



## Our three new priests



In a wonderful service held in the Cathedral on Sunday 14 December Rowan Jacobs, Claire Phelps and Johannes Visagie were ordained as priests. Claire will be joining the Cathedral staff as a stipendiary priest, while Rowan (Holy Trinity Central - Christ Church, Kamma Park) and Johannes (St Luke's) are self-supporting priests.

The rector of St Stephen's, Zweli Tom, had led the pre-ordination retreat and was the preacher at the service. During the retreat and in his sermon he addressed the subject of 'the priest as the builder of a community of faith.' He spoke on how he had, in three years, transformed his congregation from one that was broken into one that was a loving family. He had one of the elders of St Stephen's stand up and confirm this for him. Among the elements Zweli raised were - understanding the need to honour their leaders; getting involved in social concern; taking part in teaching programmes offered by the church; and understanding the meaning of being the salt and the light of the world.

The service was well attended by parishioners from the three parishes from where the ordinands had come and the praise and worship was led by the Cathedral choir with maestro, Justin Stone, on the organ. A good number of the clergy, and some former clergy of the diocese, were present to encourage and lay hands on the three new priests.

**Bishop Bethlehem presents our three new priests Johannes Visagie, Claire Phelps and Rowan Jacobs to the diocese. Behind them are his chaplain Phumla Mtila and Ntonde Nhererwa of the Cathedral.**

**New Year 2015**

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."

### Embrace our roots (Ynet News) Henrique Cymerman



During an interview on Ynet News Pope Francis (pictured left) said, "We must make it absolutely clear that anti-Semitism is a sin. One of the reasons I'm here is to

remind the Christian world that our roots are in Judaism. In every Christian, there is a Jew; and you can't be a true Christian if you don't recognize your Jewish roots. I don't mean Judaism in the ethnic, origin sense, but from the religious aspect. And I think interfaith dialogue must place an emphasis on the inseparable connection between the religions, on the fact that Christianity grew from within Judaism. That is our challenge.

For me, the real revolution is to go back to the roots, to recognize them and to understand their significance in relation to the present and the future. The vessel for affecting real changes is identity; and in order to discover my identity, I need to know from where I come, and what my cultural and religious surname is."

Pope Francis conveyed his message of coexistence through a story about a group of anti-Semitic priests sitting together and speaking badly about the Jewish People. In the room in which they are sitting is a picture of Yeshua (Jesus) and Miriam (Mary) hanging on the wall above their heads. "And then, suddenly," Pope Francis says, "Jesus steps out of the picture and says, 'Mom, let's go, they don't like us here either.'"

## Haven celebrates 20 years of ministry



Left - Children from James Calata chapelry who sang at the Haven celebration service.

Right - Administrator of the Haven and assistant priest at Holy Trinity Central, Nicolette Leonard, lights the Aids candle while Bishop Bethlehem and some of the children look on.



On Sunday 7 December the House of Resurrection Family Haven not only held their annual World Aids Day service but also celebrated 20 years of ministering to people living with Aids and vulnerable / orphaned children.

Before the service began many people, young and old, took part in a walk from Cleary Park to the Haven. Among them was the Ward Councillor Sandra Fillis of the Democratic Alliance, who had supplied the water to drink along the way. During the service she brought a message of support for the Haven.

Mafani of the Dept of Health. She said that in light of the spate of new infections (400 a day) the church must talk about morality and sex. She also pointed out that the church has human resources and property on which it can grow food to feed the sick and the poor.

The marquee was packed as parishioners from many parishes gathered to celebrate the Haven and to pray for people infected and affected by Aids. Bishop Bethlehem led the service and was assisted by the administrator, Nicolette Leonard. Mothers and children from the various

families in the cluster homes sang as did children from various parishes who support the Haven.

Everyone was given a celebratory meal of curry and rice after the service.

**iindaba loads .pdf**  
iindaba is now in .pdf format on our web page. For those who are not techno wizards that means that the version you'll see and be able to download is exactly as it comes to you in hard copy BUT it is in colour. See also page 3.

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## Balloons with messages

Lesley-ann Gilbert



Some of the members of St Katharine's who attended the fund-raiser tea and who released the balloons afterwards.

A very successful fund-raiser tea was recently held at St Katharine's Church in Uitenhage to celebrate the lives of those who are terminally ill.

