

Under African Skies Production at All Saints Plumstead



AFRICA: Fix your thoughts on these wonderful qualities of the living GOD: love, hope, tolerance, honesty and mercy. Your holiness and glory are beyond description, and therefore, I will bow down in worship before You my God. I want to praise You hallowed Father, that I have found deep fulfilment and contentment in You. Keep me from straying from You and thus dying. Africa cries out and the choir sings "PLEA FOR AFRICA".

While various slides of the African continent with its rich cultures and scenic beauty were shown



on the overhead screen, the lay ministers continuously encouraged the choir as children of Africa, and stewards of God's beauty on this continent to praise God for His creative work. In the season of Christmas we are reminded of how God's Son came to save humankind, born as a babe in Bethlehem. The most wonderful thing to notice is how our African composers through their songs and carols of praise rejoice in Christ's incarnation, Under African Skies. The Rain Carol, a beautiful, but extremely difficult piece of work, was sung by the choir and one could actually feel "Africa as our cradle home" – the setting sun leaving a well-groomed earth in peace. The candles, the love, the happiness, the wise men bringing wonderful gifts, Joseph and Mary beaming at the amazing sight before them. All these things were awesome, but before the dull dusty skies appear figures and the Angels singing welcome to the new born King: "Welkom O Sti-

le nag van Vrede onder die Suider Kruis." Prayers such as "An Evening Prayer from Boran of Kenia"; "The Prayer of the Zulu in South Africa"; "The Prayer of the Kikuyu" and "A Prayer from Ghana" were read by the lay ministers. In his prayer Canon Mark Andrews asked God to free Africa and protect it day and night, and further prayed to God to help Africa to spread out like the palm leaves and the grass of the prairie and be numerous like the feet of the millipede. The combined choir, consisting of various choirs within the peninsula, finally entertained the congregation with "God Bless Africa" by Trevor Huddleston and Ashley Petersen; "Jabulani Africa" by F de Gersighy; "Tshollela" and "Nkosi Yam." For the duration of an hour people could forget their unfavourable economic conditions, political instability, eruptions or violence and terrorism – all of these which contribute to a state of despondency, anxiety and anger.

- Mervyn Carelse



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From the Bishop's Desk



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AWF Thanksgiving service



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Emancipation celebration

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EDITORIAL

The birth of Jesus is one of truth, love and hope. It brought salvation to all of us. Therefore we should celebrate and rejoice no matter what is happening in our lives. We are His children. A blessed Christmas to you and your loved ones. May this be a time of rest, peace and happiness.

Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV) - 6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Love and Light, Rebecca

THE GOOD HOPE

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EVENTS AND NOTICES

CELEBRATIONS

160th Patronal Dance: St Paul's Bree Street will host the above on Friday 2 February 2018 at the Goodwood Civic Centre. The band in attendance will be Cool Sounds from 19h30-00h45. Admission is R120 (bring your own xyz. Cheese and Wine takes place in the foyer). For more information and ticket sales, contact

Marilyn at the parish office: 021 802 1118.

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Dear Friends

Christmas is upon us once again and together with the entire Christian world we join in chorus singing "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth". Along with the customary celebrations and wishes of "goodwill towards all people", especially considering the backdrop of our social, political, economic and environmental context nationally and globally, we would do well to pause to ask what the birth of Jesus of Nazareth really means and implies for us today?

Simply, yet most profoundly, Christmas is about God choosing to identify with our frail and failed humanity in order to lovingly recreate in us the divine image of God. Writing to the Corinthian Church St. Paul declared that "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself" (2 Cor.5:16). And in the 4th Eucharistic Prayer we say, "By the power of the Holy Spirit He took flesh of the Virgin Mary and shared our human nature. He lived and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you the God and Father of all". Notwithstanding the dismal and troubling state of the world and society around us, this is the confident and fundamental truth that Christmas and the Incarnation announces. In the words of John 1:5; "the Light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it". Herein is the foundation of our faith response and the reason for our celebration of the nativity of Jesus who came amongst us to be the Saviour of humankind. This is the good news that you and I are called to share and be in God's world. The Christ Child in us revealing God's profound divine act of love and reconciling grace.

