## **A Christmas Message**

Our church service last Sunday was a joyful experience, appropriate as we are in Advent, a time of joy as we celebrate the forthcoming birthday of Jesus Christ. The TSO (Tenacious Strings Orchestra) joined our Music Director, Brian Way and a choir of congregational members and guests to provide music for the morning service, and for the congregation to sing the familiar hymns of the season. Many present said it was reminiscent of church times prior to COVID and it was a reminder of how meaningful and powerful worshipping together continues to be.

We all are aware of the many changes life under COVID brought us, but that service enabled us to see that maybe we can let COVID go, refresh our sense of community and make a difference in the lives of our congregation and those we love. Let's take the positive from pre COVID and move ahead to make a new future at St. David's.

St. David's has already begun to move ahead. A Futures Committee was formed by Session to help us find ways this can happen. In the past year changes have been made. The entrance porch to the Hall has been redecorated and informative posters hung. We have had, thanks to Brian Way, a series of musical evenings that have been well attended by both congregational members and the general public. The WA sponsored monthly bridge lunches, again inviting non members to come and join us. We have many organizations that rent our facilities, again opening our facilities to the public. We have had Ukrainian immigrants come to conversation circles and we have helped them become accustomed to Canada. We are becoming known as a welcoming church through our community outreach. It is a positive way to encourage new attendants and to involve our present members.

The success of these actions is indicative of a positive future for St. David's. We need to encourage new members to expand our church family. We encourage all members who are able, to come to morning worship, to join in the singing, listen to the music, and appreciate our Minister's sermon that always ends with a positive "Good News". Bring a friend. Join us for coffee after the service, and chat with others.

We have HOPE for the future of St. David's, and we want you to be a part of it.

May you and your family experience the joys of the Christmas Season and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year

Blessings from Our Minister, Rev. David Sturtevant, and The Members of St. David's Session and Board of Managers