

Dear Friends:

February 4, 2024

*Therefore, we pray you, Lord, forgive;
so when our wanderings here shall cease,
we may with you forever live
in love and unity and peace.*

(Now Let us All with One Accord, Common Praise | 172)

With Lent quickly approaching, we notice that the days are lengthening and that we are midway through our Canadian winter! That said, we are also aware that Christ Church is entering into a time of transition and with that comes a multitude of emotions. The caption above is taken from the last verse of a traditional Lenten hymn. It reminds us that we can turn to God for strength to face the journey ahead of us and for that we are, indeed, most grateful.

Enclosed in this mailing is your 2023 annual tax receipt prepared, in confidence, by our Envelope Secretary. We would remiss not to extend our deep gratitude to you, our parish families, for your generous support of the mission and ministry at Christ Church. Your generosity has allowed Christ Church to flourish in so many ways and this update will simply highlight a few. We also want to extend our thanks to our Envelope Secretary, Carolynne Atkinson, for her dedication to her ministry at Christ Church. She is just one of the many volunteers who works so diligently behind the scenes.

Before we get into the “nitty gritty” of this update, here are a few photos:



Bishops' Levee | Jan 01



Baptism of Our Lord | Jan 07



Coffee Hour | Jan 21



Sacred Sewers | Jan 27

WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday | Wednesday, February 14 @ 10:00 am & 7:00 pm



We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, an ancient sign, speaking of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marking the penitence of the community as a whole. (Book of Alternative Services, pp 282)

Our services are:

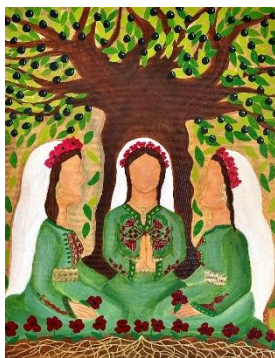
- **10:00 am In-Person** with Imposition of the Ashes & Holy Eucharist
- **7:00 pm In-Person** with Imposition of the Ashes & Holy Eucharist

As we journey together through Lent, we pray that you will join us for worship. More information about Holy Week will be forth coming ~ we know plans are already underway!



In-Person @ 10:00 am & 7:00 pm

World Day of Prayer | Sunday, March 03 @ 1:30 pm

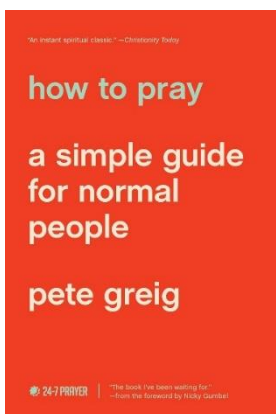


The World Day of Prayer (“WDP”) is a global ecumenical movement that brings Christians of many traditions together to observe a common day of prayer each year. Different participating country writes the service each year, and this year it has been prepared by the WDP Committee of Palestine.

For many years, this service has rotated among several downtown Brampton churches. This year, we are delighted that Christ Church is hosting the service. All are very welcome to attend on **Sunday, March 3 at 1:30 pm at Christ Church** with refreshments following.

DISCIPLESHIP

2024 Lenten Study | The Prayer Course



Our selection this year is *How to Pray & The Prayer Course* by Pete Greig. *How to Pray* will awaken a passion for prayer in all types of people, from the committed followers of Jesus to the skeptics to those who don’t really know where to begin. It uses the Lord’s Prayer as a framework ~ after all that was the response to the disciples asking “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1). *The Prayer Course* is the companion piece to the book. While we encourage to read the book, you are most welcome attend a small group session without doing so.

Sign-Up: In the Church Office or call Martha at: 905-451-6649 ext. 23

- **On Zoom Wednesday evenings @ 8:00 pm** starting January 31
- **In-Person Saturday mornings @ 10:00 am** starting Feb 3 at Christ Church
- Books available for \$25 (**Available on Audible or Kindle on Amazon**)

DISCIPLESHIP

Prayer Retreat | Saturday, March 16 @ 9:00 to 4:00 at Christ Church

Who is the speaker?

Dr. Wanda Malcolm is known to many of us at Christ Church as a parishioner. What you may not know is that she recently retired from her position as Professor of Pastoral Psychology at Wycliffe College. Wanda continues to work as a clinical psychologist in private practice and takes joy in being a wife (to Stan Szepesi), a mother and grandmother especially enjoying at their cottage pursuing the joys of kayaking, crafting, gardening, reading fiction and playing board games.



Who is the retreat for?

For anyone wanting to explore new-to-you and old favorite forms of prayer. Come and see if there is something new or to be affirmed in the prayer life you are already enjoying. It can be attended on its own or as a compliment to the Lenten Book Study on prayer. The premise of this retreat is found in these words by Jill Webber (Lectio 365):

“As I have practiced prayer over the years, I have found that occasionally I lose any sense of connection with God. I’ve discovered that sometimes that’s an invitation to seek God out in other ways, to expand my prayer expressions, or even where I pray! In springtime I find Him more outside than in - God in the garden instead of my comfy prayer chair.”

