



HARVEST 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Christ Church Brampton:

I have a small bone to pick with our Archdeacon. When he invited me to serve as interim priest, he withheld vital information. Namely, just how much fun I was going to have!

I am grateful for how you welcomed me to this amazing, committed, hard-working congregation. Whenever I run into a challenge – say, a flurry of funerals, or Martha taking her well-earned holiday soon after my arrival – dedicated CCBers stepped up, pitched in, and helped. As I say, this is fun! Very very grateful.

I enjoy getting to know so many of you – even if I still flub names. We are also blessed by the presence of folks who come from many different places. Check out the accents (especially pleasant when scriptures are read on Sunday morning), clothing from around the world (recently one of our young charges gently admonished me with a big smile not to call her lovely outfit a “dress” 😊), and of course there is the food. Wasn’t International Sunday grand?

Every week, I meet people who have never been here before. What a wonderful challenge! Maybe it’s time that we look into relaunching Invite, Welcome and Connect? This is a ministry that was just getting started when the pandemic arrived. There are also regularly people who show up as immigrants or refugees. Not to mention people with other needs. Never underestimate what a gift it is to have a church available to and responsive to the surrounding community.

What a joy to see children come forward every week, first for the Children’s Focus preceding Sunday School and then for receiving the Eucharist and/or a blessing. A great privilege for me is to look into their earnest eyes as they quietly receive what God offers: “Jesus loves you very much.” On Labour Day Sunday – often a low attendance day for churches – there were over two dozen children present, in spite of the fact that many regular attenders were away on one more holiday venture.

We also have incredible youths here. Shumaila and I are scheming about Confirmation classes. As I mentioned this to various youths, I was happy to see their pleasure and anticipation.

I am also impressed by all of you who work so hard at the stewardship of our lovely building. No matter what need arises (at least one flood so far), we have reliable people we call on. And can you believe the amazing work in the kitchen renovation?

The list of blessings goes on and on.

So, yes, that was a very big omission on the part of our Archdeacon. But he’s given me permission to stay beyond my six months, so I’m not holding a grudge.

Thank you one and all for your gracious partnership with God, with each other, and with me in advancing God’s Reign through the ministry of Christ Church Brampton.

Harvest/Thanksgiving is a time to number blessings, express gratitude, celebrate together, and generously share with others. Please consider making a special offering at this time in support of our work. That is another great way to show gratitude.

Your interim priest-in-charge,

Arthur +

The Rev. Dr. Arthur Boers

STAFFING NEWS

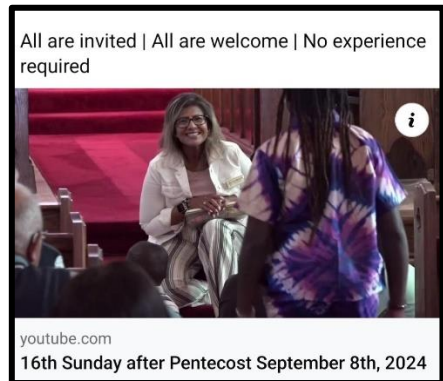
Interim Priest-in-Charge & Director of Family Ministry

On September 8, we were delighted to announce that Shumaila Desrochers has been appointed as our Director of Family Ministry and The Rev. Dr. Arthur Boers will be with us for the foreseeable future.

As our Interim Priest-in-Charge while we continue to the search for a new incumbent, Arthur's initial term with Christ Church was to end on October 31. This is a welcome extension, and we look forward to his Fall Series "Lord, Teach Us Your Prayer: A New Look at the Lord's Prayer." While not wanting to push the season, it will be wonderful to celebrate Christmas together.

Shumaila is well known to many of us. She and her extended family are deeply embedded in our congregation, and she is an incredible mother to four amazing young people. Shumaila has volunteered in the background for this ministry and other ministries too. We couldn't be more excited and grateful for Shumaila in undertaking this role ~ she is a natural.

As a staff member, Shumaila will be relinquishing her role as Rector's Warden and membership on the Parish Selection Committee. More information about how those responsibilities will be fulfilled will be forthcoming.



Vocational Deacon

As announced on September 15th, Deacon Luigi requested and received approval from Bishop Andrew Asbil for a Leave of Absence from his responsibilities at Christ Church effective September 1, 2024. Many of us were aware that Luigi was moving to a new school and back into a classroom environment. This time will provide Luigi with the opportunity to settle into both his new school and new role. Luigi will not be returning to active Diaconate ministry until 2025. Please keep Luigi in your prayers in this time of transition and new experiences.

