



The Voice of St John the Baptist, Pinetown

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2:4

From the Rector

Dear People of St John's

This past month marks the fifth year that I have been rector of St John's. There has been much growth as well as change within the parish during these years. I look back with gratefulness to God and to all who have shared in this journey. My thoughts in recent months have been about the future of the parish. Parish council has been busy with reviewing our parish profile, in which we describe our parish life with its particular focus. It is important that we focus on using and developing the gifts that God has given us so that we may reach our full potential.

You may have noticed that in the pew leaflet on the 24 May there was listed "Chapter, Pietermaritzburg." Chapter consists of the two bishops (Bishops Rubin Phillip and Nkosinathi Ndwandwe), the 15 archdeacons of the diocese and five canons. The group, which meets about every six weeks, is an advisory body to the bishops and deals mainly with the appointment of clergy to parishes within the diocese.

I have enjoyed my archdeaconry work over the past three months. I have learned much about other parishes within our archdeaconry and it has given me valuable insights into other parishes both within and beyond our archdeaconry. The archdeaconry of Pinetown is a large one, consisting of nine parishes plus "The Valley", and some of these parishes are multi-congregational.

For example, the parish of St Mary, Hammarsdale, where I was on Sunday (the day of the Comrades), to admit parish councillors and wardens, has six congregations (or chapelries). The distance between the church where we met for the service and the furthest chapelry is about 50 km by road. Quite some distance for parishioners to travel for the combined parish service we held.

Let us continue to build ourselves up; let us be open to God's Holy Spirit; let us work together.

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." 1 John 4: 7

Yours in Christ,
Andrew Warmback

Election of a new Bishop Suffragan

The election of a new bishop to be based in Ladysmith, and to work primarily in the North West Episcopal Area of the Diocese, will take place on 29 August (and the following two days if necessary). Nominations for the position can now be made.

The archbishop, Thabo Makgoba, has written the following about the election:

"We exhort you and the whole flock of Christ in the Diocese of Natal, earnestly to ask of God that of his great mercy and goodness he will guide you to choosing of those well fitted to promote the glory of his great name, and the advancement of his kingdom, and to be faithful Shepherds and Bishops of his Church.

To this end we counsel all within the Diocese to give themselves to prayer and fasting, as we shall not fail ourselves to do, so that being of one heart and of one mind, and drawing near to God with one voice, we may obtain from him, for the filling of this office, the blessed gifts of Rulers and Pastors stained by no fault, deserving no blame, but approved of Christ, accepted by people, who shall by their lives and doctrine witness truly for their Lord, exercise godly discipline, feed in faith and love the flock committed to their care, and at length present it faultless before Him whom they serve; those also who will co-operate in brotherly love and humility with their brethren the Bishops of this Province, and in the spirit of loyalty to the Order and Constitution of the Church."

Week of Prayer for Renewal 6-12 June

Copies of this prayer diary have been made available for all parishioners to take. These prayers will be used in services held at the church during this time. We encourage you to use them also in your own prayers, in house group meetings and perhaps as a family together.

There is additional information about the Week of Prayer for Renewal on the back page of the Bell.

LOOKING AHEAD, LITURGICALLY

Social Justice Season

As a parish we will be using the material provided by Diakonia Council of Churches for this four week focus during August. The overall theme is "Towards a Transformed Society". There will be material for house groups to study, as well as suggestions for Sunday services.

Season of Creation

This annual focus will take place this year from Sunday 28 August to Sunday 2 October. Again, the focus will be on issues of the environment both within house groups as well as at services.

Stewardship Month

Within the diocese, the month of October is Stewardship month. We will keep this focus too, with our Stewardship/Dedication Sunday being at the end of October.

THANKSGIVING

Towards the end of last year we had a thanksgiving day. Parish Council has decided that there should be on-going opportunities for people to give thanks to God and to make a financial contribution to the church as a token of this gratitude. Those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in a particular month will be given an opportunity on the second Sunday of the month to do this in services. We will also have a thanksgiving day towards the end of the year.

PATRONAL FESTIVAL

On Friday 24 June we remember the birth of St John the Baptist. On the following Sunday, 26 June, we will hold our Patronal Festival. This will be a special day for us. There will be one morning service that day at 8.00am. Our preacher will be Bishop Elijah Thwala. We encourage you to stay after the service for a celebratory breakfast.

FUNDRAISING

Please note that our golf day has now moved to 16 September.

The our main fundraising event of the year will be the Annual Bishop Rubin Peace Lecture which will be on Friday evening 11 November.

VISITING BY MU

The Mothers' Union, together with others within the parish, is regularly visiting parishioners, especially those in particular need. Please inform them if you would like to be visited, especially if you have had a bereavement in your family.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

On Sunday 5 June there is an opportunity to sign up for the Theological Education group. The first meeting of this new venture will be on Sunday 26 June at 16.30.