Despite the disillusioning realities which daily confront us when we consider the state of our world and the effects of our failed and sinful humanity, the Church is called to proclaim a message of good news and hope which confidently announces that "the Word became flesh and dwells amongst us full of grace and truth". John 1:14. It is this truth which liberates and sets us all free to joyfully celebrate because "we have beheld His glory". This is the gift God offers us and all of humanity. May we be ready to eagerly accept once more the Lord who comes to be with us, for "to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" John 1:12

Clergy Appointments: Please uphold them, their families and the parishes in your prayers:

- **The Revd Ronald Dias** – Rector of St Dominic's Hanover Park (Dec. 2017)
- **The Revd Jerome Francis** – Rector of St Saviour's Claremont (Dec. 2017)
- **The Revd Allen Goliath** – Rector of All Saints Lansdowne (Jan. 2018)
- **The Revd Dr. Isaias Chachine** – Chaplain to the University of Cape Town (Dec. 2017)
- **The Revd Gaile Beckett** – Rector of St Peter's Hout Bay (Jan. 2018)
- **The Revd Mandla Sibeko** – Rector of St Mary's Gugulethu (Jan. 2018)
- **The Ven Joshua Louw** – Rector of St Paul's Cape Town (Feb. 2018)
- **Canon Mark Andrews** – Rector of St Cyprian's Retreat (Feb. 2018)
- **The Revd Reeve Mulder** – Rector of St Paul's Rondebosch (Jan. 2018)

Retirements: **The Revd Pat Van Der Rede** (non-stipendiary) in Dec 2017 (ill health)
The Revd Terry Wilke - Diocesan College



Chaplain in Dec 2017 (medical boarding)
The Revd Deon Faro - St Aidan's Lansdowne (medical boarding early 2018).

The **Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate** of **Ms Notemba Ntuli-Kamana** (stipendiary) and **Mr Daniel Papier** (non-stipendiary) will take place on **11 February 2018**.

Marion and I wish you all a very Blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year in 2018.

Peace and Joy always
+Garth Counsell Table Bay



New Rector for St Dominic's Hanover Park

The Revd Ronald Dias was instituted as rector of St Dominic's Hanover Park on Sunday 3rd December 2017.

He is pictured with his family and Bishop Garth in the background, left to right: The Revd Ronald Dias, the Rt Revd Garth Counsell, his son Lémuël, his daughter Leah and Athlene, his wife.

Photographer: Ronald Muller

Anglican Women's Fellowship host Thanksgiving Service at St George's Cathedral



The Diocese of Cape Town - Anglican Women's Fellowship (AWF) celebrated their Thanksgiving Service at St George's Cathedral, Cape Town.

What an auspicious day it was for us, as we joined in worship to give thanks to God for another year of grace. We joined with millions across the world to mark the start of the 16 Days of Activism which runs from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) through to International Human Rights Day on 10 December.

The occasion started by observing the Campaign outside on the steps of the Cathedral. Our ladies had strong messages on their placards, such as "Hands off our children". "Break the silence", "No to Women Abuse" Let us all say "Stop the Violence".

The procession was enhanced by the different AWF banners from branches in our Diocese. Our Chaplain, the Revd Canon Cheryl Bird, who was also the celebrant and preacher based her sermon on Luke 20:27-40 and reminded us that we are the temples of God. The following statistics were an indication of the plight of women in our community: this year there have been 17 young women murdered in Cape Town. A total of 10 children were murdered by people close to them and 22 girls between the ages of 3 and 18 were raped. And these are only cases which were reported. The Saartjie Baartman Centre said that they had dealings with 3233 cases this year alone. We as women destined for God's purpose, bearing fruit through our witness and service will be co-creating communities of wonder, grace, beauty, freedom and love and for this we give thanks.