Parish Selection Committee (PSC) | Update

In mid-September, we were provided with an update from the PSC. Christ Church Brampton (CCB), is in the process of searching for a new Incumbent (Priest) to lead us forward following the retirement of Rev. Dr. Byron Canon Gilmore.

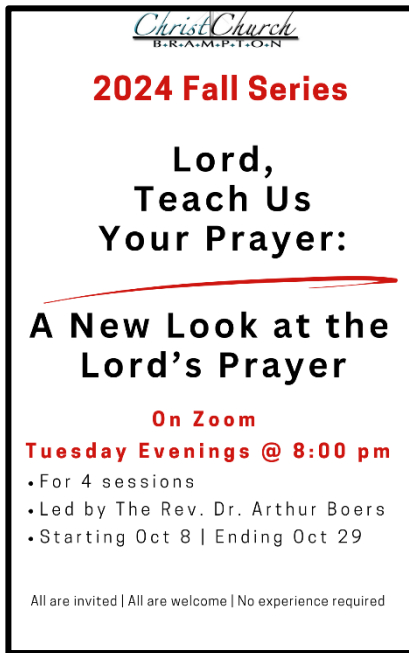
The Parish Selection Committee (PSC) has gathered feedback through listening sessions, a survey and a parish wide consultation session. With that feedback in hand, we have been prayerfully discerning what should be included in the Parish Profile. We anticipate completing the Profile by the end-of-September and submitting it to the Bishop.

Once the profile is approved by the Bishop we will share it with potential incumbents and with Christ Church. This will probably be sometime in the fall. In the meantime we would appreciate your prayers.

Charlene Bickerstaffe, Elizabeth Charters, Chinweike Chike, Shumaila Desrochers, Ken Egbuna, Peter Harvey, John Joukema, Nancy Kee, Stan Szepesi (Chair)

DISCIPLESHIP | 2024 FALL SERIES

Fall is often a time of renewal and getting back into some “Holy Habits.” **Why not join us in a 4-week study of the Lord’s Prayer?**



2024 Fall Series

Lord, Teach Us Your Prayer:

A New Look at the Lord’s Prayer

On Zoom
Tuesday Evenings @ 8:00 pm

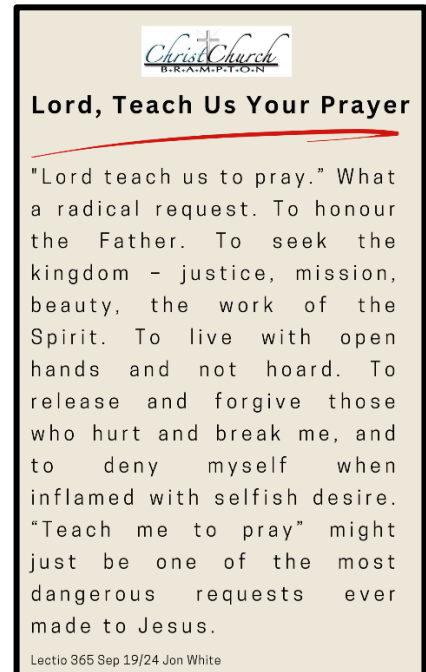
- For 4 sessions
- Led by The Rev. Dr. Arthur Boers
- Starting Oct 8 | Ending Oct 29

All are invited | All are welcome | No experience required

When the disciples asked for help with prayer, Jesus taught them the Lord’s Prayer. This text deserves pride of place in individual devotions and corporate worship, in our theology, and in how we live. Yet it is so familiar it risks becoming rote repetition. This series will help us pray the Lord’s Prayer more faithfully and give us contemporary insights into an ancient prayer.

Together, we will:

- ✓ **Reinforce** the importance of the Lord’s Prayer
- ✓ **Establish** or deepen our practice of Lord’s Prayer as spiritual discipline
- ✓ **Explore** significant aspects of Lord’s Prayer
- ✓ **Name** discoveries about Lord’s Prayer



Lord, Teach Us Your Prayer

“Lord teach us to pray.” What a radical request. To honour the Father. To seek the kingdom - justice, mission, beauty, the work of the Spirit. To live with open hands and not hoard. To release and forgive those who hurt and break me, and to deny myself when inflamed with selfish desire. “Teach me to pray” might just be one of the most dangerous requests ever made to Jesus.

