

## Mission into the world

**B**ishop Bethlehem welcomed all the members and invited guests to this 21st session of synod.

*iindaba produces some extracts from Bishop Bethlehem's Charge to synod:*

You are with us this Evening for 'the same Lord and same Faith' we share, for the same purpose of "Mission into the World". This is our Theme for this Synod. We cherish your presence among us. Together with us, you are all called to mission, and carry the same Mandate of Jesus Christ who commanded us: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen." (Mtt 28:19-20). This mandate is obligatory. Mission and evangelism are the nature and character of the Church.

We believe in proclamation - mission is corporate. This is the duty of the whole Body. It is beyond denominational and traditional boundaries of our faith. It is not for Anglicans only. It is for all of us. The world must be redeemed. God so loved the world that he 'gave', and did so sacrificially in the person of Jesus Christ. It is true that without loving the world and praying for it, God cannot use us effectively to redeem it. (John 3:16). The Church exists as a beneficiary to those outside it (Judge Mervyn King). We are calling upon all Christians to rise in all love and witness, and engage vigorously in meeting the mandate of our Lord 'to go and make disciples'. This is the programme of every cleric we ordain, and every believer we commission by the laying on of hands. Our programme aims at Growing the Church by the preaching of the Word and the equipping of the saints.

It is our duty to cherish and affirm ministries, acts of love and mercy done out of the generosity of the heart and out of the love for Jesus. The giving by the faithful of their tithes, talents, time and service, especially the lay members of our diocese, lifts our spirit in this ministry. As we see in the churchwardens' meetings on the first Saturday of March each year, it is important to be vigorously involved in the management of these resources, and we shall continue to employ the skills God has given us in you. The Church is wonderfully blessed by your presence. We appreciate your contribution to the welfare of the Kingdom of God. Keep it up!

The Bishop affirmed the diocesan staff, the legal fraternity and the clergy:

- You continue to shepherd the flock of Christ with integrity and honesty, always on the side of the "good" and not the "bad", bringing solution to the problems and not adding more. How can you not be appreciated in your engagements in Mission and Evangelism, in community



**A trinity of bishops - +Michael Coleman (Roman Catholic), +Bethlehem and +David Vika (Ethiopian Charismatic Church)**

building programmes and ecumenical ventures? We salute you! May the Lord increase your resources and add his blessing on you. A cleric who loves Jesus has good fellowship with the Bishop and with all the faithful. I affirm you for a job well done!

... And others:

- Canon Mcebisi, Jean Lerotholi, Mazoe Noepe, and Nelson Nongauza for election to the organisations;

- Sipambo Ludidi and Linda Ncaca on work for HIV/AIDS;

- the ministry of Siyafundisa and Vana Vetu managed by Pinkie Libala and Babalwa Kani;

- the Bishop's Consultative Council;

- in the political arena we wish to congratulate the new President Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma and his cabinet;

- Abp Emeritus Desmond Mpilo Tutu's continued unwavering prophecy with truthful, disturbing utterances to the erring;

- Thabo, the Archbishop of Cape Town and Metropolitan of the ACSA;

- our new Bishops: Ebenezer Ntlali, Bishop of Grahamstown; Adam Taaso, Bishop of Lesotho; David Bannerman, Bishop of Highveld.

The story of 'God with us' is better understood when we go through the pages of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. The story of the *Lectio Divina* (the Bible) is not just another reading, desensitized to the sacred, but the savouring of the text lingering leisurely in the divine revelation. (Thomas Keating: Intimacy with God).

Liberal theology tends to forget this.

The Bible is not just a primary source of Christian theology; it is the Word of God - *Lectio Divina*, as we have said. As this literal historical message of Scripture challenges us to a level of good morality, then we are taken to new levels of our faith beyond the moral sense, into the allegorical sense of the Holy Writ. As we grow in the grace of God in our spiritual life, a character of godly life is built in us 'to make us a kingdom of priests' who stand and serve before our God. (APB: canticle 15/ Rev 5). It is at this higher spiritual interaction with God that we begin not only 'to hear, read, mark, learn but inwardly digest them', to allow ourselves to be wholly immersed in them. They are no longer historical documents anymore, but stories of a closer walk with God in obedience and trust in our spiritual journey since the day we first believed and were baptised. Once this takes place, the unitive level of our experience of Scripture takes place. This is called anagogical. The Word wells up from us as a continuing revelation to influence others and our life situation.

This is how we look at scripture. Whatever kind of behaviour or thinking we encounter, we test it against the moral demands of the Holy Writ (Article XX). In our diocese therefore, we align ourselves with all Bible-believing Christians in informing our theological thinking. Reason cannot just be for its sake, since we are all fallen human beings, and have come short of the glory of God (Rom.3:23). Together with the Global

### Pentecost 2009



**When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ... Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:15 & 17**

Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) and the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans (FOCA), we uphold the authority of Scripture as an integral part of our fellowship with all the children of God. We affirm the reality of Incarnation and the mighty glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ as true, essential occurrences forming an integral part of our faith, and never just a "myth". The historical Jesus remains "unique" from the ages past into the unknown future. He is with us 'always, even to the end of the age.' (see Nazir-Ali: The Unique and Universal Christ).

