St Mark’s the Evangelist Athlone celebrates its 115th anniversary

We thank the Lord for all His blessings bestowed upon our parish over the years. St Mark’s has always been regarded as the ‘Mother Church’ in the Athlone area giving ‘birth’ to St George’s Silvertown; St John’s Belgravia and Holy Nativity, Hazendal. Our Patronal week started on Sunday 17th April 2016 and we were privileged to have had Canon Allan Dennis, a son of the parish as our Celebrant and Preacher. It was his first time in 37 years since last being in the parish. It was therefore a great honour to have had him and his wife Jenny present with us.

The Monday following we had worship done by the parish organizations. The Tuesday we had a Healing service. The Wednesday, we had the choir from Church of the Resurrection, Bonteheuwel who focussed on sacred music and it was a memorable occasion of ‘heavenly voices’. From the Thursday the preparations for our Flower festival started and we officially opened on Friday morning with the theme ‘Fruits of the Spirit’ which livened the church with the most beautiful arrangements. On Sunday 24th April, we had another daughter of the parish, the Revd Canon Cheryl Bird as our Celebrant and Preacher. We thank God for his blessings and for the passion and commitment of all the parishioners who live out the true values of the Gospel in this part of His vineyard within the Diocese of Cape Town.

- the Revd Christian Hartnick
- Photos: Hilton Alcock and Beryl Davies
I came across a quote which read: “Maybe the thing you most scared of is exactly what you should do.” I can think of many things I’m ‘scared’ of and can’t imagine how my life will change if I overcame it. But I think there is more to those words than just the obvious. Sometimes we should just take the leap and leave our fears aside...sometimes...

As Christians we experience many spiritual fears and just thinking of a few: The fear of sharing our faith; the fear of acknowledging you are a Christian; the fear of standing by moral values; the fear that we believe in Bible stories; the fear of ministering to the homeless, prisoners, or less fortunate; the fear of suffering or enduring hardship for our faith. You are in that list and so am I.

Love and Light, Rebecca

EVENTS AND NOTICES

Patronal Festival Dance: St Saviour’s Claremont will be hosting the above at the Wittebome Civic Centre on Friday 5th August 2016 at 20h00. The band in attendance will be Cool Sounds. The cost is R100. Bring your own glasses, platter and liquid refreshments. Contact Cecil Lategan at 021 696 1683 or Avril in the parish office 021 671 0257.

Snack Dance: St Mark’s Athlone will be hosting the above on 26th August 2016 at the Athlone Civic Centre from 20h00 - 00h45. Admission is R120 per person and the band in attendance will be Cool Sounds. Please bring your own platters and liquid refreshments. Cheese and wine from 19h30 - 20h30. For more information contact Loraine McKinnon at 021 697 4227.

School shoes drive: Our GIFT NPC is a non-profit organisation involved in school feeding, community outreach and reading programmes for foundation phase learners. We are currently doing a drive for white / grey school socks and black school shoes. For more information on our organisation visit our website www.ourgift.co.za or our Facebook page OUR GIFT NPC. For more information contact Avril Cloete at 078 704 6006 or email avril@ourgift.co.za

OFFICE STATIONERY

Special Showroom offer: Refurbished Olivetti 2200MF with 75% field life remaining. Olivetti 2200MF blk / white A4/A3, 22 / 11 ppm MFD (copy/ print / scan / fax) Cost is R13 680 including vat. Which includes DP 420 re-circulating document feeder; DU 420 duplex copying / printing; includes fax system; includes mobile copier stand; includes 2 x 300 sheet paper trays; all -inclusive service and maintenance contract @ 15 cents per copy / print and 2 cents per scan. Service Billing: R150 per month (includes 1000 free copies). Its a 36 month contract. For more information contact Paul Burton at 021 481 8300 / cell: 083 700 8216 or email: pbu@maynards.co.za

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“Let God love you through others and let God love others through you.”
John Bunyan

“When you pray, rather let your heart be without words, than your words without heart.”

