

Son of God

*She shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS:
for he shall save his people from their sins.*

MATTHEW 1:21

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2024

Did your family ever go on road trips? Have you been on one recently? My family has always done road trips well, in my opinion. We pack snacks, comfort items, plan our stops along the way, and usually make a point to visit friends should we be passing by. The night before the trip there is often excitement along with all the last minute preparations that need to happen. If we do it right we are usually only one hour late pulling out of our driveway. While we most often have a destination towards which our eyes are fixed, we have also created many memories along the journey.

For many years I have considered how the four weeks of Advent are a journey. As a community of faith we journey closer to the manger in the stable, the birth of Jesus, and our Christmas celebrations, every week. Just like a family road trip there is much to experience along the journey and plenty of memories to be made.

It would be nice if our journeys were without challenges but most of us know that is just simply not the case. Sometimes the reason for the journey is a challenge in and of itself. There are detours along the way. Perhaps a vehicle issue causes you to change your timeline. Hopefully you make it to your destination safely. Over the years I have experienced many different Advent journeys. Some have been easier than others, while some have been met with challenges every step along the way. Every time though, no matter what the journey looks like, we arrive at the crèche and the new born baby Jesus is waiting to meet us.

A phrase that has been rolling over in my mind, as I have begun my Advent preparations, is "a child shall lead them". This phrase comes from Isaiah 11: 6 "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them." (Is 11:6, NRSV) This passage speaks to God's promise of peace for the land. but primes us for the idea that peace will not come by the ways we may expect. In our world and in our church we often seek the opinions of experts, consultants, long-standing and experienced leaders. We entrust them to teach us about how we ought to live and what we ought to do, in order to learn more about Jesus, discipleship and mission. All of this stands in opposition to the words from Isaiah. What would it mean for a child to lead us?

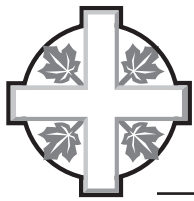
Children are mostly quite vulnerable. They depend strongly on the adults around them and we often think of ourselves as being somehow superior to them. There are other members of our community who are also vulnerable. The disabled, the sick, the under-housed, those trapped in poverty, victims of abuse, and so many more. What would it look like if we allowed them to guide the direction we were headed in? What if they got to plan the road trip? I suspect the pit stops along the way would be chosen with different priorities in mind. They may even take an entirely different route but that doesn't mean that we won't still arrive at the same destination.

This Advent season we once again embark upon a journey. A journey with a very particular destination in mind. As we prepare to enter this season my question for all of us is, who is leading us? Have we let Grandma and Great Uncle Bob plan the trip, or are we willing to listen to what others may want to do and see? Can we allow those who are vulnerable to speak into our journey? Our faith and mission? Christmas will always come; how we get there is yet to be determined.

In God's peace and service,

Brianna Andrews

Archdeacon Brianna Andrews



THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF FRENCH VILLAGE

Rector: ARCHDEACON BRIANNA ANDREWS

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www.parishoffrenchvillage.ca

• "Find" us on Facebook

**Church
Mailing
Addresses:**

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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
Boutillier's Point, NS
B3Z 1W4

PARISH NEWSLETTER • ADVENT 2024

To receive the latest parish news, join our Parish Email List—just email 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 2024 ONLINE ADVENT CALENDAR will be posted to the parish website on the First Sunday of Advent (December 1): www.parishoffrenchvillage.ca

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL PROGRAM

**HELP US HELP OTHERS, WHILE
REMEMBERING THOSE DEAR TO US!**

Through the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), farmers in Zimbabwe are learning the benefits of herding small family herds in a community herd.

Cow's milk improves both family nutrition and income, and cows can also be sold for meat. \$600 provides a heifer to a farmer and, thanks to a generous anonymous donor, all funds raised will be matched!

With a tax-deductible donation of \$10 or more, your memorial will be printed in the Christmas bulletin and listed on the parish website (deadline is noon on Sunday, December 15).

For more information, please contact the Parish Treasurer, Dorothy Dauphinee, at 902-826-2305.

E-transfers should be sent to: treasurer@parishoffrenchvillage.ca
Donations can also be placed in the offering plate any Sunday. **Cheques should be payable to "Anglican Parish of French Village - Christmas Memorial".**

Always remember to include your name, phone number, and the dedication info!

