



THE BELL

The Voice of St John the Baptist, Pinetown

Jesus prayed: "I have given them the glory that You gave me, that they may be one as we are one."
John 17:22

From the Rector

Dear People of St John's

Resurrection People

We have recently celebrated the resurrection, the central component of our faith. And we commit ourselves to being the people of the resurrection, loving one another and our neighbour and rejoicing in the hope we have.

New Members

We have been blessed with a number of new families and individuals joining our parish this year (we will list them in the next edition of The Bell). An attractive and helpful booklet has been produced which sets out the activities and ministries of our church. Also, when people now join they are given a time and talents stewardship form as well as a Dedicated Giving form.

Giving and Faith

It is our intention that people have the opportunity throughout the year to offer themselves for ministry in the church as well as to join the Dedicated Giving scheme. As far as Dedicated Giving goes we have set the target for new givers this year at 30 (we

currently have about 205). If you do not give to God's work in this way please consider joining up. There are forms for this at the back of the church or you can phone into the parish office to get one. Our giving is an important part of the exercise of our faith.

Getting to know one another

In our Spirit of Growth focus this year we continue to look at ways in which we can get to know and understand one another, particularly in the cultural and other differences that we have. The parish council is making a start among themselves by taking time each meeting to share "where we have come from". Look out for other opportunities to share in this experience.

Easter Offering

Together with Alison and Dominic I am most grateful for the generous Easter Offering we have received and for the on-going love and support from the parish.

With love

Revd Dr Andrew Warmback

ECUMENICAL GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 2010

Revd Caroline Beech

We travelled through the Durban streets, unfamiliarly empty and cool in the early morning light. Taizé words and music met us as we entered the Durban Exhibition Centre. The unadorned cross was carried in with great solemnity by a group of teenagers and we settled down to listen to our Archbishop Thabo Makhoba preach urgently into the 2010 theme: 'Creation - crucified by Greed'.

The cross was carried out into the streets, borne initially by clergy and ministers and bishops. We walked, 12 abreast, slowly, reverently, in silence, through streets normally bustling with noisy traffic and hurrying pedestrians. Every so often we would stop, and a new designated group would take over the carrying of the cross. And then we stopped again, and the whisper ran down the lines "St John's, St John's, come up front" and we took our turn shouldering the cross, rounding the corner into Aliwal Street. A little further on, and we stopped again, relinquishing our place to the next team. The silence was punctuated by birds and distant traffic and our marching feet, and filled with our prayers and thoughts and ponderings.

Eventually we reached journey's end in front of City Hall where the cross was laid down and 'flowered' by people streaming forward. At the end the cross was lifted up, transformed into an African veld blowing with grasses and flowers. We sang some wonderful hymns:.. "Oh for a 1000 trees to sing ..." "Oh gracious God, when I in awesome wonder, consider all the worlds thy hand hast made ..."

And then it was all over. People mixed and greeted old friends and new. We met our Archbishop whose warmth of greeting to each individual touched us all deeply.



Archbishop Thabo with St John's people at the procession.

FUNDRAISING - BOOK SALES

- Every Sunday after the 9am service.
- Second-hand books on sale for R5 each
Enjoy 30 books for the price of one new one!
- Read it and bring it back to be 'sold' again.
- All unwanted books welcome – just bring them to the church.



PARISH FINANCES

You may have noticed the two black columns labeled "Income" and "Expenses" on the notice board at the back of the church. The gold and red stripes across each column represent the monthly budget, and each section, month by month, is covered with a coloured block indicating the actual monthly amounts. Thus our actual income and expenses are plotted against budget, and discrepancies can easily be seen. As at the end of march, you will see that expenses are on budget and that there is a very small deficit, as income is slightly behind. Of course, as long as our income is only keeping pace with expenses, we cannot begin to address our large accumulated deficit.

Compost Heap at the Church

A reminder that this is for grass cuttings only.

UKUKHUTHAZA

Barbara McAlpin

Ukukhuthaza has been "independent" of St John's for well over a year now, and has been managing to fill 100 food parcels every month. We depend on the generosity of our fellow parishioners and overseas donors, one of whom gives us at least R800 every month. We are trying to source funds from Be More, a Dutch organisation, but this is proving to be a lengthy process. Last year we held a fundraising auction, which raised approximately R8000. This has kept our finances above water for a year, but now we find ourselves in the situation where, if we do not find any extra money during the coming months, we will not be able to fill the 100 parcels. The full parcels that are offered at the altar every month on AIDS Sunday are a huge help, and for the Harvest festival we have appealed for offerings of contents for the parcels. Even so, our finances are in a serious situation. We hesitate to ask the congregation for more, as everyone is so generous already, but perhaps newcomers would like to take a pamphlet on Sunday morning and learn more about our work. Apart from giving money or food, if anyone is willing to help us with fundraising, we would be most grateful. We will try not to clash with the fundraising efforts of the church, but will have separate, different functions. People to help in these efforts are desperately needed, as most of our members work in the surrounding townships and are unable to offer much practical help.

