

INTRODUCTION

This Handbook has been designed by a group of followers of Christ who wish to share with you what Christ Church is all about and what we do here, so you may consider joining us in doing what God would want each and every one of us to do.

Our Christian faith stands upon the revelation of God through Jesus Christ. We choose to draw close to God through Jesus, with the help of the Holy Spirit, in love, by prayer and worship at our many services.

HISTORY OF CHRIST CHURCH

OUR FOUNDATION IN CHRIST

As people approach this charming little church it is hard to believe its history goes back more than 181 years to 1843, when the Bishop of the Diocese of Toronto appointed the Rev. W. Stewart Darling to the local Anglican congregation. At that time Scarborough pioneers met regularly in their own log cabins, barns and roadside inns to worship together.

The need for a more formal church was recognized, and building started during 1845 and 1846 on the north side of Kingston Road just east of what is now Cromwell Road.

With its bell tower and stately spire, Christ Church was a welcome landmark for Scarborough stagecoach travellers and the centre of life and worship of the surrounding county. Unfortunately for the Anglicans this structure burned down at Christmas 1918 and a new one was erected by 1921. Population numbers were dramatically changing in this area. The need for better highways caused the widening of old Kingston Road to create a four-lane highway. These encroachments on church property led to the dismantling of the Christ Church building in 1937 and its re-construction on Markham Road, where it stands proudly today.

Change has been indicative of the demographic shift in our Scarborough community. Reflecting this, our congregation is ethnically and culturally diverse, welcoming people of all origins.

WORSHIP

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (Book of Common Prayer)

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion (choral) (Book of Alternative Services)

If you are not able to join us in person, the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service is recorded and available on YouTube, usually posted by Sunday evening. Search YouTube for "Christ Church Scarborough Village" or obtain a link from our website www.christchurchscarborough.com

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

OTHER WORSHIP SERVICES

Baptism, Holy Communion, Confirmation, Holy Matrimony and Anointing (prayers and oil for healing - the latter is available on the first Sunday of the month). These are offered in the Anglican tradition.

WORSHIP SERVICES ON HOLY DAYS AND HOLIDAYS

Join us for special services on various feasts and Holy Days. You can be advised of these by leaving

your email address at the office, filling out the blue card at the end of each pew or checking the sign outside the church.

PASTORAL CARE

God's love and comfort is also spread through pastoral care to those in the hospital, shut-ins and retirement home and long-term facility residents.

CLERGY AND WORSHIP LEADERS

Like all Anglican parishes, Christ Church Scarborough Village is the spiritual responsibility of a priest, whose role is to lead the congregation in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to the community and the wider world.

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Dr. Ravi Kalison, B.Th., B.D., M.A., D.Min.

Father Ravi is originally from Chennai, India, and has previously been Incumbent at St. Bede's in Scarborough, Associate Priest at Holy Trinity Guildwood and an Honorary Assistant here at Christ Church 2008 to 2010.

Honorary Assistant: Rev. Roy Shepherd, B.A., M.T.S.,

After 30 years in the business world and as a Lay Reader, Father Roy became an Anglican priest. Now, after almost 40 years in the priesthood, he and his wife Audrey continue to share their knowledge, enthusiasm and wisdom with our Christ Church family.

Deacon: Rev. Canon Jacquie Bouthéon, B.A., B.Th.

Jacquie has been a member of Christ Church since 1984 and a Vocational Deacon since 1999. Through the years Jacquie has provided remarkable leadership in our worship, ministry to shut-ins and the elderly, and with the operation of the food bank, aptly named the "Deacon's Cupboard".

Music Director: Jaime Barrow, B.Ed., B.Mus.(Hons), ARCCO, ARCT, OCT Jaime works with the choir to enhance the 10 o'clock service on Sunday with choral and congregational music and plays for other Holy Days and special events.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Worship services are planned by the Priest-in-Charge, assisted by a committee consisting of the clergy and representatives of the choir, with appropriate liturgical and musical emphasis for each church season.

