



*we, being many, are one body...*



Advent 2020

*"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. For as in one body we have many members....so we, who are many, are one body in Christ." Romans 12: 1, 4-5*

Dear Friends in Christ in the Parish of the Valley,

What a year it has been! Few could have predicted that 2020 would turn out the way that it has. Yet even in the face of a global pandemic that has so dramatically affected all of our lives, your Parish of the Valley has continued to proudly march towards the future. Who would have thought, back in January, that we would find ourselves conducting our church coffee hours over Zoom, or video-taping Sunday worship, or holding a Holly Bazaar, pumpkin auction and other fundraisers over the Internet? Thanks to your generous gifts of time, talent and steadfast financial support, your Anglican churches across the Parish of the Valley have been able to do all of this and more. Now, as we journey through Advent and into the new year that lies ahead, we once again need your faithful support to continue making innovative Anglican ministry possible.

One of the great spiritual lessons that COVID-19 is teaching the Church is that we are stronger when we work together. Our Parish of the Valley is only two and a half years old, but even in this short amount of time God has shown us that by working together we can do infinitely more than we could ever ask or imagine. Earlier this year a highlight for our parish was a visit by Bishop John Watton of Central Newfoundland. Bishop Watton's visit brought together so many of us from numerous congregations for a fantastic Valley Kitchen Party, filled with food, laughter and so much fun! More recently, parish coffee mugs and church calendars were purchased collectively across our parish, so that each of our parish's churches in the Valley would spend less on overhead costs and benefit more from the revenues garnered from individual sales. Working separately, these kinds of shared activities would simply not be possible, but when we faithfully recognize that "***we, being many, are one body,***" then all things are possible with God.

One area of our shared ministry that the pandemic has especially helped us to strengthen are our parish-wide communications. Working with the basic technology in their homes, many members of our parish community have leveraged their time, energy, and skills to ensure we stay connected through weekly electronic newsletters, telephone ministry, social media posts, regular online worship, and physically distanced visits. Moreover, our quarterly newsletter *Revelations* has now been made available to all households in our parish, thanks to the time, energy and talents of a gifted editorial team, further helping God to weave us together as one body as we share stories of how Christ is working in our communities with each passing season.

As we move now into the cold winter months, many of us are hopeful that a vaccine may be developed and that we will be able to soon return to some sense of “normal.” However, we must continue to be vigilant out of love and concern for our neighbours and be respectful of the limitations forced upon us by this pandemic. As a result, you no doubt will have recognized that many of the fundraising opportunities that normally occur for our parish churches each autumn and winter will not be able to take place this year or will be severely limited in their scope due to COVID-19. We are therefore asking all parishioners across the Parish of the Valley to give as generously as possible to the common work and life of our parish through this Advent Appeal.

***We know that some of you are experiencing extraordinary challenges and financial difficulties brought on by the pandemic, and that an additional donation may not be possible at this time. Please know, that to all who find them themselves in this position, that your parish family and clergy are here for you, and we do not wish to add in any way to your burdens or anxiety.***

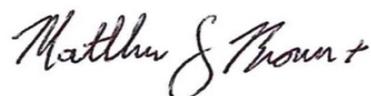
***If you are able, however, to offer added financial support to your congregation as we all cope with decreases in church attendance, reduced Sunday collections and lower fundraising revenues, then we would be exceedingly grateful to receive your contribution to this Advent Appeal. Details about how you can offer your support to the Appeal are enclosed with this letter.***

Dear friends, Jesus teaches us that two commandments are above all others: love of God and love of neighbour. Thank you for the innumerable ways that you continue to offer your love and support to the ministries of our Anglican Parish of the Valley. May Christ give us courage in the coming months to continue doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with our God.

Yours faithfully in Christ,



The Right Reverend Michael Bird  
Incumbent



The Reverend Matthew Brown  
Associate Incumbent



The Reverend Canon Susan Clifford  
Associate Incumbent



The Reverend Richard Durrett, CD  
Interim Assisting Priest



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***There are multiple ways you can support your local Anglican congregation through the Parish of the Valley's Advent Appeal***

- 1. You can make a contribution by mail. Simply tear off the bottom of this sheet, complete the information and return your donation using the enclosed envelope. **Please make your donation payable to your local Valley congregation** (i.e. please write your cheque to "Holy Trinity Pembroke," "St. John's Eganville," "All Saints Petawawa," "St. Paul's Cobden," etc.)***
- 2. You can give to the Advent Appeal online – visit our parish's website, [www.ValleyAnglicans.ca](http://www.ValleyAnglicans.ca), and click on the Advent Appeal link to learn how.***
- 3. You can give to the Advent Appeal in-person at your home congregation. Simply enclose your donation in the envelope provided and place it on the collection plate at your church.***



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***My Name and Mailing Address:*** \_\_\_\_\_

***My local Parish of the Valley congregation is:*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Please accept my gift of:***    \_\_\_\$25        \_\_\_ \$50        \_\_\_\$75        \_\_\_\$100  
***(check one)***

                  \_\_\_\$250        \_\_\_\$500        \_\_\_\$1000        \_\_\_Other

\_\_\_ ***I would like to sign-up for Pre-Authorized Remittances or increase my monthly gift.***

\_\_\_ ***I would like to discuss leaving a legacy gift for my home congregation in my will.***

***Thank you for your faithful support!***