



The Bishop writes ...

My dear Friends,

I pray this note finds you in good health if not in good spirit. However, I would like to offer you a word of encouragement from God's Word – more precisely from Paul's letter to the Philippians 3:12-16 as we anticipate what 2022 might be holding in store for us.

The gift of a new year simultaneously offers feelings of anticipation, dread, and even worry, in an instant. Now, I have realized that a defining feature that makes a world of difference is 'attitude'. By attitude I mean that feeling or feelings and thinking that affect one's behaviour. The manner in which we will approach this new year will define it being a good year or a dreaded year. The impact of the COVID pandemic has to some extent already influenced our anticipation of what 2022 might hold.

The Apostle Paul remains to me the epitome of the eternal optimist. Irrespective of his personal circumstances, Paul was able to "give thanks". The saying, "An attitude of gratitude", is apt.

The Apostle Paul was never one to let circumstances define his attitude. Rather, with the help of God, he was determined to win the victor's crown. Let me invite you to read Philippians 3:12-16 and listen once more as Paul's attitude shines through these words. In particular, I highlight verses 12b and 13c, "...but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own...but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead..."

Paul's resilience is evident from the two verses highlighted. Consequently, some principles are enunciated that will stand us in good stead if we choose to take them to heart. So, come with me as we unpack Paul's exhortation, which we would do well to remember for 2022.

First of all, we were created with a wonderful ability to remember. Memory can either be a blessing or a curse and I use the latter advisedly. We can remember the good things of the past or we can choose to remember those who wronged us. Too many people have erected shrines entitled "To our hurtful past". This is the seedbed of that dread disease called "holding grudges".

The Apostle Paul's past could have been a hindering factor if he chose not to move on from it. Remember, he persecuted God's Church. Consequently, he says, "...forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead..." We can therefore take courage from this and adopt the attitude too of turning from the past and commit to being renewed and available for God.

Secondly, in verse 14 Paul says, "press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." Paul was a person of many talents: he was a church planter and tent maker. Yet his number one priority was to "press onward toward the goal..." His focus became fixed on the Kingdom of Heaven.

Cultivate an attitude of gratitude



During his visit to St Luke's during October 2021 Bishop Edward Daniels met six month old Joshua Edward Whitting.

Upon hearing his name, Bishop Eddie was convinced that Joshua has it made - with all the right names in place.

Tanya and Alan Whitting gave permission that the picture be taken and submitted to the iindaba.

Thirdly, Paul gives us one more principle for 2022 and that is to live in the present. In verse 13 Paul again says, "Beloved...this one thing I do." Interestingly, he does not suggest what he must do is a possibility. He affirms that he is functioning in the present – not focussing on the past or anticipating the future.

I was once asked if I knew what the busiest day in the world was. The answer came, "Someday". Think about it, most people have something scheduled for "someday".

I received a meme via WhatsApp from a friend that reiterated the point. It reads, "Behind you – all your memories. Before you – all your dreams. Around you – all who love you. Within [Christ] – all you need."

As we prepare to sojourn into 2022, let us choose our attitude and heed the advice offered by St Paul ...

- **Let go of the past:** Repent and move on from past transgressions and endeavour to reconcile with those whom we have wronged and who have wronged us.
- **Focus on our new priorities:** "Seek first the Kingdom of God."
- **Let us not procrastinate:** Nelson Mandela said, "Religion is one of the most important forces in the world... it can help one have command of one's own morality...behaviour, and one's own attitude."

In the second letter to the Corinthians we read, "...now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!" (2 Cor 6:2b). The invitation remains. If you need a fresh start then receive the Lord's invitation and he simply says, "Come".

A blessed 2022 to you and those whom you pray for and love.

Your friend and bishop.

+ Edward Port Elizabeth

New Year 2022



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Cor 5:17 NIV

As a new year dawns over Gqeberha may we aim to be the new creation Christ has made us to be and so to be the change we want to see in our beautiful city ... and throughout our wonderful diocese.

As we do so we look to other words that remind us of our frailty -

The Moving Finger writes;

and, having writ,

Moves on: nor all thy Piety nor Wit Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,

Nor all thy Tears wash out a Word of it.

- Omar Khayyám

RIP Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

A tribute by Bishop Edward Daniels

I want to exercise some poetic licence in this tribute and use the Arch's name as an acronym. But firstly, I need to say that I was immensely privileged to have served as a cleric under Archbishop Desmond in the Diocese of Johannesburg. In fact, on 15 December 1985, he ordained me as a priest and 13 days later, he and Auntie Leah come to Port Elizabeth to my and Nicky's wedding at St Mary Magdalene. These are two moments I shall cherish forever.

