

THE **G**ood Hope

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN • ANGLICAN CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



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celebrates 115th

Ecumenical Procession of Witness through the streets of Manenberg



And so the Ecumenical Procession of Witness for Manenberg on Sunday 12 November has come and gone. What an awesome ministry of public witness it was! We begin by giving God all the honour, glory and praise.

Much prayer had been requested and received for Manenberg which has witnessed atrocious, on-going gang violence and senseless killings resulting in a community living in the grip of fear. More was required though, a stand had to be taken, hence this Walk of Witness spearheaded by the Anglican Church. The presence of a large number of clergy from within the Diocese and surrounds, who came and supported was most heartening as was the presence of members of the Ministers' Fraternal.

What an awesome sight to witness members of the congregation, as well as a massive crowd from the community, turning up in their numbers with their placards to demonstrate their displeasure. It was evident that those of the community who ran out of their homes to witness the procession, welcomed the initiative of such a public ministry! The Dean of



Cape Town, Michael Weeder, gave a cheerful and warm welcome followed by a prayer. For some, clergy among them, it was a first to walk the streets of Manenberg. What an experience it must have been for them too! At the half-way mark the people gathered at an assigned stop where the Music Ministry group of Reconciliation led our praises in song. It was the prayers of Revd Ruth Jonas (Methodist Minister) that moved the hearts of our Manenberg mothers for their children. Revd Bernard did likewise in asking God to keep the streets of Manenberg safe and allowing children to play freely at home and in schools.

Revd Ronald Muller, in his address to the community, was emphatic when stating that no more will the

violent, dominance of gangsterism and senseless killings be tolerated promising that they would remain vigilant. The presence of the Bishop of Table Bay, Joshua Louw, who is no stranger to the community, was unanimously and excitedly received.

The Bishop's message came as a huge encouragement to the people saying that this was the beginning of more to come and that the Church will take up its rightful place. He thanked the people for staying steadfast and strong. There was a "Long-Time No See" jovial spirit amongst both clergy and laity. It was also this atmosphere and unity which won the war over a gang-infested Manenberg on the day.

We, the church say, "You've done it again, Lord! You've done it again!"
- **Mary-Ann Peters**



CLASSIFIEDS

Archbishop's Education Endowment Fund for Theological Education

Please support the Archbishop's Education Fund so that we can continue to train priests for the future of our church. Thank you for all donations received. If you would like to contribute please consider a donation.

A sum of
R1 483 201.67
has been raised thus far.

Bank: Standard Bank
Branch Code:
Thibault Square
Branch Number: 020909
Account Number: 070332428

EDITORIAL

One of my favourite books as a child to read was *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. The most profound conversation and moral advice in the book between a father (Atticus) and daughter (Scout) that governed her development was, "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his (her) point of view - until you climb into his (her) skin and walk around in it."

Having empathy, or the capacity to put oneself in another person's shoes and see why they act the way they do - even when you disagree - is the foundation of compassion.

The Ecumenical Procession of Witness through the streets of Manenberg, Sunday past, was a powerful act of love. During this time I'm sure residents felt safe and heard. Those who participated in the procession 'climbed into the skin' of the community who live in fear every day. The prayers offered and words of encouragement by religious leaders fuelled a new hope for those who listened and received the blessings. Mary Ann Peters in her report on the Procession of Witness aptly wrote, "... this atmosphere and unity won the war over a gang-infested Manenberg on the day." **Love and Light, Rebecca**

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Events and Notices

WESTERN CAPE SPIRITUAL DIRECTION TRAINING COURSE

The Western Cape Spiritual Direction Training (WCSDT) course is a two-year spiritual direction training program, starting in March 2024.

Course Content: The content and quality of the course follows international Spiritual Direction training standards but contains material specific for our South African context. The central focus of spiritual discernment is supported by input on various themes associated with good spiritual direction and practice based on elements of faith and theology. The course is intentionally designed to be applicable across all Christian traditions.

