



The Voice of St John the Baptist, Pinetown

"For I know I have plans for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11



Easter, Elections and Hope

We have just had our elections. They provide us with an opportunity for a new start, for rebuilding and renewed hope. The real work, though, starts after the elections with the contribution of us all to our community and public life.

We could say the same about Easter. Jesus' death and resurrection provides us with the potential for something new in our lives and in our community. But we have the responsibility to make the message of Easter a reality. We will make a difference if, in the living out of our faith, we share the love Jesus expressed, offer the forgiveness Jesus gave and work towards the reconciliation and peace that Jesus came to bring. This may involve reaching out

to those who are lonely, feeling unloved and uncared for. It should involve living justly, freely and in a spirit of simplicity and joy.

Our Spirit of Hope focus for the year provides us with opportunities to put our faith into practice: to use the gifts and skills God has given us to communicate the hope of the good news of Jesus and to reach out in love to those who attend the events, welcoming them and sharing the hospitality of the Christian community of St John's.

This edition of The Bell advertises these upcoming events. I encourage you to participate as fully as possible in them and to encourage others to do the same.

*Revd Andrew Warmback
Rector*

CLERGY FAMILIES



St John's has had some very important visitors recently. Above left: Doreen Böhmer's grandson Christiaan, together with his mom and dad, Belinda and Dawie, visited on the occasion of Doreen's 60th birthday on 28 March. In the picture are, from left to right, Bert Böhmer, Doreen with Christiaan, Belinda (at the back), Dawie, Carel Böhmer and his wife Alta. Above right: Sue Brittion's granddaughter Layla with her mom Colleen, celebrated Palm Sunday with us.



GROWING the Church

"MAISISUKUME SAKHE! - ARISE AND BUILD"

The launch of the Growing the Church programme was held in Pietermaritzburg on the last Saturday in March and the Cathedral was packed with people representing parishes from the whole diocese. The launch was presented by Bishop Nkosinathi, Bishop Rubin, Revd Trevor Pearce and Bishop Funginkosi. The delegates were challenged as follows: "As we are all baptized by one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good, we were commissioned as God's servants in growing His Church and extending His Kingdom." They were then asked the following questions:

"Will you diligently and reverently commit yourselves to the ministry and the mission of Christ entrusted to your care?"

"Will you do all in your power to faithfully and reverently carry out your duties as witnesses to God's love for His Church and for the world?"

"Will you support, encourage and empower the people of your parish as we together labour faithfully for the expression of God's kingdom with love and compassion?"

All the delegates responded: "With God's help, we will".

Bishop Rubin then dismissed the representatives with these words: "Now that you have been commissioned, I exhort you to go out in the power of the Holy Spirit, to build the church, the Body of Christ, and to grow the Kingdom of God."

As news from the Province - our Diocese - our Region - arrives in our parish regarding this challenging call, it will be made available to all.

Edward Pines

UKUKHUTHAZA AUCTION - 8 MAY 2009

Have **YOU** filled in and returned the slip that you found in the pew leaflet telling us what you are offering for auction? If not, **DO IT NOW!!** All goods to be delivered to the church office before noon on Wednesday 6 May.

This promises to be an exciting evening - Robin Thunder, formerly of Thunder Auctioneers, will be officiating. Be sure to get to the church early on Friday 8 May - the auction starts promptly at 6:30 pm and there will be a variety of goods for sale. Goods may be viewed from 5pm, so come early to plan your bids. Cash only, so come prepared!! Supper on sale - R10 for a boerewors roll or hamburger, wine, beer or soft drinks at R6 a glass.

Note that services will not be auctioned at this time - if there are lots of creative ideas, we would like to do it at a later date.

PARISH FINANCES January - March:

Dedicated Giving: R153 533 vs budget of R175 000

Loose Plate Collections: R9 369 vs budget of R15 000





DATES for the DIARY

Fri. 8 May: Ukukhuthaza Auction
starting at 18:30.

Sat. 9 May: Women of All Ages
tea & bead-making : 14:30 - 16:30.

Thurs. 21 May: Ascension Day:
Service at St John's at 19:00 for the churches in Pinetown. The preacher will be Revd Canon Nigel Jukes.