What does the day involve?

In the first half of the day, Wanda will lead us in a meditation on Mark 6 followed by an opportunity to make a picture for God’s fridge much as our children or grandchildren bring us pictures that we delight in putting on our fridge, it does not require artistic talent. Just a child-like desire to find a way to express things when words are not enough.

The second half of the day will be an opportunity to explore and try out several forms of prayer that may or may not be familiar to you: Anglican prayer beads, finger labyrinth, contemplative prayer, a prayer walk among others. There is something for everyone: arts and crafts for those who enjoy creative play, quiet reflection for those who find solace in solitude and silence, and a guided prayer walk for those who find spiritual significance in going for walks out of doors.



With ample opportunity to explore and experiment, why not invite a friend. Or bring your child/grandchild. The day is suitable for Middle School and up.

What does it cost?

\$25 which includes lunch, snacks, and the cost of creative materials/supplies.

How do I register?

Registration will be open mid-February

OUTREACH

Coldest Night of the Year (“CNOY”) | Saturday, February 24 @ 4:00 pm



Christ Church’s 2024 Christ Church Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) is forming-up! Can you imagine being homeless or under-housed in these last few days of cold & rain? For several years, Christ Church has participated in CNOY in support of Regeneration Outreach Community which serves the homeless and near homeless right in our neighbourhood.

Christ Church is a long-standing community partner of Regen and you can read more about their ministry here: www.regenbrampton.com

Where	The event starts & finishes at Garden Square at Main & Queen St. in downtown Brampton.
When	Saturday, February 24 th with a 4:00 pm gathering & a 5:00 pm start & a 7:00 pm end
What	2km or 5km routes
Captain	Jeremy l’Anson-Joukema (<i>promoted after many years of being a team member!</i>)

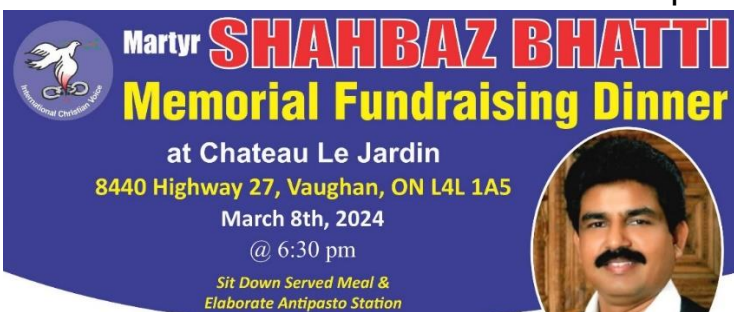
Everything you need to know is on our website at: <https://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/coldest-night-of-the-year>

Please consider joining our team or sponsoring the team or a team member. You can simply make a direct donation by following the link below or mail, drop-off or e-transfer to Christ Church marking it CNOY. The latter will be receipted by Christ Church but the funds will be directed to Coldest Night of the Year.

Direct Donation: The link below takes you to the Christ Church donation page. There you may sponsor either the team or an individual member ~ it’s that easy! Here’s the link: <http://walk.w-ith.us/ChristChurch>

International Christian Voice Gala | Friday, March 08 @ 6:30 pm

**Chateau Le Jardin
8440 Hwy 27, Woodbridge**



International Christian Voice (ICV) <https://icvcanada.org> is a registered Canadian Charitable organization and Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH). ICV serves to sponsor asylum seekers, who are victims of religious persecution and supports their resettlement in Canada. **Our parishioner, Javaid (Jim) Bakhsh is very involved in this ministry.**

This year International Christian Voice has decided to sponsor a persecuted young man who has been through a horrific ordeal in Pakistan, having suffered immensely on false charges of blasphemy. His harrowing tale of torture reflects the brutality of the state machinery and the vulnerability of the marginalized religious minorities in Pakistan.

In the interest of his security, we are keeping his identity confidential at this time. Let’s all join hands to give our brother a new life of renewed hope in Canada.

Christ Church is humbled to support the work of ICV and welcome the opportunity to attend this Fundraiser Gala. Consider joining us for the evening. Tickets are \$120 (for adults) and \$90 (for children under 12) for 3-Course sit-down meal. Tax receipts will be issued through Christ Church, Brampton. **Please contact Martha (phone/text: 416-420-3765) if you would like to join us.**

PARISH LIFE

Pancake Supper | Tuesday, February 13 @ 5:30 - 7:30 pm



To some, this is a welcome return and to others, a new experience all together!

We are so delighted to be hosting a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Our last gathering for this annual event was February 26, 2020 ~ just a few short weeks from Covid-19 being declared a global pandemic.