After the function messages were attached to balloons containing helium and these were released from just outside the church hall. A donation was made to the Reach for a Dream Foundation to help their work with terminally ill children.

## Country wedding for Siya and Shez



Siya and Shez Tshatshu with his rector, Dudley Greenshields and assistant priest Claire Phelps, together with Bishop Bethlehem and the flower girls as they came out of the church.

One of our new deacons, Siya Tshatshu who is assisting at St Saviour's in Walmer, was married in Kwahini Location near King William's Town on 29 November. His bride, Khanyisa Mengu looked very beautiful in white, carrying a bouquet of white proteas, and Siya looked extremely dapper in top hat, tails and walking stick.

## Doing their internship at the Haven



Four young German girls who have enjoyed/are enjoying their work at the Haven: Melanie Kwiatkowski, Katharina Reinhold, Elena Klar and Leona Brenner

we received a very friendly welcome from the staff and all the children here. Everyone helped us in becoming part of 'the big Haven family' and this is the reason why starting work became so easy. We have so much respect for the hard and responsible work all the members of the Haven are doing. The fact that both of us are living in the Haven supports the better understanding of the organization and the daily work of the house mothers. We are looking forward to working the next months and we are really happy that we have found such a good environment to fulfil our placement."

Katharina Reinhold sent iindaba a note from Germany saying, "I am doing education as kindergarten teacher and worked voluntarily for two months in the House of Resurrection. I have gained a lot of experience in my time. I met many nice people and it was interesting to see how lovingly the children were treated. The House of Resurrection is a wonderful home for the kids! I was able to live together with the kids and the housemothers. So I could see how they live. To contact the Haven:

[www.houseofresurrection.org.za](http://www.houseofresurrection.org.za)  
[havenpe@telkomsa.net](mailto:havenpe@telkomsa.net)

## New role for Shane

Former priest in our diocese, Shane Fraser, told iindaba that he has been asked to represent Africa on the UBS (United Bible Societies) – CBF (Catholic Bible Federation) liaison committee.

The scope of this group is defined as follows:

"The Liaison Group, among other things, should promote;  
- mutual understanding of each other's roles and purpose,  
- provide a regular forum for the discussion of difficulties,  
- develop proposals for future collaboration which will be submitted to the respective governance bodies.

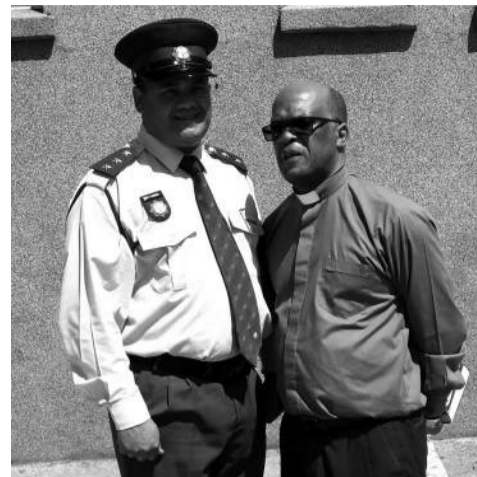
It should contribute to clarify the conditions for effective inter-confessional (UBS – CBF – Catholic Church) collaboration and facilitate dissemination of official decisions affecting activities of the two institutions."

iindaba congratulates Shane on this appointment.



## Remembering the fallen

Fumi Kula



Capt Rodney Thorn of Gelvandale police and the rector of Christ the King, Fumi Kula after the service.

Christ the King in Gelvandale held their annual Remembrance Sunday on 9 November when they paid tribute to South African soldiers who had died while deployed in foreign lands and at sea.

It was a day we also said thank you to our police who are fighting the war against crime. We live in a country which is full of thieves and robbers, who break into our homes and steal our clothes and valuables at gunpoint and they take our cars - so this was a day to appreciate the role played by the police in our country and in our lives. We thank them for their patriotism and dedication.

## SBMMG elects new leadership

Max Mfazwe



Front: Lulamile Kalipa, Zwelandle Tsotso, lay canon Greg Moses, Bishop Bethlehem, rector of St Andrew's and president of SBMMG Phumla Mtila, Songezo Mfazwe.

Back: Siphon Mali, Sakhiwo Tukulu, Nceba Madlavu, chaplain - Mthuthuzeli Belu, Sabelo Puwani, Luvuyo Mbolekwa.

