



According to the law

The diocese welcomed their two new lawyers on Sunday 11 March at St Mark and St John in Parkside when Onida Fritz and Lee-Anne Ah Shene were licenced by Bishop Bethlehem.

Onida Fritz is the new Registrar, with the job of dealing with Canon law, including that pertaining to diocesan properties. She will need to attend Diocesan Council and Trusts Board meetings and, if required, Finance Committee meetings. Onida worships at All Saints' in Kabega Park.

Lee-Anne Ah Shene, Advocate of the High Court SA, is the new Chancellor who attends to any legal matters that involve the Bishop. She will also need to attend Trusts Board meetings and any others where Bishop Bethlehem may need her expertise and counsel.

Both our legal beagles have to attend Synod and ordination services and the occasional business lunch with Bishop Bethlehem - of which he joked, "They have to pay the bill!" As these are honorary positions they do all this work Pro Bono - a glorious offering of their time and talents to the Lord.



Bishop Bethlehem with the new Registrar, Onida Fritz LLLB (NMU) and the new Chancellor, Adv Lee-Anne Ah Shene B Juris, LLLB, LLM (NMU).

International Family Day

2 April

Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matt 19:13,14 (NIV)

Good and faithful servant Andrea Potgieter



Andrea Potgieter, the rector of St Luke's, with Bishop Bethlehem and Connie Human showing his citation.

The St Luke Family in Palmridge celebrated a special day on 12 December when one of our members, Connie Human was presented with the Order of Diocese by Bishop Bethlehem.

This wonderful celebration was to honour and give special recognition to Connie who has given outstanding service to both the parish and the diocesan family. He has been involved in physically building churches and rendering building maintenance services which has proved to be a valuable contribution in 'building the Kingdom'.

Over and above Connie's involvement in the broader diocesan family, Connie also adds great value to the Christian Men's Society Organisation in the parish, the diocese and the province.

His parochial involvement over the past 30 years covers churchwarden, parish council member, maintenance and CMS executive.

Well done, good and faithful servant!

Granny Kwong celebrates 100

One of the early members of St Francis Xavier, when it was still in North End, Ye Mooi Yet Kwong, celebrated her 100th birthday on Sunday 4 March in the new hall at the present St Francis Xavier in Kabega Park. In honour of this grand old lady, the parish arranged a glittering evening with many distinguished guests, who included Dean Wang, Consul-general of the Republic of China and Taiwan, Mike Timkoe chairman of Chinese Association, Councillor Shirley Sauls and, of course, Bishop Bethlehem and the Dean, Mark Derry. All spoke glowingly of her contribution to the community and the church and she was presented with certificates and scrolls of recognition.

Affectionately known as Granny or Aunty Kwong, she came to South Africa from China as a young bride. She converted from Buddhism and joined St Francis Xavier. She did not have an easy life but her eldest son, Vincent Horman, who travelled from Australia for the occasion, said of his mother, "She was a very resilient person of whom it could be said, 'when the going gets tough, the tough get going!'"

She and her husband ran a very well known produce shop in South End and when he died in 1971 she had to learn the whole business and how to drive the truck to the produce market. Forced



At St Francis Xavier for the 100th birthday celebration were Sidney Ting Chong (churchwarden), Mark Derry (Dean of the Diocese), Bishop Bethlehem, Ellen Kwong with her mother Granny Kwong (Ellen has been caring for her for years), Fumanekile Kula, Archdeacon of Tsitsikamma, Brian Axcell (the rector of St Francis Xavier), Larry Pow Chong and Julian Erasmus (churchwardens).

removals meant the shop was closed down.

Nearly 200 guests attended the celebration and enjoyed the wonderful entertainment, a delicious six-course Chinese meal and hearing many amusing anecdotes about this grand old lady.

A new approach to Vestry meeting

Vuvu Xhaliie



The rector, Zweli Tom, explains the process to be used for the Vestry Meeting.

meeting from focusing mainly on financial and elections. This is what, together, we celebrated in our vestry meeting, on Saturday 17 February.

What is the tool we used to take our Vestry meeting to this level of operation? The tool our rector, Zweli Tom used to deconstruct the usual form of the Vestry, from being a meeting mainly for serious consideration of financial matters and elections, into being what it has become, a process of doing deconstruction through Appreciative Inquiry.

This is how it works:

- we first observed what people at Ascension consider to be normal about a Vestry meeting;
- then we asked ourselves what people consider as normal - can it be changed or seen differently?
- finally, we focused on the difference between the obvious and what is not obvious.

As we followed this process our vestry meeting became: a space for reflection, accountability and engagement.

