

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION
OF THE SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF PORT ELIZABETH**

**PRELIMINARY MEETING HELD AT
THE CATHEDRAL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN
ON WEDNESDAY 20 MAY 2015 AT 18H00
UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF THE BISHOP OF PORT ELIZABETH,
BISHOP BETHLEHEM NOPECE,
AND A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE SYNOD EUCHARIST,
AND THEREAFTER AT THE PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, WALMER
FROM THURSDAY 21 TO SATURDAY 23 MAY 2015**

1. OPENING

After the Synaxis of the Eucharistic liturgy and the Collect for Synod, the Bishop took the chair and opened the Preliminary Meeting.

2. GREETINGS

The Bishop brought messages of greeting from: The Archbishop of Cape Town and the Metropolitan of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa; the Bishop of Mpumalanga, Revd Dr Daniel Kgomoso; the Bishop of Table Bay, Garth Counsell; the Bishop of St Mark the Evangelist, Martin Breytenbach; the Bishop of Mthatha, Bishop Sithembele; the Bishop of Johannesburg, Steven Moreo

Greetings were brought by the following ecumenical guests: the Bishop of George, Brian Marajh; Major Margaret Stafford of the Salvation Army; Bishop Andile Mbetse of the Methodist Diocese; Mr Trevor Jennings of the Transformation Christian Network; Bishop Lunga ka Siboto of the Episcopal Ethiopian Church; Revd Howard Hans of the United Presbyterian Church.

Greetings were also brought by the Honourable Phumulo Masualle, Premier of the Province of the Eastern Cape.

3. APPOINTMENT, ELECTION, AND APPROVAL OF SYNOD OFFICERS, AND TIMES OF SYNOD, REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SCRUTINY

The Diocesan Secretary proposed that this item be the first order of business for Thursday morning. Seconded: The Provost, The Very Revd Sharon Nell

4. QUORUM OF SYNOD

The Bishop called on the Diocesan Registrar, Mr L W de V Schärge, to declare that a quorum was present both in the House of the Clergy and in the House of Laity. The Registrar declared that such a quorum was indeed present in both houses.

5. CONSTITUTION OF SYNOD

The Bishop declared the Twenty-third session of the Synod of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth duly constituted.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Two announcements were made:

1. Synod will commence at 08h30 at St John's Walmer.

2. Finger supper after the service at St Saviour's Church in Villiers Road, Walmer.

Synod is to resume on Thursday 21 May at 08h30 with Morning Prayer at St. John the Baptist.

After the ministry of the Word, and the recitation of the Nicene Creed, the Bishop delivered his Charge.

8. PRESIDENT'S CHARGE TO SYNOD 2015

THEME : THINGS DONE & STILL TO BE DONE – DISCIPLING

In the name of God, Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life! Amen

“As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.”

(Jn. 17:18-19)

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

(Acts 20:28, 35)

THE HOPE OF OUR CALLING

In all our operations **hope** is necessary in every condition we find ourselves. The frustrations that bring the miseries of poverty, sickness, unemployment, lack of service delivery, poor governance, fraud, captivity, crime, conceit, retaliation and xenophobic attacks would without this comfort of hope be untenable. Hope begins in the darkness of sin and shame and marvelous light of Christ who is the hope of the world today, and has consecrated people to Himself for His service in the world.

This is a great privilege to stand in His presence and serve Him as a kingdom of priests, ransomed people for God from every tribe, language, people and nation and shall reign on earth (Rev.5:9-10). We are sent into the cruel crooked world, yet we are preserved and protected by God not for any comfort zone, but for mission and evangelism, ministry and discipling, looking first and foremost after ourselves and the flock of Christ out of a generous heart.

