

# THE Good Hope

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



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March 2024



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Longest serving member  
of Brigade



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## St Saviour's Claremont celebrates its 170th anniversary

St Saviours, the final resting place of the first Bishop of Cape Town, Robert Gray (3/10/1809 – 1/9/1872) and his wife, Sophy Gray, commemorate 170 years of witness this year. Our theme for the year is: '170 Years of Grace'. In 2024, St Saviour's Anglican Church will embark on its 170th-anniversary year, marking a significant milestone in our rich history. This auspicious occasion provides us with a unique opportunity to reflect on our enduring journey, celebrate our thriving community and chart an inspiring path forward.

For 170 years the church has played a pivotal role in the lives of numerous individuals and families within the community, serving as a well-spring of spiritual guidance, solace and support. We continue to shine as a beacon of light and hope giving thanks for the unwavering dedication of our congregation who continue to form the bedrock of our longevity.

To commemorate this historic event the church has formed the 170th Patronal Events Committee, led by our Rector Fr. Chesnay. This committee is tasked with planning and engaging the community and parishioners throughout the year. They have curated a series of special activities: meaningful community outreach initiatives, historic exhibitions, cultural performances and special thanksgiving services.

- These events include:
- Jazz on Our Lawn (3 Cape Town jazz legends performing) – Saturday, January 27, 2024
  - Bingo Family Fun Affair – Saturday, April 13, 2024
  - Golf Day at Westlake Golf Club – Thursday, September 19, 2024
  - Gala Dance at the Grassy Park Civic



Centre – Friday, October 25, 2024  
• A Trip Down Memory Lane with 3 Parishioners, once a quarter  
Our first trip down memory lane was facilitated by Revd Terrence Rhoda, a previous curate of the parish, with our panel including; Jeremy Fredericks, Cameron Scott and Eloise Kennel Ah-Singh. The year has been off



to a busy but good start in terms of celebration.  
• Celebration services at 08:30 on the last Sunday of the month where past clergy who served faithfully in the parish, have been invited to

preach and preside. We have thus far hosted a successful Jazz on our Lawn event, which will now become an annual event on the last Saturday of January. Furthermore, we have had Canon Keith De Vos and Revd Jenny Govender preach at our celebration service and we look forward to having Revd John Goliath with us on Palm Sunday.

Undergirding all of this, we have the "Heart of St. Saviours", which is a heart that moves around our Parish from one family to another, with a commitment to praying with and for our community and has our Rector going to say Mass in the home of the family hosting the heart.

For more information, please see our website: <https://stsaviors.weebly.com>

- Phebe Gribble

# Events and Notices

## Diocesan Soccer Tournament 2024:

- Important dates and process to follow:
- Applications are now open: <https://forms.gle/eXuBvNxyBjuuTzb96>
  - Once confirmation email is received you will have until 31st March to make payment
  - You will then receive link for player registration which must be completed by 14th April 2024.
  - All those who have successfully registered will be entered into the draw and invited to the launch event on the 25th of April 2024.
  - Tournament Day will be on **1st May 2024 at Chuckker Road Sports Complex**. Volunteers from local parishes are needed to serve in the following ways: match officials / referees / part of the refreshment station team.
  - **Revd Basil Davids**

# EDITORIAL

We meet Easter people daily, those whose faithfulness inspires us. They trust the presence of God in their darkest days. They accept what they have been given and look for opportunities to reveal God's love. They are selfless in their giving as it's a way of life.

We are an Easter people who believe that the Resurrection promises eternal life. It's the mystery of our faith, that we are called to live each day. Christ is everywhere—through Him, all creation holds together. He lives and breathes through the Church. We are Easter people because we live for love.

A blessed Easter to you and your family.

