iindaba

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Excerpts from the Communiqué from the Synod Of Bishops

September 2023



In place of Bishop Eddie's letter this month, *iindaba* publishes excerpts from the above Communiqué which will be of interest to the lay members of ACSA.

When asked for comment on the Human Dignity issue Bishop Eddie told *iindaba* that the next Synod of Bishops (February 2024) will be a watershed one for the Province.

In the March 2023 *iindaba* we reported that GSFA (Global South Fellowship of Anglican Provinces - comprising 14 Provinces) had broken with Canterbury because of the divisive sexuality issue. Now the time has come when the Bishops of ACSA need to know the minds of their laity so that they can choose the way forward for us.

Bishop Eddie needs to know your feelings/views. He needs to be able to pass these on to the Provincial Executive Officer as soon as possible.

Parish discussions

Bishop Eddie will send out a message about how he wishes to hear the voices of the laity. Perhaps parishes will need to have meetings around this issue because the Diocese does not want a mass exodus of people if Bishop Eddie does not hear what you, as the laity, feel about the "Pastoral Guidelines for persons in Civil Unions".

Around the worldwide Anglican Communion, and indeed the whole Christian Church, this issue has, probably, become the most divisive ... since the Reformation.

The September 2023 session of the Church's Synod of Bishops issued a detailed Communiqué on its deliberations, covering matters ranging from theological education, liturgical renewal and Safe and Inclusive Church, to Anglicans Ablaze, chaplains to the South African security services and the state of the Anglican Communion.

iindaba publishes a copy of excerpts on matters of wider public and lay interest from the ACSA website.

Technology and Ethics

The Archbishop's Commission on Technology and Ethics produced three arresting pillars for action. The Right Revd Vikinduku Mnculwane, Bishop of Zululand and chair of the Commission, articulated the importance of:

1. Developing technological infrastructure in each diocese for communication and to close the digital divide;

2. Educating our people to develop their digital literacy; and

3. Developing, as part of our missional platform, codes of conduct for using the new technology.

The theological implications of the Technology and Ethics Commission were recognised as an important facet of this work. A theological framework is to be developed to deal with digital technology and the deep philosophical, ethical and theological questions it raises. We asked the question: What does it mean to be a human being in the light of the phenomenal development of artificial intelligence (AI)?

Human Dignity

Bishop Raphael Hess presented the report of a Synod sub-group on Human Dignity (which included the Church's thinking on human sexuality). This presentation was probably the most significant achievement of the Bishops in the 20 year conversation seeking to develop "Pastoral Guidelines for Persons in Civil Unions". Sixteen draft prayers developed by the sub-group of four Bishops, reflecting varying emphases, were accepted for incorporation into the Dean of the Province's report to the Provincial Standing Committee.

The draft Pastoral Guidelines and Prayers are to be sent to dioceses to comment on and report back to the Synod of Bishops by mid-January 2024. An enabling motion shall be put before the Provincial Standing Committee to endorse the Bishops' decision to send to Dioceses. Inputs from members of our Church, including comments and questions, should be sent to the Provincial Executive Officer for further processing. The February 2024 meeting of the Synod of Bishops will reflect once more on the process of reception of the prayers in dioceses and by mid-May 2024 a resolution will be prepared to place before Provincial Synod in September 2024.

Youth Unemployment

The Right Revd Dr Vicentia Kgabe, convenor of the Archbishop's Commission on Youth Unemployment, urged the Bishops to encourage our leaders to be the voice of our youth and act to break the cycle of youth unemployment. The Church must seek to actively involve young people in its work and ensure their participation in the economy by creating youth development projects and programmes such as making the vestments used in our parishes. We should also audit and list their skills with a view to making use of them in our Dioceses.

