



# Light of the World

*Your savior is born today in David's city.*

*He is Christ the Lord. LUKE 2:11*

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

Every year around this time I write you a letter such as this. It's generally called a Pastoral Letter, as I aim to offer some reflections on the upcoming season and invite your contemplation and action, as appropriate. These are intended to help us enter into the seasons of Advent and Christmas in a certain mindset—ideally one that will allow us to experience the fullness and richness that each of these seasons has to offer.

I have been struggling to write this letter, for some time, as my heart and mind have been overwhelmed with thoughts and emotions concerning the conflict happening in the Holy Land. This conflict is as much about politics as it is about religion, and that has been weighing on me as I thought about how to approach this letter. I recently read that there is talk of a ceasefire and the release of hostages. I hope that our collective prayers for peace, as well as a sense of mutual understanding and the desire to preserve human life and end the suffering of far too many, will see this come to fruition.

For many of us this conflict, as well as others happening around the world, can seem very far off, as though they have no impact on our daily lives. In several ways that is true, however we know from experience that the global community is much closer than it appears. Over recent years we have learned that viruses can spread rapidly across oceans, we have seen how political protests can be coordinated across countries, and we have witnessed how images of war, violence and destruction can be broadcast not just into our homes but into our hands through electronic devices. We are more connected than ever and, as such, we are all impacted by crises and events both locally and around the world.

This year our parish has been challenged to be more vocal, and to raise awareness about ongoing crises, injustices and identified community needs. There have been visible reminders to our community through the Red Dress project, awareness flags, coloured ribbons, and community projects receiving media coverage. I have also done my best to address these things in my weekly emails and sermons. All this work is essential to the work of the church and the communities we serve.

So what does this have to do with Advent and Christmas? Well, Advent is the time of preparation, leading up to Christmas. Not just a time of preparing our homes with decorations but also a time of personal and communal preparation for the arrival of the Messiah. The baby Jesus grew into a man who preached a message of servitude and peace. He taught his disciples ways to live their lives, in such a way that demonstrated love. This type of teaching was counter-cultural to what many were experiencing at that time and unfortunately it would appear that the same is, far too often, also true today. The wars, conflicts and crises around the world, and in our community, are not born out of love, but rather a desire for power. We are now called upon as modern-day disciples to spread a message of love and peace within a world that seeks power through violent means. We do this through word and action. I am not suggesting we take sides in violent actions; rather that we stand in the midst of it and call for peace. This is how we prepare. This is how we ready ourselves for Christmas and the event it celebrates.

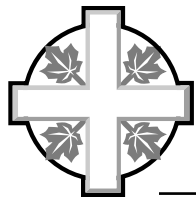
In this time of preparation and celebration, may you not only know the peace and love of Jesus, but, may you also be a conduit through which that peace and love flows.

With God's peace that passes all understanding,

*Brieanna Andrews*

Archdeacon Brieanna Andrews





# THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF FRENCH VILLAGE

Rector: ARCHDEACON BRIEANNA ANDREWS

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• "Find" us on Facebook

**Church  
Mailing  
Addresses:**

**SAINT PAUL'S**  
71 St. Paul's Lane  
French Village, NS  
B3Z 4E3

**SAINT MARGARET'S**  
36 St. Margaret's Crescent  
Tantallon, NS  
B3Z 4E2

**SAINT GEORGE'S**  
6310 St. Margaret's Bay Road  
Head of St. Margaret's Bay, NS  
B3Z 2B6

**SAINT JAMES'**  
6991 St. Margaret's Bay Road  
Boutilier's Point, NS  
B3Z 1W4

## PARISH NEWSLETTER • ADVENT 2023

To receive the latest parish news, join our Parish Email List—just email [p.frenchvillage@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:p.frenchvillage@ns.sympatico.ca) and ask to be added. You'll receive Archdeacon Brianna's weekly *Notes from the Rectory*, the Sunday bulletin, as well as news of other parish events. You can also find the info on our website or, if you're not online, by phoning the rectory at 902-826-2154.

