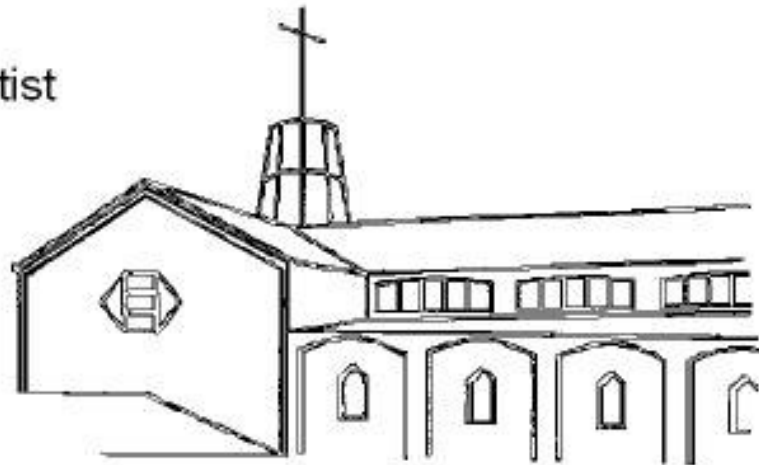


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Parish of St John the Baptist
5 Payne Street
PINETOWN 3610

Church of St John the Baptist
Advent 2006



The
LANTERN

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
John 1:1

**From the pen
of Andrew**

Dear People of the Parish of St John the Baptist

Newness

In this edition I share some perspectives on new insights and challenges we face.

New insights from reflections on six months in the parish

We have been in the parish now for six months. It's been a busy and challenging time. I have used much of this time to get to know the parish and some of its people; I hope to continue to get to know more of you over time. Thank you for the hospitality that we have received.

I have come to know our parish as a well organised and active one – many people are faithfully committed to serving God, one another and the community in this place. It is most encouraging and a sign of hope for the future.

We have a wonderfully diverse parish and, in the words of our parish vision, may we continue “celebrating our diversity.” It is my prayer that within this diversity we may experience growing unity.

The exciting challenge to us all is to continue to be open to God, to discovering more about God, to experiencing God in new ways and to broadening our faith and spirituality. Our journey of faith into the future requires that we trust God and one another as we journey together.

New Season of Advent

Advent is upon us. These weeks leading up to Christmas provide us

with a special opportunity to prepare ourselves anew for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Various services and other activities are offered to help us in these preparations. See in this newsletter for details. I draw your attention to two particular activities of significance: a Quiet Day is being offered on Saturday 9th December, 8.30 – 16.00; and on Sunday 10th December at 16.00 the annual Ecumenical Vespers will take place at Mariannahill monastery.

New ways of doing things - Arise and Build/Masisikhume Sakhe!

At the parish council meeting in October it was agreed that a group be set up to look more closely at how we at St John the Baptist can take up the diocesan *Arise and Build* vision in a more active way. The meeting of this group will provide an opportunity to look more carefully at our ministry: to review our present activities and to discover what opportunities there are for us to grow and develop further as a parish. For me, the challenge of *Arise and Build* is to seek new ways of doing things, to develop new theological insights to help us in understanding our context and to be able to respond more creatively to it. If you would like to be part of this *Arise and Build* Group, please speak to me.

New bishop to be elected

The election for a new bishop-suffragan for the diocese will take place next year on 13th February (and the following two days if needed). Any “confirmed communicants” (including clergy) may submit names of possible candidates to the Chairperson of the Elective Assembly Advisory Committee by mid December. The process leading up to and including the election should be accompanied by prayer and fasting. Bishop Rubin has declared 24th

January as a special day of prayer and fasting for this election. The representatives elected at the Vestry meeting this year to attend the Assembly are Edward Pines and Goodness Hadebe, with Eve Rainer as an alternative.

New challenges from Diocesan Synod

The Natal Diocesan Synod held on the weekend of 6-8 October went off smoothly - see Edward Pines' report about it. Copies of the resolutions and “A Call to Action” statement on social development have been passed on to parishes for discussion and possible implementation. If you would like a copy of them, please contact the parish office.

New forms - stewardship information

Thank you to all who have returned their dedicated giving and membership detail forms. If you have misplaced your forms, extra ones may be obtained from the parish office. We need these forms to update our records.

New Council – Vestry 2007

The date for the Vestry meeting next year has been set for 25th February. Please diarise it.

New birth at Christmas

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus again in our own lives, in the life of this parish, in South Africa, may we be open to all that is new that Jesus brings into our lives, church and world at this time.

Many blessings during Advent, over the Christmas Season and in 2007.

Yours in Christ
Andrew Warmback

JUST ME BY THE SEA by Nola Day

When I went along to the seaside today
There was nobody there, but me.
Nobody had come, not even to play
In the sand or swim in the sea.

I felt really sad and sat down in the sand
Tightly clasping both arms round my knees.
At first closing my eyes wiped a tear with my hand
Then looked up and felt a soft breeze.

It was early, I know, too early for some
To want to come down to the shore.
And then a surprise – for now dawn had come
I wasn't alone anymore!



There on the horizon far out in the east
God's gift, a feast for my eyes!
The sun came to greet me, my loneliness ceased
Her rays lightened my heart and the skies.

The light danced and glistened on each rolling wave
That sparkled and twinkled and rushed up to meet me
So cool and refreshing, I wished I could save
Each tiny bright starlet that came from the sea.

I stood then and watched and what could I see?
A school of sleek dolphins in unison rise
And dive as if leaping with unending glee
How could I be sad, or alone at this prize?

IsiZulu

A comment was made by one of our dear sisters that she'd like to learn some Zulu. Not an in-depth study where she'll become an academic fundi. No. Just enough to make herself understood and to interact with our Zulu brothers and sisters in their language in the everyday environment.

