



**As iindaba is uploaded to our Web page, Elective Assembly will be meeting.
We hope to be able to publish a special one page edition
soon after we have elected of our new Bishop.**

The Vicar General writes ...

Dear Family of God,

Christmas 2025 – where has the year gone? Far too quickly – with sadness for some and joys for others, but still with anticipation for the Celebration.

But still 2025 has been a bit of a scary year, taking into consideration what has happened – mass killings, terrorism, poor economy and the spate of violence against women and children, and not forgetting gearing up for the Elective Assembly and then having it postponed, then, again gearing up for Elective Assembly and (we pray) attending Elective Assembly even as you read this article – all this could lead to one becoming negative and filled with fear. Christmas is about losing our fear.

“Fear not! Do not be afraid!” The angel spoke these words to Zechariah, to Mary, to Joseph, and finally to a group of shepherds on a hillside near Bethlehem. *“Do not be afraid; for behold I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”*

Fear has a way of tying our stomachs up in knots, paralysing our thinking, inducing panic. Fear, and its cousin worry, can capture our hearts when we see ourselves caught in a vortex of disasters beyond our control.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus talks about tiny, defenceless sparrows in the context of fear and worry: *“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink... Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”*

In another place Jesus reassures His followers: *“Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”*

During this Christmas it seems as if the entire world is caught in the grip of fear. More and more you glimpse a kind of bleak fear in people’s eyes. Fear can grip us, choke all faith out of our hearts. Fear constitutes a large part of the problems



we face. It’s as true in 2025 as it was on the first Christmas.

For on that first Christmas, the world was in desperate times, too. A census is being conducted in order to raise already high taxes. Murderous, paranoid Herod the Great is king of the Jews. It is winter on Bethlehem’s hillsides -- and cold. Inside a cave sit a poverty-stricken carpenter and his young wife -- far from home, chilled to the bone. She is in labour. Her child will be born in a stable, of all places. “Why is it like this?” she may have asked.

And then she recalls an echo of the angel’s words to her, *“Do not be afraid, Mary....”*

On the windswept hillsides outside of town, shepherds are huddling, too. All of a sudden the sky lights up and an angel proclaims: *“Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.”*

“Fear not!” The shepherds’ fear is turned to joy as they hear news that a Saviour is born. The Messiah! In Bethlehem, the city of David!

And so they run down the hillsides into

Christmas is about losing our fear

the town and hurry from stable to stable until they find the Child in the manger, just as they have been told. Tucked in that manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes against the cold, is the Saviour!

A saviour comes to rescue people in danger, preserve those who are threatened by harm, and protect his people from the troubles that surround them. That’s what saviours do! That’s what Jesus came to do for us.

Do not be afraid because God has sent a Saviour to us -- Jesus Christ the Lord. He is the One who will never leave us or forsake us. He is the One who will supply all our needs, according to His riches in glory. He is the One who will add to us all the things we need as we seek Him and His Kingdom.

Our world thinks that Christmas is about gifts under a tree and a spirit of good cheer, with Christmas dinner and family around the table. But as good as all that may be, it isn’t nearly as good as the Real Christmas was.

The Real Christmas message is this: God has sent a Saviour, to save us from our sins and to help us in this life -- to lift our burden and ease our fears. This Christmas, although the world is gripped by fear, although as a Diocese we may or may not have elected a new bishop, remember that, with the birth of the Saviour, fear’s hold has been broken.

So Piet and I wish you and your family a blessed Christmas and our prayer for 2026 is found in the angel’s words: *“Fear not ... for a Saviour is born to you -- Christ the Lord!”*

With much love and every blessing for Christmas 2025 and for the new year, 2026.

**Dean Sharon Nell
Vicar General +**

Advent and Christmas



**For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.**

**And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.**

**Of the greatness of his
government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David’s throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.**

**The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.**

Isaiah 9:6,7 NIV



The editor and media team,
the Vicar General, Sharon
and Piet Nell,
and the Diocesan Staff
wish all our readers
a very blessed
Christmas
and may the year ahead
bring you much joy, peace love.

