iindaba

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The Vicar General writes ...

Dear Family of God,

Can you believe that it is Christmas time again? It seems just like yesterday we celebrated a new year and now again it is the time for giving and receiving gifts, the time for shopping, spending, cooking, eating—a very busy time of the year for all.

This is also the time when families and friends get together to reminisce and give thanks for each other. It is the time when in the Church we celebrate the birth of our Saviour and give thanks for the Christ child.

But for many, Christmas means nothing more than eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die. The reason we celebrate Christmas has been forgotten and we are encouraged to think of Christmas as just another holiday.

Isn't it sad to see Christmas being spelt Xmas! This just perpetuates the notion that Christmas is of no more importance than the tinsel on the tree and the trinket under it.

I came across a poem by Cyril Wommac which I share with you, entitled

"Let's take the "X" out of Christ-mas."

Let's take the "X" out of "X-mas"
and let's put Christ in again.
The day's the birthday of a King,
not that of an unknown man.
The tinsel, the glitter, the glamour,
the noise of the parties gay
have all but obscured the reason
that we celebrate the day.



Dean Sharon Nell, licensed as Vicar General, until such time as our new bishop is elected.

We surely would not write "X-ian"
for the Christians here on earth,
then why do many write "X-mas"
for the day of the Saviour's birth?
It's an honour that really is due Him
o'er that to a common man,
so let's take "X" out of "Christ-mas"
And let's put Christ in again!!

As you celebrate Christmas with those whom you love, my prayer is that we will have a blessed Christ-mas season and that the birth of our Saviour will indeed be real to each one as we look forward to 2025 with anticipation and joy.

So a blessing :
God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas, which is purity;
the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;
the belief in Christmas, which is truth;
the all of Christmas, which is Christ!
With much love and every blessing for Christmas and the new year, 2025.



Dean Sharon+
Vicar General

Christmas 2024



For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6

A trinity of new Priests

Addressing the newly ordained Priests, Bishop Eddie said that as Priests they had been selected from among the people - as those who understand the struggles and hopes of the people.

Zolani Gaxamba, Maureen Lamb and Zolani Mqoqi were priested at the service which took place in the Cathedral on Sunday morning 20 October.

In his address to the three, Bishop Eddie said that as priests they would be standing in the gap, bridging the way,and they need to serve with gentleness and understanding. He said that their weaknesses and vulnerability will help them minister to others and that through their wounds they become healers of others.

He went on to say that they are not called to be perfect, but to be compassionate and gentle - it is a divine calling, appointed by God, to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Just as Jesus learned obedience to God through suffering, let Him be your example, saying, "Follow the example of Christ, even unto death."

As the service was held on a Sunday morning very few of the clergy could be present. However, the Cathedral was full of those who came to support the three.



Newly ordained Priests, Zolani Mqoqi, Maureen Lamb and Zolani Gaxamba are greeted by the congregation. Behind them are Dean Sharon Nell, Bishop Eddie and the BEO, Fumi Kula and some of the clergy.



The editor,
together with
Bishop Eddie and Nicky,
The Vicar General
Sharon Nell
and Piet,
the media team
and the Diocesan staff
wish you
a blessed, joyful and
peaceful Christmas.
May 2025 bring you
much love, joy, good
health and peace.

Synod 2024 from 23-25 October

Synod was held at Fairview Sports Centre. The daily Synergy containing reports on Day 1 and day 2 can be accessed from www.anglicandiocesepe.org.za ... on Home page below the church photos.

Right - Bishop Eddie lays down his staff.

Below - The lighter side of Synod ... seeing Bomkazi Nakile's purple skirt, Bishop Eddie declared her his suffragan Bishop.







Above - Dean Sharon Nell is licensed as the Vicar General.

Below - The farewell banquet is served.



Some of what affects us -

Lay ministers to retire at 65

Synod accepted to change Act VII, paragraph 13:

Lay ministers will have to retire at the age of 65 and the licence be returned to the office of the Bishop. However written permission for the renewal of a lay minister's licence for those over the age of retirement, but in good health, can be done on an annual basis.

Change of name of the Diocese

Three names have been presented to Diocesan Council -

The Diocese of Christ the Redeemer

The Diocese of the Holy Cross

The Diocese of Living Water.

"Reduce, Reuse, Recycle"

All Parishes be encouraged both as a parish and as individuals – through the use of paper, glass and plastic recycling bins in Parishes;

Find ways to save water and electricity;

Stop using Styrofoam, plastic bottles and plastic cutlery at parish events;

Develop and use their grounds to the benefit of the community (eg food gardens);

Encourage parishioners to grow their own food gardens;

Celebrate "A Season of Creation" and/or special Environment days;

Promote the Communion Forest by growing indigenous trees and removing invasives.

