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Parish of St John the Baptist
5 Payne Street
PINETOWN 3610

**Parish of St John the Baptist
VESTRY 2011**



The
LANTERN

*Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
See, the darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the
Lord rises upon you and His glory appears over you.
Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.*

Isaiah 60 : 1-3



Rector's letter

Dear People of St John's

Introduction

This copy of *The Lantern* contains both the vestry reports (at the beginning), reporting on 2010, to be discussed at the vestry on 27 February, followed by other general material.

RECTOR'S VESTRY REPORT

Gratitude

Thanks be to God! Over this past year we have continued to grow in "the knowledge and love of God". We have experienced God's Spirit of community, growth and change. Our trust in Jesus sustains our hope in becoming all God calls us to be, individually and as a parish.

Generosity

Thank you all for sharing in our church life. The generosity of giving both time and money reflects a growing faith as well as a stronger commitment to one another. Parishioners' willing response to particular needs, such as the Red Letter Thanksgiving envelope, the call for assistance for families in Motala Heights as well as needs beyond our community such as the Lenten Appeal (in 2010 for the Diocese of Niassa in Mozambique) are clear signs of our faith in action.

Shared Leadership

In 2010 I continued to experience a strong sense of shared leadership. I am most grateful to the wardens for their gentle and wise support, and particularly thank Richard Clüver, who now finishes his term of office. Our assistant clergy serve this parish in a committed and skilful way. It was a joy to be able to welcome Alfred Nala to the team following his ordination as a deacon in November. Revd Caroline Beech has taken sabbatical leave from the parish. We are grateful to her for her many years of ministry among us.

We are blessed by Rose Bernhard, our parish secretary, who takes her work beyond what is expected, and Sam Shezi, our verger, who continues to work with dignity and pride.

I record our particular appreciation to two others: Christopher Cockburn, our organist, and Alison Warmback, the Co-ordinator of Children's and Youth ministries for the whole-hearted and skilled contribution they make.

We are again grateful to Bernard Royeppen, who volunteers his time to play the organ at the 7.00am service on Sundays.

As our parish continues to grow in numbers it is important that we all contribute to the extent that God calls us to.

Diversity

An important workshop tackling issues of diversity and difference was held one Saturday in the latter half of the year. It was the beginning of an important process

in our parish in which we both acknowledge as well as celebrate the increasing diversity reflected among our parishioners. This will be an area of our church life we need to continue to be aware of and work on so that we may maximize on the richness of culture, language and theological differences that we have among us.

Maintenance

Thank you to John Williams who has worked consistently and quietly at regular church maintenance. During the year substantial sums were spent on roofing repairs to the halls as well as painting and repairing around the church. This has been money well spent and adds to parishioners' sense of pride in their church. Our thanks to André Zuidewind for arranging the new road frontage fencing and gate for the rectory, providing greater safety. There remains a need for further important maintenance both at the church and the rectory.

Looking ahead, becoming focused on our mission

Last year, at Provincial Synod in September, the Archbishop set forward priorities for the Anglican Church in the decade ahead. He listed the following:

Province: Priorities: 2011-2020

- Liturgical renewal for transformation
- Theological education
- Leadership and formation
- Health: HIV and AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis
- The environment
- Women and gender
- Protection and nurture of children and young people
- Public advocacy

We need to be reminded that the following are to be part of the on-going work of the Anglican Church in the world:

Anglican Marks of Mission (as defined by the Lambeth Conference and Anglican Consultative Council)

1. To proclaim the good news of the kingdom;
2. To teach, baptise, and nurture the new believers;
3. To respond to human needs by loving service;
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society.
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

In looking at our own parish, I presented the following to the parish council during the year in preparation for 2011. They are what I call characteristics (or "outcomes", to borrow a fashionable word from the educational field) that we should aim to reflect:

- 1 **Stewardship:** Parishioners, including newer and younger members, are involved in ministries within the parish, including leadership positions. Training is provided for this.
- 2 **Celebrating diversity:** Parishioners take the opportunities to get to know one another and appreciate their differentness. The parish is welcoming and including.
- 3 **Spirituality:** Deepening of personal prayer and regular prayer for the needs of the parish and the world. Creative and engaging liturgy is encouraged.
- 4 **Theological education:** Opportunities provided through courses for our faith to be renewed and theology to be challenged. Theological reflection becomes an integral part of our parish life together.
- 5 **HIV/AIDS:** Many parishioners contribute towards the food parcel system and support the work of Ukukhuthaza.
- 6 **Eco-congregation:** Parishioners live lives marked by simplicity, sharing and justice, and the parish is a good steward of its resources - us all being

actively aware of our impact on the environment.

- 7 **Growing the Church:** Parish engaged more actively in our community and with other churches in sharing the "good news" with others.

The following is always a good measure of the quality of our faith and relationships:

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22 & 23a)

Final Thanks

Finally, my thanks to my wife, Alison, who continues to be a great source of strength, wisdom and encouragement to me, and to our son, Dominic, for the joy he brings to us and his sensitivity to and support for what is going on in the life of the parish.

Revd Dr Andrew Warmback
Rector

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Edward Pines -

Looking back over the past year in the life and ministry flowing from St John the Baptist, Pinetown one straight away becomes aware of how busy we all are in the life and activities based in this parish.

Being a member of the Parish executive in the capacity of one of the elected Churchwardens means that I have been one of those involved with providing support and encouragement to Andrew our Rector when, with other members of the executive, we have been faced with some tough decisions when trying to discern the correct direction that we should be heading while attempting to respond as a church to the needs of our diverse community here in Pinetown.

In order to respond as a church it does not only need committed people ready to willingly give of their time to a project or specific ministry. It also needs secure funding in order to provide continuity and an adequate response. You will all be aware how during this past year we have been required to address some major financial issues. For too long St John's has been in maintenance mode resulting with minimum funds being available and constant deficit problems. With the concerted efforts being made in the latter part of 2010 to address our finances we hope that we might be able to end the year in a better position for moving forward into the New Year.

At the regional level a group was instructed to explore how "shared leadership" was being implemented and operated in our various and diverse parishes, reports have been submitted to our Bishop via the archdeacon's office and we wait to see the collated response. This

exercise helped me to consider how we are actually responding within our own parish to this important area of leadership style. I have the feeling that we spend too much time in Parish Council considering some issues and topics that should be dealt with in other meetings or forums in order for the council to be free to spend more constructive time considering the important issues of 'being the church in Pinetown today' and how to equip our congregation in order to provide the required response to the identified needs. We must be confident that we have something to offer to a changing community that we find ourselves living and working in today, but this does not mean that we should avoid making changes as to how we do things as we face the challenge of being *the church*.

May I take this opportunity to say thank you to the congregation of St John's for all that you contribute towards the support and mission of the church in this place, by time, talents and regular financial giving.

Almighty God, whose Holy Spirit equips the Church with a rich variety of gifts; grant that we may use them to bear witness to Christ by lives built on faith and love. Make us ready to live his gospel and eager to do his will; that we may share with all your Church in the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

The human spirit, like the human body, needs relaxation, rest and renewal. The spirit needs joy - cheerful acceptance of your will, Lord. A true, confident and loving attachment to you, Lord, is a constant refreshment.

B C & F Mitchke OSC

PARISH FINANCES*Mandy McAlpin - Treasurer*

For most of 2010, it looked as if our finances would be very similar to the previous year with our income not covering our expenses.

The majority of our income comes from dedicated giving and we consistently received the amount pledged each month. Thanks and congratulations to our faithful parishioners! The problem was that, in order to balance the budget, we needed to raise a substantial amount in fundraising income which was, perhaps, unrealistic. We also had a large debt owing to the Diocese which looked likely to increase rather than being paid back.

In the middle of the year, we received an offer from the Diocese saying that if we repaid half of the debt outstanding at that date by the end of the year, they would write-off the balance. Parish Council felt this offer was too good to refuse as it would allow us to eliminate the huge debt hanging over us. The only problem was how to repay the required half.

We therefore decided to hold the **Red Envelope Thanksgiving Day** to allow people the opportunity to express their thanks to God for the blessings they have received via a donation to the church. We raised R59000 which made up for the shortfall in our income and also allowed us to pay back the Diocese.

We have, therefore, ended the year in a much better position than we began. We no longer owe anything to the Diocese and we have eliminated the substantial deficit made in the previous year (2009). We do still have an accumulated deficit from years prior to 2009, and we owe money to our trust funds, which was borrowed to do much-needed maintenance on the church last year, but, overall, our finances have definitely improved.

**2010 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN REPORT***Vusa Tsekiso*

In deciding to put together this report, the Stewardship committee felt quite strongly that it would have achieved its purpose if it served as an ongoing guide to future Stewardship campaigns.

The campaign took off slowly but surely in March 2010 by looking at its primary aim which is to get more people giving through Dedicated Giving (DG). It was felt that perhaps the DG form itself needed a little face-lift, which was duly achieved a few months down the line.

On the 27th of August, a moving letter on the subject of the "Decision about Dedicated Giving – 2011" was circulated amongst the parishioners, with which the DG and the Time and Talents forms were enclosed.

Various ways to encourage giving through the DG structure were continually looked at, which included:

- Using the pew leaflet to regularly communicate our financial achievements, challenges and achievements to the parishioners;
- Utilizing the Bell/Lantern and slots during worship to explain the ways of giving through DG;
- Inviting Newcomers to join DG;
- In spite of the endeavour to simplify the DG form, to continue offering to assist where necessary with its completion;
- Encouraging parishioners to sign up for DG throughout the year as opposed to leaving this for a specific time of the year, typically October;
- Working towards achieving various activities as well as a monetary amount in Stewardship, over a two or three year period, setting a goal for this;
- Making Stewardship felt, understood and meaningful by using the parish's website;
- "Borrowing" on the Thanksgiving function by talking to the goodness of giving at special times, occasions or events such as baptism, birth, work promotion etc.;
- Periodically tabulating the ranges of DG that we receive, for example, that we have, say, 40 givers in the band R100 to R250 per month, 200 in the R400 to R500 per month range etc.;
- Encouraging the fundraising committee to plan their events in good time.

These are just examples of some of many more other ideas that were passed around.

The latest update on the 2010 DG figures is that we achieved R688 426, representing a 2.6% edge on the 2010 budget figure of R670 742.

R765 872 has been pledged for the 2011 year – 11.2% more than our 2010 actual achievement.

