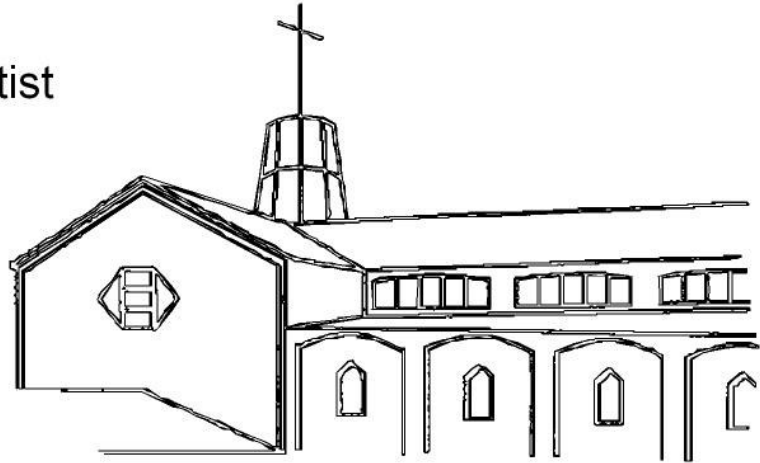


If undelivered please return to:  
Parish of St John the Baptist  
5 Payne Street  
PINETOWN 3610

Church of St John the Baptist  
July 2007



# *The* LANTERN

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.  
For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones  
or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.  
Colossians 1:15-16

Dear Parishioners: Greetings Jesus' name!

From the pen  
of Andrew

### Ordination to the permanent diaconate

Congratulations to Doreen Böhmer who, at a recent discernment conference was selected by Bishop Rubin to be ordained as a permanent deacon to engage in pastoral work within our congregation and to serve the wider community. She will be a "permanent" deacon as opposed to a "transitional" one who would, after about a year, usually be ordained as a priest.

Doreen felt the call to ordination about seven years ago. She joined the *Fellowship of Vocation* and embarked on theological studies which she subsequently completed.

Doreen will be ordained on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December this year in the Cathedral of the Holy Nativity in Pietermaritzburg at a service starting at 9.30am. We will co-ordinate transport to the service. Please pray for Doreen as she prepares for this important ministry.

### Social Justice Season (SJS)

This two yearly focus on social justice issues by the Diaconia Council of Churches will take place in August this year, with the theme: "Let's make a difference!" We at St John's will be participating.

There is material available for study in small groups. It would be best if the studies could take place in the week preceding the Sunday focus on that particular theme. The themes are as follows:

5<sup>th</sup> August: Sunday Home economics  
12<sup>th</sup> August: Looking after the home  
19<sup>th</sup> August: God's wider home  
26<sup>th</sup> August: The Household of God

We encourage you to make a particular effort to be part of a small group during this time if you are not already part of one. Also consider inviting a friend to join us at the services for this month.

### Theological Forums

It is a sign of a healthy congregation that there can be discussion and debate on contemporary theological issues. We are planning to provide particular opportunities for this in the form of regular forums (*fora*). The first one will take place on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July from 16.00 to 18.00 in the hall and will be led by myself. The topic is: "*The Relationship between economics and ecology in the household of God*". Through the use of a powerpoint presentation the connections between human beings, development and the environment will be explored. The presentation will reflect my own interest in this topic as well as draw on my research both within the Anglican church as well as further a field. Please feel free to invite others to attend.

The theme for this forum also relates to the Social Justice Season theme for August.

The following forum is planned to focus on the Bible and will be led by Professor Gerald West.

### Meditations

There have now been a series of meditations compiled by our organist, Christopher Cockburn, and led by our choir. They have provided the opportunity for creativity in liturgy and music.

The dates for future meditations on Sunday afternoons are as follows: 26<sup>th</sup> August, 14<sup>th</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Take the opportunity to invite others to attend them with you.

### Confirmation service

We will welcome Bishop Nkosinathi Ndwandwe to St John's on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September to confirm our confirmands. This service will take place at 8.00am and will be the only morning service that morning. This will be the bishop's first visit to our parish. We invite parishioners to remain after the service for tea to celebrate with those confirmed and to meet the bishop.