Lectio 365 Sep 19/24 Jon White

Sign-Up: In the Church Office or call Martha at: 905-451-6649 ext. 23

- **On Zoom Tuesday evenings @ 8:00 pm** starting October 8 | **4 Sessions** ending October 29
- Led by **The Rev. Dr. Arthur Boers**

OUTREACH

Sacred Sewing



Meeting on the 4th Saturday of the month from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm, this group sews, quilts, crafts for outreach projects. Bring your own sewing machine & sandwich. Refreshments are provided. Should you be interested in learning more, please feel free to contact Phyllis Moffatt at: 647-454-0864

Harvest Food Drive



Altar Guild News

Harvest Sunday

Sunday, October 6

- Help us celebrate & share our bounty by dropping off perishable food on:

Sat. Oct 5 between 10:00 - 11:00 am

- Support the Guild’s Bake Sale on Sun. Oct 6

Knights Table

Christ Church

We collect perishable food (fruit & vegetables) that are used to decorate the church and then the food is donated to one of our local food banks so that others may share in our bounty. **We kindly ask that you drop off your perishable foods on Saturday, October 5th between 10:00 - 11:00 am or on Harvest Sunday – October 6th.**

OUTREACH

International Christian Voice

We continued to be inspired by the work of our local ministry partner International Christian Voice. In early July, Gul Sher arrived in Canada. As the driver of and witness to Shahbaz Bhatti's assassination in 2011, he had to flee Pakistan because of threats to his own life. After a separation of more than 10 years, his family was reunited in Canada later that month. Thanks be to God and continuing efforts of ICV.



The Gul Sher family reunited at Pearson International Airport after a 10-year separation | July 22, 2024



Praying for the Gul Sher family at Christ Church | September 22, 2024



In addition to attending the ICV Annual Galas and Special Offerings, Christ Church was able to provide a donation of Walmart gift cards that were set aside for this reason from our Caring & Sharing ministry.

Let us continue to pray for Gul Sher, his reunited family and all newly arrived refugees and wish them every success as they build a new life in Canada.

More information about International Christian Voice can be found here:

<https://icvcanada.org>

Photo from the ICV Gala | March 8, 2024

LITURGY & WORSHIP

In-Person Worship is at 10:00 am on Sunday mornings and it continues to grow ~ our Average Sunday Attendance is up 17% year over year. 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?” There definitely is life here!



Above: Blessing of the Backpacks. With 25+ children it is getting a bit crowded up front – what a great problem to have!

Below: We are so very grateful for the many people who work behind the scenes – our volunteers are the best! How might you volunteer?



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.

PARISH LIFE

Kitchen “Facelift”

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Hebrews 13:2

You may recall that when we last wrote, we announced that the kitchen was about to undergo a “facelift” over the course of the summer. And did it ever! With a dedicated group of volunteers and contractors under the leadership of Tim and Catherine Laing, we celebrated the “big reveal” on September 22 with a Kitchen Blessing and International Potluck. There are so many people to thank for their time and generosity and everyone is so delighted with the results. While many of you provided financial support, many others helped in the Treasure Sale that was held over two Saturdays. What a success that was.



Treasure Sale | July 20 & Aug 3



While there were oodles of good deals, the Treasure Sale itself had the added bonus of bringing people together to work on a project and drew people into the church who hadn’t been before...we heard that there was active promotion at the Brampton Farmers’ Market directing people around the corner and up the street. 😊

PARISH LIFE

Kitchen “Facelift”

So, what was tired and well used now has new life! The improvements include new counters, cabinet fixtures and facets, new stoves and industrial dishwasher, flooring, a new island, tile back splash and the room freshened up with new paint. We couldn’t be more pleased!



Kitchen Blessing & International Potluck | September 22, 2024



A word of thanks to Catherine & Tim Laing prior to the Blessing.



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Website & social media: Websites and social media are often changing and improving as information is added and/or updated. Here are the top tips:



- ✓ Address is: www.christchurchbrampton.ca
- ✓ The **You**Tube 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



Enjoying the Worship Collective...



...and looking forward to the return of the Choir.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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 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 / cdatak26@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>

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Annual Meeting of Vestry: Sunday, October 27 at 11:30 am | 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, F2024 Financial Statements and F2025 Budget. We also elect and/or appoint our Wardens and Advisory Board among other business-related items. The meeting is approximately 60 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>.

FOLLOW US



By following, commenting and inviting people to Christ Church on our social media platforms you can participate on God's mission in Brampton. ~ you might give people the hope that they are looking for.



Summer 2024

MARK YOUR CALENDARS | GEORGETOWN BACH CHORALE AT CHRIST CHURCH Handel's "Messiah" Friday, November 29 @ 7:30 pm

Come and join the GBC for what is likely the most exciting performance around of Handel's famous Oratorio. Ron Greidanus, GBC artistic director and Christ Church's Organist/Choir Director, brings the piece alive with its energy and colour. You will be treated to Baroque choir and orchestra, harpsichord and organ as well as the addition of Baroque oboe and flute. Tickets are Adult \$45 and Student \$15 and will be available starting October 13.

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.