Welcome to the Diocese of Cape Town: the Revd Lorna Lavarello-Smith, was licensed by Bishop Garth as Assistant Priest at St Thomas’ Rondebosch on 12th June 2016. She was born and brought up on the island of Tristan da Cunha and was ordained in Peterborough Cathedral as a Deacon in June 2013 and then as Priest in 2014. She served her Curacy in the villages of Great and Little Billing in Northamptonshire. She is married to Drew and they have 5 children together. The stole Revd Lorna was wearing at her licensing was designed for her by the children at St Mary’s School on Tristan Da Cunha and contain symbols representing the island.

A Vigil held at St George’s Cathedral for the victims of the Homophobic Massacre of LGBTQ Community members in Orlando

On Friday 17th June 2016 at 12h00, Canon Rowan Smith, former Dean of St George’s Cathedral officiated at the Vigil, an initiative of the Diocese of Cape Town; Inner Circle; Triangle Project; GenderDynamix and the Good Hope Metropolitan Church. The Angelus prayers are noon day prayers for Africa and all of humanity. Fridays are focussed on reconciliation. The Call to Prayer is announced by the ringing of the Cathedral bells, the praying of the Angelus and then followed by the focussed prayers.

Bernard Mizeki
120th anniversary
“Witnessing for Christ in a transforming world”

The Bernard Mizeki Men’s Guild in the Diocese gathered to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the Martyrdom of the Patron Bernard Mizeki in Mashonaland in 1896. The Patronal festival took place this year at St Mary Magdalene, Gugulethu and the event was dignified by the presence of clergy from the Diocese and our Sister organisations – Mothers’ Union, AWF, AFY and the GB-MFS Guilds.

Amongst some of the key events was a keynote address that was given by Father Zwelibanzi Antoni, expounding our theme for this year ‘Witnessing for Christ in a transforming world’ where he challenged and reminded the guild as members of the body of Christ the church, to be visible and heard in issues facing our communities, our nation and our world in a manner that leaves no doubt of the presence of the church in the society. He challenged the men as leaders to be firm in their faith and live an example worthy of the character that Bernard Mizeki was and his contribution to the church. This message was echoed by the Guild president Father Mzwabantu in his address and Ven Mpambani in his sermon on Sunday, both of whom challenged the members of the guild to be exemplary Fathers and leaders in their homes and the society and to present a good image of fatherhood and family life.

The Guild also honoured key people who have contributed positively to the growth of the Guild through the recognition of service awards to members for long service, amongst whom the late Father Stanley Qabazi who founded the Bernard Mizeki Guild in the Diocese was also honoured for this contribution to the formation of the guild. Others key people who were awarded for their contribution to the guild in their leadership capacity were the Revd Mluleki Nkoloti, Revd Joy Khilimbasho, Revd Mzwandile Mzamane and Brothers Zola Gqada and Eric Magodla; who led the guild during the undivided Diocese of Cape Town. The two day celebrations concluded on Sunday with a Celebration Eucharist led by the Chaplain and clergy present, and we give thanks to God for the time of fellowship shared by the guild members and others who gathered during this celebrations. - the Revd Mkhuseli Lujabe
Dear Friends

Since my last column in the April edition much has happened to keep me busy including several trips away from the office and home. These travels and ministry opportunities in new and unfamiliar contexts all proved to be very blessed and enriching experiences, for which I thank God and all those who were a part of it. Here are a few reflections and pictures which I hope will convey something of this special time.

The most obvious highlight was my post-Easter pastoral visit to St Mary’s Parish on the Island of Tristan da Cunha. Eight days sailing there on a fishing vessel, the MFV Edinburgh, eleven wonderful days on the remotest inhabited island in the world, and a seven day return journey on the Edinburgh in very rough seas at times, made for a most unforgettable experience. The warm hospitality, friendliness, care and very able seamanship of Captain Clarence and his excellent crew allowed for calm nerves, even when sliding from port to starboard in one’s bunk as the vessel rolled and dipped making sleep rather difficult! It was also a privilege to lead a Sunday service on board during both legs of the journey.

