



Parish Profile

October 2024

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PARISH PROFILE FOR CHRIST CHURCH

BRAMPTON WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH BRAMPTON

We are a thriving community of caring Anglicans from around the world who share a commitment to worship, fellowship and community outreach within and beyond the City of Brampton. Our Church leadership and our dedicated lay volunteers continue to spread the Gospel of Jesus through engaging services and at the same time maintain an attractive heritage building on solid financial footing. We are also known for our enthusiastic participation in Christian education, support for the disadvantaged and friendly social gatherings within the church and beyond its walls. We look forward to further spiritual growth and new opportunities to increase our understanding of the message of our Lord, Jesus Christ under the leadership of our new Incumbent.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE PARISH

Christ Church was founded in a tiny, rural community in Peel County called Brampton. Its history is one of constant adaptation to changed circumstances. The parish was slow to become established between the founding of the Brampton Anglican incumbency in 1851 and the acquisition of the present building in 1883. During that time there were eight rectors and a number of temporary missionaries leading the congregation while it moved from John Street to Joseph Street. All that remains of this earlier church are our fine chancel windows depicting the life of Jesus. The Elizabeth Street building has been adapted and modernized many times since it was purchased from the Methodist Episcopal church to accommodate a developing Anglican parish.

As Brampton has changed from a small town of 8,389 people in 1951 to Canada's 9th largest city in 2021 with 656,480 people, Christ Church has changed along with it. In the 1960's a second parish, St. James the Apostle, was added to the south.

Meanwhile, the original church and its incumbents have been blessed by many assistant priests or curates, young and old. A Parish Hall, added in the mid-1950's, has ever since been filled by activity: church groups, community groups such as the Boy Scouts, and educational institutions (currently Rowntree Montessori School) that rent the lower rooms during the week.



Christ Church has always been an open, welcoming and accepting church, for example, embracing female priest since 1986, and in the 21st Century the growing diversity of the congregation has brought in leadership from around the world.

While mainstream Christianity is seeing decline throughout the developed world, Christ Church has maintained a strong congregation by its willingness to accommodate a wide range of worship styles and to welcome newcomers of many backgrounds to the existing church family. Christ Church has benefited from the Anglican diaspora that has settled in Brampton. This new generation is picking up the momentum from our evolving parish history.

WORSHIP, LITURGY AND MUSIC

Worship and Liturgy at Christ Church Brampton

Be filled with the spirit as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to one another, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts.

Ephesians 5: 18-20.

For decades, Christ Church has taken a “broad” Anglican approach, finding ways to preach the Gospel, cultivate the love of Jesus and praise God that satisfy parishioners with a range of worship preferences. Prior to the pandemic, the Church offered three services each Sunday:

- Said Eucharist from the 1962 Book of Common Prayer,
- Contemporary Eucharist for those who enjoyed contemporary music with guitars and drums, and,
- Sung Eucharist or Matins for those who were more comfortable with a traditional music sung by choir and accompanied by an organist.

During the summer, when the choir and many parishioners were on vacation, the contemporary and traditional services were merged, using both traditional hymns and contemporary songs.

During the difficult Covid Pandemic years of 2020-2022, Christ Church Brampton continued to be a foundation for the community, engaging and connecting parishioners of all ages in many vital ways beyond the popular online services. This included a call tree, Friday night youth zoom calls, drive by drop-off of food donations, Sunday School events and care packages. Since the pandemic, in-person services have been once a week using a model based on this summer compromise. All services use the Book of Alternative Services projected on Power Point.

The Choir sings the opening and closing hymn from the Book of Common Praise, while the Worship Collective sings “Gathering Songs” before the service as well as the offertory. The two groups alternate performances of service music and hymns or songs during communion. This hybrid service has helped to create a healthy congregation averaging over 120 people on a typical Sunday. A number watch the services later, online.

The success of the current arrangement has shown the congregation’s ability to adapt to and accept liturgical innovation, helped by several volunteer groups who prepare for and serve during the services.

Eucharistic Lay Assistants/Readers



In order to support the ordained clergy, two overlapping groups of trained volunteers called the Eucharistic Lay Assistants (ELAs) and the Readers have been licensed by the Bishop to assist in the execution of many duties surrounding worship.

The ELAs and Readers may be robed or simply wear their street clothes. Some act as Readers, who deliver the Old Testament lesson and Epistle as well as leading the Prayers of the People.