We need to commit ourselves wholly to this one thing, to bring hope to the world and country. South Africa and the continent must be saved. The invitation is to accept Christ as Lord and Saviour, for each churchgoer to be a true worshipper of the Father (Jn.4:23-24). Commitment to Christ means participating fully in His character, to be like Him, and grow in His all embracing love (*Gk.agapē*) compassion (*Gk. splanchnizomai*) and care (*Gk. epimeleia*); from one degree of glory to another, even by the Lord who is the Spirit (2 Cor.3:17-18). Transformation of our life and character takes place in conformity with the set

standards of God, not of this world. Then our engagements will bear fruit as we operate not from fear, but from power, love and sound mind. Then Africa will be saved!

WELCOMES and WELL DONES

It is our privilege to welcome with joy all our guests present here this evening as we begin the business of our Synod. The Body of Christ is far wider than we can imagine. Of these we wish to welcome in a special way a fellow worker, the Bishop of George, Bishop Brian Marajh, who will be leading Bible studies during this session of Synod. Our beloved predecessor Bishop Eric Pike and Joyce, Bishop Lunga Magqwagqwa ka Siboto and Nozuko from the Ethiopian Episcopal Church within association with us. From Ecumenical partners Bishop Andile Mbete and Thembakazi from the Methodist Church, Bishop Vincent Zungu from the Roman Catholic Church, also from the Bishops' Prayer Meeting, Pastor Mvusi Gwam also chairperson of Transformation Christian Network and Zukiswa, with Mr Trevor Jennings and Anita, the Revd Howard Hans and Bukelwa from the Presbyterian fold, Senior Pastor Neville Goldman our beloved co-worker from the Assemblies of God Church in Algoa with his wife Roji; From the Salvation Army, Majors Jeff & Margaret Stafford; From the Metro Council of Churches (S.A.C.C) the Zionist Bishop Zandisile Magxwalisa; and Archdeacon Zweli Tom as convener of Nelson Mandela Bay Consultation of Christian Churches (NMBCC).

We also welcome delegates, who come from Parishes of our Diocese. Thank you, for taking time to come and deliberate on things that matter most to our Master, Jesus Christ.

The time to mobilize the forces of Christ's army, with love, has dawned against the Islamic militancy we see in North and West Africa and the Middle East. We deplore with sadness the kidnapping of young girls by the Boko Haram at war with Nigeria, and the maiming of innocent civilians. At home we say 'no to xenophobia and the killing of foreigners and looting of their businesses and burning of their homes' in the strongest possible terms. Those who do these things must be aware that other fellow South Africans are sojourners in other lands and countries in our global family. God has made of one blood all nations of humankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way towards Him and find their being as they live and move in Him to have their being (Acts 17:26-28).

We receive with joy appreciation with thanks to the Almighty the news of the appointment of ***Mr Danny Jordaan as the next Mayor of Mandela Metro*** as the fourth mayor in six years; together with his new leadership viz. Mr Bicks Ndoni, Lutho Suka and Ms Maria Hermanus who is always visible among people. Congratulations! However, being President of South Africa Football Association at the same time may stretch him too far. The wisdom is to resign if he takes this difficult municipality to govern seriously.

Further to this ***political parties need to understand that the office of the mayor***, including that of the Premier and President, is an institution to service the people of God with integrity diligence and honesty without interference from them. We shall continue our support especially with prayer every Tuesday in the mayor's office at 08h00, and visit the council at least twice a year. We pray for God's blessings on the outgoing Mayor Ben Fihla

and his entourage. We offer diligently and daily our prayers for the Premier of the Province Mr Pumulo Masualle and President Gedleyihlekisa Zuma that God will continue to speed them in the enormous tasks of governance together with their ministers, and pledge our support in partnership with local governments for good godly governance, service delivery education health social services and fight against corruption. We reserve our privilege to prophesy and give counsel with criticism whenever the Holy Spirit moves us to do so.

