

A time of giving thanks

The diocese honoured Roy

Roy Snyman tssf received the blessing of being installed as an Honorary Canon of the diocese by Bishop Bethlehem at a beautiful Advent service on Sunday night 30 November.

Many friends and parishioners attended the service to give thanks for Roy's work in the diocese. Roy was rector and vice-provost of St Mary's from 1991 to 2001, when he retired. But, as with most clergy, that did not mean a quiet life. On the contrary, he has looked after two parishes during their interregnums. At present he is assisting at St Paul's.

The music for the service was inspiringly beautiful with Eric Spencer at the organ - it was his last service at the Cathedral.

Roy is an Honorary Canon of the Dioceses of Kimberley & Kuruman and of Bloemfontein.



Roy Snyman tssf receives the citation from Bishop Bethlehem.

St Paul's gave thanks

At St Paul's, Remembrance Sunday was not only a day of remembering those who died in the various wars, but also those of our police force who have died in the line of duty. It was a service of thanksgiving for the work the police do in our city and to assure them that under the terrible circumstances of their every day working conditions there are those who pray for them and appreciate what they do.

Using the story of Israel's defeat at Ai because of Achan's sin, Ruthell likened it to the sin of corruption and greed of those in power and the idolatry of the people of this land who put sport and possessions above their obedience and love of God.

The Memorial candle was lit and a time of silence followed by the singing of the National Anthem.



St Paul's rector, Ruthell Johnson enjoys a cup of tea with Cst (L) Makubalo, Capt S Janse van Rensburg, Cst Jonck and police chaplain Templeton Jam Jam.

After the service tea and eats were served in the hall and parishioners were able to meet those of the police who were able to be at the service while their colleagues had been called to keep peace at the voter registration outlets.

Pam Shapiro was also honoured

Jenny Watson

On Sunday 16 November Bishop Bethlehem admitted Pam Shapiro to The Order of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth, at St Hugh's, in Newton Park.

She was thrilled, and surprised, to have three of her children, their families, and other family members (14 in all) present to celebrate this great occasion with her.

This prestigious award is held by only 50 people in the Diocese at any one time.

In presenting the award Bishop Bethlehem said that Pam is counted worthy of this dignity because of her faithfulness and distinguished service to God, through the Church, particularly in the Parish of St Hugh, for about 50 years - in Mothers' Union. Pam also received a special commemorative Pin of the Diocese to wear as a token of the honour bestowed on her.

Pam held various positions on the MU Diocesan Council for many years such as Diocesan Overseas Representative, Link Representative and Indoor Members Representative. She has also held the positions of Enrolling Member and of secretary on many occasions and other inspiring roles. She is currently the Enrolling Member/Branch Leader of St Hugh's MU Christian Family Life. She continues correspondence with 12 Overseas Links and leads a Bible-study group which has been going for over 20 years, now consisting of some Indoor Members.

Pam was President of the Victoria Memorial Home for the Aged for 16 years. Over a period of 25 years, she assisted Ron Rayner, the chaplain, with the monthly



The family gathered around Pam Shapiro (centre) after the service.

communion services. Her love for our Lord has helped so many in their life-time.

In the Bishop's words, "You are worthy! May the Lord bless you and inspire you and those whose lives you continue to touch."

The words of the hymn, "Put Peace into each others' hands", sung at the conclusion of the ceremony, perfectly describe Pam's walk with our Lord Jesus.

We are all blessed to be part of Pam's family at St Hugh's.

AWF thanksgiving dinner



Lynette Bouah, Shereen and Garfield Jacobs from St Simon of Cyrene enjoyed the AWF Thanksgiving dinner.

God's love for us and that because of this he demands love from us which we must show to all we meet. "The church needs a compassionate heart - it must be a beneficiary to the outside world," he said

The Anglican Women's Fellowship enjoyed their annual year-end Thanksgiving dinner on Friday 7 November. The dinner was held at St Michael and All Angels with Bishop Bethlehem as the keynote speaker. He was short and sweet, thanking the members of the AWF for their support and prayers which helped sustain him through a very difficult year. He went on to speak of

and quoted from Judge Mervyn King.

