



Dear Friends:

*Creator of the fruitful earth,
you made us stewards of all things.
Give us grateful hearts for all your goodness,
and steadfast wills to use your bounty well,
that the whole human family,
today and in generations to come,
may with us give thanks for the riches of your creation.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.*

Collect of the Day for Harvest | Book of the Alternate Services pp 396

As we sit down to write this letter, it is a warm and sunny day early in the fall season. While the days are shortening and there is a morning chill in the air, still it is hard not to feel hopeful with a new program year launched at Christ Church. Things have been a-buzz all summer with plans. The fall season especially focuses on gratitude, and we have so much to be thankful for at Christ Church. At the top of our gratitude list is our parish family. It has been a joy to seeing returning and new faces each Sunday as we gather for worship. We watch in amazement at new relationships are being formed, existing ministries being revitalized and new ministries taking shape. Like many churches and charitable organizations emerging from the pandemic, there been a struggle to reengage people, but we are so very encouraged by what we witness at Christ Church.

Our Sunday attendance has increased 37% compared to the same period last year (July to September)

Please take a few minutes of your time to read news of your parish. We've sprinkled it with lots of photos because "they say" a picture is worth a thousand words.

DISCIPLESHIP

Children: We had the distinct pleasure to have Sarah White run Sunday School all summer. Over the years, Sarah has been an integral part of Sunday School, so she was a natural fit and came equipped with all sorts of enthusiasm and creativity. With Tina supervising, it provided an opportunity for Sarah to take the lead and lead she did! Throughout the summer, the Sunday School became "Camp Bear" and welcomed a growing number of children each Sunday. And a big thank you goes to one of our youth, Rachel, who shows up faithfully each week to help with Sunday School.



Camp Bear (Sunday School)



Blessing of the Back Packs



Blessing of the Pets.

And there's more:

During this season, we are theming several things around “light” ~ that is being the light of Christ in the world. We kicked this off with the Blessing of the Back Packs in late August with close to 30 children showing up and that is with some of the “usual suspects” still away on vacation! Our theme will continue through to the Stellar Christmas Pageant on December 3. Throughout this season, the Sunday School has a weekly Bible Challenge. Each week, a new scripture referring to light is provided and the following week they submit their answer as to where it located in the Bible. With 14 opportunities to enter, the child with the most correct answers wins a family movie pass.



2023 Sunday School Challenge



	<p>Scripture Walk Saturday, October 21 @ 10:00 - 11:30 am Join Martha & Tina as they walk the Etobicoke Creek Trail. All you need to bring along is a favourite piece of scripture. Along the way, you may like to share your scripture and why it is important to you. We'll meet in the parking lot of Roselea Park (71 Church Street East @ Ken Whillans Drive). This is an “all-ages” event!</p>	
	<p>Pumpkin Party Sunday, October 29 @ 10:00 am For children aged 4-12, this a time of games, treats and crafts. Reach out to Tina if you need more information at: tina.clarke.brampton@gmail.com 647-278-5519</p>	 <p>(October 2022)</p>
	<p>Children's Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 3 @ 10:00 am Definitely more to come on this but you will want to mark your calendars. To get you in the mood, look at last year's photos at: https://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/archived-events-2022</p>	

Honouring Remembrance Day Lawn Signs | \$20



Christ Church (Brampton) is the Regimental Church of the Lorne Scots and has long association with both the local regiment and the Royal Canada Legion.

This year, we are pleased to be selling lawn sign in support of Branch 15 of the Royal Canadian Legion. Signs will be available on Sunday mornings for the next few weeks. If you are local and would like a sign delivered, please contact the church at: 905-451-6649 or christchurchbrampton@bellnet.ca and we will endeavour to make that happen.

The Royal Canadian Legion was founded in 1925 and is the largest Veteran and community support organization in Canada, with more than 300,000 members in over 1,400 Branches across Canada. The Legion makes a difference in the lives of Veterans and their families, provides essential services within our communities, and Remember the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our Country.

LITURGY & WORSHIP

In-Person Worship is at 10:00 am on Sunday mornings continues to grow. We are delighted to see more people returning to church and new people who have found us. As a gentle encouragement, we ask “maybe it’s time for you to come back to church?”



Above & Below – Ordinary Time (After Pentecost) 2023



Online Worship is made possible every week with efforts of our Clergy, our Staff and our Volunteers. Our continued thanks to our Audio/Visual Teams who work tirelessly to make this happen. Our online worship can be accessed directly from our website at www.christchurchbrampton.ca – just click the YouTube icon.

Remembering Service:



Again, this year we will be holding a special Remembering Service. This is a quiet and contemplative service where we can come together to both acknowledge our losses and offer thanks. We are grateful for Deacon Luigi who will be leading this service with Sally Campbell and Ron Greidanus providing music. Refreshments will be served following the service. Why not invite a friend or neighbour to this service.

All are invited | All are welcome | No experience required

And further out:

1st Sunday of Advent | December 3: Children's Pageant at 10:00 am

2nd Sunday of Advent | December 10: Advenio at 4:00 pm

3rd Sunday of Advent | December 17: Lessons & Carols at 10:00 am

- Watch for more information about a **Children's Choir** forming for Advent. In preparation for Lessons & Carols, rehearsals will be on Sunday mornings throughout the November and December. Parents can enjoy Coffee Hour while kids rehearse!
- And taking shaping is the re-launch of **monthly prayer anointing**, so stay tuned!



