



The Voice of St John the Baptist, Pinetown

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?
Micah 6:8



From the Rector.....

Welcome to the first edition of *The Bell*, the new newsletter from St John's Church. It serves as a means of communication among parishioners and will be published monthly. We welcome your feedback on this edition as well as your stories, opinions and snippets (not too long) for the future editions. Anything too lengthy for *The Bell* will be saved for the next *Lantern*, due to be out in June. The deadline for the next *Bell* is 19 April.

Easter is a significant festival in our church year. We celebrate it as an important foundation of our faith. We encourage you to make use of the various opportunities provided during Holy Week to prepare for Easter. The Holy Week services are listed below

E-mail

This newsletter is being distributed primarily by e-mail. If your e-mail address is incorrect or if you would like *The Bell* to be sent to an additional e-mail address, please inform the parish office, church@stjohnbaptist.co.za or phone 031 7020712 (mornings). If you prefer not to receive communication by e-mail, please tell the parish office and you can collect your copy at the back of the church. *The Bell*, as well as *The Lantern* are available on the parish website (www.stjohnbaptist.co.za).

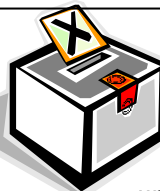
My thanks to Barbara McAlpin, for designing and producing *The Bell*.

Andrew Warmback

HOLY WEEK at ST JOHN the BAPTIST Sunday 5 April – Sunday 12 April

Sunday:	07:00 09:00	} Palm Sunday Services
Monday:	07:00 19:00	Eucharist Taizé (Pinetown Methodist Church)
Tuesday:	07:00 19:00	Eucharist Holy Week Reflections
Wednesday:	07:00 19:00	Eucharist Tenebrae
Thursday:	07:00 19:00	Eucharist Eucharist with Footwashing
Friday:	06:15 10:00 12:00	Diakonia Ecumenical Service Stations of the Cross 3-hour service
Saturday:	08:00 15:00 – 16:30	Cleaning and decorating the church Confessions in the church
Sunday:	06:00 09:00	Easter Fire Holy Eucharist Easter Holy Eucharist

NB: *There is to be a Sunrise Service at 05:45 on Easter Day at His Church in the car park.*



NATIONAL ELECTIONS

Will be held on Wednesday 22 April.

There have been a number of statements made about the elections by church leaders urging Christians to exercise their right to vote.

We have put some of these statements up on the notice boards for all to read.

The Pinetown Ministers' Fellowship is arranging a prayer meeting for the elections. It will take place on Tuesday 21 April from 13.00 to 14.00 in the area next to the Dream Centre in Kings Road. All are welcome.

STATEMENT FROM THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS *News from the Province*

On the notice board at the back of the church you can read the Pastoral Letter from the Bishops, in which they report on their February meeting at Modderpoort. Topics include Growing the Church, the Primates' Meeting attended by the Archbishop and the forthcoming elections, among others. Note that this letter, as well as others *To the Laos* can be found on the parish website.

Natal Diocesan Development Fund (NDDF) **APPEAL - LENT 2009**

This year's appeal is for the Community Resource Centre in the parish of Kwamashu. This centre will serve people from Phoenix, Inanda, Ntuzuma and Kwamashu, and will address the problems of poverty, unemployment, substance abuse, crime and HIV/Aids. Envelopes are available at the back of the church for collections for this cause. Please return them before Easter. More details on the notice board.

PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE

This is the title of a book on the history of the Diakonia Goof Friday services from 1985 to 2008. It will be launched at the City Hall on **Wednesday 1 April** at a function starting at 17.30. Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu will provide the keynote address. For bookings phone Diakonia on 031 3103500.

Sunday 29 March:
Combined service at 08:00
Water Liturgy

PARISH COUNCIL

The following parish councilors were elected at the vestry meeting on 1 March:

Richard Clüver and Edward Pines: Churchwardens

Matthews Buthelezi and Makhosi Cain: Alternate Churchwardens

Mandy McAlpin: Treasurer

Errol Greenslade: Heritage

Barbara McAlpin: Communication

Austin Savage: Evangelism / Arise & Build / Grow the Church

Max Gibbons: Gardens

André Zuidewind: Buildings & Maintenance

Wendy Jones: Ukukhathaza Aids Concern Group

Mary Allen: Pastoral Care

Carmen Fitchat: Youth

Dot Saunders: Social Justice & Environment

The Parish Council includes all the parish clergy: Revds Andrew Warmback, Caroline Beech, Sue Britton and Doreen Böhmer.

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting are on the notice board at the back of the church to remind us of the decisions taken at the meeting.



AUCTION - Friday 8 May

Ukukhuthaza, in conjunction with the Spirit of Hope, are planning to hold an auction to raise funds for our work in the community. Eddi Wolff has donated a beautiful wall hanging, hand-made by his father. We hope to collect a few other "big-ticket" items, but in the true nature of the Spirit of Hope, we are asking people to come forward and offer their skills and services for auction. Start thinking and planning NOW what YOU can offer. Items or services are to be brought to the parish office not later than Wednesday 6 May.

SAM'S HOUSE



Sam Shezi, our verger, who is currently living with his family in the room at the back of the church offices, has bought land at St Wendolin's, where he is building a house for himself and his family. He has received a loan from the church to help him cover his costs, but he is still short of about R2000. If anyone would like to donate money to help him to finish his house, please put it in an envelope marked "Sam's House" and place it in the collection plate, or hand it into the church office.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Has anyone noticed that Christopher Cockburn, our organist, has been looking very relaxed lately? He recently heard that his thesis entitled 'The Establishment of a Musical Tradition: Meaning, Value and Social Process in the South African History of Handel's Messiah' has been accepted by three independent examiners (with no alterations required!). Graduation takes place in April. Congratulations Dr Christopher!!! We are all very proud of you!!

ECO-CONGREGATION

The parish council have decided that our church should apply for membership of the SAFCEI (South African Faith Communities Environment Institute). This means we will be audited for good management of resources. After a year, an audit will be taken to assess whether we can be accredited as an eco-congregation. See the parish website for more details.

SUNDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

Austin Savage is running this study at 17:30 every Sunday. They have been studying the Lent Course with the rest of the parish, and after Easter a number of exciting new topics will be explored, starting with the "Incredible" series of DVD's, the first of which we saw at the first meeting, before Lent. Contact Austin on 031 7003978 or 082 7719220 for more details.

FROM THE GIYOSI FAMILY

To St John's:

Even the words can't express our inner feelings and thoughts about what you have done for us while we were grieving for the loss of "GOGO"

May God bless you. Thank you!

Gogo (Mavis) Giyosi died on 12 February 2009

DATES for the DIARY

- Sat. 25 April: Garden Party at the church at 14:30
- Fri. 8 May: Ukukhuthaza Auction starting at 18:30
- Sat. 9 May: Women of All Ages tea & bead-making at 14:30 – 16:30
- Sat. 30 May: FA Cup Final – bangers & mash at the church – Kick-off at 15:45
- Sun. 31 May: Pentecost - 08:00 service & parish picnic at Tanglewood Nature Reserve
- Sun. 21 June: Patronal Festival - 08:00 service