The presence and warm reception of many islanders and administration officials when we landed was clearly indicative of the anticipation and excitement, especially for parishioners who were having their bishop amongst them for the first time since 2010! Fr. Denzall Snell and his wife Sinyati were excellent hosts and most helpful in ensuring that I experienced a good overall taste of life and ministry on Tristan where they are much loved and appreciated.

On the first occasion 12 candidates were confirmed and 3 young children admitted as communicants. I also presented Certificates of Commendation to 2 lay ministers, Lars Repetto and Eddie Rogers who have faithfully served the congregation, including during some extended interregnums, for over 50 years! I enjoyed engaging with the young islanders several of whom showed real enthusiasm and promise despite their isolated context. The challenges and choices they will face into the future are quite unique. I ask you to join me in praying regularly for them and their families.

The very tasty but gigantic meals delivered by various parishioners to the guest flat where I stayed, often enough for at least 3 people, were unforgettable and a real challenge to my eating capacity! I now know that a healthy appetite will be a necessary pre-requisite for any priest who goes to Tristan. With Fr Denzall’s stay sadly coming to an end when they return towards the end of July, I hope that a few suitable candidates will show some keen interest. The crayfish, freely available, is to die for! I presided and preached on two consecutive Sundays, the first time I’ve done so in any parish as bishop!

The “potato patches” a few kilometres outside the settlement

Certificates of Commendation were awarded to Lay Ministers, Lars Repetto and Eddie Rogers

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Spending time in every candidate’s home after the Confirmation service, joining Fr. Denzall for Morning Prayer and a mid-week Eucharist, on home visits to take communion to the housebound, visiting the local hospital and sharing with the whole community in celebrating an islander’s 90th birthday were special highlights that will long remain with me. Another special excursion I enjoyed was accompanying the Belgian doctor presently serving on the island, and a Welsh ENT surgeon who spent the same time that I did on Tristan, on a visit to the “potato patches” a few kilometres outside the settlement. We took in some magnificent sites and beautiful views of the island, the mountain (volcano) and surrounds, including the “black sand beach” where folks go to “camp”.

Having quickly gained my “sea legs” (no sea sickness!) and with communication to the mainland now possible, though limited, I would not overlook a future opportunity to visit God’s people and this remarkable location again. Please pray regularly for your brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Shortly after my return Marion and I attended the consecration of former PEO, Allan Kannemeyer, as the new Bishop of Pretoria where I was one of his presenting bishops. A glorious and blessed occasion that warmly affirmed Bishop Allan and his leadership in that diocese.

Towards the end of May I travelled to Accra, Ghana for the 7th Consultation of Bishops in Dialogue of which I have been a member since its inception in 2010. Another first for me visiting West Africa where all the participants again valued the quality and integrity of our growing relationships and continuing conversations as leaders in the Anglican Communion. It was a particular privilege and joy to have the new Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, +Michael Curry, and the Primate of Canada, +Fred Hiltz, in attendance. There were several memorable experiences during the time in Ghana including a poignant visit to the Cape Coast, the heart of the slave trade from West Africa, and our Sunday preaching engagements in various local parishes. The Testimony/Statement reflecting on our time together is available on our diocesan website at www.capetown.anglican.org

Finally Marion, our children and I thank you sincerely for the many calls and messages assuring us of your prayers and support during challenging times recently. We have been much strengthened and upheld as we keep focussed on the Lord in whose service we stand.

Every blessing

+Garth Table Bay

The Revd Denzall Snell and Bishop Garth

The Island Administrator, Alex Mitham and his wife Hasene

Receiving gifts from the Ven Ebenezer, a batikira I am wearing and a Bible at St Barnabas Osu Parish in Ghana
As I completed writing this, news came in of the passing of Bishop Charles Albertyn. We remember Bishop Charles for his deep spirituality and centredness on God, and for the deep wisdom and quick wit he brought to the leadership of the Diocese. We convey the Diocese’s heartfelt condolences to Berenice and the Albertyn family.

