

65th Synod of the Diocese of Cape Town 'Mission and Evangelism': 17-19th August 2017



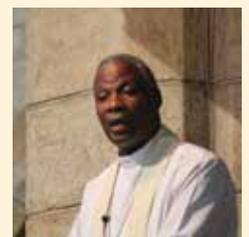
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To the Laos - to the
People of God

Post Synod 2017 reflections by Synod Manager

Synod 2017 is over and I turn to the Gospel of Luke for direction (Lk. 14:25-33). I reflect on the excitement in the diocesan office in the week prior to Synod. The gathering of the Diocese at the opening Eucharist filled with hope and expectancy served as an inspiration for the next few days. We had become part of the crowd.

Several obstacles could have wiped out the fire of the occasion: the darkness at the Synod venue on Friday morning; the electricity issue; the kitchen and the computers that refused to talk to each other in the Synod venue. All these issues were cast aside as the crowd became engrossed in the affairs of Synod. Inspiring discussions took place around the Bible studies and conference topic. This is evident in the reports that we received. The motions that resulted from the Charge of the Archbishop indicate that he had touched the hearts of many: Inten-

tional Discipleship, the training of clergy, the wellbeing of young persons, the care of clergy, the governance of the diocese, the use of resources, the difficult issue of ministry to the LGBTI community.

This is the essence of Synod: "Once when a large crowd of people were going along with Jesus" (Lk. 14:25). But Jesus challenged them to stay focused on the way. Sadly, many have gone home to count the bricks required to complete the task whilst are concerned with the forces against them. This leads to paralysis. We are asked to give everything to achieve the task. Make the necessary sacrifices. There ought to be a queue of people at the Archbishop's door indicating that they have met concerning the issues raised at Synod. How shall we implement the challenges of Synod 2017?

- **the Revd Karl Groepe**

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 Alan Lindhorst

EDITORIAL

My heartfelt thanks to Edwin Joshua (a parishioner at Church of the Reconciliation, Manenberg) who was our Synod photographer. Edwin captured the ambience of Synod so aptly and volunteered his services to the diocese. It was his first experience on diocesan level and he did a sterling job.

In his quiet manner, he went about taking hundreds of photographs and always checking with me whether he was on track and if I was happy. We worked well together and I learned much from him - a cool head gets much done!

It was a pleasure working with you Edwin and thank you to Claudine and your daughters for sacrificing family time while you were with us.

Love and Light, Rebecca

THE GOOD HOPE

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EVENTS AND NOTICES

FUNDRAISERS

Jazz with the UCT Big Band: Christ the King Claremont presents their annual great evening on 3 November 2017 at 19h00 at the church hall, Milner Road Claremont. Donation of R150 per person includes a meal and snack. Bring your own refreshments and join the after party. For more information contact Mrs Ursula Welman 071 168 4064 or Ms Natalie Welman 082 777 3157. Tickets are limited.

QUIET DAYS

Pop in and prayer: St James Seapoint will host a Quiet day and prayer vigil for our country on Saturday 21st October 2017 from 09h00 - 18h00. Evening Prayer will take place at 17h00. Directions: down St James Road from Adelphi Centre - MyCITY Bus stop : Seapoint High

TOURS

Oberammergau the Passion Play 2020 & Israel tour: the next tour meeting will take place on Sunday, 22 October 2017 at St Saviours church hall, Claremont from 15h00. Limited spaces available

so please ensure that you attend. Looking forward to seeing you there! For more information call Alec at 021 686 4666.

WELLNESS

Health Relay: St Cyprian's Retreat will host the above on 21st October 2017 at the Ashford sportsfield in Heathfield. Starting time is at 14h00 - 20h00. Entrance is R30 per person. For more info please contact Colleen Williams on 083 564 7837, Janice Cozett on 082 2287 337 or Debbie Juries on 071 1005 134.

