

Dear Friends:

February 17, 2021

And the special gift of ministry you received when I laid hands on you and prayed—keep that ablaze! God doesn't want us to be shy with his gifts, but bold and loving and sensible.

2 Timothy 1:6-7 (The Message)

In just a few short weeks, we will mark the one year anniversary of the lock-down brought about by Covid-19. No doubt, we all remember vividly when we received the news that Ontario and indeed Canada was going into a lock-down.



Who would have thought that we would be now approaching a full liturgical year with services exclusively online (with exception of a few months in the fall where we were able to gather for modified in-person worship)? At the time of writing, we anticipate that we will once again be celebrating Easter online as we did last year.

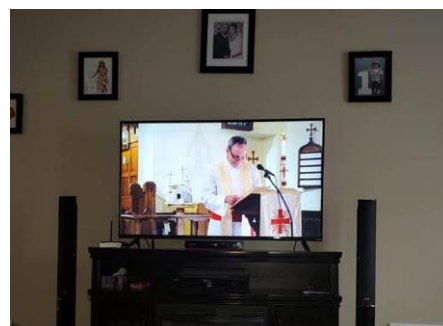
As we look back over the year, it is amazing to see how Christ Church has responded to changing restrictions and how we have travelled together as a parish family. On the First Sunday of Lent last year, we celebrated Michelle's Ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests (*top left March 1, 2020*). The following week, she was able to celebrate her first Eucharist and then we were closed for in-person worship (*bottom left March 15, 2020*) until mid-September. And then sensibly, we closed in-person worship at the end of November.



We are so grateful for our clergy, staff and volunteer production team that have worked so diligently week over week to provide us online worship. They have adapted to changes, learned new technology, dug into deep wells of creativity and all with good humour. A special thank you to our production volunteers of Charlene Bickerstaffe, Stephen Nilam and Andrea & Jeff White ~ you have not been shy with your gifts and for that we are truly grateful.

It has been heartening to us, as your Wardens, to know that you are joining us for worship on Sunday morning online (*right Easter Sunday April 12, 2020*). Much like going to the gym, sometimes we fall out of a habit or discipline. If that rings true to you, we would encourage you to join us on Sunday morning for worship. Everything you need is easily accessible from our website at: www.christchurchbrampton.ca including the weekly announcements and service bulletin for downloading. Once our service has been premiered on YouTube, you can watch it at any time ~ definitely a "pandemic-perk"!

God's abundant grace and love for us has kept us ablaze and we are comforted in that knowledge.



DISCIPLESHIP

Children, Youth & Family Ministry

Following a successful Advent Family Event, Tina once again delivered an awesome Shrove Tuesday event that involved pancakes, paint and prayer. Over 20 children joined us via a Zoom to start their Lenten journey. We are so grateful for her ministry and that of her assistant, Sarah White. Each week the two of them also hold Sunday School via Zoom at 11:30 am for 30 minutes of Gospel-inspired stories and crafts. Of course, none of this is possible without the support and encouragement of the “adults” behind the scenes.



Lent & Easter craft kits ready for delivery.



Story-telling and pancakes via Zoom



A time for crafts

2021 Lenten Study



All are invited | All are welcome | No experience required

Join us on our Journey to Easter and invite others to join in.

We are participating in the Church of England's #LiveLent program entitled “God's Story Our Story”. You have already had a small taste of this in Michelle's 2-part preaching services on February 7th and February 14th. If you haven't seen it, you can watch it on our YouTube channel that you can access here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristChurchBrampton>

So what can you do?

1. You can join a small group

Daily, if we look and listen, we are witness to God's story. Have you ever considered how God's story impacts your own story? This Lent we will be exploring stories ~ those of relating and loving, suffering and hoping, facing dangers and difficulties, all while holding out in hope. While the current pandemic restrictions present significant challenges, the need for us to share God's love within our communities is greater than ever. Rather than just being a Lenten discipline, this year's #LiveLent is a joyful invitation to make witness a normal part of the Christian life, the natural overflow of a life lived in devotion to Christ.



