



# BELL

## The Voice of St John the Baptist, Pinetown

*Why do you look for the living among the dead? Christ is not here, but is risen!*  
 Luke 24:5b

### From the Rector

Dear People of St John's

#### Our Easter Hope

Our longed for Easter celebration is almost upon us; we have Holy Week remaining to prepare us for it. The resurrection of Christ has forever changed our world: evil and injustice have been overcome and the prospects for the establishment of peace and justice opened up. Personally, we can make a new start in our relationships by offering and accepting forgiveness where this is needed.

God, through Jesus, makes a way for us to achieve fullness of life; it is up to us to make the promise and joy of Easter a reality in our own lives, and in our parish and community. Let us again receive God's love and commit ourselves to share this love with those who feel unloved; bring Good News to those who are hungry by providing soup for Steve's Kitchen or a food parcel; and work for the reign of God here and now by supporting, through prayer and by our own active involvement, those who work for the end of injustice and oppression in all areas of life. Then Easter will make a difference to us.

#### Common Easter celebration

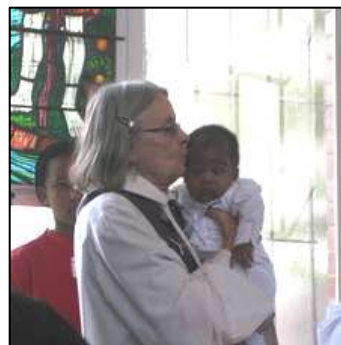
In terms of ecumenical relations, this year Easter has a special significance. The date of Easter, as calculated by both Eastern and Western traditions in Christianity, will fall on the same day this year, as well as in 2011. (With different systems for calculating this date it is by chance that the dates for Easter of the two traditions coincide from time to time.) We are reminded of the scandalous divisions within Christianity.

Let us this Easter also take the opportunity to worship ecumenically. The following occasions are provided for us: on Monday 29 March at 19.00 at the Pinetown Methodist Church for a Taizé service; on Good Friday at 6.15am for the Diakonia Ecumenical Service, starting at the Durban Exhibition Centre; and the Pinetown Ministers' Fellowship's Easter Sunrise Service to take place on the Blood Bank lawns at 5.45am on Easter Sunday.

May the power of the risen Christ transform you and our community this Easter.

**Revd Dr Andrew Warmback**

### PARISH NEWS



On 28 February we welcomed two of the newest members of St John's, Lukhanyo Sibisi (above left) and Unyezi Ndabenhle Mzimela (above right).

**Mothering Sunday**, on 7 March, was celebrated in style, with the women of the Mothers' Union handing out "party packs" of sweets to the children (below). After the service, a mouth-watering brunch was on sale for everyone! Thank you, Mothers' Union!!



At the 9am service on Friday 5 March and both the 7am and 9am services on Sunday 7 March, the young members of KidZown gave out bookmarks with a prayer for Mothering Sunday to all involved in mothering.

#### A CHILD'S FAITH IN OUR LORD

*Delysia Wolff*

Our son, Eugene, phoned to say that they had to put their cat, Cubby, down as he was in kidney failure. They had been expecting it, as he was suffering from cat leukemia. Naturally they were all sad, but our little granddaughter, aged nearly 7, said, "Never mind, Cubby has gone to play with Heidi." (Heidi, our daughter, died in 2008).

Could we not all be like a little child, to know such faith in our Lord for love and comfort?

**MIMI ROACH and JUNE PRENTICE** love good conversation, and are looking for like-minded people to join them for breakfast on a Saturday morning, once a month, at the church. Phone Mimi on 082 3942000 or June on 031 7026130.

#### SPIRIT OF GROWTH - APPRECIATING OUR DIVERSITY

At St John's we like to see our diversity as a gift from God to be appreciated and enjoyed. We worship and work together but often do not know each other very well. With the support of the Parish Council, the Spirit of Growth focus this year will aim to provide opportunities in which this can happen. One particular focus will be that of looking at the relationship between people's expression of their Christian faith and their African heritage and traditions. The emphasis this year will be on providing opportunities for people to talk and to listen to one another. This can happen after our morning services, within house groups and at social events. We welcome ideas from the congregation on this.

## VESTRY 2010

Thank you to all who attended our Vestry meeting on Sunday 14 March and congratulations to those who have been elected as church wardens and parish councillors. Please pray for them as your parish leaders.

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting as well as the audited financial accounts for 2009 and budget for 2010 have been placed on the notice board for your information. If you would like copies of these documents please contact the parish secretary. We are particularly grateful to a member of our parish, Donald Hain, for conducting our audit.