It would be nice if we could get together for an hour a week or so (or maybe every second week) and learn a bit about, not only the language, but the culture as well.

All that is required is a few interested "Learners" and someone to "Teach" them.

Interested in either role? Contact Eddi Wolff on 702-7081 or 072 813-9989

Parish of St. John the Baptist, Pinetown: SOME MEMORIES – PART 4 David and Irene Scogings

This is the last of four parts of Parish reminiscences of David and Irene Scogings which have taken us on a journey over more than 50 years in the lives of the Mariannridge and Pinetown congregations. We are blessed and indebted to David and Irene for sharing their interesting memories. In this part they share some curious and fascinating Cameos of Mariannridge and Pinetown.

Joe Bennett and the candle making project: In 1996, following an extensive learning experience, a cautious beginning to making church candles was started in Mariannridge with the hope that some pensioner could supplement their meager income. The "launch" began in the kitchen of unit 645 Mercury Cres, the home of the Ram family with their son, Nimrod, being the candle maker. Problems soon arose in that the kitchen was over stretched and most unfortunately the fumes had a disastrous effect on a "chesty" father. Also, the houses had no ceilings which meant a room could become very hot to the detriment of candles in storage. David then visited an old friend Joe Bennet, 61 Neptune Drive, living off a meager pension on his own. He was found at his stove cooking an enormous pot of spinach! David exclaimed, "are you Pop-eye the sailor man!". "No" he said, "what with rent, electricity, water and taxi fares there is not much left for anything else". He was eating spinach for breakfast, lunch and supper. When the project and the problems encountered were explained to him, he responded with an enthusiastic 'yes'. Joe was a man of diminutive stature with an alert inquiring mind and remarkable command of English. All went well supplying twenty five parishes. I have fond memories of our many wide ranging discussions and times together solving production problems. One Sunday morning, Joe was not at the 8.15 Eucharist. Irene suggested we call in and found him in bed in a weak state with no food in stock. Some food was bought at a nearby "tuck shop" and Irene prepared a meal and saw that he eat it. Joe

never recovered and sadly he died from a stroke. Dean Fred Pitout came to the rescue and moved the candle project to the Cathedral where the Sisters of the Community of Jesus' Compassion took it over.

Emily Stanley of 605 Mercury Crescent, a faithful communicant and great grandmother, who in her working days sold vegetables heaving heavy baskets around Pinetown and well remembered by Lay Minister Leigh Ketley. This hard work left her so very bent and getting up the endless steps, so common in Mariannridge, was done on all fours. She was a familiar sight bent, so low over her stick, making a slow painful way to church.

The Revd. Ivan Ruiters was a resident in Mariannridge before moving to Grahamstown to study for the ministry.

Lytton Crescent, the assistant parish priest's house brings back memories of pressure, external to the Parish of Pinetown, objecting to a "coloured" assistant priest, The Revd. Mervin Singh, moving into a "white" street! Mervin did move in! Later, assistant Priest, the Revd. Martin Tiffelin, occupied the house. Two lovely men who, each with their families, had much to offer in both Pinetown and Mariannridge. Thank you!

Pamela Whitby; affectionately known as Auntie Pam. When David first met Auntie Pam, she asked if he was any relation of the Revd. Scogings of St. Faith's Greyville Durban to which I replied that he was my father. She then explained that my mother had

stood in as her God Mother when she had been Baptised by my father! It was hugs all round!

Mrs Frances Bazley, who at one time presided over the distribution of food parcels to needy families, was always fully informed on all happenings in the township. If anyone tried to pull a fast one on her, they fled with the words of Proverbs 6:6 ringing in their ears!!

To witness church planting and watering is a privilege indeed, and how the New Testament letters come to life too before our very eyes in this the third millennium!!

Community Priest - Mary Rutland: In the parish of St. John the Baptist, the first Community Priest to be ordained was Mary Rutland. Mary was a trained nursing sister, and married with two children. She was a loving, compassionate person with a deep love for Jesus and it is not surprising she founded the Pinetown Voluntary Nursing Service. Mary was always available for any one needing guidance, encouragement and or prayer. She had a lovely singing voice and played the organ too. Sadly she died after a long illness during which she never spared herself.

Tail Piece: What wonderful news it was to hear that a second congregation at Christ the King of some fifty souls had come into being, at Mrs. Vuniywe's, where she also has a shelter for disabled street children. A regular Sunday celebration of the Holy Eucharist is held in her home for local residents.

DIOCESAN SYNOD 6th – 8th OCTOBER 2006

Edward Pines - Churchwarden & Synod Representative

On Friday evening the 260 Synod Members including Andrew as one of the 87 stipendiary clergy with Goodness Hadebe and myself as your elected representatives, gathered at the Cathedral in Pietermaritzberg for the opening service, a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. This was made extra special for me as the Bishop had asked me to take an active part in this service as a Lay Minister. Re-

questing people from different parishes to assist at the Synod services has become a tradition. That whole service was a wonderful occasion setting the tone for the two days that were to follow. During the opening Eucharist the Bishop delivered his charge – to the gathered members of this 114th session of Diocesan Synod in the life of our Diocese, the Synod

serves as the parliament for the Diocese.

Bishop Rubin on this occasion used the delivering of his “charge” as an opportunity to consolidate what God is already doing in the life of the Diocese, through the *Masisukume Sahlke – Arise and Build* initiative, rather than provide any fresh vision for the future.

“Looking to our Diocese a fundamental weakness in it is a lack of growth and development in many of our parishes. Yet the parishes really make up the Diocese! In fact, you can really measure the success or failure of our Diocese by the success or failure of the parishes. Hence the hope for new growth in our parishes from a response to the “Arise and Build” initiative.

This initiative is seen to have two legs – the one leg representing the interior life of the church:

- Church growth
- Discipleship
- Creative worship
- The 12 affirmations in the Parish Charter.

