



# THE BELL

## The Voice of St John the Baptist, Pinetown

*So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. Mark 16:19*



### From the Rector

Dear People of St John's

#### The Body of Christ

After the resurrection, the early followers of Jesus met together regularly. It was from the witness of their common life together that others joined them. (See Acts 2:44-47). I think the biblical image of the "Body of Christ" is an appropriate one for us to focus and work on at St John's. "You are the body of Christ and individually members of it." (from 1 Corinthians 12) We have a number of opportunities to play our part, individually, as the Body of Christ:

#### Theological education

Following this focus in the diocese, we now have a portfolio on parish council focused on this area. Theological education helps us to know God as well as ourselves, our gifts and skills, and to offer them to the benefit others. I encourage you to share in this valuable on-going process of growth and development for ourselves personally as well as for our church community.

#### Celebrating our diversity

You will recall that last year we held a day in which we looked at aspects of diversity and how to understand and

appreciate it. We are planning a follow up to this on 11 June. Both those who participated last year as well others are welcome on the 11th.

#### Parish roll

In the weeks before Lent we had copies of the parish roll available on tables after the Sunday services for parishioners to update their details. Thank you for doing that. This is an on-going task. Knowing those on our parish roll, enables us to encourage all members to play their part in the "body". Let us get to know one another better that we may make our sharing in the Body of Christ more meaningful.

I conclude with a sentence that we use to introduce the Peace:

We are the Body of Christ.

By the one Spirit we were all baptised into one Body.

Let us then pursue all that make for peace and builds up our common life. (APB 142)

Yours in Christ

Andrew Warmback

### A letter from Revd Caroline Beech

*Caroline will continue working in Bergville and Winterton in the Parish of Tugela Rivers. We wish her God's blessings.*

"My three months sabbatical up north has flown past. I have flourished here in body, mind and spirit. Every day I travel about this beautiful place, I get drunk on sky and clouds and the road sings to me. I am so blessed with well-being but like all beautiful places in our land they also hide death, disease, blood stains and grinding poverty. I am privileged to share in Philakahle's work and vision.

On behalf of the two congregations, where I also worked, the Parish Council has offered me the job of full-time Assistant Priest and Parish Administrator; and after receiving the necessary permission and warm encouragement from both Andrew and Bishop Rubin, I am delighted to accept. I will continue to offer my services on a flexi-time basis to Philakahle, whose work and ethics really push my buttons.

On the last Sunday I preached at St John's I quoted Guillaume Appolinaire:

*Come to the edge, he said.*

*We are afraid.*

*Come to the edge, he said.*

*They came.*

*He pushed them.*

*And they flew.*

A new chapter has opened for me and I am flying. I look back on my 30 years with you with great love and gratefulness for the treasure we shared. May we all go on from strength to strength in our Lord Jesus Christ. Bless you"

### News from David Austin

*"I will be ordained Deacon in Bradford Cathedral in NE of England (Yorkshire) on Sunday 3rd July 10.30am - I would appreciate the prayers of St JnB Congregation for me please at this important time. I have many fond memories of my Summer with you last year. The website for the Church I will be based in for next four years is [www.silsden.bradford.anglican.org](http://www.silsden.bradford.anglican.org) Love to all, David "*



**Organ Recital** by Dr Christopher Cockburn at St John's on 22 May at 16.00. Tickets are now available from the parish office or from Eve Rayner on 031 7016907/084 5128720.

## THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

### Introducing a new portfolio on Parish Council

*Christopher Cockburn*

Are you a theologian? The answer is 'Yes', as Eliza reminded us in her sermon a couple of weeks ago. We are all theologians because we all think and talk about God, and that's really what theology is. Theological education helps us to deepen the way we think and talk about God.

Some have a negative impression of theology because of a past experience, or because they've heard others dismiss it as a waste of time or even as something dangerous. Theology does ask questions, and perhaps some people feel it's safer not to do that. But most people do have questions, and theology can help us think through them. Others feel that theology is only for specialists, a subject studied in universities and seminaries and too complicated or abstract for most people, too full of jargon and big words. It's true that the writings of some theologians are not exactly an easy read. But nor are the writings of some scientists, and that doesn't stop us from learning what they have discovered about the world. Science can be made accessible, and so can theology, and that is what we hope to do here at St John's.

So if you'd like an opportunity to gain a broader and deeper knowledge of your faith, or if you have questions about it that you'd like to explore, why not consider coming at least to the first event organized under this new portfolio? This will be your chance to hear more about what theology is, what theological education is for, and the sort of things we might be doing. This will also be where you can ask your questions, raise your concerns, and make suggestions for topics (and times for meeting, and anything else you can think of). You may conclude it's not for you after all, but you may also discover that it's the start of an exciting journey into a whole new world. Look out for the announcement of our first meeting so that you can see and decide for yourself!



**Diakonia Council of Churches invites you to an Evening Briefing on climate change and the seventeenth Conference of the Parties (COP 17).**

**Climate change is the greatest threat humanity has ever faced. Even after sixteen Conferences of the Parties we still have not produced the necessary agreement required to avert an ecological catastrophe. It is a moral and ethical issue - directly driven by human behaviour and selfish human values. It must therefore be solved by moral principles and a willingness to do what is right.**

**Speaker: Bishop Geoff Davies,  
Anglican Church**

**Date: 12 May 2011**

**Time: 5.00pm - 7.00pm**

**Venue: Mirriam Cele Room, Diakonia  
Centre, Durban**

**Cost: R20**

**RSVP: Busi Khambule at 031 310 3500 or  
email [rsvp@diakonia.org.za](mailto:rsvp@diakonia.org.za) by 6 May 2011.**

Recordings are available on request for  
R20 per CD and R50 per DVD.



Revd Sue Britton who preached at the Diakonia Ecumenical Good Friday with Bishop Ruben and member of St John's

### FROM THE REGISTER THIS LAST MONTH

Baptisms: None

Weddings: Debbie Jean Allison / David Michael Malton took place on 16 April. Conducted by Revd Caroline Beech

Deaths: Faye Constance Culverwell died on 04 April  
Reg Barry died on 16 April

### FUTURE DATES FOR THE DIARY:

18 May - Local government elections

22 May at 16.00 Organ recital at St John's

2 June Ascension Day - services to be advertised

5 June World Environment Day

11 June - Celebrating Diversity Workshop

26 June - Patronal Festival - one **8.00** service