



# The Voice of St John the Baptist, Pinetown

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling amongst us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

John 1:14



## From the Rector Dear People of God

### Ordination

We thank God and celebrate with those members of ours who were ordained the previous week: The Revds Alfred Nala, Sean Semple and Jabulani Ngidi.

### COP 17

This international climate conference in Durban is currently underway at the ICC (with a number of associated events).

The Faith Communities held a rally at King's Park on Sunday 27 November to prepare for this event. A common message was reflected in the words of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu: "We have one planet."



**Above:** Bishop Geoff Davies, the Executive Director of the Southern African Faith Communities Environment Institute (SAFCEI) and Archbishop Tutu with a symbolic copy of the petition presented on behalf of the Faith Communities to the leaders at COP 17.

### The Valley

Following the retirement of the Revd Johann Vilakazi, Bishop Rubin has appointed me priest-in-charge of the "Valley" with the request that St John's clergy assist with services there. The Valley will retain its autonomy as a "Developing Parish", with the aim that it achieves Parish status. The Revd Eric Mathonsi was ordained a self-supporting deacon at the recent ordination and will work in the Valley area. In the Valley there are four congregations each with its own church building: Christ the King, Molweni; KwaMsindisi, KwaNqetu; Holy Spirit, Botha's Hill; and

Ekhukhanyeni KukaKrestu, KwaNyuswa.

### Thanks

For all who helped in preparing for, supporting and clearing up after the Rubin Phillip Peace Lecture, our grateful thanks. Thank you to those who have returned their stewardship forms, including the Dedicated Giving forms; if you have not already returned yours please do so as soon as possible. Thank you too to all those who contributed to our Thanksgiving.

### Service at Nazareth

We held our first eucharist service at Nazareth (a residential area within our parish adjoining Mariannahill Park) on Sunday 20 November. A particular thanks to our Mothers' Union for their preparations for this service and for providing refreshments after it.

### Advent

This is a period of much significance for us. In this Advent period we also observe the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign (25 November - 10 December). We continue to pray for a positive outcome to COP 17. So pray for God's reign to come among us:

*Let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an everflowing stream. (Amos 5:24)*

Alison, Dominic and I wish you a happy and blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

With love and prayer

**Andrew**

## THE THIRD ANNUAL RUBIN PHILLIP PEACE LECTURE

On 11 November St John's was most honoured to welcome Archbishop Thabo Makgoba to deliver the Rubin Phillip Peace Lecture. All who attended agree that it was a very special evening, beginning with Choral Evensong directed by Lance Phillip (Bishop Rubin's son) who brought with him the Odeion Choir from the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, where he lectures. The service followed the traditional format of evensong, and the music, with Christopher Cockburn at the organ, was wonderful.

Evensong was followed by the lecture. Archbishop Thabo's theme was "If you want peace, work for justice", which was very apt for this occasion as Bishop Rubin's life has been dedicated to working for justice. The respondent was Cardinal Napier.

After the lecture, all went to the hall for a finger supper. A marquee had been erected on the lawn outside the hall to make more room, so that people could mingle while they ate. In spite of the rain, it was a very successful evening.



From left: Bishop Rubin Phillip, Archbishop Thabo Makgoba and Cardinal Wilfrid Napier

*The full text of the Archbishop's lecture, together with more photographs, is available on the parish website [www.stjohnbaptist.co.za](http://www.stjohnbaptist.co.za)*

## CHRISTMAS AT ST JOHN'S

**Advent Vespers:** 4 pm on Sunday 11 December at the Mariannahill Monastery  
**Carol Service:** 5 pm on Sunday 18 December  
**Children's service:** 4 pm on Saturday 24 December  
**Midnight Eucharist:** 11.15 pm on Saturday 24 December  
**Christmas Day Eucharist:** 8 am on Sunday 25 December

### VESTRY MEETING

This will take place on Sunday 28 February at 9.00am. Reports of all ministries within the parish are to be given into the parish office by 8 January for inclusion in *The Lantern* and distributed to all parishioners.