3rd Annual Jamie Miller Cancer Memorial wellness weekend: Church of the Resurrection, Bonteheuvel will be hosting a comedy show on Friday 27th October 2017 at 19h00 at R70 per ticket. Our "road to wellness" continues on Saturday 28th from 11h00 - free entry. Walks highlighting various cancers, wellness testing and activities for young and old. Sunday 29th Thanksgiving service at 08h30. "They all matter - find a cure" For more information and tickets contact: Douglas Miller on 0734325874 or Cynthia Miller on 0846268668 or the Parish Secretary on 0216945362.

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What's on in 2017

3 February - Who is God?
 3 March - Who is Jesus?
 7 April - Easter
 5 May - Who is the Holy Spirit?
 2 June - 7 July - 4 August
 1 September - 6 October
 3 November - 1 December

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Dear Friends

Already more than a month has passed since our **DIOCESAN SYNOD** in August and the general feeling expressed has been positive – hopefully not only because the Archbishop guided us through all the business in record time! I do want to place on record here our appreciation to **Fr Karl Groepe** as Synod Manager for all the preparation work that assisted in this regard, as well as a huge thanks to **the Diocesan Office staff** for their excellent teamwork and dedication that contributed so much to the smooth running of our Synod thereby ensuring that, even when challenges occurred, we were able to continue and successfully complete our work. **THANK YOU** again to all of them.

A noteworthy highlight was the active and full participation at this Synod of our **YOUNG PEOPLE**. They did not simply make up the numbers but played a significant part in the debates and in reporting on the discussions that took place in the conference groups. This was underscored by motions passed on “The Future of Youth Ministry”, the call for the production of an agreed diocesan Curriculum for Sunday Schools, and the Youth Council’s intention to strategically focus on “Ministry and Mentoring” of our young people during 2018/19. They need and deserve our full support and encouragement to realise this goal.

Key resolutions and **AMENDMENTS TO THE DIOCESAN ACTS** were passed pertaining to clergy matters, including clergy wellness, leave/sabbaticals, and the very important matter of clergy appointments to parishes. I encourage especially wardens and parish councillors to familiarise themselves of the revised Act as this should assist positively in the process of appointing clergy to parishes.

From the Bishop’s Desk

The Introduction of a **DIOCESAN AWARD** to acknowledge lay persons who have made significant contributions to the life and witness of the church and society was also adopted.

A motion on **TRAINING FOR MINISTRY** (lay and ordained) arising from the Archbishop’s Charge at the moving opening Eucharist was approved by Synod. This has far-reaching and exciting, yet challenging implications for the future discernment, training and formation of ministers, especially in respect of future clergy.

I am writing this while flying home after my annual trip to the **College of the Transfiguration** to visit our ordinands and to attend the College Council meeting. It is clear that the college is facing severe financial challenges, not unlike many other institutions of learning that has resulted in rumours surfacing around its imminent closure. I am relieved to say that such rumours are incorrect and very premature! More so, I can also report on the deep commitment of the rector and her excellent staff who are to be commended for their hard work and determined efforts, beyond what is required, to ensure the future of our only seminary as the ACSA.

Finances, due to insufficient registrations, is of great concern and does pose a threat, should this not improve. I am of the firm belief that the model of training for ministry accepted at Synod, AND the tried and trusted model of residential formation of clergy, are not mutually exclusive! COTT has a definite place and role to play in preparing ordained leaders for the future. There is much that is positive happening at the college. A considered plan and vision exists that is reflected in the continuing review and re-shaping of academic courses to meet the set standards as an accredited institution. This is coupled with a deep passion to ensure that our stipen-



diary clergy generally, are well prepared and equipped at ALL levels for the challenges of ministry in today’s world. The Council today adopted some action steps to positively address the challenges. The college needs and deserves our prayers and practical support and commitment to ensure that it continues to fulfil the role for which it was established 25 years ago as COTT, and over a century ago as St. Paul’s.

In response to a motion on **PASTORAL CARE IN THE CONTEXT OF DIVERSE HUMAN SEXUALITY** following the 2016 Provincial Synod decision, Synod was provided with an update, including notice of a Provincial Commission led by the Bishop of Saldanha Bay as a follow-up on this.