The Arch was a person who lived the Micah 6:8 principle of, "... loving mercy, acting justly, and walking humbly with his God." This manifested itself in multifarious ways and I share with you how I experienced it in observing his life.

D - Determined and Resolute

He took the office of bishop seriously. In spite of the many calls on him about matters that needed his attention, he was always pastorally available to us as clergy. He made time for people. As a deacon I was unmarried and needed my bishop's permission to tie the knot with Nicky. As my Diocesan Bishop at the time, he called Nicky and me to his office when she visited me during the school break and interviewed both of us. I did not need the permission of my parents, but I was a single person in holy orders and therefore needed his permission to get married. Such attention to detail and following procedures did not escape his attention.

E - Empathetic

He was no respecter of persons. In the words of Rudyard Kipling, "He could walk with kings and not lose the common touch." He had the uncanny ability to



The late Bishop Bruce Evans with Archbishop Desmond Tutu outside St Katharine's in Uitenhage for their 125th celebration (Advent 1992).

remember people and their names. Since he met so many people on any given day, I once asked him how he managed to do this and he replied, "Eddie, at night when I do my prayers, I close my eyes and envisage each face I met that particular day. I attach a name, pray for each of these persons and God helps me remember."

S - Steadfast and Committed

Yes, his hands were always raised in his inimitable way, but his feet were always firmly planted on the ground. He was both heavenly minded and remained

Continued on page 2

Tutu tribute continued ...

of earthly use. He remained steadfast in his pursuit of justice and integrity. His commitment to the Gospel and service to others was, and will always be, an example to so many of us. He gave – he spent himself. Khalil Gibran in *The Prophet* wrote, “You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.”

M - Moral Compass and Ethical

When I was an undergrad student at Wits in the 70s, he came to address the student body and said, “The Church must remain the conscience of society.” To his credit, he has kept every regime in this country – and the world – honest in their governance. God knows how much we need the Church to take over that baton from the Arch.

O - Observant, Attentive and Vigilant

After he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, Hennie Serfontein enquired what lesson this diagnosis has taught him? To which he responded, “You have one opportunity in life to be nice.” And if you think about it, if you are not nice to others in a first encounter, you play “catch up” thereafter. He was always aware of those around him.

N - Never bore a grudge

Archbishop Desmond held the Lord’s Prayer dear and close and would constantly remind us that the emphasis needs to be on “Our Father” for it was the same God to whom those who agree with us and those who oppress us prayed. In that way he practised forgiveness and lived it.

D - Disciplined, Loyal and Devoted

He held a high biblical view of marriage. It was manifested in his fidelity to his wife, and it remains a legacy he leaves to us.

The Arch had a deep faith in Christ Jesus. His example of beginning each day and ending it in the same way is indelibly etched in my memory. It was the epitome of the Benedictine Rule: work, rest and pray...in that order.

I pray that we may learn these lessons from his life and find the strength to persevere in our time of uncertainty.

All that is left for me to say is this; “Hamba Kahle, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and rest softly in the Lord, good and faithful servant.”

Amen.

The view from pulpit and pew

❖ *iindaba* extends condolences to Larissa Clarke, family and friends on the passing of Archie, formerly self-supporting priest in the Karoo Parish. May the peace of Yeshua surround them as they mourn.

❖ *iindaba* reports that David Stansbury, former Rector of Holy Trinity in Central, has resigned from the Anglican Church. Please pray for him and his family as they move to another ministry.

Clergy on the move ...

• *iindaba* reports that a chapel is on the move - Christ Church Kamma Park needs new premises.

• Last month *iindaba* reported that Christopher Luyt would be joining St Hugh’s as their Rector. Unfortunately, due to personal reasons he is unable to take up the post after all.

Labourers to be salt, yeast and light



Bishop Eddie with the newly ordained deacons at Christ the King.

Thirteen deacons were ordained by Bishop Eddie at Christ the King Church in Gelvandale on 16 December:

Quinton Blignaut (St Mary Magdalene), Daniswa Blouw (St Peter), Carol Brand (St Paul), Karen Du Preez (Good Shepherd), Nizam Kader (St John the Baptist), Wendy Lutchnan (Christ the King), Sabelo Ndllebe (St Matthias), Christopher Prince (St Michael and All Angels), Siphwiwo Salman (St Matthias), Thandiwe Stokwe (Zwartkops River Valley), Andile Tom (St

Andrew), Michelle Werth (St John the Baptist) and Andrew White (St John the Baptist).

