

THE Good Hope

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

A New Substance Abuse Support Group

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Anglican Parish Church of Resurrection Botolphclaydon proudly presents a new Support Group for those battling drug addiction & for their families, a safe, welcoming space for recovery, growth, and empowerment.

Skills Needed

- Facilitation
- Project Management
- Bookkeeping
- Administration
- Graphic Design
- Prayer Warriors

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St Cyprian's Retreat Church Lads' and Girls' Brigade celebrates 100th anniversary



St Cyprian's Church Lads' and Girls' Brigade was established on 15 July 1924 in an area called Raapkraal, which would later become Kirstenhof. The area consisted of corrugated bungalows that were given to ex-army and airforce members after the 1st WW. The first OC was Lt. J Mampies and the Chaplain was the Revd H Thompson. There was a state of limbo somewhere between the 1930 and reopening on 1 November 1936. The company did not close, but there was no place to meet as people were being moved from Raapkraal to Retreat, Steenberg and Cafda, because Raapkraal was declared a whites only area. A Church and hall were built between Retreat station and Main Road and this is where the brigade flourished.

The records show that the OC in 1936 was Lt. S. Holland and the Chaplain was the Revd C. J. Skett. Revd Skett went to England in 1936 to register the company. There were companies that were started before St. Cyprian's, namely St Paul's, St Phillip's, St. Saviour's and St Mark's. Unfortunately, these companies were closed because of the Group Areas Act.

In 1950 John de Wet became Captain. He was revered for being one of the best drill instructors in the regiment at that time. In 1954 William "Boeta Baan" van Reenen became assistant band Master. He would go on to not only become Band Master but also Senior Squad commander until well into the 1980's. He was the recipient

of the Order of St Simon of Cyrene award in 2003 at the age of 95. He remained a loyal member of the brigade until his passing at the age of 99. In 1959 a contingent of 11 officers and lads of the Cape Town regiment was chosen to represent SA at the Royal Review in England. Among them was Sgt/Drummer William van Reenen. They set sail from CT on the Arundel Castle on June 20 1958.

In 1960, Lt. David Adams, the father of Retired Provost David Adams became OC due to the suspension of Capt De Wet. In 1964, Lt Peter Peters would become Captain and lead the company until 2001. It was during this period that the late Col Casper Adams approached the company and asked if they would be willing to play at Christmas Parties for the Rotary Club.

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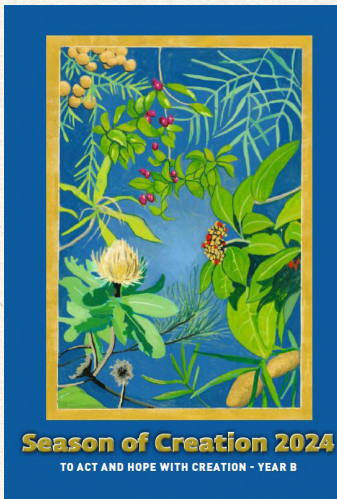


Events and Notices

Services Rendered

Home and office maintenance: manufactures and motorizes new and existing driveway and pedestrian gates. Able to fit new electric locks as well as to existing pedestrian gate. Manufacturers furniture too. For more information contact: Anton Govin | 064 683 6423 | m2mgmaintenanceservices@gmail.com

Trinity Vestments: full range of custom made clerical wear and church paraments: Chasubles and stole set (over 700 decorative designs to choose from), copes, cassocks, albs, surplices, lay minister robes, ranges of altar server robes and choir robes, church paraments etc. Locally and beautifully made, reasonably priced. Contact Kathy at Trinity Vestments | 082 785 4851 | trinityvestments@gmail.com



SEASON OF CREATION 2024:

The Anglican Communion Environmental Network presents the resource guide for Season of Creation 2024.

This year we are highlighting the voices of women bishops who have prepared sermon materials for each Sunday - Bishop Vicentia - Lesotho, Bishop Darcy - Eswatini, Bishop Magda - Brazil, Bishop Olivia Reading, UK; Bishop Eleanor, Hull, UK.