We are set to have heavily-contested municipal elections in the Western Cape next month, with 66 parties registered with the Electoral Commission. It is against that backdrop that I joined other religious leaders recently to witness party leaders and the IEC staff signing the Electoral Code of Conduct.

At the signing, the IEC pledged to be transparent and accountable as they work to ensure a free and fair environment for elections. Parties also pledged to play their part. Among the commitments which the Code imposes on parties and candidates are that they undertake:

• Not to use language which provokes violence,
• Not to intimidate voters,
• Not to publish false information about other candidates or parties,
• Not to bribe others to vote for a party,
• Not to deface or remove posters, and
• Not to carry weapons.

The signing ceremony went off smoothly. As during previous elections in the Western Cape, religious leaders and others comprising the Electoral Code of Conduct Observer Commission (ECCOC) will monitor the conduct of these municipal elections. Preaching at St Luke’s, Salt River, last month, I regretted the fact that in some provinces of the country we have seen an upsurge in what are said to be political killings. I appeal to all Anglicans to take seriously our civic responsibilities: to vote and to take action if you see any signs of the Code being breached.

Taking us outside the Diocese of Cape Town, we face a busy time in the Province in the coming months. The recent Elective Assembly of the Diocese of Christ the King—which is situated in southern Gauteng—delegated to the Synod of Bishops the choice of a new bishop to succeed Bishop Peter Lee. So the bishops must now choose new bishops for both Niassa in northern Mozambique and Christ the King at their next meeting at the end of September. Please pray for us as we consider these choices.

Immediately after the Synod of Bishops meets, we will have our three-yearly Provincial Synod. Please continue to pray for the planning process for Provincial Synod, which brings together the whole body of Christ as organised in the Anglican Church in Angola, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, the island of St Helena and Swaziland. Looking beyond our Province, the body of Christ as represented by Anglicans across Africa will meet in Kigali, Rwanda in August, when we will have a meeting of the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA). Pray for this meeting too, and for the election of a successor to the CAPA chair, Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi of Burundi. And beyond Africa, please pray for the Gafcon groupings of Anglican churches and, indeed, for the whole Communion.

Both the Communion and our own Province continue to face the historic challenge posed by the debate around human sexuality. It is a painful issue both for those who support the traditional position on marriage and for those who wish to introduce changes. In our Province, the bishops are committed to ongoing dialogue and conversations around the issue, and I urge those who have not yet read my pastoral letter after the last Synod of Bishops to read it on my blog at: http://bit.ly/1tkK7qI

The Second Agenda Book for Provincial Synod will include a resolution on the matter. Please begin to pray about this issue, reflecting on your own sexuality, on your understanding of the sexual orientations of others and on what might constitute a godly, pastoral, biblical and just way of dealing with this matter, taking us to a place beyond where we are now, in which those on both sides of the debate seem to be locked into our positions. I don’t want to pre-empt our discussions at Provincial Synod here, but just be aware that this debate is on the agenda. I encourage you to ask your representatives to consult as widely as possible in your diocesan and parish preparations for Synod.

However, I want to say immediately that I don’t want the issue of sexuality to dominate our thinking as we view the Communion, and especially as we consider the welfare of our sisters and brothers in other parts of our continent. I have recently been reading material from the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), in Durban, and the situation in the Great Lakes Region is very worrying. Pray particularly for the Democratic Republic of Congo—for an end to conflict in the east, for their planned elections and for their rulers as it appears elections might be delayed and the President’s term of office extended. Madibä’s role in brokering a previous settlement there makes the fate of the Congolese people of special concern to us.

So whether we are praying about our own elections, or the issue of human sexuality, or our fellow Anglicans in Africa, please offer your prayers in the spirit of St Paul, where he says so beautifully in 1 Corinthians 12, that “all the members of the body, though many, are one body...” and “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.”

God bless you,
++ Thabo Cape Town

International Candle Light Memorial 2016

Candle Light Memorial is celebrated on the 3rd Sunday in May annually. The memorial reminds us of the impact that HIV still has on our lives. It emphasizes the need for people living with and affected by HIV to join hands and to work together actively.