Extreme back: Vusumzi Mtyobile  
St Bernard Mizeki Men's Guild held their diocesan executive elections on 15 November at St Andrew's in KwaNobuhle. The meeting was chaired by Bishop Bethlehem.

The Diocesan Election Procedure which came into existence in 2011 was used which meant that for the first time in the history of the Guild those nominated for president and chairman had to submit their CVs together with testimonials and a written vision for the portfolio. This was followed by a face to face interview with the Bishop's panel. In attendance in the elective conference was lay canon on organisations, Greg Moses, to assist in facilitating the proceedings.

The rector of St Andrew's Phumla Mtila was elected as the new president and ZP Tsotso as chairman.

In his address to the members Bishop Bethlehem mentioned three aspects that sustain the calling to ministry: servant leadership, sacrifice and commitment. He referred to Mark 10:41-45 and Phil 2:5-11.

## Moving forward

With the help of the church



The members of the Task Team mandated to get things moving before the end of January are Glenton de Kock from Business Chamber, Professor Deon Pretorius, Nomvuyo Mbiko, the Acting Chair of the SGB'S in the Metro, Revd Themba Mahuwa is a minister of Umzi wase Tiyopiya, Pat Kondile of Imbali yase New Brighton.

Not in photo is Archdeacon Zweli Tom.

Since the October meeting of the Nelson Mandela Bay Consultation of Christian Churches where those present looked at a way forward, the group have met twice more. Professor Deon Pretorius led them through a process and whittling the needs down to a manageable few and a group of six people (see photo) was chosen to begin the process of working with schools as a first step forward. One of the things this group will look at is organising communities to get involved in tasks in which they can earn an income - such as looking after school grounds.

Some of the other projects which have come out of the meetings are: to activate community leadership to take more responsibility; encourage members of communities to play a bigger role and stop pointing fingers at others but rather at oneself looking at what "I" can do to make things better within my neighbourhood.

Churches are being asked to take the initiative and encourage their parishioners to play an active part in their neighbourhood and in local schools.

## Messy Church in South Africa

The South Africa Team Leader of Messy Church, Jean Pienaar, describes it as a way of doing church for families (and for the church family!), involving fun, creativity and celebration. It's perfect for family services or for non-traditional "church" times, such as Saturdays or evenings.

Messy Church has caught on in some dioceses of ACSA and testimonies such as that of the Revd Marcus Slinger of St Philip's Kenwyn: our youth leader came back from Anglicans Ablaze 2014 excited about Messy Church. Thus, our journey with Messy Church and building a team began. Was it easy? No. We leaned on God for guidance, but prayer, hard work and planning followed. On the fourth Sunday of August, our church was transformed into a 'Messy Church'. As folk arrived, I met them at the door; some of their reactions and comments were priceless: What's happening this morning? Is there church today? Is this church?

What a wonderful 'Messy Church' we experienced that Sunday as young and old played, prayed and worshipped together around the tables. The same people who had been sceptical at the start of our service asked me at the end of our service when the next 'Messy Church' would be. Our wonderful experience has sparked interest from many of my colleagues as I have shared our story.

# The Bishop writes ... Our years like a sigh

My Dear People of God,

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, at this time revealed to the nations as king!

The world around us and beyond is full of pain, misery and hopelessness. This is not the intention of the Creator. Some of the pain is natural and therefore beyond human control. Such as the AirAsia airbus disaster en route from Surabaya to Singapore recently. What a tragedy! In France ten people gunned down by militant Islam; this is human responsibility which devalues human life for a religious ideology. What a pity! This is but one, and the list goes on. For the psalmist this is due to God's wrath against our sins which cut short our life fading it away like a whisper (Ps 90:7-10). This causes the world around us to crumble, especially when the aspirations and desires of our own hearts are not obtained. For the media the 'bad' or 'ugly' must be unearthed and exposed. It is selling news after all, sometimes even at the expense of the 'good'. Human need of the marginalised and the voiceless is often neglected by the politician, together with those positioned to speak and be trusted, and the rich are getting richer the poor poorer.

The problem of sin is the sin of unbelief. When God, whose character is 'love', is continually shut out of human lives and affairs, evil and hatred, self-centredness and selfishness thrives. Even those who seem to go to church to sing and pray have no capacity to make God known, through lack of fear and being wrong, not being in line or being old fashioned, particularly in theological debates.