FUTURE DATES

Saturday 11 June 9:00 – 13:00: *Workshop:
A Celebration of our Diversity*

Sunday 12 June 16:30: *Pentecost Meditation:
A service of choral music, hymns,
readings and prayers*

news from Diakonia

**Diakonia Council of Churches
cordially invites you to their Annual Meeting**

**Wednesday 22 June 2011
from 5.00pm for 5.30pm to 8.00pm
Denis Hurley Hall, Diakonia Centre**

Please join us as we gather to celebrate our achievements for 2010/2011 and acknowledge our challenges.

**The guest speaker is the Revd Mautji Pataki,
General Secretary, South African Council of
Churches, who will talk on**

***'Prophetic diakonia in action:
Speaking Truth to Power'***

Kindly RSVP by 17 June 2011
Call Busi on (031) 310 3500
or email reception@diakonia.org.za

**Churches are concerned about the deepening
spirituality of their members and with social
transformation – engaging one another in ways
that help us to be church in a more relevant way.**

**Diakonia Council of Churches invites you to
participate in a day of conversation on emerging
theological concepts:**

Date: Tuesday, 14 June 2011

**(a) Breakfast Briefing (cost R50.00)
7.15am for 7.30am – 9.00am**

**(b) Workshop: 9.30am – 3.30pm
(tea and a light lunch will be served)**

Venue: Denis Hurley Hall, Diakonia Centre

Kindly RSVP by 11 June 2011
Call Busi on (031) 310 3500
or email reception@diakonia.org.za

The Diakonia environmental justice course this year will start on the 29 and 30 June to 5, 6, 12 and 21 July 2011. There will also be an **eco-congregation workshop** on the 21st July. Churches will be invited to join the workshop.

ORGAN RECITAL

The St John's parishioners, and the wider Pinetown community, were treated to a special evening on Sunday 22 May when Dr Christopher Cockburn gave an organ recital at the church. Giving of his time and his considerable talents, Christopher presented a wide variety of organ music from around the world.

The programme ranged from a Bach Concerto, a Russian toccata, rag-time and a rousing Trumpet Voluntary to music for the mechanical organ. He also played one of his own compositions – evocative of the Midlands of KZN. The evening was made even more enjoyable as Christopher shared his knowledge of the music he was playing.

The church was justifiably full. Over 150 tickets were sold, raising over R8000 towards the maintenance of the church. A big thank you to Christopher, to Eve Rayner, who organized the event, and Rose Bernhard who sold the tickets.

A number of people both within our parish and outside have asked that we hold regular organ recitals.



Dr Christopher Cockburn, with his wife, Karin (right), with whom he played a duet, and Eve Rayner, the organiser.

INVITATION

The Pinetown Region Anglican Environment Groups invite you to a Workshop to be held at St John the Baptist Church, Pinetown, on Saturday, 4 June 2011 from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm

The theme of the Workshop will be 'Sustainability'

"Is life sustainable on God's gift to us – our planet Earth?"

The programme will include the acclaimed documentary "*The End of the Line*" – the story of how the oceans have been drastically over-fished. Jone Porter, Director Education: South African Association for Marine Biological Research at uShaka Marine will introduce the subject and lead discussions.

The main discussion sessions will be focused on the "*Sustainability Conundrum*" and "*Climate Change*" and how COP17 provides an opportunity to address these problems.

The workshop will end with the showing of "*The Power of Community*" the story of how the Cubans managed when their supplies of oil were cut off by the Russians after the collapse of communism.

Tea and lunch will be supplied. To assist with catering, please advise us of numbers expected to attend by Thursday, 2nd June.

RSVP to the Parish Secretary at St John's (8 am to 1.00 pm daily) on 031-702-0712, or to Janet (evenings) on 031-705-5802.

The St John's Pinetown Mothers' Union will be conducting a HCT (Health, Counselling and Testing) campaign for parishioners on Sunday, 5 June, from 07h00-11h00.

The plan is to check the following:

- 1. Blood Pressure:**
Reflects pressure of blood against blood vessels:
*Normal blood pressure ranges between 110/60 to 140/80
*Low blood pressure is hypotension
*Raised blood pressure is Hypertension
- 2. Haemoglobin Test:**
Haemoglobin transports oxygen all over the body from the lungs. Anaemia is a problem when there is not enough haemoglobin available to carry sufficient oxygen from the lungs to the body.
- 3. Haemoglucotest**
This is the testing of the level of the glucose in the blood. A Haemoglucotest above 5.3 is an indicator of Diabetes.
- 4. Screening for Tuberculosis**
- 5. Pre and Post Test Counselling**
- 6. HIV Testing**
- 7. Advise on gynaecological issues**
- 8. Youth will also be advised on Medical male circumcision**

Parishioners are encouraged to visit the different stations and to bring their family and friends to find out more about the above disorders. Referrals to the Public and Private Hospitals will be initiated according to needs identified.

