iindaba

The official gazette of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth, Anglican Church of Southern Africa
PO Box 7109 Newton Park 6055

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The Vicar General writes ... Looking forward with joy

Dear Family of God,

2025 – can you believe that we are already in the months of January/February of the new year?

A new year offers us a time to look back over the past with thanks and appreciation but at the start of the new year, we more especially are offered a time to look forward with anticipation to what lies ahead.

So what will 2025 bring us?

Firstly 2025 will see the election of our new Bishop – we need to be praying that the person elected as our new Shepherd, is one who loves God, loves God's Church and loves God's people. Let us be earnestly praying for God to direct and lead our election process.

2025 is also the year when the Cathedral of St Mary the Virgin will celebrate her bicentenary – for 200 years people have worshipped and been fed spiritually under the direction of the various priests who have served at the Cathedral. We look forward to the celebrations in 2025.

We will each have our own personal goals, desires and wishes for 2025 – we pray for good health, we pray for our families to be protected, we pray for political and financial stability, we wish for happiness, peace and joy.

So, at the start of this new year, I wish to leave with you all a recipe for a joyful day and, if we follow this recipe, not only will our day be joyful, but the whole year ahead.



At a Christmas Tea the Vicar General, Sharon Nell, thanks the Diocesan staff and archivists for their hard work during the year.

Ingredients needed are:

1 relationship with God
½ cup gratefulness
A sprinkling of songs in your heart
A heaping spoonful of prayer
A tablespoon of children's giggles
A dollop of humour
A dash of sunshine
One pair rose-coloured glasses (optional)

Method to follow:

Lay out one relationship with God as the base.

Add gratefulness, songs, and prayer.

Mix thoroughly.

Next, fold in giggles, humour and sunshine.

- Bake overnight with a good night's sleep.

- Serve with cheerful attitude and joyful determination.

- Feeds the hungry hearts of one to millions.

I challenge you in 2025 to make use of this recipe – spread some smiles around, spread some joy, share with each other, but remember you can't share what you don't know or have not experienced, so may 2025 be the year of God's grace on our diocese as we spread His love, His joy and His grace.

Love and blessings,

Sharon

Dean Sharon+
Vicar General

Diocesan Day of Prayer against Moral Decay

4 February 2025



Set aside time to intercede for our NMB Mayor and Councillors, our Province and our Government of National Unity.

Synod called for a Day of Prayer. All Anglican churches in the Diocese to be involved in coordination of the prayer day with thirty (30) minute slots, Parish clergy and lay ministers to co-ordinate and lead this initiative within their congregations;
This initiative to 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 to be done in whatever format suits each participant (individually, in groups, couples, at home or work etc).

Great-great-grandchildren visit

Roanna Van As



Graham and Ken Brook, with a photo of their great-great-grandfather, are seen with Rowan Jacobs, the Rector of St Paul's in Parsons Hill.

On Tuesday 8 October 2024 the great-great-grandsons of the Revd Samuel Brook (the first rector of St Paul's 1859-1893), visited the present St Paul's.

Graham Brook travelled from Australia and Ken Brook, from Port Alfred.

They spent time in the Garden of Remembrance where the gravestones of Samuel and Emily Brook are engraved.

The remains of the Revd Samuel and his wife, Emily Brook, were translated from the old St Paul's Church and reinterred under the pulpit at the 'new' St Paul's on 31 October 1960. Graham and Ken were excited to experience and explore some of their great-great-grandparents' history.

New Year 2025



And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."
And he replied:
"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.
And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.
So heart be still:
What need our little life
Our human life to know,
If God hath comprehension?
In all the dizzy strife
Of things both high and low,
God hideth His intention.
God knows. His will is best.
The stretch of years
Which wind ahead, so dim
To our imperfect vision,
Are clear to God. Our fears
Are premature; In Him,
All time hath full provision.
Then rest: until
God moves to lift the veil
From our impatient eyes,
When, as the sweeter features
Of Life's stern face we hail,
Fair beyond all surmise
God's thought around His creatures
Our mind shall fill.
Minnie Louise Haskins

As we pray for the future let us learn from the past:

There are more Christians in Africa than anywhere else in the World, yet 95% of Christians killed for their faith in 2023 were from sub-Saharan Africa - mostly in Nigeria.

