

Dear Friends:

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever! (Psalm 118:1)

Here we are in the dark days of November, eight months of living with the global pandemic that has changed many of our daily, weekly and monthly habits and routines. None of us are immune to the turbulence brought on by Covid-19. We know that the months to come, in particular the upcoming Seasons of Advent and Christmas, will also be different as we continue to adapt to new routines and restrictions. We embrace what is asked of us willingly as a way to show our love of others. BUT amongst all this change, what is not different is God's steadfast love for us and for that we have so much to thankful for.

As we embark on a new church year, starting next week with the First Sunday in Advent, we thought we would take this opportunity to reach out and "catch-you-up" on a few things. Please indulge us with a few minutes of your time as we review some highlights of the past few months and draw your attention to what is in store.

DISCIPLESIP

Children & Youth: Over and over again we have heard the word "pivot" when it comes to the pandemic and Christ Church was no different as it moved its programming to on-line via Zoom. All across the board, we learned new ways to engage others and keep our community connected. Along the way we welcomed new people too! In early September, our Sunday School moved back to Sunday mornings at 11:30 a.m. With the announcement of Peel being in the Red Control category, Tina revisited our Youth Group programming and has increased our meetings to semi-monthly.



Over 25 children attended our Virtual Pumpkin Party in October.



Contact Tina for a Zoom invitation and party kit!



Our Youth Group meets semi-monthly via Zoom.

Covid Parenting: The Rev. Michelle Jones and Deputy People's Warden, Shumaila Desrochers, are leading a program designed for parents or grandparents during these challenging times. Over 4 weeks starting in mid-November, they have created a safe space on-line to come together to share ideas, pray together and support one another.

Racism: How Christians Should Respond: Plans are in place for a 3-week on-line session on racism led by The Rev. Canon Byron Gilmore. Byron will be offering this both in the morning and evening starting in mid-January. More details to come!

Lectio Divina: Translated as Divine Reading, is offered twice weekly via Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 pm and Friday mornings at 10:00 am. It is a lovely and quiet way to spend time with God. A brief introduction and invitation is available on our website at: <https://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/lectiodivina>

What's in a Song: Our Worship Collective leader, Sally Campbell, offers us offers a reflection of a song that you might hear on Sunday morning. By teasing out the lyrics, you might find some insight to strengthen your own faith. Sally's reflections can be found at: <https://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/music-theworshipcollective>

LITURGY & WORSHIP

We are so encouraged by our worshipping community whether in-person or on-line. Before we mention anything, we need to express our deep thanks to two specific groups that continue to work so faithfully:

1. In-Person Worship has been made possible by the ongoing work of the **Re-Opening Task Force** composed of Rachel Brown, Byron Gilmore, Jane Harvey, John Joukema, Peter Volkes and Martha Whittaker. Utilizing the guidelines of the Diocese of Toronto and both levels of Public Health, they keep our Sunday morning in-person worship safe.
2. On-Line Worship is made possible every week with efforts of our Clergy, our Staff and our Volunteers. Particular thanks to our volunteer **Production Team** of Stephen Nilam and Jeffrey & Andrea White who work behind the scenes enabling us to bring worship into your homes. Our on-line worship is available each week at 10:00 am and can be accessed directly from our website at www.christchurchbrampton.ca.

With a wee bit of planning and creativity, we were still able to celebrate the *Blessing of the Backpacks* and *Blessing of the Pets* in September and October, respectively. In November, we had two very special services.



On All Saints Day, Christ Church hosted the *North Peel Deanery Confirmation Service* with The Rt. Rev. Jenny Andison presiding. For the Christ Church Confirmants, this was culmination of a year-long preparation with Confirmation originally planned for The Great Vigil of Easter. With a long wait over, eight of our youth were confirmed and one adult was received into the Anglican Communion. Please keep Abner, Anaka, Daniella, Desirae, Elijah, Joshua, Meghan, Sherrill and Simone in your prayers as they embark on the next chapter in their faith journey.