FUNDRAISING*Eve Rayner*

2010 was not a particularly successful year for fundraising, although like the curate's egg, it was good in parts. This is understandable as the majority of people attending are already giving to the church and probably feel they have "done their bit". However, the people who came to the Potjie Evening, the Progressive Dinner and Quiz and the Theatre Lunch thoroughly enjoyed themselves. As usual, Bishop Rubin's Peace Lecture was a great success due to the fact that members of the public were interested enough to attend.

This year several events have been planned which we hope will entice not only parishioners but members of the public to take part in and to attend. For some of these events we are going to need lots of ideas and physical help. So please "lend your ears" to any and all announcements that are given.

But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifice God is well pleased.

Hebrews 13:16

YOUTH REPORT

Alison Warmback

Planning: A planning session for each term was held.

Attendance: There was a core of 12 to 15 regulars with an attendance of over 20 many weeks and sometimes over 30 young people attending!

Activities

- Weekly 'Catch Up' sessions were held, many getting-to-know-you games, some team games, soccer and other sports games, lively discussions, birthday celebrations, charades were played and movies followed by discussion were watched and few successful braais were held.
- The Youth attended the Spirit of Growth Planning Meeting on 29 January and Gcina Mhlope's performance on 12 February.
- Those who were able to attend the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Evening and Ritual thoroughly enjoyed the cooking of the pancakes and the ritual.
- Caroline Beech led an evening on Israel/Palestine in preparation for the young people's involvement in the service on Sunday 30 May.
- On the Friday evening before Mothers' Day, amidst much socialising, the young people helped remove labels from the donated bottles of water which were being taken by the Mothers' Union to Motala Heights for Mothers' Day. They also helped make cards to be given out to the women of St John's with flowers for Mothers' Day. There were even enough cards to send cards and flowers with the Mothers' Union to the women of Motala Heights for Mothers' Day.
- The young people were encouraged to participate in the Progressive Supper evening on Friday 28 May.
- The Youth were involved on the Friday night before the service to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They made peace cranes and prepared for reading out the story of Sadako, the 12 year old girl who died of leukemia as a result of radiation from the atomic bomb.
- The young people prepared bookmarks for WOMEN'S DAY which they handed out together with a stone/rock at the 9h00 service on Friday 6 August and the 7h00 and 9h00 services on 8 August.
- The young people spent one Friday evening preparing for the Arbour Day pudding evening and on the 3 September they presented a play reading: 'Noah's Ark 2: A Tale on Global Warming'.
- Young people helped on the evening of the Bishop Ruben Peace Lecture and Mimi Roach came as a speaker to address the Youth on sex education.
- Good Luck cards were made for those who were in matric in 2010.

All Age Worship Services

The young people participated eagerly in the All Age Worship Services on 21 March, 6 June, 26 September and 21 November.

Planning And Co-ordinating Group

In the second term, 4 young women and 2 young men volunteered to be part of the Planning and Coordinating Group for Youth on Fridays. I am working with the group to develop their leadership skills based on the principle of shared leadership.

Confirmation

Five young people from Youth on Fridays were confirmed this year. They were well supported by their friends from Youth on Fridays who attended the service and gave them cards which everyone at Youth on Fridays had signed.

Thanks For Involvement

Caroline Beech and Andrew Warmback's continued commitment to and involvement with the Youth on Fridays is much appreciated. Brian Goldie is also a reliable helper. And we thank Penelope Fitchat and Nicky Bosman for their occasional help.

Communication

Regular reports were written for Parish Council and others were included in *The Bell* and *The Lantern* to keep parishioners and parents informed. The Youth section of the St John's website was updated.

COURT SETS ATHEIST HOLY DAY

An atheist created a case against the up-coming Easter and Passover holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognised days.

The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel and declared: 'Case dismissed.'

The lawyer immediately stood and objected to the ruling and said: 'Your honour, how can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews have Yom Kippur, Passover and Hanukkah. Yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays.' The judge leaned forward in his chair and said: 'But you do. Your client, counsel, is woefully ignorant. The calendar says April 1st is April Fools' Day. Psalm 14:1 states "The fool says in his heart, there is no God." Thus it is of the opinion of this court that if your client says there is no God, he is a fool. Therefore April 1st is his day.

'Court adjourned.'

KIDZOWN REPORT

Alison Warmback

Facilitators

Facilitators were recruited to facilitate groups for each of the terms. Children were divided into groups according to their school grades: we had a Creche/Toddlers and Preschoolers group; a grade 0 and 1 group; a grades 2 to 4 group and a grade 5 to 7 group. We thank Faren Naidoo, Maegan Warren, Nonhlanhla Nala, Thelma Rosenberg,

Verona Lowe, Renay Naidoo, Ruth Joubert, Alison Warmback, Malcolm Rosenberg, Mavis Brazier and Buyisiwe Thwala for their commitment to this vital ministry. Small gifts were bought and given to all who had facilitated groups during the year.

Calendar

A calendar outlining each term's activities was drawn up and distributed to each facilitator.

Resources

We are grateful to the parishioners who generously donated toys for the crèche/toddlers and preschoolers group as well as those who gave so willingly donated creative materials e.g. crayons, kokis, pencils etc. for the older groups.

The toddlers and preschoolers group used The Bible Society *What the Bible tells us* Series. Material (a Teacher Guide and a reproducible Student Activity Pages book) for the other 3 groups was bought from SANSSA (South African National Sunday Schools Association). We used their *iVangeli (God's Word for a South African Kids World) Year A Curriculum*.

Registration

At the beginning of the year and whenever new children joined parents/guardians were asked to complete registration forms.

Records And Attendance Registers

Records of the children's and their parents' contact details were kept and updated when necessary, including on the parish role.

Facilitators took an attendance register of their classes each week.

Attendance Tickets

On June Prentice's suggestion we issued attendance tickets to the children each week they attended KidZown. At the end of the year we held a KidZown mini market at which the children could redeem their tickets for a gift of their choice. They were taught the stewardship principle of tithing by giving 10% of their tickets to the AIDS orphans Christmas Party. At the end of the year, the two children in each age group who had the highest attendance, were presented with Christian books by Revd Andrew Warmback.

Attendance Certificates

Attendance certificates were prepared and given to all children who have been part KidZown during 2010.

Birthdays

A birthdays list was drawn up and updated as more children registered. There was a weekly focus on those who are celebrating their birthday/s and they were given a card from KIDZOWN as well as a pencil with a Christian verse.

Display Of Work

We have put up some of the children's work done during KidZown at the back of the church.

Inventory Of Materials

The cupboards in the main hall containing KidZown materials were all cleared and washed out. An inventory of materials and resources was drawn up.

Activities

- The children thoroughly enjoyed the candle craft activity led by Leigh-Anne Murray-Rawbone during KidZown on 7 March. The candles were given to the children to take home and their parents/guardians were asked to help them to remember to light the candle on Easter Sunday when we celebrate "Christ our light".
- The bookmarks made for Mothering Sunday were given out after the 9am service on Friday 5 March and after the 7am and 9am services on Sunday 7 March.
- The KidZown children participated in the All Age Worship Services at 9am on 21 March, 6 June, 26 September and 21 November.
- For Mothers' Day, the children made cards to give out after the 9h00 service on Friday 7 May and after the 7h00 and 9h00 services on Sunday 9 May and the children sang a blessing to the mothers and all those involved in mothering others.
- The children were involved in the special focus on Pentecost Sunday, 23 May. At the appropriate time they ran into the church holding red cardboard flames which they stuck up all over the church. They also handed out small flames with the words "God's Spirit is upon me" to all attending the services.
- For Fathers' Day they handed out bookmarks with a special prayer to all those involved in fathering.

Contact With Parents/Guardians

Letters were given to all parents/guardians after they had registered their children, to welcome the children to KidZown, introduce the teachers/facilitators and to explain the attendance ticket system.

Future letters were also given to parents to remind them of their responsibility for their child/ren before and after KidZown and to introduce the new facilitators.

Special Services For Children

On Good Friday, a participatory Children's Service was held at 10h00 and led by Leigh-Anne and Craig Murray-Rawbone. On Christmas eve, an interactive Children's Carols Service was held at 16h00 and was led by Revd Caroline Beech, Revd Eliza Getman and Alison Warmback.

DEACON'S REPORT*Revd Doreen Böhmer*

Many years ago, my gifts were discerned as a pray-er and a pastor. After 3 years as a permanent deacon, I find that this is where my passion lies. As a pastor, taking an interest in people and their walk with the Lord. As a pray-er, trusting the Lord for what he is going to do.

The different aspects of my ministry have remained the same this year, except for the Healing Ministry Prayer Hour that took place on the 1st Saturday of the month. This has been discontinued due to other commitments.

In 1997 a Healing Mission was held here at St. John's church. The Christ Healing Fellowship team was led by Revd Theo Schmidt. Over the years we were able to attend other Healing Workshops and ministered at New Wine Conferences. The late Revd Mary Rutland felt it was important for us to meet monthly to sit at the feet of Jesus. Some parishioners did not feel comfortable coming to the chapel for prayer on a Sunday, so this meeting gave an alternate opportunity for prayer.

Prayer Ministry takes place in the chapel during communion or after the service. If no one is available to pray with you, please speak to a lay minister on duty.

Healing Ministry is mostly available at Healing services held every 2nd month.

The Visiting Team meets on the last Saturday of every 2nd month in the small hall from 10:00-11:00. Most visits are to the sick or elderly as there are so few of us on the team. YOU are most welcome to join us.

Hospital Visiting is mainly done by the clergy. Please inform the office when parishioners have been admitted to hospital.

Care Group: I appreciate all this small team does, quietly and on their own initiative, ministering to our elderly and others in need.

As a House group leader I am blessed as we gather around the Word of God and enjoy fellowship with one another.

My sincere thanks to Revd Andrew Warmback for understanding my need to keep a balance between my own family life and church ministry.

I also thank my husband, Bert, for his support during the year, especially in respect of the "taxi service".

May God bless you all, indeed.

SOCIAL JUSTICE*Dot Sanders*

This has been a very tough time for all of us, as the recession has seen our lifestyle changing and us having to cut back wherever we can. If we have felt the pinch, imagine how it has affected those who live on or below the breadline. Every day people come to the church asking for help and we do what we can, but Mother Hubbard's cupboard is bare.

To those dedicated soup-makers, many, many thanks and keep the soup coming even if it is holidays and summer; for

some of the children looked after by "gogos", a half loaf of bread and a bowl of soup (shared) is their only meal of the day. The call from our Bishop for assistance to the people displaced by shack fires and other disasters, elicited a very generous response from you all, not forgetting the people of Motala Heights. The look of joy on the faces of these people is heartwarming and gives a feeling of wanting to do more!

