

Welcome ...



Ruth Brandt our new diocesan secretary / treasurer who took over the reins on 5 January.

... to our new diocesan secretary / treasurer

Ruth Brandt took over the reins as diocesan secretary/treasurer from Keith Rae on 5 January and admits it will take a little while to find her feet completely.

Ruth, who was priested in the Diocese of Grahamstown in December 2005, is not new to the task as she held the same position in Grahamstown from 1997 – 2005 before she moved to Queenstown to set-up the administration structures there prior to the area becoming the new Diocese of UKhahlamba. While in Queenstown she also assisted with

ministry within the St Michael's Church cluster.

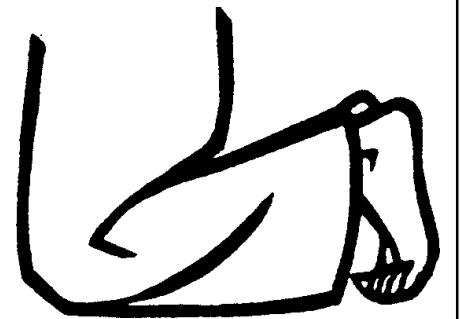
Ruth is settling into the rectory at St Francis Xavier - Mark Derry, the rector, having chosen to continue living in his own house in Walmer. She says she has been overwhelmed at the loving welcome she has so far received from members of the diocese and St Francis Xavier.

On the personal side she has a son and two grandchildren, a boy and a girl ... whom, needless to say, are the best grandchildren in the world!

Pray for the country

Before the 1994 elections we printed the following in iindaba and feel it is as relevant this year as it was then:

Pray for our country;
Pray against violence;
Pray for peace;
Pray as you have never done before because millions of lives depend on your prayers;
Pray as if there were no others praying;
Pray for South Africa in great detail.



... and the new organist at the Cathedral

At the beginning of April, St Mary's Cathedral will be welcoming their new organist, Tim Lees, from the UK. Tim is a professional organist and choir master who has taught in many churches and schools. He heard of the opening at St Mary's through a mutual friend and visited PE to find out more about it.

Tim was here again during January where he played at the Cathedral on Sunday morning 11th - much to the delight of those who had attended the

service. He was accompanied by his wife, Janet and youngest son, Jonathan. Unfortunately, logistics dictate that they will not be staying in PE with him during his sojourn at the Cathedral but they will join him from time to time.

From 1990 to 2001 Tim was the organist to the Sultan of Oman in Arabia. During this time he played at a private concert for the Sultan and Nelson Mandela, but sadly, Tim had already gone home when he was called to meet Madiba.

The diocese looks forward to welcoming Tim to our friendly city.

Tim Lees is seen with his youngest son, Jonathan, and wife Janet when they visited PE during January.



The Good Samaritan arrives in Motherwell

On the first Sunday of Advent, the congregation from St Matthias church in Motherwell gathered at their Ikamvelihle branch to honour an invitation from the priest-in-charge, Mthetheleli Vena, to "Come and See" the newly built structure which Mthetheleli referred to as "The Good Samaritan".

This idea began in 2006 when Thami Nyondo received funding from the Anglican Church of Southern Africa for HIV/AIDS programmes at St Matthias. The funds were used mainly to buy groceries for the people living with HIV/AIDS (PLAs) and to operate three soup kitchens - at the church, at the unused Imbasa Primary School building (NU 11) and at Ikamvelihle township - with the aim of reaching out to the wider community of Motherwell. The funds and the voluntary cooks were unable to cope with the very high demand for the soup at Imbasa and it closed.

The soup kitchen had become a symbol of hope and compassion to the community of the Ikamvelihle, but funds were drying up so Thami decided to go out and find sponsorships so that she could continue running it. She succeeded in her wish and 'hit two birds with one stone' when she approached Sovereign Foods/Rocklands Poultry and asked that



Mthetheleli Vena names the new building The Good Samaritan and soon large numbers of people were arriving for the nourishing soup which is served daily from the building.

a structure be put up from which she could run the soup kitchen and also to be used as a place of worship - and they built and fenced the structure.