Please join us in one of our 6 week Small Group Lenten Study entitled "God's Story Our Story". The groups are:

	Day & Time	Starts	Ends	Leader
Group 1	Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm	February 24	March 31	Luigi Battista
Group 2	Saturdays @ 10:00 am	February 27	April 3	Michelle Jones
Group 3	Sundays @ 1:00 pm	February 28	April 4	Byron Gilmore

Our small groups will be meeting via Zoom. For those joining on a device, please register on our website (www.christchurchbrampton.ca) using Eventbrite. For those joining by phone, please register by contacting Martha at the church. She can be reached at:

Work Phone: 905-451-6649 ext. 23

Cell phone/text: 416-420-3765

2. You can download the #LiveLent app

The Church of England has made its resources "kit ready" as we like to say around here. They have produced a wonderful app that you can download onto your phone. Each day there will be a reflection, a reading, a prayer, an action item and a family activity.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/livelent-2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story>

3. You can invite a friend

Consider you can inviting others into the greatest story ever told. Maybe an invitation and a commitment to accompany someone could be your Lenten discipline? Together you could do the daily app or join a small group? Think about team/work mates, friends, family and neighbours ~ you might be surprised at how they are longing for an invitation, especially this year.

4. A special shout-out to families this Lent

We can only imagine how time-starved you are! The Church of England's #LiveLent also recognizes this and has made wonderful resources available that tie directly to the Small Group study but also stand alone quite nicely. Use the link above and scroll down the page to Family Activities. There you will find a link to a PDF document available for downloading. It is a family-friendly guide through the Journey of Lent with scripture reading and an associated family activity. When we are all looking for things to do during the restrictions as a result of the pandemic, these are wonderful suggestions. Below is a sample from Ash Wednesday.

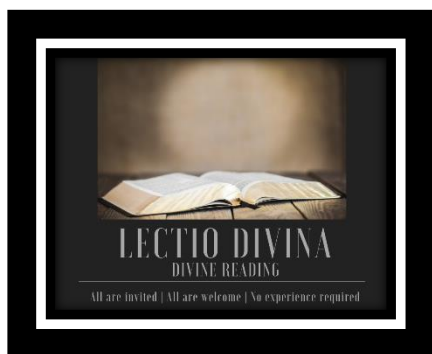
Ash Wednesday 17 February	Beautiful Feet	Romans 10:13-16	Lent is like a journey. We walk towards Holy Week and Easter and remember what it means to follow Jesus. Draw round your foot. Inside the shape write "Thank you, God, for..." Add the names of the people who help you follow Jesus. Place your footprint where you will see it and it will remind you to pray for those people.
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LITURGY & WORSHIP

Lent & Easter

As mentioned earlier, we fully expect that Lent and Easter will be online only. Should restrictions be lifted and we are able to accommodate in-person worship, the parish will be advised. That said, our Clergy, Staff and Production Volunteers have already begun the work of planning services throughout Lent and Easter. As we approach Holy Week, there will be further communications as to what the week will look like but it is anticipated at this time that it will be a fulsome week with services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. Please keep those involved in these services in your prayers as they work so faithfully to bring worship to you.

Lectio Divina

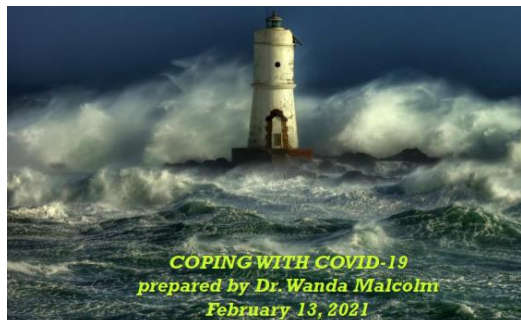


We launched Lectio Divina in the spring of 2020. It is offered twice weekly on Tuesdays at 8:00 pm and Fridays at 10:00 am. Zoom links for each of these times are available on our website and should you wish to join by phone, simply contact The Rev. Michelle Jones at 416-418-3912.