**Love and Light, Rebecca**

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Scan QR code with your mobile and learn more about the Diocese of Cape Town

**DIocese OF CAPE TOWN**  
**CHRISM MASS**  
 With the Blessing of Ordained Ministers, Pastors of the Diocese and Consecration of the Holy Chrism  
 MAUNDY THURSDAY  
**28 MARCH 2024**  
 10H00  
**IN THE CATHEDRAL**  
**OF ST GEORGE THE MARTYR**  
 PARKING AVAILABLE AT CAPE TOWN HIGH SCHOOL

Shuffle services will be available from Cape Town High school on the Cathedral between 09:00 and 09:40 for those who have difficulty to walk the distance. We strongly encourage clergy to use pool.

Vestments for clerics (including vestures and retired Bishops): All and White only. **Chaper are to wear caps.**

All clergy and vestures to robe in the Main Hall, and Chapter vestures in the Dean King Hall. Clergy will proceed from the hall for the solemn procession.

A group photograph will be taken at the end of the service. Clergy are to move swiftly to the assigned spot, which will be announced at the end of the service.

Remember the service is open to all. Do invite parishioners, including any of our young people available.

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT HEIDEVELD**  
 Snack Dance  
 Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
 ASTRA SCHOOL HALL  
 MONTANA  
 R150.00 Per Single  
 Music by **COOL SOUNDS**  
 Bring Your Own Platters Glasses & XYZ  
 Cheese & Wine on arrival 6:30 PM-7:30 PM  
 Dancing 7:30PM - 11:30 PM

**For Tickets Sales Contact ;**  
 (021) 637 5426  
 (Office Hours Tuesday Wednesday Thursday 09:00 12:30)  
 (Cell) 083 620 2014 (Whatsapp)

*joyfully*  
**BROKEN**

You're cordially invited to join us for a delightful afternoon of fellowship and crafting! Come and enjoy a wonderful time of creativity and connection with other ladies.

Lunch will be provided

Date Saturday April 20th 2024  
 Time 13:00 - 17:00  
 Location Emmanuel Church Hall Wynberg  
 Tickets R120  
 Space is limited so get yours now!

For more information please contact  
 Karen 083 767 4795  
 Chantal 074 508 9133  
 We look forward to seeing you there

St Philip's Kenwyn Fundraiser  
**funny festival**  
 CAPE TOWN'S WINTER COMEDIC TONIC  
 Cape Town

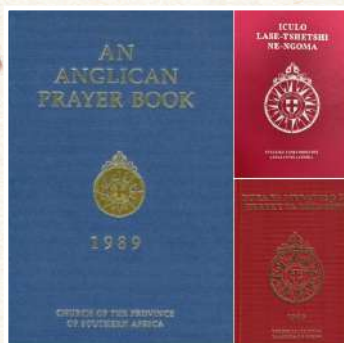
**BAXTER THEATRE**  
 Tickets available at R200 per person  
**BOOK TICKETS WITH TANIA ON**  
 WHATSAPP: 0832975258  
**Saturday 22 June**

## Liturgical Committee requests comment on draft Eucharistic Prayers

The Liturgical Committee of ACSA has been tasked to look at a revision of An Anglican Prayer Book, 1989. Various groups on the Committee are looking at the different sections of the Prayer Book.

We would like to share some work from the Eucharistic Prayer group. They envisage providing five Eucharistic prayers in total.

Please feel free to use them in your parishes and send suggestions for a change in the wording to the Committee. Links to Word versions of the prayers are provided below each PDF link to enable them to be pasted into service sheets. [https://anglicanchurchsa.org/liturgical-committee-requests-comment-on-draft-eucharistic-prayers/?fbclid=IwAR3hOjSmrW3XDRIbFWLotyMGwsb-AKJUT-TyTHGBD0bkdjM1bD6jY\\_XLqDmc](https://anglicanchurchsa.org/liturgical-committee-requests-comment-on-draft-eucharistic-prayers/?fbclid=IwAR3hOjSmrW3XDRIbFWLotyMGwsb-AKJUT-TyTHGBD0bkdjM1bD6jY_XLqDmc)



All comments can be sent by email to the Convenor of the Liturgical Committee: [publish@anglican-churchsa.org.za](mailto:publish@anglican-churchsa.org.za)

The comments will be shared with the Committee and the Prayer Book Team.