Pinetown has had a terrible year of crime and violence and few of us have not been affected by it, either personally or through people we know, and our clergy have had to be on hand to counsel traumatised people. The special crime-related service at Gelofte School was attended by all denominations and was, I am sure, a great help to people trying to come to terms with their feelings, as well as being a source of spiritual peace and upliftment.

As Ela Gandhi said at the Peace Lecture: "We must all work together and not be afraid to speak out at all levels of government against injustice if we are to make a difference." As I write this report we are in the midst of 16 days of activism against violence to women and children. This should be the aim every day of our lives; shelters and help for the victims are needed as most do not know where to go or what to do.

My thanks to you all who respond to the needs of others with such generosity and may we continue to be "the neighbour who was there when I needed help", for you will be blessed.

May 2011 see peace and change for the better for us all and keep up the good work. God bless you all.

CHRISTIAN CARE*Dot Sanders*

This group of dedicated people from all denominations continues to function from the Methodist Church. At present we are feeding approximately 100+ unemployed people and "gogos" trying to feed little ones in their care. Our thanks go to the donations received which are used to pay for samp and beans, etc. and to the people who collect the donations of bread from the businesses who donate each day.

The Hope Centre is still helping the unmarried girls who are pregnant to come to terms with their situation and make the decisions which are best for them. They have been able to place some babies into foster care and some have been adopted.

We are asking for your prayers for the "Free Clinic" which opened on 24 January 2011. This project has been planned for the past 2 or 3 years, but now we are stepping out in faith and action. Small steps, just once a week to start with, and later we hope to function more frequently. It will operate from the Methodist Church and any donations of equipment will be a great help. Please speak to Ingrid Pines or myself if you would like more information as to what is needed.

BLESSING from Celtic Daily Prayers

See that ye be at peace among yourselves, my children,
And love one another. Follow the good example of good
men and women of old; and God will comfort you and
help you, both in this world and in the world to come.
Amen

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY GROUP*Dot Sanders*

Although we are few, and would welcome anyone who would like to join us, it has been a busy and successful year.

The various days of Earth, Water, Arbour and the Season of Creation were marked by the use of special liturgies. A very happy harvest day picnic was held at Koinonia. We were able to see and hear the little creatures that live in our world that are not seen in and around built-up areas. It has been very encouraging to see people looking at the notice boards which we update with articles about those environmental issues that affect us locally.

St John's is also part of a group in our archdeaconry that visits some of our sister parishes on a regular basis, helping and learning from each other with a common purpose of good stewardship of our natural resources. We are all working towards becoming Eco-congregations.

Within the diocesan environment work, we have had a busy time travelling to parishes in Mpopomeni, St Chad's (Ladysmith), Scottburgh, with Revd Andrew Warmback as convenor. Thanks to Bishop Rubin for his support and encouragement. This group works in conjunction with other organisations as well as with SAFCEI (Southern African Faith Communities Environment Institute), headed by Bishop Geoff Davies.

So be with us all the way, as we are all responsible for saving the earth, here in Pinetown, for this is our earthly home, God's creation.

CREATION PRAYER

For You love all things that are
And loath nothing You have made,
For what You hated You would not have fashioned.
And how could a thing remain, unless You will it,
Or be preserved, had it not been called for by You?
But You spare all things,
For Your imperishable spirit is in all things.
From The Book of Wisdom.

EVANGELISM REPORT 2010*Austin Savage*

We were blessed with the teaching material from the Diocese of Natal on the Hospitality of God written by Reverend Ronald Nicolson for the Lent period of 2010. We gained insight as to how we can become true hosts offering hospitality to all we meet so that salvation through Jesus Christ is known in all the earth. Jesus Christ was the true host and we should all aspire to be like him. Let us kindle that gentle spirit of God to do his work in the world.

We continued with "Masisukume Sakhe! Arise and Build!" Mission in 2010 and Edward Pines led the Region on a workshop to look at "What should we be doing?" in October 2010 at the Holy Trinity in Hillcrest. We were all challenged with the use of gifting to uplift and grow our churches.

We continued with the men's group ministry by meeting on the third Thursday of each month with a bring and share supper followed by our study of the book "From Wild Man to Wise Man; Reflections on Male Spirituality" written by Richard Rohr. It deals with the inner spirituality of men in a manner that is deep and profound and provides much opportunity for discussion and inner thinking. We plan to finish the material by July 2011.

Let us therefore continue with the message of acclamation at the end of each Eucharist Service:

"We offer ourselves as a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out into the world in the power of the Holy Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory."

I express my sincere appreciation to Edward Pines who has worked so hard in the ministry and also to Andrew, Sue, Caroline, and Doreen for their invaluable prayers and support.

COMMUNICATIONS*Barbara McAlpin*

The Bell was published almost every month in 2010, and The Lantern twice: the Vestry edition in February and the Stewardship edition in March. The Bell contains news of what is happening in the parish, advance dates of events and other important dates. We also publish any notices from parishioners that are too long for the pew bulletin. Anyone is welcome to send in a short paragraph about anything they want to share, be it an offer of a service, a request for help, an item for sale, or just a good, or bad, experience. We will do our best to fit everything in. The Lantern, on the other hand, is a more lengthy news letter, and this is where we are able to include the longer stories – testimonies, experiences, observations, etc. We also publish the vestry reports in the Vestry edition, and important stewardship information in the Stewardship edition. Diocesan news is also included. These publications are an important tool of communication within the parish, and we encourage people to make use of them to keep the rest of the "family" informed about the goings-on in our lives.

UKUKHUTHAZA*Barbara McAlpin*

2010 has been a difficult year of mixed fortunes in Ukukhuthaza. In September our chairperson, Wendy Jones, left to spend a year in the UK with her son Gareth, leaving the group with no leader. A new representative will be elected to parish council at the vestry meeting; in the meanwhile the position of chairperson at the monthly meetings rotates among the members.

Funds and Food parcels: A major problem is that every month our income is about R3000 short of the cost of the food parcels. In 2009 we held an auction sale that raised about R8000, and together with some generous donations, this enabled us to continue to supply 100 parcels every month. In November, however, we were left with R64 in the bank, and therefore could only give out those full

parcels that had been donated. This was a very unpleasant situation; our community workers were resigned, but were worried about their 'patients' who depend on them. In December, thanks to the hard work of Ingrid Pines (among others), we held a jumble sale that raised approximately R7000, and also received some large donations. We were therefore able to purchase the food for the 100 parcels in December and sponsor the orphans' party, and the bank account is still looking relatively healthy. One of our parishioners, Denise Marescia, obtained some large donations of mealie meal and Morvite, which supplemented the parcels. Grateful thanks to Denise for her support!

Clothing and Gardens: Although providing Food Parcels is the most important function of our group, we also help the community workers by providing clothes which come mainly from donations from parishioners, while many knitted articles are donated by members of the AWF. We also try to help with vegetable gardens and when funds permit we purchase vegetable seeds. Recently we were given some money from an estate of a deceased parishioner who had frequently helped us by providing some seeds. We will now try to continue her work by spending some of this money on seeds. Fencing in the areas set aside for these gardens is essential but very costly, so for the time being we are leaving this aspect to the local authorities who do provide some help.

Be More: Be More is a Dutch organisation which identifies projects in Africa and sends volunteers to spend time working in these projects. These volunteers then return to Holland and raise funds for "their" projects. About two years ago we met with two of these volunteers who were working at the Dream Centre, and they visited Clermont with one of our community workers. They were so impressed with what they learned about Ukukhuthaza that one of them, on her return to Holland, began to send money to us every month, and has been doing so ever since. With the demise of the Dream Centre, she persuaded Be More to consider adopting Ukukhuthaza as one of their projects. Since then, we have had regular contact with the Be More representative in this area, and have had several large cash donations from them. The representative, Loes van der Meulen, attended our last meeting and promised that in the future, Be More would not allow us to again be in the situation of not being able to provide food parcels. She also gave us a proposal regarding sending volunteers to work with us, and we are in the process of studying this proposal. Hopefully this is the beginning of a lasting association with Be More, which will allow our project to expand.

Our Needs: No, we are not asking for more money (although it is always needed) – our parishioners are more than generous with cash donations and filling food parcels! What we do need are our own volunteers. A few years ago we had a visiting programme, in which members of the parish went out with the community workers once a month to meet the recipients of the food parcels, talk to them and pray with them. This is a very important part of this outreach, as the sick and struggling people often feel that no-one cares, and indeed, that they are not worth anything. A visit from a member of the parish, prepared to spend time with them and pray for them (never mind the language barrier) makes such

a difference. Sadly, those who used to visit have moved away, or had to stop for some other reason, and we have no-one going out anymore. It would be wonderful if we could start this programme again.

Another great need is help in delivering food parcels. The people of Hammarsdale and Tshelimnyama have great difficulty collecting their parcels, and we are very reluctant to cut them off as we know how great the need is in these areas. Anyone who would be willing to help in this area, please contact us – 10 food parcels fit into the boot of a small car.

We are very excited about the possibilities opening up for our project and hope that more members of the parish will join our group. It would be good to have more visible parish involvement if the volunteers from Holland start to come.

We wish to thank our parish secretary, Rose Bernhard, most sincerely for all the many little things she does for us. Without her help we would have a very difficult time keeping things running smoothly. Bless you, Rose!

VISITING WITH UKUKHUTHAZA

Luise Joubert

Shortly after I joined the Aids Awareness Group at St John's I expressed the wish to see the people who receive our food parcels. We sent a bi-lingual note with each parcel that was taken away by the community health workers asking if the recipients would be happy to receive visitors from the church.

The response was overwhelming: "Yes, please come". It meant that the families were not afraid to acknowledge that they were affected by HIV/AIDS. We arranged to meet the members of our group who are community health workers and who were prepared to give up their time and meet us at pre-arranged destinations, mostly on a Sunday morning.

The first one to go out was Wendy Roachat who met Dudu. She lived in Nazareth near Mavis Goyese (both ladies are now deceased). Dudu had previously brought Mavis to meet me, and she emphasised that she was very determined that those who receive parcels should admit that they were infected and needed help. This is a principle we have insisted on ever since then. When Wendy reported on her visit, we realised that much more besides food was needed. We became more aware of the needs and the problems that exist in the lives of these people.