### Stewardship Campaign

During the month of October there will be a focus on stewardship- the responsible use of our talents, time and treasure. This time provides us with an opportunity to review our commitments and to rededicate ourselves to God and to one another. Dedication Sunday will be on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

### Preparations for the election of an archbishop

The first meeting of the Advisory Committee for the Election of the next Archbishop of Cape Town and Metropolitan of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa was held recently. The names that were nominated are:

- The Rt Revd Thabo Cecil Makgoba,  
Bishop of Grahamstown
- The Revd Nyameko Barney Pityana, Priest in the  
Diocese of Pretoria and Vice Chancellor of UNISA
- The Rt Revd Johannes Thomas Seoka,  
Bishop of Pretoria

Please uphold them in prayer as well as the Diocese of Cape Town as they prepare for the Elective Assembly in September.

Yours in Christ's service

Andrew Warmback

## DIARY OF A CHURCH MOUSE

In the last Lantern edition, a poem – Diary of a Church Mouse – was submitted by Colin Mann.

The editor regrets the omission of the author's name: John Betjeman. **Sir John Betjeman** CBE (28.08.1906 – 19.05.1984) was an English poet, writer and broadcaster who described himself in *Who's Who* as a "poet and hack". He was born to a middle-class family in Edwardian Hampstead. Although he claimed he failed his degree at Oxford University, his early ability in writing poetry and interest in architecture supported him throughout his life. Starting his career as a journalist, he ended it as British Poet Laureate and a much-loved figure on British television.

## NEXT LANTERN EDITION

The next edition will be issued on 16<sup>th</sup> Sept. Please get material to Anthony Castleden for it to be included in this edition by 24<sup>th</sup> Aug.

**DO REMEMBER THAT THE LANTERN IS FOR YOU!  
ARTICLES AND SNIPPETS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.  
THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO  
THE LANTERN FOR THIS EDITION.**

## ZIMBABWE

**From:** Barnabas Nqindi [mailto:bnqindi@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** 11 July 2007 03:28 PM  
**To:** bishop2@dionatal.org.za; Bishop Ruben Philip  
**Subject:** From Barnabas

Dear Bishop Rubin

Things do not look too well in Zimbabwe. Things are chaotic. It is really a police state. I witnessed this afternoon a garage being forced to sell fuel at 60 000 dollars and this garage is a life line for many NGOs because these pay for the fuel in advance (forex). So these have lost.

The shelves are empty and the public transport has come to a halt. We pray that Rumbie and I will be able to leave without an incident.

It is a bloody mess and it continues each hour. Today I had to walk over 20kms because of no transport.

Rumbie is in Harare and she is trying to get back to Bulawayo. But no transport. So I am worried. Keep us in your prayers and for this country.

Barnabas

The Revd Barnabas Nqindi  
RECTOR, St Matthews, Estcourt

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

contributed by Dot Sanders and Doreen Böhmer

At a previous meeting of *Christian Care* the possibility of a crisis group based on a similar idea that existed here in Pine-town and New Germany under the Borough of Pinetown was raised. This idea was certainly never envisaged being needed as soon as it was. The recent labour strike we have been subjected too, was a test.

Only two of our fellow Christian communities did start a list of people who could, and would help. The youth were mobilized to help, even if it was only to sweep a floor or peel potatoes, others to assist those who had stayed at the posts. We here at St John's also need to be part of a caring community and offer to help in emergencies, so please offer a little of your time in this way. Pray God we will not be needed, but let's be prepared. Names and contact numbers can be given to the office in an envelope marked *Christian Care*. Bless you.

## ARISE AND BUILD

### Edward Pines

A workshop was held at St Agnes – Kloof during a recent weekend entitled "The Outward Looking Church". This workshop was designed to look at 'connecting with our community'. I felt challenged by this topic and decided to make the effort and attend the event.

The speaker was Mark Melluish who is vicar of a West London parish in the U.K. His church is described as 'a renewed Anglican church'. The weekend event was sponsored by the New Wine (South Africa) organisation.

