



# Christ Church Ashton

A N G L I C A N C H U R C H

**Christ Church**  
**The Rev. Kerri Brennan**  
**Incumbent**

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**CLERGY TEAM**

The Ven. John Bridges  
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Monday, April 3, 2017

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

– John 20:18

During our annual Vestry meeting this year, the following question arose: "how do we be authentic people of faith in today's world?" In other words, in a world in which secularism feels dominant; in which rural communities are pitted against the urban center; and in which those traditions we have grown to love and take comfort in fail to connect with or inspire to the same depths, how are we as people of faith called to respond?

For some us, it's an exciting question that inspires our creative juices and to which we're itching to respond to. For others, the challenge of responding to such dramatic shifts in how we be Church in today's world is overwhelming. Our Gospel reading for Easter Sunday (John 20:1-18) might offer us some direction.

First, we will discover a distraught Mary Magdalene. Her friend and teacher died and now his tomb is empty! Jesus appears to her and at first she does not recognize Him. He is at once the same and different. And yet, in the midst of what must be a shocking and traumatic event, Jesus advises her not to hold on to Him—not to cling to that which has already begun to transform. But rather, to go and share what she knows: that Jesus is transformed, different from how she previously experienced Him, but still Jesus. Still "teacher."

So, how do we be authentic people of faith in today's world? Like Mary, we might wish to weep over what is not quite the same as we have known and loved it to be. But in the very next moment, we are called to go share with others the still good and hope-filled that we witness.

Let me share with you the good I see happening in our midst, and invite you to join us through the final days of our Lenten Journey and celebrate with us on Easter morning! Please take a look at the good news that accompanies this letter.

As we come with offerings of praise, thanksgiving, and financial offerings in Christ's name, may we always be mindful that in the face of the empty tomb we meet forgiveness, joy, hope, victory, and new vibrant life.

May the One who walks on wounded feet, serves with wounded hands, and loves with a wounded heart be with you this holy season.

The Rev. Kerri Brennan  
Incumbent, Christ Church, Ashton

## **Holy Week and Easter Services**

Palm Sunday (April 9)

\* no 8:00 a.m. service

10:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms with Passion Narrative

Maundy Thursday (April 13)

Washing of Feet & Celebration of Last Supper 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday (April 14)

10:00 a.m. (no Eucharist)

Easter Sunday (April 16)

6:00 a.m. sunrise service of the light following by breakfast

\* no 8:00 a.m. service

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

## **Vacation Bible School (VBS) Follow Up!**

When: Sunday, April 30, 2017

CCA will host a VBS Family Service at our 10:00 a.m. for our congregation and visiting VBS families. During this service, we will look back at our Cave Quest summer VBS with shared songs, stories and a 15 min. slide show. We hope to have many VBS children and families attend so that we can reconnect with those who attended during our VBS week in July. Afterward we will share in treats and fellowship downstairs.

## **Messy Church**

Rev. Kerri has loved developing Messy Church at the Parish level over the last couple of years. Messy Church uses hands-on activities to explore Bible stories, liturgical seasons (like Advent or Lent), liturgical feasts (Christmas, Easter, Pentecost), and to reflect on God in creative ways. We are thrilled to introduce MC to the West Carleton Ministry Team starting in April!

Messy Church is, after all, church. So it only makes sense that it be modelled after what we participate in on Sundays: gathering in community, hearing a story, praying through song, sharing a meal, and being sent out to the world God loves. Children and youth 13 and under are invited with their families to hear a story told in the Godly Play practice, teaching us to listen for God and make authentic and creative responses to God's call in our lives. Trust that the morning will truly be messy and come in your comfortable clothes!

Your children are still infants? Bring them! They will create memories from an early age, knowing that church is a safe place they can be themselves.

Saturday, April 29 – Christ Church, Ashton 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Saturday, June 3 – St Paul's, Kanata 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 30 – St Paul's, Kanata 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Saturday, October 14 - Christ Church, Ashton 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Saturday, November 25 – Location TBD 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 9 – St Paul's, Kanata 9:30-11:00 a.m.

### **Pilgrimage for Indigenous Rights**

On May 10 and 11 respectively, Christ Church and St Paul's are hosting a group of Mennonite pilgrims walking from Kitchener to Ottawa raising awareness about the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. You can read more about their pilgrimage here: [www.pfir.ca](http://www.pfir.ca).

We will serve the pilgrims dinner and host them for the evening. YOU are invited to come welcome them, listen to their stories, and if you're up for, to walk with them. Rev. will join this group as they walk from Christ Church to St Paul's Kanata. Imagine the opportunity for conversation on the road!

### **Faith Formation**

Do you have questions about Islam? **The Jesus Fatwah: Love Your (Muslim) Neighbour as Yourself** is a five week course designed to help Christians to learn more about the Muslim faith and to overcome prejudices that sometimes exist between members of these two world religions.

The course will be held at Christ Church Ashton on Tuesday nights 7-8 p.m. and will involve readings, video presentations, and group discussions. Everyone is welcome to attend any or all sessions.

May 9 – Islam 101

May 16 – Misconceptions about Islam

May 23 – Islam in America

May 30 – Making Connections (non-Muslim perspectives)

June 6– Making Connections (Muslim perspectives)

### **God Has Got You Covered Nearly New Shoppe**

If you've never been or haven't been by for some time, visit our nearly new clothing and jewelry shoppe as items for sale are refreshed monthly.

The shoppe is open

April 8 & 29

May 13,20,27

### **Website**

Our parish website ([www.ccashton.org](http://www.ccashton.org)) has been redesigned. Please take a look and check back regularly for news, events, and service times!

### **Canada 150**

Planning is in the works for a pig and corn roast on Saturday, June 24 in celebration of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. Through this event, we hope to celebrate with our village and church communities while supporting local charity. Keep an eye on our website and church bulletins as details develop.