Thus far God continues to journey with us in the diocese. However, we are showing very little growth numerically, especially in acts of Communion over Easter and Christmas services since last Synod. In both English and Afrikaans speaking churches, noticeable is the exchange of new members from other churches. The same may be the case in the isiXhosa speaking churches. However there is a degree of un-churched people being brought to the Lord through revival meetings and door-to-door evangelism. Motherwell, Kragga Kamma and Kwa-Nobuhle are areas of growth at the moment.

In terms of the quality of faith, in other words, commitment to Christ, confessing him as Lord and Saviour; Anglican Identity and articulating and defending the faith using Biblical Revelation, there is still a lot of in-depth teaching that needs to be done by the Bishop, through Archdeacons, Rectors, Youth Leaders, Sunday School Teachers and the rest of parish leadership. We will be vigorously pursuing through Training for Ministries programmes that seek to equip the people of God.

<b>2, 7 &amp; 8</b>	<b>Synod news and photos</b>
<b>Inside: 3</b>	<b>Kenyan visit an eye-opener / The proof of the pudding</b>
<b>4, 5 &amp; 6</b>	<b>Parish news, book review, 'On the move'</b>

# Synod round-up



Hearing that Busi Gwentshu, one of the diocesan office secretaries, had injured her finger, Mike Warren rushed to get a carving knife to fulfil the amaXhosa tradition that the finger should be cut off. Fortunately, Debbie Vencencie was there to bandage the wound and stop the 'slaughter'.

## Overview

As always with synod there were the high notes and the low notes, times of laughter and times of 'drama', good debates and mediocre ones, the 'nit-picks' and the absurdities of the English language coming to the fore ... but there were always lots of times of banter and laughter ... and meal times for fellowship and catching up with friends from country parishes.

The days were long with Morning Prayer followed by synod business and the indaba groups in the afternoons, then Evening Prayer. Before voting there was always time for reflection and prayer, always asking for the Lord to guide the voting that his will would be done.

The representatives were very well fed by various parishes - to keep their strength up.

### The indaba groups

For the first time our diocese used the concept of indaba 'small groups' where various subjects were discussed, and where needed, outside persons who were deemed to be experts in the subject being discussed, were invited to give their input. No feed-back was given to synod but one heard that most of the groups felt that the discussion had been helpful. Diocesan Council will look at the way forward.

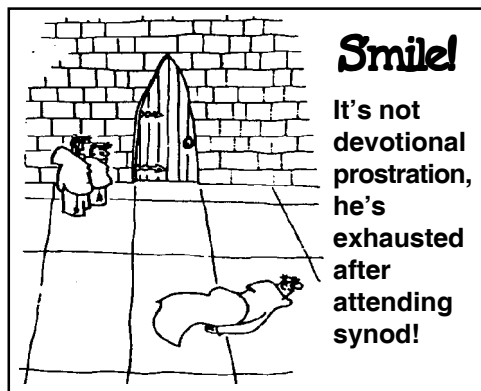
#### Note:

The different spelling of Indaba / iindaba is because of the different meaning of each of the words:

Indaba is a Zulu word meaning a gathering for people to discuss issues; iindaba is an amaXhosa word meaning 'news'.

### Bible Society visit

Ds Martie van Niekerk of the Bible Society visited synod and spoke about the printing and distribution of Bibles, and especially the new amaXhosa Bible costing R20, which was reported in the last issue of iindaba, and a machine called 'The Proclaimer' which has dramatised readings of the New Testament which can be recharged up by turning a handle or in the same way as a cell phone is recharged.



## Resolutions accepted by synod included:

### ❖ On inclusive language -

The resolution covered many aspects of this and included the request that certain translations of the Bible which use inclusive language be approved for use in the parishes.

### ❖ On gambling -

parishioners be actively discouraged from all forms of gambling; and that clergy lead in this by word and example.

### ❖ On the ongoing crisis in Palestine and Israel -

Synod requested the Bishop:

1. to release a press statement clearly stating the church's position of not taking sides in the conflict, of condemning the violence and loss of lives in the conflict;
2. to call on all churches to pray for Palestine and Israel, and for an end to violence, and for peace in those countries;
3. to appeal to our government and people to take an objective and unbiased stand on the conflict in Palestine and Israel."

### ❖ On the increasing attacks on churches and believers worldwide -

Synod requested the Bishop:

1. to release a press statement clearly stating this Diocese's condemnation of the current wave of attacks on Christians, churches and believers worldwide, particularly in North Africa, the Middle East and South East Asia, and;
2. to appeal to our government, as a government which claims to protect the basic human rights of every human being, to put pressure on countries which are clearly violating the basic human rights of Christians.

### ❖ On Zimbabwe -

Synod requested the Bishop to write to the Minister of International Relations, expressing this Synod's concern and disappointment over the handling of the crisis in Zimbabwe, and appealing to the government to condemn the gross human rights violations on the part of the Mugabe regime in Zimbabwe.

### ❖ Changing the name of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth -

- Request the Bishop:
1. to set up the committee as stated above whose mandate would be to look into the possibility of finding an inclusive name for our Diocese of Port Elizabeth family and that would never be affected by political changes even in future.
  2. That the committee take its recommendation to the Bishop before the next session of Synod;
  3. That the recommendation be brought to the next session of Synod.