We met for all the sessions in the new 'auditorium' style church of St Agnes and on Friday we began with worship. What a pleasure not having to worry about which book to find for the songs, all the words being clearly projected onto a large screen. The music group leading us had the use of

some wonderful sound equipment, which they are all getting to know how to handle in a most professional manner.

Then Mark was introduced to us and launched forth!

*"Expect great things from God and do great things for God!"*

*"Let go of the good things of the past in order to enable the good of the future!"*

These were some of the recurring challenges given to us by this energetic speaker. Mark was easy to listen to as he shared his experiences and of a response to evangelism as he exercised his ministry at St Paul's, Ealing West London. One way they have chosen, in order to have better contact with a wide range of people in their community, is to rung a 'Coffee Shop'. The parish has purchased a

shop in the high street which is manned seven days a week, and on Sundays they have a service in the 'Coffee Shop'. While sharing with us Mark made it clear that the important thing we needed to do in order to encourage people into 'church' was 'to be the church' and find a common contact or interest point that could bring us alongside someone.

At the end of that first session there was a great feeling of encouragement in being more able and prepared to "step out in faith into the future".

On Saturday the sessions again began with a time for worship and prayer followed by further teaching given by Mark Melluish.

It was suggested that in order to be the church in the community we should adopt the four 'B's':

**Bless – Belong – Believe – Become**

When looking at this list obviously we can identify ourselves and our church in some or all of these items. What we need to do is be able to draw them together in order to become a better church of welcome & witness for the community. Remember, each and every one of us 'we are the church' – my prayer is that we really believe this so that we become 'the church' in order to step out in faith into the future.

It was fitting that Saturday ended with the delegates praying for each other in order that they might be strengthened in their endeavours of evangelism.

Expect great things from God  
Do great things for God!

### The kind of community for an effective church should be

Community of prayer  
Community of praise & worship  
Community of belonging  
Community for healing  
Community of holiness  
Community of compassion & concern  
Community using God's gifts  
Community of teaching  
Church of welcome & witness

### Our Favourite Recipes

Tried recipes are always to be trusted! The AWF has gathered together 'good old favourites' as well as some unusual and less known dishes that are family favourites. The book is a bargain at R40 – copies can be purchased from AWF ladies of the parish or the church office – don't miss out!

A major recent expense was the printing and binding the recipe book we published earlier this year. As it is being sold, we are covering our costs and will make a good profit once they are all gone.

### LAY VISITING

**Doreen Böhmer and Leigh Ketley**

The Lay visiting panel was re-started a some weeks ago and we expected to be rushed off our feet with people eager to call on other members of our parish family. From that point of view, we were disappointed; but we have not given up. Those who have taken out cards for visiting have found it most rewarding - and so could YOU!

There is no time pressure, find a time to suit yourself and the person or family you plan to call on. If you know how to smile and extend a hand in friendship, you're just the person we are looking for.

You may have heard of the war-time poster call "The Army/Navy needs **YOU!**" - Well - Your Church needs **YOU!** - Men, women and young people.

Doreen Böhmer [031 7011 831] or Leigh Ketley [031 7011 647] can be contacted or preferably speak to us after Sunday services.

### HOT-OFF-THE-PRESS-NEWS

Ukukuthaza now has its own website - the address is [www.uam.za.net](http://www.uam.za.net). Why not pay it a visit? Thanks yet again to Barbara McAlpin, our talented webmaster

### AWF REPORT

**Yvonne Tweedie - President**

We have been asked what we do with the funds we raise by holding Cake Sales and selling jumble, as well as our monthly sales table.

For many years the St John's Guild regularly sent a small monthly amount to *International Christian Care*, which, among other things, runs *Steve's Kitchen* at the Methodist Church. The now combined AWF has continued to do so. By a unanimous decision it was recently agreed to monthly contribute R100 towards the cost of the food parcels that are sent to the many families suffering and are affected by HIV/AIDS. As many members are keen knitters, we spent some money on purchasing wool. All articles knitted go to various institutions: children's homes, old age homes, hospitals etc.