Pamela Paulsen, our Diocesan President, thanked members for their "jar collection" throughout the year as they celebrated special occasions. A bouquet of flowers was handed over to the oldest member present in the service.

A candle was lit in memory of all those sisters who had passed on. We were graced by the presence of our Provincial President Lucille Henniker as well as our Past Provincial and Diocesan Presidents.

We were reminded of the various things that they were thankful for.

- **Yolisa Sibeko**
Alternate Vice President (AWF)
- **Photographer: Herbert Halls**



Mission to Seafarers – Lessons and Carols



Advent signals the start of our preparation for the feast of Christmas. For any Feast or Festival there is a preparation and an expectation, which is something we look forward to. Christmas is the Feast and Advent is its preparation.

We held a wonderful afternoon of Lessons and Carols at the Mission to Seafarers Cape Town on 3 December 2017, to indicate the start of our preparation of Advent and a series of expectations.

We were joined by musicians, “Just Friends” and St Cyprian’s Retreat church choir who led us in joyful singing. We also had representatives of the Mission to Seafarers, Apostleship of the Sea (Roman Catholic Seafarer ministry), the Sailor Society and parishioners from parishes around our Diocese who joined us. All seafarers present were handed a Christmas gift.

We were truly inspired to look forward, not back, because if we always living in the past, we may very well miss Christ’s second coming.

- the Revd Ashley Petersen
Chaplain: Mission to Seafarers Port of Cape Town

Stirring up the Prophetic Imagination

For some time now, we as The Warehouse have been collectively pressing into what Walter Brueggemann terms ‘prophetic imagination’.

While the prophets of old were instrumental in naming, calling out, and condemning the injustices plaguing their societies, this was done in tandem with the re-envisioning of a society founded upon God’s justice and righteousness. They did not simply call for the destruction of the present evils, but they also stirred up a collective imagination of what could be. The recent Fallist movements in our country have been key in bringing to the fore some of the injustice that often manages to hide beneath the surface of public discourse. These movements have recognised that in order for us to move forward as a people, and as a nation, there are powers that need to be destroyed.

I believe however, that within this present moment, there is also space that begs to be filled

with our prophetic imaginings. With our creative dreams of a new society. With our visions of the world that we would like ourselves and our children to inhabit.

These two ingredients- the imagining of a new society, and the tearing down of the forces of injustice - are both unhelpful when taken alone. In South Africa’s rainbow nation fallacy, we have seen first-hand the lack of progression when people get stuck in a vision for the future without taking the necessary steps to get there. And on the other side of the coin, we have witnessed in many countries, the destruction that comes from the removal of leaders in the absence of solid plans for their succession.

Thus, in this current climate, where long-ignored injustices are finally being called out and seen for what they are, let us not forget the work of reimagining. While this sounds like an easy thing to do, many of our imaginations have become stunted from



their continued existence within a society that has little value for them. Beginning in childhood, we are taught to colour only inside the lines, we are dissuaded from creating imaginary worlds, we are admonished for daydreaming. Perfectionism is often prioritised over creativity, and productivity over imagination. These realities often result in the progressive diminishing of our ability to dream, create and imagine without inhibition.

Thus, recovering a culture of pro-

phetic imagination begins with the intentional disruption of society’s dominant value systems. It begins with pushing back to make space for creativity, to encourage play, to allow ourselves to daydream. It is time to break our co-dependent relationship with the lines, and begin to colour outside of them, for the creation of a new society requires the bravery to journey where we have never gone before.

- Thandi Gamedze

SYNOD 2017 HAS SPOKEN: What are the gifts we could bring Jesus this Christmas?

The three wise men brought treasures to Jesus and so we invite you to bring your appropriate gifts to the Church. Likewise we have all been asked to rededicate our gifts (Stewardship) to the church during this period: our time, talent and treasure. It is the willing sharing of our gifts that allows the mission of the church to continue.