The cover icon reflects the Communion Forest, as we come together we can see the light of God reflected

<https://www.greenanglicans.org/season-of-creation-2024/>

EDITORIAL

Women's Month is a time for celebrating, honouring and recognizing the pivotal role woman have played in the fight for a more inclusive society. Let us draw inspiration from the stories of resilient women who persevered in the face of adversity, paving the way for progress in various fields.

We have to continue to ignite passion and determination in women of all ages, empowering them to become catalysts for positive change in their communities and beyond.

In our diocese, we observe the Month of Compassion with a focus on the Human Sexuality dialogue. Compassion has the power to heal and inspire. May we be open to discussion, be less judgemental, to listen and receive.

Let us embrace our calling to be beacons of hope, drivers of transformation and vessels in a world where love is desperately needed.

Love and Light, Rebecca

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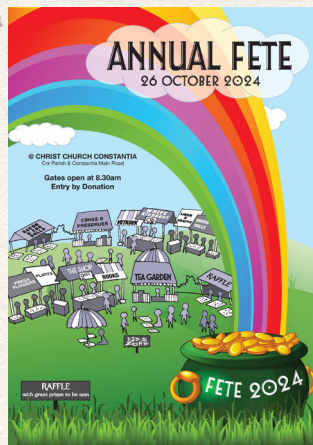
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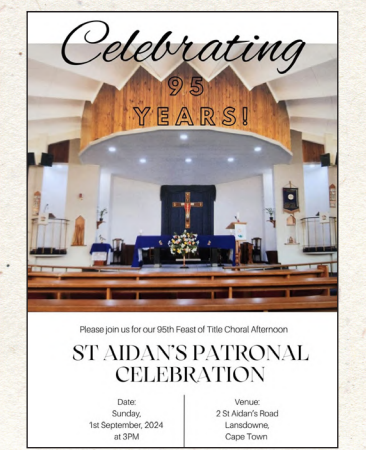


Scan QR code with your mobile and learn more about the Diocese of Cape Town



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
DIOCESAN HEALTH CARE FUND

Notice is hereby given that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Diocesan Health Care Fund will be held at **ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, PINELANDS** on **THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2024 at 10:00**



St Cyprian's Retreat Snack Dance and Food Fair: Ticket bookings can be done on the St Cyprian's Fundraising / Events Whatsapp at 067 273 9937.

Church of the Resurrection Substance Abuse Support group volunteers needed

The Church of the Resurrection, Bonteheuwel, has launched a support group for individuals struggling with drug addiction as well as for their loved ones. Our mission is to provide a safe, non-judgemental space for recovery, growth and empowerment.

We invite you to join us in this journey. We are looking for people who have certain skillsets that could help to support and expand this initiative. We welcome those who are eager to learn and dedicate time to a good cause. Please do not hesitate to reach out on (064 886 1937).

Skill requirements:

- Facilitation
- Project Management
- Fundraising
- Journalism (e.g. writing, editing, social media management)
- Graphic Design

A New Substance Abuse Support Group

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Anglican Parish Church of Resurrection Bonteheuwel proudly presents a new Support Group for those battling drug addiction & for their families, a safe, affirming space for recovery, growth, and empowerment.

Skills Needed

- Facilitation
- Project Management
- Fundraising
- Journalism
- Graphic Design
- Prayer Warriors

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

We're looking for passionate individuals to support and expand this initiative. Whether you have specific skills or are eager to learn, we welcome your dedication.

GET IN TOUCH

Contact us at (064 886 1937). If you or your parish wants to start a support group, we're here to share our experience and learn together.

- Prayer Warriors and those who can offer spiritual support

The skills above are only a few of many so, if you are passionate about support and recovery, and making a difference, whether you have different skills or you are open to learning from this kind of environment, please feel free to join us.

There are so many parishioners and families that look to the church for help and guidance. We have the people, the infrastructure and the potential to succeed. If your Parish is interested in starting a support group, please make contact with us.

We are willing to learn and share our experience. Together we can make a difference!

