iindaba

The official gazette of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth, Anglican Church of Southern Africa
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The Dean writes ...

Dear Diocesan Family of God,

Walking backwards into the future

There is a Māori proverb, Ka mua ka muri, which translated means "walking backwards into the future" and it is the idea that we should look to the past to inform the future.

As we, the Diocese of Port Elizabeth, will soon be taking our first steps into a new and unknown future, perhaps it is time for us to pause and look back over the past five years and give thanks to God for His guidance, providence and goodness during the time of Bishop Edward's episcopacy.



Elective Assembly - Abp Thabo Makgoba announces, "You have a Bishop."
Diocesan Registrar, Onida Fritz; Provincial Executive Officer, Theo Arendz; Archbishop Thabo; Bishop elect Eddie Daniels and Bishop Ebenezer of the Diocese of Grahamstown.



Newly consecrated, Bishop Eddie blesses the city.

Bishop Eddie prayed over the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropole during Covid



... and got his vaccine jab.



With NMB Christian leaders: Back - Pierre van Wyk, Ds Daan Mouton, Patrick Douglas-Henry and Trevor Jennings. Front - Pastor Joan Keeling, Bishop Vincent Zungu, Bishop Jacob Freemantle, and Margie Noble.



Protecting the environment, Bishop Eddie plants a tree on Arbour Day.

Sharon



With Nicky, his greatest support.

Diocesan Synod 23 - 26 October



Please cover Bishop Eddie;

- Dean Sharon Nell;

- the Bishop's Executive Officer, Fumi Kula;

- the Chancellor, Adv Leigh-Anne Ah Shene;

- the Registrars Kayla Gallant and Michelle Beneke LLB;

- the media representatives, Frankie Simpson and the Rector of All Saints', Andrew White;

- all the Parish representatives;

- Diocesan Council members;

- invited guests;

in prayer as we meet for Diocesan Synod.

Please pray that the Holy Spirit will fall in power upon our deliberations and that we will:

- seek the Lord's face;

- clearly hear His voice;

- weigh all decisions to see if they are in line with His Word;

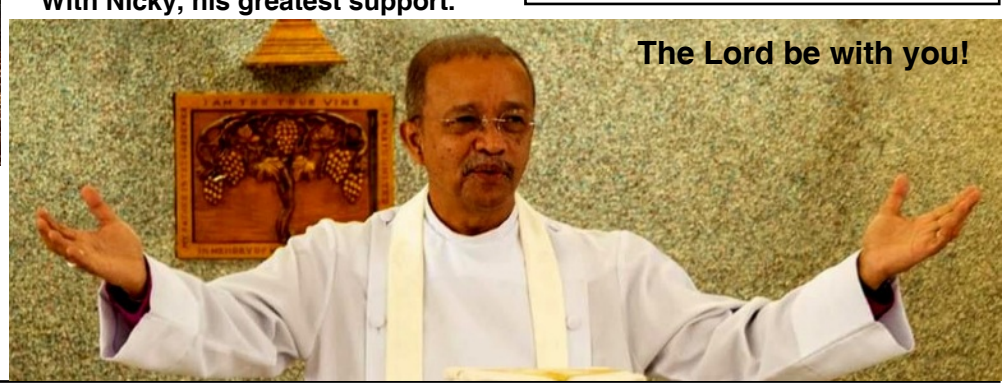
- seek justice and vote with integrity;

- seek the glory of our Triune God above any personal preferences;

- walk in the light.



Join SA belongs to Jesus on Telegram and pray for God to continue to heal our land.



The Lord be with you!

Churchwardens licensed



The Archdeacon of the Bay South licensed all the churchwardens of her archdeaconry at St Cuthbert's on Saturday 17 August. Andrea Potgieter is in the middle of the centre row with some of the clergy behind her and the churchwardens of the various parishes around her.

The Bay South archdeaconry consists of the parishes of: the Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin, St Cuthbert's, Holy Trinity, St Philip's and St Barnabas.

No electricity so poor go hungry



Some of the bags of donated meat that were in the freezers when the electricity went off at St Saviour's in Walmer.