- Open Doors

And the trend continued during 2024!

Christmas celebrations around the Diocese



I heard the bells on Christmas Day -

Darlington Ebajut rings in Christmas on the bell at Holy Trinity in Central.

Colours of Christmas

Jenny Yates



"Green for the Ivy,

White for the Mistletoe,

Red for the berries that shine in the snow."

So wrote the composer John Rutter in his poem, 'The Colours of Christmas.'
Those colours were used beautifully in the unusual depiction of the Three Kings in the Christmas tableau at St Margaret's in Summerstrand.
These were some of the colours of Christmas - the colours of happiness at the new baby's birth:
Blue for the young mother's robe;
Gold for the gifts;
Silver for the starlight;
A rainbow for every sweet wish.

St Mary the Virgin Church (now our Cathedral) celebrates 200 years of worship in May.
See page 4



Away in a Manger -

Members of St Saviour's staged a magnificent Nativity Play on Sunday night 1 December ... and nobody forgot the donkey! Why? Because at certain happenings during the play the children, both great and small, shouted, "But what about the donkey?" ... A most important player in the Bethlehem story!

Everyone arrived for the show with picnic baskets and their best Carol singing voices. They left having enjoyed some wonderful fun and plenty of laughs.



After action satisfaction -

All the volunteers who had worked so hard during the year in the St Saviour's soup kitchen and with the Pensioners' Lunches, were sponsored for a wonderful Tea at Holmeleigh Farm on Tuesday 10 December.

The smiles on their faces tell the story of having a wonderful time.



Preparing for Advent -

Holy Trinity Cross Trainers worked hard cleaning and preparing the church for Advent. At the back are Yanga and Chad, at the piano are Inam and Nda and at the Communion Table are Sasha-Lee and Debora.



Tag lines!



If only we could live two lives:
the first in which to make one's mistakes,
and the second in which to profit from them.

The view from pulpit and pew

❖ *iindaba* extends condolences to the families of:
- retired Priest Angela Brown on the passing of her son, Mark;
- the Derry family on the death of Ted (91) after a short illness. Ted was a member of the Order of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth and the father of former Priest in our Diocese, Mark Derry.
May the families and friends know the love and peace of our Lord Jesus surrounding them as they mourn their loved ones.

❖ *iindaba* congratulates Sr Carol CR on her 90th birthday on 4 February. As part of the Community of the Resurrection of our Lord she did much work in this Diocese.

Clergy on the move

• The clergy are happy to know that Bishop Eddie will no longer get in their hair because from 1 February he is officially retired. Save a thought for Nicky, because he'll be getting in her hair instead!
- iindaba thanks Bishop Eddie for his contribution to the Diocese and to this publication.

• Zola Nanana to St Matthew's as self-supporting Assistant Priest as of 22 September 2024;
• Pakama Plaatjies to St Cuthbert's as self-supporting Priest-in-Charge as of 1 December 2024.

As from 1 January 2025, the following clergy moves took place :
• Andrew White to St Margaret's as Rector;
• Joshua Koening to All Saints' as Rector;
• Nizam Kader to St Mary Magdalene as Rector;
• Mziwoxolo Nodwele to Holy Spirit as Rector;
• Thembela Sixaba to St Mary's Cathedral as self-supporting Assistant Priest.

• Andile Tom will move to St Peter's, Zwide as self-supporting Assistant Priest as of 1 February 2025.

• Sipho Bodlani has resigned from the Anglican Church of Southern Africa and no longer holds a licence in the Anglican Church nor in the Diocese of Port Elizabeth.

Colour-coded dancers -

Jill Bromily



The Rector of St Hugh's, Andrea Potgieter, enjoyed a dance with William Everard at the Seniors' Brunch on Sunday 1 December.

While getting into step it was noted that their outfits were colour-coded.

Photos and POPI Act

When submitting reports and/or photos please remember the POPI Act and make sure everyone is happy to appear in the *iindaba*. If children are in a photo remember to get the parent's permission.