- Revd Oswald Cloete

St Thomas' Church, Rondebosch hosts the Philharmonia Choir of Cape Town

On Sunday 28 July 2024, St Thomas' Church in Rondebosch had the privilege of hosting the Philharmonia Choir of Cape Town for an uplifting afternoon of choral music under the direction of Richard Haigh, for the benefit of the church.

Accompanied by Kevin Kraak on the organ and the piano, the choir comprised approximately 87 vocalists whose harmonies filled the church with wondrous splendour and treated the audience to a most memorable musical experience. The programme consisted of excerpts from Handel's "Messiah", well-known anthems and hymns of the church and some lighter music, including a medley from "My Fair Lady". Audience participation was encouraged at certain stages and the singing was thoroughly enjoyed by concert-goers of all ages.

Afterwards, a special tea was held in the church hall in celebration of the occasion. Great appreciation was expressed to all who had supported and contributed to making the afternoon a success. - **Caroline Knoetze**



Eluvukweni Church building update



The building of the church has started and the congregation have a fundraising goal of R650 000 to reach to complete it. If you would like to support this exciting project, the banking details are:

Eluvukweni Anglican Church

Standard Bank

070064636

051001

Building with Music Concert

Sunday 15th Sep 2pm

Eluvukweni Choir, Ibongolethu Choir (Archdeaconry),

St Georges Grammar - Marimbos, band and choir

Followed by Cheese and Wine. Tickets are R120 on

quicket (see page 2)



St Cyprian's Brigade 100th from page 1: We don't know who approached Col Adams or why he approached our company, as he was Major of the second battalion at that time. Maybe it was because he was the designated driver of the truck that had to transport the band members to the venues, and so it was easier for him seeing as he lived in Retreat. According to the Adams siblings it was because St Cyprian's was always his favourite company. In those years we played at two venues every evening, starting in late November and going on until approximately 22 December. The parties started at Silverhurst farm which would later move to Groot Constantia farm, where we are still playing at Uncle Paul's parties for Wynberg Rotary Club, a partnership which we cherish and has been ongoing for close on 70 years. We also played in Rondebosch but it later became a problem, because when the Contantia party would run late we would then be late getting to Rondebosch. In 1978/79 we approached St Andrew's Steenberg and enquired whether they would play at the Rondebosch parties, and they accepted.

We also had an amazing working committee who would raise funds for uniforms and winter jackets for the lads. The committee included, Mrs. Sally Lucas, Mr & Mrs Arendse, Mrs. Tabisher, Mrs. Neutt, Mrs. Caroline Dowman, Mrs. Caroline Solomons and Mrs. Doreen Peters. Sgt. Major W. Wyngaardt was chairman of the committee.

In the early 60's to 70's we had such legendary bandsmen like D/M Harry Wyngaardt, Drummers, Basil Adams, Andrew Stoffels. Moses Arendse (who was also a bugler), Willie van Reenen, on Bass Drum we had Anthony le Roux, Flutist, David and Leslie Williams, Isaac (Ikey) and Adrian Albertus and of course Band Master van Reenen, Buglers, Vicky Wyngaardt, Edward Herman and Cedrick Poggenpoel among others.

In 1971, then Sgt/Maj William Wyngaardt, received the Gallant Conduct Medal for Bravery, after saving 2 people from drowning at Koggel Baai. We not only participated and excelled at drill and band but also in PT and athletics. As juniors we would meet at 6pm and start with PT led by

Albert Fynn. So our parade nights which was and still is on Monday's, would start with PT at 6pm followed by drum lessons with Sgt. Willie van Reenen at 7 and then a short band practice at 7.30 and then brigade would start at 8pm and close at 10pm. Most people used to walk to brigade in that era and we all used to walk home after brigade. Those going to Retreat andnCafta would walk down Retreat Road and people would peel off as theyngot to their respective avenues and those going to Heathfield, would walkalong the railway line.