St Peter’s in South End revitalised



An archive photo of St Peter’s in South End with the Fisherman’s Cross, which was a beacon that guided the fishermen home.

On Sunday afternoon 9 November over 50 of the parishioners who had attended St Peter’s in South End before apartheid forced removals scattered them, gathered to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the corner stone having been laid.

They were also celebrating the birth of the St Peter’s Rainbow Village, a heritage site that commemorates the multi-cultural, vibrant society that made South End a special place.

The Rector of St Luke’s, Mark Barth, led the service. Mark was one of the last to have been baptised at St Peter’s. He said, “We have come together sharing the sacredness, beauty and the glory of God that had lived in this place.” He went on,

using 1 Peter 2:6-10, reminding everyone that they are real living stones that make up the church.

He then also likened the history of St Peter’s parishioners to the Jews who were taken in exile to Babylon, and while they mourned the loss of the Temple, they were told by Jeremiah that God said they were to marry and have children, and prosper in their new land. Mark said, “In the midst of our despair our spirit was never killed, and as we prospered, it has become a process of restoration ... the hurt is still there. May we find the courage to change our attitudes.” He said these ruins are not the sum of what we are.

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DTS and Deputy visit Mission Districts in Motherwell

Trevor Bruchman



The DTS, Yolande Wolmerans, enters the Good Samaritan Mission Chapel.



The DTS, Yolande Wolmerans, speaks to members of Good Samatitan Mission Chapel.

We give thanks to God for His faithfulness and for the wonderful work He is doing among us. Recently, the Archdeacon of Greater Addo, Lulamile Ngesi, together with assiatant Priest, Sabelo Ndlebe, the Diocesan Treasurer (DTS), Yolande Wolmerans, and the Deputy DTS, Trevor Bruchman, visited two mission districts - Good Samaritan and Desmond Tutu Memorial in Motherwell.

It was truly a time of joy, encouragement, and thanksgiving. We witnessed first-hand how the Spirit of God is moving in our communities.

At Good Samaritan, great things are being done. The parishioners are deeply involved in community outreach, providing meals to those in need - ensuring that no one in the area goes hungry. Next to the church, they have planted a beautiful vegetable garden which is growing well. It not only provides food for the feeding programme but also teaches their members skills in

gardening and self-sustainability.

At Desmond Tutu Memorial, the story is equally uplifting. This church continues to be a place of hope and love for families. The crèche next to it gives children a safe and caring space to learn and grow, while their parents serve and work with peace of mind.

Truly, my friends, we are growing the Church — not just in numbers, but in faith, in service, and in compassion.

However, we do face some challenges. The structure that once housed some ministry activities for the Desmond Tutu Memorial church was broken into, leaving the parishioners without a safe space for certain programmes. To continue this good work, we need to erect a new structure - perhaps two containers - to secure the feeding project, store garden produce, and support the crèche activities.

Help needed

So today, we come to you, our family in

Christ, to say: We need your help.

With your prayers, your support, and your contributions, we can continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus in these communities. In faith, we are sure we will receive donations to make these Mission Districts a beacon of hope for our Diocesan community at large.

There will be a service of presence arranged in due course, and we urge all members of the Diocese and communities to attend.

Let us remember: Great things are being done, but even greater things are yet to come!

Together, through faith, unity and love, we are growing the Church and transforming lives.

We are deeply encouraged and profoundly inspired by the seed that was planted by Bishop Edward. With gratitude and faith, we pledge to carry forward and cultivate that vision.

The view from pulpit and pew

❖ *iindaba* sends condolences to:
- Ivan Dickson and the family on the passing of Frances on 17 October;
- the family of self-supporting Priest, Veronica Dobo, who passed away on 19 November. May the Lord continue to comfort them as they mourn.