After that initial visit many more visits occurred as Revd John Green was very supportive of this scheme and we went not only to Nazareth but also the other areas, especially if the members from Clermont, Kwandengezi, Klaarwater, Tshelinyama and Hammarsdale requested visitors. Visiting teams went on pre-arranged Sunday mornings and met the families. We were always welcomed and we met the affected family members. When told that we provided the food parcels they were always so very grateful. We ended each visit by praying with the families and often there was some singing as well.

We took our own cars and because we are not always as aware of the road conditions we could get into difficult

situations. On one occasion I was unaware of the sharp edge of the road and the left hand wheels got stuck in this rut. While I and my companion surveyed the problem a few young men came to offer help and in no time at all they had lifted the car back onto the road, all smiles and happy to be of service.

Often the way to the shack or little house is over stony, uneven ground along a steep decline. As it was sometimes difficult for me to get there my companions would leave me on my own in the car. Of course by-passers would look, sometimes pass a comment and walk on. At no stage did I ever feel threatened or unsafe.

The community workers and their patients miss our visits. This was a valuable part of our ministry, and it would be good to have some volunteers to resume this outreach.

NEWCOMERS

Ingrid Pines

An important aspect of growing the church is ensuring that 'newcomers' are identified and welcomed when they attend worship services. Here at St John's we recognise this important requirement and at the conclusion of services a 'newcomers table' is provided where people who are prospective new members for the Parish Roll are welcomed and provided with information about the parish, contained in a parish information booklet, and paperwork for completion that provides contact details and information for 'stewardship' to help encourage a full participation in parish life.

During 2010 we have welcomed some 49 newcomers who are new to our area and individuals such as people from Cameroon and Malawi who are either here in Pinetown for study or employment purposes.

While it is the duty of all members of our congregation to identify and welcome newcomers to our worship services, we are grateful to all those who take regular duties for staffing the 'Newcomers Table'. Thank you for this important ministry. Recognising the importance of this ministry we have a Newcomers Portfolio on our Parish Council. A recent initiative from this portfolio was to introduce new style name badges for all our regular worshippers to help encourage the use of our names and an attempt to get to know each other. These name badges are stored on a rack for collection as you arrive at church, they should be returned to this rack as you leave church.

while some continue. It is beneficial that members define their own group and own it.

During Lent 2010, most groups studied the material on 'Hospitality' prepared for the diocese by the Revd Dr Ron Nicolson, who served in this parish many years ago. His material was highly participatory. Feedback indicated that people had found it excellent and had enjoyed the sessions.

Housegroup leaders meet regularly once a month. These meetings offer an opportunity to share personal and family news and concerns, as well as to discuss what groups are doing and any issues that may arise. Feedback from groups is also discussed and resource material shared.

At a recent meeting, housegroup leaders made comments for inclusion in this report:

- *'It's more than just studying the bible, it's coming together in fellowship, supporting each other.'*
- *'Fantastic fellowship.'*
- *'Because we respect confidentiality, it's a safe place to unload, to find support, and to share prayer.'*
- *'Not only spiritual and emotional support, but also physical support and practical help when this is needed.'*
- *'The hospitality material last Lent was so good.'*

We share these comments because there may be people who are not sure what happens at the housegroups. We noted in preparing for this report that it is deliberate that they are not called 'bible study groups', because they are much more than that. Sometimes groups may choose to spend their time in prayer; sometimes a book on a particular topic such as an aspect of spirituality may be read and discussed; sometimes there is a crisis in someone's life and the time is spent ministering to that person and supporting them. The groups belong to the people who are members, and they are free to decide how to spend their time together, considering guidance offered by their leader/s and the clergy.

In Lent 2011 groups will be studying a new Lent course written for this purpose by Prof Gerald West, member of the Cathedral congregation and lecturer at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. The course comes to us highly recommended by Bishop Rubin Phillip.

This is an opportunity for people to become part of the housegroup movement. Please speak to the Revd Sue Britton if you would like to know more. We will be offering sign-up lists for Lent groups to study the material offered by the bishop and would be happy to set up new groups.

REPORT FOR VESTRY 2011 FROM HOUSEGROUPS

Revd Sue Britton

The system of housegroups is working smoothly. During the year under review, one new group was formed and one old group closed down because of people moving away, etc. – but the active member left has joined another group.

Housegroups decide their own agenda and chose their own material, bearing in mind courses offered by the clergy from time to time. Some close down during school holidays,

GROWING THE CHURCH

Edward Pines

During the past year there have been various workshops held under the banner of 'Arise & Build'/'Growing the Church' and these have been both at a regional and a diocesan level. In more recent months there was an International conference held in Cape Town where Anglican's were energised for Mission and our Archbishop, fresh from Provincial Synod, told the conference of the

newly adopted vision of the (ACSA) Anglican Church of Southern Africa which can be summarised as follows:

- Anchored – in the love of Christ
- Committed – to God's mission
- Transformed – by the Holy Spirit

A, C, T – in other words – 'Anglicans ACT'

Other reminders and quotes are recorded below:

- Evangelism is best 'caught'- rather than taught.
- While an 'evangelist' is a calling and a gifting, evangelism is not – it's a command of God.
- We need to stop talking about evangelism and start *doing evangelism*.
- What direction do we need to take?
- If we are to grow, what strategies need to be implemented? What resources do we need?
- We need to *live* the message of Christ.

So, this initiative is still very much with us and we look forward to sharing more with you during 2011 and hopefully producing some signs of new growth in our own parish and region in response to fresh challenges and insights as we Anglicans are called to ACT!

seem to be happy in their new environment and are establishing themselves.

I thank our Rector, Andrew, for his foresight in encouraging the planting of indigenous plants, together with the assistance of a number of nurseries who have advised me in the choice of plants and the correct location. In closing I must state that this is a permanent garden and not one of annuals that need to be planted six monthly. My thanks for all the plusses I have received during 2010 and wish you all compliments of gardening in 2011.

HERITAGE GROUP

Pat Brooker

Our band of faithful members continues to meet on a regular basis and were happy to welcome Maureen Stroebel to the group this year. Although no major projects have been necessary, we continue to pursue and maintain the basic aims of our motto : "Their Faith – Our Heritage". This has meant keeping an eye on matters pertaining to the preservation and conservation of anything related to the history of St John's, its memorials and graveyard and the observation of anniversaries, including that of Remembrance Day commemorated in November. Once again, our grateful thanks go to Rose Bernard, who faithfully and meticulously maintains the burial records, amongst others, which prove invaluable to family members and ourselves.

Maintenance of the graveyard and Garden of Remembrance has been in the capable hands of Errol Greenslade and Mike Gwynn and we are most grateful to them for their diligence and efforts. A recent project has been the upgrade of the pathways in the Garden of Remembrance, where the old slasto was uneven & worn and had become treacherous to visitors. Despite a delay, with the builder called away to assist in a bigger project, the improvement regarding the safety of visitors, I'm sure, will be most welcome. We are also most grateful to the continued financial support from the War Graves Commission which enables us to maintain the war memorials and contributes towards the grass-cutting.

Several planned outings had to be postponed for various reasons, but a most informative morning was held visiting the Millennium Tower on the Bluff. Apart from the magnificent views of the harbour & surrounds, we were most interested to observe traffic control in operation.

Our final gathering of the year was spent having a leisurely braai in Springfield Nature Reserve and the bird lovers amongst us were delighted to see so many species within view of our picnic site. It was at this event that members also said farewell to me and I wish to thank them all for their friendship and support over many years. Amongst other interests, the heritage of St John's has been a passion of mine and always will be. Many memorable and happy times spent with the group pursuing our heritage interests come to mind. I wish to take this opportunity to wish the group all the best for the year ahead and I know I will miss everything that St John's and the group means to me.



GARDEN REPORT

Max Gibbons

Three and a half years ago, I started my second spell working in the gardens and my objective was to make the St John's garden the envy of all the churches in Pinetown.

The young plants planted 2 to 3 years ago have mostly come into their own, namely the vygies and others planted in the narrow bed alongside the small hall. The miniature agapanthus and the first flowering of the beautiful red-orange erythrina planted in pots as one enters the church is a welcoming sight.

The two leonotis bushes at the ends of the bed, in front of the toilets are covered in buds and will begin flowering around March. In the same bed there is a "Pride of de Kaap" which has a few brick red flowers but later in the year should be a picture of colour. There are various small plants in the front of this bed and they will be flowering again in the coming spring. The garden does have a number of 'bright and beautiful' plants flowering at present.

February at the coast is the most difficult time of the year for gardening as it is too hot and normally too dry so no new plants will be planted. Due to the changed world wide weather pattern it is impossible to predict that this will be a particularly dry period.

All creatures great and small come into the equation with the planting of indigenous plant material that entices birds and bees, together with bats that eat pests at night. These creatures are invaluable in a garden.

The bed between the car park and the cemetery is also becoming most colourful and the two fever trees planted two years ago have almost doubled in height and the lime green bark is also becoming evident. The group of cycads

ANGLICAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP*Jenny Glisson*

2010 started with our annual luncheon held in the church hall, attended by members and their partners. At the A.G.M. held in February Ingrid Pines was elected president, Yvonne Tweedie vice-president, Elaine Wright treasurer and Jenny Glisson secretary.

We had many interesting speakers during the year. In March Carl Mouton gave a talk on the "Land of the Queen of Sheba". In April Stuart Duigood spoke about insurance, wills and medical aid funds. Revd Terry Haywood spoke on his work in the prison services in May. In June members visited Christ the King at Mariannridge. In July Luise Joubert talked about the book she has written on St. Martin's School in Johannesburg. A very successful coffee morning was held in August. At the September meeting an interesting talk on the history of submarines was given by June Peet. Coral Osborn's daughter-in-law, Judy, presented a demonstration of gift wrapping and decorations for Christmas. In November the finances were discussed and in December a bring and share tea was held.

During the year members also attended the Woman's World Day of Prayer and paid a visit to the home for the blind in Sherwood. Cake sales and raffles were also held.

No new members joined this year but we hope to have a few new ones next year.

TELEPHONE MINISTRY*Ingrid Pines*

"Hello this is from St John's". Did you know that at St John's there is a group of our regular worshippers who provide an important ministry by telephoning those on our Parish Roll who are celebrating either birthdays or anniversaries? We are very grateful to all those who help provide this important regular ministry.

If you would like to share in this ministry either speak to Ingrid Pines after a service or give her a call on 031 705 3568.

MOTHERS' UNION*Compiled by the MU Committee of St John's, Pinetown*

The Mothers' Union has been active in the parish during 2010. These are the highlights of the year:

- **Community Service:** Mothers' Union members have been involved in the outreach to Motala Heights, taking gifts to the women on Mothers' Day and holding a celebration on Youth Day for the young people. Members also helped with the Ukukhuthaza jumble sale in December, and with the orphans' party in Clermont.
- **Enrolments:** On 12 September our members attended the annual diocesan enrolment service held at Steadville, Ladysmith.

