



# We've Come This Far by Faith



## A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

*For we walk by faith, not by sight.*

2 Corinthians 5:7

### Dear Members of Christ Church, Brampton:

Since March 2020, we have travelled through the unprecedented experience of a global pandemic. Our lives have been altered in dramatic and unexpected ways. Within weeks, we needed to do church differently. While physically distant through the use of technology, we remained relationally close through personal and sustained contact. We worshipped; studied, met and served each other, and our community, with glad and grateful hearts and found new delight in being people of God. We were always open, even when our building was closed.

Now, over two years later, we find ourselves on yet another journey, as we move through the process of “regathering”. At the time of writing, it is anticipated that all Covid-19 restrictions (other than the requirement for clergy, staff and volunteers to be vaccinated) will be lifted by our diocese on June 5.

This year’s Annual Giving theme, *We’ve Come This Far by Faith*, asks us to reflect on our journey together over the past years of pandemic and to cast our gaze forward to God’s preferred future for Christ Church. Our financial support, in the form of a pledge to the Operating Budget of Christ Church is an essential component of our ability to carry out the work of the church. Over the past year, pledged revenues as well as other offerings were used to provide worship (both In-Person and Online), discipling of children, youth and adults through Sunday School, Youth Group and Adult Studies (topical, books, Alpha, prayer, etc....) as well as reaching out in love and service to our community. As we turn our focus to the future, we do so secure in the assurance of God’s abiding and steadfast grace, mercy and love.

What a delight to regather, to be with our families, friends, and fellow parishioners; to be able to worship with our voices and bodies and to engage in the important work of rebuilding our gathered congregation. There is much to celebrate and yet there is still much to do. More than ever, expressing our love and gratitude by continuing to pledge, provides our leadership with effective data in budgeting and planning for work we have before us

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### Pledging Households

You have always been so supportive of Christ Church, generously giving of your time, wisdom, experience, passion, and financial resources to sustain and grow our work and ministries. As we begin this year’s *We’ve Come This Far by Faith* Annual Giving campaign, we hope we can count on your support again.

### New Comers

Since 2006, members of Christ Church have been encouraged to make an annual financial pledge. Some members tithe, committing ten percent of their income to the work and missions of our church. Others give proportionally by committing a certain percentage. Still others give as they are able. What is most important is that everyone supports *We’ve Come This Far by Faith* in the form of a financial pledge. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you might contribute.



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*Christ Church*  
B.R.A.M.P.T.O.N