### ❖ Self-supporting clergy -

That the bishop be asked to lead us in an evaluation and development of the ministry of self-supporting clergy in this diocese, so that its life and mission may be better served, by:

a) initiating a conversation among all clergy as to how the points raised by the Lambeth report on self-supporting clergy might strengthen and broaden the ministry of the diocese and its parishes;

b) promoting a clear and coherent understanding of the self-supporting ministry to the parishes of the diocese – including discernment, formation & training, and on-going support – so that parish ministries may be strengthened and broadened as envisaged by the Lambeth report;

c) providing a process to facilitate the arrival and departure of itinerant clergy in parishes where there are self-supporting clergy.

## Measures approved included:

### ❖ Service allowance -

shall include an allowance set by the Finance Committee multiplied by the years of unbroken service in the Diocese of Port Elizabeth which shall not exceed 12% of the total gross stipend when calculated on the average stipend package

### ❖ Parish representation at synod -

Each parish shall be entitled to elect two representatives to Synod.

### ❖ the appointment of the provost -

The Provost shall be appointed by the Bishop, and shall hold this office as long as he/she is the rector of the Cathedral; By virtue of his/her office, the Provost shall rank next after the Bishop of the Diocese and the Dean in Diocesan precedence and dignity;

At the request of the Bishop, in the absence of the Bishop and the Dean, the Provost shall be competent to fulfil all administrative, pastoral, and disciplinary functions reserved for the Bishop in the Acts of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth;

The Provost shall exercise the function of Archdeacon in his own parish.

### ❖ the minimum entry level for faculties -

was changed from R10 000 to R25 000.

### ❖ representation on Diocesan Council -

One person appointed by the Diocesan Health and Welfare Team.

### Basic stipend approved

Incumbents and Assistants pa R86 400 Service Allowance R875 for each year's service to a maximum of R35 000 after 40 years.

## iindaba

Just a reminder that iindaba cannot feature your parish if you don't send the editor your news!

**Photos:** Simple rules for photographs - Please leave glossy colour copies of any photos at the diocesan office in the iindaba pigeon-hole; or e-mail colour photos to the iindaba address. Please do not fax photos to iindaba as they come through almost solid black and please don't give iindaba photos printed on a colour printer as they are too 'pixilated' to be reproduced clearly.

### Web page

Do visit the diocesan web page and read the full text of the Bishop's Charge, synod minutes and other news. The clerical directory is also there ... and, of course, iindaba!

[www.anglicandiocesepe.org.za](http://www.anglicandiocesepe.org.za)



## Off the record

by Synod Ratt

❖ Synod Ratt congratulates, or is it commiserates with, all those who celebrated their birthdays during synod. The underground vine has it that this is the second synod at which Welile Kani and Christopher Holmes have celebrated their birthdays!

❖ Synod Ratt asks that you do not confuse him with his poor cousin Church Mouse who lives in the Sanctuary in St John's!

❖ Ratt notes that many of the women are wearing slacks today and remembers a synod in the early 1980s when permission had to be asked of the president for women to be allowed to wear slacks when attending synod.

❖ Ratt is just wondering which is more important - the right person for the job, or making sure that there are a certain number of women in top positions, whether they are the best qualified for the job or not. Harping back to an earlier synod in the 1980s a proposal to ensure all parishes sent at least one women representative was rejected as 'tokenism'. Does this still apply for the church ... and to the Govt?

❖ ... and another question ... why are Anglicans in Africa using the term "My Lord" when addressing a bishop? Bishops outside the UK are not members of the House of Lords and therefore this term is not applicable ... and then too, surely we have only one Lord!

❖ Ratt was surprised to learn of the new 'Diocese of Walmer' where Robert Penrith is the provost and Eddie Daniels the dean ... and the 'Church of all Nations' in Central which has as its 'bishop', one David Stansbury. He remembers years ago when there was a diocese of the 'Wild West' with David Scott as the bishop.

❖ Ratt heard much banter about different complexions and textures of hair ... and did he hear one speaker tell the Bishop his hair was going grey and that he needs to go black?

❖ There was some reference to colour coded jerseys during one of the debates with speakers who were in agreement with the proposal wearing green jerseys and a speaker against wearing amber.

❖ "Too fast, too fast" they cried when the president of synod didn't allow the "No's" a chance 😊

❖ Synod had a good laugh when the president was 'inadvertently' referred to as "Father God". Bishop Bethlehem quickly 'absolved' the speaker!

❖ Ratt thanks synod for allowing him to poke his ugly big nose in on the procedures and bids farewell until another time.

- Oh, and he thanks Roi Simpson, the editor's son, for the very good pen likeness produced when Ratt was a lot younger ... or was it Roi who was a lot younger? Must be lack of oxygen to the brain that's confusing him ... maybe he should join the editor and have a by-pass op!

# Kenyan visit an eye-opener

**T**andi Xundu is about to complete her term of office as a trustee on the World-wide Mothers' Union board and a visit to Kenya has opened her eyes to what can be achieved when women work together.

Reflecting on her time in office she said there were many 'high notes' with the travelling to the UK for meetings and getting to know so many wonderful women from around the world.

A very special trip was her recent visit to Kenya with the world-wide president, Rosemary Kempzell, to look at the development initiatives by the MU there. "The women are passionate about family life and have many teaching programmes on parenting, caring for orphans, alleviating poverty and, of course, HIV and AIDS. With around 400 000 members the MU are a strong group and work in conjunction with the government in many areas," she said.