On November 8th, we celebrated *Remembrance Sunday*. Our Act of Remembrance was enhanced by efforts of Major (Ret.) Javaid "Jim" Bakhsh who read the Honour Roll and Katie Clark who performed The Last Post and Reveille both in-person and on-line. Our on-line service was Morning Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer. Thank you to Elizabeth Charters and Isaac Olurotimi who added additional voices to Byron and Michelle. We were also treated to a wonderful anthem "Be Still My Soul" performed by The Georgetown Bach Chorale under the leadership of our own Ron Greidanus and filmed at Christ Church. The Anthem was used as part of the City of Brampton's virtual Remembrance Day service.

We often receive messages from you telling us how much you are enjoying our on-line services. This does gladden our hearts and we make sure that they are shared. Here is but a few we received following our Remembrance service:

I just want to let you know that I really enjoyed watching this Remembrance Day Service. I want to thank everyone who was involved and also the crew behind the scenes. It was beautiful and so well done. The anthem was wonderful and we are so fortunate to have Ron and Sally who are both so incredible in providing all the music. I must not forget Rev Byron and Rev Michelle who are doing triple duty to provide all our services and help to our congregation. BIG thank you to each one of you.

God Bless,
Sandy McKenzie

Thank you to everyone involved for the beautiful Remembrance Sunday service. The harmony in the hymns added so much and the Georgetown Bach Chorale anthem was just beautiful. Katie did an amazing job on the trumpet. Byron, Michelle, Ron, and everyone who participated, please accept my sincere appreciation for making this service so special.

Ruth Mason Walter

And we heard from David Johnson! Now that name may not be familiar with you but if we said The C. Allan Johnson Auditorium, that might ring a bell. David's father was Rector at Christ Church from 1942 to 1961. David spent his childhood and teen years at Christ Church.

He, like many, have found us on-line and have been worshipping with us. Throughout the pandemic, we often hear stories of people who worship from far and away or right around the corner ~ some new to Christ Church, some trying us out or some returning home.

I have so enjoyed being back at Christ Church after so many years. It was a delight to discover you on YouTube some time ago and worship with you from my home in Toronto. The Remembrance Day service was particularly wonderful. It was marvelous to hear the canticles and prayers from the Book of Common Prayer. Thank you for your continued ministry.

David Johnson

Advent & Christmas: A Christmas mailing will be released, however we wanted you to know what plans are in place to celebrate this year. Our Clergy, Staff and Volunteers have already laid the ground work for a fulsome and worshipful season.

- We will continue to celebrate Sunday mornings both in-person and on-line at 10:00 am. Please register for our in-person service via the website or you may call the office and speak with Martha to register. Pre-registration assists us with our Amber Protocols.
- Lessons and Carols will be offered on-line at 4:00 pm on the Third Sunday in Advent (December 13th) at 4:00 pm.



Christmas Eve and Christmas Day



On-Line

- Children's Pageant at 4:00 pm
- Christmas Service at 8:00 pm

In-Person

- Christmas Eve at 8:00 pm
- Christmas Day at 10:00 am

OUTREACH



2020 Caring & Sharing

This year we are partnering with
local ministry charity
JFJ Hope Centre
to bring Christmas to 35 families.

 

Worship Fully | Spend Less | Give More | Love All

It wouldn't be Christmas at Christ Church if we did not have Caring & Sharing. The pandemic restrictions did not deter us and we have come up with a touchless way that you can participate. We are working with community ministry partner, JFJ Hope Centre, in their efforts to provide a meaningful Christmas to 35 local families. Christ Church has committed to purchase 85 pajama sets, 25 gifts for Dads and 35 gingerbread house making kits. Our Sunday School and Youth Group will also be supporting this initiative by collecting for JFJ's "Care Cupboard". And of course, there will be groceries to stock up on. More information about JFJ can be found on our website including a video that describes its vital work particularly during the pandemic.