In 1974, the church was relocated from behind Retreat Station to our current premises, in 5th Avenue, Retreat, due to the group areas act. We also participated in battalion and regimental athletics meetings. Here athletes like, Cedric Courie, David Daniels, Graham and Wayne Arendse, Merlin Julie, Peter and Clive Doren, Leonard Peters, Tony, Deon and Shane Sepkitt, Shawn Phillips, Roland Farrad and Giovani Bake comes to mind.

In 1995 we sent a delegation of 6 lads to England. They were, David Williams, Andrew Adams, Donovan Peters, Ronald Steeneveld and Keith and Steven Laguma.

St Cyprian's has not only been a very competitive company, but it was instilled in us by Boeta Baan and our officers to reach out and help any company who requested assistance with drill or music. Often one of us, either Myself, Uncle Dave Williams or Cedric Poggenpoel would accompany Boeta Baan to Abbottsdale or to 'Die Slot' (Uniting Reformed Church brigade) in Grassy Park, or any other company that required assistance to help them prepare/teach their band for competitions. It didn't matter if bands were competing against us, we would teach them exactly how we interpreted the music. It was up to whoever was best on the day to win the competition. We were often perceived as being aloof, but that could not have been further from the truth. On the field we were fierce competitors, with companies like Good Shepherd Maitland, St Andrew Steenberg, Abbottsdale and Malmesbury wanting to beat us at drill and band. We were competitors on the field, but off the field many close friendships were formed with lads from other companies.

In the early to mid-1990's the CGB and CLB were supposed to amalgamate as had happened in England, but the CGB HQ decided to close their regiment rather than amalgamate. When 2 of our CGB ladies, namely Sandra Adams and Elvereen Wyngaadt wanted to join the CLB, there was great push back from traditionalists in our company who resisted the move of girls joining the lads brigade, and they were told that we were not accepting girls. Elvereen then went to join Simon of Cyrene, Parkwood. In 1995 we decided to accept girls into the CLB and in 2019 Elvereen went on to become the first female Captain and she is still currently the Captain of St Cyprian's Church Lads' and Girls' Brigade.

Compiled and presented by Sgt/Maj M. Wyngaardt for the Centenary celebration, 21 July 2024.



St Andrew's Steenberg hosts Rector's Dinner

History was made on Friday, 26 July 2024, when St Andrew's Steenberg hosted its first Rector's Dinner. This was an initiative from our current Rector, Revd Mzwabantu Magadla. The wheels started rolling in November 2023 and continued for a couple of months. We were excited to witness and reap the fruits of our labour. Faith like a mustard seed blossomed. Thank you to everyone who supported us, whether it was in prayer, in kind or your monetary. - **Monica Marks**



Joint Service of Confirmation

4th August 2024: "This morning our candidates were confirmed as they expressed their commitment to Christ and receive inner strength from his Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands. The service took place at the Bishops War Memorial Chapel!" - **Herschel Girls School**

We warmly congratulate thirty-six of our young men who were confirmed in a moving service conducted by the Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Revd Dr Thabo Makgoba. Please do say a prayer for these boys as they now commence this next phase of their journey. Thank you to Luca Heesom (a Grade 9 pupil in White House) who took the photographs. - **Bishops Diocesan College**



Who are the AWF and what do they do?

History of Anglican Women's Fellowship (AWF)

The AWF was founded by the late Archbishop Robert Selby Taylor. The inaugural meeting was held at St Benedict's House, Rossettenville Johannesburg from 30th March to 2nd April 1965.

The first conference was held from 16th-18th October 1968. Mrs Doris Gregorowski was elected as first Provincial President. The Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa is the Patron of the AWF in the Province. Members are recognised by wearing of the official AWF badge.

The Patron Saints are the sisters Mary and Martha and are commemorated throughout the Province (ACSA) on the last Saturday or Sunday of July each year (APB Mary & Martha - July).

Who can join?

AWF is open to all confirmed Anglican persons over the age of 18 years who share in the worship and work of the Church. Anyone wishing to be admitted as an AWF member must attend branch fellowship meetings for at least 6 consecutive months and participate in fellowship activities.

