared exploration of Celtic Christian spirituality, with opportunities to learn about Celtic spiritual traditions, to practice guided lectio divina (spiritual reading and reflection with ancient Celtic writings), contemplative drawing and walking, Christian meditation in the tradition of John Main. Experienced spiritual directors will be available for personal consultation.

Cost of \$15.00 for the day includes lunch (vegetarian option available), and two coffee breaks.

Spaces are limited: for more information,  
call 514-486-1753,  
or email [mrogers@montreal.anglican.ca](mailto:mrogers@montreal.anglican.ca)

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CENTRE FOR  
CELTIC  
SPIRITUALITY

## THE CENTRE FOR CELTIC SPIRITUALITY

On the North West of the British Isles dwells the tiny island of Iona. In 567CE St. Columba sailed from Ireland and landed at Iona from where he built a community of monks who made Iona a centre for literacy, diplomacy and mission in the land of the Picts and northern Britain. Still today the Island of Iona remains a centre for prayer, reconciliation and social justice.

Inspired by the Iona tradition, the Church of St Columba is embarking upon a project to establish an 'Iona' in the midst of Montreal, from where all people regardless of age, religion, culture or background can reflect on the depths of the Celtic tradition, both pre-Christian, Christian and post-Christendom.

## CEILIDH

**Saturday, February 28**

**from 6:00 pm until 10:30 pm.**

**Tickets \$12 for adults (children free)**

The evening will start off with a dinner including Irish Stew and Oatbread, and a special Irish dessert. Beer and wine will also be available for purchase. John David Hickey (aka Hobbes), a professional storyteller, will entertain us in the time-honoured Celtic tradition. Also included in the festivities will be a Celtic band led by Jim McDermott who will invite us to share in the excitement of a traditional Celtic ceilidh, including music, dance, jokes and stories. There will also be an opportunity to admire and purchase the works of skilled craftspeople at a mini-marketplace at the beginning of the evening.

## LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

All lectures and workshops  
will take place on Tuesdays  
from 7:30–9:00 pm  
in the Parish Hall of  
The Church of St. Columba

### March 3 – A History of Celtic Christianity

**Presenter: Pamela Bright**

One of the fascinating, and perhaps most surprising, aspects of Celtic Christianity in the early Middle Ages is its enthusiastic reception and integration of cultural influences from the Christian East, most notably Egypt. These influences are apparent in a wide range of artefacts, including the High Crosses of Ireland and Scotland, as well as in the very shape and practices of Celtic Christian spirituality. This presentation will explore the various possible origins of this enigmatic connection, and will consider the implications for today of the "ecumenical" character of Celtic Christianity.

### March 10 – Celtic Art

**Presenter: Sara Terreault**

This presentation will introduce the rich history of Celtic Christian visual art as spiritual expression and spiritual practice. We will explore links to the pre-Christian Celtic artistic heritage, tracing styles and motifs back thousands of years to pre-Celtic sources. We will also consider some contemporary artists who continue to draw from these deep well-springs for artistic and spiritual inspiration. We will examine a selection of metalwork, stone sculpture and architecture, and will give special attention to the great manuscripts like the Book of Kells and the Lindisfarne Gospels, and to the evolution of the High Cross, which for many people is the very emblem of Celtic Christian spirituality.

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### March 17 – Celtic Paganism

**Presenter: Robyn Stroll**

Are the 'old ways' still alive? This discussion will explore how many of the older Celtic traditions are expressed in modern practices today. Celtic deities are often venerated by those seeking to reconnect their spirituality with the land, as are many of the practices and rites of worship. Are these neo-pagans really following the old faiths, or re-inventing them? Join us to share your opinions and to explore whether or not the old ways are really still alive.



### March 24 – Women and Celtic Spirituality

**Presenter: Sonya Ocampo-Gooding**

A Sheela-na-gig is an enigmatic medieval figure that is seen by some as an early feminist image and by others as an object of male oppression. This presentation will discuss the image of the "Sheela", its origins, and its role as a source of spiritual inspiration in the landscape of Ireland past. The Sheela in the Killinaboy Church of County Clare will be considered in detail. A broader connection will also be explored between the Sheela and the "Mother Goddess" as a universal figure in various cultures of the world.