THE 2023 ONLINE ADVENT CALENDAR will be posted to the parish website on the First Sunday of Advent (December 3): [www.parishoffrenchvillage.ca](http://www.parishoffrenchvillage.ca)

### CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL PROGRAM

**HELP US HELP OTHERS, WHILE**

**REMEMBERING THOSE DEAR TO US!**

This year we have selected the charity **HELP2OVERCOME**. 'H2O' is a Canadian charity, based here in the Bay, that is committed to providing water and sanitation to schools in Africa. Our giving this year will support its current project to build much-needed toilet facilities for a school for the disabled in Rwanda. The 'EcoLoo' units required for this project cost \$1,600 each, and our parish's ambitious goal will be to meet the cost of two units.

**With a tax-deductible donation of \$10 or more, your memorials will be printed in the Christmas bulletin and listed on the parish website (deadline is noon on Sunday, December 17).**

To submit your donation/memorial please contact the Parish Treasurer, Dorothy Dauphinee, at: [d.dauphinee2009@gmail.com](mailto:d.dauphinee2009@gmail.com) or 902-826-2305. Donations can also be placed in the offering plate any Sunday, just include your name, phone number, and the dedication info.

**Cheques should be payable to "Anglican Parish of French Village - Christmas Memorial".**

### ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

#### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DEC. 3

9 a.m. St. Margaret's • BAS  
11 a.m. St. James' • BCP

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DEC. 17

9 a.m. St. Margaret's • BCP  
11 a.m. St. James' • BAS

#### WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT

10 a.m. St. Margaret's  
Morning Prayer  
7 p.m. St. James'  
Candlelight Quiet Time

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DEC. 10

9 a.m. St. Paul's • BAS  
11 a.m. St. George's • BCP

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DEC. 24

10 a.m. St. Margaret's  
BCP Morning Prayer



#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 • CHRISTMAS EVE

4 p.m. St. James' • Family Service  
8 p.m. St. George's • BCP Eucharist  
10 p.m. St. Paul's • BAS Candlelight Eucharist

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 • CHRISTMAS DAY

10 a.m. St. Margaret's • BCP Eucharist

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 • NEW YEAR'S EVE

10 a.m. St. George's • Parish Service

### 2024 WINTER SERVICE SCHEDULE (UNTIL MARCH 24)

#### 1ST SUNDAY OF MONTH

9 a.m. St. Margaret's • BAS  
11 a.m. St. James' • BCP

#### 3RD SUNDAY OF MONTH

9 a.m. St. Margaret's • BCP  
11 a.m. St. James' • BAS

#### 2ND SUNDAY OF MONTH

9 a.m. St. Margaret's • BAS  
11 a.m. St. George's • BCP

#### 4TH SUNDAY OF MONTH

9 a.m. St. Margaret's • BCP  
11 a.m. St. George's • BAS

**EASTER MEMORIAL UPDATE:** We raised \$1727 to help The Helm Centre in Glen Haven expand their hobby farm to help the residents in their addictions recovery.

**If you, or a member of your family, have recently moved please contact Dorothy Dauphinee at 902-826-2305 or [d.dauphinee2009@gmail.com](mailto:d.dauphinee2009@gmail.com) to provide your current mailing address.**

*You can also contact Dorothy if you no longer wish to receive parish mailings.*



**SHARING AT CHRISTMAS** At this time of year our minds turn to how we can help those who are less fortunate than ourselves. The following are some of the programs which our parish is involved in. Look through and see if there's one that you'd like to help:



• **HELPING HANDS FUND:**

Throughout the year Archdeacon Brianna receives numerous requests from families in need, including 'back to school' season, during cold weather and in emergency situations. These requests often increase around

Christmas as parents attempt to provide a joy-filled Christmas for their children. Archdeacon Brianna has been pleased to offer assistance to many who are in need and she is able to do this using our "Helping Hands Fund". While the fund currently has a healthy balance, because of rising heating costs it is expected that there will be an even greater demand this winter (when needed, funds are paid directly to the oil company or NS Power). If you are in a position to make a tax-deductible donation to this fund you are encouraged to do so either by designating an offering on Sunday morning or by contacting our Parish Treasurer Dorothy, 902-826-2305 directly to make your donation.