In order to accomplish her wish, Thami decided to have the structure put up on a

church site, hence 'The Good Samaritan' name from Mthetheleli. Although the soup is meant for PLAs and TB sufferers, anyone who comes for soup is welcome. Thami's aim is to provide nutritionally balanced meals at least once a day so she

is trying to find another 'Good Samaritan' to come to the rescue because at the moment she is buying soup out of the small salary that she earns from Eskom. Thami can be contacted on: Tel 041 994 8777

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Swiss TEE donor visits St Alban's

Howard Lancaster

At the end of 2008, Claudia Fuhrer, who heads up the Africa Desk of Fastenopfer, a major donor of TEE nationally, visited the students at St Alban's Correctional Services institution.

She, and the Cape Town-based South African representative of the organisation, Quraisha Nagdee, were overwhelmingly impressed with the students and amazed at the positive role they were playing in their situation. The students had just heard their results for the year, which ranged from 60% to 80%. In the maximum security section they are involved, with the staff, including Ian McKinnon, the clinical psychologist and religious workers, in many projects to assist with the rehabilitation of their fellow offenders. These include anger management, life skills and a range of education to assist them to become productive and law-abiding citizens once their sentences have been served. The



The TEE visitors to St Alban's prison were presented with papier-mâché potjies to commemorate the visit.

week after this visit, they were to be involved in a project to which learners from several so-called "problem schools" had been invited, hopefully to discourage them from behaviour which might result in them being imprisoned!

Fastenopfer is a Catholic-run organisation set up to distribute the proceeds of the Lenten fast offerings, not only from the Catholic Church in Switzerland, but also from the Protestant

community. It is a great example of ecumenical co-operation. Fastenopfer works in 13 countries on three different continents. So highly is the organisation regarded that the Swiss government entrusts some of its foreign aid money to the organisation. This money is used towards social development whereas the money raised through the churches is directed to interdenominational Christian projects.

RIP Keith Trevor Cremer

Order of St Simon of Cyrene and Member of the Order of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth

Over the years the little Karoo town of Cradock has produced some remarkable citizens - Olive Schreiner, Canon James Calata, Professor Guy Butler, to name but a few - and more recently Keith Trevor Cremer! The little church of St Peter could seldom have been so packed, as when friends and family from all over the country assembled to pay their last respects to the memory of this remarkable self-effacing man.

The service was led by Bishop Bethlehem, the rector of the parish, Archdeacon Michael Julius, and the dean, Dudley Greenshields, from the nearby United Church in Somerset East. Additional speakers were Canon Peter Bowen and Koos Moolman, a partner in the legal firm Metcalf and Co, of which Keith had been senior partner for many years.

Bishop Bethlehem spoke at length about Keith's contribution at diocesan and provincial level while still a member of the old undivided diocese, and later about his guidance and wisdom during the formative years of our diocese. He expanded in general terms on the value to the whole church when people give so totally of their time and their talents as Keith had always given of his. Keith's professional services were always rendered on a "pro Deo" basis! Dudley was especially grateful for Keith's wisdom in helping interpret the ecclesiastical legislation by which "United Churches" were bound, and stressed Keith's modesty - even his embarrassment when gratitude was showered upon him. Peter, who, over the years, with Dennis Burkinshaw, had probably been closer to Keith

than most, spoke about Keith's courage and again, his modesty. When Peter shared the manner in which Keith had won his promotion and his award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal during the second world war, it became clear after the service that much of this was unknown even to members of Keith's own family, and to members of the MOTH Shellhole of which Keith had been a member! Koos gave tribute to the manner in which Keith had assisted him to find his feet in the legal business.

Keith, in his nineties, was still driving to work in the mornings, before breakfast!

Seldom has St Peter's been filled with such a wide background of folk whose lives had been touched in some way or other.

Peter Bowen

Relay for Life - Port Elizabeth : for CANSA

Sheila Dibben

The parishioners of St Saviour's Church, Villiers Road, Walmer, are challenging all the churches in the diocese

Claire Phelps and they are now extending the challenge to the congregation to take part.

We also need Cancer Survivors to register and be part of the Relay. They will be celebrated and honoured and will do the very first lap after being pampered and enjoying a meal together. At dusk the luminaria lap will take place. Special bags are being sold for people to decorate and put photos or messages on, and a candle which will be lit as it grows dark, then a lap of tribute and remembrance to those who have lost the battle.

Relay for Life is:

A Celebration of cancer survivorship;

A presence in the community; Much more than just a fundraiser; A showcase of Cansa's local presence; An event that provides communities with the opportunity to join the fight against cancer. Take the challenge and have a fun evening or night, walking the track, listening to music and other entertainment for both adults and children, but most of all enjoying the company of friends, relatives, neighbours, and co-workers.

