A leading layman of the Diocese of Cape Town, Professor Geoff Everingham, has received the Church’s highest award for distinguished lay service.

At the opening Eucharist of Diocesan Synod, Prof Everingham was admitted into the Order of Simon of Cyrene. The Order, established in 1960, is named after the North African man who was compelled by the Romans to carry Jesus’ cross. Reading the citation, Archbishop Thabo Makgoba noted that Prof Everingham had over many years “given generously of both his time and his considerable expertise in the service of the Anglican Church, from Parish to Provincial level.”

He had served in many roles at Christ Church, Kenilworth, had been a commissary on the Provincial Trusts’ Board for a number of other dioceses for the past 25 years and had chaired or sat on a wide range of other church bodies on finance and housing. “Prof Everingham brings immense skills to the service of the Church, which he has made available in an unstinting manner,” the citation said. “His gentleness and good humour at meetings have become a hallmark of his involvement on church bodies. His commitment to and love for the Church together with his willingness to give of himself have been appreciated by four Archbishops.”

DISTINGUISHED LAY SERVICE: Archbishop Thabo Makgoba and Professor Geoff Everingham at the Opening of Diocesan Synod. Photos: the Revd Allen Goliath
We are fortunate to live in a city where we experience all seasons in one week. Its always such a pleasure to see the wild flowers mushrooming in the fields with their array of colour at this time of the year. These first sightings signifying the coming of Spring and the newness of life it brings. Many trees are still bare, standing statuesque, having managed through the cold of winter. Creation is also fearfully and wonderfully made. As you prepare for the change of season, from the ‘heaviness’ of winter to the playful spring days, may you be blessed by your observations of the transformation of creation. May the change in the season bring a change in you - embrace life and be thankful that you are here and part of it all.

Love and Light, Rebecca

EVENTS AND NOTICES

FUND RAISING EVENTS

Children of the Light: Sunday 7th September 18h00 at the Artscape Theatre. The South African premiere of a documentary film on the life of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu. Tickets are R250 at Computicket. We are sharing this special event with Archbishop Desmond in celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation. Proceeds to the DTHF Youth Centre in Masiphumelele. Contact Lavinia.browne@hiv-research.org.za

Spring Dance: Emmanuel Anglican Church invites you to a Spring Dance in the Wittebome Civic Centre. Rosmead Avenue, Wynberg on Friday, 12 September from 19h30 to 00:45am. Music supplied by COOLSOUNDS and the cost is R100. Bring your own platter and XYZ. For more information contact Glenda Cairns at 082 265 0307.

Parish Dance: St Matthews Claremont will be hosting their annual parish dance on Friday 26th September 2014, 19h30 at Retreat Civic Centre. The cost is R80 per person and the band in attendance will be Ikey Gamba. For tickets, contact Charles Meyer on 072 755 7592.

Fete: Christ the King Claremont will be hosting their annual Fete on Saturday 27 September 2014 in the church hall from 08h30 - 13h00. There will be a variety of stalls including white elephant, book store, food, crafts and something for the children. For more information contact Joan Welby-Solomons at 082 8686 166 or welbys@iafrica.com

Back to Church Sunday BTCS: is now the single largest local-church invitational initiative in the world. It is based on the simplest and shortest step in evangelism - when we invite someone we already know to our church. While the initial focus was to invite ‘back’ those who used to attend church, others who do not attend can also be invited, gently encouraged and warmly welcomed. The international date is 28th September 2014. Join hundreds of Anglicans in ACSA from every background in inviting family, friends, neighbours and colleagues back to church. For more information contact GtC offices at 021 763 1315 or email office@growingthechurch.org.za

TOURS

Holyland and Turkey Tour 2015: A meeting will be held on Sunday 28th September 2014 to discuss the next tour at St Saviour’s Claremont at 15h00 for 15h30. For more information contact Mr Alec Pelston at 082 377 2856. Space is limited.

GAZETTE

The Revd Douglas Kirkpatrick was licenced as Minister in Charge of St Luke’s Church, Diep River and Associate Rector of St John’s Parish on 2 August 2014.

The Ven Terence Lester was licenced and installed as Archdeacon of Constantia on 3 August 2014 in St George’s Cathedral.

Brenda Hanson, wife of the Revd John Hanson, was laid to rest on 13th August 2014. Prayers are asked for Father John and his family during this time of bereavement.

Isaiah 26:3

“You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in You, all whose thoughts are fixed on You!”
The failure of South African society – and the Church – to get to grips with the challenge of “the appalling conditions in which huge numbers of our people live” is “a failure to address ourselves to upholding basic human dignity,” Archbishop Thabo Makgoba told Diocesan Synod in his Charge.

Opening the Synod at the Eucharist on August 14, he adopted as the theme of his Charge: “Who is the Church? Discerning God’s holiness at work and for the living of these days in the everyday life of the saints.”