### NEW LIBRARY ADDITIONS

**Beryl Rawson**

Abigail - A Home for God	Nina Gould
Psalms 119	Francis Cull
The Truth about Nostradamus	Val Waldeck
I can't Keep my eyes off the Clouds	Val Waldeck
Answers to Life's Problems	Billy Graham
When the Sprirt Comes	Colin Urquart
Anything you Ask	Colin Urquart
Cults and the Occult	Edmond C. Gruss
What Happens When Women Pray	Evelyn Christenson
Celebration of Discipline	Richard Foster
The Passing Summer	Michael Cassidy
The Divine Attitudes	Selwyn Hughes
Meditations on Psalms 76 - 111	E.M. Baiklock
Salt and Light	Bob Yandian
The Bible Promise Book	Barber & Co.
Signposts of Life	Rudi Lack
The Purpose Driven Life	Rick Warren
Daily Stepping Stones	Helen Steiner Rice
Daily Pathways	Helen Steiner Rice
Sermon on the Mount	John Scott
The Sacred Diary of Adrian Plass	Adrian Plass
Why do Christians Suffer?	Theo H. Epp
Letter to the Hebrews	William Barclay
The Acts	William Barclay
Prayer - Conversing with God	Rosalind Rinker

These books were mostly donated by Bill and Gail Judd. The Library is in the process of being 'weeded out' - all books accessed before 1990 are being discarded (with a few exceptions) and also those that are not being used - some have only been taken out once or twice in thirty years!  
Some - NEVER!

## CORPORATE PRAYER at St John's

**Anthony Castleden**

We want to reawaken the discipline of Corporate Prayer for our parish which previously took place on Friday mornings at 06h00.

You are encouraged to join us on Sunday evenings at 18h00 following the Music Group practice - or come a little earlier to share in that music also. We feel the need to come together in corporate prayer before God, to intercede for our parish and our community. The group prays for about ½ hour, meeting in St Andrew's Chapel.

St Paul wrote to the Ephesians saying: *'Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.'* [Eph 6:18]

St James rightly stated that: *'The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.'* [Jas 5:16]

If you want to know more, speak to either Anthony & Liz Castleden, Mary Allen, Morton & Sue du Preez or Eddi Wolff

## A Brief Recent History of Palestine & Israel

**Robin Niemeyer**

1517 – 1917	Palestine under Islamic rule as part of the Turkish Empire.
1917	The middle east divided into two mandates. British mandate consisting of Palestine and Transjordan. French mandate consisting of The Lebanon and Syria.
1917	British issue the Balfour declaration, proposing the division of Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state. Accepted by local residents but rejected by the Arab League (Arab states).
1921	The area east of the Jordan river becomes the independent state of Jordan.
1947	The United Nations proposes the division of Palestine into two states – one Jewish and one Arab, with Jerusalem an international city. Resolution approved but the Arab states refuse to recognize the resolution.
Dec 1948 – May 1948	Arab residents of Palestine (300,000 – 700,000) pack up and flee on instructions from Arab states. Refugees housed in primitive camps in the most horrendous conditions.
4 <sup>th</sup> May 1948	Declaration of the independent State of Israel. Recognized by the major powers.
5 <sup>th</sup> May – April 1949	Five Arab armies invade Israel. Fighting, interspersed with several truce agreements occur during this period.
3 <sup>rd</sup> April 1949	Armistice between Israel and Arab states.
1949	Arab states forcibly eject Jewish residents from their countries (approx 800,000) in retaliation for their defeat in the war. Most settle in Israel.
October 1956	With agreement from Britain and France, Israel invades the Sinai as part of the Suez campaign.
May 1964	The PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) is formed with the aim of the destruction of Israel.
May 1967	President Nasser of Egypt with the connivance of Soviet Russia orders the removal of the UN peace-keeping force in Sinai. The straits of Tiran are closed to Israeli shipping. Syria bombards Israel from the Golan Heights and attempts to cut of the water supplies to Israel.
4 <sup>th</sup> June 1967	Massive Arab armies are poised around the border of Israel.
5-10 <sup>th</sup> June 1967	The Six Day war. Israel destroys the Arab air forces on the Ground. Heavy fighting ensues. Israel captures the Sinai, the West Bank and the Golan Heights. Israel offers to return most of the captured land in return for peace and security. Rejected by the Arab states.
August 1967	Conference of Arab leaders held in Khartoum. Known as the “three no’s” conference. ‘No’ to recognition, ‘No’ to negotiations, ‘No’ to peace with Israel.
Nov 1967	UN resolution 242 calls for peace, Israeli withdrawal, recognition of the state of Israel and return of refugees. Rejected by the Arab states.
Oct 1973	The Yom Kippur War. Israel initially surprised by the attack but after heavy losses succeeds in advancing into Syria and into Egypt.
March 1979	Peace treaty signed between Israel and Egypt. Israel hands back the Sinai to Egypt. Egypt treated as a pariah by the other Arab states.
June 1982	Attempted assassination of Israeli ambassador in London. Heavy shelling of Israel from The Lebanon. Continuation of rocket attacks on Israel. Israel invades The Lebanon and surrounds Beirut. Objective is to destroy PLO terrorist operations and bases.
Sept 1983	Israel begins withdrawal from the Lebanon. Withdrawal complete by June 1985.
Sept 1995	Oslo agreement signed. Establishment of the Palestinian Authority.
2003	Israel starts building a security barrier to stop terrorist attacks in its territory.
July – Aug 2006	After multiple terrorist attacks into Israel with civilian casualties, Israel bombards terrorist sites in the Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.