Contact: Sheila Dibben for more information - 041 368 7813.

How odd of God to choose the Jews, but odder still are those who choose a Jewish God and reject the Jews.



to take part in :

Relay for Life

Friday 27 March 2009

Kemsley Park Sports Ground, Glendinningvale, PE.

What is it?

Relay is an overnight event consisting of teams of 10-15 of people taking it in turns to walk or run around a track. I have challenged our rector, Eddie Daniels and his pastoral assistant

Up to date very soon



Looking at David MacGregor working on our web page were Neville Lobb and Mark Derry (of the iindaba committee), and Shaun Gouws of PEChurchnet.

The diocesan web page will soon have all the up-to-date information on it, thanks to retired priest David MacGregor, who has kindly offered to take on the task - with the Bishop's PA, Mark Derry, accepting responsibility for letting David know as soon as any changes take place.

At a meeting held at David's house during January the iindaba committee, chaired by Neville Lobb of St Saviour's discussed the web site, and although this does not fall under their portfolio, it was decided that for the sake of better communication something had to be done about the page. David agreed to take over the responsibility with the help of Shaun Gouws of PEChurchnet who is the web master for the iindaba page. By the time this issue of iindaba is in the parishes David hopes to have the clergy directory almost completed.

Parishes are invited to let David have any news they would like put onto the news page, while diocesan happenings will be sent to David by the office. Clergy cell numbers and private home numbers will not be displayed to public logging onto the site (unless David has been given permission to do so by the person concerned) but

clergy will be given access codes to enable them to see the full page.

The web site had been set up many years ago by Craig Dunsmuir, now rector of St Mark and St John, but for some reason nobody in the diocese took responsibility for keeping Shaun Gouws informed of clergy changes etc, once he had taken over the task.

Into the 'now'

The use of cell phones as a means of communication within the diocese was discussed and it was decided that in the event of news that needs to get to all the clergy asap, this will be relayed to their cell phones. Not all the clergy are on e-mail so notices such as the recent one about the death of Keith Cremer will in future be sent via SMS as well as e-mail.

Website statistics

A look at our statistics show that the website was visited 1298 times from 1 - 28 January with the busiest day being 80 visits on 27 January. The number of pages accessed: 5415 with 15566 hits. The figures climbed steadily during last year and we hope the up-to-date pages will ensure more visitors. Parishes need to keep David informed of changes to their web page addresses so that he can keep the links alive.

Tubing up the river



The rector of Zwartkops River Valley Parish, Sharon Nell, with Desré Foaden the church-warden start the fun.

Some were on tubes, some on bellyboards, some lay on surfboards and others used a 'macaroni' floater and all were in the Swartkops River to have fun 'floating' (well, at times it took some hard arm-work) from under Settlers Bridge up to Dafor Park.

The fun float was organised by the Zwartkops River Valley Parish and many of their members - it was noted that they were all female - joined the fun, together with many locals and your editor who was challenged to take part this year. The weather was balmy, water was clear and cool, and the tide helped the participants about half way on their journey ... then some muscle was called for. The fun event called for sponsors and so far R1 000 has been collected.

Wors rolls and coffee, in aid of the Swartkops Trust, were very welcome after about 50 minutes in the water.

The Bishop writes...

My dear friends in Christ,

Greetings in the name of Christ our Lord and Saviour, in the desert as at this time!

It is on a gloomy note, mixed with a faint ray of brightness, that we begin this Lenten period, especially with the plight of the people of Zimbabwe still to the fore. The Church in Southern Africa prays for Zimbabwe during this time of our penitence. We pray that the political solution of a Government of National Unity be sustainable. That being the case, God's people will have a better life based on human dignity; equality before the law; freedom of choice in terms of where to live, who to associate and live with, within the perimeters of God's Law, and putting a democratic government in place; as well as safety and security for all in terms of jobs, health care, education for children, homes and clothes, as intended by God.

The story of God's journey with the human race from long ago tells us of how often people have been rebellious against their Creator. From time to time, the very same God who has been wronged calls his people back into fellowship with him with promises of renewed life (Jer 32:36ff; Ezk 37:27). His prophets unceasingly call people back to God in various ways. In the midst of calamity caused by the sins of the nation, God calls his people to turn to him "with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning" (Joel 2:12ff). That story of long ago becomes our story in a personal way. Like the black American spirituals 'it's not my father/mother but it's me, O Lord, standing in

Lent 2009

the need of prayer'. That story needs to speak into our circumstances. It is me who allows the word to transform my situation and my environment. In an allegorical sense we become united to the written Word until it becomes a fountain in us welling up to our respective communities for their salvation (Jn 4:14).