Modules: The course comprises eight 4-day modules (Wednesday-Saturday) to be held at Anathoth retreat farm, off the Bottelary Road (between Stellenbosch and Kuils River). Reading and tasks will be assigned in between modules.

2024 Dates: March 13 - 16; June 5 - 8; August 21 - 24; November 13 - 16

Cost: R10 000 per year for 2 years (which includes a 4 day residential retreat in Module 7). Partial bursaries may be applied for.

Faculty: The faculty of the programme are all experienced spiritual directors. Expert subject presenters will also contribute.

Applications: Applicants will be expected to fill out an application form giving the names of two references who may be contacted, followed by an in-person interview. Applicants should currently be in a process of spiritual direction. **Applications close 15 December 2023.** For an application form or more information contact Bridget Leibbrandt at Comunitas, Stellenbosch bleibbrandt@sun.ac.za, or Judy Everingham judyeveringham28@gmail.com

All Saints Plumstead Market:

Saturday, 2 December 2023, 12-5pm. Calling all crafters! Want to have a stall, non food items, (R100) at our market? Contact the office to book your spot now! 021 797 4176 office@allsaintsplumstead.org.za

Candidates for Diocese of False Bay Elective Assembly

The Metropolitan has received five names to be nominated for consideration as candidates at the Elective Assembly for a new **Bishop of the Diocese of False Bay on November 24th and 25th.**

The five are, in alphabetical order according to surname:

The Reverend Canon Dean Apples
The Venerable Lundi Joko
The Reverend Xola Mlandu
The Reverend Canon Stafford Moses
The Venerable Delmaine Petersen

You are asked please to pray for them, their

families and the Diocese as the Elective Assembly meets.

Sincerely yours in Christ
The Revd Grant Walters
Provincial Executive Officer



Dear Friends

Greetings to you as we look forward to celebrating the feast of Christ the King on the 26th of November. Yes, signaling the end of our liturgical year 'A'. Many of you have used the last few Sundays to focus on stewardship and rededication. My hope is that we would have discovered, in these teachings, that God is the great giver and all that we are and have, is through God's love and grace for us. My hope is that we have and that we will recommit ourselves afresh to the triune God, his world and his church.

I had an opportunity to preach and preside at the final gathering of our retired clergy, lay workers and their spouses on Wednesday, 8 November at the parish of St Thomas, Rondebosch. What a wonderful experience in fellowship and friendship. Allow me to thank Canon Erica Murray, who has been the chaplain to the retirees for many years, for her dedication and love. As we welcome Canon Dr Andrew Hunter as her successor, we are grateful for his willingness to serve. Thank you to all of you as you so willingly continue to serve God's church even in your retirement. May we continue to drink from your fountains of wisdom.

On Sunday, 29 October, you were all invited to join our children and youth care centres to give thanks to God for another year. As a diocese, we have been involved with this ministry for the past 160 years! Thank you to those who were present, though the numbers were few. We extended appreciation to the staff and the governing bodies of these centres for the excellent work that they are doing with these children on our behalf. Visiting these centres is always a pleasure. We have 4 Children and Youth Care Centres (St

From the Bishop's Desk



Georges Home for Girls, Leliebloem CYCC, St Michaels CYCC and Fikelela CYCC) under our care. One of the action steps that we undertook at the service was to ask people to make a commitment in using what God has given them to serve these children. Please check out their websites for more information.

Some of us were part of the big march in solidarity with the people of Palestine, for a ceasefire and for the return of the land to the Palestinians. For this month alone more than 3000 Israelis and more than 11000 Palestinians, including women and children, have died. About 1500 children are reported missing. May we continue to pray for peace in the Near-East and for God's justice to reign. As much as we look at international affairs, we are also called to care for things that affect our communities around us. The gangsterism and violence are affecting all our communities directly and indirectly and it is important that we are in solidarity with the communities worse affected. This was the motivation for the prayer walk in Manenberg on Sunday afternoon the 12th of October. Great appreciation to everyone who attended, it was great seeing you all

in procession for a worthy call. Thanks to **Revds Ronald Muller, Glynis Rhodes** and the parish of the Reconciliation, Manenberg, for organizing the march. The idea is that we continue to be a praying presence, so I have asked volunteers to contact me so that we can form a task team to look at future prayer walks.