An important resolution passed by Synod opened an opportunity for parishioners to offer and use their gifts, talents and expertise to enhance the life and ministry of the church. If you feel God is calling you to be of service in growing His church in the areas of property; banking; accounting; law; human resources and social development then join one of the Diocesan committees and make a difference.

Perhaps you know someone in your parish who has these skills? If so ask, if you with their consent, could put forward their names. All the names forwarded will be considered and sorted into the different gift categories.

Archdeacons are also urged to encourage clergy and parishioners to participate by responding to this invitation.

A diocesan data base will then be formulated

with the names forwarded through the archdeacons in conjunction with the parish priest. These parishioners will be contacted to consider joining one of the committees.

The diocese is aware that several of our parishes face numerous financial challenges in trying to meet their commitments. To help alleviate this there has been no increase in the Diocesan assessments levied on our parishes over the past four years, even though this assessment drives the mission of the diocese.

It expresses our care for parishes that are unable to afford a priest; it assists with the education and training of priests and the care of their families; the wellbeing of the clergy i.e. through contributions to the Diocesan Health Care Fund and the ACSA Pension Fund; it enables the work of our chaplains to the sick in hospitals and to students at university; as well as the ministry of the Archbishop and the Bishop of Table Bay, and the mission outreach to the youth of the diocese.

The Diocese therefore acknowledges and remains grateful for the regular monthly contributions through the assessments made by parishes. As indicated at the Annual Budget Meeting held on 26th October 2017, a newly

devised financial template will assist in recording accurate financial information. This will assist with the development of a system by which equitable diocesan assessments can be determined moving forward.

Here is a summary of the main challenges we face in reaching towards realizing this vision; A formula for equitable diocesan assessments; effective use of property assets; adequate remuneration of clergy and staff; good governance and practice through having effective Legislative, Audit, Social and Ethical policies and practices in place.

As good stewards, we must not only receive the gifts but also use the gifts with good effect to further the Mission of God.

The church needs your participation and gifts to make the Gift of God available.

You are encouraged to share your gifts and expertise in the various areas stated by forwarding names to the Diocesan Administrator, Ms Charleen van Rooyen at; vanrooyenc@ctdio-cese.org.za by the 31 January 2018.

- Charmaine Johnston
Diocesan Finance Manager

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.

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Retirement and thanksgiving: on Sunday 1st October 2017 at St Paul's Cape Town, the Revd Karl Groepe, together with his family, friends and colleagues celebrated his retirement. He is pictured with his family from left to right: Kieran, his son; Joan, his wife and Celeste, his daughter.

Photographer: Edwin Joshua

Emancipation Day 2017

Focus on the freed slave woman, Lydia Williams

How would you anticipate a life-changing event such as becoming un-shackled, on the eve of such an occurrence? How might you greet the day of freedom heralded in by the midnight clock?

Street celebrations including singings and dancing, celebratory fires and feasting, would have been some of the ways in which Emancipation Day – 1 December 1838 – was welcomed.

Despite weather predictions to the contrary, the 2017 Emancipation Day 'Walk in the Night' was blessed with a windless evening. The conditions were perfect for making the celebratory fire on the grounds of the Zonnebloem Estate and for carrying the gigantic puppets made in preparation for the procession. It also made navigating through sometimes precarious fields easier for the elderly and very young who had arrived to take part in the event.

Many sites in our city are associated with the period of slavery. Many people's lives are embedded in this period, most of whom will forever remain unnamed. While the emancipation of the enslaved people at the Cape on 1 December 1838 is always the focus of the walk (full legal emancipation was preceded by a four year apprenticeship period from 1 December 1834), its vibrancy lies in the commitment to vary the route each year, as well as its specific focus.

Lydia Williams (1820-1910) was born into slavery on the Zonnebloem Estate. Snippets of her life have been gleaned from various documents, and she is known to be

a founder member of St Philip the Deacon parish church in Chapel Street, District Six. The old parish school building has been named in her honour as the Lydia Williams Centre for Memory, and was the end point of the walk which started on Zonnebloem Estate.