The ELAs help to prepare the altar and administer the chalice during the Eucharist. ELAs may also administer consecrated elements to those who are unable to attend services. ELAs and Readers represent all members of the congregation, sharing their identity as the “body of Christ”.

The Altar Guild

This long-time volunteer organization prepares the Church for each weekly service and maintains the vessels, linens, candles and flowers.

The group, led by a Coordinator, consists of closely knit teams who take turns setting up for both regular services and special festivals, baptisms, weddings and funerals. Joining the Altar Guild has led to many life-long friendships, and new volunteers would be very welcome.



The Greeters



The Greeters’ ministry contributes to the smooth running of the worship services, but more importantly, it helps the Church to meet the Gospel’s directive for hospitality.

Before the pandemic, the “sides-persons” did many of the same tasks, including making sure everyone had a bulletin and knew when to go up for communion, but they were best known for “passing the plate.” This prominent part of the “offertory” in worship was discontinued for safety reasons during the pandemic while many

parishioners have turned to direct debit offering.

The change of emphasis means the smaller team of men and women, now called “the Greeters”, may focus on helping parishioners and newcomers alike feel “seen” and valued as they enter the Church and encouraging them to further participation, with warm invitations to coffee hour, when they leave. Even though we have recently resumed passing collection plates, the name Greeters is a welcome sign of an evolving worship culture.

The Production Team

Volunteers have controlled the sound board and PowerPoint presentations for a number of years, but since March 2020, audio-visual expertise has become a vital part of the worship experience, and a few dedicated and skilled individuals stepped forward.

When in-person services were not possible during the Covid-19 pandemic, the tech-savvy production team recorded and edited virtual services, which were posted on YouTube. This enabled people to connect and engage with Christ Church Brampton, both in the local community and beyond, in ways not done before.



As we continue to offer online services for those who cannot physically celebrate the Eucharist with us in person, more volunteers are coming forward to offer their digital know-how and plan for future expansion of our digital ministry. The team takes turns recording and editing the Sunday services to be posted for our online viewers. Longer term, the goal is to provide livestream feed of our services, after installing improved equipment in 2024.

The Music Program

At Christ Church, music is considered to be an integral part of a memorable worship experience.

For many years now, the church has enjoyed the music from two separate but complementary music programs as well as a Children's Chorus on special occasions. Our current music staff work collaboratively in planning the music for the services and through their leadership model our current blended approach to music.



The Worship Collective, a small Contemporary group, provides Christian music with a pop/folk flavour. It is fronted by a lead singer/guitarist and accompanied by a pianist, drummer and often backup singers.

Before the pandemic, this group (formerly called the Prayz Team) provided music for the 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service.

Currently, it shares responsibility for hymns and service music with the Choir during the one weekly, in-person service. It also offers occasional special services such as Advenio, offering songs and reflections for the season every Advent.

The Traditional Choir has a long history at Christ Church. Pre-Covid, this choir sang at the 10:45 a.m. Eucharist service, led by the organist/choirmaster. Choristers wear robes and perform from choir stalls. They perform a mix of traditional and modern choral music in unison or three-part harmony.

Currently, the choir leads the singing of hymns, seasonal service music and occasional anthems along with the Worship Collective at the weekly service. They also offer special services such as The Lessons and Carols of Christmas.



The Children's Chorus has recently been revived after nearly 30 years. Under the direction of the organist/choirmaster, a number of children from the Church School learn and present music during the Carol Service and at Easter, both by themselves and joining with the Choir and/or Worship Collective.

The congregation and the children both enjoy these opportunities.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

When we first visited, I loved the family feeling. Christ Church felt like home.
Parishioner

Children, Youth and Families

Christ Church has always valued ministry to children and youth. We offer Sunday School weekly during the school year with the occasional "Keep Your Kids in Church" Sunday.

Additionally, several years ago we recognized a need for Sunday School to continue throughout the summer months. As a result "Cool Church" runs in the summer months. Under staff supervision, "Cool Church" provides an opportunity for young adults/older teens to take on a leadership role.



Christ Church has routinely offered a weeklong Christian-based Day Camp free to the community. The Youth (Middle School, High School age) participate in various social, liturgical and charitable activities. Our goal is to teach our children and youth how to become “the hands, the feet and the voice” of Jesus in the parish and the broader community.