Also that all organisations be encouraged to:

Stop using Styrofoam, plastic cutlery and bottled water at functions;

Ensure environmentally friendly catering practices;

Appoint an Eco-champ to join the Diocesan task team.

Disaster management

The Bishop was asked to write a letter, conveying the dismay at the people's pain and struggles, to the Mayor and Mayoral Council members;

Saying that we take note of the callous manner and treatment by them of the poorest of the poor.

Synod also resolved the establishment of a Diocesan Disaster Management Fund be brought to life for approval by the Bishop should parishes in their areas of ministry need assistance to help the communities that they serve.

Youth Organisations are to be represented on Diocesan Council

St Mary Magdalene Guild;

Anglican Youth Fellowship;

Anglican Servers Fellowship;

Boys' and Girls' Friendly Society.

Tag lines!



Embrace whatever comes.
Running away saps your energy.
What is held close can be seen clearly,
faced, and befriended.



Representatives from St Nicholas with their Rector, Andrew Watt.

Motion on Justice in South Africa

tabled at the Synod of 2024 held at Fairview Sports Center

Fumi Kula

This motion was proposed by Frankie Simpson of Holy Trinity Church and seconded by the Rector of St Stephen's, Xhanti Mhlontlo.

South Africa, the country we live in, was compelled, some 300 years ago, to face the beginnings of race segregation culminating in the brutal system of apartheid. Our successful revolt against this, and the establishment of our Democratic government has pitchforked the people of South Africa into another situation - a state of injustice.

We see the rise of inequality; hunger and poverty; the rise of unemployment; corruption; women and children feeling unsafe; an unequal education system; poor service delivery; and the ill treatment of our senior citizens.

It is the country where people are divided between the poor and the rich. It is common to find that the have-nots are treated unfairly - they have no access to good education and employment. Yes, some of these social ills are caused by the historical structures of Apartheid policies - but the current Government is supposed to have intervened quickly. They have a constitution in which the interest of its citizens, especially the underprivileged, is considered.

The call of Frankie Simpson, Xhanti Mhlontlo and members of Synod was for all Anglicans to imitate God's care for the underprivileged, a call for fairness and respect for all the people of God regardless of power and status. A call for the interest of the people of South Africa to be put first.

Corruption is against UBUNTU

On Saturday 19 October, I attended the 30 years celebration of St Matthew's, KwaMagxaki, where the guest speaker said corruption is against the philosophy of UBUNTU because it stands for self-enrichment (paraphrased).

He said the Bible emphasized the sacredness of human life, meaning that all people deserve to be treated fairly and respectfully.

On the dome above the criminal court in London stands the court's symbolic gilt bronze statue of Lady Justice by sculptor FW Pomeroy. She holds a sword in her right hand and the scales of justice in her left. I understand the sword and scales stand for fairness and impartiality. Such notions are expressed by the Psalmists and the Prophets in the Scriptures -

"Righteousness and Justice are the foundation of thy throne, Mercy and Truth go before thee" (Ps 89:14).

Deut 16:20 reads, *"Justice, Justice shalt thou follow."*

The Book of Ezekiel 18:5-9 emphasizes how such justice should be translated into action.

The view from pulpit and pew

❖ *iindaba* extends condolences to Reney Grobbelaar (wife of retired Priest, David) on the passing of her brother.

Clergy on the move

• Those ordained to the priesthood on 20 October wil serve at the following parishes:
Zolani Gaxamba - St Stephen's;
Maureen Lamb - St Saviour's;
Zolani Mqoqi - Good Shepherd.

Diocesan Day of Prayer against moral decay

4 February 2025



Set aside time to intercede for our NMB, Province and Government.

Synod called for a Day of Prayer
All Anglican churches in the Diocese be involved in co-ordination of the prayer day with thirty (30) minute slots,
Parish clergy and lay ministers co-ordinate and lead this initiative within their congregations.
This initiative be communicated to as many other denominations and churches as possible so as to create a powerful united and ecumenical prayer impact, and
this time of prayer be done in whatever format suits each participant (individually, in groups, couples, at home or work etc)

90 and not out!

Jill Bromiley



Ernie Verrall (right) of St Hugh's turned 90 at the end of October and the Rector, Andrea Porgieter, asked him to assist with Communion, together with Hilary Pritchard who is also 90.

Let there be light

Jill Bromiley



At last! The light behind the cross on the sanctuary wall at St Hugh's has been restored.

Getting Cathedral Spring Tea right!

With the help of Ruby Jewell



The Cathedral held two Teas around the period of their Patronal Festival ... and *iindaba* managed to get it wrong! With apologies to the Cathedral Spring Tea organising committee ... these are the beautiful women who put it all together for the 'Flowers, Hats and Heels' Spring Tea held on 7 September.