Christians themselves are devaluing the divine institution of the sacrament of marriage between one man and one woman for the greater confusion of same sex intimacies, which God abhors. Our children can no longer tell the ideal as set out by God from creation stories. The Bible is reckoned to be just another book which is gradually stripped of its transforming power for God given required norms in good and acceptable life. The Lordship of Christ as the image of the invisible God is highly questioned, criticized and compromised. We cannot do as we like. The dividing line between good and evil is not blurred (Mk 7:20-23 cf Gal 5:16-26).

The Biblical truth is that we humans are but dust. We may pursue what we like against what God has set as a norm, and teach others to do so, but our life span is but three score years and ten, if strong enough four score, sometimes we perish even long before that (Ps 90:10). The greatest tragedy is to leave this world having deliberately twisted the truth as revealed in the scriptures by God and cause others to do so. Christ is God's Truth that sets us free from the slavery of sin when we truly and faithfully repent (Jn 8:31-36) He came and fully partook of our nature; he taught and preached the kingdom and healed, responding fervently to human need. He challenged the status quo intently. He died and rose again. He is seated at the right hand of God to intercede for us. We believe he will come again to be our judge. He loves compassionately by his character; he gives wholly and sacrificially and calls his followers to do the same (Lk 14:26-33).

Indeed Jesus is Lord!

As followers of Christ we do not only bear his character of love but are witnesses of his kingdom. By virtue of our faith and baptism we are privileged to carry the vision of God to the world. We are on the side of the good, never to collaborate with evil. Those who err are our first concern. If a fellow Christian lives in grave sin of self-centredness, fraud, adultery, homosexuality, conceit, sinful affection etc it is our duty to admonish the person lovingly (cf Mtt 18:13ff). The ACSA Bishops have deliberated on sexual behaviour extensively and sensitively. On this we set God's standards and cannot compromise the truth. Acquaint yourself with this document, sent to your rectors long ago, and live righteously. It is when we love more and compassionately, not forgetting our frailty, that we are able to win others to a holy living. Keeping silent and holding our peace is letting down the Saviour who continues to be revealed all the more to the nations. Gafcon stands for these Biblical truths. It is true that these Confessing Anglicans need to set out a manifesto that needs to firmly uphold these biblical truths.

Jesus Christ is indeed the Prince of Peace; of whose peace and governance there shall be no end until time and years are no more!

Yours in Christ,

Epiphany Tide 2015 AD

## The view from pulpit and pew

❖ *iindaba* is wondering if Bishop Bethlehem was helping wash the tea cups when he recently visited St Nicholas in Charlo. Is this a lesson in being a humble servant?



❖ *iindaba* announces that it is now loading the .pdf version of *iindaba* onto the diocesan web page. Do go to [www.anglicandiocesepe.org.za](http://www.anglicandiocesepe.org.za) and click on *iindaba* then click on the Dec Special to see how good it looks in colour. However, this does mean that our sales of the 'hard' copy will go down so we ask that folk downloading to please send a donation (marked "*iindaba*") to the diocesan office to help with the production costs. Many thanks, and do enjoy the new format.

❖ *iindaba* congratulates Merryl and Connan de Wee, church warden of Holy Trinity Central, on the birth of their second daughter Gia Rose (who weighed in at a whopping 4.08kg. Grandparents Myron and Nicolette Leonard, assistant priest at HTC, are still smiling.

- However, as the joy came, so too did sorrow. *iindaba* extends condolences to Myron and the family on the death of his brother in KZN. May they know the healing love of our Lord as they mourn.

❖ *iindaba* also extends condolences to diocesan office messenger John Facey and family on the death of his wife Shirley. May you feel the peace and love of Jesus surround you as you mourn.

❖ *iindaba* congratulates all our young people who passed their Matric or tertiary exams. We wish you all God's blessings as you move forward along life's road. Special congratulations go to Pumla Bodlani, daughter of self-supporting priest at St Matthew's in KwaMagxaki, Siphon and Nomvuselelo, on obtaining three distinctions in Matric exams - Maths, Accounting and Computer Application. This girl knows her figures! We wish her well as she goes to NMMU to study for a B Comm degree to become a Chartered Accountant.

❖ Prayers are asked for retired priest Lovemore Mofu who was taken to hospital just before Christmas. We await further news.