In January we will put up the lists of portfolios needed to be filled for parish council. It is very important that concerned, responsible people serve on council, so if you feel you would like be a part of it, or if you know someone whom you think would be a good leader in any one of the portfolios, please put the name forward. Training will be given for newcomers to council, so there is no need to feel that you won't know what is expected of you.

### UKUKHUTHAZA NEWS

The **JUMBLE SALE** takes place this Saturday, 3 December behind Build It in Josiah Gumede (Old Main) Road. Please tell your friends and neighbours - anyone who is interested in buying good second items at a bargain price. A big **THANK YOU** to all who have contributed.

Make sure you have bought your **RAFFLE** ticket to have a chance to win a very nice Kettlebraai, kindly donated by Dot Sanders. Tickets cost R5 each, or 5 tickets for R20. Proceeds will go towards the cost of food parcels. The winner will be announced the Sunday before Christmas.

The annual **ORPHANS' CHRISTMAS PARTY** is to take place in the community hall at Nazareth on 16 December. Thank you to all who have contributed gifts – lots more are needed, and can be left at the church office. Anyone who would like to help in any way should speak to Revd Alfred Nala or Makhosi Cain.

Finally, **THANK YOU** to all who support us so faithfully throughout the year with contributions of money and food. We are somehow able to meet our commitment of 100 food parcels for distribution to hungry, AIDS affected people every month, and could not do it without the generosity of the St John's congregation.

### ST JOHN'S – A MEMORY

*Irene Scogings*

Many years ago there was an Archbishop Paget of Central Africa who retired and with his wife and came to live in Gillitts. One Sunday he preached at St John's, and, striding up and down between the choir stalls, with his booming voice he reminded us that Jesus was born in a mucky stable, with much emphasis on the last two words!

I remember when David and I were doing the reconditioned cards and handling pictures of Jesus done by the old masters: Jesus lying in a wooden, straw-lined crib with Joseph, Mary and the animals, and I thought how His parents would have loved the new-born baby, and how Mary would have cuddled Him as she fed Him.

As Advent approaches, let us remember afresh that this baby was Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. May we all have a Christ-filled Christmas, and thank Him for our many blessings.



### YOUTH NEWS

On 27 November we admitted 25 children to communion before confirmation.

**KidZown** and **Teen Church** will resume with registration on 15 January 2012.  
**Youth on Fridays** will be held on Friday 27 January 2012.

The institution of the **REVD SIPHO LUTHULI WILL** take place at 9.00 on Sunday 18 December at KwaNdengezi.

### ENVIRO NEWS

**Congratulations** to the Environment Group and particularly Dot Sanders: St John's is now an accredited **ECO-CONGREGATION** and has received the relevant certificate from SAFCEI. We intend to continue to lead the way in our area. Our project for 2012 is the installation of a water tank to collect rainwater, which will be used to water the gardens.

**Thank you** all who continue to recycle papers, cans and bottles. But we would be very pleased if you would put these items into the igloos and bins, and not leave them on the ground nearby. This means someone else has to clear the bottles etc. to keep the area tidy. Also, please no plastic bottles – we encourage you to put these in the orange Mondi bags.

**Did you know:** the church is paid for the recycled paper by weight – old phone books add up nicely!

**Tip:** Save electricity by boiling one cup of water for your tea or coffee in the microwave instead of boiling the kettle – the microwave uses a fraction of the energy.

**Who are you?** The Enviro. Group would like to know if you belong to a local conservancy, subscribe to publications like *Get Away*, *WWF*, *WESSA*, etc. It would be great to hear from people interested in the natural world other than those of us who belong to the church group. Please speak to Rose in the parish office, Dot Sanders or Janet Williams.



**ORDINATION:** We celebrate the ordination on 27 November of (from left) the Revd Alfred Nala and the Revd Sean Semple to the Priesthood and the Revd Jabulani Ngidi to the diaconate. May God bless them in their new ministries.

### FROM THE REGISTER

**BAPTISMS:** Jessica Claire Savage 20 November 2011

**DEATHS:** -Graham Pirie died 06 November 2011  
-Delysia Wolff died on 29 November 2011: her funeral will be on Tuesday 6 December at 15:00