



BELL

The Voice of St John the Baptist, Pinetown

'...inspire our hearts and set them on fire with his joy and power, and send us out as witnesses to the wonder of your love...' (from the Collect for Pentecost).

From the Rector

Dear People of St John's

At our Pentecost services we recognised that God's Holy Spirit equips each one of us for ministry within the church and society. I give thanks for all who exercise their ministries among us. I give particular thanks for two of our members who have recently laid down particular ministries which they have exercised well for a number of years. Our thanks to Leisher Cremer for her work as chief sacristan and Eddie Wolff, ably assisted by his wife, Delysia, for overseeing the money counting ministry. We are grateful for their dedicated and loyal contribution to the life of the parish.

Clerical service

At the Corpus Christi service at the cathedral on 23 June at which the clergy renew their ordination vows, Bishop Rubin gave out certificates to clergy honouring their contribution to the diocese. It was good to see two of the clergy of this parish being honoured for their long service: Bishop Elijah

Thwala for 41 years and the Revd Theo Ngubane for 46 years. Well done! I was honoured for 16 years!

Ordinations

Jabulani Ngidi, one of our lay ministers, has been accepted as an ordination candidate by Bishop Rubin and will be ordained as a deacon on 26 November this year. He leaves on 18 July for the UK and returns on 21 August. For a few months after that he will work with Bishop Rubin.

Both the Revds Alfred Nala and Sean Semple will be ordained as priests at the Diocesan Ordination service on 26 November. Let us pray for them as they prepare for this important step in their lives.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit." (Philemon 25)

Yours in Christ

Andrew Warmback

CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSITY

Contributed by Sandile Mzoneli



Carolyn Chatterton (left) listens while Sandile Mzoneli explains his group's response to a point of discussion.

On 4 June, a "Celebrating Diversity" workshop was held at St John's, facilitated by Carolyn Chatterton. This was the second workshop of its kind, and was a huge success. It was enlightening, reflective, and educative.

It offered us an opportunity to find ourselves and enabled us to look at ourselves without any fear of being judged.

I can recommend such a workshop to anyone who finds themselves in a multicultural setting like church, school, community. It would be very good for leaders and managers, and will enable parishioners to understand the sharing of peace during our services, so that we say "peace" with insight and depth.

A task team was formed to take this initiative forward, as all agreed that this needs to be an ongoing process.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

At the June meeting of the Anglican Women's Fellowship there was a cake to celebrate special birthdays of two of their members, Val Blore, who turned 90 and Jane Hubble who turned 96 - congratulations to them both!

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

On Sunday, the 5th of June the MU held its first HCT Campaign, in line with the national MU calendar. The campaign was a success and a total number of sixty eight parishioners participated after both services. Parishioners were screened and checked for different diseases including blood pressure, sugar diabetes and HIV/AIDS. Psychological care was offered by the Revd Sean Semple and young parishioners participated in a sex education session that was facilitated by Mimi Roach. The screening and check ups were done by MU members who are health care professionals, members of the church and professional staff from neighboring clinics and Non Governmental Organisations.



The HCT Team at the church on 5 June

Anger that has no limit, causes terror. Kindness that is inappropriate, does away with respect. So do not be so severe with others, as to terrify them; and do not be so lenient with others, as to make them take advantage of you.

SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP – HELP OUR PLANET

Hosted by St John's Church, Pinetown, on 4 June 2011

Contributed by Janet Williams

The Regional Environmental Group organized a Workshop to highlight the dangers facing the planet caused by human greed. Spearheaded by Peter Spence of St Agnes, Kloof, the theme of the Workshop was “**Is Life Sustainable on God's gift to us – our planet Earth?**”

The interested group of 18 people who attended were horrified by the film “End of the Line” which showed graphically how the fish populations are dwindling because of commercial overfishing, and the tragic waste of other marine life caught in the nets, tossed back into the sea, only to die. At the end, after exploring the fishing industry all over the world, there was a message of hope that there is still time for us to change the future. Jone Porter, Director, Education : South African Association for Marine Biological Research, introduced the film, and gave fascinating, down to earth, facts and insights about fish populations.

That was just the beginning of the programme, which will be reported more fully in *The Lantern*.

FREE CLINIC

On the 6 June, a clinic operating from the Pinetown Methodist Church, particularly for those with no medical aid and who are unemployed, was officially dedicated. The clinic is a project of the Pinetown Ministers' Fellowship and comes under the auspices of Interdenominational Christian Care.

Having opened in January, the clinic operates on Monday mornings, with an average number of 10 patients. The assistance of a doctor or nurse who has a dispensing certificate is needed.

Another project of the Interdenominational Christian Care, the Seniors' Day Care Centre, continues to operate from the property of the Pinetown Presbyterian Church. The elderly are most welcome to pop in for the day.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

The young people of our parish took a leading role in the All Age Worship Service on 5 June (World Environment Day). One of the Grade 7 children read a prayer while other children held up letters to spell the word CREATION CARE. All the children participated in an environment praise song to the tune of 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' and to which we had added some appropriate actions. The inclusion of our younger parishioners in this way gives an added dimension to our worship, which is appreciated by all.



The youngsters hold up their letters, spelling out *CREATION CARE*



Jone Porter (with flowers) who presented the End of the Line DVD with Jean Lindsay, local Metro Councillor at the Regional environment meeting.

Patronal Festival

26 June was a day of celebration at St John's. Bishop Elijah preached on St John the Baptist, encouraging us to be ourselves and the parish God has called us to be. After the service we enjoyed breakfast together. Thanks to all who donated food and helped prepare it. Lets hope our breakfast together becomes a more regular event.

Youth on a Friday

After careful consideration, much discussion and deliberation and due to low attendance, transport difficulties and demands of school, the young people have decided to meet once a month (on the last Friday of the month) on a trial basis for the second half of the year. They have ideas for some interesting activities including a candlelit dinner with team activities, a weekend away (Christian camp)/an activity away, and involvement in an outreach activity. Young people will be taking a more active role in the preparation and facilitation of these once a month sessions on Friday evenings.

They will hold their candlelit dinner with activities on Friday 29 July. Preparations for this are underway. Any donations both towards the meal and/or prizes for the group activities, would be greatly appreciated.

FROM THE REGISTER

Ellen Mason Fickling died on 05 June at Sandown Village.

Patricia Garrett Starkey (mother of Ingrid Pines) died on 07 June at Kloof Rest Home.

We also remember Nhlanhla, brother of Makhosi Cain and Minenhle, brother of Norma Anderson, who died during June.

DATES TO REMEMBER

31 July: Symphonic Choir

14 August, 9:00: Confirmation and licensing of lay ministers at St John's

31 July - 28 August : Social Justice Season

28 August – 2 October: Season of Creation