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DEC. 1

10 a.m. St. Margaret's • BAS Euch.
7 p.m. St. Margaret's • Evensong

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DEC. 15

10 a.m. St. Paul's • BAS Euch.
7 p.m. St. Paul's • Evensong

WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT

10 a.m. St. Margaret's
BCP Morning Prayer
(Dec. 18 BCP Eucharist)

7 p.m. St. James'
Candlelight Quiet Time
& Compline

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DEC. 8

10 a.m. St. James' • BAS Euch.
7 p.m. St. James' • Evensong

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DEC. 22

10 a.m. St. George's • BAS Euch.
7 p.m. St. George's • Evensong



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 • CHRISTMAS EVE

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 • CHRISTMAS DAY

10 a.m. St. James' • BAS Said Eucharist

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 • 1ST AFTER CHRISTMAS

10 a.m. St. James' • Carols & Lessons

2025 WINTER SERVICE SCHEDULE (UNTIL APRIL 6)

1ST SUNDAY OF MONTH

10 a.m. St. Margaret's

3RD SUNDAY OF MONTH

10 a.m. St. Margaret's*

2ND SUNDAY OF MONTH

10 a.m. St. James'

4TH SUNDAY OF MONTH

10 a.m. St. George's

*St. Paul's will be closed until Holy Week, so services will be at St. Margaret's.

All services will be BAS, except BCP on January 19, February 23 & March 9.

If you, or a member of your family, have recently moved please contact Dorothy Dauphinee at 902-826-2305 or 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 in which our parish is involved. Look through and see if there's one that you'd like to help:



• **HELPING HANDS FUND:**

Throughout the year Archdeacon Brianna frequently receives 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". **So far this year over \$6000 has been given out, leaving a balance of about \$1000.** 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.