On 28 November a retreat led by Revd Andrew Warmback was held at St John's in preparation for our own enrolments on 5 December. The enrolments took place on 5 December at the 9:00 service, at which Bishop Thwala was the guest preacher. The new members are: Mrs Duduzile Khanyile, Mrs Nomhle Mbonane, Mrs Norma Anderson, Ms Sarah Makhubela and Ms Thokozile Mtshali.

- **Regional Activities:** Members attended the Cluster meeting at KwaMagwaza (Melmoth) on 22 May, the Diocesan Council meeting in Pietermaritzburg on 5 June, the MU Conference that was held in Newcastle from 1 – 3 October, and the Executive Committee attended the Durban & District regional meeting on 20 November at St Paul's.
- **Clergy Family Prayer Day:** The Mothers' Union led the 09:00 service at St John's on 17 October. Mrs Ndwandwe was the guest preacher, and special prayers were said for the clergy and their families. The clergy were also presented with gifts, and the MU prepared refreshments for the whole congregation after the service.

CONCLUSION

The Mothers Union aims to continue to contribute to the growth of the St John's Pinetown parish and to further serve God through participating in different activities as guided by its objectives. We would like to thank the congregation, the clergy and the youth for all their help with MU activities.

MARTHA'S FRIENDS*June Gibbons*

Martha's Friends was started 10 years ago. Many of its members have been part of Martha's Friends since its inception.

The members are a dedicated group who provide catering and teas for funerals, sometimes at very short notice, but are always, if at all possible, willing to do so. We believe this is very much appreciated by families who have lost loved ones.

It was decided, when this group started, that any funds raised would be used for improving and maintenance of facilities, particularly of the kitchen, pantry and hall.

During the last year we have purchased a bench for the church garden, replenished crockery and provided paper towels for the toilets, on an ongoing basis.

For various reasons many of our members are no longer able to participate. We would really encourage people to join as it has proved to be a very worthwhile ministry. One need not feel intimidated by thinking you are not able to bake as there are many other areas where your input would be very valuable, such as setting up tables and also pouring tea.

Everyone who is involved, has enjoyed the fellowship of just being part of Martha's Friends.

FOOD BASKET*Stan Wallace & Maureen Robert*

Donations of money and food from parishioners continue to be regularly received which ensures that needy households are provided with monthly food parcels containing a variety of nutritional foodstuffs.

During the past year approximately 22 households per month were the recipients of these parcels until the end of September 2010, whereafter delivery to the parish of Christ the King was discontinued for economic reasons. Currently approximately 10 households in Nazareth benefit monthly while the Rector also enjoys the discretionary power to donate items of food to people in cases of crisis or emergency.

As a special treat packs of chicken portions were, in addition to the basic food parcels, distributed to the relevant Nazareth households shortly before Christmas 2010, a deed which was very well received by them.

Grateful thanks must be recorded to all the loyal parishioners who regularly donate money and / or food items in this important ministry. Thanks are also extended to each and every one of the sales-people involved who so admirably and willingly perform their tasks prior to the various services, sometimes in inclement weather. Well done!

Note: *These food parcels are separate from the parcels distributed by the Ukukhuthaza Aids Concern Group, which consist of specific food and are distributed to AIDS-affected people in several of the townships around Pinetown by the Community Workers who belong to the group.*

BRASS CLEANING TEAM*Rhea Gwynn*

Our very small team has been very dedicated in trying to keep the brass in the church gleaming, and I thank Margaret Fiene, Dawn Bowley, Dot Sanders, Ray Budde, Alida Barnard, Gwen Bentley and Pat Brooker for their commitment to the Lord's work in this way. With the departure of Pat to the UK we are one short on our team again – and once again I appeal to ALL members (not only ladies!) of the Parish to join us. We are all getting on in years, yet manage this not-so-onerous chore regularly – are there not any younger members who could help with this duty? At present we generally clean on a Friday, but that is mainly because that is the day that suits most of us. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me on 031 701 9777 or 082 499 5620 and we can make a plan for the day and time that suits you best.

DUSTING TEAM*Barbara McAlpin*

We are a group of a few retired ladies who, under the gentle leadership of Val Blore, meet once a week to dust and tidy the church, attack the cobwebs and, lately, clean up after our birds (thank goodness they seem to be gone

now). Our numbers fluctuate from 3 to 7, depending on our health and holidays, and we try to keep the church looking cared for. Cleaning the church gives us a good sense of ownership and responsibility for our place of worship. The best part is the fellowship we share and the firm friendships that are forged during this humble and rather insignificant duty – although we like to think that people would notice if we were not there! Anyone who can spare an hour once a week – we meet on Tuesday mornings from 8:30 – 9:30 – is welcome to join us: there is enough work for all.

PRAYER CHAIN*Mimi Roach*

I took over the Prayer Chain about two years ago and 15 people belong to it. We meet once a month to talk and pray for the people whose names we have been given. We also give prayerful support to each other, and if anyone is interested in joining our group, please contact me. Anybody in the Parish who would like special prayer for themselves or for others, is invited to give me a few details and the only thing I ask is that they contact me at least once a month to give me news of these people.

I sometimes wonder if God answers prayer, but we keep praying nevertheless and what I can only describe as miracles have occurred in our group on more than one occasion: a little girl suffering from cerebral palsy and epilepsy has improved by leaps and bounds in the last few months (she has been on the prayer chain since she was 3, and now she is 9); a kidney was donated to a woman who had been waiting for years by a friend of the family; it was a match and a successful transplant has been performed; a young burn victim, burnt on over 70% of his body, is now out of ICU and improving all the time. There are those who are struggling daily with debilitating diseases, but who continue to thank us for our prayers; also those who, although healthy, struggle to put food on the table for their families.

FLOWERS at ST JOHN'S

Here we are at the beginning of a new year and we are sure you all appreciate the floral arrangements and miss them when they are not there. There are just a handful of us who try to decorate the church in this way. The new roster (thanks to Rhea Gwynn) is on the notice board for you to put your names down for one or more Saturdays during the year even if you feel that you are not competent. Remember you are doing it for God and his people. It is very satisfying when one can use material directly from God's creation to beautify the church.

Flowers are expensive but one can do something just with greenery from your and/or the church garden - just please be circumspect when you pick. Other ways you can help is by making a donation to the flower fund. If there is a particular anniversary or birthday you would like remembered with flowers, write the name of the person and the relevant date (Sunday) on an envelope marked FLOWER FUND and place your donation in the collection bowl or hand in to Rose in the office.

A huge thank you to all the Flower Arrangers for their efforts during the past year and hopefully to this new one.

READING SCRIPTURE**AT OUR PUBLIC ACTS OF WORSHIP***Edward Pines*

Public worship is a way for people to connect with God. It is where they receive most of their Christian teaching. It is also a way to meet people who have similar beliefs and values and to make friends. Attending worship as a family strengthens family bonds. The church is one of the few institutions in our society that welcomes all, young and old, rich and poor, and all ethnic backgrounds; the only criterion is that people are open to having a faith in Jesus Christ.

The worship service is a blend of ancient and modern. The roots of Christian worship are based on the worship in the Jewish synagogue with the reading of scripture and prayers. The first part of our Eucharist (the Greek word for *thanksgiving*) is modeled on the liturgy of the synagogue, and in ancient times as in the present, it is public – Synaxis comes from the same Greek word as synagogue; it means 'gathering together' – this part of the service consists of prayers, scripture readings, psalms, hymns, and the sermon. Because this section of our worship is centred on the Word of God, it is often called the *Service of the Word*.

Traditionally there are up to four Bible readings during the Synaxis normally selected from the set lectionary or special theme for the service:

- The Old Testament Reading is taken from any part of the Old Testament except from the Psalms.
- The psalm is either an excerpt from a psalm or an entire psalm. Normally, the congregation participates in the psalm reading, either by reading it responsively or in unison, sometimes by singing or chanting.
- The epistle reading is taken from any book in the new Testament other than a Gospel. For the purpose of the lectionary, readings from Acts and Revelation are considered epistle readings.
- The gospel reading is an excerpt from Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John just as you would suspect. Pews were invented during the late middle ages for the comfort of the worshipers. Therefore many congregations continue to stand during the gospel reading to show respect.

We are grateful for the members of our congregation who volunteer their services to read these scriptures as part of their stewardship commitment and are faithful in following the roster duties each month. May God bless you in this important shared ministry in these our corporate acts of worship.

If there is light in the soul,
There will be beauty in the person.
If there is beauty in the person,
There will be harmony in the house,
If there is harmony in the house,
There will be order in the nation.
If there is order in the nation,
There will be peace in the world.

*Old Chinese proverb***LENT COURSE 2011**

During Lent this year, all over the diocese parishes will be studying a Lent Course specially prepared by Prof Gerald West of the University of KwaZulu-Natal at the request of Bishop Ruben Phillip.

In the light of the economic crises in which we are living, both here in South Africa and in the rest of the world, we do need to develop a biblical perspective on the world in which we live.

On the topic of the Bible and economic matters, this course takes an in-depth look at how the Old Testament, the Gospels and Paul think about the economy, and how this relates to us and our lives in 2011.

In offering this course to us, Bishop Ruben says:
'The economy is one critical issue. Whether rich or poor it stares us in the face every day. It affects our lives. ... This year's Lent course provides us with an opportunity to reflect on it.'

Housegroups in this parish will be studying this course. If you do not belong to one, please look out for the lists which will go up shortly, and seriously consider joining a group for the six weeks of Lent, as part of the preparation for Good Friday and Easter. Lent starts in the second week of March, with Ash Wednesday on 9th March.

For further details, please speak with the Revd Sue Britton.

PENNIES TO HEAVEN*Eddi Wolff*

Last week we banked R 401.00 which was collected in our bucket at the Entrance Foyer to the church. We counted a total of 4078 coins which you generously dumped. Thank you and keep the Pennies coming.

The money was used mainly to supplement the collection for the purchase of chickens for the needy for Christmas. The balance was equally divided between Ukukhuthaza and Steve's Kitchen. Thank you and Bless you

NEW YEAR PRAYER

Charlotte Anselmo

Thank you Lord for giving me The brand new year ahead, Help me live the way I should As each new day I tread.	The year ahead is empty Help me fill it with good things, Each new day filled with joy And the happiness it brings.
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Give me gentle wisdom That I might help a friend, Give me strength and courage So a shoulder I might lend.	Please give the leaders of our world A courage born of peace, That they might lead us gently And all fighting cease.
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Please give to all upon the earth
A heart that's filled with love,
A gentle happy way to live
With Your blessings from above.
Amen.