When the electricity pylons crashed and plunged parts of Gqeberha into darkness, the Rector of St Saviour's in Walmer, Sharon Nell, got busy very fast.

Sharon realised that the meat and vegetables in the freezers would begin defrosting and that in the fridges would decay. No electricity meant that no soup could be cooked in the 350Lt pot for a few weeks.

Parishioners came to the fore with freezer space and everything was saved.

The soup kitchen was able to make soup again from Tuesday 10 September and the charities and churches who distribute it were very pleased.

The view from pulpit and pew

❖ *iindaba* celebrates with retired Priest David Grobbelaar who has reached five years clear of cancer. We pray for many more years free.

❖ *iindaba* extends condolences to:
- Rene Grobbelaar (wife of retired Priest David) on the passing of her brother. May the family know the love and peace of Jeshua surrounding them as they mourn.

❖ *iindaba* asks for prayers for our Diocesan Treasurer-secretary, Yolande Wolmarans, recovering from a hip replacement operation;
- and continued prayers for Busi Gwentshu, of our Diocesan Office staff, as her ankle continues healing.
- The office is pleased that Miriam Stiemens has agreed to come out of retirement and work until both are able to return to work.

Clergy on the move

• The Rector of St Paul's, Mark Barth, was licensed as the Archdeacon of the Bay West before Chapter meeting on Thursday 19 September.

• Please pray for those being ordained in the Cathedral on 20 October:

Youth enjoy walkabout

Cross Trainer Yanga



Enjoying fun at the Fort in Central are Debora, Sasha-Lee, Nda, Inam and Mbali, with Yanga in the front.

On Saturday 27 July, Holy Trinity Church Cross Trainers took a walkabout in Central. One of our members, Mbali, was leaving to go back to the USA to study and we spent the morning together as a way to say farewell to her.

We visited Wezandla Art Gallery, Fort Frederick, the Donkin Reserve and made a few other stops in between.

We had a lunch break at the MacDonald's in Govan Mbeki Avenue and took a slow stroll up Parliament Street back to our church.

It was an awesome time with friends and we had a chance to chat, take photos and make memories.

Thrown in at the deep end



Enjoying fellowship after the Wednesday luncheon at St Saviour's are Desré Foaden, Daphne Momberg and Assistant Priest Phakama Plaatjies.

When self-supporting Priest Phakama Plaatjies attended the Wednesday luncheon at St Saviour's, he was thrown in at the deep end as he was asked to introduce himself as the new assistant to the parish before praying the blessing for the meal.

Preworn clothing sells well

Jill Bromiley



Pamela Cassells keeps an eye on the floor, while Dave Harris adds up a sale made to a customer Natalie Kiessig was helping.

St Hugh's in Newton Park held their annual preworn clothing sale on Saturday 31 August. As always the morning was very busy from the time the doors opened, with many regular customers, who have outlets in the townships, coming to get clothing that is in good condition and can be re-sold in their communities. It was a great success.



Advent to Christmas for charity

(Left) Christmas trees in a church in Scotland decorated by various charities with their collection tin beneath the tree.

My niece in Scotland sent this photo to me last Christmas.

Her parish asks charities in the area to decorate a small tree and put a collection tin and their pamphlets beneath the tree.

Members of the congregation are asked to read the pamphlets, choose the charity/charities they wish to help, and put a donation into one or more of the tins.

The charities collect their donations after Christmas.

Ed's note: What a lovely idea for parishes to consider this Advent.

Tag lines!



Most people are about as happy as they choose to be.

HTC women enjoy fun and food



HTC women enjoying some fun before their breakfast arrived.

A group of the women from Holy Trinity Church in Central enjoyed breakfast at the Old Grey Club on Saturday morning 31 August - a belated celebration of Women's Day.

While they were waiting for latecomers, the women had fun with an icebreaker that had them laughing at many of the answers to questions.

Hats and heels hit a high note



Charmaine McBeth, of the Alpha Romeo table, won the heels competition. She is seen with Niqui Cloete-Barrass, MC and judge.



Monica Wright, a member of St Saviour's, also seen with Niqui, won the best hat competition.

