Holy, and overcomers

The six newly ordained priests with the three deacons are undoubtedly ‘called people’ said retired honorary Canon Terry Beadon as he spoke at the ordination service in the Cathedral on Saturday 30 June.

Terry said that after having spent the week with them on retreat he came to realise they are holy and overcomers – they are able to pick themselves up and dust themselves off in times of hardship. This has prepared them for leadership and servant-hood in these times of lawlessness and violence. He reminded everyone that we need to go back to the basics of the Gospel and the faith handed down by Jesus and the apostles. Terry said that Jesus dealt with fear, with hurt and rejection and he imparts his Holy Spirit to help us overcome these. Jesus and the apostles also faced what we are facing in society today and we need to ask, “What are Jesus’ priorities, his remedies and solutions, that we find in reading the Word?”

He reminded everyone that God loved the world so much that he sacrificed his Son to bring all people to him – so too must we be passionate about bringing everyone into the Kingdom. We need to become clones of Jesus and like Paul be compellled to share the Gospel of Christ.

GAFCON 3 in Jerusalem

Matthew Calitz

The Global Anglican Future Conference 3 took place at the International Conference Centre in Jerusalem from Monday 17 to 21 June. Bishop Bethlehem, the Dean, Mark Derry, Dave Doveton (rector of St Barnabas and St Philip’s), Matthew Calitz (then still a deacon) and Athi Pono the diocesan youth chairman were our five members. We had all received full or partial bursaries, so there was no cost to the diocese. This was the largest gathering of Anglicans in fifty years with nearly 2 000 delegates.

Faithful obedience to Jesus Christ as Lord and his teaching in the Bible was the centre of all the plenary sessions with the daily proclamation of, “We will proclaim” and our response being “Christ faithfully to all nations”. A Nigerian choir led the worship in true African style. Archbishop Siwelele Dweni of Jerusalem and the Middle East welcomed the almost 2000 delegates to “the city of God, the city of the resurrection and the city of the empty tomb”.

What came through over and over was that GAFCON is not an alternative Anglican Communion because we are the true Anglican Church. One of the highlights on the second day was the standing ovation given to the Presiding Bishop of the Southern Cone, Archbishop Greg Venables of Argentina who said, “we are the true Anglican church which is made up of born-again Christians who like Anglicanism. Others have left.”

On the other days we looked at global mission; at Jerusalem as our family home; and new leadership was chosen during the last day’s business. We had time to go on a pilgrimage to the Jordan River, to walk through the Old City including the Kotel (wailing wall), and we also had time to listen to Palestinian Christians.

Our new priests are: Matthew Calitz (St John’s), Phillie Lobese (studying at College of Transfiguration), Vivian Malloy (St Luke’s), Mark Muspratt-Williams (St Cuthbert’s), Eddie Smith (St Mary Magdalene) and Jenny van Rooyen (Christ the King).

The deacons: Nombulelo Hermans, Lindwe Maliti and Fikile Zanazo all of whom are ministering in the Karoo.

Our three clergy who accompanied Bishop Bethlehem: Dave Doveton, Mark Derry (the Dean) and Matthew Calitz with diocesan youth chairman, Athi Pono, in front of the GAFCON poster.

Celebrating 100

Bishop Bethlehem with Dorah Mgaleli who celebrated her 100th birthday at the Ordination Service where her daughter, Nombulelo Hermans, was deaconed. She is seen with Ernest Cengani, priest-in-charge of the Great Karoo and Bulle’s daughter Somalia Hermans in front. Behind are daughter Zameka and son Ukulungu Hermans, and Bulle’s younger brother Vuyani Stafa.

Inside

2 Towards a new Cradock / Letters to the editor
3 The Bishop writes ... / The view from pulpit and pew
4 Serving a second term as president / Rededicating for service
Towards a new Cradock
Zwel Tom
On 29 May various sectors of Cradock were invited by the Church to participate in a historic moment in the history of Cradock. The conversation took place at the Church of Ascension and South African Democratic Teacher’s Union (Sadtu), School Governing Bodies (SGBs), Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and CYE (Young Cradock Entrepreneurs).