She went on to say that members are deeply spiritual and their love for the Lord makes them willing to work hard for him. The fellowship among the women is tangible, and they have confidence in themselves. Some of their achievements include the building of MU centres and hostels for schools and vulnerable children, they've sunk boreholes in areas where women used to have to walk far to fetch water, they have farming projects with milk goats which each give up to seven litres of milk a day, and they are planting trees. Leaders have been trained by the 'Five Talents' group on how to train people at grassroots level to have sustainable projects. Recently



members have also become involved in the Truth and Reconciliation programme helping displaced women to get reparation as well as peace within themselves after their terrible ordeal during the post-election fighting.

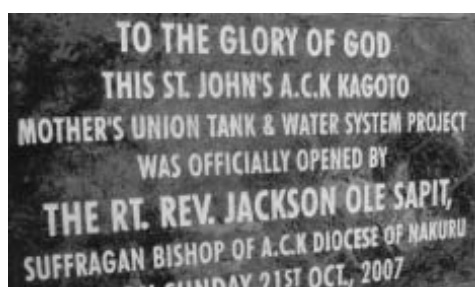
Almost every diocese in Kenya has a beautiful guest house so Anglicans, and others, can book in and be looked after during visits.

Tandi became one of the trustees when in a ground-breaking decision taken three years ago, the WWMU decided that the trustees needed to be more representative of the whole Anglican Communion. Some of the areas in which the trustees are involved are the allocation of grants for projects, the choosing of MU Workers and seeing that MU funds are looked after.



**Above left: Tandi Xundu waters a tree she has just planted at an MU project. Above right: (second row) World-wide MU president, Rosemary Kempzell (3rd from left) and Tandi Xundu (5th) with members of the MU in Kenya with some of the International Displaced Persons to whom they minister.**

**Below left: This plaque is one of many that tell the story of what MU are doing. Below right: A Diocesan Centre under construction. The left side was built by the Mothers' Union.**



## The proof of the pudding

In 1980 'Granny Twiss', as Doreen is affectionately known to the parishioners of St Saviour's in Walmer, retired and not being one to sit still she used her love of sewing and the talent she had to make many things, among them Raggedy Anns. Not only did she make these lovely Raggedy Anns for sale to bring in extra income, but she made one for each of her 5 grand daughters! They all still have theirs, except Karin, whose doll disappeared somewhere along the way. When Karin was about to present Granny Twiss with her 13th grandchild (a girl), she was determined to make a Raggedy Ann for her.



**Doreen Twiss with the Raggedy Ann she has just completed making.**

Her family were very concerned and tried to talk her out of it - Granny Twiss is now in her late 80's and has aching, gnarled arthritic fingers, and a bad back which gives her real "jip", (to quote her daughter Anne Thomson). Not to be put off, she was about to prove to her family, and herself, that she is not yet 'over the top!' She got her sewing machine set up on a borrowed table in her little flat at Fairhaven and, very slowly, she made

her latest beautiful Raggedy Ann. *Granny Twiss, iindaba salutes you.*

### Tag lines!



**The best thing about the future is that it only comes one day at a time.**

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

## Pedal-power aids pastoral care



**Pam Brown**

Self-supporting priest Charles Jacobs, and lay minister James Cloete, of Good Shepherd Parish have taken up 'pedal-power' to continue pastoral care to the whole of their flock even those who live deep in the forests of the Tsitsikamma.

The bicycles were part of a donated

**Self-supporting priest Charles Jacobs, and lay minister James Cloete, of Good Shepherd Parish trying out their new 'pedal-power.'**

consignment last August by visitors from St Paul's, Essex, in the United Kingdom. Also two children's bicycles which are to be raffled for funds, and an electrician's tool kit, a mechanic's tool kit and a computer will be used to start skills training.

The Mothers' Union has been continuing their beading classes much to everyone's enjoyment

and presented the Bishop of Sydney with a Rosary on his visit on Friday 1 May.

They thank Audrey Muller for coming to teach them each month. Their needlework continues with a second quilt about to be completed and bags being made. Tablemats are the next project for these industrious ladies.

### On the move

The Revd Fumi Kula and the Revd Zola Nanana have been appointed Reserve Chaplains in the SANDF. This over and above ministry takes place on their day off once a week. They are located at the Naval Base for this ministry.

### Thank you

The editor thanks everyone for their prayers during her operation and recuperation. This 8 page edition of iindaba means that the next deadline is 6 August for the September issue.

[www.pechurchnet.co.za](http://www.pechurchnet.co.za)

for Church happenings and Christian business information ... and much more.

## Thank you



Some of the children who have benefitted from the gifts received.

### Jean Underwood

A very big thank you to all the ladies who donated clothing and warm blankets etc to Lorraine Julius, the wife of the archdeacon in Cradock, for the Blue Crane Hospice.

Lorraine has very kindly identified us as a programme which services the neediest in the three towns of Cookhouse, Somerset East and Pearston. We do experience extreme cold in winter and with a high unemployment rate we appreciate any material support that can make a difference to the families of our orphans and vulnerable children.

We would also like to take this

opportunity to thank the churches who so generously sent funding for food parcels in January when we could not access meals for children on medication that must be taken with food.

Your compassion and generosity does make a big difference to our families, at the moment we have 166 families for whom we care.

You are always welcome to pop into our office and see what we are up to. We love having visitors and an opportunity to show you where you make a difference.

May God bless your ministry to us.

