Eddie Daniels, one of our own clergy, is the choice of the people of this diocese to become our fifth bishop.

Elective Assembly, chaired by the Archbishop of Cape Town, Thabo Makgoba, comprised 59 clergy and 96 representatives of the laity who had been elected by their parishes. They gathered to pray and discern which of the seven candidates the Lord had set aside to be their new leader. By the end of day one they had chosen Eddie - the votes had to be two-thirds in both the house of laity and clergy.

Our Bishop-elect is very well known to most of the diocese but lindaba asked him to share some of his journey since he arrived here in 1993.

The first Anglican Church I attended in our Diocese was St Mary Magdalene in Port Elizabeth. The only lines I can remember are the following; “When I was new and a pretty young deacon, a church revolution was what I was seekin’... Now I’m a bishop, severe and remote; I wish the young clergy would stop rockin’ the boat!”

It illustrates how life changes even within the ranks of the ordained ministry. I was made a deacon in the church of God on 28 December 1985, along with Cyril Müller, Bishop Desmond presided at our marriage. The late Bishop Bruce Evans could not attend so he and Joan sent us a gift and their card read, “You are a gift from God created the heavens and the earth...”

God bless Africa and all of us.
Letter to the editor

We are writing to inform you of a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of Freedom of Religion SA (NPO 2013/092966/08) which we would like to bring to your attention since you may in some measure be affected by it.

As you may recall, on previous occasions, FOR SA has written to ask for financial support and has emphasised that we are 100% dependent upon donations to enable us to continue our work to protect and promote our constitutional rights to enjoy freedom of religion in South Africa. However, while we have been honoured by many words and letters of encouragement and appreciation for the contribution FOR SA makes, this has not translated into a consistent level of financial support. In fact, although there are some who give faithfully and generously every month, the financial support we do receive has decreased during the course of 2018 to the extent that on more than one occasion we have been unable to pay salaries on time. The Board has therefore agreed that this is neither fair nor sustainable.

As a result - and despite the increasing threats to religious freedom on multiple fronts (including the recent developments from the CRL as they renew their call for State control of religion) - we have resolved that unless our financial support increases to a sustainable level, we will have no option but to close down and disband our advocacy team in June 2019 at the latest, or when we are no longer able to satisfy our financial obligations - whichever comes first.

However, we believe there is still a chance to avert this outcome. We are therefore writing to you to make you aware of the situation we are facing and to ascertain whether (or not) you are willing to help FOR SA to continue our work.

We have reached a proverbial fork in the road. Our sincere hope is that we will be able to partner with you and continue the work to ensure that our vital religious freedom rights are protected and promoted in order that we can believe, teach, preach and live out our faith without the threat of sanction. For our part, unfortunately, we are simply unable to continue our role in this fight unless our financial support increases.

We thank you for your past support and for your understanding of the critical point we have reached. Should you be willing to be part of the solution and to contribute financially to keep FOR SA going, you can donate online or make payments directly into our bank account:

Account name: FOR SA
Bank: ABSA
Account #: 4062114382

If you are willing to assist us, if possible we would ask you to consider making a monthly contribution for a 12 month period to help us budget appropriately. Thank you again for your interest and support.

Warm regards and blessings,
Michael Swain - Executive Director, FOR SA

A service of reconciliation
Zwelitom

A steady hand needed
Trying her skill at the Holy Trinity Spring Fair was Queen while being watched by her mother (left) and friend Nokuthenda and Lewyn Spies (right). The girls attend the iThemba Aftercare at HTC.

Retired from NMU!

Nomonde and Mncedisi Charles Oto were seen at the retirement function for a HOD in the Department of Environmental Health at Nelson Mandela University. Also retiring from NMU is assistant priest at St Margaret’s in Summerstrand and University Chapel, Ruby Zauka (on the right).
The Vicar-general writes ...

My Dear People of God,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

May the Prince of Peace bring you all His peace and joy at the beginning of this New Year!

The times in which we live are challenging and change, or the pace of it, can leave us fearful and unsure of our peace. But it does not need to be this way, especially if we place our confidence in the Word made flesh. Yes, our times are scary; yes, they (the things) around can and sometimes do, shake us; and yes, fear of the unknown does or can grip us! But, now let us stop for a moment and ask what does God’s word say to us in times like these? In Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the Lord, “… plans to give you a hope and a future.” This was written at a time in Israel’s history when things were bad, yet God was encouraging them to hope in Him. We know as believers that our hope is and must be in Him alone! So 2019 is for us to place our confidence in the Word and change, or the pace of it, can leave us comfortless. New Year!

