

Dear Friends:

February 21, 2022

*Heavenly Father, source of all life,
we thank you for the many ways
in which you have blessed and enriched our lives:
keep us from possessiveness and greed,
and lead us into the greater joy
of sharing your gifts with others.
Through Jesus Christ,
in whom is perfect peace. Amen.*

Jenny Dann | Diocese of York

In just a few short weeks we will be entering our 3rd year of the Covid-19 pandemic. Many of us will have very clear memories of those early days in March 2020 when the pandemic arrived on our doorstep and we went into lock-down. With two days' notice, we first closed for in-person worship on March 15, 2020 and we would worship exclusively online until mid-September. It is amazing to think how much has changed since those early days. With the various waves and new variants changing the landscape, we have pivoted a total of eight times with the most recent being a closure on January 10th and re-opening on February 6th. Among the many things we are grateful for, we need to give thanks for our clergy, staff and lay leaders who so tirelessly "kept at it". Equally important, we are grateful for you ~ our parish family, who supported the ministry of Christ Church and looked after each other. The roller-coaster of the pandemic has underscored that Christ Church is far more than the building ~ it is a community brought together in the knowledge that we are the beloved people of God.

Throughout the pivots, we have been reminded (especially when the building was closed) that we are the Church when we:

**Worship on Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings****Feed the hungry & clothe the poor as we work with our ministry partners****Explore and deepen our faith through Alpha Online @ Christ Church****Nurture our children & youth with weekly "Thursday School" and semi-monthly Youth Group on Friday evenings****Stay connected by all the safe means ~ telephone, email, Zoom, old-fashioned mail and safe visits****Visit the infirmed and minister to the bereaved****Pray constantly knowing that God is our refuge and redeemer**

Last year we wrote about the discipline of worship on Sunday morning and compared it to going to the gym. There is a discipline to both and it sure is easy to let some things slide. If that sounds like you, we encourage you to join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am either In-Person or Online. We promise you that you would be most welcome and that the "work-out" will be gentle. God's abundant grace continues to be working through us at Christ Church and for that we are so very thankful.

DISCIPLESHP

Children, Youth & Family Ministry

Our Advent Family Event was a tremendous success and now Tina is in the thick of planning our 2nd Annual Virtual Shrove Tuesday event that involves sharing a meal, crafts, prayer and story-telling. "Thursday School" is held weekly via Zoom at 6:00 pm for children aged 4-12. We are so grateful for Tina's ministry and that of her assistant, Sarah White. Their enthusiasm and creativity abounds. If you have "littles" in your world (children, grandchildren, God children, nieces, nephews, etc.) we encourage you to reach out to Tina ~ none of this is possible without the support and encouragement of the "bigs" behind the scenes. Tina can be reached at tina.clarke.brampton@gmail.com or 647-278-5519.

Our Youth Group continues to meet semi-monthly on Friday evenings. Our core group of 10 has been so faithful throughout the pandemic ~ we thought they would be "zoomed-out" by now! We managed to get in one in-person event prior to Omicron wave hitting us in December and most definitely look forward to more in-person events in the months to come.



Advent Event Crafts.



2nd Annual Virtual Shrove Tuesday



Youth Group Rubber Chicken Winners

2022 Alpha Online @ Christ Church



...Really enjoyed the Alpha discussion on Wednesday about Faith. To be continued...

(as quoted by a friend who was invited to join Alpha)

In mid-January, a group of 50 people started meeting weekly for Alpha Online @ Christ Church. Each evening they watch a video and then break into small groups all via Zoom. In early March, they are meeting for a Saturday retreat. It has all been interesting taking a course that is designed around having a meal together and then adapting it for online. The benefit is that we have people joining us from across Ontario and as far away as Florida and Arizona. Inclement winter weather is not an issue when we are online. A word of thanks goes to our Small Group leaders and Alpha Leader, Charlene Bickerstaffe.

Top row (left to right): Marjorie Taylor, Delia Guy, Oscar French & Barb Westney; Middle: Charlene Bickerstaffe, Don Joshua, Chris Bird; Bottom: Nancy Koehle, Chinweike Chike, Jessica Tikaram.

LITURGY & WORSHIP

Lent & Easter

We anticipate having a fulsome Lent & Easter and know that our Production Team of Clergy, Staff and Volunteers are busily preparing for both In-Person and Online services. At all times, we adhere to the Public Health directives and guidelines set out by the Diocese of Toronto for our In-Person services. It has been observed by some that attending our In-Person service Sunday mornings is "safer than going grocery shopping." The benefit of having so many pivots is that we have our protocols down to a fine art and everyone feels very safe in our worship space.



MARCH 2 WED
Church Online @ 7:00 am
In-Person* @ 10:00 am & 7:00 pm
* Registration is required
Public Health protocols in place
www.christchurchbrampton.ca

Lent begins with the service for Ash Wednesday on March 2nd.

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)

We will offer services at:

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

* Registration required either online via Eventbrite or leave a message for Martha at the Church Office at: 905-451-6649.