Please pray for **Revd Miseka Mapukata** as she will be instituted as the next rector of St Peter's, Hout Bay on Sunday 26 November at 3pm. You are more than welcome to attend.

We hold the Elective Assembly in the diocese of False Bay in prayer as they prepare for the election of their next bishop on the 24th -25th November 2023. The candidates are: The Revd Canon Dean Apples, The Ven Lundi' Joko, The Revd Xola Mlandu, The Revd Canon Stafford Moses and The Ven Delmaie Petersen. Pray for them, their families and the diocese.

We will be having our ordination service to the priesthood on Sunday 3rd December at 2.30pm at St George's Cathedral, Cape Town. Please pray for Revd Grant Damoes, the retreat conductor and preacher, as well as the Revds Zukile Dondolo and Jeremy Smith to be ordained.

At this service we will also honour Mr. Claude Barron with the Diocesan Award and welcome Mrs. Lucille Henniker as a member of the Order of Simon of Cyrene. Please continue to pray for them and their families and support them with your attendance.

Amidst all the challenges that life throws at us, God continues to be faithful, so let us try to do our best in our service to Him and each other.

God bless!
+Joshua

Spekbooms and Confirmations

2023 – THE YEAR OF THE TREE

At every confirmation, the Bishop gifts each confirmand with a spekboom plant. The spekboom is a symbol of the confirmand's spiritual growth – it needs to be watered and cared for otherwise it will die, similarly to our faith, it needs to be watered and cared for by reading God's word, praying and participating in the sacramental life of the church. Receiving the spekboom also affirms our commitment to the fifth mark of the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion: **To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.**

Spekbooms are beneficial to our ecosystems as they consume large amounts of Carbon Dioxide and

help to hold the soil. As they grow larger, it is easy to take cuttings and create more spekboom plants. At the heart of the Christian faith lies the acknowledgment that God is the Creator of the universe, as affirmed in the opening verses of the Bible: **"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth"** - Genesis 1:1

The inherent goodness of creation is repeatedly emphasized throughout the Bible, underlining the intentionality behind every part of the natural world. Recognizing creation as a reflection of God's creativity highlights the sacredness of the environment. Furthermore, the Christian understanding of stewardship emerges from Genesis 2:15, humanity is entrusted with the responsibility to "work and keep" the Garden of Eden. This implies not only cultivat-



ing the land but also preserving its integrity. As stewards of creation, Christians are called to emulate God's caretaking role and safeguard the Earth for future generations. At the Lambeth Conference last year, the Communion Forrest was established. The Communion Forest is an environmental initiative that cele-

brates and encourages Anglicans to develop new and existing activities in their communities. It is inspired by and builds on extensive creation care work that is already happening across the Communion. From tree growing and reforestation, ecosystem conservation, protection and restoration, the combined action of Anglicans is creating a 'virtual' forest around the world. The initiative aims to deepen care for creation within the life of the Church. It is a global act of hope in the face of environmental crisis. It is our hope that each young person be actively involved in the restoration and preservation of God's creation through their commitment to God. This initiative is a small way that we can make a big impact in our world. For more information visit: <https://www.communionforest.org/>
- **Jesse Pastor YPM Coordinator**

Youth and Child Care Centre focus

Fikelela Child and Youth Care Centre situated at 23069 Christmas Tin-to Street, Mandela Park, Khayelitsha. We are registered as a Temporary Safe Care facility with the Department of Social Development and we are able to accommodate 40 children. Our current number of children at the Centre are 37, between the ages of birth to 10 years. Children placed at Fikelela are infected and affected by HIV & AIDS, abused, abandoned, neglected, orphaned and vulnerable (children at risk).