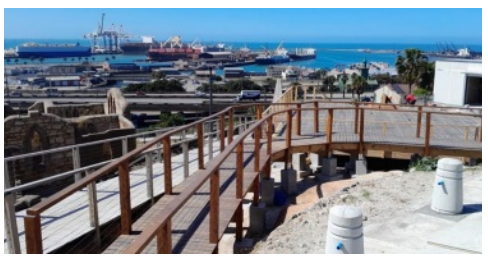
Western Cape floods

The Bishops heard from the Bishops of the three Western Cape dioceses on the unseasonal, destructive weather patterns emerging in the Western Cape. The Vicar-General of the Diocese of False Bay reported that thousands of homes had been flooded, and in informal settlements many homes containing everything families owned, had been swept away.

The full text of the Communiqué from the Synod of Bishops can be found on the ACSA website:

www.anglicanchurchsa.org

St Peter's almost ready to welcome tourists



St Peter's (left) in South End, surrounded by walkways for tourists to view the ruins and the new cross.

On a visit to the St Peter's site in South End at the end of September, the editor was told that the construction should be completed and ready to receive tourists by mid-October. The walkways were awaiting safety inspection before the opening of a tearoom and bookshop in the buildings just visible on the right.

iindaba knows there are former members of St Peter's who look forward to visiting their old church once again and who welcome the fact that the ruins have been saved from continued vandalisation.

November

Prayer for the Church



I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1Tim 2:1-4 NIV

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honour and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Preparing for Advent



A reminder to readers of this wonderful book to use during Advent.

It is being sold in aid of Northwood Children's Hospice and Building Fund, and is available at R100 from

northwood.nch@gmail.com

Funds are needed for the building of the extra three wings of the Hospice. These are needed for the palliative care of children with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions.

RIP - Canon John Suggit laid to rest at St Hugh's

Jill Bromiley



Canon John Suggit.

On Saturday afternoon 16 September, Canon John Suggit's ashes were laid to rest in the St Hugh's Garden of Remembrance. He was 101 years old when he died on Sunday 30 July.

John had been the first Rector of St Hugh's Church in Newton Park. During his time the present church was built.



The late Canon John Suggit's daughters, Wendy with her husband John Sheen, and Liz Hall, came from Cape Town for the interment of his ashes.

John subsequently served as Warden of St Paul's Theological College in Grahamstown (now College of the Transfiguration, Makhanda). He then became the Professor of New Testament at Rhodes University and inspired a number of ministers from a range of denominations, including our retired Priest, Howard Lancaster, assisting at St Hugh's.

John wrote several books on various aspects of church life, but above all, it was his example of a humble and faithful disciple that witnessed to the authenticity of his faith and inspired many.

In December 2018 the Archbishop's Award for Peace with Justice was conferred on him.

His two daughters and a son-in-law, from Cape Town attended the interment of his ashes. A son, Nicholas Suggit lives in the UK. John's wife's ashes are also in the Garden of Remembrance.

John was an avid hiker and retired to Fish Hoek in the Cape.

The view from pulpit and pew

Clergy on the move

• Rowan Jacobs has been appointed as Rector of St Paul's in Parsons Hill and will take up his post on 1 December.

Yay! Though I walk through the valley ... Thou art with me



These words, misread by a young girl, and used in a sermon on Psalm 23 by Dean Sharon Nell on Friday night 6 October at St Mark's in Humansdorp, rang very true for her and the editor, Frankie Simpson, as they travelled home.

The two of them were travelling along the N2, in pouring rain, at about 21h00. Sharon was driving very carefully because of the dark, the rain and road works. There were markers at the side of the road but at one section they were very far apart so when a car overtook Sharon she moved closer to where the yellow line should have been ... only to find the bakkie going into a trench which could not be seen in the dark and rain!

On examining the damage, the bakkie was tilted, two wheels on the road and two wheels in mid air, the two women realised they were stuck. Sharon flagged down a passing car and ... the Lord was with them. A member of the army named Rawdon (unfortunately in their shock they did not get his surname), who was on his way home to Makhanda, gave them a lift home to Sharon's house.