**CoTT Council and Graduation:** Bishop Joshua visited the College of the Transfiguration for College Council and Graduation on 12 March 2024. Pictured are seminarians from our diocese with Bishop Joshua. Left to Right - Jesse Pastor, Sithembiso Mbuqe, Ryan Baatjies and Revd Gregory Amos.



*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)*

### Dear friends

We thank God for the season of Lent which allowed us to be spiritually nourished by Him. Our experience is that it is also a time of awareness of all kinds of temptations and challenges that we will have to endure. We thank God that we are still standing!

On Wednesday, 20 March, the Provincial staff at Bishops Court and the diocesan staff at Braehead House had our annual quiet day led by Reverend Fred Hendricks.

The above-mentioned 2 verses stuck with me and became my focus. 'Now unto God who is able to do immeasurably more than what we can ask or imagine...' Sometimes we worry too much about mundane and unchangeable things, we forget that our primary focus should always be to glorify God and uplift one another. Our worries at times do not allow us to see the wonders that God is already doing in our lives and in the lives of our communities. That same God can and will 'do immeasurably more than what we can ask or imagine according to his power that works in us, ...! It is with that in mind that we give thanks to God.

Most congregations had their annual Vestry meetings, so allow me to thank the outgoing churchwardens and parish councillors for your contributions in the life of your parish and diocese. We now welcome the newly elected churchwardens and parish councillors as we wish you well for the road ahead. Be assured of my prayers for you.

## From the Bishop's Desk



We give thanks to God for the Synod of Bishops who met from 26 February to 1 March in our diocese and the privilege that some parishes had to have a bishop worshipping with you on Sunday 25. We pray that whatever we have decided will come to fruition.

It was so good to worship with the parish of Hout Bay on Sunday 17 March and to license Rev. Mzwabantu Magadla as the diocesan Church Men Society chaplain. After the service, we marched through the Hangberg community, praying with them for an end to Gender Based Violence.

As we approach Holy week, I want to invite you to join us as we will be marching through the streets of Hanover Park. We remember Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and pray for his triumphal entry into Hanover Park and other communities which are ravaged by gang violence and crime. The march is on Sunday March 24 at 3pm from the parish of St Dominic's, Hanover Park.

On Maundy Thursday, we will gather at St George's Cathedral at 10am for those ordained to Holy Orders to renew their vows and receive holy oils. Come and support your clergy. From the evening of Maundy Thursday to Easter the church celebrates the Triduum, which we should see as one service - therefore, no dismissal until Easter - starting with washing of the feet and the last supper. On Good Friday we remember Jesus's suffering and crucifixion. Saturday evening or early Sunday morning we will be celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord. May you have a blessed Easter.

Remember, our Diocesan Mission Season starting on 7 April and ends on Pentecost with a diocesan Thanksgiving service 3pm at the Church of the Resurrection, Bonteheuwel. We've had a very good meeting with diocesan clergy and it was well received. We hope to have all the resources ready for distribution by next week.

I am looking forward with much excitement to our annual Diocesan Soccer tournament on 1 May 2024. Please make sure that your parish team is registered. If you don't have enough players in your parish, then join with your neighbouring parish or register as an Arch-deaconry team but be there. This has always been one of the highlights of the year and it is not about who wins, but about spending time together as a diocese. So please, make a very special effort to be present.

As we move forward in faith to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord, may we put the past in ashes and be renewed to do His work and will, remembering that God can do immeasurably more than what we can ask or imagine.

**Christ is risen, we are risen.  
Have a blessed Easter Tide!  
+Joshua Table Bay**

## Procession of Witness in Hout Bay



The Church Men's Society (CMS) held its annual procession through the streets of Hout Bay on Sunday 17th March 2024. Congregants from St Peter's and St Simon Church Hout Bay, Bishop Joshua Louw and parishioners from across the diocese joined the procession. The CMS aim to raise awareness around Gender Based Violence (GBV), Human Trafficking, Drug and Substance abuse in the community. **Photographer: Ilda Chachine**

## St Dominic's Hanover Park Brigade honours longest serving member



On Sunday, 10th March 2024, the Church Lads' & Girls' Brigade Company of St Dominic had the wonderful privilege of honoring its longest serving member, Honorary Colonel Charles Fisher, who celebrates 76 years of dedicated service.