❖ *iindaba* congratulates:
- retired Priest, Churchwarden Mgedezi, on his licensing as Health Chaplain;
- Shirmell Newman, Assistant Priest at St Mary Magdalene, on being elected the Spiritual Director of Emmaus South Africa. Her responsibilities include spiritual support of EMSA Board members as well as coordinating inspiration and encouragement for the Spiritual Directors of the 12 Emmaus Communities in SA;
- Thandiwe Stokwe, Assistant Priest at St Timothy's, who has been added to the Bible Society outreach Team.

Newly licensed as Health Chaplain



Newly licensed Health Chaplain, Churchwarden Mgedezi, displays his licence. He is flanked by Sweetness Mgedezi and Fikile Sohuma. Behind them are the BEO, Fumi Kula, and the VG, Sharon Nell.

Before the Chapter meeting at St Hugh's on Thursday morning 6 November, the Vicar General, Sharon Nell, licensed retired Priest Churchwarden Mgedezi as the new Diocesan Health Chaplain.

Many friends were present to congratulate him, among them was the Health Promotion Manager of the Department of Health Education.

They all enjoyed tea and coffee in the Mayo Hall afterwards.

St Peter's celebration

From page 1



Four former St Peter's parishioners, Claudelle Higgins of St Luke's, Edna Tobias of St Mark and St John, Edna Plaatjies of St Luke's are with Christopher Prince assistant Priest at St Philip's and the Cathedral, in front of the ruins of the old church.

Three of our Priests, all former members of St Peter's, South End, assisted Mark Barth with the service. They were Nizam Kader, Shirmell Newman and Christopher Prince.

Barth took the guests for a walk down memory lane, saying his grandfather had been 7 when he joined St Peter's and five generations had attended the church.

He said that the three stained glass windows from the front of the church

were now at the front of St Mary Magdalene in West End. Also there are the churchwardens' staffs. The cross from the front of the building is at St Mark and St John, but will be returned to the Rainbow Village to stand in its old position.

He spoke of the branch of Sea Scouts, the two schools and the Sunday school and of the deconcecration service led by Bishop Philip in 1972.

The village is open to daytime visitors.

Blessing Bibles

Jill Bromiley



On Bible Sunday, 26 October, St Hugh's parishioners were asked to come to the front with their own Bibles and/or a pew Bible. Folk could also stand and hold up their Bibles in the pew. All Bibles were blessed by the Rector, Andrea Potgieter.

Celebrating achievements

Carla Clotz, a member of St Hugh's, has been chosen as 2026 Head girl at Cape Recife High School.

We are all so proud of this young lady. She is a reader in our church, a server, and is also very involved with Scouting.



Mom, Beth, with Carla, showing some of her trophies and certificate.

RIP

Frances Dickson



One has to marvel at God's timing! Frances Dickson was the Provincial Treasurer of the Anglican Women's Fellowship for 20 years.

When she passed on on 17 October, the AWF were about to gather in our Diocese for their Provincial Council meeting - and so they were able to honour her with attending her funeral at St Paul's and forming a Guard of Honour as she left the church.

The AWF Provincial President, Pamela Mntonintshi, delivered a heartfelt tribute honouring Frances's years of faithful and dedicated service to the Fellowship and the Church.

Tag lines!



When you give love,
it will come back to rest in your heart,
making you whole
and spiritually healthy.

The editor thanks:

- the Vicar General and others who stepped in and contributed the *ad laos* letter each month;
- Lionel Heath for always being willing to proof read the *iindaba*;
- Karen Glover and St John's for enlarging the copy to make it easy to proof read;
- all the reporters and contributors who have ensured the *iindaba* is full of interesting articles to read.

All of you make my job so much easier!

AWF PEXCO meet in Gqeberha

Lungsi Ntlokwana



AWF members gather outside St Saviours after the opening service.