The other leg representing social development around 7 key focus areas:

- Health issues with a particular focus on HIV/AIDS
- Education with a particular focus on adult literacy and early childhood development
- Land and rural development
- The environment
- Peace
- Justice and reconciliation
- Refugees and displaced persons

If we ignore the world we betray the word of God which sends us out to serve the world. If we ignore the word of God we have nothing to bring to the world. Mission is the bedrock of all we are, do and say as the people of God.”

Saturday began with a service of Holy Communion at the Cathedral at 07:00, an early start for us, our own Rector preached at this service which had an environmental theme. The information corner placed by the environmental group was well visited and Andrew’s motion on climate change and our response to this, which he presented to Synod on Sunday, was well received.

Saturday morning was spent in conference considering what has been happening in the fifteen regions as a response to the “arise and build” initiative and what were possible ways forward to help achieve our goals. A statement on a ‘call to action’ was presented to Synod.

Then there was the business to complete – the acceptance of some 14 reports from schools & the acceptance of the financial reports and amendments to acts in order to retain a tax free status in line with the requirements of the new finance laws, and then election of representatives for the various committees.

Synod debated some 15 motions, including one on Saturday “that we finish the day at 1400 in order to watch the rugby” this was ruled “out of order”! Other motions, more serious, ranged from considering a “Process to Sainthood in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa” to “Aggressive behaviour in Young People” (there was a large focus on youth problems and needs throughout Synod) and there was also a motion on the “Synodical Clergy Commission” and the work it has achieved especially in the area of “community clergy” and seeking the next move forward and its next phase of work.

The Sunday liturgy, again at 07:00 had Bishop Funginkosi as celebrant and Bishop Rubin as preacher. The music at this, as at all our services was magnificent with a gentle mix of style and language. In good tradition the service went on longer than scheduled so breakfast and the start of the Synod business was later than planned.

At the close of Synod all agreed that it had been a good Synod. The very large agenda of 158 pages had been dealt with in an efficient manner by sound planning, very fair chairing by Bishop Rubin and that everyone was given an opportunity to speak and be heard. Dean Fred and his team at the cathedral had managed things extremely well in looking after our needs and hosting the Synod. The ‘Diocesan Office Staff’ are marvellous in the way in which they deal with all the paper work and administrative duties which Synod generates and demands.

I conclude by quoting again from Bishop Rubin’s opening charge – *“If we are to build God’s church through the “Arise and Build” initiative, or any other initiative, for that matter, it is in order that it might fulfil its mission to a needy world, and not in order that it might simply exist for itself. Remember: Mission is the bedrock of all we are, do and say as the people of God.”*

Andrew, Caroline, Anthony, Sue, Tracey and Innocent wish all parishioners a blessed and happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

THOUGHTS FROM MIMI ROACH

Some time ago I attended the funeral service of our dear friend and fellow Franciscan, Eleanor. If I had to give 3 words to describe her I would say 'Love', 'Humility' and 'Discipline'. As the Franciscans gathered round her coffin to recite the prayer of St. Francis, I was touched by the fact of how we all loved her and each other and, though some were black and some white, we were all one. Would that this unity could be found in the church today. We must all learn to guard our tongues, and this coming from me is quite something, BUT, small things need to be guarded against. After all, we are ten years into our democracy and there are certain words we must beware of, 'they' 'boy' and 'girl' for instance unless we mean 'boy' or 'girl'

I have walked an interesting path since I took a little black child into my house and heart in 1990, first as a foster child and then, years later, as a fully adopted son. People used to stop us in the streets, the supermarkets, and ask the most amazing questions, "Tell me about this child?" "Where did you get him?" If I answered, "He is mine" the whites invariably made comments like "why" or that lovely South African word "shame" whereas the blacks nearly all made the same reply "God bless you". If the whites really irritated me, my answer would be "from a lucky packet" or, if I really wanted to get rid of them quickly, I would say "from God".

When I was a medical student I first started thinking seriously about colour. I had grown up in a protected loving home surrounded by loving parents and black servants, who were part of our extended family. If Jim, in the kitchen, said "NO" that was what it meant and if I asked him, he would do whatever he could to

help, breakfast ready in time to catch the train, sandwiches to take with me if needed all within reason, and similarly Annie always had my clothes ready and clean. Then suddenly black medical students arrived at University, the war had started and they could not go overseas to train and now they came as fellow students and all sorts of situations arose.

Actually it was quite amusing, but for me also quite disturbing, to see fellow students, whom I had got to know in our first year, suddenly raising very silly arguments! I was confronted with a situation almost immediately. I was asked to state whether I would sit at an anatomy dissection table with a black student.

As the body was black, I could not think how anyone could even think up such a stupid question and almost the next day I was offered a lift to the station with a bunch of students and one of them was black and, when I got out, I found that the world had not caved in! There were, of course, some students who did object and then I started finding out there were students who objected to the Jews. I had always known that there were people who did not like the Afrikaners very much. And so the sorry tale went round and round and I began to realise the extent of the wonderful childhood I had had, growing up in love and with a fair amount of freedom from prejudice.

As I look back now, I see we have come a long way in our country. One finds pockets of prejudice every where and in all countries and mostly at home in the elderly whites, who grew up unthinking and felt their privileges were their rights. I notice that the school children and university students seem quite unconcerned in

their places of study. As I move around in shopping centres I find intense pleasure at the sight of black people sitting on benches where previously there were signs noting that benches were reserved 'for whites only.' It always reminded me of my eldest sister's story from Vienna at the time of the 'anschluz', where park benches were marked 'not for Jews.'

We have a new word now in our vocabulary but I am sure this is mainly an economic factor, i.e. Xenophobia, and yet even there, I feel it is a good thing. It makes us realise we are part of this vast continent of Africa and we are part of a whole.