Children’s Church School

Following the opening prayers, children gather at the chancel steps for a “Children’s Focus”, which uses fun props and helps relate stories and themes from scripture to concepts in our everyday lives. The children process out to Church School where they can expand their knowledge of the Gospel with activities and crafts. They return in time to join their families for communion.



There are also special children’s activities at various times of year. For example, at the start of September we hold “Blessing of the Back Packs” with prayers for the new school year, and around Hallowe’en, there is a “Pumpkin Party” with seasonal crafts (and candy of course). Every Advent, families take turns lighting the candles on the Advent Wreath and leading the prayers. The Church School, guided by some of the youth, prepare and present a Pageant each Christmas.

Other family events include a Mother’s Day Tea in May, and some years ago, families participated in a “Walk to Bethlehem” in a farmer’s field and presented inter-generational pageants and plays.

Youth Activities

Since the pandemic we have returned to offering Confirmation Preparation bi-annually. A cohort of older youth celebrated confirmation in May 2023 and we are recruiting for 2025. In between, the Youth Group enjoys social activities, such as bowling, backyard games, Good Friday prayer walk and participates in community outreach activities like “The Coldest Night of the Year” walk.

Many of the youth events have been organized as intergenerational workshops, online courses and outreach activities. The Kairos Blanket Exercise in 2018, had a profound impact that still resonates with all who participated.



Youth are also encouraged to take part in the services either as servers or choir members, and we are in the process of training new servers. As the large church school cohort ages and a new Youth Minister has been appointed, we hope to expand youth activities to offer different paths to a better understanding of the teachings of Jesus.

Adult Programs

Adults require different levels of Christian Education at different times in life.

Occasionally, adults come to the Church asking for Baptism and/or Confirmation and need preparation.

Meanwhile, the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent are appropriate times to offer more experienced adults a chance to deepen their understanding of the Bible and spirituality.

In 2023, adults and families attending “Advent in Narnia” studied important themes from C.S. Lewis’ *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*. In Lent 2023, adults gathered weekly to follow the Archbishop of Canterbury’s *Difference* course. Lent 2024 offered *The Prayer Course* both online and in person as well as a Lenten Prayer Retreat Day.



Throughout many years at Christ Church Brampton, a wide variety of programs have been offered to children, youth and adults and at times in conjunction with each other. ~ anywhere from Living the Questions: An Introduction to Progressive Christianity to Alpha . In the past these themes have included racism, truth & reconciliation, prayer. The corresponding events to these studies have included visits to 6 Nations/Woodland Cultural, Underground Railway Tour in Niagara, L’Arche Daybreak. Programs were provided online during the pandemic it has been a blessing as we were able to keep the parishioners connected throughout this time. Our 2022 Alpha offering including 50 people from across Canada and the United States. As we were still in the midst of Covid restrictions, those that were local were able to meet for a walk when we held the day-long online retreat. Currently we have been offering courses in both formats for those who want to join in person or those who still enjoy the comfort of online.

Some parishioners would be interested in seeing further discussion opportunities. At the moment, friendly groups of parishioners are meeting in their own homes to take part in informal Bible study groups that supplement those offered through the church administration.

FELLOWSHIP AND MUTUAL SUPPORT

It's enjoyable to be doing something which makes you feel like you're part of the community.
Parishioner

While the parish contains many unofficial social and support networks, we are now seeing a resurgence of some of our pre-pandemic organizations and informal gatherings. Christ Church is hoping to plan more inter-generational events that appeal to families and singles.

A recent survey shows that two-thirds of the regular congregation are involved in volunteer organizations, but some of the “old guard” are no longer able to offer leadership. There is a need to encourage more volunteers to continue this promising restart.

In the meantime, parishioners appreciate the use of name tags to help parishioners get to know each other.

Coffee Hour and Hospitality

Weekly post-Church Coffee Hour have taken off since 2023, thanks to seven rotating teams of loyal volunteers.

This popular opportunity for fellowship attracts a significant part of the congregation to the basement gymnasium and can last more than an hour.

It allows parishioners of all ages an opportunity to strengthen old friendships and build new ones. Individuals and families are eager to join Coffee Hour so the adults can make new acquaintances and chat with friends in one half while the kids can get rid of pent-up energy as the older generations sit at tables in half of the gymnasium, while in the other children kick balls or have a try at landing a basket in the other.