Colonel Fisher was presented his 75th year service medal and certificate by Colonel Ronald Jacobs & Captain Justin Hendricks which was handed to him by Bishop Joshua Louw.

Colonel Fisher started his service at St George's, Rylands

(now Silvertown) as a young lad and grew through the ranks.

Transferring from St George's to St Dominic, he was able to hold many positions and taught not just the members but also his very own children. He served the office of Major (Regimental Quartermaster) and soon after was nominated as Colonel Elect of The Cape Town Diocesan Regiment.

He was inducted and honored for his service in 2019 as Honorary Colonel of the Regiment and is still an active member, not just to the brigade but also to WCED marching association and Christmas Bands Boards across South Africa.

"We thank God for his influence on many people and for blessing him to be able to continue to do what he does and for what he loves. Congratulations Colonel Fisher, continue to Fight The Good Fight".

- Kenzio Jonathan

## Manager of Synod report "It is so ordered!"

Those familiar with proceedings at synod will recognise these words, spoken by the Chair of Synod, usually following a debate or discussion which ended after a vote by the house on a particular measure or resolution. **Diocesan Synod of the Diocese of Cape Town takes place at St Cyprian Church, Retreat, from 13th to 15th June.**

Parishes will by now have concluded their Vestry Meetings and should know who will represent them at synod. Even though that date seems a long way off, the process building up to it has already begun. Measures, which are amendments, additions or corrections to the Acts of Diocese Synod should by now have been submitted.

The next important date is that **resolutions to synod must be submitted by 12th April**. Those preparing to submit a resolution is reminded to apply the 'Russell Rule', so named, because a previous Archbishop suggested the proposer ask: What are the cost implications to the Diocese of this resolution?

Synod provides the church with an opportunity to ask, under God and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, what God is calling the church into – to be and to do at a time such as this where she finds herself! Debates enable the church to come to a common mind and commit with common purpose to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

In the Book of Acts chapter 15 the early church had a crucial decision to make: to continue as an exclusively Jewish community who acknowledged Jesus as Messiah or to open up to Gentile Christians and go forward as a new community who embrace and follow Jesus as Saviour under God.

The rest, as they say, is history! Which, in fact, is actually our story of a Christian community being attentive to God to new ways of living 'God with us!' - **the Ven Terry Lester**

## Rondebosch Archdeaconry Youth Leaders Retreat



On Saturday 16 March the Rondebosch Archdeaconry Youth leaders hosted a Spiritual Retreat for Youth and Sunday School leaders from

across the Diocese. The retreat was conducted by Wayne and Nicole Corlew Curtis, who previously worked for Growing the Church and led the ministry to the youth. They now reside in the US and have twin daughters, Anna Beth and Sarah Grace.

'Renewed, Refreshed, Relaxed'. For many Youth leaders in the diocese of Cape Town, these are words which many of us at times long to resonate with. Youth leaders and Sunday school teachers selflessly dedicate their time, their energy, physically and spiritually to the lives of youth in the church. They are the warriors for God pushing on, in faith in efforts to ensure our young people are spiritually fed.

This led to some basic questions being asked: Are these teachers and leaders spiritually fed? Are there opportunities created to break away and pause for a moment, to centre themselves and listen to what God is saying?

*continues on page 5*

# #UNEA6 – A Seat at the table for everyone

When I first attended the UN environmental assembly in Nairobi, Kenya, I was completely confused! It feels like you are swimming in alphabet soup – there's a COW – Council of the whole, there's the MGS (Major Groups and Stakeholders) and a whole host of acronyms which flow off everyone's tongues! But after a while you begin to understand a bit more about how the process works.