Just recently I was in Johannesburg for a week, during the 60th anniversary celebrations of my graduation. I had some interesting experiences with local taxis and many of our eleven language groups. I felt so much part of our new society in the streets and in the stores, so much more than we ever seem to experience in Durban. It is not for nothing that we are diagnosed with the disease of Natal Fever down on the coast.

I end with an amusing story told me by my daughter who lives in Colorado, (she has taken my adopted son into her household). On their first holiday, they were camping at a lake and Peter was enjoying his favourite occupation, fishing. Colorado has very few black people, mostly Hispanics, and Peter came back from an afternoon fishing wanting to know why so many people came to speak to him.

"Well," said Molly, "I can think of two reasons, one you are black and two, you talk funny!"

Which satisfied him completely!

HOLY COMMUNION

Mary Allen

Some people have been staying in their seats rather than going up to the altar rail for Communion. They believe that the germs of a cold, chest infection, mouth ulcer or any other infection from which they are suffering, will be passed on to the next person who receives the chalice of wine.

No infection of any kind, including HIV will be transmitted by the shared chalice

1. The wine is our Lord's body, so cannot contain any impurity and alcohol destroys germs;
2. The chalice is either solid- or silver coated and this metal acts like an antibiotic. Without knowing why, for generations silversmiths have made cutlery and drinking vessels of silver because experience showed that you don't get sick if food is contained in silver.
3. If you really feel uncomfortable about receiving in the "usual" way, please take the wafer between your fingers and dip it in wine in the the chalice to 'tincture' it. Some people do this always and it's perfectly acceptable.

You are too important a part of Christ's body for you to be apart.

YOUR HANDS - A HELP IN PRAYER

May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice. Ps 141:2

I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.

1 Timothy 2:8

Written by CR Thomas and contributed by Tony Day

1. Your thumb is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.
3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.
4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.
5. And lastly comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

Out of the mouths...

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

3-year-old Paul:

"Our Father, Who does art in heaven,
Harold is His name.
Amen."

St John's Historical Record

Rob Niemeyer

The project to prepare and develop a written historical record of the long and colourful history of St John's, is well under way. The steering committee that oversees the project meets regularly and there is strong participation by members of the congregation.

A basic outline of the book has been developed and is divided into an initial five chapters, each covering specific periods from the early 1800's through to 2006. Each chapter will be managed by a team leader in order to spread the work load. A rough guideline of possible themes and issues within each chapter has also been identified along with possible sources of information. The five chapters may well be expanded, based on the amount of information being available. The Revd Sue Britton has accepted the post of coordination assistant for the project. Sue will liaise with the team leaders and coordinate the research effort among the teams. The objective is to prevent duplication of work and to identify information of value to the various teams. It is anticipated that when obtaining research material, material will be found that refers to more than one chapter. The relevant material should be distributed to those teams to obviate the need for them to duplicate the effort in obtaining it. As there is a fair amount of overlap between chapters, we envisage a high degree of interaction and cooperation between the teams.

Research for each chapter will be coordinated by a team leader, who will arrange for a rough draft of the chapter to be prepared. The content of each chapter will be re-

viewed by the steering committee and the completed chapters will then be edited into final book form along with the relevant photos, copies of documents etc.

It has been most encouraging and gratifying to see the interest among members of the congregation for the project. Three members of the congregation have volunteered so far to become team leaders, each taking on a chapter. These team leaders are:

Ann Gosling	Chapter 4	1902-1956
Colin Mann	Chapter 2	1856-1878
Bill Judd	Chapter 3	1879-1902

There are members of the congregation have also offered their services in various ways - to visit institutions to obtain research material; to do typing; to provide their own personal material and to do proof reading. There are also members who are willing to take on specific tasks as and when required.

Ideally, we need another two team leaders for the two outstanding chapters.

Chapter 1	Up to 1855
Chapter 5	1956 -2006

If you are interested, please contact me on 701 4098. Similarly, if you have any information you think might be of interest or know someone who may have information, please do not hesitate to let me know.

BUY ORGANIC, AND OTHER FOOD ISSUES; CLEAN AND GREEN HOUSE MAINTENANCE AND DECORATING

*an excerpt from the Earthlife Africa Toxics Group publication
contribution from Delise Coad*

Buying organic is more than just having healthy food for yourself and your family – this also means less chemical on farms; workers not being exposed to pesticides and herbicides, and of course good nutrition for all.

For the sake of your health, and that of the planet, one should eat less meat. It takes 2,500 litres of water and up to 17 kg of vegetable protein to make 1 kg of meat. This poor use of our protein resources is partly the reason why we have world hunger. One-third of all fish caught is fed to land based animals as stock-feed – what a waste!

Cook in a non-aluminium pot – although not conclusively proven, aluminium pots are believed to contribute to Alzheimers Disease. If you have to use aluminium pots, avoid metal spoons, so that aluminium is not scraped into your food. If you use enamel pots, stop using them once you see the metal, as the rust will contaminate your food.

Use oil instead of fat, and if you can afford it, oils such as olive and peanut are very good for you. There is no real benefit using margarine or butter – the manufacturing process for margarine is questionable, as some of the waste it produces is flammable. Not too healthy!

Try to eat red meat no more than twice a week, and white meat no more than twice a week. Eat more vegetables.

Wash all non organic vegetables and fruit thoroughly to remove pesticides, herbicides and hormones. Rather scrub vegetables instead of peeling as most of the nutrition is close to the surface.

Clean and green

Most household cleaning can be done with a half and half mixture of vinegar and water, or liquid soap and baking soda. Use baking soda and hot water for basins, baths and tile cleaning. Use banking soda and vinegar for cleaning drains, or hydrogen peroxide available from a chemist.

For hand dish washing use a plain soap (cheap bar soaps) or non-phosphate “green” dishwashing liquids. A slice of fresh lemon in the rinse water will leave your dishes sparkling.

For automatic dishwashers, use equal parts borax and baking soda – you will be amazed how well it works, and how much you will save.