Do take time to review other Synod feedback in this edition, and do urge your parish representatives to Synod to provide more details if they have not already done so.

Every blessing
Grace and Peace

+Garth Counsell Table Bay

Synod in action



Some motions carried at Synod 2017:

Safe Churches

Proposer: the Revd Rachel Mash

Seconded: the Revd Lorna Lavarello-Smith

This Synod noting: High level of abuse of children taking place

The need to create safe spaces in our churches

That many Sunday School teachers and youth leaders have not been screened or trained in safe church

This Synod resolves to:

Respectfully respect the Bishop of Table Bay to call a Diocesan workshop on 'Church, Children and the Law'

That this workshop should be mandatory for Sunday School teachers and Youth leaders.

The motion was carried



Notice of motion arising out of Conference of Synod

Proposer: the Revd Chesnay Frantz

Seconded: the Revd Shaun Cozett

Noting the various references to the young people within the Anglican Church, arising from the Archbishop's Charge and the group reports.

This Synod respectfully request the Archbishop to convene a Diocesan Youth Consultation to develop a Diocesan Youth Plan.

The motion was carried

The future of Youth in our Diocese

Proposer: the Revd Lorna Lavarello-Smith

Seconded: Miss Shinoa Foflonker

The Synod accepts that:

1.1 Young people of all ages are our present and future church and it is critical for those who are involved in the leading and teaching of our young people to receive adequate training and support.

1.2 The vast majority of parishes struggle to access or fund resources required for a vibrant Youth Ministry.

1.3 Our diversity makes a 'one size fits all' curriculum and strategy unworkable.

The Synod acknowledges:

2.1 The considerable amount of work already done by the Diocesan Youth Co-ordinator.

2.2 The selfless commitment and dedication of our voluntary Youth leaders, Sunday school Superintendents and teachers.

2.3 The impact of stipendiary 'Youth Pastors' on Youth Ministry.

It is respectfully requested Synod will:

3.1 Consider the training and support of all Youth Ministers across the Diocese as a high

priority going forward.

3.2 Call upon the Diocesan Youth Department to establish a central resource hub which all parishes can access.

3.3 Urge all parishes to continually consider carefully and prayerfully how they accommodate their young people.

3.4 Archdeacons to encourage clergy to support 'Youth Ministers' in their parishes and to take diversity into consideration as an important ingredient for any future strategy for Young People's Ministry.

Continuous formation and wellbeing of Clergy

Proposer: the Revd Grant Damoes

Seconded: the Revd Shaun Cozett

Where as:

1. The Archbishop highlights in his Charge the importance of formation as a key factor in the nurture of others.

This Synod notes that:

2. clergy are called as disciples of Christ and this calling includes discipling others.

3. as the disciple cares for others so too does the disciple need the care of others.

4. the ACSA Pastoral Standards state 'the church needs to address self care of clergy and their intimate relationships' and included in the formation clergy, they need to be:

4.1 taking time for their marriages

4.2 taking time for children

4.3 pursuing continuing education

4.4 regularly taking the day off

4.5 taking all of one's vacations

4.6 taking time for pursuing health relationships and supportive friendships outside of the parish.

4.7 guided in respect to single clergy dating

5. the challenges that many individuals, families and communities face seem to be increasing in our time and places greater demands on the clergy.

This Synod

1. Respectfully requests the Archbishop to set up a commission to look at a holistic ap-

proach to the wellbeing of clergy and their families and that the commission reports to the Diocesan Standing Committee by November 2018.



