



ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2011

Dear friends of St. John's Church,

Blessed Christmas and a Joyous and Happy New Year!

It has been delightful to be with you these past 8 months and I look forward to many months to come. St. John's is a unique parish in lots of ways, but has been known to me for many years as a very special place. I have known your clergy and some people for over 21 years while serving in the Oshawa Deanery.

Blessed with a beautiful church building and very dedicated congregation, St. John's will serve its community well for many years to come. And what a wonderful setting in Cartwright Township and the Village of Blackstock.

We will face challenges in 2012 as will the diocese and the wider Anglican Church throughout the world. There is, however, a real sense of connectedness as we attempt to remain faithful to the Gospel and preach it to the ends of the earth.

Christmas offers us a valuable time for reflection on our Faith. We proclaim that God is with us in the Risen Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ. Our baptismal covenant calls us to make that same presence known and felt in our families, homes, community and places of business.

We shall be doing that in helping a family over Christmas by providing them with a dinner and gifts, especially for the children, but also for the parents. Please continue to be Christ's present in the church and in the world. Thank you for receiving me so generously into St. John's community.

We welcome you to the following services in December.

- *Community Tree Lighting and Christmas Carols Dec 17th - 5:30 pm - Blackstock Cenotaph*
- *Christmas Eve Service Dec 24th - 7:00 pm*
- *Christmas Day Service Dec 25th - 9:30 am*

*Your Wardens and Deputy Wardens **Brenda, Diane, John and Karin** would like to thank you for your support in 2011 and wish everyone a safe and blessed Christmas with family and friends.*

Yours faithfully,

***Fr. Jim
The Rev'd James H. Blackmore***