As we get closer to Holy Week we will provide further information on our services. We are closely monitoring guidelines for capacity levels and protocols for contact tracing/registration. However at this time, we want to put on your radar something new that we are going to try. On **Good Friday at 11:30 am** we are going to do an outdoor **Stations of the Cross Walk**. Leaving from the church, it will be approximately an hour of easy/stroller friendly walking.

Our schedule for Holy Week currently is:



Palm Sunday (April 10) In-Person and Online @ 10:00 am



Maundy Thursday (April 14) In-Person and Online @ 7:00 pm



Good Friday (April 15) In-Person and Online @ 10:00 am | Stations of the Cross Walk @ 11:30 am | Stations of the Cross @ 7:00 pm Online



Holy Saturday (April 16) In-Person and Online @ 7:00 pm



Easter Sunday (April 17) In-Person and Online @ 10:00 am

Evening Prayer



In Lent, we are invited to be especially attentive to prayer and perhaps this might be an excellent time to join our clergy on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 pm via Zoom for Evening Prayer. The link for Zoom is easily accessible on our website's homepage at www.christchurchbrampton.ca. Simply look for the image to the left and hit the **Click here** to join. It's very easy. It is in these quiet moments we an opportunity to still our soul and spend time with God.

PASTORAL CARE



Christmas Communions With Michelle Jones' appointment to St. James, Caledon East in November 2021 and another variant of Covid-19 starting to take shape, there was a concern that access to those parishioners in residential settings might become difficult. Byron went into high gear and managed to provide Christmas communion 25 people prior to the long-term care and retirement homes being restricted to essential visitors only. He is likely one of the best among us for knowing how to take rapid tests.

Parish Callers In the spring of 2020, we formed a ministry of Parish Callers as a way to keep our parish family connected. We are grateful for the continuing work of this group ~ we would have never guessed that they would still be at 2 years later. Here is what the parish callers say about their ministry:

Through the pandemic, our group of phone callers have kept regular contact with our church family. For some parishioners, it has been a time to reconnect after returning to Brampton. Many parishioners live on their own and a regular phone call is welcomed. The phone calls helps us share Church events, local news, laughter and friendship. Over time, some parishioners have had challenges and the phone calls are a chance to share and to be heard. Our phone callers are the hands and ears of Christ to let parishioners know we hear you, we remember you and you are important to us.

PARISH LIFE

Catering & Parish Fellowship Group



Cheque Presentation (January 2022)



Chili Lunch (April 2018)



Reception (June 2017)

After many years of dedicated service, the Catering Committee is taking a well-earned rest from their ministry. We want to thank them for all that they have done to bind together our parish community. They have prepared and served at countless receptions over the years, all imbued with the gift of hospitality. The Parish Fellowship Group is also pausing its regular gatherings but we are gladden to know that this group very much keeps in touch with one another. In January of this year, Lydia Bennett presented Christ Church a financial gift from these groups to be directed to the Future Ministry Fund for which are very thankful ~ ladies you have set a high bar with your fine example of service, fellowship and generosity.



Parish Fellowship Group (Feb 2018)

OUTREACH

Another banner year for Caring & Sharing!



Drive-By/Drop-Off (December 2021)

For more photos of our Christmas Caring & Sharing:

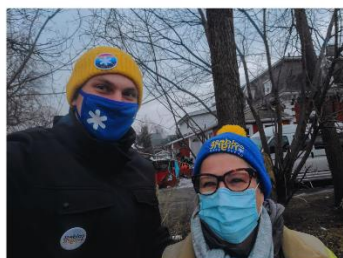
<https://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/recent-events>

In December, our Caring & Sharing ministry provided for our ministry partners.

- † For the JFJ Hope Centre Christmas party, we are provided 85 sets of pajamas, 25 gifts for Dads and 35 gingerbread kits. We also had a Drive-By/Drop-Off to fill the JFJ Centre Care Cupboard.
- † For the Boys & Girls Club of Peel, we provided Christmas in its entirety for 6 families.
- † For the Knight's Table we provided grocery gift cards.
- † And as other needs arose, we are able to respond generously.



Coldest Night of the Year - February 26, 2022 (Virtual Event)



"Marching in the Light", Christ Church's 2022 Team for Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) is in the final stretch with the walk taking place later this month. We are walking in support of Regeneration Outreach Community which serves the homeless and near homeless right in our neighbourhood. Christ Church is a long-standing ministry partner of Regen.

At the time of writing, we were in 4th place overall in our fundraising efforts and we have already surpassed \$8,000...how awesome is that? Please consider 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.

For everything you need to know, please see our website at: <https://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/coldest-night-of-the-year>.

International Christian Voice



Helped by the efforts of Christ Church, young widowed mother Sara and her two young children arrived in Canada (November 2021). On the right is Javaid (Jim) Bakhsh.