The vision of Fikelela is to empower Parishes and their surrounding communities to effectively address, and meet the needs of those suffering from or exposed to, identified social ills.

Mission statement

The mission of Fikelela is to identify, in consultation with the Diocese of Cape Town, the social ills facing parishes, parishioners and surrounding communities within the Anglican Diocese of Cape Town in order to:

- Reach out and offer pastoral and educational support and counselling to people and families affected by identified social ills.

- Facilitate education, care and support through its child and youth care centre in partnership with Anglican Churches, community outreach organisations, private/coporate organisations, NGOs and NPOs;

- Mobilize the Anglican Community to make a sustained, positive contribution to the reduction of identified social ills within their communities.

Our Objective is to engage and partner with the Diocese to support the Fikelela Child and Youth Care Centre despite it's geographical location.

As we transition and focus on our Child and Youth Care Centre your support of the home is very much needed. Help us to make a difference to the lives of the 37 children placed under our care.

Our banking details:

Standard Bank Thibault Square

Cheque account

Account No 070060320

Code 020909

SWIFT CODE: SBZAJJ

NEEDS LIST:

School uniforms x 14 children at School

White school shirts

Black jerseys

Black socks

Karrimor bags

Numeracy and literacy lessons for both children and staff

Computer lessons for both children and staff

Fundraising to support operational cost

Electricity for girls side and boys side of the home

Petrol taking children to school/clinics and hospital visits

Outings

Homework assistance

Mural painting: outside walls and the children's bedrooms.

Prayer support

If you would like to support Fikelela CYCC do please make contact with us. Director: Bev Hendricks Tel: 021 367 0089 & 083 2855 977

beverley@fikelela.org.za Manager: Lulamile Mzuzu Tel: 021 367 0089 & 082 662 6131 manager@fikelela.org.za

Leliebloem House is a registered Children's Home of the Anglican Church, for 60 girls and boys found in need of care and protection by the Children's Court. We have been rendering humanitarian services to orphaned, vulnerable and at-risk children and families in the Western Cape for 155 years. Application for funding is made to business and CSI across the board, the response is very poor, and we barely receive 1% of donations or cash funds to counter the deficit of the annual budget.

All the children attend schools in the community in and around the Athlone district. We utilize 25 different schools because the classes and schools are so full. Most of our children are in special needs educational schools where we are required to pay steep fees we can't afford. Very few make it through the high school program and beyond in tertiary education programs. If we are able to get adequate funding to pay these fees, and for tutors it may alleviate this challenge. Transporting the children daily is costly, and with the hikes in the fuel price we struggle to make ends meet. We urgently need funds to address this situation in order to provide adequately for the needs of the children.

We receive a subsidy of R4000 pm per child, whilst it costs on average R9000 pm per child. Cost of living is not considered at all. The Social Service Professionals like Social Workers and Child and Youth Care Workers are not subsidized.

Whilst continuous

Specialized services are costly and not included in the subsidy we receive for the children (even though it is expected to cover all costs of the child in general), and in addition we wait for appointments for months at public health facilities.

Municipal bills are around R22 000 p/m. Fuel costs R15000 p/m excluding maintenance. This in turn impacts on food costs. At a cost of R30 p/meal for 3 meals per day for 60 children we spend R5400 per day for food only.

The maintenance of the buildings is neglected. Salaries are not competitive at all, and the majority of the staff earn just above the basic income salary mark. We are dependent on donations in order to offset the lack of cash donations. Our annual audits are conducted by PWC Auditors and our AFS are available upon request.

Francisco G. Cornelius

Director

Banking Details

Name: Leliebloem House

Bank: Standard Bank

Account: 072 785 519

Branch: 025 909 (Vangate)

Swift Code: SBZA-ZA-JJ

REF: (Cause) Name & Contact Number

Send POP to finance@leliebloem.org.za

Tax & BEE Benefits: A Section 18A Tax Certificate will be issued for the donated amount. South African companies will also receive points towards their B-BBEE status, as we hold a Level 1 Certificate, and our beneficiaries are 100% black according to the B-BBEE Codes of Good Practice 2007.