Tickets are on sale Sunday mornings. Do plan on joining us and bring a friend!

And if you are interested in volunteering (*which would be gratefully received*), please contact John Joukema at 647-515-9470

Byron's Retirement Celebration | Sunday, April 07 @ 11:30 am

Potluck Lunch: Byron's last Sunday with us is April 7 ~ the 1st Sunday after Easter. Following the 10:00 am service, please plan on joining us for a Potluck Lunch in the Parish Hall. Look for more information (*What to bring? How can you help? etc.*) in March. Do plan on attending to thank Byron and his family for their ministry among us and before us.

Parish Gift: Should you wish to contribute to a Parish Gift to celebrate the ministry of Byron and his family, we are accepting donations that will be directed to a gift to "*explore and experience*" retirement. Please clearly mark your donations: Byron's Retirement. Please know that there is no obligation whatsoever.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT | Tina Clarke's Retirement

Last week, Byron met with Tina Clarke, our Children, Youth and Family Director where she tendered her retirement notice effective immediately. With sadness and regret, it was accepted.

Some of you might be aware that her husband, The Rev. Michael Clarke, who is the Rector at St. Stephen's Hornby (in the neighbouring Diocese of Niagara), has been experiencing some medical issues resulting in him taking an indefinite Leave of Absence. This was announced at St. Stephens on January 28th. Tina feels that her time now needs to be focused on the well-being of her husband and we whole-heartedly support this decision.

Tina's ministry among us at Christ Church since 2017 has been a time of great joy and growth. Her creativity and nurturing way have been a true blessing for many of us. Most importantly, our children and youth have been guided in their faith in so many ways and deep relationships have been forged. She has been a wonderful colleague and friend to many of us.

Corporation has met and working on how best to support Tina and Children, Youth and Family ministry portfolio. In the meantime, please know that our Sunday morning Children's Focus and Sunday School will most definitely continue. We will keep the parish informed as further plans are developed.

Notes or cards expressing love and support can be sent to the Clarkes c/o Christ Church Brampton. We do ask you to refrain from calling them. In the meantime, please keep Mike and Tina in your prayers as they navigate the health challenges in front of them.

(Announced at the Sunday, February 4th service)



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT | F2024 Financial Results (December 31, 2023)

Below are our 2nd quarter financial results representing the half-way point of our fiscal year that runs from July 1 to June 30 of each year. Our financial position is always closely monitored, and we share it with the Parish on a regular basis. You may recall that at our Annual Meeting of Vestry in October, we passed a deficit budget of close to \$10,000, confident that we had enough in savings to cover this amount but like any household budget we don't want to deplete our savings ~ this remains a challenge for us. A couple of comments on the comparative results below:

- We have previously commented on a decline in our Pre-Authorized Remittance (“PAR”) because of parishioners relocating or dying. The trailing effect is now evident in our General Funds donations. We did, however, realize a year over year increase in Christmas offerings which are reflected in General Funds which minimized the decline.
- Our total salaries and benefits costs were up year over year because of having an Associate Priest during the current reporting period. In November, Corporation made the difficult staffing decision not to renew Nelson Charles’ contract. Salary and benefits costs will be reduced for the balance of the fiscal year. *As a side note, we are pleased to report that Nelson was appointed Interim Priest-in-Charge of Evangelists, New Tecumseth in mid January.*

Christ Church (Brampton)

For the period ended December 31, 2023

Draft: For Release

Statement of Operations	Actual December 31, 2023			Actual December 31, 2022		
	General Fund	Future Ministries	Total	General Fund	Future Ministries	Total
Revenue						
Donations	\$ 201,383	\$ 100	\$ 201,483	\$ 212,447	13,778	226,225
Rental income	18,738	0	18,738	17,850		17,850
Other income	1,496	0	1,496	3,335		3,335
Investment income	4,043	0	4,043	3,925		3,925
Memorial income	-	0	-	-	100	100
HST rebates	3,912	0	3,912	3,601		3,601
Program Offset	190	-	190	-		-
Total revenue	\$ 229,763	\$ 100	\$ 229,863	\$ 241,158	\$ 13,878	\$ 255,036
Expenditures						
Salaries and benefits	\$ 156,713	\$ -	\$ 156,713	\$ 120,182	\$ -	\$ 120,182
Diocesan allotment	33,101		\$ 33,101	30,015		\$ 30,015
Repairs and maintenance	28,897		\$ 28,897	25,445		\$ 25,445
Equipment purchases /lease	2,463		\$ 2,463	-		\$ -
Utilities	3,316		\$ 3,316	3,928		\$ 3,928
Insurance	9,646		\$ 9,646	8,938		\$ 8,938
Harmonized sales tax expense	6,122		\$ 6,122	5,585		\$ 5,585
Special Projects	1,140		\$ 1,140	-		\$ -
Program education/Pastoral Care	771		\$ 771	1,907		\$ 1,907
Music	783		\$ 783	520		\$ 520
Professional fees	6,000		\$ 6,000	4,200		\$ 4,200
Admin expenses	8,108		\$ 8,108	11,572		\$ 11,572
Supplies	-		\$ -	-		\$ -
Bank charges and interest	482		\$ 482	699		\$ 699
Total expenditures	\$ 257,541	\$ -	\$ 257,541	\$ 212,992	\$ -	\$ 212,992
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over	\$ (27,779)	\$ 100	\$ (27,679)	\$ 28,167	\$ 13,878	\$ 42,044