• **MISSION TO SEAFARERS' SHOEBOXES:**

[www.missiontoseafarershalifax.ca](http://www.missiontoseafarershalifax.ca)

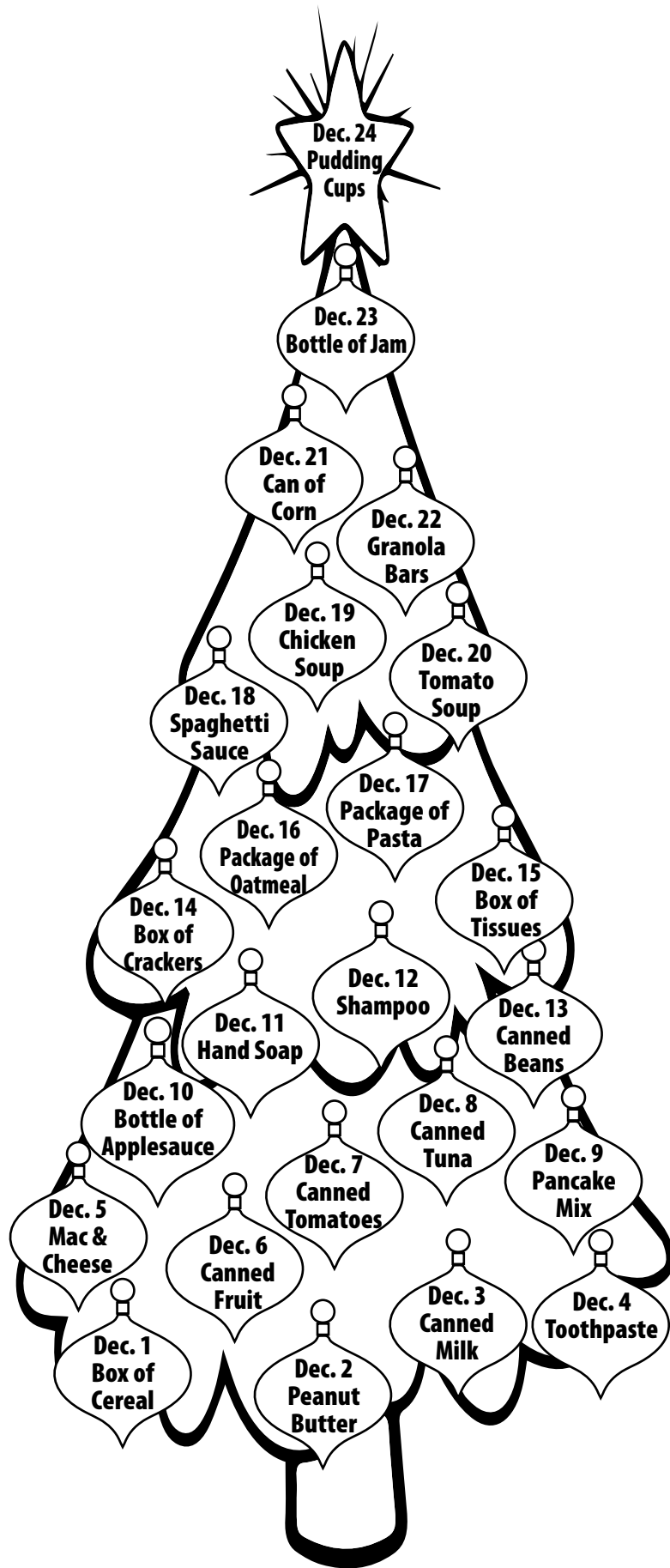
At this time of year we prepare shoeboxes containing a variety of items to be given to seafarers visiting the port of Halifax at Christmas. Last year the Mission handed out over 1000 boxes to the crews of ships! Boxes are available at the back of each church with instructions for what is needed, and they can be returned there for pick up each Sunday. If you are unable to fill a box, how about donating some of the required items and/or cash and we will make up the box for you? For more information contact Janet at 902-826-2251 or [champnissjanet1@gmail.com](mailto:champnissjanet1@gmail.com)

• **CHRISTMAS CHEER SUNDAYS (DECEMBER 3 & 10)**

*Small things can make a big difference...*

Our parish is working with other community aid groups to provide help to local families and they will be needing a variety of smaller items: wrapping paper, bows, gift bags, stockings, gift cards \$5-\$25, other small items that can be used to fill stockings, nut free chocolates, toiletry items, etc.