Thanksgiving service: On Sunday, 29th October 2023, the Rt Revd Joshua Louw, invited congregations from the parishes in the Diocese to join him in a thanksgiving service to celebrate the Children's Homes that were started more than 160 years ago in the Western Cape. In attendance was the Archdeacon of Athlone, the Ven Allen Goliath, the staff and children of St George's Home for Girls, Leliebloem House, St Michaels Home for Girls and Fikelela Child and Youth Care Centre. It was an opportunity for the Directors of these Homes to address the congregation and share a bit of the history and current services that they offer to vulnerable and at-risk children in their care. They also had the opportunity to share their challenges and what they need to continue to provide for children in the future. It was the first time that a joint service was held. The Bishop reminded those present that the children in the centres are our children and we should help provide for them. He also asked that this message be taken back to the Anglican Churches in his diocese and that the emphasis be on assisting the staff.



CARING FOR THE CHILDREN: Directors of the Child and Youth Care centres on the left and right of the Rt Revd Bishop Joshua and far right, the convenor, the Ven Allen Goliath, Archdeacon of Athlone.

St George's Home for Girls: Situated in 5 Bute Road Wynberg, is celebrating 161 years of caring for some of the most vulnerable children of our society and provides them with care, love and a safe haven in which to grow. We are the second oldest Child & Youth Care Centre (CYCC) in South Africa. We provide a loving home for 40 girls between the ages of 3 and 18. "Girls who are placed here often experience neglect, abandonment, abuse and trauma in their families or communities. We also care for children infected and affected by HIV/Aids.

All our girls attend schools within the surrounding areas. There are 9 different schools they attend and need to be transported to and from school each day. We place a great emphasis on education. This is one of the many ways of ensuring their success in a very difficult world. You may want to volunteer as a tutor here at St George's Home. A few girls travel with public transport and the rest walk to school. Transport costs, over the past two years, has doubled because of the rising cost of petrol and diesel. The costs for all pre-school and Grade R pupils need to be paid in addition to providing the uniform each year.

St George's Home is a place of healing. Many girls arrive hurt and traumatized. We want to see them whole again so that when they leave they can go on to have their own family and live as a whole person. Staff, especially the Child Care Workers (house moms) are encouraged to give love, especially to the little ones. Many children have not been nurtured properly and need all the love we can give. We are sometimes asked what impact the home has made on the children. This is difficult to quantify because it can't be seen immediately, sometimes only after many years. We make huge differences in the lives of our girls.

Our Vision is to provide: "A safe and loving home for girls in need of care".

- To provide a quality home
- To create a nurturing environment that will cater for the emotional, spiritual, physical, social and educational needs of the girls
- To provide social services and quality programmes with a view to possible re-unification with their family

You can help us do that:

ACCOUNT NAME: St. George's Home for Girls
BANK: Standard Bank of South Africa Ltd
BRANCH: Claremont
BRANCH CODE: 025 109 01
ACCOUNT NO.: 071 88 3304
TYPE: Cheque a/c
SWIFT CODE: SBZA ZAJJ

If you are able to assist in any way feel free to contact me on 021 797 0292 or e-mail on graeme@st-georges.org.za.

- **Graeme Cairns Director**

St Michael's Children's Home (as it was previously known) was founded in Keerom Street in Cape Town in 1870 as a refuge for children orphaned by war. The Grey Ladies, who founded the Home, were also responsible for the founding of Leliebloem House, St George's Home for Girls and St Cyprian's School. After another move and renamed All Saints Home, it eventually relocated to the current premises in Plumstead in 1954.

The facility has slowly phased out its work with younger children to only teenage girls in 1989. St Michael's is currently known as St Michael's Child and Youth Care Centre (CYCC) and accommodates 30 young women between the ages of 13 and 18 years of age. The young women have been exposed to trauma caused by gender-based violence, social ills, neglect and other various kinds of abuse. There have been many changes over time as the field of child and youth care has extended its parameters and become professionalized.