OTHER WAYS TO ASSIST

There are other opportunities to assist during worship services, as readers of lessons, Intercessors (readers of the Prayers of the People) or for the youth in particular, but also for adults, as Acolytes, assisting the clergy by lighting the candles before the service, carrying the processional cross and helping set the table for the celebration of Holy Communion.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

Christ Church has been known for decades to be a warm, welcoming and inclusive place for all. To fulfill this mission, we need people like you to volunteer in some of our many activities.

As followers of Christ, we believe our heavenly Father has a plan for each of us, and we must do our best to find out what He wants us to do. What better way than to lend your hands, heart and voice to one of these groups!

We're hoping something here catches your interest, prompting you to e-mail or phone, leaving your name, e-mail address and possible interest. A group leader will be in touch with you for further information. Leaders are ready to guide and support you in your decision.

E-mail CCSVCARES@christchurchscarborough.com

or Phone 416-261-4169

CHANCEL GUILD

This group is responsible for setting up the church for Sunday services, weddings, funerals and other special occasions. Each of the teams is responsible for one week per month, Thursday through Wednesday, for all events. The on duty team meets at 9 a.m. on Saturday to receive the flowers and prepare the altar for the Sunday 8:30 a.m. service, ensure that everything is clean and tidy and polish brass as needed. After the Sunday 8:30 a.m. service, members wash the silver and re-set the altar for the 10:00 a.m. service. After that service all the vessels are cleaned and put away, and the altar flowers are bagged for delivery to shut-ins or hospital patients.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Adult Bible Study

In addition to the teaching by scripture and the sermon at worship services, learning and sharing opportunities occur, coinciding with the church seasons and offering informal sessions to explore your faith journey.

Pre-school Program

Young children brought to worship services with their parents are offered an opportunity to play with others in the upper hall during the first part of the main Sunday service. A parent stays with them without missing the liturgy, as the service is piped in to the hall. At the time of the Passing of the Peace, parents and children join the congregation to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

Sunday School

Because few school-age children have been brought to church on Sunday recently, and those who came did so only infrequently, it has been impossible to maintain a regular Sunday School program. This problem is being addressed.

Youth Activities

The young people of the parish do not presently meet in regular group sessions, but their presence is felt during worship services, as they take their place as acolytes and other liturgical participants. They are also the parish's primary source of knowledge and assistance as we move into the area of social media and the redevelopment of our website. The cheerful faces of youth helpers are also to be seen

at fundraising events and other gatherings.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

At Christ Church, we believe we are called as Christians to share the Good News of hope, peace, joy and love through Jesus Christ with each other and with the wider community. We have an online newsletter, sent also by post to any family without computer access, which keeps everyone informed about parish activities. A Newcomers Brochure and Parish Handbook are always available so everyone can learn about Christ Church and what we do here. We are looking for volunteers with skills like writing, social media, advertising, web management, video recording or programming our outdoor sign. Creative skills like poster and ad design are also very welcome.

FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS

After the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, parishioners are invited to the Upper Hall to socialize with others over a hot or cool beverage and a light snack. Hosts are chosen by group leaders who find parishioners to contribute to providing a simple snack, set up, serve and clean up. Anyone can help in any group. As newcomers get to know others, this may lead to other volunteer activities.

FLOWERS AND CANDLES

Many people in our fellowship honour family and friends by placing flowers at the altar for worship services or by sponsoring the Candle of the Presence. Sometimes this is to remember them on the anniversary of their death, but often it celebrates a birthday, anniversary or other festive occasion. Frequently, the bright flowers are simply to thank God for our many blessings. Please contact Deacon Jacquie for information on the cost of the flowers and candle and available dates.

FUNDRAISING AND SPECIAL EVENTS

This group prepares for and hosts such events as Flea Markets and Rummage Sales, Summer Pop-up Sales, a Christmas Bazaar and a Shrove Tuesday Pancake and Samosa Supper. Well ahead of each event volunteers assemble to lay out a plan of action of how advertising, promotion, set-up, event day and clean-up will play out. Join this fun and welcoming volunteer group!

GARDENING

These outdoorsy volunteers have fun, exercise and fellowship, while working together from spring until the end of the gardening season to keep Christ Church grounds clean and with good curb appeal. They also tend our vegetable plots. Volunteers are welcome to join and bring their rubber boots, gloves and broad sun hats to enjoy working with what God has created. Scarborough Garden Club will join us for clean-ups and help keep the grounds weed free. So if you have a green thumb or would like to learn, please volunteer your time to this group.