On February 25, we began our Lenten journey through to Easter. For the Western church, Lent starts from mid-week through the following six weeks to make 40 days, excluding Sundays. In the Eastern Church it is eight weeks, excluding Saturdays and Sundays. In a penitential spirit and obedience to the Church of Christ we bring before God our devotion and acts of love. In prayer and supplication we bring our world and its needs to God's mercy seat in sacrificial love. We pray for Zimbabwe; for the Peace of Jerusalem and Gaza; for Darfur and the Middle East; for Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan; as well as the Republic of Congo and Northern Nigeria. We pray for the world economic climate and all the world political leaders. At home we pray for credible leaders in the political arena. The picture is gloomy ever since the ANC had the "guts" to remove the President of the land without consulting the very people their manifesto says 'shall govern'. Pray for a credible government to uplift the moral standard of our land and protect the rule of law and the freedom of the law courts. Do yourself and us a favour – go and vote on April 22. Your vote will make a lot of difference to the plight of the poor



if you exercise it rightfully.

Finally, pray for our Diocesan Synod 2009 which is to be held during the Pentecost Tide. Continue to pray for us and the ministry in the Karoo. There will be more on Synod in the next issue of iindaba.

May you be renewed in your devotion and self-denial in acts of obedience and recalling of your baptismal vows as you express in a serious way your desire to please God in our Lord Jesus Christ who fasted 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness just above Jericho city.

May the joy of Christ's servanthood fill your hearts always.

Yours in the love of Christ,

Jack reaches 80



Jack and Clare Hughes admire the presents received for his 80th birthday.

wonderful gift of teaching and his pastoral ministry. He said, "Jack is a good fisherman. He keeps himself out of sight so that people can see Jesus."

Ruthell read a greeting received from Jack's son John living in New Zealand. John spoke of his wonderful family memories of growing up with Jack as his father. Referring to the fact that he was ordained before his father was he said, "It was neat having a father who followed in his son's footsteps!" Jack's daughter-in-law also added her words of thanks for Jack's welcoming her into the family as a much loved daughter.

The parish presented Jack with a radio/tape recorder to help him have many hours of joy listening to tapes as his sight has deteriorated making reading extremely difficult.

Over 100 parishioners and friends gathered for breakfast at St Paul's, Parsons Hill, to celebrate Jack Hughes' 80th birthday with him.

The rector, Ruthell Johnson, welcomed everyone and former rector of the parish, Howard Lancaster, spoke on the long standing friendship with Jack and his years of study up to his ordination as a priest. Howard shared about Jack's

Whats in a time or name?

Lots if you celebrated 50 years as a priest, but longer in ministry as Roy Snyman tssf has ... or your name is Martin Shepherd and iindaba names you Malcolm ...

Apologies from iindaba for these bloobs.

Tag lines!



An oak is a nut that refused to quit.

Two much of a good thing

Zwartkops River Valley Parish not only have our first woman rector ministering to them, but she has now been joined by a woman assistant priest, Gill Bowman. Isn't that 'two' much of a good thing?

Roy and Gill Bowman are seen with Sharon and Piet Neil.



The view from pulpit and pew

❖ Congratulations to Professor John Suggit, who celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on St Andrew's Day last year. John says he remembers his time at St Hugh's with affection – he was its first rector, and was involved with the building of the present church in 1955. He was also warden at St Paul's Theological College (now the College of the Transfiguration), where many of our clergy were trained, including †Eric Pike, 3rd Bishop of Port Elizabeth. John and Thelma, as well as †Eric and Joyce, live in Fishhoek in the Western Cape.

❖ Congratulations also to retired priest George Bode (rhymes with Cody), who celebrated his 80th birthday on 30th January. 80 not out, George – well done!

❖ We have a 'new' priest in the diocese – Sithembile Rini, who has been appointed to the Parish of St Andrew, KwaNobuhle. Strangely enough he comes from the Parish of St Andrew in Queenstown. His nickname is Ste. Welcome to the diocese, Ste. In next month's iindaba there will be more on him.

❖ Last month iindaba mentioned the move of Mzie Doda to the Diocese of Grahamstown. It was a case of 'now you see him, now you don't', as even †Bethlehem was not informed of the sudden and unexpected move!