The purpose for inviting them was to create a space for citizens to imagine as well as to co-create preferred images of a ‘new Cradock’. The biblical text we used in preparing them for the conversation was Revelation 21:1 “I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had vanished, and there was no longer any sea.”

With the help of an able facilitator, Monga Peter, an renowned South African activist, we achieved our goal because we concluded our conversation by resolving to establish the following entities:

- National Association of SGBs (NASCB)

Interceding for our faith and our city
Carole Meyer and Helen Masson
As intercessors, we attended a prayer meeting at Word of Faith, to pray for the City and for the City Councillors who were unable to attend.

Michael Swan, the Executive Director of Freedom of Religion SA, addressed the Meeting. It was good to hear of the amazing work that has been done and that is being done by FORSA. They have a single-minded and unwavering commitment to ensure that we can continue to live in a South Africa where all people can freely to celebrate and live out their faith.

Although Section 15 of the Constitution guarantees Religious Freedom Rights, Christianity is increasingly targeted by those who are determined to silence people of faith, using the courts, government commissions such as the SA Human Rights Commission and CGE and legislation to carry out their agendas. This is not a simple legal skirmish. It is a battle for the soul of our nation. Against this background, FORSA serves as a voice for Christians in South Africa to Government,

BMGG commemorate Luntu Zishushu
On 24 June members of Holy Spirit Church in Zwede St Bernard Mizeki Men’s Guild concluded the Mizeki Month by having their own commemoration service of their Martyr from Madiboland. They focused on the following scriptures: “Let us go over to the other side, so that we can become new creations” (Mark 6:26).

The service was concluded with the unveiling and blessing of the new Tabernacle which the guild had donated to the church in response to a call from their Patron, Phumla Mtila on his arrival late in 2017. BMGG gather annually to commemorate St Bernard Mizeki on

martyr

Cost of Gafcon reps
As usual I read with interest all the latest issue of inndaba cover to cover however I discovered hidden away in the “View from the pulpits and pew” section a short item which left me perplexed.

It appears that our Bishop and four members of the diocese attended the recent Gafcon conference in Jerusalem. I am sure this came as a surprise to most of your readers. Could we be enlightened as to if this was a ‘delegation’ of the diocese paid at diocesan expense or did they attend as individuals at their own expense?

Getting involved with the Bible Society of South Africa

Some of the participants listening attentively to a speaker.

- Sudtu and SGBs were mandated to champion the process.
- District Education Forum (DEF) - Sudtu and SGBs were mandated to champion the process.
- South African NGO Coalition (SANGOCO) - the Church and SANGOCO were mandated to champion the process.

The time frame for the establishment of the various entities is the end of July. The Church was mandated to oversee the execution of the decisions.

Listening attentively to input in preparation for intercession.

Parliament, Courts and the Media on issues that threaten to affect the autonomy of the Church and our Constitutional Freedoms. Recent issues where FORSA has made significant contributions include: Making submissions and organizing opposition to a dangerously broad definition of “hate speech,” which has been amended in a new draft of the Bill to give specific protection to bona fide religious preaching and teaching.

Opposing attempts were made by the CSL, Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Rights Commission to impose the licensing of all religious practitioners, which would have amounted to State Control of religion. This rejection has been rejected by Parliament.

Subscribe for FORSA’s free Newsletter via their website: www.forsa.org.za to be kept up to date with accurate, timely information.

This is an appeal to support FORSA please. We need to unite in their work for the benefit of all Our People of Faith in South Africa. We must let our voices be heard.

Intercessory prayer, under the banner of the Transformation Christian Network which is interdenominational and represents Christians from all areas of the Bay is coordinated by Joan Keeling and takes place at GAF (Greenacres Presbyterian Church) on the last Friday of the month from 09:00 to 11:00.

May I take this opportunity to thank you (Andrea Potgieter, rector of St Luke’s) for your willingness to assist us in the fulfilment of our mission of providing affordable Bibles for everyone in their own language and in suitable formats so that all may experience the life-giving message of the World.