CAROLINE'S NEWS FOR 2011*Revd Caroline Beech*

This has been a very strange year ... but not unlike the year before ordination when I could feel some sort of sea-change going on underneath me, pointing me in a new direction.

I went to two retreats this year, looking for clarification. The clergy retreat in September was very significant; and then while on leave a month later, I went to another in an Anglican Benedictine Monastery just outside Grahamstown ... and there it became very clear that I was being Called. But to what? I went on praying and waiting.

And then, a month later, it all fell into place. I was offered a job at Philakahle – an umbrella body which acts as a secretariat to four self-help projects, training and mentoring young black leadership dealing with life-skills and issues in their communities. The job entails liaising between the project managers and their Fund-raisers. No reports? ... no money!

And as they talked my ears pricked up, and the fire in the belly grew. And what is more exciting is that World Vision is now coming to the party. They are in the process of handing over their own projects, some of which overlap, to a clearly flourishing Philakahle; and will bring in some of their own skilled people to facilitate the handover.

I came back and talked to Andrew and then to Bishop Rubin, and both agreed that I should go there on long leave and test the calling, thus giving both sides a chance to test my suitability. Both men have been wonderfully supportive and encouraging .. just as they were when I took off for Palestine.

I feel very excited at this opportunity to grow and learn new skills, because for me the function of the Church is first to preach the Gospel; and then to enable people to live this out!

The most difficult part of all this is telling you. I have been part of this place for 30 years, 15 of them ordained. This is my home and my family. We have been through a lot of stuff together.

I will keep on my flat here and come down at intervals. My children and my grand-daughter are here. I have no idea whether God will send me for months or for years. But I will be back before you know it.

Please send me with your blessing.

Bless you all, Caroline.

EXTREME SERVICE

From "C" Magazine - Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Date: 24th March 2010

Foot washing. Not a quick scrub after a hike in Derbyshire, but the extreme act of service traditionally performed in churches on Maundy Thursday. Canon Jacqui Jones, Precentor at Southwell Minster, explains its origins and shares her experience.

"In my last church they hated having their feet washed," said Jacqui. "There are many factors coming into play. The representative enactment moving into the personal challenge of giving and receiving from others; the intimacy of touch, of showing yourself vulnerable. But with thought and care it can also be transformational."

The beginnings of this extraordinary practice were first recorded in the 7th century in Toledo and in Rome as a ceremony traditionally performed on Maundy Thursday. The inspiration behind it comes from Chapter 13 of St John's Gospel where Jesus washes the feet of his disciples: tantalizingly the only Gospel to omit Jesus breaking bread and giving wine to his disciples, suggesting to many that these actions are closely linked. The word used by John for Jesus laying aside his garments to prepare to wash feet is the same as is used by him when speaking about laying aside his life. "It is an extremely potent word reflecting a massive depth of meaning. We are led to believe that washing guest's feet as they arrive was a natural feature of Eastern hospitality performed by the lowliest - possibly a slave or a woman. Here in this

action we see service and sacrifice brought together, performed by Jesus himself."

"That is why foot-washing is often part of the liturgy in the Ordination of Deacons, as the Bishop divests himself of his chasuble, ties his stole around him like a deacon, and washes the feet of ordinands as an example which they need to emulate in their ministry," said Jacqui.

Parish churches as well as Cathedrals are encouraged to incorporate it as part of the service on Maundy Thursday where the twin themes of love and service are explored in preparation for the ultimate sacrifice of Christ on the cross the day after. Twelve men and women are often invited to have their feet washed by the ministers of the church.

"My first experience of this was a wonderfully positive one. Not only did this huge giant of a priest get down and proceed to wash both their feet with absolute focus and care but he then encouraged others that hadn't been formally asked to have their feet washed as well. It was a joyful, moving and totally inclusive experience."

Retired clergyman, the Revd Geoff Maltby has experienced foot washing at L'Arche and Faith and Light Services. "Enabling everyone to give and receive, and an acceptance of each other are more important than 'doing it right'," he said.

FAREWELL SERMON

Preached by Revd Caroline Beech on 19 December 2010

Advent 4 Isa 7 10-16 / Ps 24 / Rom 1 1-7 / Matt 1 8-25

I've been here a long time. 30 years.

And about 20 years ago I was called into the rector's office and told that they believed that I was being called into lay ministry. This was quite a relief! I had also felt the calling burning inside and thought I was being called to be a nun. And what about the husband and three boys? Nuns didn't have families as far as I knew. What did God expect me to do about them?

Actually that was the least of my problems. The most immediate problem was the shaking knees, shaking hands, shaking everything, as soon as I stood up to do anything. The kids in the choir would nudge each other as soon as they saw me heading for the lectern. Quite brightened their day - "Look at her knees!" they would hiss to each other.

I tackled God about this. Winge-ed on a bit, you know .. stuff like .. You called me! And now look what's happening! How can I get anywhere like this.. ?

He had two words for me. Hebrews 12
(LOOK IT UP >>>)

Hmm! Great cloud of witnesses .. run the race .. with perseverance .. in your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood (OK!) ... and then came the crunch point

The Lord disciplines
those whom he loves

And then, in case, I hadn't quite got the point verse 12

So hold up your limp arms and steady your trembling knees

OK God ... Can we do some sort of deal here? I will accept the limp arms and trembling knees stuff .. it is obviously part of the territory .. but could you fix it so it doesn't distract anyone ... from You?

The following week I was conducting a funeral. And there I was on the chancel steps, coffin below me, nothing between me and them, not even a lectern, and everything doing its usual heebie jeebie thing .

And then afterwards in the hall during tea, someone came up to me and said "Lovely service, thank you" and then, "you know you were standing in quite a brisk draught up there .. your robe was flapping away like anything!"

OoooH! Amazing God! .. *always* has the last word.

Today is the Fourth and last day in Advent. And we focus on Mary the mother of Jesus. And her 'Yes' ... to the angel's proposition.

Did she have any idea, I wonder, what she was letting herself in for? I expect she was well aware of the consequences of bearing a child out of wedlock.. In those days, she could have been condemned to death by stoning .. which would have been death for her and the baby she was carrying. As it was, Joseph initially responded by deciding to divorce her, to break the betrothal, quietly; and then he is also visited by the angel, and the two commit themselves to whatever God has planned. I think that it is very important to remember that she SAW the angel, an experience so awesome and so profound, that she knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that God would see her through, and would not abandon her. It's the vision of the angel and the unmistakable spiritual conviction that gives her the courage to say 'yes'. And this carries her through the months ahead; to undertake the lonely dangerous journey to Elizabeth; and the courage later to travel with Joseph to Bethlehem, with the baby almost full-term, and far away from home and its comforts and family members to help her through the delivery.

Well, I started thinking .. about Mary .. and her decision ..

And I started thinking ... what if Mary had been a teenager of today ...

And there she is .. can you imagine her with her ipod in her ear ..

" Mary!" ... " Mary!" "
MARY!!" Yeah

"I am Gabriel" ... "awesome!"

"Do not be afraid. You have found favour with God!" ... "Cool!"

"And now you will conceive in your womb and bear a son .. ' "What!"

"and you will name him Jesus. And He will be great .. called the son of the most High .. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever and of his kingdom there will be no end."

.. and Mary says blankly .. "Yeah! Yeah! Whatever ... "

OK it didn't happen like that .. but in the end, the Answer in both cases was "Yes" ... and the reaction was obedience.

I'm thinking of Jesus and his story of the Father and his two sons. The father tells them both to go and work in the field. The first one says Yes! sir! You can count on me! I'll go straight away. Can I drive the tractor?

The second one says Aw Da-ad, surf's up! Do I have to? Can't I go tomorrow instead? And what happens? The first son is on his way when his cell phone rings. All his friends are at the Mall and guess what? There's a display of Harley Davidsons .. - last day - moves on tomorrow. He knows his father will understand. The second one hears his father's urgency to get the work done before the weather changes and pitches in.

Decisions mean nothing unless they are carried through and worked out - regardless of ensuing circumstances.

You could say that all Answers to God's Calling on our lives have three components to them ...

The Decision .. voiced aloud ...

The Response .. of intentional obedience;

And then ... the Attitude of the Heart that grows from that .. And we can test that by asking questions like .. do I grow closer to God as I work out my decision? Do I grow in faith? in courage? in trust? In love? And this, contrary to our mode today of instant fixes .. takes time.

I came across a curious saying while on retreat, that has stuck to me like sticky tape sticks to your shoe. No matter how much you shake it off it carries on sticking and you keep on being aware of it. So I really started looking at it and what it was saying to me. And here it is ..

Trust God and tie your camel to a tree.

In Eastern cultures, where this animal is a familiar sight plodding across the desert sands carrying all one's goods and chattels, many stories, sayings, theological reflections have grown up around these ungainly looking beasts of burden.

Trust God and tie your camel to a tree.

Ya well, I thought, very interesting, but nothing for me there. But here it is again, weeks later, sticking to the shoe of my mind. So I had another look at it.

Trust God and tie your camel to a tree.

What does it mean?

Is this a shrewd business deal with God? Giving outward lip service to Him (Trust God) ; but, (tie your camel to a tree) .. being prepared for the worst just in case God is not up to managing everything .. ?

Looking at our faith responses, do we do all that our faith requires of us .. but hedge our bets and keep our possessions fastened to something with more tangible roots? .. so there is always enough money in the bank.. more than enough food in the larder.. more than enough hours in the day... and only then venture out in faith and trust God feeling that our faith is hanging in there ?

Quaker theologian Parker Palmer labelled this split as 'functional atheism' .. where life is separated into convenient

manageable categories, put into neat little boxes; and God is in one of these with the lid kept carefully closed. So that, going back to our curious saying, we say instead, *Trust God BUT tie your camel to a tree.* We change the AND to a BUT. But we cannot mess with the text. Or we will miss out on a reflection on how we live out our faith.

So, *Trust God AND tie our camel to a tree.*

Of course we can go to the other extreme. Trust God and .. forget about the camel. Too much hassle. Let God handle everything. Let me illustrate that.

I was with a friend in her car. She was driving and I commented on the fact that that particular road was known for speed traps. She said airily: "I never bother about speed limits, I leave that to God." I didn't agree. And said so. After all, she was more than capable of doing that for herself and God expected her to use the abilities He had given her. Her argument was that she was about his business. Agreed, but He is not her flunkey.