Feedback from Synod Bible Study groups

“Entering the bible study as the facilitator was intimidating at first, but I slowly started feeling comfortable thanks to the friendly and relaxed personalities of the group members I shared my time with. I was delightfully surprised to see how each session consisted of ways of helping and protecting the youth in each of our communities.” **Ashton Barnes**

“I sat next to a young lady aged 19, her first time at Synod. She is a student at UCT. I asked her the following question, “Would you ever invite some of your friends from UCT to your church on a Sunday morning?” She responded by bursting out laughing and saying, firmly, “No. It would be so alien and weird for them.” That for me seemed to sum up the cavernous gulf between those of us who currently lead and the emerging generation. For all our attempts to engage the next generation I don’t think we are prepared to die in the

way Jesus spoke of in John 12:25.”
- **the Revd Ben Aldous**

“The groups were very diverse from young adults to the more matured adults as well as clergy and laity. The Scripture readings Matthew 19: 3-12 and Matthew 19:13-15 was relevant to the context of what most of our congregations and local communities are experiencing.

In our group what came out strongly was family life and the role of children and young people in our parishes and communities. We realized in many parishes we don’t only have the normal families (father, mother and children). We have many single parents and stepfathers, mothers and grandmothers who take care of children. Therefore the Church has an important supportive role to play in family life. The Church has to take its (mis-

sionary and evangelisation) role serious in the spiritual formation and faith nurturing of our children. Because Christian Education (Religion Instruction) is not taught in schools anymore the only place where children hear and are being taught in the faith is at Church.”

- **the Revd Reeve Mulder**

“Synod 2017 called clergy and laity to reflect on “Transforming Bible Study”. This allowed our group to reflect pertinent issues in our personal lives and within our church. Young and older people could share their own experience on divorce. The questions itself moved within us, it allowed us be vulnerable, yet quietly and gently be drawn in God’s presence and strength. May God continue to give us courage to live, move and exist in and through Him.” - **the Revd Ronald Dias**



Conference of Synod summaries

“I facilitated the neon pink group who looked at and discussed the photo of the Eluvukweni church. Issues that came out of our reflection: You should always remember that people have their own experiences / skills and should therefore never be patronising when offering assistance. We should utilise the existing infrastructure owned by the Church to garner assistance for building works i.e. rent out buildings/flats/rectories that are not occupied. Embark on a drive to get skilled labour required to build the church which the congregation longs for; these expertise exist within the local community and the broader church. Use peo-

ple’s experiences to assist with their development and that of the church. Get those who don’t have start from a point of “what exists i.e. funds / buildings / space and then move to a point of “what is needed”

- **Eugene Dick**

“Conference of Synod 2017, was a welcomed space away from the serious but important nature of Synod. It was in these groups of Synod where individuals seemed to appear a lot more relaxed to engage with the various topics under discussion. It was amazing to see how individuals from various backgrounds came together

to share similar experiences from different vantage points. The points of discussion centered around images that were passed around and evoked various emotions, really illustrating the nature of synod, a place of varied

experiences, evoking different emotions and responses for different issues but with the goal of furthering the work of God in our community and Church.”

- **the Revd Chesnay Frantz**





Our ministries as clergy in recent weeks have been overshadowed by tragedy, both within our Diocese and in dioceses in the Eastern Cape.

In Cape Town we had the sudden death of the Revd Mark Abrahams, Rector of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Heideveld. He died just after undergoing an operation and only a week before his 54th birthday. Large numbers came both to the Church of the Resurrection in Bonteheuwel and to Holy Spirit to commemorate his life and ministry, and I join Bishop Garth – who conveyed our condolences on these pages last month – in appealing for your continued prayers for Susan, Kyle, Kelly and the rest of his family.

Not too long before that, I preached and presided at the funeral of a senior priest, Archdeacon Lunga Vellem, in Kokstad in the Diocese of Umzimvubu, a part of our Province where we have had major leadership problems, with endless legal matters taken by those implicated to the secular courts at huge cost to us. As someone who held an MBA, he was a valuable asset to the Diocese but was killed when he sustained head injuries in a car accident.

Then, as I first drafted this letter to you, I had just buried a young Archdeacon in the Diocese of Mthatha, Archdeacon Sibulele Njova, his wife, his son and his younger sister. They all died in a head-on collision with a van which was allegedly forced out of its lane by a taxi – which then sped off without stopping, apparently realising what it had inflicted on this young family. As we lowered the four coffins into the grave in Mqandule in rural Transkei, not far from the picturesque Wild Coast resorts of Coffee Bay and Hole-in-the-Wall, the wailing of the mourners seemed – very painfully – to be matched by the sound of the sea.