The rest of the two hour pre-dinner programme included the welcome, and some very good jokes, by Rudi Marais, the priest-in-charge of St Michael's, a testimony by Ruby Whitehead and input from various other speakers.

After the speeches the dinner was enjoyed by all.

AE said thank you

Greg Smerdon, the National Team Leader of African Enterprise, visited Port Elizabeth on Thursday 6 November to thank all the people who support AE financially and/or with prayer.

He spoke especially of the outreach to the universities as being crucial because, "These are business people of the future," and asked that the mission to Wits University and the University of Johannesburg next year be soaked in prayer.

Bishop Bethlehem and Greg Smerdon enjoyed some soup at the AE report-back. Hebe Usher of St John's joined them.

Earlier members of the Foxfire team, young folk who give a gap-year to the Lord, had given beautiful song and dance renditions of the 'Lord's Prayer' and 'We Lift Him Higher'.



A Golden Jubilee celebration

A lone bagpiper, Sgt Maj Hammie Thompson, piped the people into the Cathedral for the golden jubilee celebration service of ordained ministry by Roy Snyman tssf.

It was held on Sunday 7 December and many friends joined the parishioners to congratulate Roy. The PE Oratorio Choir together with the Cathedral choir ensured the singing was superb, as befitted the occasion.

Professor John Rodda from Germiston was the preacher and spoke of the 'calling to vocation', saying, "Learn to listen, pay attention ... and learn to recognise Christ in everyone around you." John is a medical specialist as well as a priest in the Parish of Germiston.

A celebratory feast was held in the hall after the service.



Above - Roy Snyman tssf stands beside the Thanksgiving Window, installed in the cathedral to celebrate his Golden Jubilee. Left - The rector of St Paul's, Ruthell Johnson, presents Roy with a gift after a celebration service for his 50 years of ordained ministry.



St Paul's, in Parsons Hill, held their celebration for Roy on the actual anniversary date, Sunday 14 December. Roy kept the congregation enthralled with his many anecdotes about his days of ministry ... and prior to them too.

A breakfast was held in the hall afterwards at which a gift was presented to him by the rector, Ruthell Johnson, who spoke of Roy's impressive CV. With chaplaincies, pastoral oversights and rector-ships it culminated in his appointment as dean of Kimberley and then vice-provost and rector of St Mary's. He is an Honorary Canon of two other dioceses and has just become an Honorary Canon of our diocese.

Ruthell shared a 'special' incident about Roy saying, "I remember the provincial synod in Swaziland at which the final decision on the ordination of women was

made. Fr Roy was part of the team representing the Diocese of PE. He was strongly against the ordination of women, yet as the synod progressed, God was at work within him. At the close of the debate Fr Roy stood up and made an impressive plea to the synod to allow women to enter the priesthood. His speech influenced the synod and when the vote was taken there was an overwhelming majority for the ordination of women."

Ruthell went on to talk of Roy's 9 years as vice-provost of St Mary's (1991 - 2001) and his ministry since retirement saying (with a twinkle in his eye), "Roy has been a valuable member of our pastoral team, and despite the length of his sermons and the naughtiness of his humour, we have come to love him ... and no reward can be greater than that."

.. the sheep on the right .. as ZRV and St Paul's combine



Instead of reading the Gospel at St Paul's on Sunday 30 November, when members of Zwartkops River Valley Parish visited, the youth enacted it. The cast is seen above with the blanket to clothe, some water for the thirsty, some food for the hungry and the caring hands to look after the sick and invite the stranger in, enabling those who



are chosen as sheep to 'be blessed and take the inheritance prepared for them.' The message was made very clear through the acting of the young people.

After the service at which the rector of ZRV, Sharon Nell had preached, the parishioners joined for tea in the hall. Many friendships were renewed as with Malcolm Shepherd of ZRV and Anne and Ron Thomson of St Paul's.

Every year the two parishes combine for a service and picnic at ZRV and later in the year a service at St Paul's.

Good Shepherd busy again

Pam Brown reports on some of the ministry taking place in the parish.