Quoting Matthew’s Gospel on how, “if you want greatness in the kingdom of heaven you must have childlike humility,” Archbishop Thabo said that “true humility in the Christian community is displayed when we care less about power, status and wealth and become known for our redemptive actions and attitudes towards our brothers and sisters who have been wronged.” Within the Church and the wider world, he added, “we promote redemptive attitudes and actions when we hear confessions as clergy, intervene in Manenberg’s gangster conflicts, campaign against the scandalous peddling of drugs in poor communities, pursue initiatives in our social responsibility groups, share God’s love through our ministry to people living with HIV and Aids, show our concern for the environment, undertake walks of witness to where people are suffering, whether as a consequence of fires or flooding in Langa and other places, or forced evictions in Lwandle, and even when we arrange events to honour Nelson Mandela Day, or Madiba’s life when he died.”

He continued: “The openness with which we challenge one another – whether across divides of gender, race, religion, culture, or in our Walk of Witness from District Six to Parliament on Holy Saturday – can also bear witness to the kind of redemptive actions by which we can pursue reconciliation with one another and with our difficult past.”

He called for the Church “to take far more seriously the call to engage in reconciling acts that bridge the kind of inequality we see in our physical living conditions in South Africa.” Referring to Cape Town’s toilet wars, in which protesters have spread human waste at the airport and in the city centre, Archbishop Thabo said he was “no fan” of their tactics. “But we cannot deny that in one sense the excesses have been a good thing: they have woken us up to the reality of how our brothers and sisters live. “John tells us that the truth will set us free: well, we know that reconciliation which tries to gloss over the effects of past inequality is but avoidance and untruth – it is not reconciliation.”

The Archbishop advocated that Anglicans in Cape Town should not limit their ambitions to speak out to matters of housing and sanitation. He added: “We have seen in the platinum miners’ strike how some of our fellow citizens feel so squeezed and so desperate that they have to resort to actions that can bring the economy to its knees. Their plight is but one example – seen closer to home in the conditions facing seasonal workers on farms – of how we have come to be one of the countries in the world where the gap between rich and poor is highest.

Continues on page 4
Anglicans back Bishop, Miners on Marikana

The Anglican Diocese of Cape Town backed the Pretoria Bishop who has come under fire for his support of the miners at Marikana.

Meeting on the second anniversary of the shootings at Marikana, the Synod of the Diocese commended Bishop Jo Seoka “in his efforts to be with those who suffer.”

In a resolution proposed by Archdeacon Terry Lester of Christ Church, Constantia, the Synod also commended for prayer for the Marikana commission of inquiry, and its chairperson, Justice Ian Farlam.

It committed the church “to holding in God’s care and love those who suffered unspeakable loss at Marikana.”

Proposing the resolution, Archdeacon Lester urged that the diocese support Bishop Seoka, who is the Anglican Bishop of Pretoria, “in his efforts to ensure that we as South Africans and even the world see these [the miners] as God’s children, particularly those who died and their families.”

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, the president of the Synod, said Bishop Seoka had “worked tirelessly to bring the issue of the rights of miners before those who have power to effect changes.”

Aunty Annie celebrates 107th birthday

Best Wishes:
Archdeacon of Athlone and Rector of St George’s Silvertown, Joshua Louw, visited Aunty Annie on her birthday, 5th August 2014.

During the 2014 Synod at St Cyprian’s Retreat, the collections totalled a generous sum of R6500 for the Archbishop’s Endowment Fund. The Archbishop would to thank the members of Synod 2014.

Athlone’s got green talent!

This was an amazing event which was hosted at St John’s Belgravia on 30 May 2014. It was well represented with 5 of the 7 churches in the Athlone Archdeaconry present. Each church rendered two items about the environment in the form of a presentation of any sort such as dancing, acting, rapping, poetry and by using recycled goods. The Ven Joshua Louw and the Revd Lujabe, our Youth Chaplain for the Archdeaconry as well as Abigail Hopley, the Diocesan Youth Worker were present. The members of the Diocesan Environment Group were the judges. St Dominic’s Hanover Park walked away with the main prize - free entry to Kirstenbosch Gardens for their performance. It was an enjoyable evening filled with fun and fellowship. Everyone learnt a great deal.

- Jade and Janine, Holy Nativity, Hazendal
The Community Chest is deeply rooted in the Anglican Church and helping the needy

The Community Chest is one of South Africa’s oldest non-profit organisation’s. It has a long and distinguished history of philanthropy and community development dating back to 1928 when Business, members of the Rotary and the Anglican Church collaborated in response to a crisis of poverty.

Mission:
To improve the lives of all South Africans by mobilising the caring power of communities, business and government to advance the common good.

Vision:
The Community Chest envisions a nation where all individuals and families achieve their human potential through world class education, having income stability and by living healthy lives.

