

TRINITY WELCOMES REV. CANON DONALD BUTLER



The Rev. Canon Donald Butler is a native of Antigua. He graduated from Codrington College and The University of the West Indies in 1984. He was made a Deacon on August 24, 1984 in Antigua, he began his curacy in the Diocese of Belize, and served as a deacon at St. John's Cathedral, and as associate priest of St. Mary's Church until 1986. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1985. Canon Butler returned to his home Diocese of Antigua (now the Diocese of North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba) to serve as Senior Priest at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine from 1986 to 1989.

In 1989, Rev. Canon Butler migrated to Canada. He served as a priest on the staff at St. James' Cathedral and later served as Assistant Priest at The Church of The Epiphany, Scarborough, until his appointment as Incumbent of The Church of The Nativity, Malvern, on June 01, 1991.

By the year 1998 Canon Butler saw the need for expansion when the congregation tripled from 1981. At that time the space shared with the Presbyterian Church became a challenge and so Rev. Canon Butler saw the need for functional space and appointed a Building Fund Committee to look into construction of an independent building. His motto was "If we build it, they will come."

Under his leadership, the congregation at The Church of the Nativity has grown into a vibrant worshipping community and has an active presence in the Malvern community. On March 3, 2002 the present church building was dedicated to the honour and glory of God as a place of worship and a place where parishioners could outreach to their community.

Canon Butler fosters the growth and spiritual development of the congregation through outreach and development programs. He is passionate about guiding and nurturing young people to reach their potential. He focuses on ways to harness their energies and engage them in meaningful activities. He is also committed to ensuring that the church is an active part of the community by supporting Outreach projects such as celebrating the independence anniversaries of all the Nations represented in the church community, and has been instrumental in forming the Tutorial program, the Youth Group, the Steel band, the Wood Wind Band, the Scholarship Fund, the After School Program and the Dance Group.

Rev. Canon Butler has offered his time and expertise to the Metropolitan Police Steering Committee on Community Policing, Youth Link Scarborough and the Malvern Community Network among many other organizations. He served as a committee member of the Diversity and Community Engagement Advisory Committee in Ajax and the newly formed TAIBU group. He serves as Chaplain at the Centenary Health Centre, Scarborough.

In 2006, he received the Government of Antigua and Barbuda Silver Jubilee Award for Community involvement in Canada and the Pride Newspaper's African Canadian Achievement Award in 2008 (for Religion).

On Sunday, September 13, 2009 he was installed as Canon at the St. James Cathedral, Toronto.

Rev. Canon Butler has four children; Cherrisse, Tamika, Jabari and Karimah.