As part of our celebration this year we asked our support groups and churches who were celebrating Candle Light Memorial to invite us to their celebration. We were in awe at the efforts that were made.

Services were hosted and celebrated at: Church of the Holy Spirit Heideveld; St Mary Magdalene Guguletu; Holy Nativity Hazendal; St Georges Cathedral, St Mary’s Woodstock; Holy Cross Nyanga, Church of the Resurrection Bonteheuwel; St Andrews Steenberg; St Mark’s District Six and St Cyprian’s Langa.

We acknowledge each and every person who engaged with us through the celebration.

Thank you all.
-The Fikelela Team

Paul Claudel

“Jesus did not come to make suffering disappear, but to fill it with His presence.”
Portrait of a lady – Florence McFarlane 1921 – 2016

Florence Deborah McFarlane died peacefully on 21st May 2016 at the Ladies Christian Home Gardens, Cape Town. She was aged 94 years, 5 months and 4 days.

I met Florence for the first time in October 1970 when I joined the staff of Zonnebloem College and was introduced to her by Miss Henrietta Hartogh, Principal of the Zonnebloem Girls Practicing School. For the next 10 years I was able to observe her as she weaved her spell on a whole generation of young school girls. She ruled supreme in her classroom and woe betide anyone who crossed her, they would feel the whiplash of her tongue which would have prevented them from ever attempting that again.

That she was a good teacher goes without saying, even though her methods were sometime somewhat rough. But she got results and she certainly made her mark judging from the fact that even to-day I meet women some mothers and even grandmothers whom Florence taught, and when the subject of Zonnebloem comes up they would invariably enquire about “Makie.”

However I doubt very much whether she would have survived in this day and age with all the restrictions placed upon teachers in the classroom by the authorities. But then again she was a product of her time. But there was another side to Florence she was capable of being unbelievable generous, kind and caring and I was a recipient of that generosity. When Patricia Forbes, wife of the Dean of Natal and a former warden of Zonnebloem was killed in a terrible motor accident in Pietermaritzburg, her many friends in Cape Town were devastated. I had only shortly before spent a holiday with the family in Pietermaritzburg and I was deeply saddened. On the day after the news arrived Florence came to see me she said she knew how much I would want to be with the family at this time and she offered to pay for my flight to Pietermaritzburg for the funeral. I was deeply touched by this kindness and generosity and although I was unable to accept her offer I have never forgotten it.

Florence could also be quite perverse and I’m sure there are some members of the Cathedral parish who will recall her 80th birthday. The then Dean Rowan Smith offered I have never forgotten it. But there was another side to Florence she was capable of being unbelievable generous, kind and caring and I was a recipient of that generosity. When Patricia Forbes, wife of the Dean of Natal and a former warden of Zonnebloem was killed in a terrible motor accident in Pietermaritzburg, her many friends in Cape Town were devastated. I had only shortly before spent a holiday with the family in Pietermaritzburg and I was deeply saddened. On the day after the news arrived Florence came to see me she said she knew how much I would want to be with the family at this time and she offered to pay for my flight to Pietermaritzburg for the funeral. I was deeply touched by this kindness and generosity and although I was unable to accept her offer I have never forgotten it.

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Florence McFarlane

thought it was a good idea to honour her for all that she had done and was continuing to do at the Cathedral. Working in the Soup Kitchen providing meals to the poor and homeless, helping at the Welcome Table in the Cathedral, doing duty as Cathedral Sacristan, and being a part of the team which sold refreshments to patrons attending performances at the Universities Little Theatre.

“…we give thanks for this unique and feisty woman who so enabled, enlightened, entertained, infuriated and irritated us but who also in so many ways enriched our lives…”

And so on the Sunday following her birthday at the end of Mass, the Dean came forward and congratulated Florence and thanked her. A beautiful bouquet of flowers was produced and she was asked to come to the platform. But nothing happened, again he asked her but again nothing. After the 3rd attempted those in front started turning around to see where the illusive Miss McFarlane was, this included Miss McFarlane but she remained firmly in her seat and refused to move. The Dean realizing that she was not going to appear said that the flowers would be sent on to her. I said to the Dean afterwards, “You know how she always says she hates drawing attention to herself so you should not have done that. When that lady says NO she means NO!”