What Can You Do to Help? To keep everyone safe, a small group of individuals are doing the shopping and our ask of you is to help fund this ministry. You can do this by making a financial donation and clearly marking it "Caring & Sharing". It will be included in your 2020. Donations can be dropped off at the church, e-transferred, mailed or pick-up. For more information please contact either Jean Jamieson at 416-457-5686 or Martha Whittaker at 416-420-3765.

*Why not ask your family, friends and neighbours if they would like to get involved?
Compassion and generosity go hand in hand.*

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

F2021 Financial Results – Quarter 1 (September 30, 2020)

As you will know our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. It can be a challenge getting your head around this when we use the calendar and/or church year for other aspects of our lives. Below you will find results for the first quarter of our fiscal year (*July 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020*) compared to the same time period in 2019.

Christ Church Brampton			Actual September 30, 2020			Actual September 30, 2019		
Statement of Operations	General Fund	Future Ministries	Total			General Fund	Future Ministries	Total
Revenue								
Donations	\$ 80,272		80,272			\$ 81,514	\$ 650	\$ 82,164
Rental income	8,100		8,100			8,100		8,100
Other income	1,387		1,387			3,679		3,679
Investment income	1,829		1,829			1,745		1,745
Memorial income	3,051		3,051					-
HST rebates	3,075		3,075			2,673		2,673
Program Offset			-			100		100
Realized gains on sale of investments			-					-
Grant income		4,500	4,500					\$ -
Total revenue	\$ 97,714	\$ 4,500	\$ 102,214			\$ 97,811	\$ 650	\$ 98,461
Expenditures								
Salaries and benefits	\$ 56,889	\$ 10,098	\$ 66,987			\$ 51,463	\$ 9,348	\$ 60,811
Diocesan allotment	15,688		15,688			17,190		17,190
Repairs and maintenance	10,879		10,879			9,611		9,611
Equipment purchases			-					-
Utilities	3,173		3,173			2,259		2,259
Insurance	3,390		3,390			4,132		4,132
Harmonized sales tax expense	4,271		4,271			3,712		3,712
Special Projects	1,786		1,786			3,000		3,000
Program education	1,362		1,362			1,081		1,081
Music	56		56			1,851		1,851
Outreach expenses	-		-			-		-
Professional fees	1,500		1,500			1,500		1,500
Admin expenses	8,971		8,971			4,620		4,620
Supplies	-		-			-		-
Bank charges and interest	170		170			271		271
Total expenditures	\$ 108,135	\$ 10,098	\$ 118,233			\$ 100,690	\$ 9,348	\$ 110,038
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures before other items	\$ (10,421)	\$ (5,598)	(16,018.9)			(2,879.4)	(8,698.0)	\$ (11,577)

Key Points:

- We have experienced a solid start to the fiscal year. Donations to our general fund are healthy – thank you.
- Our challenge in the months to come will be to maintain the same level of donations. This is really one specific area where we can all play a part.
- We had a bump in our expenses as a result of:
 - Purchasing a new camera and fogger. These expenses were offset by a memorial donation and generous gift by a parishioner.
 - We expect to see expenses track back to budget over the next few quarters.h

Financial Giving: Throughout the pandemic, Christ Church has been blessed by the ongoing generosity of our parish family. The life and vitality of our Church is important to us ~ perhaps even more so now. We are grateful to those who have played a part in ensuring our ministry continues to flourish during this unprecedented time. Intentional, purposeful and sacrificial gifts enable us to invite, welcome and connect all of us together with Him who abides with us in all times and circumstances.