At The Church of Ascension, we have successfully managed to make the Vestry meeting into what it is supposed to be: a space for reflection, accountability and engagement. Now, during the meeting we reflect about how we are living out our faith in our context; those in leadership give account of their various responsibilities; and we robustly engage on how to take the Parish into the next level. In this way, we have liberated the Vestry

Anglicans praying with beads

Jill Bromiley

On Saturday 3 February retired deacon, Denise Rae led a workshop for St Hugh's parishioners on making an Anglican 'rosary' and using it when praying.

This very meaningful morning was attended by 24 people and was held at St Paul's Church hall in Parsons Hill. We were all led step by step on how to make our own prayer beads - concentration was the name of the game. All the equipment was provided and the final results were amazing. We were then shown how to use these beads during our prayer time.

Denise said, "I first became aware of prayer beads, other than a Catholic Rosary, some years ago when I read an article in the *Southern Anglican* about Anglican Prayer Beads. Later there was an article in the *iindaba* along with the details of where beads could be purchased. I bought the beads and although I tried to use them I never really took to it.

A couple of years ago I learnt of a book entitled "A Bead and a Prayer" by Kristen Vincent and my interest was aroused once more but it was not until her third book on praying with beads was published that I really became interested. It is called "Beads of Healing" sub title 'Prayer, Trauma and Spiritual-wholeness'. In this book Kristen writes of her experience in using prayer beads to deal with the trauma she suffered as a survivor



Denise Rae teaching on praying with the use of beads, assisted by Lyn Johnson.

of childhood abuse. She also offers practical ways to use prayer beads to enter conversations with God, stay focused and sense God's presence - and much more.

Although Beads of Healing is what drew my attention I have also found it useful to use beads in my daily prayers. They particularly help me to focus as my mind often seems to be so busy."

Women around the world pray for God's creation

Jill Bromiley



Attending WWDP were Pam Shapiro, Marian Barrowman of St Hugh's with Anne Bonny and Ellie van der Merwe of Newton Park Methodist Church.

The Newton Park Methodist Church hosted the Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday 2 March. This year the theme was "All God's Creation is Very Good." As always, women from many of the churches in Newton Park took part in the service.

This was the 88th celebration of the Day of Prayer and the programme was put together by the women of the Republic of Suriname which lies in the north-eastern part of South America. The country has 540,000 inhabitants.

Diocesan Council notes

Diocesan Council met on Saturday 17 February in the Alexandria Parish.

• Unpaid assessments – it was decided that the Archdeacons will visit the parishes who are behind on their Assessments and explain to the congregations what the consequences will be for non-payment.

Bishop's farewell –

• A Gala dinner will be held on Saturday 21 July in the Feathermarket Hall and each parish will be asked to sell ten tickets;

• Bishop Bethlehem's final Eucharist Service will be held on Sunday 22 July in Nangoza Jebe hall from 09h00 – 14h00 and parishes will be given an opportunity to present their farewell gifts to him.

• The diocesan family weekend will coincide with the weekend of the Bishop's farewell weekend of 21 - 22 July.

• A house is to be bought in Algoa Park as a rectory for St Peter's in Zwide.

We will remember



LS K Freeman of the Sea Cadets lights the candle in memory of those who perished when the SS Mendi sank. He is flanked by AB J Comadons who lit the candle for those lost on the HMSAS Southern Floe, and AB A Sefaley who lit the candle for those lost on the SAS Kruger. Looking on is Lt Commander Garth Daniels.

Once again the South African Legion of Military Veterans Service of Remembrance proved to be a very moving one. It was held at St Paul's in Parsons Hill on Sunday 18 February and conducted by the rector, Mark Bath who spoke on the HMSAS Southern Floe which disappeared in the Mediterranean Sea in 1941 with only one survivor being found.

He explained that this ship had been a whaling vessel that had been converted to a mine-sweeper and said, "It was drawn into service to be an agent of goodness to others in the country." He likened this to the service provided by the navy and military ... and to each of us in our work for the Lord.

Secretary wanted

Mothers' Union
Christian Family Life
is seeking an office secretary
to work two days per week -
Tuesdays and Fridays.



Remuneration: Honorarium
Requirements: Computer literacy,
administration and
communication skills.
Duties - Perform secretarial duties;
ensure the smooth running of the MU
office and diocesan meetings
Applications must be submitted
together with a Curriculum Vitae,
including two contactable references,
to:

Mothers' Union President
29 Hurd Street, Newton Park, 6001
Only short listed candidates will be
interviewed.

Closing date for applications:
1 June 2018

Graduated

Nomphelo
Mbuswana who
has just graduated
from College of
Transfiguration
with a B Th.