FANNY CROSBY: 24.03.1820 – 12.01.1915

Blind Gospel Writer

Submitted by Pat Brooker – extracted from the insert to the CD

On “Swop Sunday” we were inspired by the message from Revd Bernice Stott on our spiritual blindness, turning a blind-eye to situations in life and the need to “take time out”. The Gospel reading was about blind Bartameus and amazingly, we had commenced worship with a song written by a blind songwriter – Fanny Crosby. This is one of my “favourites” (which I will sing along gustily *with* you at my own memorial one day!) - “TO GOD BE THE GLORY”. “Fanny” – born Frances Jane Crosby to a proud, revolutionary period family, brought up on tales of courage, patriotism and heroism, suffered an eye infection at six weeks of age. This was ineptly treated by a quack country doctor, resulting in blindness. Despite her blindness, she had a strong, exuberant faith in Christ. At 15, she entered the Institution for the Blind in New York City, where she studied for 12 years, going on to become a teacher at the same school for 13 years. She married Alexander Van Alstyne, a blind musician, in 1858. Her first poem was published at eight years of age and reflected her outlook on life. Stories related to her songs abound. Amazingly, she relied on her phenomenal memory, as her poems were composed and edited in her mind – then dictated. She would listen to stories related to her and had the rare ability to “see” the scene in her mind’s eye. She also had the ability to quickly “hear” what words a particular melody was saying. e.g. One day she listened to a melody played two or three times on the piano

and within a few minutes had written “*Blessed Assurance*”.

Her autobiographies were never self-pitying. Her rich expressions of faith in hymns were lived out in a remarkably normal life. Her entire life was a matter-of-fact confidence in Christ. She was a totally committed Christian worker with an active social conscience and a deep concern for the “have nots” of her day, helping in many of the evangelistic missions working among the “down and outs” in the city – all of this despite the fact that sometimes she found herself without money for her own immediate needs.

Her own view on her blindness reveals the reason for her own great faith in her Saviour “If perfect earthly sight were offered to me tomorrow, I would not accept it.... Although it may have been a blunder on the physician’s part, it was no mistake of God’s. I verily believe it was His intention that I should live my days in physical darkness, so as to be better prepared to sing His praises and incite others so to do. I could not have written thousands of hymns, ... if I had been hindered by the distractions of seeing all the interesting and beautiful objects that would have been presented to my notice.”

She died just before her 95th birthday. She had written 9 000 hymns and poems in her lifetime and there are over 60 of these still in use in churches throughout the world. (She humbly accepted \$2 for each of her hymnal compositions and deliberately chose to live simply and soberly.)

Some songs that will probably be familiar to you include: *Tell me the Story of Jesus, Blessed Assurance, Near the Cross, Rescue the Perishing, Close to Thee, Jesus is Tenderly Calling Thee Home, Safe in the Arms of Jesus, Saved by Grace, Whispers of Love and The Blind Girl.* "More than any other songwriter, Fanny Crosby captured the heart of the Gospel in song in the latter half of the 19th Century. In turn, she captured the hearts of millions with her simple yet meaningful gospel songs. She devoted her long, fruitful life to the music ministry by transposing the great spiritual truths of the Christian faith into singable

rhyme and melody. Fully persuaded of those truths, her life radiated the blessed assurance she enjoyed." (*Paul Davis – Executive Producer of "Whispers of Love – memories of Fanny Crosby" * - sung by George Hamilton.*)

The "poor little blind girl" became a highly competent poet with stunning memory and worldwide influence. She became one of the best-known personalities in 19th century America and her catchy tunes and simple, yet deeply meaningful words still strike chords in our hearts today.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP SAVE THE PLANET

The website for Al Gore's film *An Inconvenient Truth*, which opened in South Africa recently, lists a Top 10 for ordinary people to do to save our world.

- **Recycle more:** You can save 5,280 kg of carbon dioxide (CO₂) a year by recycling ½ household waste.
- **Buy recycled paper products:** It takes 70% to 90% less energy to make recycled paper and it prevents the loss of forests worldwide.
- **Plant a tree:** A single tree will absorb one ton of CO₂ over its lifetime.
- **Drive less:** Walk, cycle or carpool. You'll save 2,2 kg of CO₂ for every kilometer you don't drive.
- **Check your tyres weekly to make sure they're properly inflated:** Proper inflation can improve petrol mileage by more than three percent, and every litre of petrol saved keeps 44 kg of CO₂ out of the atmosphere.
- **Change a light:** Replacing a regular bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb will save 330 kg of CO₂ annually.
- **Use less hot water:** It takes a lot of energy to heat water. You can use less hot water by installing a low flow showerhead (770 kg of CO₂ saved per year) and

washing your clothes in cold or warm water (1,100 kg saved per year).

- **Avoid products with excessive packaging:** You can save 2,640kg of CO₂ if you reduce your waste by 10%.
- **Be part of the solution:** Learn more and get active at www.climatecrisis.net.

Did you know that there is an organization called Timber Plastics that makes numerous items from 100% recycled plastic, e.g. garden furniture, benches, Jungle Gyms, Balustrades, compost bins, fencing, pavilion seating, pallets, flooring and many other items. These goods have a minimum of 60 years lifespan and are environment friendly.

There is a recycling depot called "RE" that accepts plastic for this purpose and they are based at 4 RAILWAY STREET, PINETOWN AND 80 WILLIAMS ROAD IN DURBAN.

NOW you can recycle your plastic bottles, clear plastic food packaging, 21 coldrink bottles, Energade, fruit juice and milk bottles and any plastic container that has a little triangle on the bottom of the container with either the number "1" or "2" in the middle. They will also accept scrap metal, ferrous and non ferrous for recycling.