Other recently revived hospitality initiatives include the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Parish Potlucks and the hosting of a visiting choir from Christ's College, Cambridge in England, who performed a wonderful concert in return. Led by the Coffee Hour teams, the parish also comes together to provide a welcome and refreshments when it is our turn to host The World Day of Prayer.

The Parish Fellowship Group and Other Women's Groups

The Fellowship Group was founded back in the Baby Boomer era to provide mutual support and fellowship for young mothers.

As its members aged, it took on new roles, including fundraising and education, inviting speakers and arranging excursions.

The group disbanded at the start of the pandemic, and, along with the Catering Group, which also disbanded, graciously donated their remaining assets to the Future Ministry Fund.

As our demographics change, we remain open and curious as to what groups may emerge, especially for seniors.



Sacred Sewing

This grass-roots group of parishioners started meeting shortly before the pandemic to make colourful fidget quilts for people with dementia. They have expanded to creating lap quilts for cancer patients, and in 2024 a banner for Black History Month and stockings for the Christmas Caring and Sharing program. As well as sewing, members work at ironing and preparing a shared meal. This is an intergenerational group which has fun, gives to the community and helps teach people of all ages how to sew.



HUMAN, FINANCIAL AND PHYSICAL

RESOURCES Staff Positions

As well as an interim priest-in-charge, Christ Church Brampton has a number of part-time support staff. We have a standard Anglican organizational structure, with Wardens, Corporation, an Advisory Board and several standing groups.

The staff workers hold their own monthly meetings. They also work with the Wardens and other lay volunteers to oversee and coordinate the activities of the parish. Relationships amongst the staff are strong and the many active volunteers have evolved over the years according to the preferences of the various incumbents.

Curate or Associate: Christ Church has a long history of having curates and occasionally a part-time associate to assist during services, support the incumbent with pastoral care and help guide volunteer ministries. Having a Curate or Associate is linked to periods of growth in the parish.

Vocational Deacon: We currently have an ordained deacon with a career outside the Church. They provide support during services, including preaching, and lead the liturgy of the word when the priest is absent. Deacons also exercise a ministry of service beyond the Church, particularly to the vulnerable and marginalized.

Director – Family Ministry: This part-time lay employee prepares and presents the “Children’s Focus” at each Sunday service, leads Sunday School in partnership with adults and older youth and organizes special Family and Youth events in partnership with volunteers.

Choir Director/Organist (Traditional) & Worship Collective Director (Contemporary): Pre-pandemic, these two music leaders led weekly practices and provided hymns, and service music at separate services. They still lead separate practices, but they now share music leadership at the one service. Both lead separate seasonal services around Christmas and Easter, and the Organist plays at weddings and funerals when required. The Worship Collective Director also plays guitar and acts as lead singer.

Parish Administrator: This part-time position involves many responsibilities ranging from responding to inquiries about Church services and sacraments, to keeping channels of communications flowing, to updating weekly pew leaflet/website/social media, to parish mailings. The Administrator also supports the Rector’s pastoral and outreach responsibilities and liaises with volunteers (such as the Envelope Secretary and Treasurer) to manage Parish finances.

Service Attendance



We have attempted to estimate attendance at our service(s), both pre and post pandemic. These averages include the summer period, which traditionally has seen lower attendance than during the school year. There has been a fall in weekly attendance since the pandemic, but the numbers overall remain encouraging.

In the months before March 2020 when the Church offered three in-person services every Sunday (two services in the summer), 200 people, on average, attended one of these services.

Since July 2023, we have offered one in-person service weekly. The average in-person attendance has been 132. This has naturally been higher for special services; for example, there were 224 in-person attendees for the Lessons and Carols of Christmas service. (See Appendix 1 for details)

These post-pandemic services are recorded and can be viewed on YouTube. The viewing numbers need some explanation, since they are counted after just 30 seconds of viewing, and we do not know how many people are viewing the same recording together. Also, some parishioners like to attend in-person and view the service later. We estimate an average of 60 viewers throughout the year. We note that the highest online viewing was associated with the Children's Christmas Pageant and the Lessons and Carols, with the Children's Chorus.

Older parishioners who may previously have had trouble travelling to church now enjoy this option of online viewing. Inevitably, as the community ages, some members have been lost, but they have been replaced by new membership. For this reason, between the in-person and online services the total attendance is the same as it was pre-pandemic.