May the Prince of Peace bring you all His peace and joy at the beginning of this New Year!

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

During the Advent season I preached through the Old Testament readings each week, and the feeling of peace that came from this was overwhelming, as well as the feeling of hope. The prophets made me look again at the extreme excitement of the unknown does or can grip us! Sometimes do, shake us; and yes, fear of the unknown does or can grip us! But, now let us stop for a moment and ask what does God’s word say to us in times like these? In Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the Lord, “… plans to give you a hope and a future.” This was written at a time in Israel’s history when things were bad, yet God was encouraging them to hope in Him. We know as believers that our hope is and must be in Him alone! So 2019 is for us to place our confidence in the Word and change, or the pace of it, can leave us comfortless. New Year!

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**A ‘Christmas baby’ turns 80**

Adrie Stockdale

A photograph of St Francis Chapel superimposed onto the 80th celebration cake.

On Christmas Day the Chapel of St Francis in Jeffrey’s Bay, part of the Parish of the Good Shepherd, celebrated 80 years of ministry.

The first service held in our little chapel of St Francis was on Christmas Day 1938. To put this into historical context: the world was at war a few months later, and our church was not spared worry, or indeed loss, but here we are, a thriving Christian community so many years later, thanks be to God.

This, the first church building in Jeffrey’s Bay, was originally a rectangular construction with a corrugated iron roof. It was consecrated by Bishop Archibald Cullen in May 1941 and the rector of St Mark’s in Humansdorp, the Revd PWE Woodward, was responsible for this chapel too.

We praise our Lord for providing for us and for our little town such a wonderful place of worship and after the service on Christmas Day our retired priest Jackie Trollip cut an especially iced celebration cake.

St Patrick’s in Humansdorp held a Christmas party for their housebound members.

In response to our monthly topic that, ‘We are called to love our neighbours’ members of St Patrick’s in Humansdorp held a Christmas party for their housebound members on 17 November.

Reaching out and showing our love and appreciation to them is a manifestation of 2 Tim 1:7 ‘Thank you for being Lois and Eunice.’ In sharing this message with them, assistant priest, Siyabulela Tsatsi, acknowledged the role played in our church by our senior members, and their journey of faith, relating to them as Louis and Eunice. He ended by challenging everyone saying, ‘We are expected to fulfil Joel 2:28 ‘And afterward, I will pour out my spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.’’

St Patrick’s has now decided that a service of housebound ministry will happen bimonthly - its vision is to show we still care and love them.

**A feast of music to enhance our Christmas celebration**

Stone of the Organ Recital in the church on 23 December.

The rector, Mark Derry, said at the close, “We were transported away for over an hour.” On the programme with Justin were Ryan Mulville and one of Justin’s pupils, Jonathan Hughes.

A feast of music to enhance our Christmas celebration was the description given by St John’s organist Justin Stone of the Organ Recital in the church on 23 December.

The rector, Mark Derry, said at the close, “We were transported away for over an hour.” On the programme with Justin were Ryan Mulville and one of Justin’s pupils, Jonathan Hughes.

**Transported away**

Organists Ryan Mulville and Justin Stone (back) with pupil Jonathan Hughes (front).

**Cheerfully hitting 97**

Grace Boshoff

Adrian and Grace Boshoff with Robbie Robinson on his 97th birthday in October.

Many friends and members of St John’s in Walmer popped in to Lilly Haven to wish long time member of the parish, Robbie Robinson, a very happy 97th birthday. As always he was bright and cheerful and grateful for the visits.

The response from the congregation was wonderful. The packs contain toiletries, panties/underpants and little items to make the survivor feel loved and are taken to the Dora Nginza Thuthuzela Care Centre to help rape survivors when they come to report their case and be counselled.

**Jenny Watson and Hazel Pearson with the ‘love packs’ for rape survivors.**

Over the past few months the social concern group at St Hugh’s asked the congregation to donate items suitable for putting into ‘love packs’ to be given to rape survivors. The response from the congregation was wonderful.

On Sunday morning 25 November, 111 packs were blessed by the rector, Claire Phelps, who said, “We pray we reach a time when we will not need to make these packs anymore.”

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**St Hugh’s**

Enjoying the Senior’s tea at St Hugh’s were Pam Shapiro, Natalie Kiessig, Elaine Dullisear, Connor Matthews, Jill Bromiley, Kelsey Froneman - the table hostess and Pamela Cassells.

**Holy Trinity**

Holy Trinity in Central enjoyed Carols in the Square with the Moravian Band leading them.