As the Bible Society appreciate and cherish the relationship we have with you. We are looking forward to building on this relationship.

To be able to support one another in our common goal of spreading the word of God, the Anglican Church can assist us in the following ways:

- BSAA needs the financial support of your church - become a donor; become a Bible-A-Month Club member; once off payments; leaving a legacy to the BSSA in your will.
- BSAA need the support of your church in buying Bibles on a regular basis; earn a loyalty card for supporting BSAA as a donor and receive discounts on your Bible purchases.
- BSAA needs your support in establishing Action Committees in your church. We need your commitment and cooperation in establishing these committees and growing them for the benefit of the Anglican Church and BSSA.

To become involved in the work of BSAA contact us or visit www.biblesociety.co.za for more information.

I am thanking you in advance.

Mvreleli Sailwa - Regional Head

Andrea has donor and debit order forms as well as a list of the various projects in which individuals or churches can become involved.

NB: Bible House in Cotswold Street has a good stock of various Bibles for sale.

The long wait is over
Diocesan secretary-treasurer

Rector of Holy Spirit Phumla Mtila, with Nomusa and Fundile Mkuwsana greet the PEF Ralph van Niekerk at 4 Joan’s Way.

After much behind the scenes lobbying, the Diocesan Trust Board have purchased a rectory for the rector of Holy Spirit, Phumla Mtila and family.

Much bargaining took place with the seller and a beautiful residence was acquired. The house is at 4 Joan’s Way, Westering. Well done to the Registrar, Onida Fritz of Howard Collins for the professional manner in which they clinched the deal, with all the legal ramifications. An integral role was also played by the churchwardens, Fundile Mkuwsana in the co-ordinating of the acquisition and moving of Phumla’s effects, with help of Biddolph’s at the last minute, ably organized by Busiwe Gwentshi at the diocesan office. The Mtila family are overjoyed with the new rectory and are setting in well.

Dorcas Day outreach a success

Funeka Yako

On a chilly Saturday 30 June members of Anglican Women’s Fellowship at Holy Spirit in Zwede celebrated Dorcas Day (Acts 9:36).

They identified a need within the community (seyis) and decided to make some and distribute, with clothes, to those in need in the community. They responded to the call by coming in numbers and were very grateful for the love and generosity shown by the church members.

The event was a great success, thanks to AWF members, God bless!!

AWF members ready for action on Dorcas Day.

Blessing the new Tabernacle.

18 June. This year each branch held their own service but came together for the main commemoration service for all diocesan builders on 17 June at St Michael’s Church in Alexandria

Funeka Yako
Bishop Bethlehem writes ... GAFCON Movement

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings to all in the name of the Father who sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, taking and receiving our freedom and bringing us to the glorious freedom of the children of God, Amen Alleluia!

The Global Anglican Future Conference (Gafcon) we attended recently in Jerusalem has made for the third time yet again a call to “Proclaim Christ Faithfully to the Nations!” in a broken Anglican Communion and the broken world the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The bishop in the Bible must be proclaimed in accordance to his Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching and nurturing them till the end of time (Mt 28:16-20).

More than ever before the kerygma or proclamation must be vigorous and passionate, to keep our breaking Communion united together in the Truth of the gospel that Jesus Christ is Lord as revealed in the Scriptures. The Bible is the Word of God proclaiming the Word from the beginning, who is Jesus the Christ, calling the world and all people to repent from sin and believe in the name of Jesus who turns from God, walking in humility with him daily in all our doings.

herefore, what the Bible says is sin remains so until we repent. Reason is part of our exercise and tool to use in applying the Bible to our daily lives in conformity to the demands thereof, not to twist what the Bible says in gratifying our desires, like waxes and melts in the heat of sin and sinful living (Gal 5:16-17).