Tea and cake will be served.

WANTED:

The dusting team needs more helpers. If you can spare an hour or two on a Tuesday morning to tidy and dust the pews, please come along at 08:30 on any Tuesday. Val Blore and team will be thrilled to see you.

HELP!

Barbara McAlpin needs to borrow a baby's car seat and camp cot for 2 weeks in August when her grandson comes to visit. If you have one or both to lend, please contact Barbara on 031 7023866 or 079 3110279

Diocese of Natal: Week of Prayer for Renewal 6–12 June 2011

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28: 18 – 20)

As we draw near to Pentecost, we remember the amazing benefits granted to us by the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We prepare for Pentecost by praying that the Spirit of God would renew us in every aspect of our lives. On each day of this week, we can pray for a fresh outpouring of the Spirit of Jesus upon us – “the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD” (Isaiah 11:2). May we go forward with the courage and determination of the first believers, who appropriated the power of the Holy Spirit to bring the Good News of Jesus to every tribe and nation.

We can focus each day on one aspect:

Monday 6 June:	Renewal of our Lives:	<i>(God gives us New Birth)</i>
Tuesday 7 June:	Renewal of our Hearts	<i>(God gives us a heart of flesh)</i>
Wednesday 8 June:	Renewal of our Minds	<i>(God transforms our thinking)</i>
Thursday 9 June:	Renewal of our Relationships	<i>(God makes us one)</i>
Friday 10 June:	Renewal of our Confidence	<i>(God removes our fear)</i>
Saturday 11 June:	Renewal of our Vision	<i>(God gives us a new mission)</i>
Sunday 12 June:	Renewal of our Gifts	<i>(God pours out His Holy Spirit)</i>



Prayers for the week:

Monday 6 June

We praise You, God, for Your great mercy revealed in Your Son, Jesus Christ, and for the benefits we have received through His resurrection from the dead. We thank You for our new birth into a living hope – a living hope that revives and renews us. Thank You that we can look forward to the future, because of what You have done for us in Christ. Renew us and all Your Church in this hope, we pray.

Tuesday 7 June

We praise You, God, for our baptism, through which we have been made clean. We thank You that You have replaced our hearts of stone with hearts of flesh. We thank You for the love You have poured into our hearts by Your Holy Spirit. Renew us in love this season, we pray, so that we and all Your Church may follow Jesus’ example of self-giving and service in our communities.

Wednesday 8 June

We thank You, Jesus, for Your self-sacrifice by which we were restored to relationship with our Father God. We offer ourselves to You once again, as a living sacrifice. We want to be like You and live like You. Pour out Your Spirit upon us, we pray, so and transform us by the renewing of our minds, so that we might fulfil Your will in our lives.

Thursday 9 June

We thank You, God, for choosing us, setting us apart and showing us Your love. We ask You to continue to pour Your love into our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, so that we might live new lives. May we be clothed with the spiritual clothing of love, which makes us loving and forgiving towards our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Friday 10 June

We thank You, God, for making us Your children and giving us the right to call You our Father. Renew us by Your Spirit, we pray, so that we might move forward in the confidence of our close relationship with You and Your ongoing presence with us in every trial of our lives.

Saturday 11 June

We thank You, God, for entrusting us with the mission of Jesus. Renew our vision, we pray. Send Your Spirit upon Your Church, so that we might do Jesus’ work of love, healing and forgiveness in this dark and hurting world.

Sunday 12 June

We thank You, God, for the gifts which You give when You pour out Your Spirit on us. Renew us in our desire to serve You, we pray. As we remember that first outpouring on Your Church on the Day of Pentecost, we ask You to pour out Your Spirit on us again today. Make us eager to use our gifts to bring the good news of Jesus wherever we go.

FROM THE REGISTER

Baptisms:

Samuel Thomas Kenneth Getman Burns: 8 May 2011

Holly van Huyssteen: 15 May 2011

Deaths:

Glenrose Thulile Khambule: 19 May 2011

Reg George 31 May 2011

The Lantern

The next edition of will come out in preparation for the Stewardship season in October. If you would like to contribute towards it, please have articles into the parish office by the end of August. It will then be available from Sunday 18 September to be collected from the church. We will not post out hard copies of the magazine. As usual it will be placed on our website.

Those wishing to submit material for forthcoming editions of the Bell are asked to send their material electronically to the office by the 20th of each month.

Back-copies of *The Bell* and *The Lantern* are available on the parish website: www.stjohnbaptist.co.za