## FUNDRAISING FOR THE UKUKHUTHAZA AIDS MINISTRY IN HOLLAND AND GERMANY

**Eddi Woolf**

On our recent trip to Europe to finalise some aspect of my mother's estate, and to make personal contact with family, we also took the opportunity to contact churches with a view of raising funds for Ukukhuthaza.

*Apropos* family, Lysia has been at me for some time telling me: "we've been married for 45 years now and I've never met any of them". That's all very well but, to go to Europe and spend a few weeks there is costly. With an Exchange Rate of approximately R 9:50 to the Euro, a R 100 note doesn't buy you much. A simple lunch-time snack for the two of us in a crowded Fast-food outlet at the Main Station in Hamburg set us back €19:90. To round it off we added a €2:10 tip. This brought the total to €22:00 and *that* converted to R 209:00. Oh I nearly forgot, included in the price was 1 glass of wine (small), 1 glass of beer (small) and 1 cup of coffee.

To avoid choking, heart-flutter, palpitation, shortness of breath and possible collapse, we quickly learnt to strictly observe ***Rule Number One of Travel in UK and Europe by South Africans – NEVER, EVER convert to Rands*** until you are quietly lying down in your Hotel or, as in our case, a B&B. While you're lying down *don't* work out what your horizontal state is costing you per minute. That will start a new anxiety attack. I shudder to think how visitors from Zim cope with their funny-money.

But, all gloom aside and back to our trip – it was hectic but lovely. Our family bent over backwards and they couldn't do enough for us. We were ordered to report for breakfast at 08h00 and were finally allowed to go to bed at 23h00. That was in Berlin and Bremen in Germany. We weren't even allowed to take them out somewhere to reciprocate.

We walked for miles, went on a River-tour in Berlin, Hamburg, Haarlem and Amsterdam (a good way to see a city), wanted to do some shopping and abandoned that when we saw the prices (shopping in Europe, we thought, would be a good idea when we were still in the good R of SA), visited my maternal Grandparents final Resting Place (that was the beginning of my catharsis where I had to re-examine myself within the framework of my family and my roots, a process that is ongoing and that

has already cost a number of tears of remembrance and regrets)

With regard to fundraising, we made contact with the Anglican Churches in Haarlem, Holland, and in Hamburg. Having been born in Haarlem but mom and dad having had to leave when I was only three, it was the first time that I saw the city of my birth and I fell instantly in love with it. The charm of the old town, the history and the people. Then, of course, there are the bicycles, millions of them. On our visit to Amsterdam we saw a parking garage for bicycles, 4 levels high, each level with a few thousand bikes on it. How people find theirs in this conglomeration remains a mystery.

Fundraising was a bit more difficult than I thought at first. Our food-parcels cost us R75.-, converting this to Euros would bring the cost to €7:90 call it €8:00. Surely a European can easily afford that every month? Yes, they can and many want to when you put your case but there is now something called "*Donour-drain*". There is a reluctance to donate because of "Africa's poor record of administration of donour-funds" as it was put to me on a few occasions.