Nearly 2,000 people gathered in Jerusalem for the second time since Year 2008; and for the third time including Nairobi Gafcon 2013. In welcoming everyone the Chairperson of Gafcon since 2016, the Most Revd Nicholas Okoh, Metropolitan and Primate of all Nigeria and Bishop of Abuja had this to say, inter alia: “Gafcon is growing. I am confident the meeting will inspire orthodox Anglicans around the world who long for a united, clear and faithful witness to Jesus Christ rather than the confusions and compromises of false teaching which have for too long been allowed to degrade our beloved Communion”.

When we accept Christ as Lord and Saviour of our lives, we follow him and yield to his will to govern and direct our lives according to the Scriptures “so that we may not do as we like” (Galatians 5:17). Proclaiming Christ faithfully to the nations is an Apostolic Mandate of long ago as Christ was preparing to go to the Father, having fulfilled his God-given mandate to save the whole world.

Gafcon seeks to revive the people of the Anglican Communion and open their eyes to the truth of the Saviour, Jesus Christ, and authority of Scripture over our lives. This authority has power to transform repentant sinners to be like Jesus more and more, not to sit and enjoy the leisure of sin and bless it.

The Church cannot and should not bless sexual sin and practising homosexuality over and above Holy Matrimony as ordained by God from the beginning of Creation. Love of God, neighbour and self sums up what God requires of us in conformity to his will and character.

In conclusion it is our wish to remind you that we as the diocese have adhered and signed the Jerusalem Declaration of Gafcon 2008. At the last Synod we declared by unanimous vote that whoever wishes to be a candidate in the next Elective Assembly must sign the Declaration. This should not be taken lightly and should be insisted upon, as our Diocesan Profile reflects that we are an Evangelical Conservative diocese according to the Scriptures we adhere to.

Priests and churchwardens together with the leadership must educate people both at archdeaconries and parishes that the Gafcon Movement is far from being a separatist organisation within the Anglican Communion, as some seem to think, but rather it seeks to bring our Worldwide Communion to the truth of the gospel as set out above and open the eyes of every believer to the lies of the liberal mind.

Beware of the liberal revisionist mind which causes us great moral decline and moving away from our gospel obligations and demands!

The first Apostles adhered “to obey God rather than people” (Acts 5:29-32). Persuade everyone who believes in our Church to personally sign the Jerusalem Declaration and file the copy as a solemn promise both to God and the worldwide Church that “we shall proclaim Christ faithfully to the nations!” in all our worship, witness and service (APB pg 30).

God be with you, till we meet again at the feet of Jesus Christ!

July 2008 AD

As in heaven, non-stop prayer

Under the umbrella of Transformation Christian Network, an average of 50 intercessors gather at GAP Church on the last Friday morning of every month to intercede for Nelson Mandela Bay.

From a small beginning the group has grown into a powerful body, lifting the needs of our Metropole and all the churches to the Lord. Intercessors come from all over the city and from like Litenhage—all with a burning desire to see the lives of all the people improve through the working together of the combined Body of the Lord as we walk through good Godly governance from our municipality and Province.

Evangelists Arthur and Michelle with their daughter Carmen showing members of our diocese the fish net they were given while at the Sea of Galilee.

On 29 June evangelists Arthur and Michelle, who first challenged everyone with a reminder that we are called to pray 24/7 because those in heaven never cease to pray, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty...” and we need to return to singing the Word. The couple spoke of their calling nine years ago, the work they have been involved in and of their being sent to Israel where they were led to pray on the banks of the Sea of Galilee. There they were given a vision of casting a net into the sea and bringing in the harvest. While praying about this they were joined by a group of Christians whose leader invited them to spend the night with her. As she listened to their vision she said, “But I have a net in a cupboard that for some reason I felt I must not throw out. I feel you need to take it.”

After symbolically throwing the net into the Sea of Galilee they returned to South Africa with the vision of a wide and wide river of prayer 24/7 for 50 days, calling South Africans to fast and intercede for family life and for a mighty revival of the church through the power of the Holy Spirit. Arthur and Michelle are organising a prayer crusade in Port Elizabeth from 9-12 August. For further details on the monthly intercessors (and to receive prayer pointen) and on the crusade contact: joan@cton.zg

The view from pulpits and pew

• indaba rejoices with self-supporting priest Thandazoula Noketshe on his wife Bulela’s successful kidney transplant from her donor sister. Both Indaba and the donor family thank the diocesan family for the prayers, love and support.