Nomphelo is a
deacon at Christ the
King in Gelvandale.
iindaba congratulates
her on her
achievement.

Words of wisdom

A young boy once asked his Rabbi why man was created with two eyes. The Rabbi responded, "With the left eye you should look at yourself, and see where you need to improve yourself and with the right eye, you should look at others lovingly, always seeking out their best qualities." So, if we truly want to be loving, the first thing we need to do is to examine ourselves to determine where we can make improvements.

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (Luke 6:38)

Press Statement – issued on 12 March 2018

Bishop Bethlehem asked that the Statement from the Church Leadership Group of Nelson Mandela Metro be shared with the diocese instead of his monthly letter.

The Presidency

We, the church leadership of the Nelson Mandela Metro, wish to congratulate the President, Cyril Ramaphosa, on his appointment as the president of the country and we welcome his declared intention to tackle the rampant corruption that is evident in our nation and pray for God's blessing on his endeavours. We take great confidence in the independence of our Judiciary and look forward to those responsible for that corruption being brought to justice and the return of stolen funds.

We commend the President for the changes he has made in appointing a new Cabinet but will continue to press for the further changes that still need to be made to ensure that the country's leadership is of a high moral calibre.

Land Reform

We, the church leaders, recognize the urgent need for land reform but request that the issue be dealt with sensitively and in an appropriate manner so that it does not degenerate into a 'smash and grab' scenario and civil war. Our country needs financial stability, foreign investment, economic growth, food security, job creation and social cohesion. We urge political parties not to use this important issue as a 'political football' to gain mileage and to avoid racial comments that ratchet up racial tension in our beautiful nation.

We urge our Parliament and the Judiciary, in the name of Christ Jesus, to exercise extreme caution when seeking to amend our constitution because of the obvious danger of discouraging investment and opening up our nation to further abuses of power. We, therefore, urge the Government to seek proper ways to distribute land in an equitable manner which will encourage productivity and not harm the agriculture sector which contributes such a substantial portion of our economic growth.

We encourage the people of our nation not to panic but to have confidence in the land distribution process to bring equity among our people and growth in our economy.

Local Service Delivery



Discussing the content for the Press release were Dr Bukelwa Hans, Bishop Bethlehem, the Revds Danie Mouton, Rory Spence and Themba Mahuwa.

We do not support the current political initiative to remove the Mayor of the Nelson Mandela Metropole. We believe it will have the catastrophic effect of seriously destabilizing our Metro at this critical juncture.

It is our duty to protect the citizens under our care, especially the poor, and we believe that such action will severely prejudice them by disrupting service delivery and the provision of basic services.

There is an African saying which says that 'when two elephants fight the grass around them gets trampled'. We, in the Nelson Mandela Metropole, do not want to be the ultimate losers and suffer the consequences of squabbles between political parties.

In conclusion, we again reiterate that there is so much goodwill in our nation, with so many working for peace and stability, transparency and a sharing of our resources, and the growth of our economy, that we should do as the President recently requested in his State of the Nation Address: to stand up and say 'Here I am' and not let the positive momentum be derailed by a few.

God bless you all.

Signed on behalf of the Church Leadership Group of Nelson Mandela Metro:

Pastor Daan Botha: Harvest Christian Church

Pastor Patrick Douglas-Henry: AFM

Bishop Jacob Freemantle: Methodist Church of SA (Grahamstown District)

Apostle Neville Goldman: Ebenezer International

Reverend Danie Mouton: Director Synod Eastern Cape DRC

Reverend Siphon Ncapayi: Moderator Presbyterian Church (Central and Southern Cape)

Bishop Bethlehem Nopece: Anglican Church SA (Diocese of PE)

Dr Dave Pedersen: Fountain Vineyard Church

Reverend Rory Spence: Presbyterian Church

Pastor Russell Viljoen: Ebenezer North Community Church

Pastor Johannes Welskit: Regional Leader EC AFM

Bishop Vincent Zungu: Catholic Diocese Port Elizabeth

The view from pulpit and pew

❖ *iindaba* extends condolences to:

- Bishop Bethlehem and his family on the brutal stabbing to death of one of his nephews in Sentube on Saturday 10 March;
 - the family of self-supporting priest Maria Allens of Great Fish River Parish.
- May they know the peace of the Lord Jesus surrounding them as they mourn.