Why the AWF?

The Anglican Women's Fellowship is an all-inclusive organisation for women sharing in the church's ministry. Guided by the Bishops, AWF Chaplains and clergy.

The AWF helps unite women in the church and effectively in its work, prayer worship, witness and mission to the broader community in which members live and to the world. The AWF does not replace or compete with existing organisations for church women.

AWF PRAYER

God, our Father

You have called us to worship and Serve you in Your Church.

We ask you to bless the members of the Anglican Women's Fellowship, Unite us in Love, by the power of Your Holy Spirit and strengthen us to Serve you in the world; Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

How AWF Functions

The Branch is a working unit of the AWF and meet at least once a month.

Parish groups, e.g. Lay ministers, Choir, Altar Servicers may also be affiliated to the AWF.

To keep the branch fellowship operating smoothly, branch executives are elected at an AGM for a one term of office (equivalent to 2 years) and may be re-elected for a second term (4years). The Executive consists of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer (and their assistants).

To keep the branch fellowship operating smoothly, AWF have policies, processes and procedures in place stipulated in AWF Provincial Constitution.

At each branch fellowship Unit Committees are formed to ensure that projects and programmes are implemented as follows:

- Prayer and Spirituality (Bible Study)
- Action Outreach and Social Issues
- Finance and Administration
- Human Resource
- Marketing

Each branch fellowship has a representative to the diocese, and each diocese has two delegates to Provincial Council Meetings, usually the Diocesan President or her appointed representative and a delegate who

is elected from among the diocesan members

Services and Events

Services are arranged by Dioceses, Archdeacons and Branch fellowships. It is a time when members get together to worship God and have blessed fellowship with one another.

- Thanksgiving Services (November)
- Mary and Martha Services (July)
- Day of Compassion Events (August)
- Dorcas Today Events (October)
- Mjikelo (June)
- Fundraising events are organised to augment the income of dioceses and branch fellowships. This money will be used for outreach projects.
- World day of Prayer

If you are interested please speak to an AWF member at your parish. Alternatively, call the Diocesan President Mrs Sheila Stoffberg 0826272298 / 021 44812 after 17h00 (Groote Schuur Archdeaconry) or Deputy President Mrs Margaret Jeftha 0834104935 (Athlone Archdeaconry).

MOTTO: UNITED IN PRAYER, SERVICE AND LOVE

AWF PROVINCIAL THEME 2022-2024



VTS empowers ACSA



Young people are leaders of today! A group of 10 Young Leaders from ACSA were selected for the Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) Young Leaders Program. The Diocese of Cape Town was represented by Chenay Nagel (All Saints, Roodebloem) and Melissa Awu (St. Paul, Rondebosch), and two from our neighbouring Dioceses, Lubabalo Qosi (Diocese of False Bay) and Corne Resandt (Diocese of Saldanha Bay).

This program, funded by Trinity Church Wall Street, USA, is part of the Anglican Communion. The partnership originated from Revd Canon Natalie Arendse's sabbatical visit to VTS in November 2023. Revd Canon Natalie and Revd Canon Dr Percy Chinganga (Rector of the College of Transfiguration) teamed up to lead the program, with the assistance of Bishop Stephen Diseko, Dean of the Province.

The program consisted of 7 online sessions, each lasting 2 hours, with facilitators from around the globe, including Prof. Ian Nel (Stellenbosch University), Prof. Miranda Pillay (UWC), and our very own Revd Canon Natalie. The topics covered were: Theology of Leadership, Strategic Thinking & Conflict Management, Congregational Leadership, Family Systems, Anglican Communion & the Importance of Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations, Church Administration & Management, Leading while Young & Project Design & Management and Human Dignity. The program concluded with a retreat held at Carmel, George. This was the first time the group gathered in person, providing ample opportunities to share and learn from one another. We were also excited to see a familiar face on the VTS team—our very own PYC President Emeritus, Ms. Nonhlanhla Shezi, a student at VTS. Noni, as she is affectionately known, served as the student assistant supporting the program. The participants were given the opportunity to share their projects, which they will be working on for the remainder of the course. The presentations were of high standard, and we all left feeling excited and inspired! We were blessed by the presence of the Bishop of George, who also joined and presided over the final Eucharist.