## Youth enjoy sports day and teaching

### Siyabulela Tshatshu

The youth of St Matthew's, KwaMagxaki, held their annual Family and Sports Day on 13 April. The day began with a fun walk of five kilometres and Nolufefe Mabona said the purpose of the day as the family of God was to reflect on what happened to the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

The rector, Sipho Bodlani opened the morning and the main speaker, Xolani Notshe, spoke on the role of education in society and how the lack of it affects people. He said that the African child is told that he is inferior and that everything that is concrete or important is from beyond Africa. However, he said that an African child can excel because we all have potential and that the environment into which you were born cannot determine your future. Education provides people with

alternatives and is an investment. For a better future, and the development of your community, education is an important tool and that you if you want change to happen then change yourself first because it is us who can make a change in our communities. He said that if you destroy a power plant it will be dark for a moment but if you destroy an education institution it is going to be dark for about 20 years.

Fun was had playing soccer, netball and touch rugby. Teams from St Matthew's youth, St Stephen's cluster with St Cyprian's, St Timothy, Holy Spirit, St Peter's and Dr Simon Gqubule (Methodist Youth), MU Christian Family Life and the Boys and Girl's Friendly Society participated.

Finalists: Dr Simon Gqubule 1- St Timothy 0. Netball St Matthew's and Holy Spirit.

## Women of Valour

Saturday 15 August at 15h00  
at St Nicholas, Charlo - Cost R50 per person.

Ten "Women of Valour" will each share their stories in three minutes.

Plus a special guest speaker - Lee Ann Naidoo (Counselling psychologist).

Each table will have a "Women of Valour" as a special guest at their table. A wonderful opportunity to meet some amazing women!

Some of our past guests have been Sister Ethel, Gail Cilliers and her guide dog, Agnes Bouwer, Jumartha Majola and

Annette du Plessis of the Red Location Museum.

Let Ethel know if you or your parish would like to host one of the tables.

**Book your seat today by sms, fax, email, snail mail or carrier pigeon and diarise!**

**e-mail: epittaway@telkomsa.net  
Cell: 083 398 6218  
Phone : 041 581 7397  
Fax: 041 581 3933**

## \*\*\* Financial crisis hits parish \*\*\*



Winners of the 'best dressed hobo' were an anonymous hobo, Basil Boucher, Esmé Girdlestone and Bev Watrus.



The artistic hobo was Bev Shepherd who was photographed with her husband, Martin, whom many thought was her model.



left - Was this Slinky Hoborette singing, "Bottle of wine, fruit of the vine ..."?

In response to an anonymous tip-off iindaba rushed to St Agnes in Swartkops on Friday night 20 May to find the church hall invaded by about 90 hobos. However, 'the reverend to the hobos' assured us that it was a mission outreach to those of the area, and even some from as far away as Mauritius, who had been badly hit by the current

financial crisis. iindaba was surprised to recognise many familiar faces of the Zwartkops River Valley parishioners.

Having been invited to stay for the evening, we joined the hobos and were entertained by the 'Slinky Hoborettes', enjoyed a delicious and very nourishing three course meal. iindaba was also invited to judge the two best male and female hobos and hand out the prizes. We are pleased to report it was a fun evening and not a genuine crisis!

## Choral and candlelight service

### Jean Underwood

Blue Crane Hospice held a Choral and Candlelight service when we had completed our Hospice Month awareness programme. It was well attended by members of the local churches.

The Hospice is in very great need of funding as we wait for responses from all the funders we have approached. To help with raising funds we have launched our "100 club" where donors can win at the monthly draw, and we hope many people will join the club.

Anyone interested can phone us on 042 243 3149.



Pru Cloete, 'member of friends of Hospice', Ernest Cingani, priest-in-charge of St Ninians and the Hospice secretary, Ms Nosiphiwo, the admin clerk and Reg Playdon, a board member, line up to light their candles at the service.

## Mother's Day gifts help Ascension Church

### Xoliswa Jack

On Mothers' Day 10 May, members of the MU Christian Family Life branch at Church of the Ascension in Cradock brought gifts of cups, saucers and glasses for the church kitchen to thank God that they are mothers.

The rector, Phumla Mtila welcomed all the mothers and the guest speaker, Tiny Nomabhongo Ncedo who spoke of the mother at her home and the challenges facing women - especially in Cradock. She said that a mother is a helper - they take no leave because they always have to be on duty and are the pillars that hold the home together and they are also pillars of the church; as they play a leading role, they need to spend time praying. She went on to look at the challenges facing the mothers in Cradock because of the vulnerable children in the

Baths full of gifts for the church brought in by the members of the MU Christian Family Life.



community, the ones who sleep under culverts in the street, those homeless families that live next to the N10 between Cradock and Middelburg and those who live on the dumps looking for food.

Referring to Acts 17 and Isaiah 55 she said the mother must address the issues, have faith, bear fruit and fight with prayer, praise and worship. She concluded by challenging them to stand up and use their talents in a profitable manner.

### All in a name!

Parish of Drakensberg exco:  
Churchwarden - Robin Church

Treasurer - Brian Wallett  
Admin clerk - Rosanne Clark  
Parish Secretary, Rosanne Clark  
Parish of Drakensberg Himeville, KZN  
Can any other Parish beat this!

## Nine Ordained



One of the biggest ordinations services in the Diocese in recent years took place on Trinity Sunday when seven Deacons and two Priests were ordained. Pictured at the Cathedral From left: Wellington Biyana, Angela Hambury, Revd John Davis (Retreat Conductor), Samantha Eagles, Margaret Roskruge, Bishop Bethlehem, Abigail Tukulu, Lyn de Doncker, William Brandt, Graham Soudien and Mark Barth.