Many of our Envelope Subscribers continue to make regular donations by way of the mail, drop-off, arranging for a pick-up or using an electronic method of giving. The regular monthly offerings from our PAR (pre-authorized remittance) subscribers is helpful as a way of providing a financial forecast. We also introduced new ways to give:

1. We are now accepting **e-Transfers** via the Interac system.
 - a. Simply set-up Christ Church Brampton as a payee on your internet banking account.
 - b. Email address required: christchurchbrampton@bellnet.ca
 - c. No password is required
 - d. Upon making an offering you will receive an email notification as will Christ Church.
 - e. Your offering will be included in your annual tax receipt.
2. You can donate electronically via **CanadaHelps** using your credit card through the Christ Church Brampton website. At the top of the homepage – click “Online Giving via Canada Helps”. It takes you to the following link. In this case, CanadaHelps provides you with a tax receipt.
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/christ-church-brampton/#donate-now-pane>
3. You can **drop off** your church envelope in the mail slot at the church. The not-so-obvious-mail slot is located just below the buzzer on the right hand side of the office doors...it's a wee bit tricky because it is a vertical slot.
4. You arrange for a **pick-up** by calling Martha at: **Office: (905) 451-6649 / Phone or Text: 416-420-3765**

Interim Receipts & Pledge Tracking

As you review your enclosed **Interim 2020 Tax Receipt (January 1, 2020 to October 30, 2020)**, prayerfully consider your offerings to Christ Church. Does it reflect your Christian faith? It is in the giving and receiving that we participate in God's life in a profound way. We are blessed that many of our Envelope Subscribers are disciplined and generous in their offerings. Conversely, many of our parishioners take advantage of our convenient monthly PAR program. They know that their contributions to Christ Church continue even while they are away or while we are in the midst of the pandemic. Contact our Envelope Secretary, Carolynne Atkinson at 905-453-8323 or email at: carolynneat@yahoo.ca should you require more information and/or wish to make a pledge for this year. (Forms are available on the website at: <https://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/commitment-2020-2021>)

Pledge information shows on our tax receipts as a helpful way to provide an update on individual pledge commitments. For those households who did make a pledge for Fiscal 2021, this information shows your interim tax receipt. The “Pledge Summary” details your total pledge commitment for F2021 (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021), what has been applied in the first 4 months of the fiscal year (July 1 to October 31, 2020) and balance remaining to June 2021. In many cases, pledge results for F2020 are also shown as our fiscal year straddles the tax year.

Please note that contributions made by E-Transfer are included as Christ Church is the receipting charity whereas contributions made via CanadaHelps will not be included as CanadaHelps is the receipting charity.

2021 Envelope Distribution

As we approach the calendar year-end, Carolynne will be busy reviewing and organizing the various tasks associated with her role as Envelope Secretary. Another "behind-the-scenes" volunteer that we are thankful for! The 2021 Envelope Sets have arrived and we are currently making plans to have them delivered in mid-December. Another first for us.

2020 Tax Receipts

2020 Tax Receipts will be made available in late February. Providing an interim receipt at this point provides an opportunity for you to confirm its accuracy from January 1, 2020 to October 31, 2020. Should you have any questions or need for clarity, please contact Carolynne.

HELP US SHARE OUR STORY

By following Christ Church on our social media platforms you can participate on God's mission in Brampton. ~ you might give people the hope that they are looking for.



Inviting someone to Church On-Line couldn't be easier – simply share a Facebook post.



Follow us on Instagram



Until we can gather together in-person, we put our trust in God & enjoy our Annual Parish Video.



"Church On-Line" is available on our website. Simply look for this icon. When watching, considering subscribing to our YouTube channel.

OUR THANKS

In closing, we offer our deepest thanks to all those who join us in partnering with God and His mission in Brampton and beyond. Join us this Advent and Christmas as we lean into the expectation, hope, joy and peace of God with us.

Stan Szepesi
Rector's Warden

Jonathan Tyner
People's Warden

Rachel Brown
Deputy Rector's Warden

Shumaila Desrochers
Deputy People's Warden

Collect of the Day for The Reign of Christ

Almighty and everlasting God,
whose will it is to restore all things
in your well-beloved Son, our Lord and King,
grant that the peoples of the earth,
now divided and enslaved by sin,
may be freed and brought together
under his gentle and loving rule;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

(BAS pp 394)