• indaba asks for continued prayer for a speedy recovery for both of them.

• indaba congratulates Tommy Horne (a member of the Order of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth) who has been honored by Rotary International by being made a Paul Harris Fellow. The citation mentions his involvement in St John’s, Royal School of Church Music, Teammasters International and Holy Trinity Church.

• indaba is sad to report the death on 19 June of self-supporting priest Johannes Visage (of St Saviour’s) and extends condolences to the family, may they know the love of our Lord Jesus surrounding them as they mourn.

• indaba hears that tickets to the 2016 Global Leadership Conference taking place on 19 and 20 October at Harvest Christian Church have been sold out.

Clergy on the move

• The following clergy were instituted/licensed during July:

  • Kuzwayo Ludzha as rector of St Stephen’s in New Brighton;
  • Mzwakule Patrick Nkosiwe as rector at The Parish of St Cyriacus’s in KwaZakhele on Tuesday 13th;
  • Rowan Garrett Jacobs as rector at The Parish of the Good Shepherd in Humansdorp on Tuesday 10th;
  • Andile Lawrence Duma as priest-in-charge at St Simon of Cyrene in Gambleville on Thursday 12th;

  • Zwelazaza Livingstone Madlingozw as rector at St Andrew’s in Kwahlabile on Friday 20th;
  • Ulrich Garmet Flerus as rector at Holy Trinity in Claralville on Wednesday 25th.

Something to emulate

Cape Town scholars have united to clean up rivers and indaba challenges our schools and parishes to do the same! The Baakens and Breitkops rivers are in dire need of clearing up and can be turned into beautiful recreation spots.

indaba prints extractor on a report from Facebook.

With financial support from the Rotary Club of Claremont, Bishops Interact Club is heading the ‘Schools for the Liesbeek’ initiative, covering the section of the river between Oosbank Green and St Joseph’s Marist College.

“The idea is for the learners to work together in taking responsibility for this stretch of the river which passes so close to their schools. The long-term plan is to continue clearing litter from this stretch of river and to obtain council approval to landscape it, lay paving stones for a pathway, plant shrubs and trees and erect a bench,” says Peter Hyslop, teacher in charge of the Interact Club.

The group of 116 learners were joined by a nature conservation officer from the City of Cape Town and representatives from the Liesbeek group and the Green Anglicans.

Afterswards Kevin Winter from UCT’s environmental and geographical science department, spoke about water scarcity, water management and urban river systems.
Serving a second term as president
Nomathandazo Pangwa

Memories of the MUCFL singing at their conference.
The Diocesan Council of the Mothers’ Union Christian Family Life was held at St John’s in Walmer. The opening of council was conducted by our chaplain, Vincent Mdidiimba who read from Mark 15:16-21. Canon Andrea Potgieter was commissioned by Bishop Bethlehem to preside over the election of the President, but as there was only one candidate, Nonthuthuzelo Ngqoza will serve for a second term in office. In her acceptance speech she hoped to serve the mothers through upholding the principles of MULOA – Mothers’ Union Listening Observing Acting. Business of the day continued with the reporting to members on the programmes of the organisation.

Coffee in Hazel’s Corner
Hazel’s son Quinton Braun and daughter Avril Nolte with the rector of HTC, Ulriat Fleurs (left) and assistant priest, Charles von der Westhuizen (right) at the opening of ‘Hazel’s Corner.’ Opening the newly re-tapped coffee zone, at the back of the church at Holy Trinity in Central, Debbie Calder who was the force behind this special area for fellowship, said they had chosen to name it Hazel’s Corner after Hazel Braun. She said that this wonderful woman, a member of the Order of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth, had brought more than half the members of the congregation to come back to HTC because of her wonderfully warm welcome and care for everyone, making them feel really special. Hazel had not only been very active in HTC but was on the executive of the Anglican Women’s Fellowship, the treasurer of the Diocesan Educare committee and was involved in many other organisations. She died in June.

