



**Christmas Newsletter 2021 for Christ Church
Bobcaygeon, St. John's Dunsford and St. Luke's
Burnt River Archdeacon Bill Gray**

Dear Friends,

Sing Along with us This Christmas !!

“Hark ! The Herald Angels Sing !”

We've got something to sing about this Advent and Christmas season. We are enjoying the resumption of congregational singing in our public services of worship once again. Perhaps the hardest sacrifice we have made during the past 19 months of Covid protocols is the prohibition of our beloved tradition of congregational singing. Congregational participation in singing sacred music is at the core of meaningful and shared prayer in our services of worship. As the saying goes, those who sing pray twice. We have appreciated all those of our parish family who have sung hymns, solos, and provided instrumental music on our behalf during this time. Our thanks in particular to our organist, Goldie Bryan, soloists Dee Fenton and Bill Gordon, supported by choristers Bob Fenton, Vicky Baxter and Phyllis Gordon who have led our service music on our behalf. Now all can participate once again in making a joyful song unto the Lord.

To celebrate the resumption of congregational singing our Advent/Christmas services this year will ensure ample opportunity for everyone to join in singing your favourite Christmas hymns. The Christmas story celebrates the birth of Jesus in song. These Christmas songs are meant to be something we are meant to feel a part of. Mary's first response to the announcement that she was pregnant with the Saviour of the world was to sing. (Luke 1:46 ff)and Angels sang.

**My soul magnifies the Lord
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
Because He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaid;
For behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed;
Because He who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is His name. (The Magnificat)**

While we have known hardships and loss during the Covid pandemic we have also known many blessings. What song is in your heart that you want to sing about this Advent/Christmas season. Come join the angels, shepherds, magi, Mary, Joseph, and your faith family in singing once again the beloved Christmas carols we love and long to sing again. Fr. Bill

Bobcaygeon Community Christmas Dinner

The Community Christmas Dinner will be held again this year at Knox Presbyterian Church. We are going ahead with it again this year as we need to bring a smile to people. It will be done on Christmas Day during the noon hour. Christ Anglican Church will make a donation to help cover these costs along with other Bobcaygeon churches. Thank you all for your support. For further information contact **The Reverend Anne Blane – Knox Presbyterian Church, Bobcaygeon**

Thank you everyone for your tremendous financial support of your church especially during this time of Covid-19 pandemic. Your faithful, continued generosity has ensured that we have been able to continue without interruption our church's important ministry. During this pandemic, which because of isolation can at times become lonely and stressful for many, your personal reaching out and also your enabling of the church's ministry has ensured that our isolated members have not been forgotten and have benefitted from online services, email news, bereavement support and pastoral care. With your help this Christmas we can end the year in a positive financial position.

Christmas Offering: Please use the enclosed Christmas envelope to support our ability to continue to provide spiritual care and support required by our community at this time. Donations can be made at worship services or mailed to the following addresses for each parish congregation. This is an opportunity to make up your offerings if you find you are behind due to your absence during Covid-19. Use the return stamped & addressed mailing envelopes to return your Christmas offering envelope to the following addresses as applicable to you.

Christ Anglican Church

PO Box 133
Bobcaygeon, Ontario
K0M 1A0

St. John's Anglican Church

1948 Sturgeon Rd
Dunsford, Ontario
K0M 1L0

St. Luke's Anglican Church

178 Burnt River Rd.
Burnt River, Ontario
K0M 1C0

Special Christmas in Person Public Services for 2021

Sunday Dec. 12 Lessons & Carols Services 9:15 am-St. John's; 11 am-Christ Church

Sunday Dec. 19 Family Christmas Service, Story, Carols & Communion- 7 pm–St. John's, Dunsford. (no service at St. John's in the morning, Dec 19; -service as usual at 11 am, Dec. 20 at Christ Church.)

Christmas Eve- Dec. 24-Candlelight Holy Communion & Carols-7 pm –Christ Church, Bobcaygeon