Should you have any questions about our financial position, please do not hesitate to ask us. If you have a question, no doubt someone else has the same one!



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT | Financial Giving

Christ Church has been blessed by the ongoing generosity of our parish family. We are grateful to those who have played a part in ensuring our ministry continues to flourish. Intentional, purposeful and sacrificial gifts have enabled to partner with God to provide ministry to our community in Brampton and beyond.

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 ~ please accept our continued thanks for your faithfulness. Other ways to give include:

1. **Pre-Authorized Remittance (“PAR”)** is convenient way of giving to Christ Church in that a set monthly amount is withdrawn from your bank account. PAR provides a convenient way to ensure your offerings are received on a regular basis. PAR forms are available here: <https://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/how-to-give>

Maybe now is the time to consider signing up for PAR or perhaps increasing your monthly amount?

2. **E-Transfers** via the Interac system.

Envelope subscribers using e-transfer are provided an envelope set method ~ for the modest cost of having a set, they have a “physical” reminder to continue to make e-transfers.

- 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; if you are new to us, please ensure your name & address is included.
- 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

3. 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. We have parish households that take advantage of method of giving.

We currently have a few people providing Christ Church with monthly donations through CanadaHelps. At Christmas, we received donations that were marked anonymous via CanadaHelps ~ you simply never know of how we touch the community.

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/christ-church-brampton/#donate-now-pane>

4. However, 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. Of course, you may place it on the offering plate should you be attending in-person worship.

Offerings that are dropped off or picked-up are included in the Sunday blessing.

5. You arrange for a **pick-up** by calling Martha at:

Martha tells us she is always up for a walk with her dog for a pick-up...within a reasonable distance.

Office: (905) 451-6649 / Phone or Text: 416-420-3765

Stewardship – As you review your enclosed 2023 Tax Receipt, prayerfully consider your offerings to Christ Church. Does it reflect your Christian faith? All that we give and all that we do are part of God’s mission in our own time and place.

Should you have any questions about your Tax Receipt and/or our methods of giving, please contact our Envelope Secretary, Carolynne Atkinson at 905-453-8323 or email at: cdatk26@gmail.com.



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT | Parish Selection Committee (“PSC”)

In early December, The Rev. Canon Dr. Byron Gilmore announced that, effective April 7th, he will be retiring after 19 years as our Pastor. A Parish Selection Committee (PSC) has been formed to work with the Bishop to determine who will be the next incumbent for Christ Church Brampton.

To date the members of the PSC have been determined (*a Special Vestry was held December 18, 2023*) and we have met with the Bishop who has outlined the process and assigned coaches.

The next step is for the PSC is to consult widely with members of the entire parish to gain an understanding of the parish’s unique strengths and needs. The Diocese coaches will help guide the process that will culminate in a Parish Profile. This profile will be shared with the congregation and be the key document in the selection process.

We wish the entire process to be covered in prayer and filled with the Holy Spirit. To that end we encourage you join us in the following prayer:

Lord, we thank you for the many blessings Christ Church has received under Rev. Byron’s shepherding and pray that you continue to move mightily in his next stage of ministry.

Please send your Holy Spirit on the Parish Selection Committee so their every step is guided by you in determining who the new Incumbent will be.

May the process open the entire congregation’s eyes to the blessing you have poured out on Christ Church and the ministry you have for the parish in the years ahead.

We pray that you start preparing the heart of the person who will be our new Incumbent and that we can all look with confidence towards the next stage of ministry for Christ Church.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions please feel free to reach out to any of the PSC members.

Charlene Bickerstaffe, Elizabeth Charters, Chinweike Chike, Shumaila Desrochers, Ken Egbuna, Peter Harvey, John Joukema, Nancy Kee, Stan Szepesi

Our Thanks

Please know we are always available should you have any questions or need clarification on any matter. In closing, we offer our deepest thanks to all those who join us in partnering with God and His mission in Brampton and beyond.

We look forward to seeing over the season of Lent and into Easter.

Shumaila Desrochers
Rector’s Warden

Sean Joseph
People’s Warden

Catherine Laing
Deputy Rector’s Warden

John Joukema
Deputy People’s Warden