Food Fair
St Paul’s Church – 16 Tucker Street
Friday 7 September 17h00 – 20h00
Food, glorious food!
Hot sausage and mustard!
Cold jelly and custard!
What next is the question?
Just picture a great big steak
brashed, curried, or skewered!
On food! Magical food!
Wonderful food! Marvellous food!
Please come along and support us!

Rededicating for service
Songezo Mlaziwe

Nurses at St Peter’s who took part in the annual rededication service.
On 27 May the Health Desk of St Peter’s in Zwide held a service of commemoration of International Nurse’s Day. The service, which is observed annually, on 12 May is meant to acknowledge the work done by nurses and to encourage them to continue rendering essential services even in these difficult and trying times. Our rector, Vincent Mdidiimba delivered a homily based on Trinity then the main speaker, N Chabula spoke on “Prevention and First Aid of Burns,” highlighting different causes of burns and what needs to be done when handling each particular case. The nurses, once again, pledged themselves to uphold the oath they had taken when they qualified as professionals. This was followed by a candle lighting ceremony led by Z Mabuto which symbolises that people should be led into the light, and their hope be restored, from one generation to the next.

When speaking on the purpose of the day T Nyengane said that this day came about through the vision of Florence Nightingale, a nurse who emphasised the importance of hygiene. She was a God-fearing, people-loving and caring nursing Sister who taught that nurses have to consider all aspects - the physical, mental and spiritual – of their patient. In giving her vote of thanks N Ngqoza reminded everyone that communities should have a good knowledge of aspects concerning their health.

Symbolism gives significant reminder
Madeleni Lunt

On Pentecost Sunday 20 May members of St Paul’s in Parsons Hill arrived at church through the red clothes. What a sight with the red altar frontal, red robes worn by the rector, Mark Barth, and, of course, the servers in their red robes.
We were greeted by a beautiful set up of a quietly flowing water feature with a dove perched on top, signifying the first baptism by water. The second baptism of fire was the magnificent dragonfly bogonja with drooping red flowers. 12 pine cones topped with red rose buds were the twelve apostles and to round it off was a jug of water, red wine in a glass and a loaf of bread. It was such a significant reminder to us what a special day this is in the church calendar. Mark appropriately preached on Ezekiel 37 and Acts 2:1-21 which speaks of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Spoiling the fathers
Adrie Stockdale

Doug Cumming, Charles Heathecote, Andile Dumsa, Neville Cumming, Ron MacDonald and Ted Derry
On Father’s Day the moms from St Francis Chapel in Jeffrey’s Bay spoil the dads with a special tea after the service. Assistant priest Andile was very blessed to be included because he was our visiting priest - Jackie being on leave.

Blankets and Jerseys to warm the needy
Madeleni Lunt

For weeks parishioners of St Paul’s in Parsons Hill had been bringing in donations of blankets, jerseys, coats and warm items for the collection for our annual Blanket and Jersey Sunday which took place on Trinity Sunday 27 May.
Our Social Action members had been very pro-active in purchasing fleece material which had been made up by various volunteers into the most beautiful soft blankets. All these were displayed in the church and arranged in piles to be given to the various charities that St Paul’s supports. These are: Care Haven, Merryvale School, The House of Resurrection Children’s Haven and Algoa Council for the Aged (Rocklands). We were pleased to have their representatives attend our service, and then be able to take these wonderful gifts with them for distribution to the less fortunate.
It was just so significant that this happened on Trinity Sunday, and that our speaker for both services was Susan Prince of Youth with a Mission, who with her husband does extensive work with the community in Walmer Gobega. Susan related some of the experiences that they had encountered in Madagascar when they did Mission work in that country, such as making sure that the children they taught washed their hands regularly, which had a major effect on the health of the community and the learners. What a testimony for a very special day!

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