## Visitors to beading project

Visitors from Namibia and Mthatha were shown how to do beading by the MU members at All Soul's.

### Pam Brown

On Wednesday 6 May visitors from Mothers' Union Tala, in Namibia, and Pumi from Mthatha accompanied Pam Brown and Audrey from Social Development at the Good Shepherd Parish to All Soul's MU's second beading lesson. After a splendid tea, introductions were made and relevant news exchanged, the work commenced. The industry is much enjoyed and the ladies are happy with homework. Needlework is also being done and two more quilts are



approaching completion. On the next visit 10 June we should see some completed jewellery which the ladies will sell to be able to purchase beads in bulk. Our visitors also learnt a new skill and it was a pleasure to show them around the projects of the Good Shepherd region.

## A touch of the Irish



St Hugh's youth had fun celebrating St Patrick's Day with their 'missionary' leader from Ireland.

right: Shelley-Anne and Lyndall Wakeford from one of the families who looked after Rachel Kingston (centre) while she was at St Hugh's.

iindaba caught up with Rachel Kingston as she was leaving the diocese to return to Ireland after spending eight months at St Hugh's.

Rachel emphasised that her time spent here had been very positive and, although she felt that working with the teenagers really needed a longer period, she hoped she had left a wee bit of her experience behind. Her main thrust at St Hugh's was to work with the youth about which she had been a little anxious when she had been offered the position because at home she is a primary school teacher working with six and seven year olds. However, she has enjoyed working with the teenagers and one of the things she did was to run a very successful Teen Alpha.

Rachel came to South Africa as part of the Experience Exchange Programme (EEP) which is run by the Methodist and Anglican Church in Britain and Ireland (USPG – the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel). Having been brought up in the Methodist Church she had to learn about Anglican ways of doing things, but she was immediately embraced into the St Hugh's family and of the various families with whom she stayed, so the change was made easier for her.

She is from a small town called Bandon in County Cork on the south west coast of Ireland only 30 minutes drive from the city of Cork and surrounded by lots of green farmland. She comes from a very

## Pentecost and honours



Pretoria might have been BLOU on Sunday 31 May, but we at St Paul, were red. The congregation had been asked to wear red and the flower fairies had changed the white flowers from the previous day's wedding to red. The music group had also been colour coordinated and red was the order of the day.

Just when we thought that we had all red we could possible have, in processed Bishop Bethlehem. He had graciously agreed to pop in for 15 minutes on his way to his 12th anniversary celebration service at the Cathedral, to award the Order of the Diocese to Doris Bain. Doris has been a member of St Paul's from the day of her birth and plays an active part in many of the parishes organisations. Doris was most specifically honoured for her 50 years of unbroken service to our Lord and the parish, as a Sunday school teacher.

Many of those whom Doris had taught, including children of former pupils, were in the congregation and Doris was heard to remark that she was waiting to welcome a 'grandchild' of one of her former pupils.

A wonderful service ended with Doris and Len joining the procession out of the church to be greeted by friends and family.

## The view from pulpit and pew

❖ iindaba congratulates Doris Bain of St Paul's, Parsons Hill, who was made a Member of the Order of the Diocese by †Bethlehem on Pentecost Sunday. Doris has been teaching in the Sunday School for an unbroken period of 47 years. Many rectors and assistant clergy have served there during her 'reign'. Doris is determined to carry on with her teaching!

❖ iindaba congratulates Lungile Ngcola and his wife Nolungile on the recent birth of their son, Masimbonge. Lungile is assistant priest in the Parish of the Karoo.

❖ iindaba extends its condolences to Melvin and Amy Ah Quat of St Francis Xavier whose daughter, Reneé and her husband Michael Ho, were tragically gunned down in their home in Johannesburg. They are survived by two young daughters. A memorial service was held at St Francis Xavier, where they were married, as their funeral service was held in Johannesburg.

❖ iindaba also extends its condolences to Dennis Scarr on the death of his wife, Loretta. Dennis, who worships at the cathedral, has served on the Diocesan Building Advisory committee for many years. Loretta, a Roman Catholic, was buried from St Bernadette's in Walmer. Their son, David, who started as a chorister at St Mary's, is now a world-renowned conductor.

❖ Patrick Mngatu has been appointed Chaplain at the Port Elizabeth Army Support base, having previously been under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Grahamstown. He has permission to officiate at St Stephen's, New Brighton.

❖ Synod was wonderfully fed and watered by various parishes who looked after the teas and lunches. However it was the ladies of St John the Baptist who were always on the scene helping with serving, washing up etc. The rector's wife, Gay Penrith, seems to have been on 24-hour duty each day.

❖ The average age of Synod reps seems to have been much lower this year. It was heartening to see how many of the 'younger set' was not only present, but took an active part in the debates and in the Bible studies. They also took part in Morning and Evening Prayer at the beginning and ending of each day.

❖ Two of the clergy were conspicuous by their absence – the dean, Dudley Greenshields, and David Grobbelaar, rector of St Philip's and St Barnabas. Dudley was in a time of mourning after the death of his mother, whilst David was in hospital for surgery. iindaba trusts they will both be actively involved in their ministry before too long.