Supporting SAPS with prayer

Lulamile Ngesi



Lulamile Ngesi, the Rector of St Michael and All Angels', gives the word for the day, thanks and blesses SAPS members. He is seen with Sgt Mseleni and a member of the Civilian Support Staff.

On the morning of 19 November 2024 at about 07h30 the Rector of St Michael and All Angels', Lulamile Ngesi was already ministering at Gelvandale Police Station.

Lulamile is a member of the Gelvandale police station precinct Spiritual Crime Prevention Forum which stretches from Hillside to Korsten/Schauderville areas. He serves on the committee as Public Relations Officer.

He attends the meetings regularly to give a message and a word of encouragement. He then prays for the men and women in uniform together with the Civilian Supporting Staff.

On this day the message was from Matthew 5:9 talking about peacemakers being made children of God.

170 years of worship celebrated

Rowan Jacobs



Some of the St Paul's members and community who attended the games evening held during the celebration of 170 years.



The Rector, Rowan Jacobs (centre) together with former clergy of the parish: Barry Sendall, Ben Durham, Rob Penrith and Howard Lancaster.

During October 2024 St Paul's Church celebrated 170 years of worship, faith and fellowship.

Our celebration of this remarkable milestone brought together generations of worshippers and current parishioners in a series of heartfelt events, reflections, and musical offerings during the weekend of 18 – 20 October.

Our anniversary weekend began with old-fashioned carnival games on the Friday evening - skittles, ring toss, and more, which kept children, parents and grandparents entertained. All had great fun!

On the Saturday we traced our church's journey through song and symbols, of the cultural and spiritual fabric of our parish. Hymns such as: 'The Church's One Foundation', 'Now Thank We All Our God' and 'How Great Thou Art', resonated deeply, evoked memories and renewed our collective faith. An isiXhosa praise song and 'Jabulani Africa' celebrated our South African heritage, underscoring our commitment to inclusivity within the community.

On Sunday we gathered at a special Eucharist to thank God for His steadfast love and guidance over the years. During the service, we remembered the journey of our church community from the church's original site in 1854 to our current home in Parsons Hill, which was established in 1960.

With gratitude, we recalled the countless parishioners, clergy, and lay leaders who had shaped St Paul's over the decades, each leaving a lasting legacy in our spiritual family.

We were blessed to be joined by past rectors Howard Lancaster and Ben Durham, and (then) curates, Rob Penrith and Barry Sendall, along with their wives. During the Eucharist service Howard and Ben shared some of their special memories with the congregation.

Later, much reminiscing took place over refreshments in the parish hall after the service, reminding us that St Paul's holds a special place in many people's memories and lives.

We are truly grateful to God for the faithful service of past generations and look forward to another 170 years of faithful service at St Paul's - beginning with us.

Faith and Health Unite

Mandla Tofo



Flanking Fikile Sohuma at the special memorial table are Deacon Elizabeth Rasimani and retired Priest Mzukisi Macingwane.

"Faith and Health Unite: Holy Spirit Anglican Church Champions World AIDS Day and Diabetes Awareness with Empowering Initiatives".

Holy Spirit Church celebrated World AIDS Day and World Diabetes Day, featuring Health Promotion Manager, Fikile Sohuma as the guest speaker. She highlighted alarming HIV/AIDS statistics among young men, discussing the risks posed by predatory relationships.

Fikile then introduced the 'Welcome Back' programme to support individuals who have strayed from antiretroviral treatment, promoting a judgment-free environment.

In addition to HIV/AIDS, attendees engaged in discussions about diabetes awareness and lifestyle changes. Fikile emphasized the Church's role in health promotion, noting regular health screenings and the establishment of a vegetable garden to aid nutrition. The congregation showed strong support for these initiatives, reinforcing the Church's commitment to community health and wellness.

The Vicar General, Sharon Nell, sent out an Ad Clerum et Laos during December

***iindaba* prints a very important section of this document -**

Election of Bishop

In June 2024, Bishop Edward wrote to the clergy and laity of the Diocese concerning the important matter of canvassing for nomination and votes for Bishop. Bishop Edward went on to emphasise "the inappropriateness of approaching individuals to seek their nomination for the office of bishop," stating that these "undermine the integrity of our ecclesiastical processes."