St Saviour's hall was full to capacity on Saturday afternoon 7 September for the Hats and Heels High Tea. Besides the invited guests, 135 tickets had been sold in aid of the Soup Kitchen.

Niqui Cloete-Barrass was the MC and kept everyone laughing at her stories and her songs (often with original words changed).

One of the highlights was beautiful performances by dancers from Jacqueline's Dance Studio, culminating in the Black Swan ballet danced by Emma van der Westhuysen, which received a standing ovation.

There was also a best dressed table prize which was won by St John's Church (see below) and lots of ticket number draws for prizes. An auction of Balmain and Waterman Pen and Pencil sets brought in R1 300.

Bringing warmth to the needy

Luvaine Brandt



Barbara Van Rooyen and Assistant Priest Sharon Brandt sort the wool donated for the knitting project.

St Barnabas in Sydenham is not only a place of worship but also a beacon of hope for the less fortunate. One of the heartwarming initiatives led by the church, is its knitting project, where parishioners come together to create handmade items, which are then donated to those in need.

From warm scarves to cosy hats, each item is lovingly crafted by the hands of volunteers. The project reflects the spirit of generosity and community service that lies at the heart of St Barnabas. For the knitters, it's not just about the yarn and needles but about weaving compassion into every stitch, knowing that their creations will provide warmth and comfort to those who need it most.

Through this ongoing effort, St Barnabas fosters a sense of unity, purpose, and giving. The knitting project is a testament to the power of small acts of kindness, showing that when a community comes together, they can make a significant impact in the lives of others.

All items are donated to local charities and organizations that support the less fortunate, spreading warmth and love far beyond the church's walls.

Freedom of Religion SA - Needs help!

For the past 10 years, FOR SA has faithfully stood in the gap for your right to faith and freedom. We have worked tirelessly to hold back the tide that has swept away religious freedom in many other nations.

Now we URGENTLY need your help and financial support so we can continue to uphold your rights.

We cannot afford to drop our guard. We need to stand together to fight the battles that lie ahead.

Imagine if FOR SA could no longer operate effectively, simply for lack of adequate funding: Who is going to keep watch? Who would defend you if you face legal action or criminal prosecution simply for expressing your faith?

https://www.forsa.org.za/donations

Best dressed table and the Missions Fête



St John's won the Best Dressed Table competition at the Hats and Heels High Tea at St Saviour's. Their black and purple decorations, which included purple edible high heel shoes, won just ahead of the Top Hat Table of Yvonne Ward-Able's Wednesday lunch group.



Karen Glover is making sure all the articles are tagged with their prices before the doors opened for the St John's Missions Fête.

As always, when the doors of the St John's hall opened on Saturday 31 August, the waiting crowd swarmed in. There were stalls and the tea garden in the hall and books and other stalls in the Youth Centre, with games, ice cream and food stalls in the garden.

The buyers had lots to do and a wonderful choice of goodies to buy and taste.

What is Safe Church?

Claire Phelps



The Gender Desk of St Stephen's in New Brighton invited Archdeacon Claire Phelps to engage with them about Safe and Inclusive Church.

Those present included members of St Stephen's Parish Council, Anglican Youth Fellowship, St Bernard Mizeki Guild, Mothers' Union and Fellowship of Vocation.

Churches around the world have faced increased scrutiny in recent years regarding their commitment to safety and inclusivity. The Anglican Church of Southern Africa (ACSA) responded to these concerns with an initiative designed to ensure that all members of its community can worship in an environment that is both safe and welcoming. This initiative is known as Safe and Inclusive Church (SIC). It is a comprehensive framework aimed at fostering an environment free from harm and discrimination.

The Safe and Inclusive Church initiative emerged from a growing recognition of the need for religious institutions to address issues related to abuse, harassment, and exclusion within their communities. In an era where safeguarding and inclusivity are paramount, ACSA acknowledged that their practices and policies needed to evolve.

The roots of this initiative can be traced back to several key developments within the Church and society at large. In recent decades, there has been a global movement towards creating safer environments within institutions, driven by increasing awareness of various forms of abuse and misconduct. For the Anglican Church, this has meant re-evaluating and updating policies to protect all members, especially the most vulnerable.