Focus areas:
The Community Chest’s vision is based on the fundamentals of access to Health, Education, Income Generation and Community Development. These are our four strategic focus areas to address poverty and facilitate positive social change that will inspire citizenship that is active, engaged and effective.

For the 2014/2015 financial year, The Community Chest will invest in some 233 non-profit organisations, across the Western Cape, in the form of operational grants, of which a portion will be invested into projects such as Disaster Relief. Thus far, the 2014 winter season has been particularly severe and The Community Chest has responded by providing aid, in the form of warm blankets, clothing and non-perishable food items, to where its most needed. During the month of June, The Community Chest in partnership with the Methodist and Anglican Church, distributed relief packs to residents of Lwandle informal settlement where 849 adults, 82 children and 69 babies were evicted from land next to the N2 highway.

For more information about The Community Chest and what we do:
Contact 021 424 3344 / 021 487 1500
Email info@comchest.org.za
Physical Address 82 Bree Street, Cape Town, 8001
Website www.comchest.org.za
Facebook www.facebook.com/CommunityChestoftheWesternCape
Twitter www.twitter.com/CommChestWC
A year long birthday: 160th for St Peter’s Mowbray

We’ve done a great deal of work on our Garden Of Remembrance in the centre of our church grounds, and took the opportunity to dedicate this to God in June.

In the first part of the year we’ve held some storytelling days, where members of the church have got together to tell their stories about the church and what being part of St Peter’s means to them.

We’re now following this up with the development of a Portrait Book - a professional photographer will be taking photos of church members in the places where they spend most time during the week; and we’ll be publishing those in a book, alongside pen portraits of their involvement with the church over the years. We want to leave a legacy for church members in years to come of what St Peter’s was like in our 160th year. All this is part of a continuing journey of growing in diversity in every area of our church life, and being more deliberate in serving and blessing our local community; we’re seeking to become a church that reflects Jesus well in who we are and what we do and say.

Every Thursday evening we host a Community Supper, where around 70 people - many of whom sleep outside - join together for a time of food, chat and vibrant worship after the meal. We’ve also developed the house on the church property as a house for men who are recovering from addictions and are seeking a supportive environment as they continue to progress in their recovery. If you’re in the Mowbray area some time drop in and see us - for supper, worship or just for a chat!

- Revd David Meldrum

Veteran Church fighter against apartheid, Bishop David Russell, dies in Cape Town

Bishop David Russell, a courageous veteran in the Church’s struggle against apartheid and injustice, died in Cape Town 17 August 2014, aged 75.

Bishop Russell, the retired Anglican Bishop of Grahamstown, died of cancer. Archbishop Thabo Makgoba of Cape Town said in a statement: “With David Russell’s death, an era passes for the Church and its prophetic and courageous ministry, especially to the poorest of the poor.

From the earliest days of his ministry as a priest, he was radical in his identification with the poor and oppressed. Steve Biko, with whom he worked closely, called him ‘a friend, an equal, a comrade.’

In the Eastern Cape in the 1970s, he played an important role in drawing attention to the plight of people who were forcibly removed from their homes under apartheid and dumped to starve in areas, such as Dimbaza, where they had no hope of making a living.

Later, as a chaplain to migrant workers in Cape Town, he campaigned against the cruel removals, in the middle of winter, of families who defied the pass laws and came to Crossroads to live with their husbands and fathers.

When the apartheid government sent in bulldozers to destroy their shacks, he was willing to put his life on the line - one admirer recalled on Facebook this week: ‘Will never forget the image of DR lying, spreadeagled, in front of a bulldozer in Crossroads.

When the government imposed a banning order on him, he defied it, breaking it in multiple ways to attend a meeting of the Church’s Provincial Synod and to motivate a resolution expressing the Church’s understanding of those who had resorted to armed struggle.

After becoming Bishop of Grahamstown, he ordained the first woman priest in Southern Africa and repeatedly challenged the Church on theological grounds to reverse its opposition to blessing same-sex unions.

He also challenged the democratically-elected provincial government of the Eastern Cape for its failures in areas such as health and education.

As one who served as Bishop David’s suffragan bishop in Grahamstown and was mentored by him, I feel his loss keenly. Not only the Church but the nation - which honoured him for his service with the Order of the Baobab in Silver - mourns this son of the soil.

On behalf of my family, the Diocese of Cape Town, the Synod of Bishops and the broader church, we send our condolences and prayers to his wife, Dorothea and to his sons, Sipho and Thabo.

May this pastor, prophet, theologian and fierce fighter against injustice rest in peace until we meet again.”

He was laid to rest on Saturday 23rd August 2014 at St George’s Cathedral.
Thank you for the opportunity to share with you about St George's Home for Girls.

