



The Bishop writes ... Praying through Advent

My dear Friends,

The Season of Advent is upon us and as we anticipate the beginning of a new season in the church calendar, it simultaneously ushers in the end of another chronological year.

I have already prayed the Collect that marks the beginning of the Eucharistic Cycle, Year C. It has prompted a myriad thoughts as I prayed those words and feel compelled to interpret the words as I have been led to understand them. Here it is for our edification:

Almighty Father,
your Son came to us in humility as our saviour
and at the last day he will come again in glory as judge:
give us grace to turn away from darkness to the light of Christ
that we will be ready to welcome him and enter into his kingdom;
where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
forever and ever. APB p149

It begins with invoking God who sent Jesus to us in humility. The Apostle Paul reminds us of this in Phil 2:8, "[Jesus] humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross". It lies at the heart of God intervening in the course of human history. We were bereft, because of our sins. So to set ourselves right with God, who had to initiate the path to reconciliation, the Lord left the heavenly throne to come down to earth. This was a vertical coming down which is one dimension of the Cross. The act of coming to earth was also with a view to reconciling relationships among human beings. It is the horizontal dimension of the Cross. So, it took a selfless act on God's part to humble His Son and make the sacrifice to rescue humanity.

The gist of the first two lines is that God took the initiative and sent His only Son. Secondly, we anticipate the day of the Son's return. Jesus came as Saviour and now we pray His anticipated return as Judge. Sometimes we glibly pray the set prayers in our prayerbook. But if we regard this particular Collect as a legally



Bishop Eddie and his Executive Officer, Sharon Nell, witness our new Diocesan Secretary-Treasurer, Yolande Wolmarans, sign all the necessary official papers.

binding agreement between God and ourselves, would each one of us still put our proverbial signature to it? The reason I ask the question is that it is a serious prayer; we are assenting to God's Son returning in our lifetime. How ready are we to meet the God who promised to return as Judge?

Thirdly, we will pray, "Give us grace..." Here's the thing, in an Anglican Prayer Book - the Catechism (p438) - grace is defined as, "God's favour towards us, unearned and undeserved; by grace God forgives our sins, enlightens our minds, stirs our hearts, and strengthens our wills". We are asking God to turn God's face kindly towards us and in good faith, God grants it to us in Jesus - what a magnanimous and generous Creator! I pray that we ready ourselves as a Diocesan Family to welcome Jesus' return as Judge. This is how St Paul puts it in Phil 1:23, "my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better..."

My desire is that we will deliberately pray every word of the Collect for Advent this year. May we use this Advent to prepare our hearts and lives for God irrespective of the trying time that the pandemic has brought.

In the end, Advent is a gift because it presents us with an opportunity to prepare for celebrating the birth of the Christchild; Jesus' coming as Saviour into the world. And then we remember to prepare our hearts and minds to anticipate with joy Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Let's remain expectant!

In this season of Advent, having endured the anguish of the last year, may our corporate prayer be that God's Kingdom may come, that justice and mercy be done - even in our time. Amen

Your friend and Bishop,

Edward Port Elizabeth

Christmas 2021



For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon
His shoulders.
And His name will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of His government
and peace

There will be no end,
Upon the throne of David and over
His kingdom,

To order it and establish it with
judgment and justice

From that time forward, even
forever.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will
perform this.

Is 9:6-7 NKJV

The editor,
Bishop Eddie and Nicky,
the media team and
the diocesan staff
wish all our readers
a blessed Christmas
and a year full of the love,
joy and peace
of the Christchild.

Doubly blessed

The Rector of St Saviour's, Sharon Nell, feels doubly blessed, having received a second grant from the Archbishop of Canterbury's COVID-19 Relief Fund.

Normally the fund does not give a second grant in the same year but the Trustees of the Fund have been so impressed at what they have seen of the outreach being done by St Saviour's that they allocated a second grant.

St Saviour's continue to feed many people across the Metro with soup, bread and cooked meals, supplying schools and old age homes, while Salvation Army and other NGOs collect soup for distribution.

Right - Theo Storm adds shredded vegetables to the soup pot.



Archbishop Thabo is new head of SACC

iindaba congratulates our Metropolitan, Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, who has been appointed as the new National President of the South African Council of Churches.