Still on politics, ***we congratulate the newly elected Democratic Alliance leader Musi Maimane*** and wish him God's blessings in his new position, with all its challenges. Our prayers go to him and his wife and family with his leadership and, ***all political parties.***

From around the diocese we note a great sense of appreciation to the people of God in various parishes; the Churchwardens' Forum, congregations and clergy who voluntarily heard the call of God to be Shepherds of His people committed to their charge and leadership by the Bishop. Ministry, mission and evangelism, discipling nurturing and pastoral care with love and compassion, reaching out to the needy and poor of our communities takes place here. It is a twenty four hour call and sacrificial service, wherever the call may be.

We note with thanksgiving to God the work done among ***young people*** in their various organisations, with their leadership portfolios, especially the spiritual mentoring and guidance given by the Revd Dr Ruby Zauka as chaplain to the young. Keep it up young people!

For all organisations we appreciate the fervent growth we see with Canon Greg Moses helping us in monitoring their smooth running. In Mother's Union Christian Family Life we give thanks for Mama Mazoe Nopece's leadership as outgoing President, congratulating her as Vice President of ACSA Mother's Union. We warmly welcome with joy the new MU President Mama Ntuthu Ngqoza with the two Vice Presidents, Ms Mita Chubana and Mrs Nomsa Mtila, and wish them well in their new roles of leadership. With the Anglican Women's Fellowship we appreciate leadership displayed by Mrs Lungsi Ntlokwana and her team in conducting their business in a good Christian manner in a mood of love and fellowship. For the chaplains Revd Vincent Mdidimba and Provost Sharon Nell we note our appreciation for work well done. We welcome Canon Phumla Mtila as new President of Bernard Mizeki with lots of work to be done in shaping their diocesan Constitution. Thanks to Revd Jacob Plaatjies as chaplain of Church Men's Society with their Leadership.

The Legal Fraternity with the Registrar Mr Roger Schärages and the Chancellor Advocate Daryl Newton make us proud and walk tall among God's people for constantly guiding us in proper observance of Canon Law in these days of 'rights', clamoring rather than taking up 'responsibilities' among our clergy and people, diminishing the Law of Christ's reconciliation processes (cf Mtt.18:15-20), too proud to apologise when called to order and sense of duty. Thank you gentlemen, keep up the good work for God and His church.

To the Revd Nicolette Leonard for the healing work at the House of Resurrection Haven Children's' Home, a ministry which continues excellently; together with the donors and the members of the Board, keeping the light of compassion, love and pastoral care burning, bringing hope to the less fortunate and needy infected and affected by HIV/Aids. Revd

Sipambo Ludidi and Canon Linda Ncaca are working as coordinators for Health and Welfare Ministries and as portfolio leaders. Keep up the good work!

Our special thanks go to Mrs Frankie Simpson, the Publishing Team and to Mr Neville Lobb the chairperson, for good management and editing of the lindaba newsletter. With many working on ***various committees of the Diocesan Council***, Business Forum with Messer's Dave Kirby and Doug Swanson advising and giving counsel on financial matters. We are also indebted to members of Trusts Board, Diocesan Finance Committee and Building and Advisory Committee. Thank you very much for your unwavering support.

We appreciate the job well done with excellence by ***the diocesan staff***, with Mr Peter Hopper the Diocesan Secretary-Treasurer; the Bishop's Executive Secretary Mrs Adelé Erasmus, Mrs Miriam Stiemens the Bookkeeper, Ms Busi Gwentshu as Benefits Administrator and Ms Debbie Vencencie the Receptionist/Administration, and last but not least with 'over and above' parochial duties the Bishop's Executive Officer, The Very Revd Sharon Nell. Our special thanks to Mrs Jenny Cowling for still willingly stepping in when the need arises to help at the Bishop's office. The diocese thanks you all so much; without you our operations would not have been so professionally carried out. Keep up the good work with God's blessings in all you do!

We remain indebted in our operations ministry with pastoral care to the ***Bishop's Consultative Council*** especially to the Dean, the Provost, Archdeacons and both Clerical and Lay Canons in their ministry of sitting in confidence, giving counsel to the Bishop amidst so many challenges of our political freedom, entitlements and rights without responsibilities, lack of vision and planning with laxity. Without you, our leadership would be even more challenging.