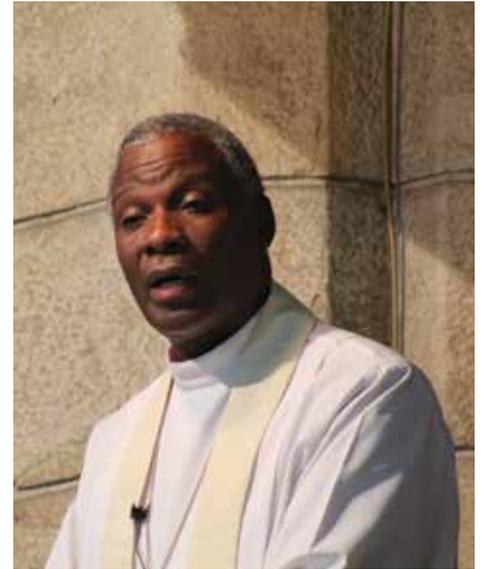
After the funeral I went to Mthatha Hospital with the Dean to visit the two surviving daughters, aged 11 and four. The 11-year-old

was battling with her injuries but the four-year-old could hold a conversation with me and even gave me a high-five. She was happy that we were in cassocks because we reminded her of her dad. But she had not yet been told her parents had died and thought they were arriving back from a conference later that day. I suspected she must have sensed that her parents had gone – she was, after all, in the car with them – and I felt that I was betraying her by not saying anything. But I was on my way back to Cape Town, so I resisted the temptation to tell her and then to leave her and fly off. If her sister pulls through, they will both be orphans. Their grandparents are ageing, so they will have to stay with an aunt in conditions far inferior to those of a rural Anglican rectory.

As I reflected on the lives of these three clerics and their families, I thought of the Gospel assurance that “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted” (Matthew 5:4) – but also of the Psalmist’s words: “Why are you so full of heaviness, my soul: and why so unquiet within me?” (Psalm 46) We all have finite lives, and as St Paul says to us, “We do not want you to be uninformed... about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.” (Thessalonians 4:13) Well done, good and faithful servants, and may you enter into your Father’s rest.

Among the resolutions passed by the recent Diocesan Synod was one to explore the feasibility – without losing our status as a religious body operating not-for-profit – of encouraging parishes to work with commercial entities to make better use of church land and property to sustain our ministry. This will hopefully ensure that we are faithful servants and stewards of our resources, ensuring that when we are called to our rest, we can say that the mission of the Diocese is both financially and spiritually sustained. Please pray for this act of stewardship.

As I write we are preparing for meetings of the Synod of Bishops and the Provincial Standing Committee (PSC), the latter preceded by a



conference reflecting on the 25th anniversary of the ordination of women as priests in our Province. PSC will consider reports on Provincial work and deal with legislation and the implications of the decisions of Provincial Synod last year.