Imagine a very large Synod made up of 193 Churches, some of which are literally at war with each other, who come together to pass resolutions. Now the difference between UN and a Synod is that decisions are made by consensus, not by majority. Most Anglican Synods pass resolutions with a majority but UN uses the 'consensus' which means that all Member States must agree. Tricky? Absolutely! Why do they do this? When you adopt resolutions by a vote – you can divide the global community into two sides, which is divisive. With resolutions by consensus, you have to take into account the viewpoint of everyone. When you adopt resolutions by a vote, you only need to get a majority to agree on the text of a resolution. You do not need to care about or try to understand the perspectives of the minority who disagree. This process could end up dividing an already divided world further along fault lines. The danger with this way of doing things is that anything contentious gets removed resulting in a powerful resolution being watered right down. Member States propose resolutions and there is a long process of negotiating and trying to get the nations who disagree to come to the table.

The actual Assembly gets all the press coverage as important politicians fly in, as the press are there in numbers, but the majority of the work on the wording of the resolutions takes place months in advance – and in particular, during what is called the Open Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (high sounding title!). Back in the day before online events, the Member States who had a rep permanently in Nairobi were able to meet physically to work on the texts. Now the process is more open as member states can come on-line and work on the wording of the resolutions before they are tabled at the Assembly. Getting consensus on the resolutions is an exhausting process where negotiators work late into the night and discussions often seem to be going in circles.

After months of hard work there are those moments of absolute excitement in the room when important resolutions are finally passed as at the last Assembly, UNEA-5, when it was agreed to set up an International legally binding resolution on Plastic Pollution. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to really make a huge difference on plastic – the negotiations are ongoing on what will be included in the Treaty but it is a huge step.

## Role of Civil Society

The role of Civil society is much more clearly recognised in the UNEP than in many of the other UN processes. Civil society participation is divided into what is called the 'Major Groups' and 'Stakeholders' made up of groups such as NGOs, Women's groups, Indigenous groups, Youth and Children etc – there are nine groups in total. Over one thousand or-

**Youth Retreat from page 4:** The retreat presented an opportunity to answer these questions and was a spiritually uplifting experience. We learnt that we could use various forms of prayer such as "Centring Prayer, Body Movement as well as other methods to allow God to minister to us. These ways of praying gave us time to reflect and examine ourselves. We realized that we are ultimately running a race for God and, as important as the race is, it's also important to break away, stop and refuel. It was a valuable time of spiritual renewal and reflection. "BLESSED" - **Kealan Jacobs**



ganisations are registered members now. The Major groups are allowed to sit in the negotiating rooms with opportunities to raise their points. They are not allowed to suggest changes to texts but can speak on the side to countries (Member States) and ask them to put in text change suggestions. For example, at the last UNEA, Tearfund got "waste pickers" into the text by speaking to a Member State over the coffee break. Major Groups also make formal statements to the whole Assembly.

As well as the actual formal negotiations about the resolutions there is a lot going on with over 5000 people present. The UNEA is an opportunity for civil society to learn, network and share knowledge and potential solutions. It is an event for inspirational talks and knowledge exchange about scientific policy. There is a huge and somewhat overwhelming number of different side events to choose from and it is a wonderful opportunity to network with others. The Anglican Consultative Council (that's us!) form part of the NGOs Major Group, and within that group there are 93 registered faith-based organisations. This amazing network just keeps on growing!

## So how can Anglicans get involved?

Now that most events are hybrid you can watch the high level events on line at <https://webtv.un.org/en/search/categories/meetings-events/conferences/united-nations-environment-assembly/sixth-session> official sign events are here : <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea6/side-events>

or sign up for the NGO side events (called Green Room events) at <https://www.unep.org/events/green-room/unea-6-green-room-events>

You can follow the actions on social media at AnglicanUN

Or <https://twitter.com/UNEP>

[https://twitter.com/IISD\\_ENB/status/1761386185262325769](https://twitter.com/IISD_ENB/status/1761386185262325769)

You can also have a seat at the table!