### Non-Pledging Households

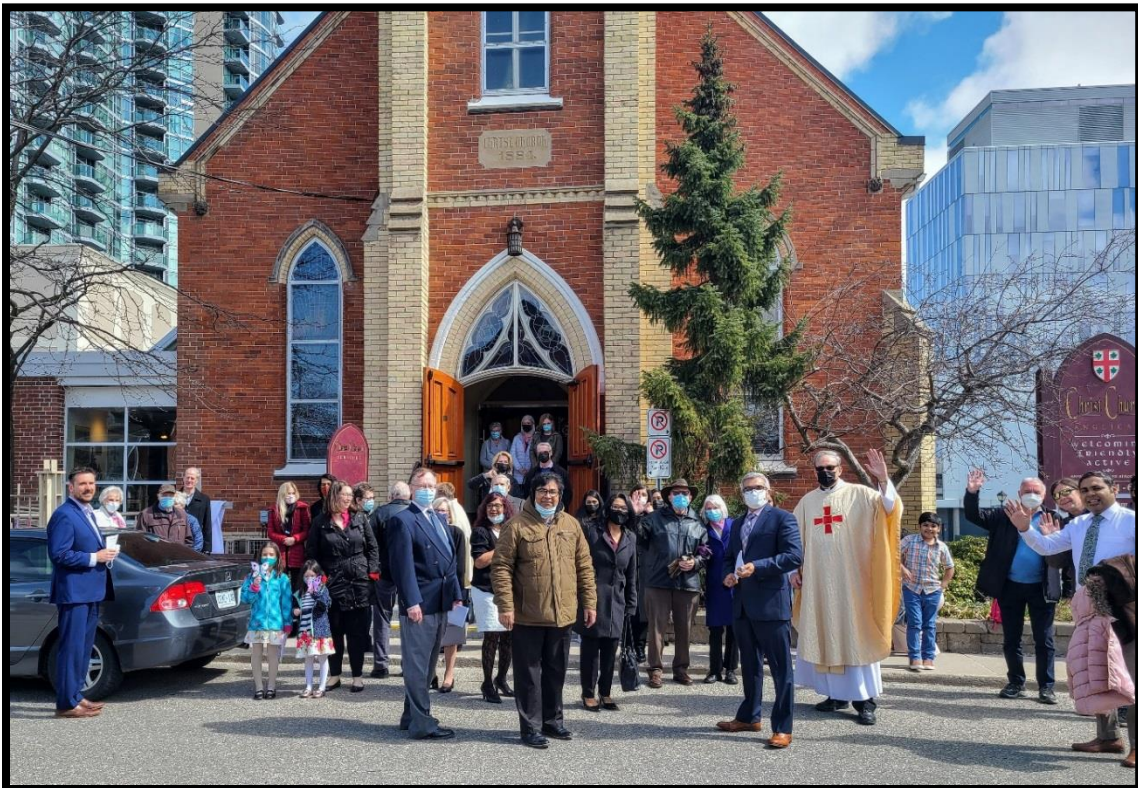
For the above reasons, we ask that you prayerfully consider joining others in our parish family by making a financial pledge this year. Please join others in supporting our congregation as, in faith, we continue walking toward God's preferred future.

Included with this mailing is a pledge card for Fiscal 2023 (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023). Please prayerfully consider the amount you pledge financially so that Christ Church can continue to walk in faith, sharing God's love with even more people and making a positive difference in the lives of everyone in our community and beyond. We ask that you return your pledge card by June 5, 2022.

If you have any questions, or would like to further discuss making a financial pledge to Christ Church, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Canon Byron R. Gilmore  
Incumbent



Easter Sunday Morning, 2022



## STEWARDSHIP TRUE OR FALSE

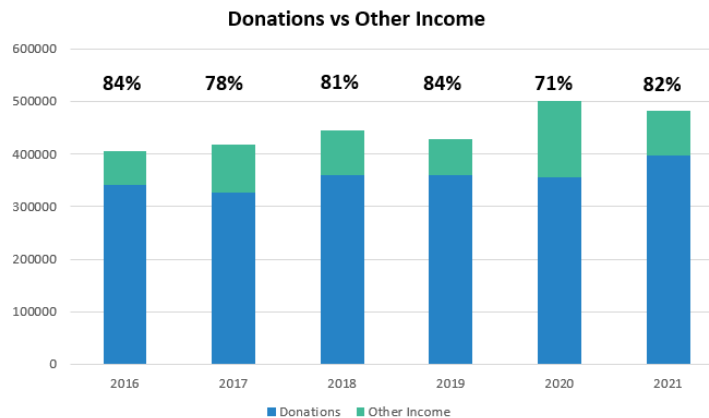
### 1. There is lots of money at Christ Church?

Not True: There has never been “lots of money at Christ Church”. Over the years, our expenses have remained historically flat for a number of years with one exception ~ and that is staffing. It is through our staffing that our ministry becomes alive but there is always a risk in this area. **Each financial decision made is given serious and thorough consideration by the Corporation.** It is fair to say that the pandemic has put extra pressure on our expenses so it is always a balance between our income (*where are offerings stand?*) and expenses (*where we need to spend money?*).

### 2. I heard that the money comes from somewhere else. Is that true

Not True: Christ Church is a self-supporting and self-sustaining. The life and vitality of our Church is an expression of the life and vitality each one of us gives. Financial support is the means of ensuring the mission that God has given us continues to flourish. **Collectively, our parishioners provide more than 80% of our annual operating budget.** Without your pledges and gifts, Christ Church would simply not exist.