The Provincial Executive Committee (PEXCO) of the Anglican Women's Fellowship, together with Presidents from 24 Southern African Dioceses, gathered in Gqeberha from 21–26 October for a week of spiritual renewal, learning, and strategic reflection.

The meeting served as a vital platform to strengthen fellowship, leadership capacity, and the shared mission of service within the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

Highlights of the Week

The gathering began with a beautiful Opening Service at St Saviours in Walmer, conducted by the Vicar General, Sharon Nell, setting a sacred and unifying tone for the week.

Ministry of Compassion

A deeply moving visit to Ekuphumleni Old Age Home in Zwide reminded members of our call to compassion and care. Members reached out to the elderly with gifts, songs, and prayers — a true reflection of love in action and the AWF's commitment to community upliftment.

Empowering Women Against GBV

The Anti-Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Training was both interactive and empowering. It equipped participants with practical insights to address GBV within our communities and to uphold the dignity and safety of all God's people.

Building Servant Leaders

The Leadership Training, facilitated by Lungsi Ntlokwana, was experiential and engaging. It inspired participants to embrace servant leadership and to strengthen the AWF's presence and impact at all levels of the church.

Reports and Reflections

The Presidents' Reports clearly showcased the wonderful work and far-reaching impact of dioceses and branches across the Province. Through initiatives aligned with the organisation's aims, objectives, and resolutions, the AWF continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and communities. Their dedication and faithfulness were warmly applauded.

Unity, Resilience, and Hope

In their final session, Diocesan Presidents shared challenges, possible solutions, and recommendations, reaffirming the AWF's unity, resilience, and commitment to continuous improvement.

As we continue to reimagine ourselves and ignite God's flame, we give thanks for this time of learning, connection, and renewed purpose. May the spirit of unity, love, and service continue to guide the work of the Anglican Women's Fellowship in every corner of the Province.

The meeting concluded with a Closing Service at St Peter's in Zwide.

“Drink your wine with a joyful heart”



Taking Ecclesiastes 9:7 to heart were Gavin and Angela Rogers, Jannine Nortjie, Dave and Desre Foaden.

St Saviours held a wine tasting evening on Wednesday evening 5 November and, by the sound of things, the participants sounded as if they were taking this Bible verse to heart.

Jannine Nortjie of Meridian offered four varieties of Leopard's Leap wines which included a bubbly, a white, a rosé and a red blend. All were enjoyed by most of the people, with donations given for some of the left over bottles.

Informative Cancer Awareness Day

Mandla Tofu



Dr Notende Botwekazi Mgudlwa speaking on Cancer awareness.

know your body, act early, and seek medical help.

She explained common cancers affecting men and women, including cervical, breast, and prostate cancer. Each has warning signs that must never be ignored.

Practical advice

Check your body regularly for lumps or changes.

Go for routine screenings.

Eat balanced meals with more fruit and vegetables.

Avoid smoking and limit alcohol.

Exercise often.

Talk to your doctor about family history and personal risk.

She stressed that early detection saves lives. Many cancers are treatable when found early.

The session ended with questions from parishioners and people spoke about the need for open conversation. Dr Mgudlwa encouraged everyone to share what they learned with family and friends.

Holy Spirit Church, in celebration of St Luke the physician, hosted a Cancer Awareness Day on 19 October. The guest speaker was Dr Notende Botwekazi Mgudlwa, a retired general practitioner who worked in private practice and with the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS), the South African Football Association (SAFA), and Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA).

Parishioners came in numbers, and many did not know what to expect. Dr Mgudlwa spoke clearly and directly about cancer prevention, symptoms, and treatment. Her message was simple:

St Hugh's Mayo hall celebrates 100



Above - Three little ones lit the candles for St Hugh's 'Past, Present and Future' while the Rector, Andrea Potgieter, stood by in case of need.

Above right - Retired Deacon Keith Rae leads the procession.

Right - Having removed the veil and blessed the plaque, Sharon Nell, the Vicar General, smiles for joy.