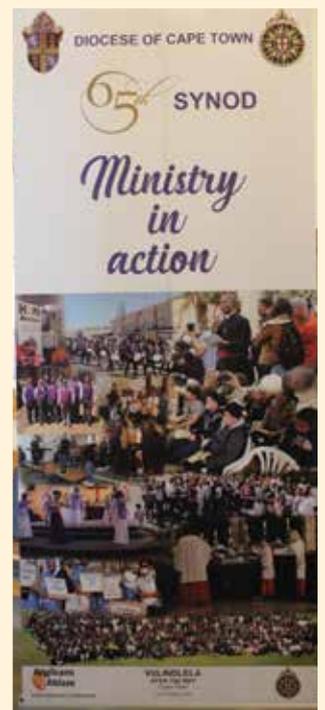
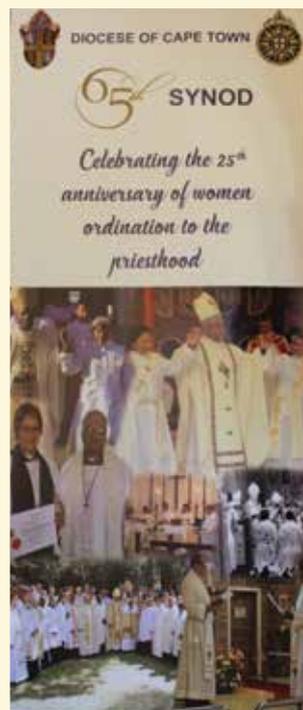
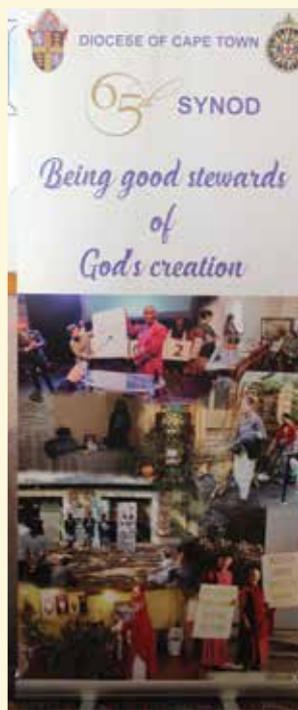
Directly after that I travel to London, first for a week-long meeting of the Primates of the Anglican Communion and then for another week when I chair a meeting of the Lambeth Design Group, a body which oversees planning for the next Lambeth Conference, to be held in 2020. Our Province is committed to faithfully showing up and participating in these key meetings of the Communion, doing so because our reward is to be faithful servants of God and God’s witness and mission in the world.

On my return, Bishop Martin Breytenbach of the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist will marry Colleen Thomas of Cape Town. After they both suffered the loss of their spouses in recent years, we celebrate and rejoice that they have found new happiness and give thanks to God for this life-giving sacrament, marriage.

**God Bless
+Thabo Cape Town**



Synod 2017 Election Results



3 Clerical Representatives to Provincial Synod:

Revd Shaun Cozett: Revd Mark Long
Ven Joshua Louw

3 Clerical Alternate Representatives to Provincial Synod:

Revd Canon Cheryl Bird: Revd Jerome Francis
Revd Mkhusele Lujabe

3 Lay Representatives to Provincial Synod:

Ms Charleen Van Rooyen: Mr Wayne Jones
Mr Zola Gqada

3 Alternate Lay Representatives to Provincial Synod:

Mrs Roslynn Moosajee: Ms Pumeza Magona
Mrs Saskia Emary

Lay Chairperson of the Advisory Committee for the election of a Bishop: Prof Richard Fuggle

Deputy Chairperson of the Advisory Committee for the election of a Bishop: Mrs Veliswa Baduza

4 Clerical Representatives for the Advisory Committee for the Election of a Bishop:

Revd Natalie Simons- Arendse: Revd Mark Long
Revd Mzwabantu Magadla: Ven Terrence Lester

4 Alternate Clerical Representatives for the Advisory Committee for the Election of a Bishop:

Ven Joshua Louw: Revd Basil Davids
Revd Canon Cheryl Bird: Revd Christian Hartnick

4 Lay Representatives for the Advisory Committee for the Election of a Bishop:

Ms Maseka Mapukata: Ms Doreen Hendricks
Mr Gavin Dennis: Ms Charleen van Rooyen

4 Alternate Lay Representatives for the Advisory Committee for the Election of a Bishop:

Mr Chaern Golding: Miss Thenjiswa April
Mr Kyle Abrahams

2 Clerical Representatives for the Council for the Appointment of the Dean and Rector of the Cathedral:

Revd Canon Cheryl Bird
Revd Mkhusele Lujabe

2 Clerical Alternate Representatives for the Council for the Appointment of the Dean and Rector of the Cathedral:

Ven Terrence Lester
Revd Dr Rachel Mash

2 Lay Representatives for the Council for the Appointment of the Dean and Rector of the Cathedral:

Dr Elizabeth Fullard
Ms Charleen Van Rooyen

2 Alternate Lay Representatives for the Council for the appointment of the Dean and Rector of the Cathedral:

Mrs Alicia James
Ms Vanessa Khatib

6 Lay Representatives for Diocesan Trusts Board:

Mr Kevin Gallagher: Mrs Veliswa Baduza
Ms Xoliswa Daku: Mrs Zandile Mcutshenge
Mr Hugh Fichardt: Mr Alan Accom