People has responded to this new ministry of “sharing silence together” as indicated by its growth. What started out as just a small core group of people now has on a regular basis 15 people attending in each session. It is also a ministry where we are seeing new people. It seems to be a ministry that parishioners are embolden to invite others to. More information about Lectio Divina is on our website at: <https://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/lectiodivina>

PASTORAL CARE

“Coping with Covid: Surviving or Thriving?”



On February 13th, 30 people gathered via Zoom to attend a workshop lead by Dr. Wanda Malcolm. Wanda is a Professor of Pastoral Psychology at Wycliffe College (part of the Toronto School Theology at the University of Toronto). Wanda brought to us her practical and constructive perspective on self-care during Covid. A combination of scripture, teaching, self-reflection and sharing was very well received. We were delighted to have participants from as far away as Collingwood, Florida and Welland. Later on that same day Michelle lead a similarly themed workshop for our youth.

Our Clergy, Parish Visitors and Parish Callers continue to reach out via telephone to those within the parish. Pastoral needs have not subsided and we continue to adapt to the needs within our current context.

PARISH LIFE

Coffee Hour



In December, we introduced monthly coffee hours on the 4th Sunday of the month at 11:30 am. On those particular Sundays, a Zoom link will be on our website so you can “go to Church” and then join us for coffee. You do not need to feel compelled to stay for the entire hour but rather it provides an opportunity to drop in and say hello. Thank you to Arlene Callaghan and Michelle Roche who are acting as our hosts ~ their gifts of hospitality being put to good use.

OUTREACH

Our Christmas Caring & Sharing was a tremendous success!

And more gratitude to acknowledge! Thank you to all those who so generously provided for this year's Caring & Sharing ministry and the leadership of Jean Jamieson. Similar to many traditions and activities, we had to do Caring & Sharing differently this year while in the midst of the pandemic. By partnering with local community ministries we were able to provide for those less fortunate in a time of great need in a safe and sensible way ~ truly love in action. We assisted JFJ Hope Centre in providing a meaningful Christmas for 35 families. Our Sunday School and Youth Group participated in an Advent Challenge to fill the Care Cupboard at JFJ. As result of your generosity, we were able to work with other local agencies to take on additional families to provide a full array of gifts and food hampers.



Drive-By Drop-Off



Collecting for JFJ Hope Centre Christmas Party



Delivering to additional families

Coldest Night of the Year - February 20, 2021(Virtual Event)



Coldest Night of the Year is Saturday, February 20. Once again formed a Christ Church team. At the time of writing, the small but mighty team of Christ Church was in 1st place in overall fundraising!

We are walking in support of Regeneration Outreach Community who work with the homeless, the near homeless, the disenfranchised & a growing number of pensioners right in our neighbourhood. Regen is an expression of Christian love in action.

Our relationship with Regen runs deep ~ it is one of three 3 local ministries that we partner with. The other two being Knight's Table and Ste. Louise. All three of these ministries operate in our neighbourhood. By partnering, "we do infinitely more than we can ask for or imagine." Our walk will have concluded by the time you receive this letter but you can still donate to the Christ Church Team or specific team member by going to: <https://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/coldest-night-of-the-year> and follow the sponsorship link. While you are at the Christ Church site, take a look at the video Spencer Gilmore did describing the ministry of Regen and how they adapted in response to Covid-19.



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

F2021 Financial Results - Quarter 2 (December 31, 2020)

On the next page, we have published our financial position as at December 31, 2020. It represents our half-way point of our fiscal year that runs from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Our financial position is closely monitored at all times and we share it on a regular basis. While we do not start our planning for the next fiscal year until after Easter, discussions concerning our financial situation are always a big part of our monthly Corporation meetings. This is particularly true this year in the midst of the continuing pandemic restrictions and our inability to have in-person worship.