The High Tea was held to raise funds for next year as St Mary's will be celebrating 200 years. The attendance was great and attendees looked stunning. We are grateful to everyone who bought tickets and those who supported our initiative and sponsored our high tea.

Ed's note - No wonder they were disappointed to have the wrong photo published!

Cancer awareness

Mandla Tofo



On 27 October local residents gathered at the Holy Spirit Church for a poignant cancer awareness event organized by the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA). The event featured heartfelt testimonies and valuable information aimed at raising awareness about cancer and supporting those affected by the disease.

The gathering was led by Dalene Metelerkamp, Chairperson of CANSA, who shared her inspiring journey as a cancer survivor. Her testimony resonated deeply with attendees, highlighting the importance of resilience and hope in the face of adversity. "I stand here today, a testament to the strength we all have within us," she stated, urging those present to support one another in their battles against cancer.

She was followed by Nadine Wagenar, CANSA's Service Officer, who delivered an informative presentation focused on breast cancer. She discussed early detection methods, the significance of regular screenings, and the latest advancements in treatment. "Knowledge is power," she emphasized, encouraging everyone to prioritize their health and educate others about the risks and signs of breast cancer.

The event concluded with a candlelight ceremony, where attendees lit candles in memory of those lost to cancer and in support of those currently fighting the disease. A communal prayer was offered, creating a moment of reflection and solidarity among participants.

This event not only raised awareness about cancer but also fostered a sense of community and hope. The organizers expressed gratitude to all who attended and encouraged ongoing support for CANSA's initiatives in the fight against cancer.

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.

Luke 2:14 NIV

Guild has fun filled day

Viwe Dikeni



Members of St Mary Magdalene Guild enjoying a game at their picnic at St Patrick's in Humansdorp.

On 28 September members of St Mary Magdalene Guild from around the Diocese had a colourful fun day picnic at St Patrick's in Humansdorp.

LoveLife organisation facilitated team building games which were fun as were all the competitions which helped us to bind together and build ourselves closer to one another.

Celebrating Desmond Tutu

Sabelo Ndlebe



The lovely congregation of Desmond Tutu Memorial Anglican Church (Mission Chapel of St Matthias) dressed in their best traditional clothes to celebrate the great man's birthday. The Rector, Sabelo Ndlebe, is second from left in the back row.

Celebrating the late Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu's birthday in style are members of Desmond Tutu Memorial Anglican Church (DTMAC), after whom the church is named.

Desmond Tutu's birthday is 7 October (born in 1931) and the Mission Chapel is contemplating making this day their patronal festival day so that he can be remembered and celebrated every year.

The chapel is situated at corner of Xhama and Nkonyana streets Motherwell.

Children needing love



These are Desmond Tutu Memorial Anglican Church children. All they need is love and a shoulder to cry on. With them is the Rector of DTMAC, Sabelo Ndlebe.

Abp Canterbury resigns

Having sought the gracious permission of His Majesty The King, I have decided to resign as Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Makin Review has exposed the long-maintained conspiracy of silence about the heinous abuses of John Smyth.

When I was informed in 2013 and told that police had been notified, I believed wrongly that an appropriate resolution would follow.

It is very clear that I must take personal and institutional responsibility for the long and retraumatising period between 2013 and 2024.

It is my duty to honour my constitutional and church responsibilities, so exact timings will be decided once a review of necessary obligations has been completed, including those in England and in the Anglican Communion.

I hope this decision makes clear how seriously the Church of England understands the need for change and our profound commitment to creating a safer church. As I step down I do so in sorrow with all victims and survivors of abuse.

The last few days have renewed my long felt and profound sense of shame at the historic safeguarding failures of the Church of England. For nearly 12 years I have struggled to introduce improvements. It is for others to judge what has been done.

In the meantime, I will follow through on my commitment to meet victims. I will delegate all my other current responsibilities for safeguarding until the necessary risk assessment process is complete.

I ask everyone to keep my wife Caroline and my children in their prayers. They have been my most important support throughout my ministry, and I am eternally grateful for their sacrifice. Caroline led the spouses' programme during the Lambeth Conference and has travelled tirelessly in areas of conflict supporting the most vulnerable, the women, and those who care for them locally.

I believe that stepping aside is in the best interests of the Church of England, which I dearly love and which I have been honoured to serve. I pray that this decision points us back towards the love that Jesus Christ has for every one of us.

For above all else, my deepest commitment is to the person of Jesus Christ, my saviour and my God; the bearer of the sins and burdens of the world, and the hope of every person.