ORIGIN OF REMEMBRANCE DAY - 11 NOVEMBER

Submitted by the Heritage Group

- Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, (the S.A. Author of "*Jock of the Bushveld*"), was British High Commissioner in S.A. During the First World War. In November 1919 he wrote to Lord Milner – then Secretary of State for War, calling for action to be initiated in remembering the fallen.
- This was forwarded to King George V and on 7 November, a declaration appeared in the press, whereby the King called for a 2-minute suspension of all duties at 11 A.M. on 11 November, the anniversary of Armistice Day.
- This time of remembering has been practiced ever since, with the exception of the period of the 2nd World War.
- The Sunday closest to 11th November is observed as Remembrance Day, when war veterans, survivors and those who lost loved ones in wars gather to remember those whose lives have been lost – not only during the 1st and 2nd World Wars, but in the various conflicts since then.
- Poppies are sold on the Saturday preceding Remembrance Day in aid of British Legion funds. (See story below.)
- On 11th November each year, the anniversary of Armistice Day, denoting the end of the Great War (1st World War), a 2-minute silence is held at 11:00 as a time of remembrance and reflection.

The words often used at Remembrance Services are from a poem by Lawrence Binyon "For the Fallen", written in 1915

*"They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn them.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We shall remember them."*

ORIGIN OF THE POPPY

- ❖ Legend has it that the poppies of Europe bloomed white up until 1918, but have bloomed red ever since – especially in the fields of Flanders, an area of great blood-shed in the Great War.
- ❖ Madame Guerin of the French Legion launched the idea of the Poppy in 1921. She approached Col. Crosfield of the British Legion with the idea of making and selling 'poppies'.
- ❖ He wasn't too keen, but took a million and raised £100,000 – a substantial sum in those days. In 1925, sales of Poppies for Remembrance Day topped the £500,000mark.
- ❖ Funds are used to provide for those who have suffered from the effects of war.
- ❖ A factory in Richmond, West of London, still produces the Poppies sold for Remembrance Day each year.

DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD PARCELS TO AIDS/HIV FAMILIES

Luise Joubert

What does happen to the 92 food parcels that are packed and stored in the cupboard in the kitchen every month?

Our AIDS Support Group (registered officially as *Ukukhuthaza*) meets once a month and a few years ago we made a rule that those who wanted food parcels must come to the meetings.

This sounds reasonable until you realise that most of those who come get to St John's by taxi or bus. The packets weigh about 10 kg each. Can you imagine getting to a bus stop or taxi rank with even one packet let alone 10 or more? So in practice we apply the rule to the extent that the members must make some arrangements.

Who comes to the meetings? They come from seven areas: Nazareth, Mariannridge, Kwandengezi, Klaarwater, Tshelimnyama, Clermont and Hammarsdale. Mostly they are Community Health Workers and carers who know those infected or affected families in their area. Some came as they had been told about the fact that as a church we want to help. Over the years some of those who came originally dropped out for various reasons and were replaced by others who may have been sent by their Rector after the breakdown of communications.

Some time during 2005 Christopher from St Stephen's in Kwandengezi came at the suggestion of his Rector. His coming has made a tremendous difference as he now comes to help pack on a Saturday morning and brings some willing helpers – and he

comes with own car and can take the parcels allocated to Klaarwater and Kwandengezi with him. He leaves the parcels at the clinics from where they are given to the people who come. He has brought us some records of the affected families.

Ann, who comes regularly, is from Christ the King – she too comes to help with the packing and can take the number allocated to Mariannridge back with her.

Sandy Wallace kindly takes those allocated to Nazareth and leaves them at Mavis Giyose's home. Mavis is quite adamant that no parcel should go to a family who have not disclosed that they are HIV infected and she still makes sure that they go to the families that need them most urgently.

Sr Dorah runs the Clinic in Hammarsdale and, with the help of a member of her congregation, can take away the parcel allocated to the area. She gives me an accurate record of the people whom she helps by giving them a food parcel.

This leaves the vast area of Clermont, right on our doorstep. At the end of the monthly meeting (after 7 on a Tuesday evening), Wendy Jones takes a load full of food parcels and clothes and as many passengers as she can fit into her car, to St Andrew's in Clermont. From there Winnie, who does so much in her community, distributes the parcels to those who need them most – every month she gives me details concerning those who receive a parcel. Vusi is also from St Andrew's and goes to outlying areas under great difficulties

– he is a carer and without an income so he struggles to distribute the parcels to the people who need them.

We have all the details of those who receive food parcels on file and would gladly show them to any one interested.

At the meetings we arrange visiting days and we try to combine visiting families with taking parcels – in this way Wendy Rochat goes to Clermont regularly and takes a few parcels to one of our faithful members and goes with her so see a number of families. Recently Gugu walked down the very steep hill balancing a food parcel on her head!

Pat Brooker has taken on Tshelimnyama and meets Elsie the CHW there. She generally goes with Elsie and they deliver the parcels where the families are very pleased to see them, as they have probably waited for their next parcel to arrive.

Whenever we are taken to the homes where a parcel is delivered, the carer mentions that the parcels are donated by the parish of St John's Church and always there is a word of thanks and appreciation.

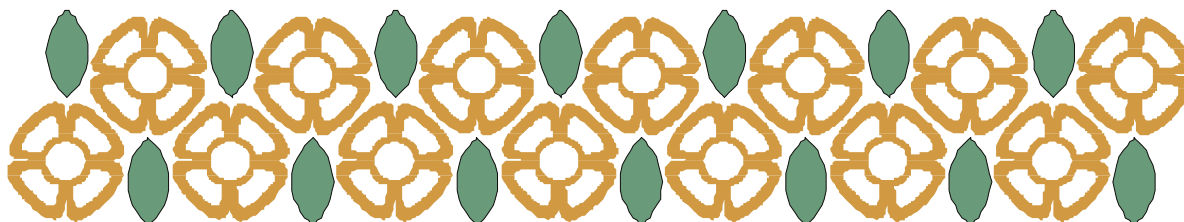
There is a great demand for more parcels but our finances do not allow this apart from the mere logistics of purchasing, packing and storage – and transport. In many cases one parcel must last for two or three months until the next one arrives.