We welcome our new DST

Our new Diocesan Secretary-Treasurer, Yolande Wolmarans, joined the staff on 15 November 2021. At present she is shadowing Acting Diocesan Secretary-Treasurer, Peter Hopper, as she familiarises herself with the office procedures.

Yolande grew up in Port Elizabeth and after matriculating, served five years of articles of clerkship at a prominent auditing firm. She has worked for various big name companies and climbed the corporate ladder, holding positions such as Internal Auditor, Administration Manager, Financial Manager, as well as Project Manager and Business Manager at SARS. Throughout these positions she continued studying and attained several qualifications, the highest being a Master's Degree in Business Leadership (MBL) and a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting Science (B Compt), from UNISA.

Wanting to have a greater focus on family and flexibility of her time, Yolande has spent the last few years offering

Meet our new DST, Yolande Wolmarans, who was photographed signing papers.



companies short term contractual and consultative services.

Yolande is married to Gerald, who retired last year. They have a son, Joshua, who will be 18 in January and is finishing Grade 11 this year.

She is a deeply committed Christian and feels the Lord has placed her to serve in this position.

In her free time she loves travelling, walking on the beach, eating out and socialising with family and friends.



At the organ in the Diocese of Grahamstown's Cathedral are Jonathan Hughes and his father, Wayne, with Justin Stone standing behind them.

Making music in Makhanda

While visiting the Community of the Resurrection Sisters in Makhanda during October, your editor was thrilled to be invited to an organ recital at the Cathedral of St Michael and St George.

What a wonderful surprise to find that two of the organists were from our diocese - Justin Stone, organist at the Cathedral and at St John's, and Jonathan Hughes, the son of our Cathedral Choir Director, Wayne.

The recital had been arranged by Jonathan as a Celebration of the Cathedral Organ's Restoration. While reading music at Rhodes University he is playing the organ on Sundays because the Cathedral does not have a full-time organist at present.

In organising the recital Jonathan invited his teacher, Justin, to take part in it and also Peter Black and another young organist, Bayanda Mthetho.

The music chosen showcased the newly restored organ and the wonderful talent of the four organists. The choice of music ranged from the quiet of CHH Parry's

Choral Prelude on "Eventide" (played by Jonathan), to the resounding Pæan by H Howell, played by Peter. Justin opened the recital with the Toccata on "How Firm a Foundation" by C Phillips, and Andante 111, from Violin Sonata No 2 by JS Bach. Jonathan followed with his two pieces, the second being In dir ist Freude by JS Bach, and Bayanda also chose a piece by JS Bach, Largo (11), from Trio Sonata No 5. All four closed the hour with sections from Suite Gothique by L Boëllmann.

"This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

Luke 2:12-14 NIV

The view from pulpit and pew

❖ *iindaba* asks for soaking prayers for:
 - self-supporting Priest Samantha Eagles and her family - especially her 17 year old daughter, Myha, who is undergoing various medical tests;
 - self-supporting Priest Lynn de Donker;
 - retired Priest Winston Bright who is having eye problems;
 - and continued prayers for retired Priest David Grobbelaar who is recovering from surgery.

❖ Prayers are also asked for the Cathedral organist and choir master, Wayne Hughes, who was mugged as he left the Cathedral on 22 October. Wayne told *iindaba* that his laptop, which had his 'life's work' on it, was taken. Please pray for Wayne as he deals with the trauma, frustration and a mourning period for all those years of work that have been lost.

❖ Congratulations are in order for the BEO, Sharon Nell, and her husband Piet, who became grandparents again on 14 November. Their new granddaughter, Morgan, was born to Pieter and Tarryn.

Clergy on the move ...

• *iindaba* asks for prayers for those being ordained at 09h00 at Christ the King on 16 December:

- Quinton Blignaut
- Daniswa Bloyw
- Carol Brand
- Karen Du Preez
- Nizam Kader
- Wendy Lutchman
- Sabelo Ndlebe
- Christopher Prince
- Siphwo Salman
- Thandwe Stokwe
- Andile Tom
- Michelle Werth
- Andrew White

Prayers are also asked for retired Bishop Ossie Swartz who is leading their pre-ordination retreat.

• Archdeacon Claire Phelps has been appointed Rector of St John the Baptist, starting in January 2022;

- Christopher Luyt takes over as the new Rector of St Hugh's. He moves here, with his wife, Lyndell and four daughters, from the Diocese of Mpumalanga.