- **Revd Dr Rachel Mash**





As we approach Holy Week, let me start first by wishing each of you a blessed Easter! May we continue to be the Easter people of God as we bring to all the light and justice of Jesus, especially through serving those on the margins of society.

I write also following a meeting of the Diocesan Standing Committee, where we approved the 2024 budget for the Diocese. The post-Covid picture looks bleak, as the chair of the Diocesan Finance Committee reminded us. The majority of parishes are doing well but the few not doing well are dragging the common pot down so much that we need to take drastic action soon. DSC agreed to set up a body to look at all the pressure points, make us more responsive to the needs of our communities and turn the situation around. This body will give its first report at the forthcoming Diocesan Synod, which meets from June 13-15th this year.

During this Lent, I continued reflecting in my blog upon various aspects of society through the lens of the week's readings in the Lectionary. I continued the discipline of not just reflecting for a church audience but also of writing and sharing these thoughts in the wider public space and have enjoyed the feedback and engagement on them. This past week, I shared one on the role of non-governmental organisations. You can read my reflections on the NGO sector as we head towards elections here: <https://archbishop.anglicanchurchsa.org/2024/03/the-role-of-ngos-in-public-discourse.html>

## Ad Laos to the people of God



[org/2024/03/the-role-of-ngos-in-public-discourse.html](https://archbishop.anglicanchurchsa.org/2024/03/the-role-of-ngos-in-public-discourse.html)

At the latest meeting of the Synod of Bishops, the key point in a report we received from the Revd Jaques Pretorius, Executive Director of the Anglican Board of Education, was how we can partner with Early Childhood Development (ECD) initiatives by using parish properties to help open ECD centres. In this way, the church can become part of the solution in fixing our education system. (You can read the full statement of the Synod here: <https://anglicanchurchsa.org/statement-of-the-february-2024-meeting-of-the-synod-of-bishops/>)

At a recent meeting of the National Executive Committee of the South African Council

of Churches, we took account of the general sense of anxiety being felt around the country stemming from the fact that the May 29 election will be one of the most contested in our history. (The NEC's statement can be found here: <https://anglicanchurchsa.org/national-day-of-prayer-ahead-of-2024-election-sacc/>) As I said at the meeting, we cannot remain blind to this situation. As a result, we have appealed to all our member churches to join all other people of faith on Sunday May 5th to pray for a free and fair election. Please join these nation-wide prayers in your parish.

God bless.

**++ Archbishop Thabo Cape Town**



**The Revd Canon Stafford Moses** was consecrated as the third Bishop of False Bay on 24th February 2024. Archbishop Thabo presided and the Methodist Presiding bishop, Revd Pumla Nzimande participated in the service. Bishop Stafford is married to Bishop Yvette of the Methodist Church and they have two adult daughters, Melanie and Bethany.



### WCC head addresses Bishops on "unity of the church"

In a speech before the Anglican Bishops' Conference of Southern Africa, WCC moderator Bishop Dr Heinrich Bedford-Strohm reflected on "Salt of the earth and light of the world: Unity of the church as a sign for unity in the world." He noted that South Africa will hold elections this year. "Will people make use of their right to vote, which so many had struggled for and even lost their life for?" he asked. "Or will a general dissatisfaction about life 30 years after the introduction of democracy as a basis of South African political life keep people away from the polls?" *continues on page 8*

# ACSA Synod of Bishops February 2024 statement

## *"Drinking from our own wells"*

The Hebrew expression, "a well of living water", is a metaphor used in the Bible to depict the spiritual sustenance and salvation that Jesus Christ offers. The Synod of Bishops, meeting at the Schoenstatt Retreat And Conference Centre in Constantia, Cape Town, from 26th February to 1st March, was a time of drinking deeply from our own wells of experience and reflecting on the consequences of burying what lies beneath our wells.

The Synod of Bishops was under-girded by the daily rhythm of the liturgy and spiritual direction, conducted by the Revd Canon Claire Nye Hunter and the Revd Canon Andrew Hunter, who invited the bishops to reflect on the deep wells that have shaped their leadership.

