



THE DIOCESE OF QU'APPELLE

Anglican Church of Canada

St. Cuthbert's House
1501 College Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 1B8

January 6, 2021

To clergy, churchwardens, envelope secretaries and vestries:

Re: Yearly Receipts—an opportunity to say thank you

Every year in January, when you send tax receipts to donors, you have an opportunity to communicate with everyone who has given financially to your parish or congregation over the past year. Because you know they are going to open the envelope to get their receipt, it's a perfect time to include a note to thank them for their donations. You can also use this opportunity to highlight what the parish's plans are for the coming year so that they know where their money is going.

But even as I write this I know that most parishes don't utilize this opportunity. I know this because when I visit a parish I donate to it and it is rare to receive anything at the end of the year but my receipt. Why? I expect there are several reasons. The envelope secretary is busy getting the receipts ready to be picked up or mailed. The treasurer is working to get year-end financial statements ready for the annual general meeting. The wardens, clergy and vestries are refocusing after Christmas and looking ahead to the AGM. And many in leadership think that donors know they are appreciated and aren't looking for anything but their receipt. Yet studies on charitable giving show that people do want to be thanked and that thanking them is an important part of developing the relationship between a charity and its donors. Churches are no exception.

I ask you, therefore, to consider adding a note or letter to the receipts this year. We all know it has been a difficult year and the pandemic-forced curtailing of in-person worship and church activities has been hard on parishioners and parishes. The continued financial support by parishioners has been—and continues to be—absolutely vital to sustaining congregational ministry. Let them know how much it is appreciated! The communication can come from the wardens, the vestry, the envelope secretary or the priest; that decision can vary from parish to parish. What goes into it will also vary across parishes as you determine what you want to say. Attached are some samples for you to adapt, as you wish, for your parish needs.

2020 was a difficult year and I know that many of you are worried about the financial sustainability of your parish. I appreciate all the work you do and am ready to help in any way I can. Just contact me at stewardship@sasktel.net or by calling 306-591-5924.

In Christ,



Archdeacon Cheryl Toth
Diocesan Stewardship Officer

Simple Thank-you

The Vestry and Churchwardens would like to thank you for your support of *Parish Name*. Every parishioner's contributions make a difference in ensuring that the ministry and mission of the parish continues and in 2020 your support has been crucial. Thank you!

We look to 2021 with hope as vaccines for Covid-19 begin to make an impact on the pandemic. We look forward to resuming the church's regular activities and seeing one another again. Your continued financial support makes it possible for us to plan a future together for *Parish Name*. Again, thank you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact *name and contact info of priest or warden*.

Name of church wardens, vestry chair, envelope secretary or priest
on behalf of *parish name* Vestry

Thank-you with specifics

The Vestry and Churchwardens would like to thank you for your support of *Parish Name*. Every parishioner's contributions make a difference in ensuring that the ministry and mission of the parish continues and in 2020 your support has been crucial. Thank you!

Because people like you continued to give financially we were able to *add specifics here*. Examples might be—*continue our parish lunch program, support the local food bank, purchase equipment for online worship, provide families with summer or Advent activity boxes, give to our companion diocese, move Bible study online, provide Christmas hampers, mail out sermons and newsletters more frequently, etc.* Even though the pandemic changed how we did things we were still able to proclaim God's word, worship together, help those in need and care for one another.

We look to 2021 with hope as vaccines for Covid-19 begin to make an impact on the pandemic. We look forward to resuming the church's regular activities and seeing one another again. In particular we plan to *add in one or initiatives you have planned for your parish*. Examples might be *live-streaming worship, Lenten boxes for each household, support of local food bank or shelter for those in need, building repair or improvement, etc.* Your continued financial support makes it possible for us to plan a future together for *Parish Name*. Again, thank you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact *name and contact info of priest or warden*.

Name of church wardens, vestry chair, envelope secretary or priest
on behalf of *parish name* Vestry