❖ Congratulations to our Diocesan Registrar and his wife, Roger and Val Schärge, on the birth of their first granddaughter, Emma Jane, born to their son Richard and his wife, Deborah, in Melbourne, Australia. Deborah is the daughter of the well-known Port Elizabeth musician and guitarist, Howard Nock.

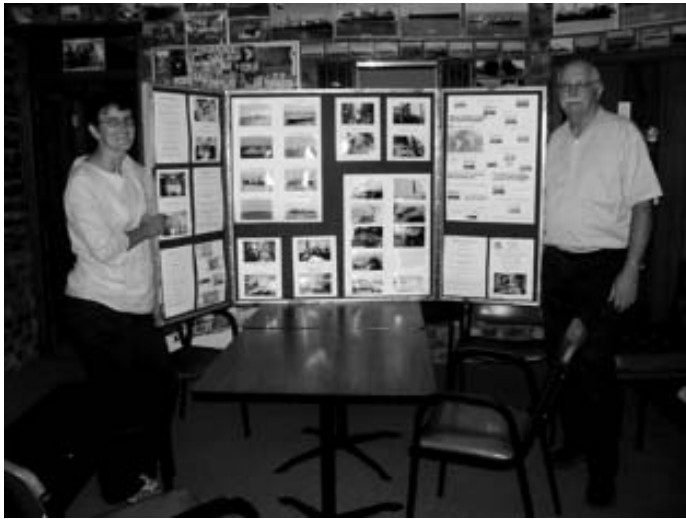
❖ iindaba has learnt that when Mark Derry was instituted rector of St Francis Xavier in December, the family had another celebration. In the congregation were his parents, Ted and Pam, who had come from Jeffreys Bay to support their son. But they were also celebrating another special event - their Golden Wedding anniversary. Here's to the next 50, Ted and Pam!

❖ Avril McGrath, widow of Henry, spent some time in hospital in January. iindaba trusts that she is now fully recovered. Avril is a very active member of the Parish of the Good Shepherd.

❖ The electronic media has enabled iindaba to be read all over SA (and the world). iindaba received an e-mail from Mark Penrith, son of Robert and Gay of St John the Baptist in Walmer, who lives in Johannesburg. In it, he said: "At the end I read the name of the editor and remembered Aunty Frankie Simpson from All Saints' days. I really wanted to encourage you. As an outsider I found the content interesting and well written. It was great to catch up on CPSA news and events and see a number of old names still around and doing good work". Not so much of the 'old names' please Mark, and we are now the Anglican Church of Southern Africa (ACSA), no longer the CPSA. Thank you for the positive message.

❖ iindaba congratulates some former members of the diocese: Brian and Averil Heath are both world senior squash champions in their age groups. Brian was a lay minister at St Paul's in Parsons Hill, and is now a lay minister at St Stephen's in Pinelands, Cape Town; Grant Hutchinson, former Organist and Master of the Choristers at St Mary the Virgin, has been appointed CEO of a whole group of choirs and orchestras in New Zealand.

More beanies and books please



Joy Thompson and Martin Britz hold the display board that he takes to parishes when he's invited to speak on the work being done at the Seafarers Centre.

Readers Digest and Garden and Home. English novels are also sought after as well as Bibles - particularly in Mandarin and Russian.

Martin told iindaba of a car-guard who gives the Centre all his small cash (50c and under) to buy Bibles - it has totalled over R1 000 in the last few months. He also shared that a Despatch church donated 1 050 beanies towards the Christmas parcels handed to the seafarers during December.

Parishes are reminded that this worthwhile mission outreach is on our doorstep - Ruthell Johnson is our liaison priest. For the beanie knitters Joy Thompson at the Centre has a pattern for the correct size needed for most of the seafarers - it's smaller than those needed for South Africans ... and don't forget the magazines.

The world economy has slumped and the Seafarers Centre is feeling the lull.

Not too long ago the members of the Centre on PE harbour were very busy attending to the many visitors from up to five ships in port a day. During the first week in February this year only five ships had come into port. However, when they dock Martin Britz and his team are busy - the sailors want to phone home, or have someone minister to them, or just relax reading or playing games. The 'beanies' knitted by various church members are always in demand as are copies of such magazines as You, Getaway, National Geographic, Cars, Sports Illustrated,

Appreciating special organist

Anita Jacobs

The parish of St Mark and St John in Parkside is full of appreciation of a lady of great talent, Myrtle Magdalena Frost (81), who unselfishly gives of her time playing the organ at the Wednesday morning services.