Financial Resources

Christ Church receives most of its revenue from parishioners' donations. The congregation contributes mainly through envelopes, Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) and e-Transfers. Other important revenue sources include rental from Rowntree Montessori School and investment income.

Christ Church has adopted a fiscal year from July 1 to June 30. We hold our annual vestry in early fall. The Church's financial position is closely monitored and shared quarterly with the Parish. We are seeing some decline in revenues as older parishioners can no longer attend and some younger ones relocate. Nevertheless, the Church is still in a solid financial position and the property is in good shape. (See Appendix 2 for details)

Location

Christ Church is Brampton's oldest Anglican church. The building is located at the corner of Queen Street (formerly Highway 7) and Elizabeth Street in the heart of the old downtown. Its silver spire is still highly visible even though multistory condominiums are springing up in the neighbourhood.

The property is small today, but there is a pretty walled garden, maintained by our volunteers, and some prominent signage welcoming people to our services. Although there is little parking on site, there is ample free parking in the neighbourhood, especially on a Sunday.

There are four other Anglican churches in Brampton proper, and some others in nearby rural areas. Christ Church's traditional boundaries (Bovaird Drive on the North, Winston Churchill Boulevard on the West, Highway #410/Heart Lake Road on the East and Clarence Street on the South) have little relevance in recent decades because Anglicans living in or near Brampton are attracted to the church by many factors besides proximity. We consider today that our catchment area ranges through the whole City of Brampton and even to neighbouring parts of Peel and Halton Regions.



The Building

Christ Church, Brampton is housed in a beautiful old church building dating from the 1880's. The Parish Hall was built in two phases, the first in the 1950's and the second in the late 1980's. Many parishioners enjoy worshipping in the well-maintained traditional church building but also appreciate modern facilities such as the elevator and wheelchair ramp that make the church fully accessible.

The nave is beautiful, with handsome stained-glass windows and attractive woodwork. The chancel is lined with choir pews and leads to a sanctuary behind the old communion rails. Both chancel and sanctuary are walled with wood paneling below and painted plaster above. There is a large, carved wood altar dominating the sanctuary.

Just south of the chancel, there is a small chapel that houses a portable "contemporary" altar. Between the nave and the balcony, the pews comfortably seat around 250 (all with cushions).

The high-ceilinged nave has gothic-style light fixtures subtly supported with modern spotlights. There is a finely carved pulpit and a prominent lectern.

The well-built traditional Wicks pipe organ, recently restored, is supplemented with an electric piano and drum set. The whole church is wired for sound amplification as we continue to record our services for online viewing.

Before and after church, parishioners gather to greet each other in the modern lobby area by the Administrator's desk or along the brightly lit "cloister" with its skylight running between the old nave and the clergy offices off the parish hall.



There is a small kitchen just off the lobby where many informal receptions are prepared. The building is wheelchair accessible with a ramp outside, an accessible bathroom on each floor and a lift between the floors.

The lower floor consists of a large auditorium with a stage, a recently refurbished kitchen, a music room and bathrooms. This space is regularly used on weekends for Coffee Hour and throughout the week, for community and outreach activities which we consider good stewardship of the building.

Christ Church does not own a rectory.

Resource Management

A group of dedicated volunteers operates as the “Property Committee” and works to keep it all in very good shape.

They provide ongoing small repairs and maintenance to the Church building and grounds. They also provide advice to staff when outside contractors need to be called in, for example to repair the elevator or update the HVAC system.

Under their guidance, the parish has spent \$1 million over the past 15 years to upgrade, maintain and beautify the Church and the Parish Hall, all parts of which are in compliance with the latest engineering study. The Church also shares many maintenance responsibilities with Rowntree Montessori, which leases approximately 50 percent of the basement space.

THE PARISH AND LARGER

COMMUNITY Demographics

The Christ Church congregation includes a wide variety of people of all ages and many ethnicities. People looking for a new church can see themselves fitting in with such a diverse population. Parishioner

Located near Pearson International Airport, Brampton has become an increasingly diverse community over the last few decades. The range of ethnicities within the Christ Church congregation, in many ways, reflects the community around it. The congregation also includes a range of age groups and family structures as well as levels of income. This makes the people of our parish a strong resource for our outreach initiatives in partnership with other faith groups and non-profit organizations.