Olivia Mtetwa and Catherine Matflukiza hold the first quilt made by the Sinobomi Sewing circle using one of the machines donated by St Paul's, Kent, UK. It is to be given to Magalind Kuhle who lost all her possessions in the last fire in Sea Vista. A work of love indeed!



The Bible Study group and Sunday School of St Mark's, Humansdorp, visited Ons Tuiste on Tues 2 Dec for a Christmas tea with the group there who enjoy a home communion service every month given by assistant priest, Fiona Esterhuizen. This year's pre-Christmas visit was enlivened by songs from the children. A sumptuous tea was enjoyed by all.



Matron Honey holds a cross donated to the clinic on the day- it was hand-crafted by a retired police officer in Storms River.

Father Christmas with full sacks of presents for the children (no photos allowed) and a wonderful morning transpired. On the Monday, World AIDS Day, the church ladies sent in a wonderful array of cakes

and savouries for the patients tea. A service of blessing was well attended at the ARV clinic, Humansdorp Hospital on Monday 1 Dec, World Aids Day.

St Mark's Church, Humansdorp, continues to support staff and patients in every way possible - frozen soup is delivered weekly and monthly tea requirements are supplied.

The Rotary Club of Jeffrey's Bay sent

Assistant priest, Fiona Esterhuizen, blessed the building, staff, patients, visitors and staff from the hospital who joined us on the lawn in front of the clinic for a time of prayer, remembrance and hope.

Our thanks to Matron Honey and her staff for such a welcome.

Kissing the feet of Jesus

Lynne Axon

Since 1999, St John's in Walmer has been sending teams to Egypt, and more recently Sudan, to offer support and encouragement to Christians living and working in challenging circumstances.

After travels to these countries in September, the teams returned with eyes opened and hearts touched, filled with new insights and a deeper love for Our Father.

During a recent report-back to the church Sue Acton from Stutterheim had this to say about her second trip to Sudan. "On our second afternoon in Khartoum, we travelled to a refugee camp outside of the city. We met with the local pastor and had a time of sharing and praying with them. Before we left, he told us about a young woman who had had a baby four days earlier. The baby had died two days later. He asked us if we would go and pray for her. We walked through the village to her home, which was just a mud hut and a canopy in the open, where she lay resting on a bed with no mattress. Lynne and I sat on either side of her and the group prayed for her. She was only 15 years old and obviously in a lot of pain, both physically and emotionally. When the time came for us to leave, I kissed her on her forehead, which was feverish, hot, dusty and salty



Team members with Sudan refugee in makeshift shelter

with perspiration. My initial impulse was to wipe my mouth clean, but in that split second I had a picture of Jesus and of kissing his feet, which were hot, dusty and salty. As we left, we looked back and she smiled for the first time. We later heard that she had started to improve from that day on."

Our brothers and sisters in Sudan suffer great hardship from a government that ignores them, and puts them out in the desert with nothing - no schools, no access to medical treatment and no hope of living a decent life. Many have fled to the north from their homes in Darfur, Southern Sudan or the Nuba Mountains, where war and persecution are the order of the day. Yet they remain firm in their faith of the Lord Jesus Christ. We at St John's will continue to support them.

Christmas celebrations



At ZRV the Virgin Mary arrived at the stall in her 'very' advanced stage of pregnancy ... the donkey and the ox bowed as she and Joseph arrived ... the story unfolded as all the wonderful carols were sung and the shepherds and Magi joined the scene on the stage. The congregation had enjoyed a picnic before lighting their candles for the nativity and carols.

St Paul's Carols by Candlelight

The wind was kind and did not blow too hard on the night of Sunday 21 December when St Paul's in Parsons Hill held their Carols by Candlelight service on the lawn in front of the hall.

During one of the choir solos, members of the congregation came forward and decorated trees with baubles they'd been given, at the same time placing their donations in a basket.

Sherry and mince pies rounded off a wonderful evening.



Some brought chairs while others opted for a blanket on the grass, but all enjoyed singing Carols in the open.

Service of Remembrance

Good Shepherd Parish held their annual 'Service of Remembrance, Healing and Hope' on Saturday 6 December at St Mark's in Humansdorp.