The horizon was immediately widened as the bishops wrestled with the reality of the hostility and brutality of the Gaza conflict. At the heart of a separate statement that was prepared to capture the strong views of the Bench of Bishops, is their longing for peace and justice to prevail and to be enablers as bridge-builders in peace making.

On the stage of geopolitics and economics, the bishops were addressed by an expert jurist, Advocate Mujanku Gumbi, on international peace-broking and South Africa's role at the International Court of Justice. The United Nations Resident Co-ordinator in South Africa, Mr Nelson Muffah, engaged the bishops on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the effectiveness of the United Nations, especially the role of the Security Council. The bishops in turn examined the potential of the African Union to strengthen the continent's influence.

The bishops were moved by a passionate and exquisite presentation by Bishop Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, the current Moderator of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches.

The General Secretary of the SA Council of Churches, Bishop Malusi Mpumlwana, introduced Dr Ulrich Möller, the Chair of the 1Climate International Cooperative, who sketched the possibilities of partnership with the Church in implementing renewable energy programmes.

As a body representing bishops from Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, St Helena and South Africa, the Synod regularly addresses the issues and turmoil facing our constituent nations. At this meeting, the Chairperson of South Africa's Independent Electoral Commission, Mr



Mosotho Simon Moepya, together with the Provincial Electoral Officer, Mr Michael Hendrickse, gave the bishops valuable insight into the preparations for the May 29th elections. He painted a picture of the complex scenario facing South Africa, with the shifting of the political landscape and the dramatic increase in the number of independent candidates.

The bishops were deeply engaged by Provincial Registrar Lloyd Fortuin and Provincial Treasurer Rob Rogerson on matters of Canon Law, finance and the management of the Common Provincial Fund and the Provincial Pensions Board. Strategic changes need to be made to our structuring of the Trusts Board and by implication Diocesan Trusts Boards.

The Revd Matt Esau from the Canon Law Council addressed the bishops on the need for wisdom in applying the disciplinary Canons and urged them to seek assistance when in doubt. In a sombre moment, the bishops heard a report of a case in which a cleric was sentenced to degradation for abandoning the service of the Church and converting to another faith.

Reporting on the work of the Province's Liturgical Committee, Bishop Nkosinathi Ndwandwe of Natal urged the bishops to give attention to the revisions to the Anglican Prayer Book which the Committee is working on.

Canon Rosalie Manning, who chairs the Province's Safe and Inclusive Church Commission, addressed the Synod in a passionate and rational manner on the processes of the Commission and once again appealed to the bish-

ops to comply with its requirements and to ensure that persons licensed for ministry in Dioceses sign all the necessary documents.

The discipline of each bishop keeping a record of ministry in the Diocese, known as Episcopal Acts, was explained and underlined by the Archbishop. Each Bishop is expected to keep a proper record of Episcopal Acts in his or her Diocese.

In a discussion led by Bishop Eddie Daniels of Port Elizabeth, Synod considered Theological Education and Training for Ministry, including a new path to achieve a qualification equivalent to the Diploma in Theology. Those responsible will assess whether this achieves equivalence and draft the necessary addendum to Act VI of Provincial Synod. Other theological issues needing attention or guidelines are: Permission to Officiate across Dioceses and Parish borders; Clergy in full-time party political public posts; The use of preaching scarves by ordinands and lay ministers; Retired clergy acting as Marriage Officers and the need to make liturgical provision for aquamation as part of our burial rite. Synod also heard a report from Dr Percy Chinganga, Rector of the College of the Transfiguration.

A report by the Revd Jaques Pretorius of the Anglican Board of Education highlighted provision for Early Child Development, which Synod fully supported.

*continues on page 8*

**Synod of Bishops statement from page 7:** Synod received a report on the formation of new Bishops in programmes run by the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa, which have included peace-making, nation-building, economic issues, the stewardship of the environment, food security, migration, human trafficking and the exercise of episcopal leadership.