Christ Church has been benefited and challenged by demographic trends in Brampton over recent decades. Brampton was a small town before it absorbed Bramalea and became a city only fifty years ago. Now, Brampton is one of the fastest growing cities in Ontario as its population approaches 700,000.



Furthermore, it has a lower average age than most Canadian cities with an increasing median income. This trend has helped us grow at a time when many churches are seeing significant decline.

The high percentage of “visible minority” residents (close to 80% in 2021) also contributed to the vibrant and diverse congregation. On our recent Parish Survey, 35% of respondents claimed non-European ancestry, while only 46% had family backgrounds from Europe, including the British Isles.

However, it must be noted that within the population of Brampton just over 50% identify as Christian, mostly Roman Catholic, and only 3% Anglican. The city's large South Asian population could imply that 30% of its residents belong to the Sikh or Hindi faiths. Unlike many other communities, Brampton has also seen a reduction in those reporting no religion. This figure is now below 10%. (Figures are from 2021 Census. See Appendix 3 – Brampton Data for details).

Pastoral Care

When people are in crisis it is wonderful to have someone in the Church you can go to who will remember you in their daily prayers.

Parishioner

The clergy and staff do an excellent job of ministering to parishioners who are hospitalized, ill, dying or bereaved. Lay anointing, providing active listening and prayer, is offered every first Sunday of the month. The **Prayer Ministry** group pray regularly on behalf of those who request it, those who are suggested by the clergy, and for the congregation and community in general.



Every month, the group leader shares a list of individuals and situations to pray for as well as suggested prayers and reflections. The reasons for the prayers are confidential. Feedback has shown that both those who request prayers and the object of the prayers benefit from the experience.

The **Parish Visitors** work in partnership with the clergy to visit, phone, deliver flowers and assist in offering companionship and administering communion to shut-ins and those in care. In order to bring this ministry back to its pre-pandemic scope, new volunteers would be welcome.

Community Outreach

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? Baptismal Covenant, Book of Alternative Services

Christ Church clergy, staff and parishioners respond to the call “to be the hands and feet of Christ” in the Brampton community and the wider world. Our primary relationships are with the following:



- Regeneration Community Outreach offers meals, medical assistance and necessities to the marginalized. Our popular Coldest Night of the Year helps raise funds for this important ministry.

- JFJ Hope Centre supports pregnancies, adoptions and critical support for families.



- International Christian Voice works to sensitize the international community to the persecution of religious minorities and supports need-based initiatives for marginalized, downtrodden, and oppressed groups.

Each of these ministries has one or more parishioners involved, but our goal is for all parishioners to know the needs these ministries address, know how they are addressed and to annually do one practical thing for one of the ministries every year such as participate in a fundraising walk, go to a gala dinner, donate food, or volunteer for a few hours, as well as donate money.

Every Advent, the Caring and Sharing program involves many in the congregation in providing and delivering food, clothing and household items to dozens of needy families. Community groups including 2nd Brampton Scouts, Narcotics Anonymous (currently) and The Bridge have held regular meetings at the church rent-free.



There are several other ministries in Brampton we provide support to on an ad-hoc basis including but not limited to: Ste. Louise Outreach Food Bank, PWRDF, Knights Table and Boys & Girls Club of Peel. As needs and/or crisis arise, Christ Church has been quick to respond by providing opportunities for Special Offerings and our parish responds generously.

PRESENT REALITY AND FUTURE VISION Parish Consultation

Process

We're a church that's progressing, and we need to keep moving forward.

Parishioner

Creation of the Parish Selection Committee

Following the retirement announcement for the previous incumbent, a Parish Selection Committee of 9 members was nominated. The group met with Bishop Kevin Robinson and Archdeacon Steven Mackison on January 16, 2024. One of the first tasks was to create a prayer to use at all subsequent meetings:

PARISH SELECTION COMMITTEE PRAYER

Lord, we thank You for the many blessings that 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.

How We Engaged with the Parish

The Committee followed the Parish Selection Committee guide and carried out the following initiatives:

- We prepared a parish survey which was completed by 98 parishioners. We were pleased by the amount of time and thought parishioners put into answering the open-ended questions.
- We interviewed ministry leaders and teams to better understand what they loved about the parish and hear their dreams for the future
- We held a consultation lunch attended by about 80 parishioners who met in small groups. This highly diverse and enthusiastic luncheon resulted in some very deep conversation.
- We visited older parishioners who cannot attend church regularly to help them with the survey, hear their input and offer them options for future connection, online or in person.
- We kept the congregation abreast with the process with bulletin updates and regular announcements.