We cannot fail to thank the priests for their support as we seek to lead in God's mission. We sincerely value the support you give to us (together with your spouses), the vision of Christ planning and calling people and to a living relationship with the Lord. We remain delighted with the outreach programmes in parishes seeking to build and live the kingdom values in partnership with schools, police service, in '***inguqu***' as we see from St Stephen and others annually since four years ago in the fight against crime, participation and assistance in School Governing Bodies (SGB's).

TRANSFORMING GOSPEL

We have a transforming gospel to preach which addresses the realities of everyday life issues of commitment to Jesus Christ and acknowledging him as Lord and Saviour, equal education to all South African children with accessible amenities and resources, poverty and unemployment, access to health services, medicine and care, standardized homes of brick and mortar, free from crime with safety and security. This is the gospel Jesus entrusted to His disciples before His Ascension into heaven. It is the gospel of 'hands on' proclaimed with one voice by the Church both in the city of Port Elizabeth as the gateway to the rest of our land and continent, to the furthestmost parts of the global family with a vision and strategy that translates into ministry action.

The vision is to encapsulate in both Luke 4:16ff and Mtt.25:31ff calling for a visible action of operation to free those who are oppressed by lack of opportunity, partnership in entrepreneurs and the free market due to oppressive structures where the call of the majority human need is swallowed up by greed and fraudulent practices carried out by the minority *elite* and *those who enrich themselves* within governing authorities. Yet there are those who are honest in our governing authorities, working with a lot of pain and frustration. They need our support in upholding the legacy of selfless leadership, with an eye on the poor of Tata Nelson Mandela and other liberation stalwarts, and never to neglect it. This is sad in the true sense of the word! However, like St. Paul we do not lose hope and are not deterred (cf.2Cor.4:1ff). We pray continually without ceasing.

The call remains from ages past for Christians to speak with one voice, interpreting the Biblical message for the hope of the world in a practical way. People from our pews need to go home in a better frame of mind and spirit than when they first entered the doors of places of worship, with the gifts of the Holy Spirit viz. wisdom and understanding, discernment and inner strength, knowledge and true godliness, with the fear of the Lord clearly interpreted. They need to be stirred up with a new beginning to wrestle with the real issues and challenges of community and family life that seek to destroy happiness and good life as intended by the Creator. This is what true discipleship is. This is the gospel we should preach.

AND THE HALF YET TO BE TOLD

The story of long ago becomes our story from the day we first believed. Half of the gospel story we seem to preach is a personal one focused on maintenance and the 'salvation of my soul' only, which keeps us and our parishioners in cosy comfort zones without any intent of the vision that transforms homes and society. The other half of this gospel story must be 'lived' in practical everyday life. The two great apostles, Peter and Paul, challenged their hearers to follow their example and put the theory of the story of salvation into praxis by putting on (*Gk. enduō*) the Lord Jesus without making provision for the flesh to gratify its desires (1 Peter 1:13ff cf. Rom.12:1ff; 13:14). There were times where they called each other to order (Gal. 2:11ff). The call to practical living of the gospel is to be done by the disciples of Jesus with all its joys and cost in a sacrificial living (Mk.8:34ff et //s). Will the disciples we make die for the Lord? This is the crux of commitment to the service of Jesus Christ, our King Priest and Prophet. God blesses us to be happy, but never to compromise the demands of the gospel.

The church in the City of Port Elizabeth began this journey to practical living when we released Pastor Neville Goldman and Archdeacon Zweli Tom to visit all the sixty wards to mobilize Church participation in Ward Councils. We face with power, love and sound mind the giants in the current reality of our life in areas of Education, Health Services, Poverty and Unemployment, Governance – Corruption and Service Delivery. In every church or venue of worship there must be three desks visibly displayed to the believers as they enter which should be served by two educationists, two health workers and social workers sitting side by side, visibly participating in worship, together with other believers. The aim is to educate people about their moral obligations and accountability on holy and right living, prayer intent, faithfulness, integrity, good morals and sound doctrine with diligence both at

home as well as a work ethic, eating habits, environmental, social concerns and gender issues within the community just as the Early Church would do; teaching them to be responsible for their healthy living (cf. Acts 2: 42-47).