• Self-supporting Priest Shirmell Newman will be moving to St Luke's in Palmridge from 28 November.

• Thanduxolo Noketshe joins USPG - see Pg 4.

Reaching out to Kuyga needy

Xhanti Mhlontlo

All Saints' Church (ASC) is in partnership with Ikhala Trust, Nelson Mandela University and Soul Food, focusing on reaching out to the community of Kuyga. We are thankful to Ikhala Trust and Nelson Mandela University who have funded the programmes of Integrated Community Development facilitated by All Saints' Church, and Soul Food is donating food hampers to the households and Kuyga Community Services.

The Church has established Kuyga Community Services (KCS), a Nonprofit

The Rector of All Saints', Xhanti Mhlontlo, with Shelly Canzibe, the MU representative, and the Ikhala Trust and Nelson Mandela University team.



Organization, which is running the Community Nutrition Development Centre. Programmes that are championed by KCS include the following: Youth Development, Women Development, Sustainable Livelihood, Development and Research, Food Security Programmes (Backyard Food Gardens) and Skills Development Programmes.

Please contact the Rector of All Saints', Xhanti Mhlontlo 073 392 3785 or the office on 041 360 1267 for any support in addressing the plight of the Kuyga Community.

Tag lines!



Whatever you want to do, do it now.

There are only so many tomorrows.

Thank you

The editor thanks everyone who has contributed reports and / or photographs to the iindaba during this year - without your contributions iindaba may not have happened every month! Please continue with your wonderful work.

Also, thank you to the media team for their help and a big thank you to our long-suffering proof reader, Isabel Douglas-Jones, who does a wonderful job finding the many spelling and grammatical mistakes made by the editor.

Unfazed by lack of lights!



Left - The winning team receive chocolates from the Rector of St Saviour's, Sharon Nell. They are Brian Wileman, JP Bezuidenhout, Hester and Derek Wileman with Karen DixPeek next to Sharon and Seth Wileman in front with all the chocolates.



Right -The tables looking very festive with the jars of candles. As the people in this photo were eating and drinking masks were allowed to be dropped.

Carols by Candlelight? No, but Music Trivia by Candlelight, and not because of loadshedding!

When the sub-station at Summerstrand went down on Friday 5 November, the Rector of St Saviour's, Sharon Nell, had to do some quick thinking in order to save the Music Trivia evening. She rushed to the local shop and bought a whole lot of packets of candles and found enough jars to put them into ... and El Nino's Pizza shop did good business for many of the participant's suppers.

Desré Foaden, the quiz master, managed to organise

the loan of a generator from Hendrik Laufs of Electranet Electrical and the show could go on.

COVID protocols dictated that only six people per table were allowed and everyone brought their own eats, drinks, glasses, plates and cutlery.

Competition was very keen, fun and laughter was enjoyed by all - but the Extra Terrific (Extra Terrestrials) outshone all the other teams and hardly missed a beat ... or name! They won hands down. Congratulations to the Wileman family.

SACC NMB elects new executive



New Executive Members of SACC NMB are: Nobuntu Boo, Monde Henama, The Revd Mbulelo Beyi, Trevor Jennings, The Revds Yolisa Mayinje, Xhantilomzi Mhlontlo, Zola Moses and Canon Themba Mahuwa.

The South African Council of Churches held the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro Elective Conference at St Matthew's Uniting Presbyterian Church in Motherwell on Monday 8 November.

The Rector of All Saints' in Kabega, Xhantilomzi Mhlontlo, was elected as the secretary and the other new members of the Executive are:

Canon Themba Mahuwa (Chairperson), The Revds Zola Moses (Deputy Chairperson), Yolisa Mayinje

(Deputy Secretary), Mbulelo Beyi (Treasurer), Nobuntu Boo (Women Sector), Monde Henama (Youth) and Trevor Jennings (Communications).

In his closing remarks, Xhanti, the newly appointed secretary encouraged all church leaders to focus on what unites them, not to compete, but to complement each other and strive for church unity to the honour and glory of our Lord Jesus.

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba is the new National President.

Book: Prayers and Reflections for Christmas

by Maureen Lamb

foreword by the Rt Revd Dr Edward Daniels

For those who are looking for something honest, something real, something with a little more human fortitude to it and a little less conventional red and green: **Prayers and Reflections for Christmas** offers a fresh kind of devotional insight.