❖ The editor, Frankie, and Ken Simpson thank everyone for their prayers for their grandson Pan. The heamanoglia had shrunk so much by the beginning of December that the tracheostomy has been removed. Young Pan has now discovered he has a voice! Give thanks to the Lord for his goodness.

❖ Former priest of the diocese Solomon Nkesiga has asked that we please pray that his body may tolerate the radiation so that he be spared more chemo. "Please petition God that the physician's hands may be guided to the root of the disease."

### Clergy on the move

❖ Relton Groepe has become the first self-supporting priest-in-charge of a parish in the diocese. He is ministering at St Hugh's in Newton Park under the direction of Archdeacon Zweli Tom, who is the rector of the parish.

❖ Charles Church will be moving to St Francis Xavier in Kabega Park from the beginning of February.

❖ On Ash Wednesday Brian Axcell joins St John's in Walmer as stipendiary assistant priest.

❖ Rachel Ssekimpi, self supporting deacon, moves to the Cathedral of St Mary the Virgin from January 2015.

## Fruits from AA Conference

**Ruby Zauka**

Over the weekend 26 - 27 September last year a very successful marriage course, attended by 12 couples, was held at St Stephen's in New Brighton. The seminar was conducted by Tumani from Family Impact in Johannesburg and from the feedback from couples who attended it impacted on their lives. This is what some of them said:

"As young couples, we were glad to be part of this course as we start our marriage journey;" "This course was long overdue, we will spread the gospel to other couples;" "The manual will help us and we will definitely make time to go through it."

After the training, the couples decided to meet monthly and share their experiences.

The course was a product of fruitful information gained by two of our clergy, Abigail Tukulu and Ruby Zauka, together with Nomonde Qoto, when they attended the Anglicans Ablaze Conference at Bryanston in Johannesburg during July 2014. The topic "Living as Disciples of Jesus - the tools of transformation" challenged them to think about practical things they would be able to do in our



diocese. At the same time they also met people from Family Impact, who conduct 'Marriage course 101' in partnership with Alpha International. The course helps couples to understand one another and communicate better. Because the three women are members of Mothers' Union Christian Family Life, which has strengthening marriages as one of their objectives, they decided to bring the course to our diocese and Family Impact was also interested to come here to present the course.

The team is planning a training for trainers workshop and most of the couples who attended agreed to be trained. "We are also inviting couples who are interested in being trained as trainers to contact self-supporting priest Abigail Tukulu for details."

To contact Abigail for information:

082 702 9212/084 884 4439

e-mail address: [abitukulu@gmail.com](mailto:abitukulu@gmail.com)

Standing are the two clergy - Ruby Zauka and Abigail Tukulu and sitting are Nomonde Qoto and the course conductor from Family Impact, Tumani.

### Christmas story told

**Varity Langeveld**



Every year the Sunday school at St Cuthbert's in Central entertain the parish with their traditional nativity play supervised by the Sunday school teachers. However, this year it was different because the nativity play was written and directed by the talented 13 year old, Megan Bodley.

During the 09h30 service on Sunday the 7 December the children were able to display their hard work. The play reminded us all once again about the birth of Jesus Christ and the great joy his birth brought to the world. In between the story Christmas carols were sung with everyone joining in. The parish was also blessed to have our spiritual dancers to minister to us during the service.

After the service it was time to entertain all the children with a surprise Christmas party. All were welcomed to join in the celebration and each one received a party pack to take home.

## Tag lines!



The person who thinks they can live without others is mistaken. The person who thinks that others can't live without them is even more mistaken.

# From Advent to Christmas

various parishes have sent iindaba photos from their Christmastide celebrations



The first candle of Advent heralds in the season of reflection on the first coming of our Lord and the looking forward to his second coming.

Those who visited the Cathedral for the Advent Carol and the Nine Lessons and Carols services enjoyed glorious worship. Choir master, Justin Stone, produced a superb programme and the two young organists thrilled the worshippers with their playing skills.



Sunday School children did their best to impress at many of the parishes. Here we see the children from Holy Trinity in Central telling the Christmas story with pictures, narration and singing many of their favourite Carols.

## New lay ministers

Luthokazi Skweyiya



Three new lay ministers are welcomed by our gosa Vuyelwa Sithonga. From left they are Mncedisi Ndwanya, Lulamile Canda and Sinethemba Baleni.