Lydia Williams has helped to humanise the story of slavery, of which few biographies are known. Working with the archive, art, intergenerational transmission of knowledge and historical imagination were brought to play in the marking of this occasion. She was a young woman of under 20 years of age when emancipation was achieved, and she was known in her community for her faithful observance during her lifetime, of the 'Feast of the Release of the Slaves'.

Three gigantic puppets which joined the walk in Chapel Street brought gasps of surprise and pride as those involved in their making beamed at the drama which these added to the occasion. The three figures represented (1) an enslaved person carrying produce belonging to the slavemaster; (2) an emancipated person; and (3) a woman carrying a suitcase, representing displacement under Apartheid.

While the period of slavery as was practiced during the period of colonialism is long past, 1 December has become an occasion when more contemporary forms of slavery are reflected on.

- Bonita Bennett
Director: District Six Museum



GtC: "Growing as a Christian Disciple"



Growing the Church was invited to be one of the guest speakers at Water's Edge in Simonstown. The topic we chose was "Growing as a Christian Disciple." I was accompanied by Jade Africa from Holy Nativity, Hazendal, to the camp.

There were 32 students with five leaders, and they were organised into five teams for the camp: Fearless, Dynamic, Fabulous, Flawless and Spectacular. After the ice-breakers, we asked them what their understanding of what a disciple is. They were given various Bible verses to explore what motivated Jesus; what His passion was; what is their passion and gift, and how could they live a Christ-like lifestyle.

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GtC: "Growing as a Christian Disciple"

DYC Quiet Morning

During the five skit sessions that dealt with three main areas, namely family life, school / university life, and reality star / music star idols, the young people were encouraged to be practical and relevant to their own lives.

It was wonderful to see how through their own personal life experiences, be it good or bad, they were still able to see how God could transform them if they allowed the Holy Spirit to enter and guide them.

By welcoming the Holy Spirit into their lives, they could also be a living example of discipleship in bringing others and encouraging others to follow Christ.

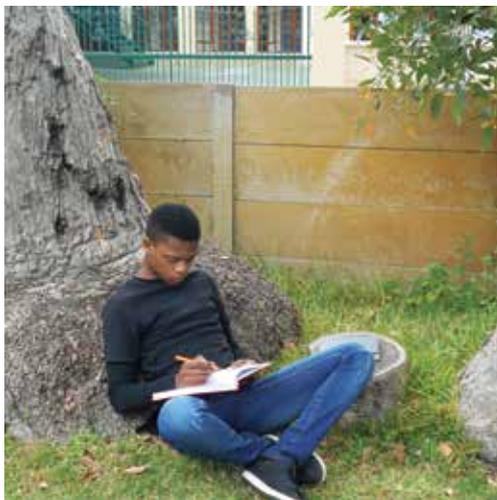
The young people were energized, and God was truly present. We felt humbled that God used Jade and I as His instruments to let these young people know how much God loves them.

We continually reminded them how wonderful and special they all were in God's eyes and how they had a special place in His heart.

It was a wonderful opportunity to walk alongside, equip, anchor and encourage the young people in the love of God and to serve God as disciples of love.

Thank you, Jade, for joining me in spreading God's message to the wonderful young people.

- Wayne Curtis
GtC Youth Coordinator



Jeremiah 29:11 says: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. "They are plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

This was our theme for the day and - WOW - what a powerful message it was for us. The Quiet Morning was broken up into 3 sessions.

Each session dealt with a specific topic related to the theme, such as our relationship with God (and others), our interpretation of what God means when He says He has plans to "prosper" us and evaluating the power of prayer in our lives.

These sessions were both personally enlightening and challenging with quite a few tears shed. In my opinion, our youth have been inspired to cling to every bit of life and to always remember that God is on our side.

To all young people, find strength and hope in the Lord as it is said in Isaiah 41:10 : "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand."

A big thank you to the Revd Mark Andrews and the Parish Council of the parish of All Saints Plumstead for hosting the Quiet Morning.

- Errin Louis



"The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other." Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a prosperous 2018.

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

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