Wild Spirit

A Life Lived in Faith



The Revd Jean Underwood worked as a trained Trauma and ICU specialist, when she was filled with the Holy Spirit. She was ordained as a Priest and, in obedience to God's calling, started her missionary work. Jean's story unfolds through the heartfelt narratives shared in conversation with her friends, Susan Gouws and Esme Senekal.

Pre-order your copy of Wild Spirit for only R300

at www.jeanunderwood.com



AWF enjoy Fellowship Dinner



Above left - At the AWF dinner were the Vicar General, Sharon Nell; Nonqaba Dlula (Alternate President); Nondzoboyi Nobebe (Deputy president); Boniswa Mali; Sindiswa Kitsane; Francine Ferguson and Yalezwa Sakela (all executive committee members) with Buyiswa Malungisa (the President).

Right - When Jerusalema plays everyboy dances! Even the chaplain, Lulamile Ngesi, put his best foot forward.

Executive members of all the branches of the Anglican Women's Fellowship gathered at St Michael and All Angel's hall in Schauderville on Friday night 8 November to enjoy fellowship, a delicious meal and dancing.

Guest of honour, the Vicar General, Sharon Nell, shared the reason she loves Christmas. She said it brings God's children together to celebrate Christ's birth, and as God's children we need to be God to people around us. Referring to the need to meet early in the evening because of the crime in so many areas, she asked the question, "Where is Christ in this situation?" She said we know he is in all situations and we need to embrace that and show him to those we meet.

She said we are ladies who love our homes, love our society and love our church, so this Christmas 2024, let's show who we are related to - let's be Christ to everyone.

When opening the evening in prayer the Rector of St Michael's, Lulamile Ngesi, said this evening was a time to pause in our busy lives, and to strengthen the bonds that make the AWF special - to let the warmth envelope us.

After a very delicious meal the dancing began!



What better way to get everyone onto the floor than Jerusalema!

God bless Africa
Protect her children
Transform her leaders
Heal her communities
Restore her dignity
And give her peace
For Jesus Christ's sake.
Amen

Green Piece

Trash Runway Fashion Show

Claire Phelps



Looking very good in their high fashion trash creations are members of the Youth at St John's in Walmer.

Some of the St John's Youth participated in a Trash Runway Fashion Show after the litter clean up around the block where the church is situated, on Friday 11 October.

They designed their outfits incorporating all sorts of items that are routinely thrown away. The fashion show was a wonderful addition to the fellowship braai that the Clean Up Crew had after all their hard work. Lots of fun was had by all.

Helping students

Sweetness Mgedezi



Sweetness Mgedezi with Grade 12 students in the Great Centenary Hall where she was asked to motivate them to strive for Matric pass marks that will allow them to enter tertiary education centres.

"Father Almighty we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice, in Jesus Christ send us to the world ..."

Haunted by the prayer we pray at the close of every Eucharist, retired Priest Churchwarden Mgedezi and his wife Sweetness are still energetically working for the Lord.

One of the projects high on the list for Sweetness is the facilitating of Varsity and other tertiary education opportunities for school leavers. Having been involved with the Department of Education whilst still working, and as a qualified Education Guidance Counsellor, God sent us to assist students in schools. The couple visit many schools during the year and pray for the students and give them guidance on what is available to them.

St Paul's Fête - 30 November
16 Tucker Street, Parsons Hill.
09h00 to 12h00
Food, Arts and Crafts,
Jumping Castle, Face Painting, lots more!

Displaying the fruits of their labour

Mandla Tofo



Members of Holy Spirit proudly display some of their harvest of green vegetables.

On Sunday 27 October members of Holy Spirit in KwaZakhele joyfully celebrated our harvest with the Green Anglicans Movement. It was a wonderful day of fellowship, fun, and fund raising and for greening our planet.

We raised valuable funds to support our green initiatives and promote sustainable practices within our community. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed and participated.

Graduation celebrated

Debbie Tarbuck



Proudly holding their certificates proving they are now skilled in their chosen sphere are one of the group of learners from the St John's Centre of Concern training school.

The members of St John's Centre of Concern were thrilled to host a Graduation for the Basic Sewing, Beading and Advance Sewing courses on Wednesday 9 October.

Bev Sanderson, who manages the Centre, thanked Vicky Cengani for sharing her skills, "By teaching these wonderful ladies both beading and advanced sewing over the past three months."

She also thanked Cheryl Weyer and Bev Willemse for their patience and enthusiasm in teaching the sixth basic sewing course since 2022.

It was such a blessing to see the ladies being empowered and sharing their stories of how they have grown in confidence and are now able to earn a living from these skills.

Eds note - I have include this report under the Green Piece banner as I do believe skills training is very much part of saving our Planet.

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