A child and youth care Centre (CYCC) offer youth a group living experience and the group should be used therapeutically as a microcosm of a much larger group of people which makes up the wider community. St Michael's is the only CYCC offering care and protection for female only vulnerable teenage youth in the Western Cape Province.

VISION: Reclaiming the true essence of being a young woman able to live in a South Africa where young women can take charge of their own lives.

MISSION: Provide a safe home for vulnerable young women and develop these young women for independent adulthood.

PURPOSE: The purpose of St Michael's CYCC is to provide innovative therapeutic and developmental care in a residential environment for 30 young girls from the Western Cape Province between the ages of 13 and 18 years, who have been seriously traumatized and removed from their families for their own protection and safety by an order of the Children's Court. In this quest, the challenge is for young girls to find creative ways to become independent, self-reliant and confident, and ultimately to go out in the world to cope with the realities of life and, if possible, to reunify with their families and communities of origin.

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME: The aim of the programme is to provide a safe haven for 30 young women between the age of 13 and 18 and develop them holistically to achieve their goals. The impact of the programme hoped for is, achieving our goal of creating a safe environment for the youth in which they can heal and become the person they deserve to be.

St Michaels Needs list for sustainability

- Funds towards building and maintenance
- 7-Seater Vehicle and Money towards daily fuel
- Stationary-Flipcharts, pens, pencils, whiteboard markers, permanent markers, books, calculators, printing paper, etc.
- School shoes (list of sizes to be provided on request)
- Toiletries
- Tutors all subject from grade 5 to Matric.
- Volunteers.

BANKING DETAILS:

Name of Account: St Michael's Child and Youth Care Centre
Bank: Standard Bank
Branch Code: 025309
Account Number: 07 183 232 7

Patron: the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town

Postal Address: Hemyock Road, PLUMSTEAD 7800 Tel: (021) 797 4186
Fax: (021) 797 4274 director@stmikesct.org.za/admin@stmikesct.org.za
za - **Rosemary Tsurai Facility Director**



Ad Laos to the people of God

I write from the Eastern Cape, where amidst the challenges faced by our country and our world, we held a joyous celebration of the 100th anniversary of the building of All Saints Church, Mbokotwana, in the Diocese of Mthatha, a church built to commemorate the martyrs of the same name.

In my sermon, I asked for prayers for the places in the world, more than 40 in all, where people are in armed conflict with another, and especially for Sudan, where 9,000 people have been killed in civil war this year, and for Palestine and Israel.

After the service a nun – the Mother Superior at a convent in nearby Tsolo – came up to me and appealed, “Arch, we dare not give in to evil and war, please let’s pray without ceasing.” In similar vein, the former Eastern Cape health MEC, Dr Bevan Goqwana, spoke of how fear leads to hate, and that we dare not give up love. Their words, the worship of the congregation, and the example of the Martyrs of Mbokotwana, all helped to reinforce my determination to continue praying and speaking the truth in love as best I can.

In that spirit, I call upon all to pray and work for a solution to the crisis in the Holy Land which will bring justice to the Palestinians and security for all who live in the region. The cries that are coming from Palestinian mothers in Gaza – “I have nothing, I have no hope either, all I know is that I won’t die alone but will die with my family” – are deeply distressing. Are we deaf to the sounds of grenades and blind to how power is being exercised? Are we hearing the cries for life, for the silencing of guns and missiles so they can be turned into ploughshares?

The tensions which the conflict is generating in South Africa – and especially in Cape Town – are worrying, and I appeal for magnanimity and tolerance from everyone who is expressing varied views on the violence in Gaza and the West Bank of the Jordan.

In a message to a Palestine solidarity rally read for me last week by Dean Michael Weeder, I said the war crimes in which children, women and men are killed indiscriminately, no matter who commits them, must stop, and stop now, not just for a ceasefire but forever. I also called for hostages to be released and for us all to learn the painful lesson of the last month, which is that war does not resolve human conflict.