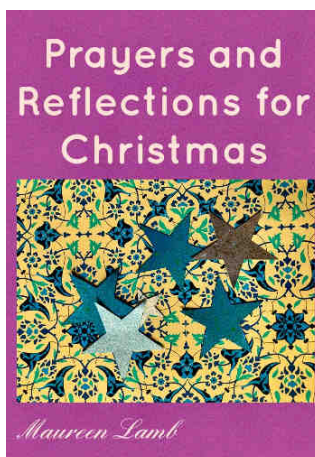
For too many of us, Christmas has lost its wonder. Maybe for you, the joy of the season is painfully dissonant with the harshness of life due to the pandemic. However, the gentle contemplative tenure of this Advent to Christmas resource, brings to mind the words from a well known hymn, "We are pilgrims on a journey. We are [travellers] on the road. We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load."

The rich everyday symbolism of "a candle", "a strip of mutton cloth" and moments for prayer and reflection, promises to accompany the reader daily from Advent to the denouement that is the Birth of the Christ Child.

This resource of prayers and reflections for each day of this Advent tide will prove to be a 'togetherness' for fellow pilgrims amidst this time of 'separateness' due to the pandemic.

Based on the readings of the Common Lectionary, Maureen Lamb has crafted a gentle spiritual resource

The book, being sold in aid of Northwood Children's Hospice Building Fund, is available at R100 from the Diocesan Office.



for our time. It serves as a reminder that the Christmas story is not just something that happened a long time ago. Prayers and Reflections for Christmas illuminates the hope filled truth that the God who showed up in the hardest parts of our humanity is the same God today.

AWF Reach Out

Ntombenani Nqana



Ntombenani Nqana and Rosey Njzula coordinating the distribution of the clothing parcels.

During July the Anglican Women's Fellowship celebrates Dorcas, one of the Biblical women who was known for having a heart for needy people within her community (Acts 9:36-41). She would feed them and also sew clothes for them; she would even give the last of what she had and sacrifice for them. We, as the AWF, are trying to embrace and follow the legacy left by that kind of woman.

On 31 August St Matthew's AWF members donated clothes to the needy people of Ward 30, where our church is situated. We were assisted by the Ward Councillor, Mbulelo Gidane.

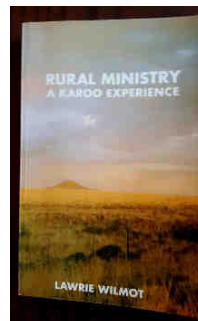
The clothes were donated to previously identified families of Veeplaas. This was done at the Veeplaas Community Hall in the presence of the Ward Councillor, together with four AWF members, Ntombenani Nqana, Juby Matshaya, Rosey Njzula and Pumla Pango. Also present were community members of Veeplaas and Ward committee members.

It was a pleasure for us as AWF representatives to see the families so happy to receive the clothes.

A heartfelt thank you to the St Matthew's family for the donations of clothes which put a smile in the hearts of those in need, and always remember the African saying, "When you have more than you need build a longer table and not a higher fence."

Book: Rural Ministry A Karoo Experience

by Lawrie Wilmot



iindaba editor found this book very easy to read, very helpful for ministry - whether urban or rural - and a wonderful resource to have for reference in times of need.

However, the Endorsement of this book by Daan Botha, Biblical Training Pastor of Harvest Christian Church, says so much more: "In my view, Lawrie has produced a very helpful and effective handbook for understanding and practising rural ministry

in the South African context. On the one hand, he offers compelling reasons why rural ministry in South Africa should be approached with the same sense of importance as its urban counterpart. On the other hand, he provides essential insights into the distinctive aspects of rural ministry that demand a very specific approach. Through the lens of the Gospel he gives us a glimpse into the heart of a farming family and its surrounding community ... I for one have found the book worth reading, buying and recommending as a reliable and helpful manual in most matters relating to rural ministry in South Africa."

Copies are available to *iindaba* readers for R250 from Lawrie: 079 886 4815.

Focusing on Breast Cancer awareness

Vincent Mdidimba



Taking part in St Peter's Breast Cancer Awareness Day were - Shirley Nogambula (Deputy Health Coordinator), Thundezwa Nyengane (Health Coordinator), Nomhle Mdidimba (Compliance Officer) and Ntuthu Ngqozo (Health Desk member).