Reports on ministry in the wider Anglican Communion played a big part in Synod. The bishops heard reports from Bishop Vicentia Kgabe of Lesotho and Bishop Dalcy Dlamini of Eswatini on the inaugural meeting of African Anglican woman Bishops under the theme African Anglican Sisters Journeying Together. The third phase of the Lambeth Conference is focused on the Lambeth Calls and their implementation in Dioceses.

The bishops were encouraged, with their Dioceses, to participate in Lambeth Phase Three webinars and Bible studies. Bishop Nkosinathi Ndwandwe reported on the recent summit organised in Rome and Canterbury by the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission, which emphasised the importance of walking together with our Roman Catholic counterparts in facing common challenges in our communities.

Bishops received from Bishop Luke Pretorius of the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist a summary of the work of the Anglican Communion Science Commission, which highlighted the importance of faith leaders speaking into issues including climate change, technology – especially artificial intelligence (AI) – and health care.

In a letter of gratitude and congratulations signed by all the Bishops, Canon Cynthia Botha was acknowledged for 40 years of dedicated ministry to the Province.

As can be gleaned from this statement, the bishops were exposed to a very wide canvass, capturing many themes of the ministry to which we are called, both globally and locally, including sacramental, pastoral, liturgical, administrative and societal roles. **To God be the glory!**



**Left:** Bishops of the Province were in the Western Cape for a consecration and a meeting of the Synod of Bishops.

They joined a rally in solidarity with Palestine outside Parliament on Sunday February 25th 2024.

**WCC moderator reflects on unity from page 7:** Democracy is not just an electoral process, he added. "Democracy is the expression of an image of the human being," he said. "At the centre of democracy's anthropological assumptions stands the conviction that every human being has the same inviolable human dignity."

Bedford-Strohm emphasized that, if equal human dignity for all is the core of the democratic vision, it must show in how democracies act. "I believe the churches can play an important role in publicly demanding such credibility," he said. "The ecumenical movement must be a counterforce to the forces of divisiveness in this world." He acknowledged that we are all shaped by our contexts: "Of course we bring with us the struggles of our peoples," he said. "And sometimes we find ourselves on different sides in these struggles and yet are connected in our common faith in Jesus Christ."

"If we follow Jesus, empathy with human suffering is always unconditional for as churches, we are all committed to overcoming violence," he said. "There is probably no other institution which both rooted in local communities and, at the same time, connected in a common universal horizon and part of the DNA as the church."

"One of the most important public tasks of the church today is to open the eyes to the suffering of people far away," said Bedford-Strohm. "If the biblical-theological assumption that every human being is created in the image of God is true, then this is not a marginal issue," he said, "for it touches the core of the Christian tradition and the mission that arises from it."

**The full text of Bishop Bedford-Strohm's address:**

[https://anglicanchurchsa.org/wcc-head-addresses-bishops-on-unity-of-the-church/?fbclid=IwAR3Az1Is6iOvAN0sKBhviBfMvRPTWhKUGap1vKo6kVDU8EINIw6Z\\_pIHQhs](https://anglicanchurchsa.org/wcc-head-addresses-bishops-on-unity-of-the-church/?fbclid=IwAR3Az1Is6iOvAN0sKBhviBfMvRPTWhKUGap1vKo6kVDU8EINIw6Z_pIHQhs)

## Serving in God's Church

St George's Silvertown held their annual vestry meeting on 3 March 2024. Nineteen sidespersons were elected. All praise and thanks to God for a blessed and fruitful year. The highlights for 2023: Our first morning Retreat with Revd Brendan at All Saints Plumstead. Certificates of Appreciation were issued to the members for faithful service. The sidespersons hosted a successful Karaoke fundraiser and sold boerewors rolls, bacon and egg rolls and potjiekos at our carnival bazaar. Thank you to Revds Basil, Brendan and Eugene for your leadership and guidance. - **Lucille Murray**



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

Visit the Diocese of Cape Town's website: [www.ctdiocese.org.za](http://www.ctdiocese.org.za)



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