#### About Christ Church Giving patterns



**Other Income Includes: Designated Gifts, Rent, Grants, HST, Pandemic Relief and Jubilee**

As good stewards, we must make choices about what we do with our gifts from God – our time, abilities and financial resources. This could not be truer than during the pandemic where our staff and volunteers have worked tremendously through so many changes.

### 3. No one else pledges, why should I?

Not true: Annual pledge commitment invitations have been extended annually since 2006 ~ we are a pledging church. Compiled pledge results are provided to the Corporation to help make informed budget decisions for the following year. An estimate of what Christ Church may expect in offerings allows Corporation to plan our operating expenses and our commitments to Worship, Discipleship & Learning, Outreach and Pastoral Care

Your pledge to Christ Church is an affirmation of faith and commitment to ensure the vitality of our parish



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### 4. Does the church support people in need?

True: Prior to the pandemic, teams of clergy and lay people conducted services in local nursing homes and care facilities. We visited parishioners in hospitals and institutions as well as those confined to home. With public health restrictions, this was converted to telephone calls. Now that restrictions are lifting some of these activities are returning to in-person with safety always top of mind.

We provide counseling to those facing life challenges related to sickness, family issues, and other concerns. You can well imagine how this has increased. With our Associate, Michelle Jones, being appointed to St. James, Caledon East in November 2021, this is an area of concern. **The challenge being can we afford to hire an Associate, if even on a part-time basis?**

Additionally, our Parish Families continued to support our outreach initiatives. This past year many of you were so extraordinarily generous. Here are a few of the ways we helped those in need both locally & beyond:

- ✝ Drive-By/Drop-Off for Ste. Louise \*
- ✝ Coldest Night of the Year
- ✝ Special Offering for Lytton Fire
- ✝ Special Offering for Ukraine Refugees
- ✝ International Christian Voice
- ✝ Easter Food Drive for Knights Table
- ✝ Caring & Sharing \*
- \* **Plus Drive-By/Drop-Off filling trucks and trunks!**

### 5. Christ Church wasn't open during the pandemic?

Not true: Oh how we did the pandemic-pivot! **We were the church both inside and outside the building.** Together in these past two years we have:

- ✝ Worshipped on mid-week evenings and Sunday mornings (Online always and In-Person, when we were able)
- ✝ Fed the hungry, clothed the poor and welcomed the stranger
- ✝ Explored and deepened our faith with small group studies and Alpha Online
- ✝ Nurtured our children & youth
- ✝ Celebrated joys and grieved losses
- ✝ Stay connected by telephone, email, Zoom, old-fashioned mail and safe visits.

To make the above come to life, check out our photos at:

[www.christchurchbrampton.ca/recent-events](http://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/recent-events)

[www.christchurchbrampton.ca/archived-events-2021](http://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/archived-events-2021)

[www.christchurchbrampton.ca/copy-of-recent-events](http://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/copy-of-recent-events)

**Rather than giving only when you are attending in-person, perhaps you would consider moving to Pre-Authorized Remittance or e-transfer?**



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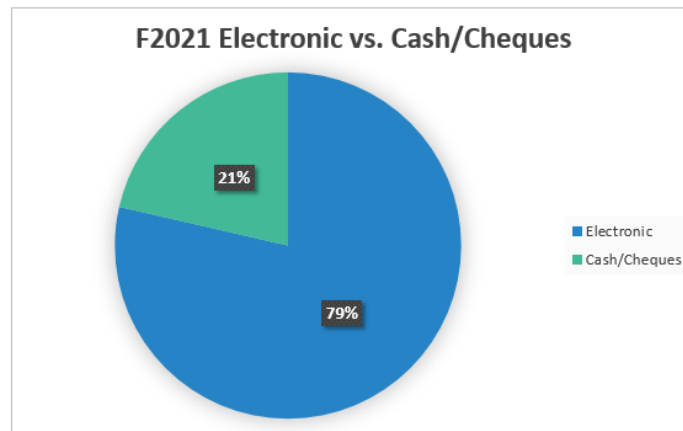
Christ Church  
B.R.A.M.P.T.O.N.