Let's go back to our saying. The first directive does indeed expect us to Trust God. God loves, God heals, God creates, God redeems. God sacrifices for the world. This is not just a statement of belief, but a proclamation of faith based on the abundant evidence of the truth in our own lives and in the history of the world. We have seen it, we have been touched by it in our prayers – as we heard from several people on Gift Day – and we have seen it in the love of our family here. But there is more. The second phrase tells me what I am to do with the camel. The camel is created by God, and I have the responsibility to see

to the creature's welfare. By caring for the camel - which is not only my personal responsibility but also my responsibility to this planet I live on – I am showing that I am willing to be receptive to whatever God chooses for me. In other words, my "Yes". The camel represents my stewardship , my response to God for the stuff He gives me.

Hey, and this is NOT a resignation to fate .. to a 'let go, and let God' attitude. It's about living each day with confident expectations. Who knows, we might just encounter a miracle. To be alive, I must do my part. But that part, if truly I am to be in balance, is to be consistent with God's will for the world. And yes, I know, to be honest, we have to realise that there are those things which are out of our hands. They are beyond us. And for these traumatic events or suffering people, we can only pray in confidence, that a more loving God will care for them.

I feel very akin to Mary; and like her, follow my "Yes" and prepare to live that out the best way I can. Me and the camel ...

And as I pause on the brink ...

And isn't the life of faith all about bungee-jumping?

I finish with a quote from that French/Italian poet Guillaume Apollinaire .

Come to the edge, he said.

They said. We are afraid.

Come to the edge, he said.

They came.

He pushed them ... And they flew.



WITH CLEAN HANDS

A Native American Prayer

O Great Spirit

Whose voice I hear in the winds,

And whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me!

Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make my hands respect the things you have made and make my ears sharp to hear your voice.

Let me learn the lesson you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy, myself.

Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and a straight eye, so that when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

***'The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth,
being patient with it until it receives the early and late rains.'* [James 5:7b]**

SERMON PREACHED BY REVD SUE BRITTON, 12 DECEMBER 2010

In November / December 2011 Durban will host an international climate change conference. This is not only of interest to our own and other governments, but to all on this planet. Its outcome will affect future life for all. This sermon sets out some of the issues involved and our own possible involvement.

There have been important talks happening in Cancun, Mexico, about the perils for the world of climate change. The changes in the world's climate have, as we know, affected us all. And they affect the whole way nature has been operating. No more can the farmers' patience, as they wait for the precious crop from the earth, be necessarily rewarded, as James took for granted in his letter written about 2000 years ago that we read today. For the early and late rains may never come and the earth become a desert. Or they may come too early in such flooding quantities that the good seed, baby plants and precious soil are all washed away.

The climate change we are experiencing is human-induced. It's happening because the way we run the world today pushes too much harmful gases into the atmosphere, heating up the whole world in a way never before experienced.

We know this now. Politicians and business people know this now. But the reality is that pushing harmful gases into the atmosphere is very profitable for those who own coal mines, oil wells and the industries that rely on these fossil fuels.

And the oil- and coal-driven economy has become so commonplace around the world that I don't think about it when I get into my car to add my tiny bit of carbon emissions to the atmosphere. We are all dependent on this way the world has become, we are all dependent on electricity and water and motorised transport.

In Kyoto, Japan, on 19th December 1997 an agreement was reached which came into force in 2005. The nations of the world came together to talk about what we could do collectively to save the world from the disaster threatening us all from this dangerous way of life the whole

world is now living. Some committed themselves to relatively small changes. Some, including the United States of America – one of the worst emitters of carbon – refused to commit. Member states of the United Nations have been talking about it once a year since then. And they have just finished talking about it again in Cancun, Mexico.

The Kyoto Protocol, as it's called, comes to an end in 2012. The final chance to draw up binding agreements to change our behaviour in ways that may save the planet earth will come this time next year, when the international climate change talks will happen here in Durban. We have one more year in which to pressurize our government and business leaders to make the right decisions about power generation – to make the bold change from dirty coal and gas and oil and nuclear-driven energy to clean wind and sun and other alternative ways of power generation. South Africa is well-positioned to take a lead. God has blessed us with ample sun and wind across our wide countryside and long coastline. And there is plenty of experience and expertise just waiting to be allowed to join in to play its part.

The faith communities are taking a lead in this pressure. Two weeks ago, at a hearing of the Department of Energy about South Africa's electricity plans for the next twenty years, our own Archbishop Thabo spoke strongly and persuasively about the moral and ethical reasons why South Africa should choose a path of renewable energy and move away from dirty coal, oil and nuclear energy.

We at St John's will have a big part to play in preparing for the Durban talks. But why should we?

We should because that is what God calls us to. Of all people, we who

claim John the Baptist as our patron saint must know that our task is to be the prophetic witnesses of God's love and justice for all people, and for this earth created to be our only home.

Our gospel today, as we celebrate our patron saint, the forerunner of Jesus Christ, is not a comfortable piece of good news. Jesus is quite pointed when he asks the crowds whether they've been going out to see someone dressed in soft robes. 'No', says Jesus, those who live in palaces are seldom God's messengers. They seldom feel the need for the really good news, the good news of the new way of life for all proclaimed by Isaiah and the other prophets.

For Isaiah's vision of a land of goodness and sufficiency for all needs, and of healing and peace, is also a vision of justice. There can be no peace and plenty for all without justice for all.

The prophet's life is not an easy one. Both John the Baptist and Jesus had difficult lives that led to violent deaths. They both had times of real anger against the system that ruled their world. And it is right for us also to be angry at a world system that treats the poor with such contempt and allows our lovely world to be destroyed by greed, corruption and power.

But Christ shows us the way of undermining injustice by love. This uncomfortable gospel preached by our patron saint and by Jesus is good news to us. It is why we are here in this community of love week by week, as we come together to gather the comfort and strength to go out to confront the injustice of the world by our words and by our actions, by the love that brings hope to a despairing world.

For it is our task to open the eyes of the blind, to unstop the ears of the

deaf. 'Go', Jesus said, 'and tell what you see. The blind receive their sight. The deaf hear And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

People may take offence when faith communities challenge governments and business leaders to change the basis of our economy. They may take offence when we suggest that people share their cars, or when we agitate for adequate and safe public transport. or when we march and demonstrate against nuclear power stations.

But it is the challenge of Advent, when we look for the coming of God in human form. It is the challenge of our patron saint, John the Baptist. We can be part of creating the vision of a renewed world for God's renewed people, We are the people of hope.

As we grow closer to God in this Advent-time, as the Holy Spirit moves within and among us, so we will discover in ourselves the courage and strength to bring the real good news to people, the good

news of life in abundance for all in a better society, a good world. It will be a gospel of hope that we share not only through loving words and deeds but also through challenging, bold actions to change the world. It may be a slogan taken over by the world, but we know that we really can make a difference. And that is what God calls us to do, as we move through Advent towards the promise of our Saviour Christ being born among us again this Christmas. Amen.

49 YEARS

Delysia and Eddi Wolff

"You've been married for **how long?**" This is normally asked by younger people with some incredulity in their voices because, in today's society, marriage is not often seen as a lifelong commitment. It's too easy to throw in the towel if things are not going the way we want them to and then to wander off to the Divorce Courts. For us older folks, however, it is more common to be married to the same person 'till death us do part'.

The next questions you're asked are: "How do you do this? How do you stay together for this long?" The answers to these questions are manifold but to put them in a nutshell we'll use a few C's and one R.

† **Commitment.** From the outset, when you stand in front of the Minister to confirm your vows, you are also standing 'in the sight of God' and you're committing to a relationship with one another for life you become One Body. This is where God performs "crazy arithmetic" because He tells us that 1+1=1. Just as Jesus is one with His church and is committed to it, you become one with your life-partner and need to commit yourself fully to this relationship – a half-hearted and wishy-washy "I do" at the start of your marriage will **not** do.

Before you take this step, examine your motives and feelings and discuss them fully and honestly with your partner-to-be. This union between you and your true life-partner is ordained by God. It is God who brought you together – not chance. You may not recognise this in the beginning but as the years go by you come to the realisation that His hand is on your marriage. You can't pride yourself on "finding the right one". All glory goes to God. As we commit ourselves to this union we must always remember that Jesus commands us to love one another as He loves us – He loves us unconditionally and we should do the same. In the event where this union fails and you can't get along, it becomes pretty obvious that the two of you did not do your homework properly, did not "research" one another and now find yourselves incompatible. Most importantly, if God the Father, God the Son and God the

Holy Spirit have not been included in your courtship, it has little chance of survival.

† **Communication.** The other important ingredient in your marriage is communication. You need to keep the lines open at all times. You must be free to discuss any gripes or problems (be they real or only a perception in your mind) with your partner. These discussions should be held in a loving and quiet way and, while this is not always possible because of stirred emotions, before things get out of hand and the "discussion" starts getting noisy and turns into an altercation (a slightly nicer word than 'an argument'), call a halt and invite Jesus in prayer to join both of you. The most important aspect of any disagreement is to **never go to sleep without making up.** If you try, you'll have a miserable night and the next day will be even more miserable.

Have your discussion, disagreement, altercation, argument – call it what you will, but admit when you're wrong and then say the next few words with feeling "I'm sorry" and "I love you". As a matter of fact the most effective way to defuse any conflict is to say "I love you". Tell your partner that you love her/him every day of your lives – not just after an argument. (Men, you might think this is "too mushy" for you but trust me ... it is good for you and you'll eventually get used to it. After all, when you were first courting you said it to her a hundred times a day and I'm sure you meant it.) These words together with a hug and some tender touches will heal all pain – don't allow this to fade away over the years.

† **Compassion:** True love goes hand in hand with compassion. Be compassionate in whatever you do.

† **Comfort:** Comfort each other in times of loss, pain and any other adversity.

† **Companionship:** As you journey through life together, you begin to appreciate each other's companionship more and more. Sure, sometimes you also need your own space and so does your partner. If you, as a man, love your sport, tell her and if, occasionally, your rugby match clashes with

something she wants to watch, you can solve this problem for about R 1000.00 ... buy a second TV. If your life-companion is your best friend, you've hit the jackpot because you'll enjoy doing everything together (well - maybe not *everything* but you know what I mean). You grow closer to one another until people ask you whether you are "joined at the hip". When you find that you need one another's company constantly that's when you are truly "One".