❖ *iindaba* asks prayer for the following members of the diocese:

- John Keen, chapel warden of Christ Church in Kamma Park and Don Rodger of St Paul's who are recovering from prostate operations;
- Ken Simpson of Holy Trinity in Central who is undergoing Negative Pressure Wound Therapy treatment on his forehead for skin cancer. Give thanks for the improvement that is taking place and for continued granulation of the bone;
- Carolyn Greenshields of St Saviour's who is recovering from a shoulder operation;
- Bushy Potgieter of St Luke's, Charles Hambury of Sunday's River Valley Parish and Joshua Koenig rector of Great Karoo Parish who are all recovering from surgery.

❖ *iindaba* reminds all the clergy and parish secretaries that if they want their fêtes, fairs, dances and any other special events advertised in the *iindaba* they need to send them to the editor well ahead of the time. Please do not send a fancy lay out as this cannot always be converted by the publishing program *iindaba* uses.

You're never too old to live life



Bonnie Hughes on her way to swim with dolphins.

Bonnie Hughes (84) of Holy Trinity in Central seems to have a motto of 'You're never too old to live life.' When visiting her daughter in Perth, Western Australia in 2016 she went sky-diving with her granddaughter and this year she went swimming with dolphins three hours out to sea from Rockingham.

She explained that swimmers wear diving suits with snorkel and goggles and when they go into the water they hold onto the belt of the person in front of them. They are not allowed to touch the dolphins because these are not tame mammals and could pick up germs from any human contact.

Bonnie worships at HTC where she is a sacristan and the Cathedral where her son Wayne is the Musical Director.

Seeking the way forward

When the Church leaders of the city met at the Methodist Church in Motherwell NU17 on Thursday 8 March they broke into small groups to plan the way forward towards healing and reconciliation within their congregations and the city.

Bishop Bethlehem and five others were tasked with writing a press statement and letter to President Cyril Ramaphosa letting him know the church leaders are behind him and encouraging him to move forward with his removing of corrupt officials and bringing about good governance (see Statement above).

The other groups looked at how to bring formerly segregated congregations together in worship to help healing and reconciliation.

One of the first steps that the leaders felt they need to do is for the leaders to link up in threes (a black, coloured and white) and have dinner in each other's homes to celebrate each others' cultures. Parishes/churches should also link up in threes across the 'colour' lines and have joint services and socials.

The **worship group** looked at the need for churches to sing hymns and Spiritual songs in all the languages of their people, with a translation of the words so others know what they are singing, and to bring the song group leaders and choir masters together to look into this.

The **prayer group** looked at joint prayer meetings and gatherings (youth/women/men) where participants would exchange phone numbers and addresses and get together for follow-up visits to one another. They also felt a 'flame of prayer' torch should be passed on from church

to church by a group taking it to the next church.

The **communion group** looked at a need for teaching on the meaning of communion and for praying together in different languages at communion, for example inviting the congregation to pray the Lord's Prayer, the Grace etc in their own language.

Using the film of 'Beyond the River' and the tool of telling your story as a means of getting to know one another. This group said that last year the invitation was 'come to the movie' but now the movie is 'coming to you'. Churches are encouraged to buy the DVD (R50 at Musica) and show it to their congregations and to 'cross-pollinate' in inviting other churches to join them; to be generous and hand out copies to people or invite them to join you to watch it in your home; then encourage them to share their stories. This could also be used as an ice-breaker at the new Alpha course.

The leaders were asked to bring their 'action plans' along to the next meeting so the process can begin.

Tag lines!



Even though you have a very small heart, it could hold a rather large amount of gratitude.

The importance of education emphasised

Education Sunday was celebrated in many of the parishes on either 4 or 11 February. All speakers stressed the importance of having a good education if they want to succeed in life and that learners have the choice to work hard and succeed or be lazy and fail - the choice is theirs.



St Peter's in Zwile looked at the church's role in educating a hurting and fragile society

Songezo Mfazwe

Parents and children must know where to go for assistance within the church community, were the words of Dr Zinziswa Ngqweni, the guest speaker at St Peter's in Zwile on Education Sunday on 11 February.

Quoting Dr Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon to change society" she spoke about the aspect of inspiration that has to come from outside so that the learners can subsequently be motivated from the inside. As a researcher she talked about measuring behaviour objectively as a means of contributing to the community for example, how many congregants take part on School Governing Boards and neighbourhood activities. Drawing from the past experience she noted that the church used to run crèches, soup kitchens, back-to-school campaigns using their facilities but somehow these have fallen through the cracks.

She reminded everyone of the prophetic function of the church in redressing social ills then she challenged everyone to do things in a transformed way. This corresponded with what our rector Vincent Mdidimba said about the transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ. He spoke of transformed churches with after care services championed by congregants with the church availing its resources; child-headed families to be given guardian parents; the education desk assisting learners filling application forms in back to school campaigns; social workers and psychologists could attend to abused children at schools through bodies like FAMSA; sex education to curb teenage pregnancies; and children who cannot cope with the normal schooling system could be channelled to skills based programmes. It was agreed that all of these endeavours will be successful and sustained when the ecumenical community of churches work together for the betterment of the larger society.