In the end we realise that all we do is a mere drop in the ocean. We hope that the little we do, does make a difference.

ADVENT CALENDAR FOR ST JOHN'S

Advent Sunday	3 rd December	7 & 9am 6pm	Holy Eucharist Services Advent Carol Service at St John's
Advent II	10 th December	7 & 9am 4pm	Holy Eucharist Services Ecumenical Advent Vespers at Mariannahill Monastery
Advent III	17 th December	7 & 9am 6pm	Holy Eucharist Services Christmas Carol Service at St John's
Saturday	23 rd December	10am 2pm – 5pm	Decorating the church Confessions at St John's
Advent IV	24 th December	7 & 9am 4pm 11.15pm	Holy Eucharist Services Christmas Nativity Play at St John's Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist at St John's
Christmas Day	25 th December	8am	Holy Eucharist at St John's
Christmas I	31 st December	7 & 9am	Holy Eucharist Services

Note that the Parish Office will be closed after Christmas and will reopen on Tuesday 2nd January



LET'S BE BOLD AS CHRISTIANS!

Anthony Castleden

We are told that South Africa has the best constitution worldwide which is structured around Human Rights. Besides other things, the constitution entrenches an individual's rights to freedom of expression, religion, association, etc. And what mention is there of God's rights?

There is a fine line between intolerance and tolerance, whether in spheres of culture, sexuality or religion. Remember we are called by Christ to 'go and make disciples of all nations' [Matt 28:19a] and reaching out to others in love and sensitivity is what Christ calls us to do. This calls for ministry drawing on God's power for loving care, concern for others in Jesus' name and for sensitivity through the Holy Spirit in all our proclamation of the Good News that all mankind is loved by God.

From next year the SA Post Office will no longer issues Christmas stamps. Are we Christians afraid to proclaim for our faith lest we give offence? Is the stand that the Gospel calls us to take for Christ being chipped away at, in yet another small way?

An excerpt from the Editorial in The SA Philatelist - June 2006

One point in the philatelic world that will upset a number of collectors is the decision by the SA Post Office to remove Christmas stamps from the stamp issuing programme after December 2006. The argument is that they are unable to accommodate all the other religions in the country in a similar manner, so Christmas stamps must go! This in a country where more than two thirds of the population claim to be Christians of one denomination or another. If anyone wishes to comment, they can do so to the Stamp Advisory Committee on wigstdj@unisa.ac.za.
Dr. Alan Rose

A shortened letter to the editor The SA Philatelist Aug 2006: Those 'irregular' Christmas stamps

Dear Editor

The concern of The SA Philatelist about the discontinuation of 'Christmas stamp' issues for South Africa, as voiced [recently refers]. South Africa should not have had Christmas stamps in the first place. [The Post Office's policy on the issuing of stamps, ratified in 1996, has a] heading 'Exclusions' covering nine specified subjects. I quote:

"Exclusions -The following subjects will be specifically excluded from depiction upon South African stamps and postal products:

- ❖ Anniversaries or events connected with religious organisations, political parties, commercial enterprises, brand name products, or subjects appertaining to sectarian interest groups:"

There you have it, no religious subjects on stamps.

J Groenewald, RDPSA, Pretoria



This year's Christmas stamp issue does not depict the Christian message of the Birth of Christ - instead liberty has been taken with the festive song "Jingle Bells" and changed for the stamp issue to "Jungle Bells". The stamps depict caricatures of some of our animals. Pretty, but not as profound as the coming of Almighty God's only Son into our world! Amusing, but not amazing as the gift of Jesus to all people of the earth!



A CHALLENGE TO CHRISTIANS AT CHRISTMAS

- ❖ For overseas mail, use the Christmas Aerogram with the picture of the Star of Bethlehem
- ❖ Use a Christ-centred Christmas label on your Christmas mail, sticking it elsewhere than in the 'stamp position'
- ❖ Send Christmas cards with a Christian message and theme – does a Robin with a sprig of Mistletoe proclaim Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem?
- ❖ Put Christ back into Christmas; not coins into the cash register
- ❖ Remember that **Jesus is the reason for the season!!**

ST JOHN'S PARISH QUIET DAY

Join us at Koinonia for a day of quiet Reflection, Spiritual Refreshing and Upliftment.

Let us relax and recharge our batteries before the frantic rush that seems to have become the run-up to Christmas in this modern world. Let's reflect on the real meaning of the Mass of Christ, of God's greatest Gift to us, His Son whose name is Emmanuel "God with us", on Mary who bore Him and on Joseph's faithful obedience to God.

Tea / Coffee will be provided – please bring your own lunch, your Bible and a Journal.
 Note that there is **no cost** otherwise. The programme will include a time of Circle Dancing.

Venue Koinonia. Don't know where it is?? Meet us in St John's Car-park and follow us
Date and Time Saturday 9th December. Leave St John's at 08h30 or meet at Koinonia at 09h00
For more Information Phone Eddi Wolff on 702-7081 or 072 813-9989

Booking is essential to enable us to plan. Please fill in the form that will be included in the pew bulletin in the weeks ahead.

If you want to get to Koinonia on your own steam but don't know how to get there, ask Eddi for a map.

ENVIRONMENTAL WEBSITES

Many of the sites have interesting links as well.

