



BELL

The Voice of St John the Baptist, Pinetown

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me . Psalm 51:10

From the Rector

Dear People of St John's

Ministry as Archdeacon

As you are aware, Bishop Rubin appointed me as Archdeacon of Pinetown from 1 March. According to the Canons (15), "[t]he main function of the Archdeacon is to share in the pastoral ministry and missionary leadership of the Bishop, in the area to which the Archdeacon is appointed." The work also includes ensuring there is an annual examination of parish financial records, inventory of property and the fabric of the church. I welcome this additional ministry. Our archdeaconry is a large one and incorporates the parishes of Hammarsdale, Hillcrest, Kloof, Queensburgh, Mariannridge, Umhlatzazana, Clermont and Westville as well as Pinetown. The area also includes "The Valley".

My admission of churchwardens and parish councillors to their offices means that I will from time to time not be in the parish on Sundays, as will be the case over the next few weeks. I will also be required to attend meetings of chapter and other archdeaconry and diocesan meetings. I am grateful to our wardens and clergy who will need to take on extra responsibilities in the parish. I look forward to taking on this additional ministry, and sharing more meaningfully in the leadership of the church in this diocese.

Welcome to Sean

It is a pleasure to welcome the Revd Sean Semple to the clergy team in this parish. He will serve on a self-supporting basis. Sean brings a variety of gifts and experience that will no doubt enrich our parish. We welcome too his wife, Cath, and their sons, Kyle and Lex.

Holy week and Easter

This is a special time in the life of our church. A variety of services, based at St John's as well as those that are ecumenical, are provided. I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities for worship, reflection and celebration.

A well known prayer from Ephesians (3:16-17):

I pray that, according to the riches of God's glory, God may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power with God's Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

Yours in Christ

Andrew Warmback

PARISH VISITING DURING LENT

Doreen Böhmer

Lent is a time of fasting. We need to fast from some things, setting that time aside to do something for others. Can you make the time to visit someone in need in our church or would you like to be visited?

Please pray the Lord's blessing as we reach out to the people of St. John's. Allow the Lord to lay on your heart the name of a person you could visit. It may be someone you are praying for. Look at the names in the pew leaflet. We see the names of those celebrating birthdays or wedding anniversaries, and those in need of healing. We need people willing to visit and people to receive the visitors. Please add your name to the list on the clipboard that is at the back of the church or contact me.

LENTEN APPEAL

This year Bishop Rubin is appealing for funds to build a church for the Chapelry of St Bernard Mizeki in the parish of Madadeni, Ingagane Region.

Their present shack church can no longer house the 600 worshippers who want to build a larger church with the help of the diocese. Please take a leaflet from the back of the church.

SELF-SUPPORTING CLERGY RETREAT

This was held on the weekend of the 18-20 February at the Mariannahill Retreat Centre. The retreat conductor was Bishop-Suffragan Funginkosi Mbhele, the theme was "*Bend my heart to your will and not to selfish gain*" (Psalm 119: 36). Doreen and Alfred are very thankful to the parish for paying the cost and allowing them to attend. They were blessed and refreshed from the experience.

THE PARISH WELCOMES REVD SEAN SEMPLE

Revd Sean Semple joined the St John's clergy team as a self-supporting deacon on 13 March 2011.

Sean was educated at St Henry's College Durban and completed a Bachelor of Social Science in Psychology at the University of Natal before being employed in a psychiatric unit of Durban Mental Health. He completed a Bachelor of Theology part-time through UNISA and discerning a call to the ministry was ordained to the Presbyterian ministry. He served as rector in Margate and Durban North. During this period he completed his BTh (Honours) in the field of Spirituality and also served in the National Defence Force as a chaplain to Durban Regiment. In 2006 he left the Presbyterian ministry and opened a practice as a Pastoral Therapist. He counsels mainly in the area of marriage, divorce and sexuality.

Sean has also been prominent in researching cults in Durban and is currently completing a Master of Theology at UKZN in the area of cult spirituality. He was discerned as having a ministry in the Anglican church in 2008 and in 2009 was ordained transitional deacon. This marks a return to the church of his youth as he was confirmed an Anglican and has been a member of the parishes of St Georges, Parktown; St Barnabas, Bluff; and St Paul's, Durban.

Revd. Sean Semple (left) with Revd Andrew Warmback, at his introduction to the parish.