On another occasion Florence arrived late for a big service in the Cathedral, there was standing room only but Florence observed an empty seat as she was about to sit the woman in the seat next door said to Florence, “The seat is already occupied,” she was obviously keeping it for someone. Florence looked at the woman and said, “Oh! So you also believe in the Holy Ghost?” and promptly sat down.

Shortly before Florence died I attended a memorial / celebration at the Artscape for John Caviggia. An extraordinary man, an actor, theatre and costume designer and theatre critic. A man widely travelled, well read and an amazing cook. He was also odd and outrageous - wearing strange outfits and stacks of jewellery so that one was never quite certain if the person approaching was either male or female. He was opinionated and always spoke his mind and Florence adored him. He is the only person of whom I ever heard her say, “There is a man with panache.” I think she would love to have been like him and sometimes she got pretty close except for the drag and the cooking.

When John died I asked Pat Ellis (someone who was amazingly kind and caring to Florence during her last few years) who was going to see Florence to tell her that John Caviggia had died. Pat said she won’t understand. I said tell her ‘the man with panache’ had died. Whether she understood or not I cannot say. But I would like to think that John Caviggia and Florence McFarlane have now joined forces and together causing havoc wherever they are to be found.

And so we give thanks for this unique and feisty woman who so enabled, enlightened, entertained, infuriated and irritated us but who also in so many ways enriched our lives.

May she rest in Peace and rise in glory.

- John Ramsdale

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“Faith is not a sense, nor sight, nor reason, but simply taking God at His Word.”

Christmas Evans
Detainees remember St Nicholas Church raid
30 years later

Thirty years ago on 15 June 1986, notorious Captain van Schalkwyk and fifteen apartheid policemen stormed into the St Nicholas Church in Elsies River, brandishing batons and machine guns during a June 16 commemoration service.

Desecrating the holy sanctuary and declaring the service a subversive meeting against the state, the police violently arrested the rector Father Deveraj Laban, his assistant, Father Austen Jackson, other speakers, and about 180 bewildered women, men and children. This brazen act led to the detention of the whole congregation - the women at Pollsmoor Prison and the men at Victor Verster Prison near Paarl for up to four weeks.

Sunday 19 June 2016 they were back at St Nicholas Church at the first historic commemoration of that vicious act 30 years earlier: to recognize the sacrifices made, to tell their story, to share their pain, to remember those who had died. Despite pouring rain, St Nicholas Church was packed to capacity. Former detainees, some grey, some bald, sporting red scarves, their families, friends, and interested people brushed shoulders and held hands.

The call for this commemoration service came via Facebook a year earlier by one of the detainees and the response was overwhelming. One of the speakers, the South African Ambassador to Thailand, Ms Ruby Marks, a former UDF leader, came especially to share in its significance. The organising committee comprised detainees of the ill-fated service and the rector of St Nicholas, Father Frank Leonard. Bishop Raphael Hess of Saldanha Bay Diocese gave the episcopal welcome, Dean Michael Weeder of St George’s Cathedral was the speaker, Canon Ronald Phillips, chaplain at Stellenbosch University and detainee, preached the sermon, and Father Austen Jackson, detainee and rector of St Mark’s, presided over the Eucharist. Other speakers included detainees who gave moving accounts of their experiences of the raid and called for peace and commitment to the ongoing struggle for justice for all. Ruby Marks emphasised the importance of this mass detention as a watershed moment for the struggle to freedom and a source of pride for Cape Town activists.

The messages were clear: the struggle continues. Unacceptable levels of poverty, crime and human rights violations in our country need God’s people to advocate the peace of Christ, to continue the conversation and to work towards capturing all stories as a valuable resource of the history of our people for future generations.

Freedom songs were sung with gusto, uniting the congregation once again as they reconnect with their past. After the service the sharing continued with refreshments in the hall and a renewed commitment to stay connected.

- Belinda Jackson, detainee