Bishop Bethlehem was present and lit the AIDS candle of remembrance from which a taper was taken for those who wished to light a candle too. Those who had died of AIDS-related diseases were remembered in a time of silence.

Olivia Mtetwa, who has been living with AIDS for 11 years, gave an inspiring testimony of the love and support she has received from her family and friends. She is married and has three children and lives a 'normal' life. She is on ARVs.

The Dancing Angels once again entertained the congregation with their beautiful interpretations of Gospel songs - this year they were dedicated to mothers.

Jean Underwood, the assistant priest at All Saints' United in Somerset East and Director of the Blue Crane Hospice working with AIDS patients, gave a challenging testimony about her call to work with People Living with AIDS (PLAs) - her initial resistance which God had to break through. She also spoke of the resistance of the outside world towards PLAs.

She said ARVs have changed the face of the disease, "Because of this most of



Bishop Bethlehem lights the AIDS candle at the Remembrance service.

those who were in bed are now up and attending the support group where they get counselling, prayer and understanding and are helped through the grief process. However, as ARVs can only be taken with a good meal we have spent our whole year's grant in six months, on food. The R250 a month does not buy enough food to feed a patient for a month, and with the recession, things are getting even worse."

Jean thanked the churches that have supported her work and donated clothing for the patients.

St Margaret's nativity



The nativity scene

Gill Bowman

St Margaret's was graced again at Christmas with a beautiful nativity display constructed by Jenny Yates and her team.

During Advent St Margaret's journeyed with Mary and Joseph as they sought a room to stay for the night, and were welcomed into parishioner's homes as part of a Posada experience, which focuses on "Making room for Jesus this Christmas".

Posada is a Mexican word which means "inn", which each home offered became for a night for Mary and Joseph. This experience culminated with Mary and Joseph being brought to the church, seeking a place to stay, and being welcomed to stay at St Margaret's, as the Holy couple were revealed in the stable that had been created for them. The Mary and Joseph that journeyed through the Parish were a charming felt pair, who met many people around Summerstrand,



... and posada display

attending events like the Police Christmas party, meeting in one day about 150 people, and a carol service in a retirement complex among others. In all this people were reminded and given an experience of the true meaning of Christmas, with the journey being recorded in a Posada Journal. The Tribelhorn family of Mike, Sarah and daughters Caitlin and Nicole commented: "Mary and Joseph have given us all the opportunity to focus on the coming of our Lord. Thank you."

Clergy widows appreciated



Bishop Bethlehem is seen with Jill Smith and Yvonne Bramwell and (sitting) Ellen Gwentshu, Val Heath and Catherine Yoyo at the Christmas lunch he held in their honour. Not in the photo are Jessie Haya, Zanele Xuba and Thembisa Hlwatika

Speaking to the clergy widows who attended a Christmas lunch at the PE Golf Club, Bishop Bethlehem said that one of the things that came out of the Lambeth Conference was the need for Bishops to pay more attention to encouraging clergy wives.

He thanked the clergy widows who had supported their husbands during their ministry and he encouraged the women

to make themselves available as speakers for various church groups and to participate in the church programmes where needed.

Bishop Bethlehem said he was hoping to arrange a clergy spouses, weekend retreat, which he would lead, early in the new year. He is also looking for someone to assist him in a programme he envisions which will bring about more integration of black and white parishioners.

A very delicious three course meal was and enjoyed by everyone present.

Essential services staff thanked

Once again All Saints', Kabega Park, took gifts of food and drinks to those on duty on Christmas Day at the Kabega police station and to the fire fighters and ambulance personnel on duty at Greenbushes.

Assistant priest, Richard Taylor, with two members of All Saints' are seen handing a parcel to the policemen on duty at Kabega Park Station.



Mamma Mia - what an evening



The renowned group 'Abba' were on stage at the Red House hall at the end of October to entertain the members of ZRV and their friends with all the favourite Abba songs.

Mamma Mia! What an evening. Music, fun, laughter, fellowship and good food were all part of a "Mamma Mia" evening held at Zwartkops River Valley Parish on Friday night 31 October. The music was supplied by that renowned group 'Abba' – which includes two members of the clergy, a churchwarden, a clergy wife and daughter plus 'an-other'!