Early in Myrtle's life, her father made a vow to God that she would become an organist in the House of the Lord and it soon became clear that she had been blessed with the gift of understanding and making music. During primary and high school she studied piano, matriculating with qualifications from Trinity Music College. At the age of fifteen she was already playing the organ at the Bethesda Congregational church. At Training College in Cape Town she qualified as a teacher, specializing in music and on her return to Port Elizabeth, she held different teaching posts from 1948 to her retirement in 1993.

She gathered around her a community choir called The PE Choral Society which earned a name for itself and was especially "feared" by other choral groups when they met in competition at local and National Eisteddfod levels.

Myrtle also spent from 1978 to 1982 at the Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, United States of America, where she emerged with a Masters Degree in Church and Public School Music. She returned to her position



Myrtle Magdalena Frost, organist par excellence.

as Head of the Music department at Dower College, holding this post until her retirement. During these years, she served as the organist at Pearson Street Congregational Church, but was also avidly engaged in training local choirs and conductors at school, church and community level. She has willingly ploughed back into the communities her skills and continues to share her talents locally as she functions as organist at the North End Congregational Church but also helps out at St Mark and St John's on Wednesday mornings.

iindaba salutes a wonderful woman.

2010 Passion Play
13 day pilgrimage to Italy,
Bavaria and
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±R30 000
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fr.roy@telkomsa.net

St Luke Pilgrimage
Group
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– 5 October 2010
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Valley View Travel (Durban)
Further information:
Felicity Francis -
082 202 2328

St Francis J-Bay is 70

Pam Brown reports



Assistant priest Jackie Trollip cutting the 70th birthday cake.

A browse through an old minute book revealed that the first service held in our small church was on 25 December 1938 - so we celebrated our 70th birthday on Christmas Day 2008.

It is most likely that the chapelry got its name from the bay on which it is situated - St Francis Bay - the name it was given in 1575 by a Portuguese explorer, Manuel de Perestrelo, who hailed from the town of Santarém in Portugal. Our town was named after Captain Jeffreys who plied his fishing trade off our coast.

Unfortunately we have no way of knowing why Manuel chose this name for the bay, but if our chapelry was called St Francis because of the bay's name, we owe him a huge vote of thanks. We could not



Food parcels with extra 'goodies' brightened their Christmas.

have chosen a more beloved saint for our patron than St Francis of Assisi. Early in October each year when we celebrate his life and ministry we are reminded of his selfless love for all God's creation, both human and animal. A lesser known fact about St Francis is that he was the first person to set up a Christmas crib to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Feeding the hungry

The Chapelry runs a monthly food parcel scheme for some of the neediest women in the broader community.

A Christmas party was held on 8 December and over 30 women arrived, some with children, and a good time was had as they tucked into cakes, muffins and cold drinks. Their December parcels contained the usual food, with a few extra items from the parishioners as well as a pack of wools kindly donated by the Nomads Bowling Club. The mothers were delighted, as many seldom have fresh meat to eat. 'Goodie bags' were also handed out for each to take home.

It was a great party and the best part was the knowledge of hungry tummies being filled.

St Michael's happenings ...

Ashley Govin

St Michael and All Angels Confirmation group. Seated on the left of Bishop Bethlehem and Rudi Marais, the priest-in-charge, is Gaynor Julius and on the right, Sheldene Williams, who were the confirmands' spiritual leaders during their time of preparation.



Confirmation

The confirmands of St Michael and All Angels Anglican Church were overjoyed in progressing another step in their spiritual journey when they were confirmed by Bishop Bethlehem, assisted by the priest-in-charge, Rudi Marais, on 21 December.

Poor community chips in for the Haven

The parish of St Michael and All Angels had a 'soft collection' which brought in R1 440. The money was donated to The House of Resurrection Aids Haven which relies on donations and sponsorships for the important work that they do.

Haven news

Fifteen of the children are now attending school. Denver Whitebooi, who is paralysed from the waist down and in a wheelchair, is at Merryvale. He is being sponsored by a wheelchair-bound professor living in the USA. The other 14 children are attending the local primary school.

Editor: Frankie Simpson Layout / design : frankie
Tel/fax +27 41 360 6808 - Answering machine during the day - or evenings live!
iindaba@anglicandiocesepe.org.za
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