I heard about a 7 year-old who phoned his granny, a doctor, and told her: "Granny, my dream is to become a doctor like you, so that I can help people." This child has two loving parents, and is attending a good school, so, although they are not well off, it is possible for that dream to come true. It made me wonder, what are the dreams of our AIDS orphans? A living parent? A full tummy before bedtime? A warm bed? To be able to concentrate on schoolwork without worrying about younger siblings in his/her care? These are things which every child has a right to, but so many do not have. The need is so great, and we are so small. We can only do what we can, in this instance provide basic food for the next meal, and we are privileged to be able to help, even in a small way. Let's all work together to try and make some children's dreams come true.

FROM THE REGISTER

Deaths: Mesuli Seme, died on 8 April
Myrtle Lewis, died on 8 April

SUNDAY TEAS

Every Sunday after the 9am service, we enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit while catching up with old friends and making new ones.

Is everyone aware that the milk and biscuits are provided, not by the church but by the individuals pouring tea that day? Please put your donation in the basket provided; the proceeds go, not to covering the costs, but to The Open Door Crisis Centre at the end of the year.

WOMEN'S GROUP: Following on from the Women's Day breakfasts, further interest has been shown in establishing a Women's Group. If you are interested in being part of such a group, please contact Alison Warmback on 031 702 1065 or 083 611 1820. All women are welcome.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Sat 1 May** ▶▶ 08:00 – 12:00 Work party for church maintenance
▶▶ 09:00 Diocesan Youth Celebration at the Cathedral in Pietermaritzburg
- Sun 2 May** ▶▶ Harvest Festival – please bring home-grown vegetables or contents for AIDS food parcels
▶▶ Parish Picnic at Koinonia Conference Centre after 9am service - transport leaving from the church at 11:00. See list at back of church.
- Sat 8 May** Parish Leaders' Retreat
- Thurs 13 May** 19:00 Ecumenical Ascension Day Service at St John's.
- Sat 15 May** Archdeaconry Environmental Group meeting at St Agnes, Kloof, starting at 9.00am.
- 16 – 23 May** **Week of Prayer for Renewal**
- Wed 19 May** Bishop Rubin visiting the parish for prayer (10.00)
- Fri 21 May** Progressive Dinner fundraiser in our hall
- Sun 23 May** Pentecost
- Sun 6 June** World Environment Day focus
- Sun 27 June** Patronal Festival – **ONE SERVICE AT 08:00**
- Sun 29 August** Confirmation and licensing of a lay minister
- Wed 29 Sept – Sat 2 Oct** Provincial Synod, Benoni
- Sun 24 October** Dedication / Stewardship Sunday
- Sat 30 October** Parish Fete

ANSELM, who we remembered on 21st April, was Archbishop of Canterbury. He died in 1109 and is buried in Canterbury Cathedral in England. Here is a short story about him from a book about saints published in 1914:

Anselm excelled as a teacher. Some insight into his methods may be gathered from a conversation with a neighbouring abbot, which his biographer Eadmer has reported. The abbot complained that the boys in his monastery were incorrigible, and, though beaten day and night, only grew worse. "Do you beat them?" said Anselm, "and what kind of creatures are they when they grow up?" "Stupid and brutal," was the reply. "You are indeed unfortunate," said Anselm, "if you only succeed in turning men into beasts." "But what can we do? We constrain them in every possible way, but it is no use." "Constrain them, my lord abbot?" said Anselm; "if you planted a young tree in your garden and then confined it on every side so that its branches could not spread, would it not turn out a strange, misshapen thing when at last you set it free, and through your own fault? These children have been planted in the garden of the Church to grow and bear fruit for God. But you cramp them so with threats and punishments that their tempers are spoilt, and they become sullen and resist all correction." The abbot, we are told, took the advice in good part, and resolved to change his methods.

A good piece of advice for ourselves also, even though it is 900 years old.

A VERSION OF PARADISE: A series on religious responses to climate change shown recently on SABC2. The Environment Group is hosting a viewing of these DVD's. They are each 1 hour long and will be shown on four Sunday evenings from 17:30 – 18:30 : 25 July, 1 Sept., 8 Sept., and 15 Sept. All welcome!