I have learnt a lesson here as well. I was a bit impatient in my efforts to get things moving along but was told that that was me trying to work at my pace when I should have allowed our Lord to work at His pace. Let go and let God. It is in His hand how our ministry develops and I ask forgiveness from those who might feel that I have steamrollered them in my impatience to raise a million in the first month.

Contacts were made, however, and we must build on these. We managed to collect a total of €77.- and \$27.- which, when cashed in, came to R 813:82. This will enable us to fill almost 11 food-parcels. We give thanks to the Lord for opening hearts and purses. During our discussions we were invited to give talks about our orphans and their plight at two venues, one in Hamburg and one in Goslar. But, of course, there was no time and, although the invitation is open, there's no money to travel to these cities. Again, our efforts in Europe are in the hands of the Lord.

Luise Joubert accompanied me to Pietermaritzburg recently where we met with Carol McCullum who is

starting up a ministry to help Child-headed Families. She is a fund-raiser with years of experience and we were given some ideas of dos and don'ts of fundraising. What came to the fore was that the personal contact between fundraiser and donour is vital; this echoed the comments made in Europe. We'll work on that.

### ***Dear sisters and brothers at St John's***

We will shortly launch a programme that will focus on potential donours in and around KZN. We also want to arrange a few fun(d)raising events with some pizzazz and would ask you to put forward suggestions on what we could do. As a start we thought we would organise an auction of donated goods and were thinking here of a two-tiered event with music and snacks.

#### ***Serious***

Paintings

Antiques

Cut-glass

Porcelain

Bone-China

Silverware

Cutlery

Coin collections

#### ***Frivolous***

Kitchenware

Odd ornaments

Collectables

Lawnmowers

Clothing

Toys

Games

Search your attics, display cabinets, your dressers and your hearts for "stuff" that you've collected, which has lost its charm for you but which may be converted into cash for those in need. If you give in this way it will not take a penny out of your pocket but will give you immense pleasure to see your contribution auctioned off to someone who, in their turn, will find pleasure in it and whose monetary contribution will feed a child.

Any queries?? Please contact me on 031 702-7081. Email [ed.wolff@fusionsource.co.za](mailto:ed.wolff@fusionsource.co.za)

## SOCIAL JUSTICE SEASON - AUGUST

### Dot Sanders

Diakonia comes from the Greek meaning Dia - thought - konia - mud. This is exactly what the various churches endeavor to work through, in support of economic, environment and social justice for all.

I, together with Sue Britton and Caroline Beech attended the AGM of Diakonia on the 23 June. Prof Bonganjalo Goba, was the guest speaker formally the rector of the DUT and also a theologian and pastor of the United Congregational Church. His address was very enlightening and we could have set for hours listing and asking questions of this very informative man.

Some of the points he raised and my thoughts, I append below, based on his talk on moral renewal.

1. Leaders are not bold enough and must speak out to promote renewal
2. Economical togetherness seems to be falling away.
3. Theology is a community practice and we should respond actively
4. If the government goes away from Christian principles, the churches must take a stand, even if it is against the law.
5. Leaders must be the example and be held accountable.

Churches are the community of moral wisdom, but morality is seen as individual choice, but is a character builder for all, so as Christians we need to be seen as moral and set an example. As South Africans of such diversity we

need the churches to help us make wise choices and remain true to our Christian beliefs and traditions as we follow Jesus.

Morality should be and is a way of life - faith, hope, justice, charity, patience, joy, selfcontrol, truthfulness and honesty etc. How do we get back to this renewal? We need to get back to grass roots level, especially with dialogue and interaction with other churches, the ordinary people and not only with the hierarchy of the various churches. Tackle hypocrisy in our churches, as we seem to be being hijacked by modern society into a trend of dog eat dog attitude, so leave me alone. Whereas we should be promoting a caring society. Always be ready to explain your Christian belief of hope and biblical teachings.

Politics and new religion are a call to faithfulness to both and to separate them is false. Politicians play games with us for their own agendas and gain, but as Christians we must remind them that we are all God's children and need to be treated with justice and respect from both of us and need to be corrected without losing dignity. We are all people of grace and worship the God of grace so do not turn anyone from your door, to do so would certainly invite criticism and division.