Martha, Sarah & Tina sporting their summer Faith t-shirts



Making Friends



Generations

Our Website & Social Media Channels Help Us Tell Our Story: Websites, by design, are often changing and improving as information is added and/or updated. Here are the top tips:



- ✓ Address is: www.christchurchbrampton.ca
- ✓ The **YouTube** icon takes you directly to our YouTube channel; likewise the **Facebook** and **Instagram** icons take you to our social media feeds
- ✓ **Weekly Announcements** are available each week on our website to keep you well informed on the “happenings” at Christ Church
- ✓ Shortcut titled “**Recent Events**” has lots of photos
- ✓ Upcoming Events and archived photos are under the tab Parish Life
- ✓ On a mobile device, the QR code below takes you to our website



Mustering for Worship



The Sunday of Pentecost with Confirmation

OUTREACH

Our parish family continues to be wonderfully generous in their support of our outreach partners. Here is just a little of what we have been up to!

International Christian Voice: Earlier this year, we heard from our own Javaid (Jim) Bakhsh who spoke on the vital and often dangerous work of International Christian Voice as they advocate for and sponsor persecuted Christians refugees. Many of you will remember the harrowing video that he showed of the beating of Tabeeta Gill who had been falsely accused of blasphemy in her home country of Pakistan – a crime that is punishable by death. You can read more of her and her family’s story here: <https://icvcanada.org/category/news-and-updates>

As a ministry partner, Christ Church is privileged and humbled to have been able to respond to an urgent appeal in early June to assist in providing the necessary funds to sponsor the Gill Family to Canada. Through prayer and much hard work, Tabeeta and her family arrived at Toronto Pearson on June 19th. On Canada Day, they moved into their new home.



The Gill family arriving at Toronto Pearson (June 2023)



Worshipping at Christ Church (July 2023)

Sacred Sewers: Over the winter & spring some of our parishioners and friends have been meeting to make lap quilts for various healthcare & social agencies sites in Brampton. In late August, Deacon Luigi Battista accompanied a few of them (including our young people who were learning to quilt) to Brampton Civic Hospital. The quilts were gifted for use in the oncology ward.



Sacred Sewers meets 4th Saturday of the month from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm. Bring your own sewing machine & sandwich. Refreshments are provided. A big shout-out of thanks to Phyllis Moffatt for her inspiration behind this new ministry. Should you be interested in learning more, please feel free to contact Phyllis at: 647-454-0864

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Annual Meeting of Vestry: Sunday, October 29 at 12:00 noon | In-person following 10:00 am service

The Annual Meeting of Vestry is “church-speak” for our Annual General Meeting where we approve the Annual Vestry Report, F2023 Financial Statements and F2024 Budget. We also elect and/or appoint our Wardens and Advisory Board among other business-related items. The meeting is approximately 60 – 90 minutes in length. In draft, our Vestry Report, Financial Statements and the proposed Budget will be released Sunday, October 22. Limited paper copies will be available at the church; however they will be posted at: <https://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/annual-vestry-report>. We expressly want to thank Peter Volkes for his ongoing role in liaising with our auditing firm and Kathy Newbert who ably fulfills the role of Treasurer.

A word about our financials ~ we are keenly aware of the current economic environment and the persistent inflationary pressure. It is possible that this has influenced your household budget as it has on our financial position at Christ Church.

A Word About Stewardship: Attentive but not alarmed

As in all things, it’s never enough to just be thankful. Thankfulness for our abundance should compel us towards to generosity. We have been abundantly blessed at Christ Church with your faithfulness to our ministry and mission. In planning for our Annual Vestry, we always look to the future; both for the year ahead and for years that will follow. We are called to steward our financial resources in such a way that we are partnering with our good and gracious God. As we emerge from the pandemic, we have become aware of some shifts in our giving patterns. Over the course of Fiscal 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023):

- ✓ Many people donated via newer methods of electronic giving. Offerings via CanadaHelps and e-transfer totalled \$144,000. This includes some that have set-up regular donations and is a significant and positive shift.
- ✓ Still others, thankfully so, are faithful to our envelope system and we remain committed to this method of offering.

That said, our Pre-Authorized Remittances (“PAR”) dropped \$15,000 over the course of Fiscal 2023. This represents a 10% drop. This is where we are “attentive but not alarmed” as we know that this drop is a result of parishioners having moved or died over the course of the fiscal year. PAR is convenient method of giving to Christ Church where a set amount is withdrawn monthly from your bank account. This method also always for seasonal offerings and/or special appeals. Of all the ways that we can give, PAR minimizes seasonal adjustments to parish income ~ after all expenses continue even when you are not here!

A gentle call to action:

- ✓ If you have not **adjusted your Pre-Authorized Remittance** over the years, *maybe now is the time to do so?*
- ✓ If you have been considering **enrolling in PAR**, *maybe now is the time to do so?*

For more information, you can contact our Envelope Secretary, Carolynne Atkinson, (905-453-8323 / cdatk26@gmail.com) and she would be pleased to answer your questions. Alternatively, information on how to enrol is available at:

<https://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/how-to-give>

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-2022-2023>
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
 - f. If you are new to Christ Church or you believe we do not have a correct mailing address, please include your address in the notes so that we can provide a 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>

Did you know?

Your offerings to Christ Church are secure, confidential and accurate because of a team who have distinct roles and responsibilities. This procedure allows for good corporate governance, confidentiality, accurate, and timely reporting. Thank you, Beth, Carolynne and Kathy for all that you do!

A FINAL WORD OF 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. We pray that you have a joyful and abundant Harvest Season knowing that everything we have comes from the One who sustains us and loved us first.