- climatecrisis.net Al Gore's site. Film on circuit - "An Inconvenient Truth"
- greenpeace.org Up to date info on their campaigns
- earthday.net/footprint Check your imprint on our planet and be prepared to be shocked !!!
- projectearth.com Outstanding. Recognises we have damaged the environment & points the way forward.
- planetdiary.com Monitors and records what is really happening on the planet.
- arkive.org Sponsored by the Wildscreen Trust - sponsors : HRH Prince Philip, Sir David Attenborough, Prof. O.E. Wilson (author of "The Future of Life".)
- arcworld.org Site of **ARC – Alliance of Religions & Conservation** (see articles : "Leading the Way on Climate Change" and "The Sacred Trust between us and our Creator")
- envirolink.org Huge site focusing on **personal involvement** in environmental issues.
- climateark.org Largest and most comprehensive source of info on **Climate Change**
- meeti.org.za Site for the Minerals & Energy Training Institute
- panda.org Official site for the World Wide Fund for Nature. Very informative.
- bornfree.co.uk Zoo Check. Promotes belief that wild life belongs in the wild.
- earthobservatory.nasa.gov NASA site. Outstanding photography and detailed information on the environment.
- africam.com Cameras at water holes etc. Registration required.
- waterconserve.org
- rainforest.org



NEXT LANTERN EDITION

The next edition will be issued on 28th Jan 2007.
 Please get material to Anthony Castleden by 7th January 2007 for it to be included in this edition.
DO REMEMBER THAT THE LANTERN IS FOR YOU! ARTICLES AND SNIPPETS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

Are you ready to greet God's Son this Advent?

No God - No Peace.
 Know God - Know Peace.

LANTERN DATES FOR 2007

No	ISSUE DATE	DEADLINE
1	28 th Jan	7 th Jan
2	11 th Mar	10 th Feb
3	27 th May	6 th May
4	22 nd July	1 st July
5	16 th Sept	24 th Aug
6	4 th Nov	14 th Oct

CHALLENGES - Eddi Wolff

What are some of the biggest Challenges that are facing us today?? A hole in the Ozone Layer? The Greenhouse effect caused by ever-increasing CO₂ emissions? Global warming, crazy weather and rising ocean levels? Revolution, Wars, Warlords?

Yes, all of the above and then some.

Newspaper headlines are forever screaming words at us that are not new. Words such as **Crime, Violence, Rape, Abuse** etc. have been with us since the beginning of time. Nowadays, of course, the words are reinforced by graphic pictures thrown into our living rooms by that little square box that can be found in most homes.

This does not mean, however that we have to helplessly shrug our shoulders and accept what is happening around us. When we tolerate the intolerable, we are defeated. Paul, in his second letter to Timothy, tells us what the last days will be like. See how much of today's world you recognise when you read Chapter 3 from verses 2 to 7. Now read the rest of Paul's letter and find the wisdom that will give you strength and courage to face today's challenges with Jesus at your side (and in you).

There is, however, one Challenge that is out there but largely ignored because in most instances it does not affect us. It's someone else's problem. For us it is a minor issue and we may as well print it in small letters, HIV/AIDS. Yes, in many cases it is brought on by sinful living, but then let's not judge too harshly because we're all sinners and the plank in our

eye may be just a little bit bigger than the splinter in the other's.

But, and this is a big **BUT**, there are those who've done nothing to create the misery in which they find themselves. These are the ones whose lives have only just begun but who are already knee-deep in the suffering caused by our "New World" society. In his Gospel, John tells us that we who have accepted Jesus as our Saviour, have the 'Right to become Children of God'. He's our Father. Every time we go to the Altar to receive the Sacraments we receive Jesus anew and, when we walk away from the Altar, He is in us. When He is in us, we are a part of Him and we are His tools - head, heart, eyes, ears, mouth, arms, hands, legs and feet. We are His disciples. What did Jesus have to say about the little children in Matthew 19:14, in Mark 10:14, in Luke 18:16? He rebuked His disciples for trying to send the children away and told them in no uncertain terms that the "Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these". How then, can we, as His disciples, send them away?

At St John's, you dear Brothers and Sisters are already doing your bit to help these little ones with the funding of food parcels, the donations of clothing etc. and the sponsoring of Orphans. And this is where we are Challenged to take the next step forward and grow this ministry.

We are in the process of creating a data-base that will become the link between Child and Sponsor. The function of the data-base will be to keep you, as the Sponsor, in touch with your child in a personal way.

You, as a Sponsor, will be invited, in a spirit of Love, to "adopt a child long-distance" as it were. Not legally adopt, but in your heart. You will have the satisfaction of knowing that your child is benefiting from your sponsorship in a meaningful manner. It is our intention to get this up and running early in 2007 and as the project is still in its infancy (no pun intended), all we ask for at this stage, is an indication from yourselves that you may be willing to participate. Even a "maybe" will give us some idea of the Vision we will develop. This is not "another project" but an extension of our "Ukukhutaza" and "Orphans" ministries. For more information about how to get you onto the data-base, phone Eddi or Delysia Wolff at 702-7081 or 072 813-9989.

There is the story of the little boy walking along the beach where thousands of starfish had washed up and were slowly dying in the harsh sunlight? Well, the little boy was picking them up and throwing them back into the sea when a man walking towards him, asked:

"What are you doing?"
 "I'm throwing them back into the sea - otherwise they'll die" answered the little boy
 "Ha! You can't throw them all back. You're wasting your time. What you're doing won't make any difference."

The boy looked at him, picked up a starfish, threw it back into the sea and said:

"I made a difference to that one."

Let's make a difference and, in so doing, show the Love of Jesus!!

I asked God and He said

I asked God to take away my habit.

God said, No. It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.

God said, No. His spirit is whole, his body is only temporary

I asked God to grant me patience.

God said, No. Patience is a byproduct of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is learned.

I asked God to give me happiness.

God said, No. I give you blessings; Happiness is up to you.

I asked God to spare me pain.

God said, No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me.

I asked God to make my spirit grow.

God said, No. You must grow on your own! But I will prune you to make you fruitful.

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life.

God said, No. I will give you life, so that you may enjoy all things.

I ask God to help me LOVE others, as much as He loves me.

God said...Ahhhh, finally you have the idea. "To the world you might be one person, but to one person you just might be the WORLD!"