These are my thoughts and no way reflect the views of others.



**Many environmental and feminist movements have placed the demand for ecological justice at the centre, remembering that economy and ecology represent two interrelated perspectives on God's household of life - oikos.**



### The South African economy

*South Africa's economy - like that of all nations, can be usefully described only within the context of the global economy. Poverty and inequality have many faces. The majority of South Africans are affected by poverty in various ways, or they are confronted with ongoing vulnerability to becoming poor.*

*Before the era of colonialism, the values of the African subsistence economy were sharing, mutual support and bartering. Then came South Africa's long history of conquest, colonialism, industrialisation and discrimination based on racial capitalism, which destroyed much of the previous ethos. More recent was our history of a political economy based on apartheid and the creation of pseudo-independent satellite states to which the poorest were removed. All this is key to understanding the particular nature of poverty in a newly-democratic South Africa, and its overwhelming occurrence among certain groups.*

oOo

*All of South Africa's economic growth of the past few years - and more - has gone to pay company shareholders. In spite of the success of black empowerment schemes in creating a wealthy black middle-class, recent research has shown that the vast majority of shareholders are still white, and male.*

### HOUSEGROUP COURSE

The parish course for the Social Justice Season is following **THE OIKOS JOURNEY** a publication of Diakonia Council of Churches. Be sure to join a group near you!

The *Oikos Journey* is dedicated to .... people living living in poverty in the first decade of this new century. The poor deserve better. The church needs to ask why so many are still in poverty and then to accept the clear challenge to take action in the name of God and of God's Son, Jesus Christ, who came that everyone may have life in all its fullness.

### God's Economy

To the attentive and concerned observer it is clear that fifteen years after the demise of communism, the victory of capitalism has not brought the promised increase of freedom and poverty for the citizens of the world. In fact, for most people of the global South life has got worse, not better.

## HERITAGE GROUP REPORT

Robin Niemeyer

During this first six months, there have been very positive activities in the grave yard. Many parishioners will have noticed that there is now a regular garden service cutting the grass every fortnight. In addition, a parishioner made one of his staff members available to trim the edges of the pathways. It will also be very interesting to see if anyone has noticed that the palm trees along the pathways have been removed. This has been a concern for some time, as the pips from the trees could be dangerous under foot. There was a danger of someone slipping on the pips and having a serious accident. With the palm trees gone, this potential problem area has thankfully been removed.

Members of the Heritage Group have completed the project to mount row

markers in the grave yard. These have been painted white with the row indicator shown on each pole. This will hopefully assist visitors to find the graves of their loved ones without too much trouble. The next part of this project is to make sure that when a new secretary is employed, that a listing of graves and GoR sites is readily available to her. This will allow the secretary to assist visitors to quickly find the relevant information about grave sites.

Earlier this year, a maintenance team from the Commonwealth War Grave Commission (CWGC) cleaned and painted the headstones and crosses in the Anglo-Boer war grave site. As a favour, they also did maintenance on the Anglo-Zulu war grave site. Subsequently, St Johns has entered into a contract with the CWGC to

maintain the Anglo-Boer war site. The CWGC provides a monthly payment for this maintenance.

Thanks to donations from the Sons of England Trust and St Finbars Lodge, a retaining wall has been erected around the Anglo-Zulu war site and the surface levelled off.

Recently the Heritage Group did a successful tour to the All Saints Church in Bellair and then proceeded to the Coedmore Castle in the Stainbank Nature Reserve. At the castle, the grand daughter of Dering Stainbank gave the Group a guided tour of the building. One or two more tours to interesting religious and historical sites are planned for the latter half of the year.

## HELL EXPLAINED BY CHEMISTRY STUDENT submitted by Anne Gosling

### **Bonus Question: Is Hell exothermic (gives off heat) or endothermic (absorbs heat)?**

Most of the students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyle's Law: gas cools when it expands and heats when it is compressed, or some variant.