International Christian Voice

Annual Fundraising Dinner – Friday, March 4th, 2022 @ 6:00 pm

Location: Chateau Le Jardin, 8440 Hwy 27, Woodbridge

ICV is currently in the midst of sponsoring Gul Sher Murad and his family. In 2011, Gul Sher was driving Shahbaz Bhatti home from the Pakistani parliament when Bhatti was killed by the Taliban in a hail of bullets. Gul Sher has been living in detention in Thailand separated from his family for several years ~ his full story is on our website at: <https://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/beyond-brampton>

Christ Church has committed to a table of 10. Tickets are \$100 for 3-Course sit-down meal. Tax receipts will be issued through Christ Church, Brampton.

Please contact Martha at the Church Office (christchurchbrampton@bellnet.ca or 905-451-6649) if you would like to join us.

Remarkably, in October – December 2021, International Christian Voice (ICV), with financial support of co-sponsors, welcomed 6 families to Canada totalling 29 people. Another 8 people are expected to arrive early this year (more on our website).

If you like seeing photos of life at Christ Church...



Christmas Morning 2021



Laughter among friends and family



Advent 2021

...consider following us on Facebook & Instagram



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

F2022 Financial Results - Quarter 2 (December 31, 2021)

Our financial position as at December 31, 2021 is below. It represents our half-way point of our fiscal year that runs from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Our financial position is closely monitored at all times and we share it on a regular basis. Discussions concerning our financial situation are always a big part of our monthly Corporation meetings and this is particular true as we begin the planning cycle. Our overall donations has dropped slightly and is being closely monitored as are our expenses. The gifts to the Future Ministry Fund received by the Catering Committee and Parish Fellowship Group will be reflected in the next quarter.

Christ Church (Brampton)

For the period ended December 31, 2021

Statement of Operations	Actual Decemeber 31, 2021			Actual Decemeber 31, 2020		
	General Fund	Future Ministries	Total	General Fund	Future Ministries	Total
Revenue						
Donations	\$ 191,351	90	191,441	\$ 193,618	\$ 6,000	\$ 199,618
Rental income	17,010		17,010	16,200		16,200
Other income	10,672		10,672	1,387		1,387
Investment income	3,699		3,699	3,668		3,668
Memorial income	1,225		1,225	5,000		5,000
HST rebates	3,930		3,930	4,964		4,964
Program Offset			-			-
Grant income					9,000	9,000
Total revenue	\$ 227,887	\$ 90	\$ 227,977	\$ 224,837	\$ 15,000	\$ 239,837
Expenditures						
Salaries and benefits	\$ 113,950	\$ 18,500	\$ 132,450	\$ 111,737	\$ 20,196	\$ 131,933
Diocesan allotment	30,198		\$ 30,198	31,376		31,376
Repairs and maintenance	24,972		\$ 24,972	16,593		16,593
Utilities	4,447		\$ 4,447	6,050		6,050
Insurance	11,710		\$ 11,710	6,781		6,781
Harmonized sales tax expense	5,311		\$ 5,311	6,894		6,894
Special Projects			\$ -	7,183		7,183
Program education	3,282		\$ 3,282	1,798		1,798
Music	685		\$ 685	520		520
Outreach expenses			\$ -			-
Professional fees	4,200		\$ 4,200	3,000		3,000
Admin expenses	16,704		\$ 16,704	13,212		13,212
Bank charges and interest	410		\$ 410	411		411
Total expenditures	\$ 215,869	\$ 18,500	\$ 234,369	\$ 205,555	\$ 20,196	\$ 225,751
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures before other items	\$ 12,018	\$ (18,410)	\$ (6,392)	\$ 19,282	\$ (5,196)	14,086

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!

**Financial Giving:**

Throughout the pandemic, Christ Church has been blessed by the ongoing generosity of our parish family. Together you have made possible our ministry to our community in Brampton and beyond. The pandemic has taught us, as lovely as it is, that Church goes well beyond what we do inside the building. We are grateful to those who have played a part in ensuring our ministry continues to flourish.

Our parish ministries count on the generosity of our parish family ~ it is as simple as that. It is through your generosity that we are able to "be the Church outside the building". We offer this reminder on ways to give:

1. We accept e-Transfers via the Interac system.

- Simply set-up Christ Church Brampton as a payee on your internet banking account.
- Email address required: christchurchbrampton@bellnet.ca
- No password is required
- Upon making an offering you will receive an email notification as will Christ Church.
- Your offering will be included in your annual tax receipt.

2. 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.

3. You can take advantage of our monthly Pre-Authorized Remittance ("PAR") program where your offering is automatically withdrawn from your bank account. PAR forms are available on our website at: <https://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/how-to-give>

4. You can request a set of envelopes and/or arrange for a pick-up by calling Martha at: Office: (905) 451-6649 / Phone or Text: 416-420-3765

5. You can donate electronically via CanadaHelps using your credit card. CanadaHelps will provide you with a tax receipt.

Stewardship – As you review your enclosed 2021 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.

Please contact our Envelope Secretary, Carolynne Atkinson at 905-453-8323 or email at: carolynneat@yahoo.ca should you require more information or wish to move to monthly Pre-Authorized Remittance.

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

Shumaila Desrochers
Rector's Warden

Jonathan Tyner
People's Warden

Stan Szepesi
Deputy Rector's Warden

Sarala Golla
Deputy People's Warden