Key Points:

- Note 1: Our overall donations year over year are up 8%. This is truly remarkable and we are thankful for your steadfast faithful stewardship.
- Note 2: In Fiscal 2020, our total income included extraordinary items recorded as Special Donation and Designated Income. These amounts included a onetime tithe catch-up and donations made to the Hymn Book campaign and refurbishment of the outdoor signage.
- Note 3: The Rev. Michelle Jones' Curacy appointment comes to a conclusion at April 30 of this year. With her appointment comes a Diocesan curacy grant of \$1,500 per month which will end in April. We have committed to retain Michelle until the end of the fiscal year and are "cautiously optimistic" that with favourable financial results, Michelle's position will be included in our F2022 plan.
- Note 4: A modest 3% increase in salaries and benefits was approved at Vestry for Fiscal 2021. Salary and benefits were last increased in Fiscal 2019.
- Note 5: Our overall expenditures are where we would expect to see this time of year and are closely monitored. We would expect to see some increase in the area of Program Education as historically these expenses take place in the latter part of the fiscal year.

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!

Christ Church (Brampton)

Draft: January 24, 2021

Statement of Operations	Actual December 31, 2020			Actual December 31, 2019		
	General Fund	Future Ministries	Total	General Fund	Future Ministries	Total
	31-Dec	31-Dec	31-Dec	31-Dec	31-Dec	31-Dec
Revenue						
Donations ^{See Note #1}	\$ 193,618		\$ 193,618	\$ 178,816	\$ 800	\$ 179,616
Special Donation ^{See Note #2}				10,000		10,000
Rental income	16,200		16,200	16,200		16,200
Other income			-	4,554		4,554
Investment income	3,668		3,668	3,500		3,500
Memorial income	5,000	6,000	\$ 11,000	485	11,200	11,685
HST rebates	4,964		4,964	4,744		4,744
Designated income ^{See Note #2}	1,387			12,252		12,252
Program Offset			-	1,167		1,167
Realized gains on sale of investments			-			-
Grant income ^{See Note #3}		9,000	9,000		9,000	\$ 9,000
Total revenue	\$ 224,837	\$ 15,000	\$ 238,450	\$ 231,718	\$ 21,000	\$ 252,718
Expenditures						
Salaries and benefits ^{See Note #4}	111,737	\$ 20,196	\$ 131,933	\$ 99,578	\$ 27,696	\$ 127,274
Diocesan allotment	31,376		31,376	34,380		34,380
Repairs and maintenance	16,593		16,593	20,935		20,935
Equipment purchases			-			-
Utilities	6,050		6,050	7,636		7,636
Insurance	6,781		6,781	5,510		5,510
Harmonized sales tax expense	6,894		6,894	6,589		6,589
Special Projects	7,183		7,183	8,867		8,867
Program education	1,798		1,798	5,891		5,891
Music	520		520	2,101		2,101
Outreach expenses			-	1,400		1,400
Professional fees	3,000		3,000	3,000		3,000
Admin expenses	13,212		13,212	12,006		12,006
Supplies			-			-
Bank charges and interest	411		411	604		604
Total expenditures ^{See Note #5}	\$ 205,555	\$ 20,196	\$ 225,751	\$ 208,497	\$ 27,696	\$ 236,193
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures before other items	\$ 19,282	\$ (5,196)	12,698.7	23,221.0	(6,696)	\$ 16,525



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.

- ✓ *\$12,500 is received for parish ministry via PAR on a monthly basis.*
- ✓ *For the first six months of the fiscal year, Christ Church has received \$48,000 through E-transfers including donations to Outreach Funds & Future Ministry Fund.*

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. You may make an **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**

Stewardship – As you review your enclosed 2020 Tax Receipt, prayerfully consider your offerings to Christ Church. Does it reflect your Christian faith? Are you doing your part for your beloved community of Christ Church? For those parishioners who have made a Stewardship Pledge for Fiscal 2021, please note pledge tracking is included. Ideally, as we are half way through the fiscal year, your commitment should be at 50%. Please accept our profound thanks for those who are keeping their pledge commitment current. 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.

Stan Szepesi
Rector's Warden

Jonathan Tyner
People's Warden

Rachel Brown
Deputy Rector's Warden

Shumaila Desrochers
Deputy People's Warden