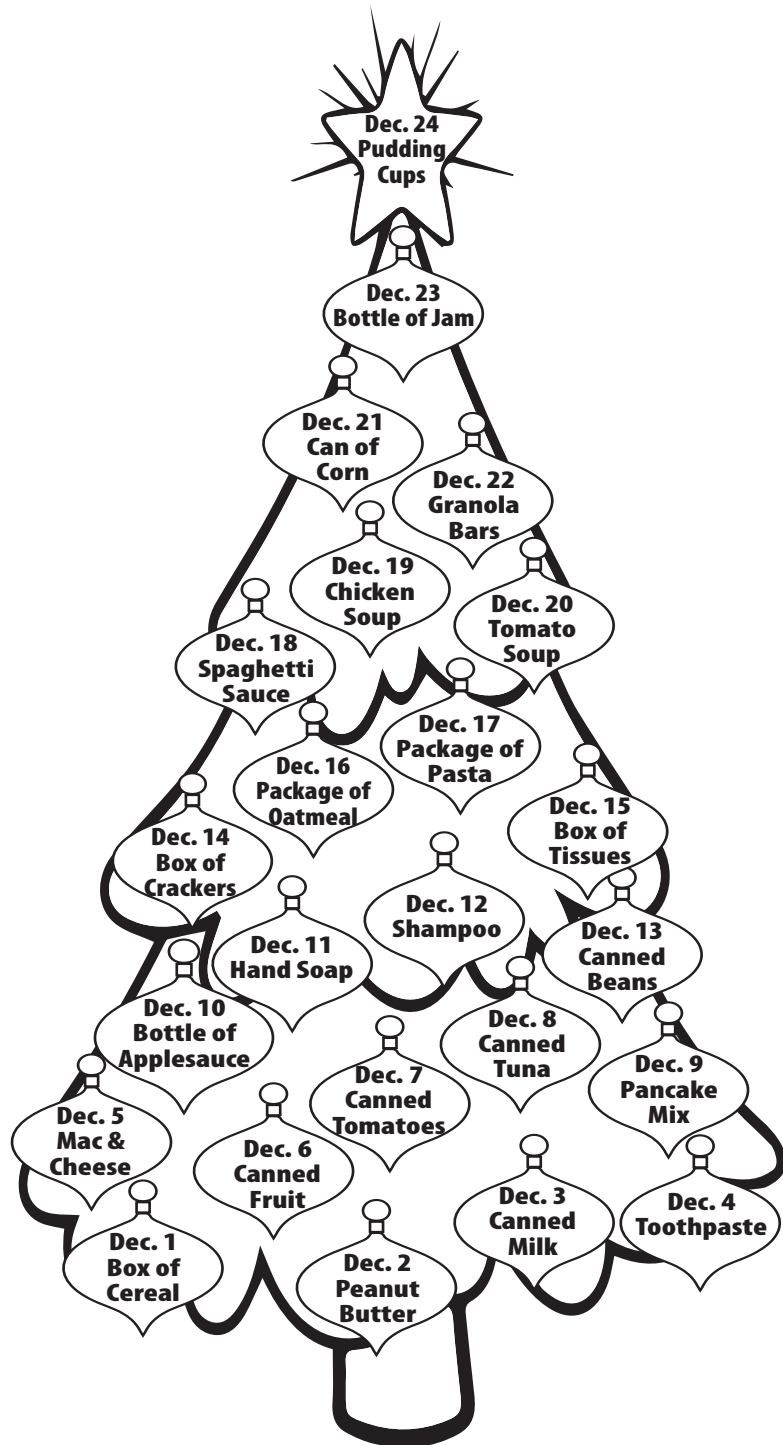
• **MISSION TO SEAFARERS' SHOEBOXES:**

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 1,228 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 yourself, you can always donate some of the required items and/or cash and we will make up the box for you. **For more information please contact Janet at 902-826-2251 or champnissjanet1@gmail.com**

ST. GEORGE'S CHRISTMAS CARDS

Last year, the congregation of St. George's celebrated the 100th Anniversary of their little brown church on the shores of Schooner Cove. There are still some 5"x7" Christmas cards available, featuring a beautiful full-colour winter photo of the church. **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**



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 New Year's, when they're often running low on supplies!

MEN'S WINTER HIKING GROUP

November 1 saw the first walk of the season, with six members (and two dogs) setting off from St. James' to enjoy a gentle and very pleasant walk.

For the next few months we will meet every Friday morning at 10, and the walk will be about two hours.

The starting point and the course will vary each week. **If you'd like to join us, contact Drew Bethune at: drew.bethune@gmail.com.** Each week Drew will advise where we are meeting, the nature of the walk, and will also advise if weather makes it a no-go that week.

ST. PAUL'S LAND PROJECT

This year has seen exciting progress in our plans to create a conservation woodland for the community, to include a 'seniors' friendly' trail and exercise loop, a labyrinth, and provision for green burials.

Highlights have been:

- The initial part of the trail through the 'rewilding' of the old farmstead is almost complete, and quite accessible, thanks mainly to the excellent work of our team of three summer students.
- The first piece of exercise equipment has been installed, at the start of the trail.
- A master plan has been completed by specialist trail designers all the way to the lake (about 1 km from the church).
- The detailed trail to and including the labyrinth has been laid out and work is underway.

Our Advisory Team of Parish members have been very supportive and helpful, and provide valuable input, including in the writing of grant applications. We have been successful in getting grants from Federal, Provincial and HRM sources, and are now busy submitting applications to fund our next steps.

If you would like to learn more contact Ray: raymattholie@gmail.com

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

Currently, donations made to support the costs of running our parish are primarily received and processed by the four individual churches, who then pass the funds on to the parish via our allotment process.

This has become very inefficient, including the requirement for five sets of tax receipts. The current process also results in envelopes being passed from church to church, and sometimes being held in individuals' homes until a later service.

The Parish Finance Committee has been working to find ways to use our limited volunteers more effectively; therefore, beginning January 1, 2025, this procedure will be streamlined by depositing givings directly into the parish account after each service. (Memorial and Cemetery donations will still be handled by the individual churches.)

Starting January 1, 2025:

- Cheques for weekly givings, Easter and Christmas should be made out to 'The Anglican Parish of French Village'
- E-transfers should be sent to: treasurer@parishoffrenchvillage.ca
- All PAR donations will be automatically redirected to the parish account.

If you are a PAR giver who makes an offering to multiple churches, please consider adjusting your PAR donation to include your total offering. If you need help with this, call Dorothy at 902-826-2305.

Tax receipts for 2024 donations made to the church accounts will be produced by the churches, however, future receipts will be issued by the Parish.

2025 EVENTS

SATURDAY, JAN. 11 & MAR. 8

Men's Breakfast

St. George's • 8 a.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras

Pancake Supper

St. George's • 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Other upcoming events for 2025 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. We also welcome the names of people who could benefit from this program.

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 \$5500.

Canada Day Pancake Breakfast: This new event was well attended, with a profit of over \$700.

Your support is truly appreciated!

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 • Dorothy, 902-826-2305
St. Margaret's • Kurtis, 902-497-4668
St. George's • Janet, 902-826-2251
St. James' • Donna, 902-826-7153