So please, help me elevate the call to stop this war, and all war! Even as we go on our knees to pray, we need to boycott those who supply arms to the Middle East, including those in the West who are fuelling this war by providing weapons even as they pursue partisan diplomatic initiatives.



Help our church to move beyond calling only for ceasefires in situations of conflict, but to elevate the need for peace anywhere and everywhere war occurs, so that the world will instead focus its energies and its passions on fighting inequality, hunger and poverty.

Meanwhile, in parishes and dioceses across our Province, pastoral work continues. After the service in the Diocese of Mthatha, I travelled to Makhanda to attend to issues at the College of the Transfiguration and for the funeral of a dear former parishioner, Colleen Rippon. There I also interred the ashes of Canon Suzanne Peterson, formerly Sub-Dean of the Cathedral in Grahamstown Diocese and later my Public Policy and Advocacy Officer at Bishops court.

As this issue is published, I am heading for Nigeria for the 12th General Assembly of the All Africa Conference of Churches, which this year also celebrates its 60th anniversary.

As we enter Advent, may our prayers be of repentance, forgiveness, healing and reconciliation. And as we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace, be assured that ultimately we are destined to live in the salaam, the shalom, the peace which our God promises us.

++ Archbishop Thabo Cape Town

70th celebration and confirmation at St Martin's Bergvliet



St Martin's Bergvliet, celebrated its 70th anniversary in November. The parish hosted a Flower Festival and a Parish Fun Day on Saturday 11th and ended with a Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday 12th November.

The service of Confirmation took place on Sunday 29th October. Eleven candidates were confirmed by Bishop Geoff Davies.

Celebrating 115 years with All the Saints Plumstead



On the 5th of November 2023, All Saints Plumstead marked its 115th anniversary. The nearest Anglican Church to the present Plumstead area was St. George's in Wynberg, later known as St. John's. Johanna Jacoba Segers, Eva Johanna Williams and Emily Davids decided to address the long distance they had to walk to attend Church every Sunday by initiating a "house church." In 1907, they approached a shop owner on Main Road Plumstead and inquired if they could use a portion of the shop for their "house church" since their current house was too small.

Reverend Frank Shelmerdine was appointed as the first rector of the parish in 1908. Builders completed the wooden and iron nave within three weeks, capable of accommodating 200 people, and it was inaugurated on Easter Saturday. However, in 1910, it was decided that a permanent church was necessary. Construction commenced in January 1910 and was finished by May of the same year.

The patronal weekend of 2023 for All Saints Plumstead commenced with an enjoyable dance on Friday evening, which saw a significant turnout, with parishioners, friends and family enjoying themselves on the dance floor despite the challenge of loadshedding. Saturday was filled with a variety of vibrant and fragrant flowers as parishioners brought various floral arrangements to adorn the church for Sunday. Our flower arrangers did an exceptional job in adorning the church with beautiful bouquets.

Sunday morning was brimming with anticipation as various participants prepared for the patronal and confirmation service. The service itself was a beautiful occasion, presided over by Archbishop Thabo, who also delivered the sermon. The service also included the confirmation of two of our young members. Parishioners shared their excitement and happiness, exchanging smiles during the fellowship after

the service. The festivities continued during the post-service tea, with many reconnecting with old friends and welcoming visitors not seen for a while. As we eagerly anticipate God's future plans for All Saints Plumstead, we look forward to embracing a new chapter in 2024, as we prepare to welcome our first female priest who will take the helm in February.

Celebrating Arbor month and the Season of Creation with green fingers: On 10th September 2023, when the outreach greening team from the Gold Fields Environmental Education Centre, in collaboration with CREW for community outreach, joined forces with the All Saints Plumstead community. Their objective? To celebrate Arbor Month and the Season of Creation. During this gathering, the outreach greening team imparted practical insights on vital topics such as water and plant conservation, accompanied by expert gardening advice. The collective service, under the leadership of Revd. Rene August, revolved around the theme of creation and nature, laying the foundation for the planting activity that ensued.