What We Learned

- Many parishioners were willing to fully engage in the consultation process and thoughtfully share their opinions. We were all pleased and impressed with the congregation's commitment to the life and witness of the parish.
- The congregation felt deep care for the church. People love meeting together, sharing food, stories, concerns and dreams.
- People have a sense of belonging as if they were non-DNA family members.
- Excellent thoughts and suggestions were shared, some of which are being implemented immediately.

The Parish's Strengths and Opportunities

- **Strength:** Our parish is diverse by ancestry, worship style and age. We look like the city of Brampton. Many people value our diversity and show willingness to try different approaches to worship and music.
Opportunity: While diversity will continue to be a major pillar going forward, finding occasional ways of celebrating beyond the week-to-week norm would be welcomed. For example, we could offer services in other languages, youth focused events or a greater variety of worship formats.
- **Strength:** Christ Church Brampton is a church many global Anglicans make their home when they move to Brampton.
Opportunity: The parish should build on this greater breadth of Anglican traditions to connect with the next generation.
- **Strength:** In respond to the Covid Pandemic, we were able to pivot quickly to engage the congregation through new digital services, social media presence, letter writing and old-fashion telephone calls.
Opportunity: Post-Covid, we look for new ways to continue adopting new innovations to our online ministries.
- **Strength:** We are in a solid financial situation with no debt. The facility is in great shape. This leaves room beyond the budget to further support FaithWorks and other outreach needs.
Opportunity: With our sound financial footing as a basis, we may consider new avenues towards further growth.
- **Strength:** Our diverse congregation offers a warm and welcoming atmosphere that can be felt as soon you enter the building.
Opportunity: We should look for ways to be warm and welcoming outside of the building to the surrounding community.
- **Strength:** The Church currently provides solid, Christ-centered programs with good attendance for elementary school aged kids (K to 8).
Opportunity: We should build on this foundation and work to revitalize our ministry for high school age students and young adults.
- **Strength:** The congregation includes many strong, committed volunteers.
Opportunity: The Church needs to find better ways to consistently "raise up" more people into volunteer roles through effective volunteer leadership, recruiting and training.

- **Strength:** Christian Education programs (like Alpha) have been well-received either in person or online.
Opportunity: We need to explore new ways to deliver compelling programs to appeal to a wider range of families and adults.
- **Strength:** We offer opportunities for parishioners to learn and live out inclusivity and acceptance, especially of marginalized groups.
Opportunity: We hope to continue and expand on this practice with programs that help us to respectfully listen to different perspectives.

Looking to the Future

God is inviting us to look at who we are from a long-term perspective: from the past century and beyond into the next. We must -

- Build on our foundation of strength and develop our ability to express this faith
- Hear God's calling from within and outside the parish
- Prepare ourselves to deepen our personal and corporate ministry both in the church and in the community

Our New Priest

We look for an incumbent who can lead us to further our spiritual growth and engage in new opportunities to follow Jesus and spread the good word of the Gospel.

We hope, with God's help, to find a new incumbent who will be a ministry leader for our community of followers of Jesus, and who will follow their faith journey alongside us. We place great value on someone who can be an **accessible, welcoming and compassionate leader of our worship liturgy and of our outreach ministries**.

We look to our incumbent to preach the gospel in an inspiring, and relevant manner, and to make connections to how we live out our faith in this challenging world, secure in the love of God through Christ.

The incumbent will shepherd us to fulfill a vision for future growth within our parish and beyond in the community, **working collaboratively** with our committed clergy, employees, lay leaders and volunteers. As part of this role, we look to the incumbent to provide guidance and encouragement to our many committees and events.

Our incumbent is at the heart of our caring Parish community. We look for a priest who expresses care and concern for parishioners, leading a ministry of **Pastoral Care** that is available to them at the most pivotal times in their own or their families' lives.

We also hope for a dedicated **teacher** who will work with the Director of Family Ministry to promote programs offering Christian Education, mutual support and spiritual renewal for all ages.

We are excited to welcome a new incumbent to our Parish and to learn where Christ takes us together on our journey to be an even more welcoming community that gathers together to worship Christ and be his hands and feet in the lives of our own parishioners and in our communities.