The children at Christ the King - report by Elaine Frans

On Sunday 4 February the Parish of Christ the King hosted a special service dedicated to education in all its spheres. Parishioners from different walks of life such as teachers, police, doctors, nurses, firemen and learners attended in their uniforms and graduation regalia which had an impressive impact on the service.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr Charlotte Hendricks, principal of Alpha Primary School, who qualified as a teacher under extremely difficult circumstances, and is passionate about her work serving the children and families of Gelvandale. She finds encouragement in her favourite Bible verse "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). Dr Charlotte said that she treasures the valuable relationship which has been formed between the parish and the school.

In her inspirational address she quoted the late Nelson Mandela who said, "Education is the most powerful weapon to change the world." She also shared some of her own personal challenges as a testimony of her belief that our God never fails us. Our Parents were encouraged to train a child in the way he/she should go (Proverbs 2:6). Some of the thoughts she shared are: Christian Education begins at home and families should worship together; parents should pray for and with their children, the devil will do everything within his power to destroy our children; in today's world education is critical and without education our children have no chance.

As she lit the Candle for Education, Dr Charlotte stated that the day we die the only thing we can take with us is the character of Christ.

The service enhanced this hunger for education and the need to preserve and respect our institutions of education. Learning is not just about gaining academic knowledge but also to grow in our faith.



Academics from St Stephen's with the priest-in-charge Kwandiwe Ludziya (capped).

The recurring theme that came forward throughout the testimonies given by the three speakers on Education Sunday was "The choice is yours - you have to make the choice to put in hard work and get to the top or be lazy and drop out!" They were speaking to a full St Stephen's Church in New Brighton on 11 February.

Many learners from the local schools were present, in school uniform, to hear this important challenge from three women, who despite coming from disadvantaged backgrounds, have become achievers - even when circumstances stopped one of them from following the career of her choice.

Nozi Qamngana's mother was a single parent who cleaned hospital floors, so there was little money for schooling, but Nozi chose to work hard and come first in class. She reached the top in the corporate world, but then followed her dream of helping others. She now works for the Ubuntu Education Fund. She emphasised, "Life is not easy - make a decision and take hold of your life and work, work, work! And stop thinking you deserve a break after Grade 12!."

A previous beneficiary of the St Stephen's/Cowan High School Education Fund, Thembeka Nobomvu, thanked the donors who make the bursary available because she is studying hard at NMU and doing very well.

Nomfundo Tuku encouraged everyone to touch young people the way her Grade 5 teacher who motivated her. She said, "The poverty of your home is not the poverty of your mind. She gave me assertiveness and confidence." Because I was poor I had to develop a thick skin at school but our home was filled with love and I realised that God had given me brains so I must use them. She said, "Our move from 'womb to tomb' is filled with choices that can make you or break you, but the choice is yours, choose to move on because God is in control."

Into Lent with pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and ashes on Wednesday



Chad Vencencie with Nda and her brother Munachi Okafor proudly display their ash crosses after the Ash Wednesday service at Holy Trinity in Central on 14 March.

Over-all services around the diocese were well attended as parishioners began their Lent discipline.

Right - Taking a chance and flipping their pancakes on Shrove Tuesday were the Provost of the Cathedral, Sharon Nell and Desré Foaden.



Tilly Boniface, Marja Cooper and Pixie Phillips of St Francis Chapel in Jeffrey's Bay about to pass their freshly made Shrove Tuesday pancakes on to the 'holy rollers' to add the fillings. Thanks to Adrie Stockdale for sending the photo to iindaba.

A time of fun and fellowship was shared in many parishes around the diocese as they prepared for the Lenten fast. Beside the traditional cinnamon and sugar, with or without lemon juice, reports were received of mince meat, chicken mayonnaise and banana and caramel fillings in the pancakes.

Some parishes gave each parishioner two pancakes for free and then asked a donation for any above that - as long as it was not take-away, others charged a nominal fee so that everyone could afford to join in the fun.



Editor: Frankie Simpson
Layout / design : frankie
Tel/fax +27 41 373 9810
e-mail: iindaba@anglicandiocesepe.org.za
www:anglicandiocesepe.org.za

iindaba is the vehicle for sharing your parish news with the rest of the diocesan family. Please send contributions and photos to the editor.

Deadline: 6th of the month prior to publication.

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Printed by

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Printers