



The Voice of St John the Baptist, Pinetown

"Open our eyes to the needs of others and give us the will to serve You in them"
Collect for the 25th Sunday of the year.

From the Rector

Dear People of St John's

Dedication

This Friday and Sunday our annual month-long focus on Stewardship reaches its climax. In the services we will be given an opportunity to recommit ourselves to God and to the ministry of St John's church. If you have not already done so, please return the stewardship forms to the church this weekend.

At the service on 27 November we will again have a Thanksgiving Day, an opportunity to express our thanks to God in a practical way.

Rubin Phillip Peace Lecture

I encourage you to invite friends, colleagues and family members to attend this special event, as we welcome our archbishop, Thabo Makgoba, to our parish on 11 November.

For those able to help prepare for the event, please indicate your availability to assist on the clipboards at the back of the church.

Ministry in Nazareth

For a number of years we have considered holding a regular service in Nazareth, a community within our parish boundaries, situated on land originally given by the Mariannahill monastery. At the recent parish council meeting this week it was agreed that we would hold our first service there on Sunday 20 November.

Nangu mina Nkosi, ngithume! Here am I Lord, send me!
(Isaiah 6:8)

Yours in Christ

Andrew Warmback

TWO PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS FROM SYNOD

Christopher Cockburn

Firstly, I was very heartened to see that three motions which I regarded as important and forward-looking were carried by large majorities. The first concerned the plight of Palestinians and the promotion of peace and justice in Israel. The other two were proposed by our own clergy. The first, proposed by Andrew Warmback, concerned the role of women in ministry and particularly in leadership positions in the church. The third, proposed by Sue Britton, was a motion proposing a serious commitment to reflection and concrete action with regard to environmental issues. Though there were some dissenting voices on all of them, these motions did not provoke anything like the level of controversy which I had thought they might.

Secondly, the members of Synod showed themselves at times both willing and able to assert a position opposed to that taken by the church hierarchy. This seemed to me a very healthy situation, at least if democracy is thought to be an important value. For example, the role of Synod in electing representatives to various bodies and to Provincial Synod would have been substantially reduced by a motion introduced by the Bishop which proposed delegating these decisions to Diocesan Council. Despite the cumbersome nature of the electoral process, the motion was not carried because many delegates were wary of the erosion of democracy which was perceived to be entailed in this. Another motion, which proposed the reduction of lay representatives at Synod from two to one, was withdrawn at the beginning of the proceedings, but its mere presence on the agenda may well have been what made delegates more than usually alert to issues of democracy!

CALLED TO SERVE

Mary Allen & Doreen Böhmer



On the 22nd September 1996 we were licensed as lay ministers by Bishop Michael Nuttall.

We were trained by Revd John Freeman and received further teaching from the late Morna Sharp.

Some of our fellow lay ministers were ordained as self-supporting priests: the late Mary Rutland, Caroline Beech and Anthony Castleden.

Leigh Ketley and Austin Savage are our longest-serving lay ministers.

Our calling is to pastoral care and we are blessed by our ministry to the retirement villages and our other duties at St John's.

RUBIN PHILIP PEACE LECTURE

This event takes place on **Friday 11 November** at 6:30 pm. Guest of honour and speaker is **Archbishop Thabo Makgoba** and the respondent is **Cardinal Napier OFM**. The evening begins with Sung Evensong with music directed by Bishop Rubin's son, Lance Philip, a lecturer in Music at the University of the Free State, and Christopher Cockburn at the organ.

Tickets are R120 and this Sunday, 30 October, is the last chance to book. Don't miss it!!!!

UKUKHUTHAZA

Jumble Sale: We are planning a jumble sale on **3 December** to raise funds for food parcels. It's time to clear out your cupboards before Christmas, so please bring all your old clothes to the church office before that date to help us to feed the hungry.

Orphans' Party: We are once again organizing a Christmas party for orphans and vulnerable children, and appeal for gifts for them. If you would like to give a child a toy for Christmas, please bring your gift, wrapped and marked 'Boy ' or 'Girl' and the appropriate age, to the parish office or put it in the box at the back of the church. Remember that some teenagers will also be at the party.

Thanks: Ukukhuthaza depends very much on our congregation to continue our ministry to those who are hungry in our district. You have never let us down, and words cannot express our gratitude.



The small group work at the conference gave all participants an opportunity to share their ideas

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT for CLERGY and LAITY

This was one of the needs identified at the regional Growing the Church Conference held at St John's on Saturday 22 October. A small task group will look further into this. At the conference it was also decided to conduct a survey among the Anglicans of our region, asking about their needs and interests as well as their experience of the church. The conference, open to all clergy, was attended by all nine rectors, as well as about three representatives from each parish.

YOUTH Excited About Camp

The long awaited for YOUTH CAMP is finally taking place on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 December at KOINONIA CONFERENCE CENTRE in Botha's Hill, overlooking the Valley of a 1000 Hills. We will leave from the St John's car park at 8h30 on the 3rd and return by 16h30 on the 4th. Info, Indemnity and Application forms will be handed out at Youth on Friday 28 October or can be collected from Alison Warmback. Payment and completed Indemnity and Application forms need to be returned to her as soon as possible and not later than 20 November.

ADMISSION to COMMUNION BEFORE CONFIRMATION

Parents/guardians who wish their child/children to be admitted to communion, please collect a form from Alison Warmback and return the completed form to her by 30 October. There will be 2 preparation sessions for children and parents after the 9h00 services on 13 and 20 November from 10h30 – 11h15. The children will be admitted to communion on Advent Sunday 27 November

TRY THIS!

Edna Stevens

This year we experience 4 unusual dates: 1/1/11; 11/1/11; 1/11/11; 11/11/11.

Take the last 2 digits of your birth year and then add your age, e.g. 26 + 85 = 111

Every person in the world will get the same figure of 111!

SAVING PAPER on a SUNDAY

In the interests of saving paper (and reducing our impact on the environment) parish council has agreed to halve the size of the pew leaflet (from A4 to A5), as well as encourage couples and families who attend the service to share the leaflet. With less space for notices on the pew leaflet we will need to make more use of our other forms of communication (the notice boards, the website, *The Bell* and *The Lantern*).

FROM THE REGISTER:

BAPTISMS: Lubanzi Simelane and Luphelele Shange on 18 September

DEATHS: Mark Frank Swartz on 26 September
Michael Robert Samkin on 05 October
Phyllis Sysum on 22 October



MOTHERS' UNION ENROLLMENT (above):

On 23 October, the following six parishioners were enrolled in the Mothers' Union: Bongsi Gumede, Angel Mkhize, Smangele Leoto, Mandisa Sishi, Asanda Dazana and Sizakele Dubazane.

PARISH PREPARES for COP 17

On Tuesday this week we hosted an information evening on COP 17. Those present committed themselves to pray for and encourage participation in the activities surrounding these international climate change negotiations.

A rally for faith communities will be held on Sunday 27 November from 2 – 5pm at Kings Park stadium. We encourage your support for a march on 3 and a prayer meeting on 4 December.

DONATION of POTS and PLANTS

In memory of her mother (Patricia Starkey), Ingrid Pines (right) has donated three pots and plants to replace those in the area between the two halls. Ingrid has also kindly donated new carpeting for the floor of the pulpit and sanctuary of the side chapel. We are grateful for her generosity.



ORDINATION

On 26 November the Ordination service will be held at the cathedral in Pietermaritzburg. From our parish, the Revds Sean Semple and Alfred Nala are to be ordained as priests; and Jabulani Ngidi as deacon. Parishioners are encouraged to pray for them and attend the service. Shared transport from Pinetown will be arranged.