As we look ahead, we are excited and expectant to see how each project will positively impact the lives of others both within and beyond the Anglican space. The innovative ideas and commitment demonstrated by these young leaders promise to bring about meaningful change and growth. We encourage more young people to be bold and open to stepping into leadership roles within the church.



The future holds great potential for these emerging leaders, and we are eager to support and witness their contributions as they continue to shape a vibrant and inclusive Anglican community.

- Chenay Nagel & Melissa Awu

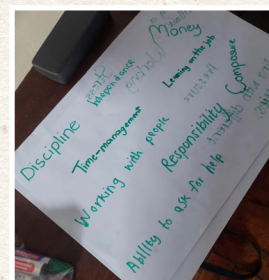
Careers development workshop

St Paul's, Rondebosch, held a workshop for tertiary students on Saturday 3 August, 2024. Entitled: "So I have got my degree: Now What?" the participants were asked to think ahead to a working life beyond the safe confines of university study. Reflecting on their past and current experiences of working rather than studying, the group identified both the useful and negative features of working life. They were asked to consider what strengths, weaknesses, needs and potential they might bring to a future job situation. Also, what desirable workplace skills were essential, such as familiarity with excel, an ability to remember names and faces and proficiency with email etiquette. These were brainstormed, as were desirable qualities such as initiative, patience, punctuality and courtesy.

The second half of the morning was taken up with a simulation game where half the group were interviewees and half were applicants for a job they sorely needed. Everyone had the chance to try out both roles but there was hearty agreement that being interviewed for a job was far more stressful than being a potential employer! Overall, the workshop intended to jolt students into considering of the ways in which employment makes different demands to those required by study and it is worthwhile, whilst still a student, to undertake some preparation for this change. The workshop was the brainchild of Mbaso Bashman and Gay Morris, two of St Paul's Parish Councillors.



Rather than being employed for what you know,
You are MORE likely to be employed for your POTENTIAL TO LEARN NEW THINGS ...



ASF 2024 Conference in Lesotho

The Anglican Students Federation Conference brought a lot of excitement and anticipation for the participants from the Western Cape Region as it was a first for most. Although the trip to Lesotho was rather long, the company, together with the free breakfast and supper on the way, made the trip more bearable. Upon arrival in Maseru, we got our passports stamped and had a "long walk" into Lesotho. After a few pit-stops in between and getting lost, we finally arrived at the conference venue where we waited for the rest of the regions to arrive.

The Welcoming Eucharist Service led by the Bishop of Lesotho, The Rt Revd Dr. Vincentia Kgabe, kicked off the conference. After dinner we made our way to our digs to settle in and prepare for the rest of the conference.

Day Two started rather early with its focus on the unpacking of the theme which focussed on Nehemiah's journey in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem and asking how we can apply this to the current issues we face as ASF. Our very own Mel Awu led the interactive bible study as we split into groups and had discussions based on questions prepared around this scripture.



went over the reports and issues ASF currently faces. During a break a short games night was arranged where all the regions were put into different teams and competed in a series of games. Time was set aside too to allow God's Spirit to effect a "spiritual revival" to strengthen us to stand strong in the face of a major crisis facing young people: Unemployment.

The following day consisted of an excursion which started at an outreach centre for children where we all played with the children and donated supplies for them. We then proceeded to the most dreadful hike up the very steep Thaba Bosiu where we were taught about the history of the Basotho clan, how Moshoeshe defeated their rivals and how the chiefdom has been ruling the nation of Lesotho. Unfortunately, the long-anticipated Clash of the Choirs, despite the extensive amount of practice and Gala Dinner could not take place as the AGM ran overtime with the discussions.

Elections were held afterwards, where our very own Karabo Rabaloi was elected General Secretary of the Province. The final day came with the closing service and we all went our separate ways back to our regions and homes.