Election of representatives to provincial standing committee:

One Clerical and one Lay Representative and alternates by respective houses -

Clerical Representative: Revd Mark Long
Lay Representative: Ms Charleen van Rooyen
Alternate Clerical Representative: Revd Shaun Cozett
Alternate Lay Representative: Mr Wayne Jones

From the gofers at Synod 2017



Some gofers pictured with Bishop Garth Counsell at St Thomas, Rondebosch

"Wow I've learned too many things but the greatest thing about synod was meeting new people; working with different characters and getting to know more clergy from our diocese. It was a great experience indeed. Once again thank you for the opportunity." - **Yonela Mavata, St Cyprian's Langa**

"It was awesome to be present and experience what really goes on at Synod first-hand and behind the scenes. At the next Synod I would like to be there with voting rights because of the change one can bring." - **Avron Flowers, St George's Silvertown**

"As this was the first time I was given the opportunity to attend the Synod, I found the experience an eye opener. I went there without any expectations but being granted the opportunity to attend the synod was a blessing on its own. I found the agenda items discussed inspiring. These agenda items are issues that we deal with in our everyday lives but what I realised is the difference in the way we deal with it. If the world would

address these issues (and many more) in exactly the same way they were discussed during the Synod, I strongly believe that the world would be a better place. I liked how the agenda items were first introduced and discussed before being voted on. For me, this gave everyone a chance to voice how they feel about certain issues in a respectful manner. I was even more inspired when the Archbishop could see that some agenda items needed prayer instead of being voted on. This showed that God was invited to guide the Anglican family to the right path. The fact that before the interactive dialogues and before voting, the Archbishop asked everyone to pray for the agenda item clearly showed that as Anglicans, we ask God to take control in everything we do."

- **Samkele Njemla, Eluvukweni Parochial District**

"It was a very interesting experience, it builds relationships; it helps people understand each other and how different Christians understand different ways of working

... I think it's very insightful for all concerned. Synod gives you opportunity to see the bigger picture of what is going on in the Diocese. Synod gives you the opportunity to be involved in the direction and decision of the Diocese. Synod gives you the opportunity to catch up with friends and hear what is going on in their parishes."

- **Noxolo Siythula - DYC chairperson St Columba Guguletu**

"As a gofer, it was a privilege being able to serve at Synod 2017 as it was a new experience for me as a YPM leader. I admired the way the representatives of the YPM were acknowledged by clergy who took the time to learn from the young adults; to listen to their stories and to engage them in authentic dialogue during group discussions of which I would have loved to have been a part of. What stood out to me the most were the strong points viewed and addressed, some of which I personally support fully. However, it was a pity our vote of confidence as gofers would or could not be accepted. I do feel that with regards to the administration department, the diocesan staff working in the background deserve a warm hearted THANK YOU as they worked above and beyond to exceed everyone's expectations. I firmly believe that no one really understands all the effort that goes into organising an event of such great calibre even when things seemed to be unorganised at times, they pulled themselves towards themselves and still came out on top.

Synod was blessed as I was able to meet and greet new people and network as much as possible. The venue was beautiful and the food was amazing too. I take my hat off to the gofer team I was part of as they worked diligently and supported one another at all times.

Thank you Abigail for the opportunity to experience what Synod is about, I have a greater respect and further grown love for my ministry as a YPM leader within the Anglican Diocese of Cape Town."

- **Jade Africa, Holy Nativity Hazendal**

We would love to hear from your parish, send articles and photographs to Rebecca Malambo at malambor@ctdiocese.org.za or call 021 469 3766.

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