From our pews there are a lot of resourceful persons who will not only tithe their money, but also their time and talent. I am reminded of the late Professor Steve De Gruchy at a workshop on development in Johannesburg sponsored by H.O.P.E. Africa. Thanks to them and Canon Dalene Mark for much work they do in ACSA, challenging the church to make use of lay ministers, some of whom are well lettered for this practical ministry to the communities of the earth. We need to look at pilot parishes from which equipped disciples will carry the message further.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE WE LAST MET

- Ministry in our diocese goes on. Most exciting is the launch of the Transformation Process with an Act of Commitment as follows:

We are all part of God's Church. We believe in the Triune God father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We are all part of the family of God as the Diocese of Port Elizabeth Anglican faith community. We acknowledge that we are called by God to be part of this community.

As part of the Family of God within the Diocese of Port Elizabeth, we commit ourselves to the Transformation Process of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth. Today we commit ourselves and will strive in the power of the Holy Spirit, for:

- 1. Transformative leadership that serves by articulating the vision, motivating and empowering; making the systems work well through good planning and equipping people for their roles.***
- 2. Professional skilled management within an appropriate management structure.***
- 3. Integrated Financial Management and Administration systems and Effective Efficient Administration in the Diocese with Parish levels.***
- 4. Adding value to people's lives across the spectrum through spiritually, biblically nurtured informed engagement and being appreciated and affirmed as such.***
- 5. Decentralized Parish Transformation Management and Coordination for Mission and Evangelism, making disciples who make other disciples.***

This process is reviewed every year for progress till 2017, after which, having assessed our operations we will still continue until we function as Jesus would do during His earthly ministry.

- ***The visit of the Archbishop of Cape Town*** during our Family Weekend last year was very spiritually uplifting. We had no choice but not to over-work him. Sadly we could not finish some parts of the programme as intended. He fitted in well among us, many thanks to the organizing committee!

- **Archdeacons have been rotated as follows:** Archdeacon Zweli Tom for the Bay; Archdeacon Hazel Goodfellow for Kariega. Their parish Incumbency will not change, until ordered otherwise. Tsitsikamma and Karoo remain the same. We are very grateful to them for the great support they give in this, over and above service for God and the diocese. With much appreciation!
- **It is with regret and sadness that a priest in our Diocese** has been brought under discipline, a process which has been prolonged for three years. He has appealed to Cape Town in terms of Canon 42. We await the results of this appeal. Pray for us and this family in seeking God's mercy, justice and love among clergy, and God's people in all parochial congregations for the extension of God's kingdom first and foremost.
- **In our world and country we are saddened by the frustration** we see from our people in terms of service delivery and lack of good godly governance, integrity and honest political leadership of Tata Nelson Mandela's stature. This frustration has gone to "**hate of thy neighbour**" and xenophobic attacks like we've never seen before. As we've said earlier on, this is deplorable in strongest terms that could be found. We cannot live like this in Africa. On the other hand foreigners must be law abiding and do the right thing. Lack of discipline and wrong doing is punishable both in church and state. Let us be human and live the love of Jesus Christ.
- **Women, children and the elderly continue to be our concern.** They suffer the most when it comes to sexual exploitation, human trafficking and wrong doing. It is shocking for a nun of 87 years in Ixopo Convent to be raped and murdered by young men of less than thirty years. Our media is filled with sad and chilling stories of abduction and murders of women and children, like that of the Riebeeck school teacher in Uitenhage. Our condolences and continued support with prayers go to the families and friends. Sadly men also suffer some abuse and kidnapping from women, particularly in retaliation. Domestic violence continues to plague our homes. We believe the church's mission as said earlier should concentrate at homes. This strategy changed the Roman Empire to 'Holy Roman Empire', of course, may the victims of these, and many incidents known and unknown to us, rest in peace and rise in glory!
- **Eskom load shedding** continues to frustrate homes and businesses in particular. Let us continue to pray for this service organisation of our land with many others defaulting, and assist where possible. On a lighter note we also see our clerics load shedding on vestments during divine services to their ordinary suits and pants.
- **From the Synod of Bishops' Pastoral Letter** we are pleased to highlight the importance of Theological Education and Training of clergy. This is relevant to the needs of God's people and the selfless leadership of putting God first, others next and self last, uniting churches, people and nation. We congratulate the Revd Dr. Vincentia Kgabe, the principal of the College of The Transfiguration, the first female to be appointed to the position in our Church. May the Lord fill her with all the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the wisdom to make fruitful decisions and energy to accomplish her duties.