- Asemahle Dyantyi and Lubabalo Qosi



A wonderful worship service and talk, led by Rev Bruce Woolley and his team, educated us on the importance of "Growing the church" and "Anglicans Ablaze" in the church. Day Three had many talks and discussions with the first being with "Green Anglicans" led by the Green Anglicans Rep – Bino Makhahenyane and his team.

HOPE Africa followed with an interactive discussion on the crisis of Gender Based Violence and the use and resources available in the SAFE CHURCH provisions. The rest of the day comprised a very long and wearying AGM led by the incumbent PEC. The AGM briefly touched on the Portfolio reports as a precursor to what followed in the AGM. A wonderful and heartfelt candlelight service was held as a break away from the AGM honouring those who have left us as a memorial.

The Forth Day was mainly about the AGM parts Two and Three which

Mother's Union 120th anniversary

The Mother's Union of the diocese celebrated its 120th anniversary with a formal event at St George's Cathedral on 9th August 2024.



All Saints Lansdowne with St Patrick's Crawford Confirmation camp

Camp theme: Rooted in Christ

The 'Rooted in Christ' camp was a transformative experience that deeply resonated with all its participants. Set against a serene backdrop, the camp provided a perfect environment for reflection, growth and spiritual enrichment. The leaders played a crucial role in making this event memorable and impactful. Their interactive approach and genuine care were instrumental in helping us forge a stronger connection with God and embrace our true selves.

From the moment we arrived, the leaders fostered an atmosphere of inclusivity and warmth. Their engaging activities and open discussions encouraged us to share our thoughts and feelings without fear of judgement. This sense of safety allowed us to explore our faith more deeply and understand the teachings of Christ in a more personal and meaningful way. The leaders' dedication was evident in their constant efforts to ensure that everyone felt heard and valued.

Interactive sessions, such as group prayers, worship nights and Bible study discussions, were designed to be both educational and spiritually uplifting. These sessions provided us with the tools and knowledge to deepen our faith and apply Christ's teachings to our daily lives. The leaders' ability to connect with us on a personal level made these activities particularly effective. They shared their own faith journeys and struggles, which made them relatable and inspired us to persevere in our spiritual paths.

The leaders also emphasised the importance of being true to ourselves. Through various team-building exercises and personal reflection periods, we learnt to appreciate our unique qualities and understand that being ourselves is a vital aspect of our relationship with God. The supportive environment they cultivated helped us to shed our insecurities and grow in confidence.

The 'Rooted in Christ' camp was an unforgettable experience, largely due to the exceptional leaders who guided us. Their interactive and caring approach helped us draw closer to God and embrace our true selves. The lessons learnt and the bonds formed during this camp will undoubtedly continue to influence our lives and spiritual journeys.

- **Gordon Alexander**

Confirmation camp was a very transformative experience for me. It was more of a special journey. This camp made me believe in God more, form friendships and create memories. My time at confirmation camp was an improvement of spiritual growth and personal reflection.

Our two days were structured around prayer, bible study and group work. Some of these topics made me feel uncomfortable and some sessions offered amazing teachings of Christ and the importance of being rooted in Christ. One particular session about LGBTQA+ resonated deeply with me, because I would sometimes judge people that identify

themselves as one. After that session I realised that, judging would not change anything for me or them. So, instead of judging, now I respect and understand them even though I'm against them.

Evenings were filled with group activities, whether we were acting, writing or sharing personal stories, each moment was an opportunity to bond with a fellow camper. A highlight of the camp was when I was blindfolded outdoors in the dark and I had to trust my teachers to lead me, which was very scary but I believed in God and in the end I saw a crowd cheering for me, this made me realise that you should put your faith over fear.

As the camp came to an end, I felt a deeper connection to my faith. The lessons learned and the friendships formed during this time will continue to inspire and guide me on my spiritual journey. The Confirmation camp was not just any camp but it was a meaningful step in my lifelong journey and walk with God. - **Grace Kamwendo**



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

Visit the Diocese of Cape Town's website: www.ctdiocese.org.za



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