During his sermon, retired Bishop Ossie Swartz reminded the ordinands they had been trained to be labourers, with integrity, to work in the vast harvest who no longer turn to the Church for their needs. As deacons they need to be the salt, yeast and light to the world - to be contemplative, compassionate and responsive. In this time of the COVID

pandemic, the Church has become compassionate in its response within the community and this must continue.

He asked them if they are prepared to sail into uncharted waters, saying, “Our God is real and He has a plan for this world and you must be in the forefront of what He wants us to do.”

Bishop Ossie concluded by saying, “Pray the Lord of the harvest will send more workers like you.”

iindaba congratulates our new deacons.

New Diocesan President for MUCFL



Nontuthuzelo Ngqozo, the former MUCFL President, hands over the Diocesan MUCFL banner to Veronica Kaibe, President elect of MUCFL with Vincent Mdidimba, the MUCFL Chaplain and Xhanti Mhlontlo, the Rector of All Saints’, looking on.

During a service held at All Saints’ in Kabega Park on Sunday 21 November 2021 the out-going President of the Mothers’ Union Christian Family Life, Nontuthuzelo Ngqozo, handed over the Diocesan MU banner to Veronica Kaibe, the incoming President.

The MUCFL Chaplain and Rector of St Peter’s in Zwide, Vincent Mdidimba, was the preacher at the service and encouraged Veronica and the members to continue doing the wonderful work in which they are involved.

Passed with distinction

Cameron Lee, organist at St Saviour’s in Walmer, was thrilled to have passed his Trinity College Examination with 87%, which is a distinction.

He said he was very surprised when the Bach Chorale Prelude on Nun Danket Alle Gott was the piece that was placed highest at 90%. The other two numbers played were the third movement of

Mendelssohn’s 5th Organ Sonata as well as the Toccata by Georg Mushel.

He told *iindaba*, “I did a virtual exam where we made a recording of my pieces on the organ at the Dutch Reformed Church in Summerstrand, famed for its Spanish Trumpets.” He said that his plan for next year is to complete his undergraduate studies by doing his licentiate through Trinity. The programme has already been in various phases of completion and was mostly decided on in December 2020. It will include works by Alain, Bach, Franck, Reger and Buxtehude.

Cameron also had the great opportunity this year of competing in the SACOS bursary scheme where he was very fortunate to be placed second in the undergraduate category, which has also helped finish funding his studies for 2021.

He also represented the Eastern Cape, in collaboration with Joshua de Paula

Receiving his Trinity College Certificate from Dawn Spence, the Port Elizabeth representative, is Cameron Lee, organist at St Saviour’s.



e Silva (who is Organist at St Cuthbert’s), for the SACOS AGM.

Not satisfied with all his studies and playing the organ for St Saviour’s - Sunday and Wednesday mornings, plus other occasions when needed - he has participated in recordings for Nelson Mandela University; as well as having organised a concert in aid of St Saviour’s

soup kitchen in April 2021 with help from some NMU music department friends.

Although his experience as a church musician dates back to 2011, he only began playing pipe organ in church during February 2021.

Tag lines!



If you have the power to make somebody happy - DO it.
All of us can use a little more love and kindness.

A time for reflection

St Hugh's, St Saviour's and St Michael and All Angles' churches held Blue Christmas Services around the beginning of Advent. The services enabled the congregations to reflect on their loved ones who would not be with them this Christmas. Not only that, but, for those who have financial difficulties, health issues or had lost their jobs, it was a time to hand these to the Lord.



At St Hugh's, Gwen August places a card with the name of the person she had brought forward into the Light of Christ and exchanges it for a blue heart as a token of His love.

On Sunday evening 28 November a Blue Christmas Service was held at St Hugh's. This is a service of bringing aching hearts full of loss, grief and pain, into the light of Christ, to receive His peace as one looks forward to Christmas.

The readings, the hymns and prayers, with the Litany of Remembrance, all helped one to reflect and unburden oneself, and to leave the church with a deep peace and quiet joy.



At St Saviour's, Monica Wright, Edna Spencer, Edith Emslie, Marilyn Johns and Kevin Osborne gathered with the Rector, Sharon Nell, after the service to reflect on the lit tree and candles - and what each one represented.