Yes, the Lord protected Sharon and Frankie, stranded in the middle of a lonely area of the N2, in the dark and rain. They could truly say, "Yeah ... Thou art with me."

Karoo warmth for community

Di Trollip



Di Trollip handing over blankets to Myrtle van Dyk from the ACVV, who distributed them to needy members of the community.

Members of St Barnabas in the Karoo Parish, Middelburg, knitted squares as part of the Knit a Square drive to make blankets for needy people in the local community.

Some squares came from as far afield as KwaZulu-Natal and there were enough to create 35 blankets.

Those who were thrilled to receive the blankets included the ACVV, the local women's shelter, Midros Old Age Home, Catholic Soup Kitchen and some needy folks in the community.

Di Trollip of Middelburg Karoo Tourism says that it was a pleasure and a privilege to distribute the blankets. She said, "We do not have words enough to thank all who contributed and especially for your enthusiasm about the Knit a Square drive. May all of you be blessed."

Still attending services at 102

Shirmell Newman



Assistant Priest Shirmell Newman with Frank Hardy who attended the 198th Patronal Festival of the Cathedral of St Mary the Virgin on Sunday 10 September.

Celebrating her 100th year

Sipusethu Zandile Mtana



Singing "Ndilapha Nje Ayingawo Amandla Am, UThixo Ungamandla Am. Uyandikhokhela. Ndihlala ndizikhumbuza Ukuba Ukunyula Asikwam" (Hymn 207), as she received gifts at the wonderful milestone of celebrating her 100th birthday, is Emily Ntshenge of St Andrew's and St Anne's in Kariega.

Tag lines!



To make a difference in someone's life,
you don't have to be brilliant,
rich, beautiful, or perfect.
You just have to care.



Join SA Belongs to Jesus on Telegram and pray for SA for two minutes three times a day.

Heritage celebrated in parishes

Parishes around the diocese held special services to celebrate Heritage Day and some followed with various events - despite the wind and rain.



Vera Nwabuisi, Loyce Ebadjudt and Precious Ugwu offering a taste of traditional Ugandan fried rice and jollof rice.

Holy Trinity in Central asked parishioners to attend the service on 24 September wearing traditional dress and to bring heritage food for everyone to taste.

Despite the South Africans having to cancel their braai due to bad weather, a delicious array of foods from all over the World, including South Africa, was shared in the hall after the service.

Some of the food offered was Nigerian yams and peanut and fish sauce; Irish potato soup; Xhosa walkies (chicken feet); koeksisters ... and so much more.



Assistant Priest Lindelwa Mama attended the Cathedral in a traditional amaXhosa outfit. So much nicer than traditional clerical wear!



A colourful picture of some of the women of St Luke's in Palmridge who attended the Heritage Day service in their traditional dresses.

Successful family breakfast

Shirmell Newman



Husband and wife teams worked in the kitchen - Helene and Westy Yon with Thomas and Audrey Steinfeld.

A very successful family breakfast was held at St Philip's in Richmond Hill, after the service on Sunday 1 October. The hall was full as the parishioners enjoyed the fellowship.



198th Patronal Festival celebrated

(Left) Assistant Priest Shirmell Newman with some of those who helped make the St Mary's Cathedral 198th Patronal Festival, held on Sunday 10 September, a wonderful success.

125 years of worship in Humansdorp



Toni Meyer, the churchwarden of St Mark's in Humansdorp, opening the Gala Dinner.

Despite the pouring rain and mud, St Mark's in Humansdorp was full on Friday night 6 October as the parishioners gathered to celebrate 125 years of ministry in the community.

The Dean, Sharon Nell, was the celebrant and preacher. She spoke on Psalm 23 and her words proved to be of great help to quite a few parishioners over the next few days who found themselves under spiritual attack - and also Sharon herself, on the drive home (see page 2 testimony).

The service was followed by a Gala Dinner in the hall where the churchwarden, Toni Meyer, gave a brief history of the church, which was founded in 1893, although services had been held in the town from as early as 1870 when a priest visited once a quarter from St Katharine's in (Uitenhage) Kariega - travelling by ox wagon.