HELPING THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

This church takes seriously its invitation for *all* to come and worship with us and to join in our many activities as often as possible. In order to make all parts of our building accessible, we need caring

volunteers who would like to learn to operate our elevator and stair lift.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

This committee has two principal activities, the Deacon's Cupboard Food Bank and Operation Backpack for school supplies.

Deacon's Cupboard Some of the Deacon's Cupboard team meet on Wednesday mornings to receive the food shipments delivered from FeedScarborough, and to prepare for the Thursday morning food bank operations. On Thursday, some team members greet the clients, who are admitted, register, and make their selections from the tables in the lower hall.

Operation Backpack This activity opens in late July and August to provide school supplies to the children of food bank clients and others in need.

Both these labour-intensive groups welcome volunteers with open arms.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Property Committee keeps the Church's building and grounds in good repair and looking attractive for parishioners and the community at large.

Some of their duties include testing emergency and exit lights or replacing rechargeable batteries as needed. Sometimes it is emergency work like unclogging a drain, fixing or painting a door or tightening a screw. Spring and fall clean-up parties of the grounds are also important.

Things that this committee cannot fix are referred to the parish Corporation for them to arrange for an approved contractor to do the work.

On larger projects the Property Committee works with other church members, decides what is needed and obtains cost estimates to submit to the Corporation for approval. Then they oversee the work by outside contractors and plan for future capital projects.

New members, men and women who love working with their hands and enjoy the fellowship of other workers, are invited to join this group.

SIDESPERSIONS' GUILD

Each week the smiling faces of the sidespersons team on duty greets everyone to our worship services. This includes welcoming visitors, whom we love to see. Our teams help to make the worship experience a spiritual, orderly and memorable one. Depending on the number of volunteers, teams are formed for monthly duties at either worship service, distributing the church bulletin and prayer books and performing other duties as required.

If you would consider being part of this exciting ministry, we are always recruiting new members. Resumés not required. Training on the job!

SOCIAL MEDIA

Christ Church has recently explored the possibility of reaching out to new people whose preferred method of communication is by cellphone or computer. Follow us on X (formerly Twitter), YouTube and Instagram, and welcome contributions from parishioners to keep these platforms up-to-date and relevant.

Volunteers who can operate the camera which records the Sunday service for later distribution on YouTube are very welcome.

WEBSITE

Our Website is currently being refurbished and updated, a task which requires constant attention in order to remain attractive to viewers. Photographs of people enjoying current activities (taken with their permission, of course) are especially needed.

NEW IDEAS

People coming to Christ Church from other areas often bring with them skills and experiences that would be happy additions to our faith journey together. Volunteers who see an unmet need and want to help solve it are most welcome.

LEGAL AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

GOVERNANCE

Christ Church is governed by a legal entity known as the Corporation, which is answerable to the Bishop of the Diocese. Members are the Priest-in-Charge and two Wardens who are lay volunteers. One Warden is appointed by the Priest and the other is elected at the Vestry, an annual meeting at which all congregants may participate and vote.

The current Wardens are Brian Carr and Eleanor Lorde. Deputy Warden Bill Wilkins and the parish Treasurer, Ian Campbell, are also part of this management group.

DONATIONS

Christ Church depends on parishioners' offerings to cover substantial portions of our expenses. We are also grateful to members of the community for their financial support of our outreach programs. If you bring an offering to the worship service, you may use the offering envelope found at the end of the pew and place it in the offertory box at the back of the church. You will receive a tax receipt for donations of \$10 or more if you provide us with your mailing address.

Members of the congregation are offered a variety of ways to give to God weekly, monthly, by pre-authorized giving or e-transfers. Memorial gifts and bequests in the name of members who have died are also a suitable way to honour the memory of loved ones.

Just leave your name with the church office and the parish Treasurer will be happy to get in touch with you. Phone 416-261-4169.

RENTAL OF FACILITIES

We enjoy making our facilities available for one-time events like wedding receptions, anniversaries, birthdays, meetings and workshops. There is a fee for the use of the hall, and appropriate guidelines must be followed, including the purchase of insurance for the event.

Information about long-term rentals is available upon request.