*If this is something you can help with, a box will be at the back of each church on these two Sundays, or you can give Archdeacon Brianna a phone call.*



**TRY A REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR...**

Each day, instead of receiving something, add an item to a box, then deliver it to the Food Bank after Christmas, when they're often running low on supplies! **NOTE:** The St. Margaret's Bay Food bank will be closed Dec. 19 to Jan. 1.



## THE WORKINGS OF THE CHURCH

As we arrive at church each week so much has already taken place to prepare for this time together; the altar is set with communion wafers, wine, linens and flowers; bulletins have been prepared and someone is nearby to greet us and hand them out, along with service books; the choir are gathering, having practised the hymns and other music; lay ministers and servers are on hand to assist the rector; and as the service proceeds, there are people ready to read lessons and lead the prayers.

In addition to regular services, there are many other things going on around our parish. People looking after our buildings and grounds; people to look after the administration, finance and records of the parish; people who work on fund-raising projects and social events.

All this work forms the ability to maintain a base from which our congregation not only receives strength but also reaches out to the wider community, offering our help and support.

If you are interested in taking a larger part in our parish life there are many ways to become more involved, and get to know your fellow parishioners better. During the next few months there will be opportunities to learn about and explore some of the ministries and committees involved in operating our parish. Feel free to talk to Archdeacon Brianna or other parishioners about what is needed.

Most importantly, if you are happy with attending services, relaxing, meditating, listening, or anything else that works for you, that is important too and there is no pressure to do more.



### CELEBRATING 100 YEARS AT ST. GEORGE'S

This year, the congregation of St. George's are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of their little brown church on the shores of Schooner Cove. We are offering 5"x7" Christmas cards featuring a beautiful full-colour winter photo of the church, captured by the late Peter Gregson.

Available in packs of five for \$10 or ten for \$20, you can purchase yours after Sunday services, at Cavicchi's Meats, Delish Fine Foods, or by contacting Janet at 902-826-2251 or [champnissjanet1@gmail.com](mailto:champnissjanet1@gmail.com)

## 2024 EVENTS

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

**Men's Breakfast**

**St. George's • 8 a.m.**

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

**Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras**

**Pancake Supper**

**St. George's • 4:30-6:30 p.m.**

**MESSY CHURCH** is our program featuring crafts, music, lessons, praise, prayers, and a light meal to finish; all in a child-friendly atmosphere! **Upcoming dates for 2024 will be publicized through the usual parish media.**

### NEIGHBOURHOOD SOUP

**SERVANTS** meet monthly at St. George's to cook and distribute soup in our neighbourhoods "as an expression of friendship, love and caring." For info or to sign up to help, contact Janet at 902-826-2251 or Mary at 902-826-2847.

**Parish Lobster Supper:** Thank you to all those who helped make our takeout supper in April such a huge success, with a profit of over \$4200. ***Your support is truly appreciated!*** Another Supper is planned for next spring, so watch for the notices.

### PAR WORKS FOR US!

A huge Thank You to all who have signed up for PAR (Pre-Approved Remittance). PAR gives our parish a more predictable donations budget, and allows us to make necessary payments in a timely manner. ***The New Year is a time for looking ahead, so please remember to consider your giving when making plans.***

For more information on PAR contact our Parish Treasurer: Dorothy, 902-826-2305

Or call your church's treasurer:  
St. Paul's • Ed, 902-821-2212  
St. Margaret's • Kurtis, 902-497-4668  
St. George's • Janet, 902-826-2251  
St. James' • Donna, 902-826-7153