- ***We congratulate Revd Mike McCoy*** who has been appointed as director of the School of Ministry at COTT and is due to start in August 2015, Lord willing. We wish him God's blessings together with Lorna and family in this new calling.
- ***As the Anglicans Ablaze met*** in Johannesburg we were honoured by the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby and his wife Caroline. His address was received with a standing ovation. The Bishops and their spouses were invited to spend some time with him and his wife. A visit was made to the church in Alexandria, as well as in the house where the late State President Nelson Mandela first lived when he arrived in Johannesburg. We continue to uphold the Archbishop of Canterbury in our prayers -- that God will give him good health and wisdom in all the Anglican Communion decisions he makes and in sorting out problems that threaten to rip our church apart. We assure him of our love and blessings.
- ***Election of the Bishop of Highveld*** was referred to Synod of Bishops when their Elective Assembly failed to elect. SOB met on the Feast of St Mark the Evangelist April 25, 2015 at Wits University Business School; and we elected under the guidance of the Holy Spirit Dean Charles Mthetheleli of the Cathedral of St Mary's in the Diocese of Johannesburg. Congratulations to him, his wife and family for the call to the ministry of bishop in the church of God!
- ***We uphold the sanctity of marriage*** as a divine institution between one man and one woman in an exclusive lifelong union and partnership as ordained by God in the creation narratives (Gen.1-2), and affirmed by ACSA in Canon 34 of Holy Matrimony. Anything beside this is sinful and requires the grace of God to repent.
- ***Homosexuality practice and preference*** can never be right according to the scriptures, and the Anglican Church of Southern Africa (ACSA) Synod of Bishops (SOB) is far from being united on the issue of blessing same sex unions. Guidelines on this preference have been issued and sent to all clergy and Churchwardens and the Legal Fraternity. If you did not get the guidelines ask your priest or the Bishop's Executive Secretary, Mrs Adelé Erasmus. We are called to a love that transforms us with compassion and care to bear the character of Christ, the only person who gives us a new character. Ours is not to judge but to understand the struggle that homosexual orientated people bear. This can only be dealt with in humility and obedience of the Word with a surrendering faith.
- ***The ongoing training of clergy*** in clergy schools and forums continues, together with those who have graduated from Theological Education by Extension College, viz. Revds Vincent Mdidimba Hons.B.Ed. (Unisa), Claire-Anne Mary Phelps B.Th. with distinction, Mziwoxolo Patrick Nodwele Dip.Th. Min, Abosede Olabisi Fadeyi-Adetuberu Higher Certificate in Theology, Samantha Lynn Eagles Dip.Th. Ministry, Relton Hewitt Groepe B Th Ministry. From Pretoria University we congratulate Revd Churchwarden Mgedezi B.Th. Hons.
- ***An Internship training*** and curacy period of four years in two parishes after both Fellowship of Vocation and Ordinands Fellowships has to take place for each candidate /cleric to equip in skills, professionalism and effective relevant ministry.

