

Dear Friends:

*We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land.
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand.
He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.

All good gifts around us
Are sent from Heaven above
So thank the Lord, oh thank the Lord for all his love.*

What an extraordinary time we live in. Here we are 19 months into a global pandemic and we continue to thrive; celebrating God, proclaiming Christ and serving others. The above lyrics may be familiar to you as they in our *Common Praise* hymnal. They were also popularized in the 1971 pop musical *Godspell* which is based on the Gospel of Matthew. With the original text written by Mattias Claudius (1740-1815) and the musical now 50 years old, we live in assurance that God was, and is and will be with us ~ now that is truly something to be thankful for!

It is our commitment to the parish to keep our communication with you open and frequent by a variety of methods ~ often it is through our weekly announcements, website and/or social media feeds but on occasion it has been worthwhile to put "pen to paper" and use Canada Post. We've included in this mailing some highlights of the past few months and what is planned over the next few months.

DISCIPLESHIP

Children & Youth: Enclosed in this mailing is Children, Youth and Family Fall Newsletter. Over the course of the summer, we had "Cool Church" (aka summer Sunday School) which used *Broken Bits and Weirdness but God Still Loves Us* by Fay Rowland as its principle study. We are grateful to Tina, Sarah and Desiree for their work with our children and, in particular to Sarah, who bravely took on filming instructional crafts videos. On September 23rd, we moved Sunday School to Thursdays at 6:00 – 6:30 pm. The rationale for this move was that with in-person worship now being offered, our families could not attend both in-person worship and Sunday School on Zoom. The timing was simply too tight. Like many things during the pandemic, we make adjustments as we go along, monitor and adjust accordingly. Our Youth Group has been meeting twice monthly for months now and, at the time of writing, they are having their 1st in-person meeting in close to a year. Even with strict safety measures and caution, we know that they are thrilled!



This fall, our Church Online Children's Focus is on Moe & Bo's Big European Vacation.



Our Drive-By Blessing of the Back Packs was on September 4.



Our Youth Group meets semi-monthly via Zoom. Over the year we have celebrated many birthdays.

Writing My Story: Fall is upon us. The days are getting shorter...autumn is the perfect time to reflect on and write about your journey through life. Please join Rev. Michelle for a 6-session series **"Writing My Story"**.



When: 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month @ 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Starts: Thursday, October 14th

Ends: Thursday, December 23rd

Where:

- Via Zoom or join by phone
- Or self-directed. We will mail writing prompts.

Other Important

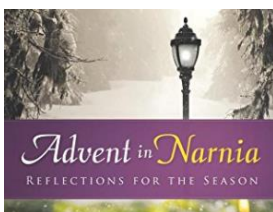
Info:

- You will need a journal and a pen.
- Prompts will be given each session to get the creative juices flowing.
- Each time we meet we will consider a different theme.
- No previous writing experience is necessary. We are simply gathering together to reflect individually on our journey through life.
- This is a chance to contemplate and think deeply about your life; to sort out memories and feelings; as well as a chance to have a bit of fun.
- Where the writing will take you, how you will respond, or the nature of the final destination are yet to be discovered.
- Remember... some things only survive through writing about them.
- Remember... there is no right or wrong way to write as you search for and respond from your true self.

How to register: Via Eventbrite on our website at: www.christchurchbrampton.ca or contact Michelle Jones at: 416-418-3912 or curate.christchurchbrampton@gmail.ca

And looking to the future:

Advent in Narnia



Walking into Advent can be like walking through the wardrobe and plans are shaping up to explore the themes of light and darkness, meals and gifts, forgiveness and hope over the **4 Sundays of Advent starting on November 28th at 4:00 pm**. Stay tuned for more information but this will be a perfect time to travel together as a parish family, albeit virtually. And yes, it will be suitable for children of all ages!

Alpha



What values are important? Why do I matter? What makes my life meaningful? Questions like these often pop up and no more so than in a pandemic.

It has been several years since we ran an Alpha course at Christ Church and we are delighted that we will be running one this coming winter starting on **Wednesday, January 19th at 8:00 pm**. Alpha runs for 10 sessions and we are creatively looking at how we can do a Retreat Weekend. While we are still working out the finer details, now is the time to pray ~ will you attend? Is there someone that you might ask to attend with you? Even if you have done it before, we know these questions never grow old.

LITURGY & WORSHIP

Lectio Divina: Translated as Divine Reading, is offered via Zoom on Friday mornings at 10:00 am. It is a lovely and quiet way to spend time with God. The Zoom link is available on our website and all are welcome to join. Many from our parish and beyond have been fed by this weekly practice. A brief introduction and invitation is available on our website at: <https://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/lectiodivina>



Evening Prayer: Starting on Tuesday, October 14th at 8:00 pm via Zoom, please join our Clergy as they lead us in Evening Prayer. The Zoom link is readily available on our website.