St Saviour's Blue Christmas Service was held on Sunday afternoon 5 December 2021 and although only a few attended it was very meaningful, and helpful, to each of them.

The Rector, Sharon Nell, lit four candles - the first, for those whom we have loved and lost who will not be with us to celebrate Christmas; the second, to remember the pain of loss of relationships, of trust, of jobs, of health, of faith, of joy; the third, to remember ourselves this Christmas - we pause and remember the past weeks, months, and for some of us, years, that have been heavy with our burdens; the fourth, to remember faith, the gift of light and hope that God offers to us in the story of Christmas, which also began in abandonment, insecurity, and humbleness, in a time of war and in a poor stable.

After each candle was lit, a short time was spent in quiet contemplation before handing that pain over to the Lord, to receive His healing and so to be able to face Christmas in His peace that passes all understanding.



At St Michael and All Angles', Ivan Smith places a candle in memory of his loved ones. In the background is the photo gallery.

St Michael and All Angles also held a Blue Christmas Service on Sunday 19 December 2021.

Members of the congregation were encouraged to bring photos of their loved ones which were displayed on a blue board. After collecting a candle from the Rector, Jogra Gallant, they lit it from a large one, representing the Light of Christ. They then placed the candle into the tray of sand, bringing their loved one/s into His light.

Remembering the toll of COVID

Phillie Lobese

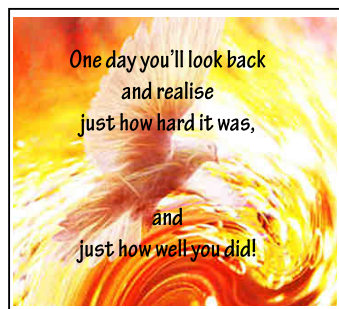


Guest speaker, Nomalungelo Ntlokwana, speaking to parishioners on how to handle their grief.

On 21 November 2021 St Cyprian's in Zwide held a Service of Remembrance for all their parishioners who have succumbed to COVID during this pandemic. Their photos were projected on the wall while their favourite hymns were played in the background through a sound system. A short message on how we remembered each person was also projected on the wall.

Nomalungelo Ntlokwana, the guest speaker, spoke about grief and bereavement, equipping the parishioners with coping skills so that people can be able to move forward.

This event was very successful and emotional with great moving testimonies that were shared on our parish WhatsApp group.



Spinach anyone?

Lulamile Ngesi



The champion of the garden project, Doris Makana, was busy behind the counter selling spinach, beetroot and other vegetables that had been grown in the grounds at St Stephen's.

Sunday 14 November was Spinach Harvest Day at St Stephen's in New Brighton.

As we all know that Spinach is a year rounder vegetable, it is planted and harvested throughout the year. In September we blessed the seeds received from our donors (see Arbor Day article, November iindaba), and then watched the spinach grow. We harvested it and sold bunches to the congregants after the wonderful Harvest Festival Service.

This is one of our fundraising efforts. The surplus was given to our soup kitchen project which provides soup to Pendlia Primary School children and to some adults residing within our Parish. *Thanks to all who supported this effort.*

IMO Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Andrea Potgieter



Assistant Priest Vivian Malloy receives the flower arrangement from Elder Coutts on our behalf.

On Sunday 2 January 2022 Elder Coutts from the New Apostolic Church in Palm Ridge delivered a bouquet of flowers to St Luke's. The bouquet was to bring comfort to the Anglican Church with the passing of Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Assistant Priest Vivian Malloy received the bouquet and laid it on the Communion Table in honour of this great man of peace.

On Sunday 5 December Retired Priest Jackie Trollip was back in harness and baptised baby Matthew, son of Illaryo and Nealynne Julies.

Excited to be servers

Phillie Lobese



With the new servers are Assistant Priest, Phillie Lobese and lay ministers.

St Cyprian's Parish in the Bay East Archdeaconry admitted 17 servers into the Servers Guild on 28 November 2021.

It was an exciting time for the parish and the servers. Some of their parents do not worship at St Cyprian's but were pleased to be invited to be part of this joyful service.

As a church we are very proud of these young ones; their zeal, dedication and hunger to serve is mind-blowing.

Aids awareness

Juby Matshaya



The awareness table prepared with educational pamphlets about Aids.