The most exciting part of the day unfolded during the hands-on planting experience. Each participant enthusiastically immersed themselves in the planting of the new beds. It was not just about gardening; it was a morning characterized by togetherness, education and personal development. Parishioners departed not only with greener thumbs but also with a deeper comprehension of the environment, diverse plant species and the significance of water conservation. This event seamlessly merged education and action, instilling a sense of environmental responsibility within the community. To conclude the day's activities, following the planting session, parishioners and the teams from Kirstenbosch congregated for enjoyable socializing over tea in the hall. It served as a wonderful conclusion to a morning of enlightenment and unity. - **Caitlin Smith**



"Mad Hatters Tea Party" at St Mark's Athlone



A "Mad Hatter's Tea Party", brought the people of St Mark, Athlone, together again on Saturday 4 November 2023. Our rector, the Ven Allen Goliath, donned in his barrette, welcomed the guests and thanked the hosts for going the extra mile to ensure that the guests were delighted with the spread before them. Despite all the challenges we as a parish have been facing, we had a blessed time of fellowship and togetherness.

*We sipped on our tea and enjoyed the variety of eats whilst being entertained and encouraged by Arendsvlei's very own, Celeste Matthews-Wanneburgh aka "Aunty Gertie", the matriarch of the Cupido Family in the TV series. We were blessed with many donations which were used as prizes. The prize for the best Mad Hatter hat was awarded to Celeste Lakay. The second prize was awarded to our very own, Aunty Lucy Davis. The Flower group walked away with the prize for the best table setting. Aunty G encouraged us to look out for one another despite all our personal challenges. - **Byron Lenders***

GSS Commemoration of All Saints and All Souls celebrated at St Paul's, Rondebosch



The final chapter service for the year of the Diocesan Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary was held at St Paul's, Rondebosch, on Sunday 5 November 2023.

The guild was warmly welcomed by the Rector of the parish, Venerable Reeva Mulder, who was our preacher for the afternoon. Our Chaplain, Rev. Canon Nobuntu Mageza presided at the Eucharist which was centred around commemorating the feasts of All Saints and All Souls. The liturgy included prayers to remember all our altar servers who have been called to be with our Lord Jesus Christ.

"God will show us the path of life; in his fullness is the presence of joy: And at his right hand there is pleasure for evermore. (Ps 16:11)"

During the Eucharist, eight altar servers received their medals, as a token of their full membership.

Archdeacon Reeva, in her sermon, reminded us "Saints are people who make a difference to others because they attempted to love and serve God's people. That is what being a saint all is about. Making a difference, a positive difference, a loving difference, the kind of difference that inclines the hearts and minds of others to want to serve God and praise him."

Moreover, Archdeacon Reeva also challenged us to "be compassionate people, to be men and women who are pure in heart and to become the peacemakers in our dealings with one another, in our families and communities and especially in our church even when this approach exposes us to ridicule and persecution."

The final representative chapter meeting for this year was fruitful. The group had an opportunity to re-look at improvements and adopt some changes to the GSS Constitution which are more suited to the guild's current context.

The Constitution as it currently stands, has been in place for many years and was due for improvement. The changes, as discussed, will be pre-

sented to Bishop Joshua for review and thereafter will be approved by members at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in February 2024.

Our preparations for services and planning for 2024 is well underway. Further details of our planning will be communicated in due course via the representatives and head servers. Altar servers, please stay in touch with your parish representatives.

Rev. Canon Nobuntu, with the Executive, wishes all our students and educators well over the examination period. "We wish to also acknowledge all the clergy, altar servers and parents/ guardians for their commitment and support over the past year.

God willing, we look forward to your support in hosting all our diocesan altar servers at our scheduled chapter engagements for 2024, especially at our AGM taking place on Sunday, 4 February 2024. Wishing all God's people a safe and blessed Christmastide."

- GSS Executive Committee



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

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