### 6. Electronic giving is risky?

Not True: We are so grateful for **all the ways that people give to support** our ministry but we have most definitely seen an increased use in electronic giving since the beginning of the pandemic. In Fiscal 2021, 79% of offerings (\$279,418 of a total of \$355,562) were received in some form of electronic giving. Many of our Envelopes Subscribers moved seamlessly to electronic giving.

#### About Christ Church Giving patterns

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**F2021 Total Electronic was 79%** as many of our Envelope Subscribers easily moved to new platforms of giving including E-transfers & CanadaHelps.

### 7. E-Transfer is easy?

True: It is a simple way to electronically transfer money from your account to the Christ Church account utilizing the Interac system. Here's how it works:

- Set up Christ Church Brampton as a payee on your own bank account
- The payee email address you need is: **[christchurchbrampton@bellnet.ca](mailto:christchurchbrampton@bellnet.ca)**
- No password is required
- Upon making an offering, you will receive an email notification of the transfer
- Christ Church will also receive an email notification. Your offering will be included in your annual tax receipt

### 8. CanadaHelps is complicated to use and charges too much?

Not True: CanadaHelps provides Canadian charities with an electronic platform at a modest cost. If you give to Christ Church through CanadaHelps your charitable receipts will come directly from CanadaHelps for the full amount of your donation. Like all online transactions, charitable gifts are subject to 3.5% - 4% transaction processing fees to credit card transaction costs, tax receipting, etc. CanadaHelps is a non-profit organization and receives only 1.8% from the fee charged. Christ Church receives monthly disbursements directly into our bank account as donations become available. We have a direct link to our CanadaHelps account on our website.



## WHY TITHE

A tithe is the gift given to the work of God that equals 10% of what God gave you in the first place. Such a gift is often referred to as “first fruit” because the first 10% is given back to God. Commitment to tithing does not mean it is a requirement but it does mean we try. **We strive to give proportionately** as we work towards the tithe or even exceed it.

There are many reasons to make a pledge, of which the following may help you determine whether to pledge or not:

- It is an important part of our faith journey ~ the only document that most of us sign every year where we claim our faith as part of our identity
- It is an intention you make to Christ Church that provides a sense of belonging
- It helps Corporation develop a more accurate plan for the next fiscal year (*only aggregate results are provided to the Corporation by the Envelope Secretary to maintain confidentiality*)

## TITHE GOALS

To better help you reach the goal of tithing, please take some time to review the chart on the back of the pledge card. Find the income level in the first column that most closely matches your income and then following the number horizontally to determine your level of giving to Christ Church. Percentages are listed at the top. Consider stepping up your giving by moving one or more columns to the right.

**“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34-35**

## ONE FINAL MESSAGE

- ✝ Prayerfully consider what God is doing in your life.
- ✝ Prayerfully consider your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- ✝ Prayerfully consider what Christ Church means to you and your family, and what Christ Church can mean in the Brampton community.
- ✝ Prayerfully consider what God has done in providing for your “goods and kindred,” and what you will return to Him.

**Christ Church does not presume that if you have given in the past your prior pledge will continue to carry over.** An annual pledge ensures not only the continuation of our many ministries and it is an act of thanksgiving in response to all that God has given us.

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## BLESSING OF THE PLEDGES ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST | JUNE 5

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**Stewardship Pledges may be dropped off at the church or mailed in. Simply place your pledge in an envelope addressed to the Envelope Secretary.**

**You may also call or email our Envelope Secretary, Carolynne Atkinson who will be pleased to complete a pledge for you. These pledges will be included in the Blessing of the Pledges. Carolynne can be reached at:**

**Telephone: 905-453-8323 | Email: [carolynneat@yahoo.ca](mailto:carolynneat@yahoo.ca)**