I am saddened to have to say that the canvassing etc has not abated. Should the Advisory Committee receive any reports of canvassing, they will take it as a very serious matter and report such to the Provincial Advisory Committee. I reiterate the words of Bishop Edward where he wrote, "I earnestly beseech you to desist from any form of ambition or manoeuvring during this period. Allow the Holy Spirit to work within us and guide the process according to divine will. Trust that our canonical procedures will lead us rightly once the Archbishop has set the date for the elective assembly."

Advisory Committee

Members of the Diocesan Advisory Committee elected at Synod in September 2024:

Chairperson – Chancellor Lee-Anne Ah Shene

Vice Chairperson – Mr Keith Burns

Laity:

Canon Charles Qoto
Mr Zukisa Jeyi
Mrs Frances Simpson
Mr Wayne Tinley

Clergy:

The Revd Xhantilomsi Mhlontlo
BEO Fumanekile Kula
The Revd Canon Philile Lobese
Archdeacon Claire Phelps

Once the Archbishop has issued the summons for the elective assembly, the Diocese will be informed and the work of the Advisory Committee will begin in earnest.

Looking back to 1992



Members of Diocesan Council during 1992 are seen with the late Bishop Bruce Evans at St Katharine's in Uitenhage (Kariega). Sadly, so many of these faithful servants have passed away.

Saying farewell

Zandile Mtsewu



Assistant Priest, Thembela Sixaba with Rector Xolo Nodwele and his wife, Ntombizodwa.

The Parish of St Matthias wished their Rector, Mziwoxolo Nodwele and the Assistant Priest, Thembela Sixaba, and their families well in their ministries and journey ahead.

Obit Ted Derry

Mark Derry



Ted and Pam Derry with Bishop Bethlehem Nopece when they were awarded the Order of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth.

Educator Ted Derry (91), who retired and lived in Jeffreys Bay for more than 30 years, along with his wife Pam, passed away in Gqeberha on January 2 after a short illness. He and Pam were recipients of the Order of the Diocese for their commitment to Parish work.

Throughout his life Ted had been a keen sportsman, participating in hockey, tennis and cricket.

Upon retirement from the Department of Education, having been Headmaster of Butterworth High School and a School Inspector, Ted with Pam his wife, moved to Jeffreys Bay, where both were actively involved in their parish.

Mark Derry, former Dean of the Diocese, and Ted's son, writes "My dad, in all the tributes, was known as a real gentleman and an voice to be listened to. He loved teaching and especially hearing about the progress of those he had taught, having a remarkable memory for their names and their families."

The Diocese extends condolences to the family and prays for God's comfort at this time.

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

A reminder that 'Wild Spirit',



- the memoir of the Revd Jean Underwood and her remarkable journey of a life lived in faith,

is now available for R300 a copy.

Orders: www.jeanunderwood.com

Freedom of Religion SA - Needs your help!

FOR SA urgently needs 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

Do check their Facebook page and listen to the various issues they are fighting for us at present, such as the BELA Bill and the Hate Speech Bill which could land Christians in jail for speaking about our faith and beliefs.

If parishes can help that will be great!

Green Piece



Make sure all items are clean and not mixed together, then deliver to Z Sports, 174 Villiers Road, Walmer.

Sweethearts Foundation has increased what they collect for recycling in order to provide wheelchairs for those who are unable to afford them.

What does it take to create a wheelchair?

- Plastic bottle caps (PET 1 and PP5)
- Bread tags
- We recently started collecting:

- coffee cup lids too, so toss those into a brown paper bag, fill it up, and let us take it from there;

- those tiny aluminium tabs on soda cans are the perfect addition to our collection. Once you've filled a 1L or 2L soda bottle, close it up and send it our way.

Together, we turn waste into life-changing mobility!

Sweethearts, we're at a moment of change. Our mission to turn waste into freedom is too precious to lose. We need every one of you to help us expand, innovate, and keep spreading that Sweethearts magic.

Together, we can overcome these changes, adapt, and continue to be the unstoppable force for good we know we are.

Let's keep those wheels – and hearts – turning!