There is one good reason for me to go to work each day and that is the reception I get from two of our littiest girls in the morning. I get greeted with a smile and a loud “good morning uncle Graeme”. Sometimes they would hide from me and I have to look for them.

When I find them there is a loud scream and laughing. I would most mornings have a song sung to me or a poem recited. There is nothing more rewarding than to be received in a manner such as that.

St George's Home for Girls is a registered Child and Youth Care Centre with the Department of Social Development. In fact, it is currently the only residential care facility in the Wynberg District which provides for girls only between the ages of 3 and 18 who are abused, abandoned, neglected and orphaned.

Children from failed foster placements and those with behavioural problems are also cared for. We also care for children infected and/or affected by HIV/Aids.

Every child should have the opportunity to develop in order to achieve her full potential. We at St George’s would love to see every child become the best that they can be.

We live in a time of enormous challenges yet we also have great opportunities to make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable children in our society. We as child care practitioners play the important role in the lives of these children.

One of our programmes we have is the “Transition to Independence Programme”. This programme offers a different kind of residential care to young people between the ages of 16 and 18 years (occasionally up to 21 years).

Many of the young people have spent years outside family care, in our child and youth care centre. The transition to adulthood and self-sufficiency can be challenging for any young person. They, in many cases, do not have the support from family and the transition could be more abrupt than with other young people.

This is an 18 month programme that focuses on developing a range of skills that is required by the young people to live productive, independent adult lives in mainstream society. The emphasis of the Life Centre is on educational development through intensive and focussed training.

Other aspects involve the development of general life skills, which includes topics of teenage sexuality, HIV/AIDS, cooking, managing a household budget, interview skills and goal setting etc. Therapeutic services are also provided to the young person by the Social Worker and the Child and Youth Care team. We have just had the “Life Centre” cottage revamped with the help of 81 students from Holland and coordinated by Hilda De Beer from “New Kidz on the Block”.

A huge thank you to all the sponsors and volunteers that made this revamp possible allowing our senior girls to move into a first class facility.

I would like to appeal to individuals that have the expertise and experience in some of these aspects to assist us in providing the training to the young people at St George’s.

One other area that we require assistance in is with hosting of our children at St George's Home. The hosting gives a family or individual an opportunity to assist a child to share their family life outside of the child and youth care centre.

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

- Graeme Cairns, Director

In the July Good Hope, Bishop Garth Counsell, wrote a report on the Fifth Consultation of Anglican Bishops in Dialogue in Coventry Cathedral. In the report, he mentions the Bishops commending the fellowship of the Community of the Cross of Nails as a visible commitment to the ministry of reconciliation.

In the Western Cape, we have several churches, organisations and a school who are partners of the international network of the Cross of Nails Community. All partners actively pursue a ministry of reconciliation, healing and peace according to their own needs. Anyone interested in further information could contact:

Petrina Pakoe: 084 585 5258
petrina@hopeafrica.org.za

Jenny Wilson: 021 7622464
anorbury@iafrica.com or visit
www.goodshepherd-protea.org.za ;
www.crossofnails.org ;
www.conventrycathedral.org.uk
Agents of Change Camp held at Zonnebloem

Fikelela was sponsored R15 000 by the Department of Community and Safety to run an Agents of Change Camp during the school holidays.

Despite the short time period and the very wet and cold weather a successful weekend/day camp was held at Zonnebloem from Friday 18th July till Sunday 20th July 2014.

A special thanks to the facilitators, camp leaders, parents, friends, families and the Rectors who so willingly embraced and assisted with the transporting of the children.

Christ the Reconciler - Tafelsig (Diocese of False Bay): “We had a spiritual time and learnt many new things which we can share with the young people in our parish.”

St George’s Silvertown: “I did not know what to expect at first. To me it was to be another boring camp. I was very happy that it turned out to be a life-changing experience.” (Jason - Lee)

Church of the Holy Spirit Heideveld: “The camp was fun yet emotional and uplifting. Meeting new people was great! Awesome!”

St Andrew’s Steenberg: “We never expected the camp to be so amazing and awesome. It was so much fun. We made many friends from different parishes. Being here challenged our faith. We really enjoyed the concert.”

Church of the Resurrection Bonteheuwel: “The camp brought change to us all (Life changing). It was exciting and we were spiritually moved. It was productive, captivating and enhanced us mentally, emotionally and spiritually. It taught us to be more open and that there is someone out there that loves us.”

St Mary’s Woodstock: “We were inspired by the Spirit of God to go out into our community to teach others what we have learnt. The camp has given us the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life. We have learnt that we all differ in many ways, yet we are all children of God.”

St Mark’s District Six: “We thoroughly enjoyed the Praise and Worship sessions and meeting new people. We are thankful for all the learning that took place with Peer Education and look forward to sharing our knowledge with others. We had a lot of fun and this experience will always be remembered.”