During the Eucharist Service on Sunday 31 October St Peter's in Zwile celebrated Breast Cancer Awareness Day. The day was well attended and the members of the Health Desk Team from our Parish and some of the



Surrounding the Rector of St Peter's, Vincent Mdidimba, are all those who took part in the service on Breast Cancer Awareness Day.

congregants wore pink as the colour for the day.

Pamphlets on breast cancer, with pink ribbons on them, were distributed to all who attended the service. The data projector was used to show a presentation of some of the signs and symptoms of breast cancer.

After the presentation the congregation prayed for the departed and those who are affected and living with breast cancer.

Noah joins the toys in Moms/Dads and Baby Room



The Rector of Holy Trinity, David Stansbury, with Amber Berndt who brought Noah the Bear for the room set aside for Moms/Dads and babies.

Having been blessed with a boot load of toys to replace those stolen during a burglary, seven year old Amber Berndt decided she would bless others with a gift of Noah the Bear.

While away camping, burglars broke into the Berndt home and stole, among other things, all Amber's toys. Of course, she was heartbroken. However, a kind woman who heard about Amber's plight arrived with a boot load of toys from a shop she was closing down.

Amber was delighted and asked if she could bless someone with a gift of Noah the Bear. Grandmother, Pam Meyer, suggested she bring Noah to Holy Trinity on Sunday 14 November and gift him to the babies who make use of the room during Sunday Eucharist services.

Doors open for fundraising once more



Some of the people who were buying items on sale at St Hugh's.

With the opening up of facilities to Level 1 of COVID Protocols, St Hugh's decided to have a sale of goods.

The Rector, Claire Phelps, advertised the sale on one of the Buy/Sell pages on Facebook and a very good number of people arrived to take advantage of purchasing good items at reasonable prices.



Unette Jacobs and the Rector of St Hugh's, Claire Phelps, having fun with a snowman puppet.

Numbers allowed into the hall were strictly monitored and, as people left, so others were allowed in. No food or beverages were on sale but, despite this, the morning was a great success.

Service of Remembrance

Lazola Ndulula

"Though He brings grief, He will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love." Lamentations 3:32

Everyone knows that no night vigils or prayer meetings have been permitted since the start of Lockdown in March 2020. Consequently the bereaved families have been left feeling they have to handle grief on their own.

On Sunday 14 November St Matthew's Parish in Kwamagxaki held a special service of remembrance in honour of our parishioners who have died, particularly those who had died in the past year. All families of the deceased were invited, and they came in their numbers, to be part of this service.

A moving sermon was delivered by the Rector, Canon Lungile Ngcola, comforting the families, assuring them of the love of the church at large and of the love of God. A candle with the name and picture of their loved one(s) was given to each family as a token of remembrance.

A tear or two were shed but all in all the families left feeling comforted and well on the journey of healing with God as their Healer.

A special thank you to all the families who attended and to everyone who contributed to the success of the special service.



Receiving their Remembrance Candles are Asanda and her daughter Iminathi Daniels representing their family and Nosiphiwo Tembani who represented the Tlou family.

Overseas appointment

Thanduxolo Noketshe, the Rector of St Timothy's in Motherwell, has been appointed to minister in the Diocese of North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba (NECA) in the Province of the West Indies.

The Noketshe family will be leaving the Diocese for two years after Thanduxolo was chosen by the exchange programme organized by USPG (The United Society Partners in the Gospel).

He told *iindaba* that mixed feelings overwhelmed the family after receiving the letter of appointment. He said, "We give thanks to God for this exposure and new experience. It is a joy to start ministry in a foreign land. However, we are also sad to leave the people of St Timothy's who were only recently placed under my care - my family and I were just given the space to minister to them."

Thanduxolo has been appointed to be the priest -in-charge in the Parish of St John the Divine in Antigua and Barbuda (in the eastern Caribbean). This is a huge task to accomplish but he is trusting the Lord that all will be well.

He and the family gives thanks to those who formed them, especially the parishes where they have served in the Diocese and St Timothy's where he served his first Rectorship.

He assumes his new ministry on 1 December and says, "Bulelwa, Anothando, Olwabo and myself are honoured to be the ones appointed to this gigantic task. Please pray for us as we shall not forget you in our prayers."



A thought for 2022
When you trip in life, make it part of your dance.



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

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