St Mark's is now part of the Good Shepherd Parish which covers a vast area, approximately 100km long and 40km wide, presently under the rectorship of Rowan Jacobs.

Like so many of our country churches, the land for St Mark's was donated to them by the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk.

Blessing the animals

Janine Muspratt-Williams



Gareth Evans with Lacey, Tucker and Olive as Assistant Priest Mark Muspratt-Williams blesses them.

On Sunday 1 October, as part of the Eucharist service at St Cuthbert's in Westbourne Road, an animal blessing service was held to commemorate the feast of St Francis of Assisi (4 October).

Assistant Priest, Mark Muspratt-Williams, invited all parishioners to bring their pets to church for them to be blessed. Those who were unable to physically bring their pets were able to have a photo of them displayed on the overhead projector screen.

A wonderful way of showing God's love - His way of having dominion/rule over all creatures.

Sharing joy on her birthday



Mandi and Sibu receiving gifts of shoes and toiletries from Ntombizodwa Matshishi, Ivy Mata and Linda Ncaca.

Instead of Linda Ncaca receiving gifts on her birthday, she decided to give gifts, and a party, to the families living at the House of Resurrection Children's Home.

On the afternoon of Wednesday 4 October Linda, together with friends and family, arrived at the Haven to enjoy a party with the families and to hand out gifts of school shoes and toiletries. The shoes had come from her son in Gauteng who is involved in the shoe business and has promised to provide shoes to the families every year from now on. There was also a parcel of goodies from the Ward 30 Councillor, Kolani Notshe, who was unable to be present.

The girls entertained the guests with beautiful spiritual dancing and the boys with a couple of hip-hop numbers.

Linda explained that she believes in 'sharing and caring' and so she asked the members of the Retired Nursing Forum to help celebrate her birthday with 'her children' at the Haven, where she has been involved for many years. She spoke to the families about being givers as well as getters because that makes for a happy life.

Everyone - especially the children - enjoyed the platters of food, cakes and cool drinks.

A journey of self-exploration

Antonia Fourie



St Luke's Youth Alpha group at Landela. Their Rector, Mark Barth (back left) is seen keeping a supportive eye on them.

The recent Youth Alpha weekend hosted by St Luke's Church, proved to be a beacon of hope and inspiration, offering young participants an opportunity for growth, self-discovery, and connection that will undoubtedly shape their futures in profound ways.

From the moment we arrived at Landela, it was clear that this event was more than just a typical weekend retreat. The atmosphere buzzed with energy and enthusiasm as young people from diverse backgrounds converged, eager to embark on a journey of self-exploration and community building, and hungry to learn more about Jesus.

The weekend encouraged participants to disconnect from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and reconnect with GOD whilst enjoying nature. What truly set the Alpha Youth weekend apart however, was the sense of community that was cultivated throughout the event. The bonds formed between our young people were both heartwarming and uplifting, as they shared their stories, dreams, testimonies, and challenges. The atmosphere of support and understanding was a testament to the power of empathy and unity among young people.

The weekend was not merely a time of fun and entertainment but a transformative experience that equipped young individuals with the tools they need to navigate the complexities of life.

Green Piece

God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. Gen 1:9-10 NIV



With Dr Stacey Webb of SST (sitting centre) are Pastors Joan Keeling, Glenn Weiss, Russell Viljoen and Bishop Zola Moses.

Guest speaker at the NMB Christian Leaders meeting on Thursday 14 September was Dr Stacey Webb, Head of Marine and Coastal Impact Programmes of the Sustainable Seas Trust in Gqeberha.

She spoke of the impact that plastic is having on the environment and said that the main goal of SST is to uplift communities. People need to be taught to deal with the waste and plastic in the areas in which they live, work and play (which for NMB includes the ocean). Schools need to include this teaching in their curriculum and establish environmental clubs. Faith based organisations should play a critical role in teaching on looking after the earth and organise cleaning the area in which they're based. They need to take the message to households, taxi ranks and shopping malls.