❖ A representative of Synod who was also missing was Bill Williams from St Hugh's. Bill, a member of the Diocesan Finance Committee, underwent major surgery, and has been told by the surgeon he will be out of action for at least 6 weeks. Bill is also churchwarden at St Hugh's.

❖ The iindaba editor, Frankie Simpson, went into hospital for heart by-pass surgery just after putting this issue of iindaba to bed ... no it wasn't the stress of the double issue of iindaba that put her there! The surgeon wanted Frankie to undergo the surgery as soon as possible, but Frankie insisted she attended Synod first. Frankie, we all wish you a speedy recovery, but remember to take it easy for at least six weeks!



close family of seven children - four brothers and two sisters - she comes fifth in the family. At the age of 17 I left Cork to train as a primary school teacher in Dublin and I have spent the last 7 years teaching at a school in North Dublin. In January of last year I started to get 'itchy feet' and through different ways I felt that God was telling me that now was the time to go and try something a bit different. I applied for a career break from my job and thankfully it was granted. This means that when I go back to Ireland my job will be there for me in the same school.

"I found the people of Port Elizabeth most friendly and welcoming. Back in Ireland we talk about being a 'friendly' nation but I think we could learn a lot from you," she said.

## Sex: shock findings about youth

HIV/Aids can be transmitted via toilet seats, and the virus can be avoided by having a bath after sex.

Recently concluded research shows that these are some of the common beliefs among teenagers in the Anglican Church.

Last year the church commissioned research aimed at better understanding what its role can be in the battle against HIV/Aids among young people.

The University of Stellenbosch's unit for religious and developmental studies conducted the research among young Anglicans between the ages of 10 and 24, in 12 Anglican dioceses across the country.

A report on the research was presented at an HIV/Aids seminar at the University of Stellenbosch last week.

### More than 10% sexually active

Amongst other things, the research showed that more than 10% of young people between the ages of 10 and 13 are sexually active.

About 38% of respondents in this age group said that the pill can prevent HIV/Aids, and 30.4% believe that HIV can be transmitted via a toilet seat.

About 27% think that HIV infection can

be prevented by bathing after sex.

Of the respondents, 97.1% described themselves as Christians, while more than 98% of them believe it is important to be healthy.

### Nothing wrong with fondling

The majority (63.5%) of those who have not yet had sex, feel that it is better to have sex only within the confines of marriage, while approximately two-thirds feel that there is nothing wrong with someone fondling them.

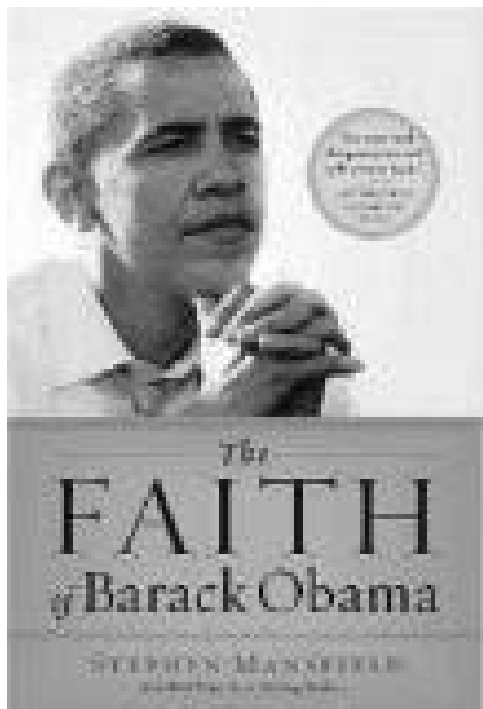
The researchers said that some of the more shocking findings, such as those about fondling, could be attributed to respondents misunderstanding the questions.

About 90% of the respondents indicated that they are worried about HIV.

According to the report, there is a gap between the values and morals which are adhered to on the one hand, and the behaviour which is exhibited on the other hand. – (Alicestine October/Die Burger, May 2009)

SOURCE: <http://www.health24.com/news/Sexuality/1-944,50788.asp>

## Book review



**Stephen Mansfield: *The Faith of Barack Obama*, Thomas Nelson, Nashville, 2008.**

**ISBN: 978-1-59555-250-1 (hardcover)**

A few short years ago, few South Africans had ever heard of Barack Obama, and why would they be interested in an obscure junior US Senator, anyway? But he has leapt onto the world stage not only as the 44th President of the USA. and the first Black one, but also as a person of deep and unashamed Christian faith. Stephen Mansfield, an evangelical Christian, provides a sensitive insight into Obama's faith journey.

There is a short treatment of his early years, including his stay in Indonesia, where he was exposed to Islam. Although he attended mosque with his stepfather, Mansfield is adamant that Obama never became a Muslim in any meaningful sense. His time in Chicago and his association with Trinity United Church of Christ, and its controversial pastor, Jeremiah Wright, are treated in some detail. Instead of dismissing Wright as a crackpot for his less temperate utterances, Mansfield commendably tries to get inside his head and understand how he articulates the African-American exper-

- reviewed by Geoff Booth

ience. Few white evangelicals would do that.

Obama's conversion seems conventional enough. In his own words: "It came about as a choice and not an epiphany; the questions I had did not magically disappear. But kneeling beneath that cross on the South Side of Chicago, I felt God's spirit beckoning me. I submitted myself to his will and dedicated myself to discovering his truth."