On 14 September the parish of St Cyprian was blessed with a visit from Bishop Bethlehem. His theme for the day was 'The Freedom of God' and he mentioned various important points emphasising that as Christians we should pray for God's peace and forgiveness because forgiveness and love are the character of God.

During the service Bishop Bethlehem inducted three new lay ministers and confirmed ten members of the parish. What a wonderful service.

## A country walk

Tim Douglas-Jones



Isobel Douglas-Jones, Hebe Usher, Lyn Fox, Phantom (the horse), Enid Lovemore and behind her is Frankie the horse. Phantom is so named because of his colour and Frankie (Sinatra) because of his blue eyes.

On Saturday 22 November members of St John's Walmer went on a Parish Walk at Heatherbank Farm. It was a pleasantly warm morning as we set out from just opposite the Pink Fig restaurant. The walk was especially interesting because it is a bit of country right in the city and from the farm house, it gives a different view of Algoa Bay looking over Port Elizabeth.

We are hoping to arrange another walk there in early 2015.



In many churches, such as St Paul's in Parsons Hill, wonderful Christmas displays caught the eye of those who entered to worship over Christmastide.

## White Lodge - Living in community

In 2014 the White Lodge Community celebrated the 40th anniversary of existence. The community was established during the time of the 70's renewal as God's Holy Spirit ministered powerfully throughout his Church.

During 1974 in Port Elizabeth a group of Christian families felt God's call to live together as a Christian Community according to Acts Chapter 2. Four families sold their homes and purchased 25 Albert Road, known as White Lodge House, in Albert Road, Walmer. The original four families - Nobby and Sybella Knowles, Brian and Betty Ledger, Dave and Dot Kirby and Brian and Elizabeth Shier - learnt the ups and downs of community living with the desire to be in God's will at all times.

The Lord's intention was made clear that this inter-denominational community would be a base of support enabling members to be released into a variety of ministries, including healing and restoration. This ministry has always had a particular focus on the poor and underprivileged.

The original ethos has remained as the community, now known as the White Lodge Complex, has evolved and expanded with the addition of the 'A' Frame, the Garden Cottage and seven cottages comprising Shalom Way.

White Lodge House is currently the home of Jerusalem Ministries.

The occupants of the White Lodge Complex are all committed, Church based Christians with the desire to perpetuate the founding ethos in one way or another.

## Women transformed

Eileen Bambrough

The apostle Paul urges Christians to offer their bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - resulting in transformation of the mind to "the good and pleasing perfect will" of God - Romans 12:1ff.

Bisi Fadeyi-Abetuberu, a deacon at Holy Trinity Central, stepped out in faith when she shipped antiquated sewing machines to SA from the UK. Bisi met Eileen Bambrough of the Parish of the Good Shepherd who shared in the belief of 'Give a person a fishing rod and teach him to fish' and Bisi gave her eight sewing machines - two of which Eileen gave to Olga Stewart of All Saints' in Kabega Park for her Esther Sewing classes.

Later a member of St Paul's in Parsons Hill, Lionel Heath, told his cousin in the USA, Joan Bischoff about the sewing classes and through her intervention, the Diocese of North Carolina sent a donation to Olga to purchase new sewing machines, an overlocker and cupboards (see *iindaba* September 2013).

Recently Joan visited SA and met Olga, her co-teacher Minnie Adams and their learners. This resulted in a second donation which provided for another cupboard and a third overlocker.

The antiquated sewing machines are



Thandi Antoni shows the dress and jacket she made for herself

now proudly owned by the sewers who in turn sew for themselves and their family and friends. Nomsa Mahonoe, Thandi Antoni and Eunice Makeleni recently showed the outfits they had made for themselves at home.

Behind this lies a multitude of emotions of being a 'woman of worth' summed up in one word - transformation.

## New rectory for St Simon of Cyrene

Rodney Redcliffe



On Sunday, 30 November Bishop Bethlehem blessed the new rectory of St Simon of Cyrene in Uitenhage. The building was dedicated to the late Koos Esau, a loyal servant of God.

### Can you assist?

Wooden hymn numbers and their holding boards are urgently needed by our fellow Anglicans in Zimbabwe. If any parish has some they no longer need please contact Mrs Judith Smith (Regional Guardian tssf) Zimbabwe. e-mail: smithies@mweb.co.zw or 071 245 6572

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