A delicious three course meal, draws for prizes and Salsa dancing lessons by Fiona Burness made the evening a wonderful success.

Charlie out of prison



Charles and Joan Newsham

where there were 400 men sitting - talking, smoking and just idle. From that day God had me in each of the four different sections of the NE prison courtyards. Some days there were 400, some 50 or 20. During these years the warden made the men 'Come out and listen.'

These men were coloured and ama-

Charles Newsham has retired from 40 years of prison ministry and iindaba asked him for his story:

One day in 1969 at a meeting in a church in the northern townships a young coloured man, whom I had just led in prayer to Jesus, said to me, "This week I will be on trial in court for stealing." That Thursday he was given a two-and-a-half year sentence.

Well, for the next 18 months I visited him in the North End prison every Sunday afternoon. He was discharged early for 'good behaviour.'

The next Sunday morning in prayer I asked the Lord, "Do I go back to prison?" Clearly, in my head, I heard God's voice, "Yes, go back."

That afternoon I spoke to the head-warder and explained why I was back. He said, "Wait here." He came back and said, "Come." He led me into a courtyard

Xhosa, very few white men would come, but always there would be some person who would come forward for prayer.

We would begin by singing - in Afrikaans and isiXhosa. I taught them some easy English songs like 'Kum Ba Yah'.

During the political problems of the mid 1990's numbers dropped to 5 - 12 so we would meet in the prison passage and sing and pray and share the message. I would hand out scripture leaflets to all who came forward for prayer.

One of the secrets of God's blessing has been that I've always had the Bible read aloud in their own language. I believe the sinner must hear 'God's call' in their own tongue then the Holy Spirit can speak loud and clear into their hearts.

From the beginning of my mission in NE to the time I quit in May 2008 the warders were very, very helpful, friendly and very respectful. God is good all the time!

During last year members from Zwartkops River Valley Parish and interested others under the banner of 'Biologos' have gathered at various venues in Redhouse to learn more about the heavens.

It is the brainchild of Professor Geoff Booth, a lay minister at ZRV, who says, "This is a private initiative organised by a group of Christians acting in their own capacities. It is not tied to any church, but members (and non-members) of all churches are invited."

What the stars tell

- no, not foretell!



Carnival



Vladimir Dhondt, president of the Belgian non-profit organisation Vzw Afraids, is spending nine months at the House of Resurrection Haven. He has organised wonderful functions for the patients - one of the most successful was a Carnival. The children enjoyed all the fun which went on into the evening too.

The primary function of Vzw Afraids is to raise funds for the Haven and secondary is AIDS awareness. Vladimir and his team are a great asset to the Haven.

... and beauty queens



Reach for a Dream organised a 'Queen for a Day' event which thrilled all the girls at the Haven. They are seen with their crowns on ... and one is never too young to share one's expertise when it comes to beauty tips!

For bookworms et al



Enjoying themselves in the bookroom at St Saviour's are a visitor, Audrey Naudé, and Mary MacGregor, who runs the shop.

One of the most popular spots in the church concourse at St Saviour's Church in Walmer is Mary's delightful bookroom. Filled with a variety of Christian books including prayer books, bibles (as well as study bibles) to 'holding crosses', jig-saw puzzles, diaries, calendars and much, much more. A speciality is in the childrens' selection which is a joy with many selling at very reduced prices.

The bookroom is open before and after Sunday services, but also on Wednesdays

from 09h30. This popular venue brings numbers of visitors, some of whom come by appointment.

Mary, the daughter of one of New Zealand's finest booksellers, has many years experience, and will try to accommodate any request.

Telephone 041 581 7788 - but not between 11h30 and 15h00, please.

A PS from the editor: A few years ago I asked Mary about a book written by my New Zealand cousin. She made enquiries and, voila, she managed to get me a copy - for which I paid less than my sister had paid for her copy bought in New Zealand! How's that!?



Make a date

The House of Resurrection Haven still has some copies of their beautiful calendars available.

Cost R100

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