† **Respect:** This simple word is coupled to "Obey" and "Submit" in the Bible. However, these three words have been misquoted, misunderstood and misused for some time now especially since the "Revolution" of the sixties when half the world clearly said that God didn't know what He was talking about and bent His Word to suit themselves. Irrespective of what translation and version of the Bible we read, St Paul's letter to the Ephesians clearly spells out how we should live and, in the context of Holy Matrimony, there should be no misunderstanding when it comes to the relationship between man and woman. I'm not going to elaborate on St Paul's instruction to the church in Ephesus (it is, after all, Divine Instruction from our Creator

channeled through the pen of St Paul) - if you are not familiar with Ephesians, read it and take note particularly of Chapter 5, Verses 22 to 33.

When God created Eve, He created her as a "helpmeet" for Adam and not as Adam's slave or servant. Please note that "submission" is not a synonym for "doormat". If a man wants a doormat for a wife, he can buy one cheaply at any supermarket and he will find that he can kick it around and it will never give him any backchat. However, if he thinks he can treat his wife like a doormat and get away with it, he must know that he will one day stand before the Throne of Judgement and his Creator and will have to give an account of why he treated another person who was created "in the image of God" like a doormat and then face the consequences and the Judgement that is due to him.

For me, the last word on Marriage is to say "Thank You, Lord, for the Helpmeet that you ordained for me. All Glory be to Your Holy Name. Amen"

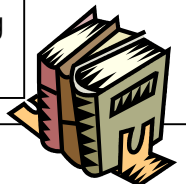
A last word from Delysia: "Lord, in my teenage prayers, I asked You for a good man and You gave me the best. Thank You Lord and Praise be to You. Amen"

RETIREMENT OF THE RIGHT REVD FUNGINKOSI MBHELE, BISHOP-SUFFRAGAN OF THE DIOCESE OF NATAL

Bishop Funginkosi is to retire on 31 March 2011, after having been a bishop in our diocese for almost 10 years. A thanksgiving and farewell service will be held for him at the Cathedral of the Holy Nativity in Pietermaritzburg on **Saturday 12 March at 9:30**, at which he will preside and preach. Anyone who wishes to attend should speak to one of the clergy.

People are encouraged to contribute towards a farewell gift for Bishop Funginkosi. This may be put in an envelope marked "*Bishop Funginkosi farewell gift*" and placed in the collection plate at church or handed in to the parish office. Cheques should be made out to the Diocese of Natal. Bishop Rubin encourages us to give generously; Bishop Funginkosi will be given a list of the individual parish contributions, so that he can thank them personally.

Please pray for Bishop Funginkosi and Mama Matrina Mbhele (who retired from being a school principal about a year ago). Pray especially as they prepare in heart and mind to surrender this active and demanding ministry, on 31st March, for a well-deserved retirement.



REQUEST FROM A PARISHIONER.

WANTED: Work from home or Office Employment

5 Half days or 3 full days per week.

I am Computer-literate in Microsoft Office Word, Excel, Publisher etc. and I am willing to learn to operate within any other Software package if required. We can also write Custom Software to suit your needs.

Contact Eddi Wolff on 031 709-3695

E-mail ed.wolff@fusionsource.co.za

PARISH LIBRARY

Barbara McAlpin

This is an appeal to all those who have books from the parish library that they have finished reading, to please return them. There seem to be a lot out on loan, some of them for years!

NO-ONE volunteered to care for the library in the last Stewardship campaign. The books are in a bit of a mess, so I am trying to tidy and sort them to make the library more appealing. I desperately need someone with an interest in books and who can spare some time once a week or so to help with this task.

FROM THE REGISTER**BAPTISMS:-**

Lukhanyo Sibisi and Unyezi Ndabenhle Mzimela on 28 Feb.
 Claudia Jane Kieck on 20 June
 Keleabetsoe Maboshadi Kyala Rapulungoane on 20 June
 Langalami Link Mtshali on 22 August
 Olwethu Luyanda Dlamini on 5 September
 Tyhlon Ronald Coleman on 7 November
 Kylie Alyssa Shay Filander and Stella-Hope Ntombenhle Mtshali
 on 7 November 2010
 Nathan Connor Romeril & Joselyn Faith Romeril on 3 October
 (Grandchildren of Donald and Brenda Hain)
 Ryleigh May Gaugin on 19 December
 Lwemvelo Chonco on 30 January 2011
 Rorisang Uluthando Lebeko on 30 January 2011

CONFIRMATIONS:

29 August :

Favourite Sibonisiwe Chonco
 Fiona Michelle Clark
 Thobeka Noxolo Hade
 Vickers Dalitso Mjojo
 Langalami Link Mtshali
 Thabise Philasande Ndwandwe
 Dominic Luthando Warmback
 Ncebo Nigel Zungu
 Vusimuzi Brian Zwane

19 December:

Catherine Maria Gaugin

WEDDING :

Thandi Nkosi Victus Jama and Monica Ndlovu on 6 February

DEATHS:

Rose Mqadi, - 2 March
 Blanche Savage - 10 March
 (mother of Rose Bernhard and Austin Savage)
 Mesuli Seme, - 8 April
 Myrtle Lewis, - 8 April
 Moreen Hall, - 29 April
 Meid Lina Zungu - 10 July
 Alf Ezra in July
 Dorothy Stella Thurston - 21 July
 Alice Gibbs - 3 August
 Rosemary Elizabeth Nash - 13 August
 Dinah Louise Brits died - 19 August
 June Evelyn Cecile Goodhew - 1 September
 (sister of Wendy Baumann)
 Gerardus Josephus Rooyakkers - 19 September
 (father of Eugene Rooyakkers)
 Catherine Madela - 20 September
 Myrtle Ellen Broughton - 25 September
 Francis Louisa Rich Kenny - 9 October
 Krupanandham Benjamin (Kay) Ramiah - 16 October
 Clive Tweedie - 30 December

**WELCOME**

to Samuel Thomas Kenneth Getman Burns, newest edition to the parish family. Samuel is the fourth son of Revd Eliza Getman and Dr Jonathan Burns, and is seen here on his first visit to St John's with his Mum and big brother Luke.

Then Jesus took His disciples up the mountain and, gathering them around Him, He taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
 For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the meek.

Blessed are they that mourn.

Blessed are the merciful.

Blessed are they who thirst for justice.

Blessed are you who are persecuted.

Blessed are you when you suffer.

Be glad and rejoice for great is your reward in heaven, and remember what I am telling you."

Then Simon Peter said:

"Do we have to write this down?"

And James said:

"Will we have a test on this?"

And Bartholomew said:

"Do we have to turn this in?"

And John said:

"The other disciples didn't have to learn this."

And Judas said:

"What does this have to do with real life?"

.....Grace had gone unrecognized

DATES TO REMEMBER**VESTRY MEETING: SUNDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2011.**

The meeting will be held at the beginning of the 9am service. There will be a 7am service as usual; do stay on. This is an important meeting for our church, and as many parishioners as possible are encouraged to attend. Kidzown will be held during the meeting.

MARCH

- Fri. 4: **Women's World Day of Prayer**
 Tues. 8: **Shrove Tuesday**
 Wed. 9: **Ash Wednesday**
 Services at 7:00, 10:00 & 17:30
 Sat. 12: **Bishop Funginkosi's farewell service**

APRIL

- Sun. 17: **Palm Sunday**
Holy Week: (*Watch the pew leaflet and The Bell for details of services*)
 Mon. 18: **Taize Service** - (Pinetown Methodist Church)
 Thurs. 21: **Maundy Thursday**
 Fri. 22: **Good Friday** 6:15: Ecumenical Service;
 12:00: Meditation at St John's
 Sat. 23: **Holy Saturday** 8:00: Cleaning & decorating the church
 Sun. 24: **Easter Sunday** 5:45: Ecumenical Sunrise Service;
 6:00 & 8:00: Eucharist at St John's
 Sat. 30: **Diocesan Youth Celebration** at the Cathedral in Pietermaritzburg

MAY

- Sat. 7: **Diocesan Council & Visioning**
 Sun. 8: **Harvest Festival and Parish Picnic**
 Sat. 14: **Diocesan Men's Conference** at the Cathedral in Pietermaritzburg

JUNE

- Thurs. 2: **Ascension Day** Ecumenical Service at St John's
 Sat. 4: **Parish Fete** (Provisional date)
 Sun. 5: **World Environment Day**
 6 - 12: **Diocesan Week of Prayer for Renewal; Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (CUC)**
 Sun. 12: **Pentecost**
 Sun. 19: **Trinity Sunday**
 Thurs. 23: **Corpus Christi Renewal of Ordination Vows (Chrism Eucharist)** at the Cathedral

- Sun. 26: **Patronal Festival**

JULY

- Sun. 10: **Mission to Seafarers**
 Fri. 22: **Parish Golf Day** (Provisional date)

AUGUST (Month of Compassion, Social Justice Season, People with Disabilities)

- Sun. 7: **Prisoners & those who minister to them**
 Tues. 9: **Diocesan Women's Day Celebration** - 9:30 at the Cathedral
 Sun. 21: **Theological Education Day**
 Sun. 28: **Confirmation** at St John's, 9:00
 29 - 31: **Elective Assembly** at St Alphege, Scottsville, for Bishop-Suffragan
 28 August - 2 October: **Season of Creation; September Embertide; Religious Life**

SEPTEMBER

- Fri. 2: **Arbour Day**
 Sun. 18: **Vocation Sunday**

OCTOBER

- Fri. 7. - Sat 8: **Diocesan Synod** (Starts about 9:00)
 Sun. 16: **Prisoners of Conscience**
 Sun. 23: **Mothers' Union Enrollment**
 Sun. 30: **Stewardship Dedication Sunday Bible Sunday**

NOVEMBER

- Thurs. 8 - Mon. 12 Nov.: **Visit of Archbishop Thabo Makgoba to the Diocese**
 Fri. 11: **Annual Rubin Philip Peace Lecture. Speaker: Archbishop Thabo Makgoba**
 Sat. 12: **Consecration of new Bishop-Suffragan** - 9:30 at the Cathedral
 Sun. 13: **Remembrance Sunday**, those who died in war
 Sun. 20: **Christ the King**
 Sat. 26: **Ordination Service** - 9:00 at the Cathedral
 Sun. 27: **Advent Sunday**
 Mon. 28 - 9 Dec.: **Conference of the Parties (COP 17)**, international climate change meeting in Durban

DECEMBER

- Sat. 24: **Christmas Eve**
 Sun. 25: **Christmas Day**

PLEASE DIARISE THESE DATES NOW