### PARISH COUNCIL

**Churchwardens:** Richard Clüver and Edward Pines

**Alternate Wardens:** Matthews Buthelezi and Makhosi Cain

**Treasurer:** Mandy McAlpin

### PORTFOLIOS:

<b>Heritage:</b>	Pat Brooker
<b>Stewardship:</b>	Vusa Tsekiso
<b>Grow the Church/ Mission:</b>	Austin Savage
<b>Youth Representative:</b>	Renay Naidoo
<b>Ukukhuthaza:</b>	Wendy Jones
<b>Communications:</b>	Barbara McAlpin
<b>Spirit of Growth:</b>	Mary Allen
<b>Fundraising:</b>	Eve Rayner
<b>Newcomers:</b>	Ingrid Pines
<b>Social Justice &amp; Environment:</b>	Dot Sanders
<b>Gardens:</b>	Max Gibbons

Our clergy are also members of Parish Council

### HELP US PUT THE "FUN" BACK INTO "FUNDRAISING"!!

Fundraising is going to be an important part of church activities in 2010. At the moment the group consists of Eve Rayner, Roy & Lynn Brough and Makhosi Cain. Only 4 people, and there is LOTS of work to do! Many people come forward to help at each event –catering, setting out chairs and tables, etc. etc., and we are truly grateful to each and every one of them. However, more are needed on the team, to help plan, organise, etc. etc. If you feel that YOU have something to contribute, please join us – speak to any one of the above people.



### LONG WALK

Congratulations to two of our young people, Carmen Fitchat and Dominic Warmback, on completing the Thomas More College Long Walk (80km) on Saturday 13 March in 16 hours!

### FROM THE REGISTER

**Baptisms:** Lukhanyo Sibisi and Unyezi Ndabenhle Mzimela on 28 Feb.

**Deaths:** Rose Mqadi, died on 2 March  
Blanche Savage (mother of Rose Bernhard and Austin Savage), died on 10 March

## DATES FOR 2010 - EASTER to JUNE

Sat. 27 March Palm cross making, 14:00 - all welcome

Sun. 28 March Palm Sunday - 7:00am & 9:00am

### HOLY WEEK SERVICES

<b>Mon. 29 March</b>	<b>07:00</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist</b>
	<b>19:00</b>	<b>Taizé Service (Ptn. Methodist Church)</b>
<b>Tues. 30 March</b>	<b>07:00</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist</b>
	<b>19:00</b>	<b>Meditation: A service of readings, music &amp; prayer</b>
<b>Wed. 31 March</b>	<b>07:00</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist</b>
	<b>18:00</b>	<b>Passover Meal (Ptn. Methodist Church)</b>
<b>Thurs. 01 April</b>	<b>07:00</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist</b>
	<b>19:00</b>	<b>The Evening Eucharist of the Lord's Supper</b>
<b>Fri. 02 April</b>	<b>06:15</b>	<b>Diakonia Ecumenical Good Friday Service at Durban Exhibition Centre</b>
		<b>Preacher: Archbishop Thabo Makgoba</b>
	<b>10:00</b>	<b>Children's Service</b>
	<b>12:00</b>	<b>Good Friday Celebration of the Lord's Passion. Preacher: Ven May Laban, Archdeacon of Durban</b>
<b>Sat 03 April</b>	<b>08:00</b>	<b>Cleaning &amp; decorating the church</b>
	<b>14:30 - 16:00</b>	<b>Confessions in the church</b>
<b>Sun. 04 April</b>	<b>05:45</b>	<b>Ecumenical Sunrise Service at the Blood Bank</b>
	<b>06:00</b>	<b>Easter Vigil</b>
	<b>09:00</b>	<b>EASTER DAY Holy Eucharist</b>

Fri 16 April Youth resumes

Sun 18 April KidZown resumes

Fri 30 April Fundraising event: Progressive Dinner with a Difference - details to be announced.

Sun 2 May Harvest Festival & Parish Picnic at Koinonia Conference Centre after 9am service

Sat 8 May Parish Leaders' Retreat

Thurs 13 May 19:00 Ecumenical Ascension Day Service at St John's. Procession to service starts at the Methodist Church at 18:45

Sun 23 May Pentecost

Sun 27 June Patronal Festival - ONE SERVICE AT 08:00

### PENNIES TO HEAVEN

*Eddi Wolff*

In the beginning of October 2009 we counted 10,373 coins which gave us a total of R1,124.00 to bank; since then you donated just over 4,800 coins with a total value of R 468.00. When we convert this to a monthly average, we realise R85 per month.

***Well done, you beautiful people and thank you for your generosity***

In the past these "Pennies" were not really allocated to anything and were put into St John's "Donations" account. With the onset of winter it was deemed proper to use these Pennies to feed the needy and the money will now be split 50/50 between "Steve's Kitchen" (an interdenominational outreach programme to feed the homeless, run out of the Methodist church) and Ukukhuthaza, our AIDS concern group.

**Report potholes in your area: phone 080 1313012**