



Christ Church, Rawdon
In Touch

Easter 2020

www.christchurchrawdon.com

FR MICHAEL'S EASTER LETTER

April 2020

Dear Parishioners,

This is going to be a very different Easter for most, if not all of us, from any that we have experienced before. Thanks to the Covid-19 virus we are all isolated in our homes, unable to get together with friends and family and do most of the things that we normally enjoy. While that may suit the penitential nature of Lent, we can usually count on the deprivations ending with Easter. This year, we have no idea when it will all end.

In the midst of this, it is very easy to become discouraged, to feel as if God has abandoned us. But God has **not** abandoned us! He is with us in times of trouble and despair and he is with our current isolation and uncertainty.

The followers of Jesus on that first Easter Day also felt alone, felt fear and uncertainty as to what future would hold for them as they gathered in room in Jerusalem, as some of them headed off to Jesus' tomb to do what was left in preparing his body for burial and as others set off on a journey to Emmaus. It was at this low point in their lives that Jesus joined them and that they discovered the good news of his resurrection. He comes to us also in times of doubt and fear and loneliness; we, too, have that same Good News to share, that **Christ is risen!** and that message is ours to rejoice in this Easter, just as it is every Easter and, indeed, every day of the year.

One day, hopefully before too long, we will be able to gather again, in our church, in our homes and in all the other places where we enjoy meeting family and friends. Until that day, though, be certain that Christ is with us.

I wish each of you a joyful Easter.

Fr Michael

TWITTERINGS

We are pleased to report that on December 2, 2019, a daughter, **Bella Victoria Fruhauf**, was born to Tracy Caster and François Fruhauf. (Our People's Warden, Ann Allen, is a proud grandmother.) Bella's baptism was scheduled to take place at Christ Church on April 26th of this year, but it is now looking as if this will have to be postponed. But we hope and pray that can take place soon. Bella has already been to church once when, at just over four weeks old she accompanied her mother and grandmother to the Christmas Day service.

It is with sadness that we have to report the death, on March 27th, of **Peggy Wilcox**. For many years, Peggy sang regularly in our church choir and she was a moving force behind our getting the choir gowns we now use. In the present circumstances, it is not possible to schedule a funeral or memorial service with any certainty but the intention is that that will be done once it is feasible. May she rest in peace.

CHURCH SERVICES IN UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

As in many other parts of the world, we have had to suspend gathering in Christ Church for worship due to the Covid-19 crisis. I am sure that comes as news to none of you. We have continued to have regular services, though, online and now they can also be listened to by telephone if you do not have an internet connect. (A big plus is that some of you who are not in Rawdon have still been able to join us.)

Our online service can be seen each Sunday at 10am (EDT) by clicking (or tapping) on this link: [Facebook.com/Christ-Church-Rawdon-101154914861831](https://www.facebook.com/Christ-Church-Rawdon-101154914861831).

You can also hear the audio by telephone at **438 809-7799** (at the prompt enter the meeting ID: **789-373-873**). This is a Montreal local call.

(Other telephone numbers across Canada are also available, if one of these is a local number where you are: 587 328-1099 (Alberta), 647 374-4685 and 647 558-0588 (Toronto) and 778 907-2071 (B.C.). You can, of course, use any of the numbers from elsewhere but may have to pay long distance charges, unless you have a plan that covers them.)

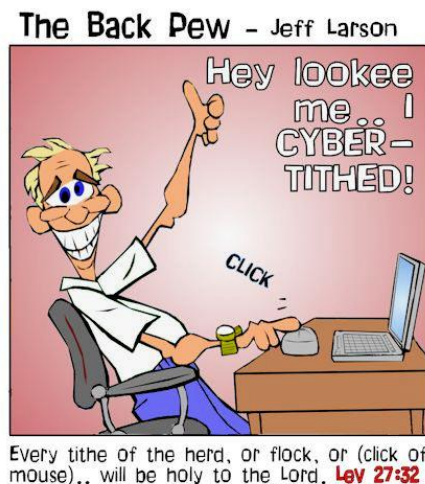
A VERY BIG THANK YOU!

Last fall, we wrote to you to express concern about the size of the budget deficit that the parish was facing for 2019. We also spoke of a generous offer that had been made of a matching grant for new donations to the parish and announced what we called the **Deficit Reduction Challenge**. The response that so many of you made was overwhelming. We quickly blew right past meeting the full matching amount of \$2,000 and, as late as Christmas, Challenge donations were still coming in. By the end of the year the amount raised by the challenge totaled \$10,285 (including the matching grant) and what had seemed to be a certain deficit and a carryover of unpaid bills into 2020, ended up with a small surplus and all 2019 bills paid.

We seemed to be in good shape going into 2020. Then, as you know, along came Covid-19. Since mid-March, all services in the church have had to be cancelled. No public service means that the collection plate is not passed and it doesn't take long for the lack of those donations to add up. We continue to need your support of Christ Church even when, as now, you are not able to be present in person.

Enclosed in the paper version of ***In Touch*** is an **Easter Offering Envelope**. We can't send you one of these envelopes digitally but you can use an ordinary envelope to send a much-needed donation. We ask you to do so and to also continue regular donations to Christ Church, allowing our work and witness to the Gospel to continue, here in Rawdon and in the wider community.

Cheques should usually be made out to “**Christ Church, Rawdon**” and may be placed on the collection plate or mailed to **Christ Church, 3537 rue Metcalfe, Rawdon, QC J0K 1S0**. You can also contribute online, using a credit card, via our website at christchurchrawdon.com/donate-to-christ-church/.



IMPROVING PARISH COMMUNICATIONS

One of the things that the current pandemic has made clear is the advantage of being able to communicate over the Internet. Not that many years ago, the services and other contact that we, other churches, and many other people, are providing online would have been impossible to have.

This copy of ***In Touch*** has can come to you online. Signing up to receive it this way means that you get it more quickly (often even before it has been printed) and it also saves the church postage and printing costs. So we very much appreciate your willingness to receive the online version. However, if you decide you would prefer to receive the paper version, we will be happy to send it to that way. Please just send a message to that effect to christchurchrawdon+e.InTouch@gmail.com or a note by regular post to 3537 Metcalfe, Rawdon J0K 1S0.



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