Purpose

The primary purpose of the Safe and Inclusive Church initiative is to create a secure and welcoming environment for everyone involved in church life. This purpose is expressed through several core objectives:

1 Preventing Abuse and Harm: Safe Church aims to establish clear guidelines and practices to prevent any form of abuse or exploitation. This includes safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, implementing effective reporting mechanisms, and ensuring that all members understand their responsibilities in maintaining a safe environment.

2 Promoting Inclusivity: ACSA is committed to ensuring that everyone is treated with dignity and respect. The SIC programme focuses on creating an inclusive community where everyone feels valued, is welcome to worship, and will experience the love of God expressed through the church community.

3 Providing Support: SIC recognises that incidents of abuse or discrimination can have a profound impact on individuals and communities. As such, it seeks to offer appropriate support and resources to those affected, ensuring that their needs are addressed with compassion and care.

4 Training and Awareness: A crucial aspect of SIC is the provision of training and education for both clergy and laity. This ensures that all those involved in church activities are well-informed about safeguarding policies, practices, and their role in upholding these standards. When SIC was launched in our Diocese, training sessions were conducted within all Archdeaconries. Perhaps you feel that you need a refresher? Please contact Archdeacon Claire Phelps to arrange this.

What is abuse and how do you report it?

Abuse means behaviour which causes harm to another person, or is undertaken with the intention of causing harm to another person, or may place another person at the risk of harm. So, anything that causes injury, hurt, pain, suffering, distress, shame, or diminishes another person. It includes bullying, concealment of abuse, cyber abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse, gender-based violence, harassment, neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, spiritual abuse.

The SIC program includes clear procedures for reporting concerns or incidents. The reporting form is available on the ACSA website. Once you have submitted a report of abuse, the Provincial SIC team will start the investigations. This process is designed to be accessible and transparent, allowing individuals to report any issues confidentially and without fear of retribution. Once a report is made, there are established protocols for investigating the matter, providing support to those affected, and taking appropriate action.

What clearances are needed?

As part of the safeguarding policies that SIC has implemented, all those who are involved in ministry are required to have certain clearances done on a regular basis. This helps the Church ensure the safeguarding of all its members. All clergy, churchwardens, treasurers, parish council, lay ministers, Sunday School teachers, parish employees, and anyone who comes into contact with children, are required to complete the following clearances.

- Police Clearance Certificate
- Sexual Offenders Clearance
- Safe and Inclusive Church Declaration (made online, on the ACSA website)

Conclusion

The Safe and Inclusive Church initiative represents a significant and proactive step by the Anglican Church of Southern Africa towards ensuring that its communities are places of safety and acceptance. By focusing on prevention, inclusivity, support, and education, we are committed to creating an environment where all individuals can thrive spiritually and personally without fear of harm or discrimination.

For more detailed information on Safe and Inclusive Church please visit the official page at Anglican Church SA Safe Church Guide. anglicanchurchsa.org/safe-church-guide/ or contact Archdeacon Claire Phelps.

Is this abuse?

A light moment at the St John's Mission fête



The editor is wondering if she should report Dean Sharon Nell to the Provincial Safe and Inclusive Church committee for abusing Archdeacon Claire Phelps. Surely dunking her in a barrel of cold water on a cold morning, at the St John's Mission Fête, is abuse?

The winner takes all!

Carol Brand





Belia Scott won first prize and received the hamper from the Rector of St Paul's, Rowan Jacobs.

On Saturday 7 September, parishioners of St Paul's and members of the neighbourhood gathered to watch the much anticipated second rugby test between South Africa and New Zealand.

The event, shown on the big screen, was accompanied by the sizzling sounds of a braai and much commentating on the NZ players and the referee, creating a festive atmosphere for all who attended.

The crowd enjoyed not just the match, but also some friendly competition. A score prediction competition was held, offering lovely prizes for the winners. In a fun twist, the rugby knowledge of our ladies proved to be top-notch, as they outguessed many of the men to take home the majority of the prizes! Who knew they'd be the ones to show us who knows their rugby better?

It was a fantastic afternoon of sport, fellowship, and fun. Many thanks to all who came and contributed to making the event so memorable. We look forward to the next gathering!

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