*“Lord it is night. The night is for stillness.
Let us be still in the presence of God.”*

In-Person Worship is at 10:00 am on Sunday mornings. We kindly ask that you pre-register should you be planning to attend. This assists greatly with both our contract tracing obligations and our ability to meet the Public Health and Diocesan Guidelines during the pandemic. To register:

1. **Register on-line** via our website at www.christchurchbrampton.ca using Eventbrite.
2. **Phone the office** @ 905-451-6649 Tuesday – Thursday from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Households may sit together but one “ticket” is required for each individual. Please be mindful of others and register only for the service you plan to attend and only register members of your own household.

Online Worship is made possible every week with efforts of our Clergy, our Staff and our Volunteers. Continued 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.

Weekly Announcements/Service Bulletins are available each week on our website to keep you well informed on the “happenings” at Christ Church and beyond. Again these are available on our website.



The warm and dry Sunday mornings have been a blessing to those attending in-person worship.



The Rev. Luigi Battista with The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw on the occasion of his Ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons (July 29, 2021)

OUTREACH

You cannot out-give God Over the course of the last several months, our parish family has been wonderfully generous to providing support to our local partners. Together, we have supported:

- ✓ Regeneration Outreach Community during the Coldest Night of the Year (February 2021)
- ✓ Ste. Louise Outreach Centre of Peel in our Drive-By/Drop-Off (May 2021)
- ✓ International Christian Voice (June 2021)
- ✓ PWRDF in support of the fire that devastated Lytton and Lytton First Nations (July 2021)



Many supported our Drive-By/Drop Off with gifts of food and personal care items. The truck was overflowing. (May 13, 2021)



Still others supported through financial donations and we were able to provide a cheque to Ste. Louise for just over \$3,000 (July 13, 2021)

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Annual Meeting of Vestry ~ Sunday, October 17 at 12:00 noon via Zoom | Please note the change of date

As with many things during the pandemic, delays can sometimes occur and this is true of receiving our F2021 statements back from the auditors. As it is our practice to release our Vestry Report, previous year's Financial Statements and current year's Budget, one week prior to Vestry we have simply delayed everything by a week. We anticipate having the aforementioned materials available on **Sunday, October 10**. We expressly want to thank Peter Volkes for his ongoing role in liaising with our auditing firm.

Property You may have noticed a newly built wooden fence along Queen Street on the east side of our property. We are thankful to Rowntree Montessori Schools for providing this improvement. We are also expecting paving to be done on the north side of the building. As many of you might know, this property ~ for the most part ~ is owned by Alectra Hydro so they will be undertaking the paving.

Vaccine Policy On September 14th, Andrew Asbil, Bishop of Toronto, released a Vaccination Pastoral letter which we published our weekly announcements of September 19th. On September 17th, the Diocese of Toronto's Covid-19 Mandatory Vaccination Policy was released requiring clergy, employees and volunteers to be fully vaccinated and provide evidence as such. We are in the fortunate position that our Clergy, Staff, Wardens and Production Team have been fully vaccinated for some time now, however we will need to further expand our scope to any participants in worship including readers, intercessors, Altar Guild, etc. Essentially anyone who carries in-person activities on behalf of the parish either inside or outside falls under this policy. As important, please know that proof of vaccination is not required to attend worship. Both Bishop's Asbil's Pastoral Letter and the Vaccination Policy can be read here:

<https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/parish-resources/covid-19-updates/?lang=en>

Financial Giving: It is together, as a parish family, that we support the ministry of Christ Church in Brampton and beyond. While work for the church comes in many forms (*Time, Talent & Treasure*), without your financial support our life together would be diminished. We are so very thankful for your intentional, purposeful and sacrificial gifts. As we contemplate the months to come, your regular ongoing gifts will be of vital importance.

As a reminder, we offer a variety of way to make offerings:

1. The regular monthly offerings via **PAR** (pre-authorized remittance) wherein offerings debited from your bank account. A PAR form can be found here: <https://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/commitment-2021-2022>
2. **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.
3. **Offering envelopes** are accepted on Sunday mornings or you may drop your 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. You can also arrange for a **pick-up** by calling Martha at:

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

4. 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>

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. As we approach Harvest and Thanksgiving, we pray that you have a joyful and abundant season knowing that everything we have comes from the One who sustains us and loved us first.

Stan Szepesi
Rector's Warden

Jonathan Tyner
People's Warden

Rachel Brown
Deputy Rector's Warden

Shumaila Desrochers
Deputy People's Warden