If his conversion was conventional, Obama's faith is definitely not textbook evangelicalism. Indeed, many conservatives have criticised him for his views on matters such as abortion, gay rights and other religions (where he espouses some ideas that could be considered universalist). But as Mansfield says, his faith is evolving. That, he might have added, is true of all Christians, including Mansfield himself. As Mansfield says, Obama represents the Religious Left, as opposed to the Religious Right, and his worldview has completely different priorities. He notes that the presidential campaign started with the Religious Right in some disarray due to the deaths of icons such as Jerry Falwell and D James Kennedy, intemperate statements from others, and a few scandals.

There is an interesting chapter on the faith of some of Obama's opponents: John McCain, Hillary Clinton and George W Bush. McCain's Episcopalian faith is more private than Obama's but it was strong enough to carry him through years of captivity and torture in Vietnam. Clinton, a Methodist, has a faith sufficient able to preserve her marriage despite her husband's well-known infidelities. Bush is essentially an evangelical in the mould of the Right.

Barack Obama is a man defined primarily by his faith. To all who are interested where he will be leading the USA. and the world during his term of office, this book is essential reading. It went to press before Obama secured the Democratic nomination, so some commentary has been overtaken by history. But that does not detract from its relevance.

## Ascension celebrated at Ascension



Members of the Church of Ascension celebrate Ascension Day at a service with Bishop Bethlehem.

### Xoliswa Jack

It was a moment of joy for the family of Ascension Church, Cradock, when they celebrated their Name Day with Bishop Bethlehem on the evening of 21 May.

The following day Bishop Bethlehem visited Nxuba school in one of the vulnerable areas, Lingelihle Township. All felt inspired by his visit, especially those celebrating birthdays who received a blessing from him. He went on to visit

sick parishioners in their homes and was impressed at the way they are cared for.

Later he met with the leadership of the parish to exchange ideas and the following morning he met the Junior Church, Sunday School, St Agnes Guild and the Servers' Guild. The young ones were very excited at meeting the Bishop.

On the Sunday he celebrated and confirmed 17 candidates.

## Celebrating 30 years of worship



Led by the Royal Sounds Band, the parishioners processed through the streets of Gambleville to St Simon of Cyrene to celebrate 30 years of worship. Bishop Bethlehem and the rector of St Simon of Cyrene, Sipambo Ludidi with the guest preacher, Bishop Mervyn Castle.

Led by the Royal Sounds Brass Band, Bishop Bethlehem, Bishop Mervyn Castle of the Diocese of False Bay and the people of St Simon of Cyrene processed through the streets of Gambleville to the church to celebrate 30 years of worship in the church.

This was a great celebration with people from covenanting churches being admitted by Bishop Bethlehem; men were called forward to honour the mothers as it was Mother's Day; a new chalice was blessed and Bishop Mervyn preached the message. He spoke on 'I am the true vine' saying that about three quarters of the export wine comes from his diocese so he could speak from a place of knowledge of knowing all about growing the vines, pruning them, discarding the unwanted

branches and the bearing of the fruit afterwards.

He reminded everyone that, as happens in the vineyard, they need to use the talents given them to make sure they bear fruit and are not cut off. The service was followed by a wonderful lunch.

When St Gabriel's became too small and most of the parishioners had moved to the newer suburbs, they felt they must build a church nearer home and so St Simon of Cyrene church was built.

A whole week of celebration took place with various clergy such as Welile Kani, Leon Foster, David Grobellaar and Dudley Greenshields preaching in the evenings. On the Saturday night a very successful Dinner Dance was held in the Uitenhage Town Hall.

"You cannot legislate the poor into freedom by legislating the wealthy out of freedom. What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving. The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else. When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half is going to take care of them, and when the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that my dear friend, is about the end of any nation. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it." - Dr Adrian Rogers.

# Around Synod



Church of the Ascension, Cradock



Alexandria Parish



All Saints', Kabega Park



Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin



Christ the King, Gelvandale



St Katharine's, Uitenhage



Great Fish River Parish



Parish of the Good Shepherd, Humansdorp area



St Luke, Palmridge



Holy Spirit, KwaZakhele



Diocesan office staff busy in the background, keeping the wheels going.



St Mark and St John, Parkside



Karoo and Great Karoo right - 'Q' for lunch.

Apologies to those who weren't at their tables so missed out being in the 'rogue's gallery'



St Hugh's, Newton Park



St Michael and All Angels, Schauderville



MUCFL and AWF presidents



St Nicholas, Charlo

Also missing are two of the hardest working people - the minute secretaries Mike McCoy and Jenny Watson!



St John the Baptist with St Augustine's, Walmer



Those who looked after Synod business!



St Peter's group were caught enjoying lunch.



St Margaret, Summerstrand



St Matthew's, KwaMagxaki



Zwartkops River Valley Parish



St Ninian, Somerset East



St Saviour's, Walmer



St Francis Xavier serving lunch



St Paul, Parsons Hill



St Stephen, New Brighton



"I recognise you ..." Leon Foster followed by Bishop Bethlehem queue for lunch.



St Philip, Central with St Barnabas, Sydenham



St Timothy, Motherwell

Apologies to St Mary Magdalene, West End (bad photographer) yours was out of focus!!! A few other parishes were missed somehow ... shoot the photographer!!!



St Simon of Cyrene, Gambleville

**www:anglicandiocesepe.org.za**  
to see the photos in colour!  
Also read the Synod 2009 and  
'news' pages!

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www:anglicandiocesepe.org.za  
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