One student, however, wrote the following:

*First, we need to know how the mass of Hell is changing in time. So we need to know the rate at which souls are moving into Hell and the rate at which they are leaving. I think that we can safely assume that once a soul gets to Hell, it will not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving.*

*As for how many souls are entering Hell, let's look at the different religions that exist in the world today. Most of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, you will go to Hell. Since there is more than one of these religions and since people do not belong to more than one religion, we can project that all souls go to Hell. With birth and death rates as they are, we can expect the number of souls in Hell to increase exponentially.*

*Now, we look at the rate of change of the volume in Hell because Boyle's Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in Hell to stay the same, the volume of Hell has to expand proportionately as souls are added. This gives two possibilities:*

- *If Hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter Hell, then the temperature and pressure in Hell will increase until all Hell breaks loose.*
- *If Hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in Hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until Hell freezes over.*

*So which is it?*

*If we accept the postulate given to me by Teresa during my Freshman year that, "It will be a cold day in Hell before I sleep with you," and take into account the fact that I slept with her last night, then number two must be true, and thus I am sure that Hell is exothermic and has already frozen over. The corollary of this theory is that since Hell has frozen over, it follows that it is not accepting any more souls and is, therefore, extinct.....leaving only Heaven, thereby proving the existence of a divine being which explains why, last night, Teresa kept shouting "Oh my God."*

The following is an actual question given in a University of Washington chemistry mid-term exam. The answer by one student was so "profound" that the professor shared it with colleagues, via the Internet, which is, of course, why we now have the pleasure of enjoying it as well:

THIS STUDENT RECEIVED AN A+.

## THAT NARROW GATE

**AW Tozer**

### The Honest Use of Religious Words

Positive beliefs are not popular these days. A mistaken desire to maintain a spirit of tolerance among all races and religions has produced a breed of Januslike Christians with built-in swivels, remarkable only for their ability to turn in any direction gracefully. The philosophy behind this whole thing is that religious beliefs are matters of personal choice, and that the Lord adapts His saving truth to the individual, varying it according to the cultural background, educational level and social situation of each one. Whatever this is, it is not Christianity.

A number of popular religious books have appeared of late quite literally filled with swivel-words of uncertain meaning; and because these were written by persons ostensibly evangelical they have been accepted and promoted by the evangelicals. And they are having a real influence on Christian thinking; or more to the point, they are making sound Christian thinking impossible for those who read and admire them. We had better take a good hard look at these books. If the authors will not stand still to let their meanings be examined, there is probably a good reason. Great ideas

have a habit of inhabiting the same great words generation after generation. To ignore or reject the word is to reject the idea.

The hope of the church yet lies in the purity of her theology, that is, her beliefs about God and man and their relation to each other. These beliefs have been revealed to her by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the sacred Scriptures. Everything there is clear-cut and accurate. We dare not be less than accurate in our treatment of anything so precious.

**Prayer**

*Lord, give me compassion for those who are trying to approach You through the wide gate. Help me by word and life to point them to Christ the way.*

**Scripture**

*"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."*

Matthew 7:13-14

**Thought**

*Efforts are underway to widen the narrow gate and even tear it down altogether. It is the idea that all religious ways lead to God and life eternal. But Christ is The Way, the only way because He alone bore the sins of us all.*



### LET ME SHARE THE GOOD MEWS

#### *Magnificat*

I would like to bring you up to date with my current affairs and have been given carte blanche to tell you all about my life at 71 Jupiter Road! But first let me tell you that I almost had to do a prison break out of St John's after I became very, very ill. I was taken to Dr Kruse in an ER situation. He had a good look at my white and grey anatomy. Liz and Anthony kindly brought me into their home and I had to face two strange cats, JB (Jinja Boy) and Miss Muffett – the bold and the beautiful. And a DOG – who I soon discovered only really wanted, to a third degree, my food and nothing more. I got over that fear factor and am now very happy! My weakest link is the collar they insist I wear.....to stop me scratching and licking. But I am now a Cool Catz and have found a very good spot on the sofa in front of the TV. I hope that I will spend all the days of my life here.

How many names of TV programmes can you find that *Magnificat* has been watching? SMS the answer to 082 374 3965 with your name, and you might win a tin of Lucky Pet!!

### CHURCH NOTICE HOWLERS!

- *At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.*
- *Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.*
- *Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.*
- *Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.*