Please everyone, recycle and reclaim an inheritance for future generations.

St Mary's celebrates 200th anniversary this year

Maureen de Villiers

The year 2025 has just begun and what a year it promises to be as the Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin celebrates the 200th anniversary of the laying of its foundation stone.

Five years after the arrival of the 1820 Settlers in Algoa Bay, the area around the port began to look and feel like a proper village. The Settlers had been sent to establish farms along the Fish River border as a form of protection from invasions during the Frontier Wars. Because of their lack of agricultural experience, many returned to the settlements, including Algoa Bay. Amongst them were skilled artisans and highly qualified professionals. In 1824, in response to a list of requests from a group of citizens for several things essential to their village life, including a school and a church, the Governor in Cape Town was able to supply them with the piece of ground on which St Mary's stands today. The money for the building fund had to be raised by the citizens themselves. In the meantime, the people met for worship in a school room near the present St Augustine's Cathedral.

The foundation stone of St Mary's Church was laid in October 1825 and in the same month, the Revd Francis McClelland was appointed Minister of the Church. With financial help from the public, the Church was finally opened for worship in January 1834. What an important occasion this was for Port Elizabeth, with flags being flown in the town and on the ship 'Kate,' at anchor in the Bay. There was a choir of twenty, accompanied by a violin, a cello and a flute. Surely this was the beginning of the rich tradition of music at St Mary's!

The new church was described as not being very imposing, oblong with a red-tiled roof. By 1860, St Mary's was too small for its congregation. The nave was extended and the sanctuary now faced East. The first Walker organ was installed and the stainedglass east windows and reredos were gifted by a generous benefactress.

All this was destroyed when, during the night of 9 March 1895, when an incendiary set fire to the church, destroying everything apart from the walls and tower. A few treasures, which included the cast iron eagle of the lectern and the silver-gilt altar vessels which had been protected by fallen beams, survived the blaze. The Bishop's crozier, although broken, also survived. It was repaired and is still in use today. A wooden cross, left standing alone at one end of the roof, is now in the nave.

Within a year, the church was quickly rebuilt with money collected from people as diverse as Cecil Rhodes and President Paul Kruger. The new church building, now far grander in style, opened for worship on 6 September, 1896.

On 1 April 1897, a lady, who was a known pyromaniac, started a fire at St Mary's altar. She was arrested and sent to Robben Island. Yet another new altar had to be made. At the end of the year, the church tower was completed.

In 1888, St Mary's was constituted a Collegiate Church and on 2 November 2003, it became the Cathedral of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth.

St Mary's has always striven to maintain a high standard of music in its worship. In 1897 the new organ was built by the distinguished English organ builders, JW Walker & Sons. In 1950 it was rebuilt and in 2005/6 it underwent major restoration thanks to a generous donation from the Rupert Music Foundation. It is now ranked amongst the top organs in South Africa.

The beautiful architecture, magnificent stainedglass windows, intricate wood carvings and impressive statues are admired by all who visit the Cathedral, including tourists from all over the world. The memorial brass over the grave of Archdeacon Wirgman is said to be unique in South Africa.

Above all, one cannot fail to absorb the strong sense of spirituality in a Cathedral that has been soaked in two hundred years of prayer and praise.

As we celebrate the 200th anniversary of this magnificent building, we give thanks for the many benefactors who contributed towards its building and restoration, for those who continue to maintain it, and for those who led, and for those who continue to lead the worship. Let us pray that the Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin will continue to be the spiritual home of many generations of worshippers to come.

Join the celebrations!

Sunday 16 February at 15h00

Mark Jennings

Professional Classical Guitar player from UK

Will present an interesting programme, including some romantic music for Valentine's Day and even a few pieces for Spanish dancing - often done to this instrument.

This will be followed by a Cheese and Wine Party

Cost: R50.00 pp

Tickets available at the Cathedral or at the door before the Recital.

Sunday 9 March at 15h00

The German Girls' Choir

They have sung in PE previously and presented a beautiful performance.

R50.00 pp

Tickets at the door. Join in some refreshments afterwards!

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Please send contributions and photos to the editor. Deadline: 6th of the month prior to publication.

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