World Aids Day fell during the week so St Matthew's in KwaMagxaki held a World Aids Day Service on Sunday 5 December 2021. The theme was 'Working Together to End Inequalities'.

The Parish Health Desk representative, Juby Matshaya, assisted by our beloved mother, Esmé Ngcola, and AWF member, Pumla Pango, set up an awareness table which had educational pamphlets on it and balloons, posters and ribbons around it. There were also posters around the hall.

Every member of the congregation received a red ribbon and was encouraged to read the pamphlets and booklets that were handed out giving information about the virus.

A special prayer and candlelight service was prepared by the Rector, Lungile Ngcola, to commemorate this day. A moment of silence was held in remembrance of all those who lost the battle and for those who are living with the virus. It was quite an enlightening service; everyone left informed and hopeful.

Jackie back at St Francis after operation

Adrie Stockdale



Assistant Priest Vivian Malloy receives the flower arrangement from Elder Coutts on our behalf.

March against GBV

Phillile Lobese



Led by the Servers, members of St Cyprian's marched around the church in protest against GBV.

On 12 December 2021 members of St Cyprian's in KwaZakhele marched around the church with placards protesting against Gender Based Violence.

On this day we had a guest speaker, Otiliya Chiorese, who is a social worker. She is on the right hand side of the women marching behind the Servers.

St Matthias news

Patrick Nodwele



The race is on! (Masks off because of running).

On 11 December 2021 the Sunday School children of St Matthias in Motherwell had a Fun Day. There was a Jumping Castle and Athletics and they even stretched their minds by painting 'what is in my mind?' Sunday School Teacher, Khanya Tokota, organised this special event and she was assisted by Zukiswa Tokota.

This was followed on 12 December with a party and gifts.



New deacons, Sabelo Ndlabe and Sipiwo Salman were welcomed by the Rector of St Matthias, Patrick Nodwele, and the lay ministers on 19 December during the Sunday Eucharist Service.

HTC members enjoy breakfast



Some of the members of HTC who enjoyed breakfast at Old Grey Club.

Members of Holy Trinity in Central enjoyed a Men's and Ladies' breakfast at Old Grey Club on Saturday morning 11 December 2021. The coffee flowed, the food was good and banter abounded although touched with the sad knowledge that it was the last outing with the Rector, David Stansbury, before his leaving.

Advent crib blessing



Andrea Potgieter blesses the crib during the Advent Service, surrounded by elves and many children dressed in festive clothes - which made up for the 'no singing' protocol in place.

Prizes for the best

Fezile Jeyi



Sweetness Mgedezi handed over the trophy for third place to cell leader Nobuntu Nontyi.

On 14 November 2021 St Ninians in Somerset East celebrated their Patronal Festival. During the service trophies were presented by Sweetness Mgedezi to the leaders of the three cell groups which had brought in the most money. The competition had been motivated by Priest-in-charge, Churchwarden Mgedezi, after he had preached on giving.

First prize went to Noluthando Peter; second prize to Zola Manene, and third to Nobuntu Nontyi.

Celebrating Christmas



Mary Scarr, Eve van Eck and Edith Emslie of St Saviour's enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch on Wednesday 1 December 2021.

St Saviour's was (COVID-protocol appliance) full on Wednesday 1 December for the delicious three course Christmas lunch which was possible to be held this year.



After all the hard work preparing and serving the Christmas lunch, the cooks and waitrons celebrated the end of a very busy year.

This core group of ladies, and a couple of gents, not only made the 350L pot of soup every Tuesday and Wednesday, but they also cooked meals (which include puddings!), put food parcels together and sorted clothing in response to the many calls for help received by St Saviour's. Not all the soup kitchen workers were available to help with the big lunch.

Legal at last!



Former Dean of the Diocese, Mark Derry, proudly shows his licence as Senior Priest with Archbishop Michael Owen of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, and newly licensed Associate Priest MD Johnson, at the Church of the Epiphany in Qatar.

Mark writes that the English and Tamil speaking services were at their fullest over the Christmas and New Year Cross Over services, since the pandemic started.

He is looking forward to having more visitors when the Fifa Soccer World Cup starts in November 2022 and, of course, being joined by his wife Debbie in February.

Please note - Photos from other countries may not be RSA COVID protocol compliant due to their own rulings. Also where people are photographed at table eating / drinking they may not be wearing masks.

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iindaba is the vehicle for sharing your parish news with the rest of the diocesan family. Please send contributions and photos to the editor.

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