Sat. 30 May: FA Cup Final
See the match on the big screen and enjoy supper of bangers & mash at the church - Kick-off at 15:45.

Sun.31 May: Pentecost - Single service at 08:00.
Harvest Festival also celebrated today. Those who grow their own fruit and vegetables are encouraged to bring some of this produce, and we will also put up a list of foodstuffs people could bring which are used in the AIDS food parcels. The **Parish Picnic** at Tanglewood Nature Reserve follows the service - directions to Tanglewood will be provided.

Sun. 21 June: Patronal Festival - 08:00 service. Bishop Nkosinathi Ndwandwe will be with us and will license new lay ministers.

Thurs.24 Sept.: Heritage Day
Traditional South African Presentations - more details later.

YOUTH GROUP

The group meets at the church from 18.30 to 20.30 and is aimed at those who are in high school. The Youth Committee within the archdeaconry has two activities planned for the region in May. On 1 May from 11.00 to 14.30 there will be a gathering at St John's which will include a service, fun activities and a tuckshop to provide food for lunch. On 30 May there will be a morning retreat/workshop led by Revd Moses Thabethe of St Elizabeth's, Westville. It will take place at the Westville Church from 9.00 ending with a bring and share lunch at 13.00. All young people are encouraged to attend both these occasions. Revd Andrew Warmback is chaplain to the Regional Youth.

FROM THE REGISTER:

R.I.P.: Claudine Lord (died 30/03/09)
Stella Hallas (died 21/03/09)
Bill Stroebel (died 19/04/09)

Baptised: Thapelo Bulelani Khoza (nephew of Makhosi Cain)

Married: Mandla Twala and Ntombenhle Shozi (24/04/09)

BYRON PHILLIP

Message from Dean Sibisi: "It is with sadness that I inform you that Bishop Rubin and Rose lost their son, Byron, under tragic circumstances on Easter Sunday. He was 33 years old. Please pray for them and their son Lance, for Byron's wife Yvonne, and their grandchildren, Richard (6) and Megan (4)." As a parish we extend our sympathies and prayers to Bishop Rubin, Rose and their family. The funeral was held on Friday 17 April.

PALM SUNDAY



along Church Lane and back to the church, singing praises and waving palms all the way. We were blessed with perfect weather, and the service that followed attested to the presence of the Spirit in St John's.

St John's people took to the streets on Palm Sunday, as we followed the cross and the trumpeter, out through Payne Street, along St John's Avenue,



UN MODEL PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Thandukwazi Buthelezi of St John's was one of several entrants from KZN in this competition. He progressed to the World Finals in New York, where he came second in his group!! Congratulations Kwazi!! More details in the next Lantern.

LAUNCH OF LITURGY RESOURCE MANUAL WORKSHOP

The Provincial Liturgy Committee will be launching a resource book on liturgies that can be used in parishes. This launch will take place at the Cathedral on Saturday 16 May from 09:00 - 13:00. All are welcome.

MEN'S GROUP

There has been a renewed interest in forming a men's group within the parish. If you are interested in being part of this group, please contact Revd Andrew Warmback or Gordon Bell (phone 031 7021537).

HAVE YOU HEARD? From Jane Whitby

On the weekend 24/25 October we are planning to round off the Spirit of Hope year with a music/flower/craft festival and are hoping to involve a great many of you in lots of different ways. We will be looking for any craft or interesting hobby that you would like to display—woodwork, knitting, sewing, baking, books, embroidery, tapestry, iron work, flower arranging, painting, ceramics, etc. etc. - whatever you would like to 'show off'.

I would like to meet all who are interested in helping with this project on Tues 5th May at 10am in the church hall. It will be an opportunity to work together and get to know one another better. If you are interested but cannot make this meeting please give your name and contact numbers and your ideas to Rose in the office. Let's make it a fun weekend and you know my motto: "Party party party", but only after the work is done!!!

DEADLINES: The next issue of The Bell will be out on 28 May - deadline for contributions will be 24 May. Please send anything YOU would like published to the parish office before that date. The Lantern will be published at the end of June, and will contain longer articles. Please let us have your contributions not later than 14 June - photographs also welcome.