VESTRY 2011

Congratulations to the parish councilors, old and new, who were elected at the Vestry meeting on 27 February. Thanks to all who attended:

PARISH COUNCIL

Churchwardens: Edward Pines and Makhosi Cain
Alternate Warden: Matthews Buthelezi
Treasurer: Mandy McAlpin

PORTFOLIOS

Heritage: Maureen Stroebel
Communication: Barbara McAlpin
Grow the Church/Mission/Evangelism: Austin Savage
Theological Education: Christopher Cockburn
Maintenance: John Williams
Fundraising: Eve Rayner
Stewardship: Vusa Tsekiso
Pastoral Care: Mary Allen
Newcomers: Denise Marescia
Youth Representative: Buyisiwe Thwala
Social Justice & Environment: Dot Saunders
Our clergy are also members of Parish Council

MOTHERS' UNION

Congratulations to the office bearers who were elected at their AGM:

Parish Leader: Sylvia Buthelezi
Deputy Leader: Nomhle Mbonane
Secretary: Jabu Msomi
Deputy Secretary: Norma Anderson
Treasurer: Bonisiwe Sibisi

AWF

The following members agreed to remain in office for 2011:

President: Ingrid Pines
Vice-president: Yvonne Tweedie
Treasurer: Elaine Wright
Secretary: Jenny Glisson

On the Wednesday evening of Holy Week the Methodist Church will hold a Passover Meal to which we are invited. Liturgies for a Passover Meal will be made available to house groups to use during Holy Week.

FROM PINETOWN INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIAN CARE

Many of our congregation faithfully make and freeze soup for Steve's Kitchen every week. This week we received a letter of thanks from Marie Roberts, who is the co-ordinator of this outreach. She explains what happens to the soup:

- 1) ±25 frozen soups are taken into Clermont and Cato Crest every week to feed the children who come to lessons under the trees. These children are from families who cannot afford to send them to crèche.
- 2) 10 frozen soups are given to Mrs Dladla who runs a clinic in Embo near River View.
- 3) Christian Care makes up 40 food parcels a week and the soup is also put into these parcels.

We are grateful to Marie for this explanation, which will encourage us to keep at it!!



EASTER SERVICES

- Sat 16 April: Palm cross making: 14.00 - all welcome
- Sun 17 April: **Palm Sunday: The Sunday of the Passion**
7.00am & 9.00am services
- HOLY WEEK**
- Mon 18 April Holy Eucharist: 7.00am
Ecumenical Taizé Service, 19.00
(Pinetown Methodist Church)
- Tues 19 April: Holy Eucharist: 7.00am
- Wed 20 April: Holy Eucharist: 7.00am
- Thurs 21 April: Holy Eucharist: 7.00am
Feet Washing and the Lord's Supper, 17.30
- Fri 22 April: **Good Friday**
Diakonia Ecumenical Good Friday Service:
6.15am
Children's Stations of the Cross: 10.00am
Meditation: 12.00 -15.00
- Sat 23 April: **Holy Saturday**
Church decorating from 8.00am
Confessions 15.00-16.00
- Sun 24 April: **Easter**
Ecumenical Sunrise Service: 5.45am (Blood Bank)
Easter Fire Vigil: 6.00am
Easter Eucharist: 9.00am

FROM THE REGISTER

- Baptisms: Kgaogelo Matlala, Pontsho Matlala and Paballo Makhubela (6 February 2011)
Nomagugu Belinda Khumalo, Hotep Zweli Khoza and Molisa Masisi (20 March 2011)
- Weddings: Steph / Don McLeod (8 January 2011)
Inese Greize / Jon Andreas Lavett from Stockholm Sweden (20 February 2011)
- Deaths: Jennifer Buchaman Goshawk (11 February 2011)
Jack Quayle (10 March 2011)

RETIREMENT OF BISHOP

The farewell service for the Right Revd Funginkosi Mbhele, Bishop Suffragan of the North West region of the diocese was held on 12 March. Presentations were made by organisations within the diocese as well as from Bishop Rubin. Thanks to those from our parish who contributed towards his farewell gift. Bishop Funginkosi retires at the end of March and together with his wife, Matrina, will settle in Ashburton. We wish them a long and happy retirement. A new bishop for this area will be elected in August (29-31).

UKUKHUTHAZA AIDS CONCERN GROUP

We are pleased to announce that Revd Alfred Nala has accepted the position of chairperson for this group. Other office-bearers elected at the AGM were Makhosi Cain (deputy-chair), Malcolm Rosenberg (treasurer) and Ruth Joubert (secretary). We wish to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely the members of our congregation who so faithfully support us with donations of food and money every month..

DURBAN PASSION PLAY

The Durban Passion Play will be staged at the Playhouse Drama Theatre between 2 and 24 April 2011. Bookings can be made through computicket and prices range from R30-R60