Dear Friends,

While we desire to show the love of Christ throughout the entire year, I can't think of a better season than Advent and Christmas to fully display God's love for humanity! Hope. Peace. Joy. Love. These are the prayers for our world we pray together in this holy season of Advent. Each Sunday, we come together to worship. To praise God. To pray. To remember God's promises. To look forward in faith.

As we remember God's promises we have to have faith that he will lead us through the uncertainties in life and in our parish. Rev. Matt concluded his ministry with us in late summer after being with us for a year and a half. We are thankful that Rev. Rob Duncan led us in worship until the end of October and visited a number of our parishioners. Then Canon lan Chadwick took over our services and will be with us until the end of January. At the beginning of February, we expect another priest to take over, but we have no details at the moment. Archdeacon Terry DeForest is our priest in charge while Rev. Richard Moorse is on call for urgent pastoral care. Our Sunday service time has changed back to 10 am. We are fortunate to have Dan Hall and Cindy Huitema playing the organ for us on a part time basis. At other times we sing acapella or more recently to tunes on lan's cell phone.



Sunday, December 22—10 A.M.

Lessons and Carols w/ Dan Hall (organist)

Christmas Eve

w/ Ross Stretton (organist) December 24—5 P.M.

Christmas Day

December 25-10 A.M.

The First Sunday after Christmas
December 29—10 A.M.

The rectory was returned to the parish's care as of November 1st. Once we

have a better idea of how things will proceed in the new year, we can look at our options for the rectory.

We had a successful return of the pancake supper and cooked up hot dogs for the Mudcat Festival. We enjoy fellowship at coffee hour, luncheons and men's breakfasts at Christ Church, Wainfleet. Our two foster children are supported through muffin sales. Thanks for all the help for putting on these events and keep the church running.

Our journey as a church continues.

We have faith in God who comes to us as a tiny vulnerable human baby and brings with him hope, peace, joy, and love.

We have faith in God who plants seeds of hope, peace, joy, and love into each and every situation; each and every life.

This is our gift. This is our Christmas.

Warm Greetings for a blessed Christmas from your Wardens,
Nicky & Larry













hristmas is an invitation to come closer; Christmas is a gift to share and Christmas is an opportunity to make merry...... to step out of our shell, to reach out to others and to lean-in to laughter. We can thank God for the birth of Mary's child Jesus, but we can thank the Church for the chance to prepare, for giving us these few weeks of Advent to get ready: For it does take a few weeks to prepare for Christmas, both emotionally and spiritually.

My wife, Trish, secretly shops all year for Christmas but will not put up any decorations until Advent. She's careful, very intentional an disciplined. In comparison, I'm slow, clumsy and leave-it-to-the-last-minute, but one way or another we both find our separate ways to arrive at the same time and at the same place at Christmas.

This Christmas, I'll be in Dunnville on Christmas morning and Trish will be at work in the United Mennonite Home in Vineland; dressed up, not in a nurse's uniform but in something seasonally bright. But, of course, we'll both be in the same place, knowingly in the presence of Christ in worship and giving thanks to God.

Also, I want to thank you, for the invitation to spend time with you at St. Paul's and for the gift of the keys to your church and for your trust in allowing me to be with you for these sacred Sundays; and for the opportunity to consider again, in preparing a series of Sunday sermons, what it is that Jesus the Christ means to all of us. Please, don't stand back and simply watch Christmas come and go, step into the celebration, spend time with friends and family and take or make the time to come to St. Paul's..... especially on Christmas Day at 10.00 a.m. when afterwards there will be Trish's home-made, Canadian mince pies with

French cognac to wash them down.

Don't forget that the Christmas season lasts 12 days until January 6th, till the Epiphany. It might be cold and dark outside, but the light of Christ will brighten those days and warm your heart. And, please, if you know anyone who is shut-in, who would like a visit or have Holy Communion brought to them during the Christmas season, just let me know by calling (905)988-7873.

Thank you, Ian C.

St. Paul's Church
233 Lock St., W.
Dunnville, On
905-774-6005
stpauls@rogers.com

I am writing you during the first week of Advent, a time of active waiting and watching, all of which prepares us for the coming of the Christ. We all know that the preparations are for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Yet, Advent sensitizes us to prepare also for the second coming of the Christ, ushering in God's reign of justice, peace, healing and reconciliation.

As we look around, it is clear that the world is not making steady progress to a just and peaceful society. The gritty and tragic details of the news – global and local – of this time in history could easily overwhelm any sentimental customs and celebrations.

Happily, just as Easter assures us that God's love is victorious even over death, Christmas with its story of a birth into poverty, jeopardy and obscurity [Cf. "The Carol of the Epiphany," John L. Bell, Iona Community] assures us that God does not hold back from being with us even in the midst of humanity's greatest vulnerabilities. Love does such things and knowing that God's love does not let us go is surely the most powerful life-giving good news ["gospel"].

Many of us find great comfort in the music of Christmas, carols which unleash oft-repressed hope and joy. This is indeed a good place to sojourn. God will and does meet us there. Yet, I also find comfort [i.e. being "with strength"] in Christmas music from the Iona Community. Anchored by a 6th century abbey associated with St. Columba, this community thrives with an earthy, grounded and incarnational spirituality. And, marvellously, on an island with a permanent population of less than 200 people, their faith, life of prayer and music ministry have a profound impact around the globe.

As a small community of faith, St. Paul's (and it turns out that this Christmas I am writing to two parishes of that name) can also dare to build our faith on the same convictions. Christmas renews our confidence that whatever is swirling around us, on the personal, communal or global levels, God's love is with us and God's reign is at hand, breaking into our midst.

May St. Paul's life of faith, prayer, worship and music; and generous & caring service this season be a blessing to us and our communities. And may our experience of Christmas this year be one of hope, peace, joy and, most of all, love – that God's love, born in Mary's son and coming again in his proclamation of the kingdom that is indeed near, can transform us and all the world.

A blessed Christmas,

The Venerable R. Terry DeForest

Rector, St. Paul's, Westdale & Acting Priest-in-charge, St. Paul's, Dunnville

With deep gratitude to the Reverend Canon Ian Chadwick for his gracious worship leadership at St. Paul's here in Dunnville since the beginning of November, to the Reverend Canon Richard Moorse for his pastoral care support of our parish, and to all those whose efforts enable and enhance our worship celebrations.

From the clergy, wardens and staff of St. Paul's, a blessed Christmas to you, to all whom you love and all amongst whom we live.