The meeting was held at Bible House in Cotswold and via Zoom.

Trevor Jennings of Transformation Christian Network said he felt that all the pastors within each of the Wards need to get together and work as teams to organise groups to clean up their Wards. Christians need to come together as one and work as one body to bring about change.

The leaders also looked at the way forward in their ministry within the Metro.

Arbor Day planting

Cheryl Nelson



The Rector of St Alban's Chapel in Draaifontein, Xhanti Mhontlo, is seen with the Chapelwarden, Christopher Beckley and his wife Michelle.

St Alban's Chapel in Draaifontein celebrated Arbor Day by planting Spekboom in the gardens around the Chapel.

Flowers, food and fun at the St Saviour's fête



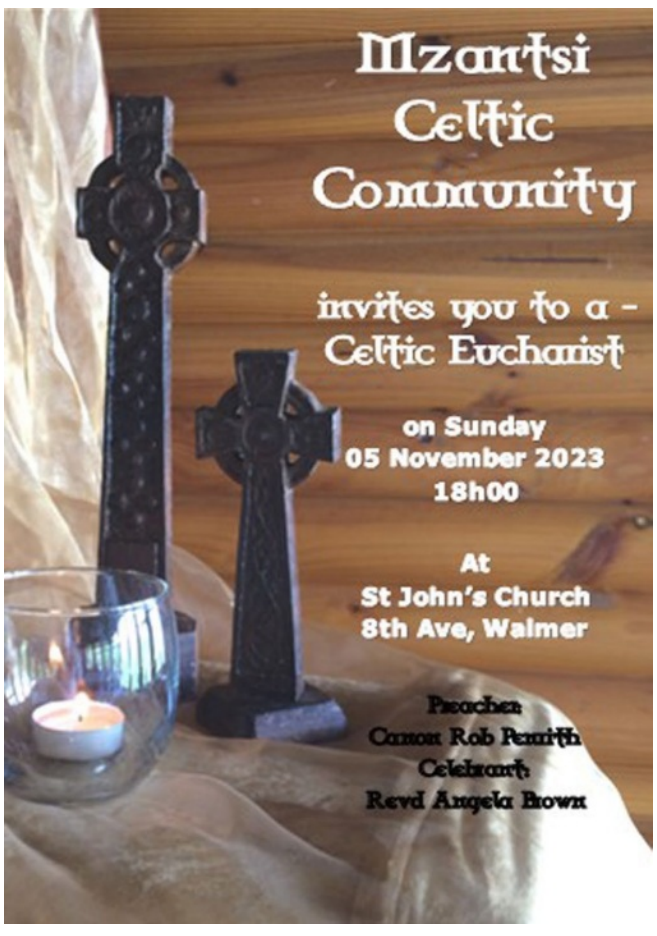
The flower garden / plant stall was busy all morning. Here Yvonne Ward-Able (right) is helped by Derek Walker, Judy de Villiers and Estelle Walker with setting up the stall.



Two very important food stalls at any fête are Wors Rolls and Bacon and Egg Rolls. Here Terry Knott-Craig, Roy Fotheringale, Stan Knott-Craig, Assistant Priest Nizam Kader, Pieter Nell and Lucius have some fun setting up their two stalls and preparing the food.

St Saviour's held a very successful fête on Saturday 30 September. Despite the lack of electricity (for ten days!), everything went well. With the help of the use of a large generator - a donation from Electronet - all the stalls could function.

Upcoming events



St Cuthbert's

Westbourne Road



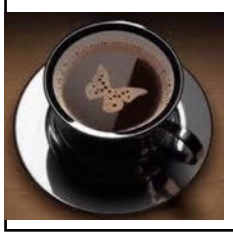
fair

4 November

doors open 09h00

Come and enjoy -

plants, white elephant, grandma's cupboard, books galore, cakes, tea garden, and food stalls.





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