This is not without setbacks as some young clergy still need a watchful eye and mentorship as they tend to relapse from what they have been trained, to gossip, authoritarianism and abrasiveness in their operations.

- **We attended Gafcon II** in Nairobi with Mazoe, Archdeacon Mark Derry, Revd Dave Doveton and Canon Phumla Mtila. This fellowship of evangelicals within the Anglican Communion was attended by over one thousand delegates from all over the world. We continue to affiliate to the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans and have made our friendship ties and links with those who stand by the truth of the gospel as revealed in the Scriptures both in England Mainstream, Anglican Church of America, Australia and with the rest of Africa and the Global South.
- **The Southern Anglican Mission Society** has taken root, gradually forming partnerships with East Mountain training programmes on church planting as recently witnessed by the visit of Rev Jon Shuler on the 'New Anglican Awakening' on church growth, living the apostolic gospel; and Mark Dye a lay minister from Kenya on 'preaching the gospel that makes disciples and church planting'. They addressed Clergy Forum from 16-17 April 2015 in our diocese. We look forward to a long term relationship with them in our mission strategy and evangelistic outreach programmes.

NEW CLERGY WHO HAVE JOINED THE DIOCESE:

Charles Church - From Pretoria
Neil Scott - From the Diocese of Christ the King
Hazel Goodfellow - From the Diocese of Grahamstown

ORDAINED IN THE DIOCESE:

To the Diaconate:

Vivian Malloy	2012
Rachel Ssekimpi	2012
Charles van der Westhuizen	2012
Johannes Visagie	2012
Bisi Fadeyi-Adetuberu	2013
Rene de Wet	2013
Rowan Jacobs	2013
Sarah Jacobs	2013
Claire Phelps	2013
Mziwoxolo Nodwele	2013
Wayne le Roux	2014
Zweliyazuza Madlingozi	2014
Siyabulela Tshatshu	2014

To the Priesthood:

Nombulelo Dwane	2013
Relton Groepe	2013
Pamela Goodwin	2014

Rowan Jacobs 2014
Johannes Visagie 2014
Thomas Maulgas 2014
Claire Phelps 2014

LEFT THE DIOCESE:

Gill Bowman - Cape Town
Rob Penrith - Grahamstown DSG Chaplain
Rene de Wet - Cape Town

RETIRED:

Ruthell Johnson
Welile Kani
Terry Beadon
Mthetheleli Vena

CALLED TO ETERNITY:

Eric Kleb
Leon Foster
Sipho Tokota
Archbishop Philip Russell
George Bode
Tony Kriel
Michael Gale
Mzamo Gojela
Doreen Collett
Mcebisi Xundu
Solomon Nkesiga (died in his homeland of Uganda)
Alan Stansbury

LAY:

Dennis Burkinshaw - former Diocesan Secretary/Treasurer
Ruth Burkinshaw - widow of Mr Dennis Burkinshaw
Nozipho Tokota - widow of Revd Sipho Tokota
Mrs Ruth Bacon

***Rest eternal unto them grant O, Lord;
And let light perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace,
And rise in glory! Amen, Alleluia!***

FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

My dear friends in the Lord ***this ministry is the business of Christ***, calling for our total commitment to God's love, compassion and care as a priority in all our operations. Like Paul the Apostle writing his second letter to the Corinthian Church, unlocking one of the great Christian secrets of life and ministry to believers all around the globe, that God's power is channelled through human weakness, he says:

"Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart, but we have renounced disgrace and underhanded ways. We refuse to practise cunning or ***to tamper with God's word***, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to all who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, but we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies." (2 Cor. 4:1-4; 7-10).

Let us not lose heart, but make disciples who make other disciples, as Christ has mandated us.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power within us, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

We commend you to the mercies and love of God, Alleluia!

Bishop Bethlehem Nopece, Port Elizabeth. 2015 A.D.

At the end of the Eucharist, Synod adjourned for a finger supper in the St Saviour's Church Hall.