A 100 years ago the first sod of earth was turned for the Mayo Hall which was the beginning of St Hugh's.

On Saturday 15 November this event was celebrated with a procession around the block, led by retired Deacon, Keith Rae, holding a cross on high. Despite the rain about 50 parishioners processed behind a banner proclaiming the centenary of that beginning. As they braved the weather, they sang hymns such as, 'When you walk with the Lord' and 'To God be the glory.'

On their return to the hall, fellowship and bacon and egg rolls were enjoyed by the happy walkers.

On Sunday 16th a celebration service was held in the 'new' church building led by the Vicar General, Sharon Nell.

The church was packed with many past and present parishioners and clergy and all the lay ministers and servers filled the choir stalls.

In her sermon Sharon used many texts that tell believers what they should seek

to be, such as, "Be wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Matt 10:6); "Be doers of the Word" (James 1:22); "Be holy in all manner of conversation" (1 Peter 1:15) and especially, "Be thankful": (Col 3:15).

She spoke about being thankful for 100 years of worship in St Hugh's... and being thankful in all things, saying that this is a command, a matter of decision. We are to make a decision to count our blessings every day, to concentrate on all that we have to be thankful for, and, in times of trouble, to remember that God says His grace is sufficient to see us through.

Keith Burns gave a brief overview of the history of St Hugh's, which was built on the highest point of ground, and Chesne Matthews and Roy Bowman shared the many messages received.

The service was followed by the unveiling of the centenary plaque in the Mayo hall and a delicious 'spit braai' meal in the main hall with over 140 members attending.

A cry from Open Doors



“Streams of tears flow from my eyes because my people are destroyed. My eyes will flow unceasingly, without relief, until the Lord looks down from heaven and sees. What I see brings grief to my soul because of all the women of my city!”
Lamentations 3:48-51

Please pray

- Pray for the 16m displaced Christians in sub-Saharan Africa, for safety and provision.
 - Pray that emergency food and medical care will reach believers who need it most.
 - Pray for a million names to be added to the Arise Africa petition, so governments can no longer ignore the crisis.
- Africa Surpasses 150,000 Deaths Linked to Militant Islamist Groups in the Past Decade.**

Estimates for the number of people killed in the Sudanese civil war, which began in April 2023, vary widely, with figures ranging from over 150,000 to as many as 400,000 people. The true death toll is likely much higher than official counts owing to unrecorded deaths from violence, starvation, and disease.

You and I can’t stand by while our brothers and sisters suffer. Please give today.

Every R375 could provide emergency shelter to a displaced Christian

Every R625 could supply a believer with food, clothing and medical care.

Every R1 350 could provide a month of education to a refugee child.

Nedbank Business Account (198765)
Geopende Deure - Open Doors NPC
Acc. nr. 113 750 4552

Upcoming event



St Andrew's Day Appeal 2025



Where are all the voices?

Where are all the voices who cried out against the Jews in the Gaza war?
The world leaders and media cried “foul!”, “Genocide!”, “Famine!”
But as Christians are slaughtered by the thousands by Militant Islamist groups, there is a deathly hush. A small bit in a newspaper or a quick mention on a newscast - but not the outcry one would expect.

Where are the Christian Church leaders?
Where is the United Nations? - and Francesca Albanese?
Where is the International Criminal Court of Justice?
Where is United Nations Children’s Fund?
Where is Amnesty International?
Where is Greta - what no flotilla to Sudan /Nigeria?
Where is Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders?
Where is the European Union?

Where are all the leaders who condemned Israel - Cyril Ramaphosa; Emanuel Macron; Keir Starmer; Pedro Sanchez; Recep Tayyip Erdoğan ... et al?

Where are the activists who had a lot to say such as Karim Khan and Bernie Sanders?

NMB church leaders very active



Church leaders, as part of NM Bay Civil Society Coalition, resently met with the Minister of COGTA (Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs) and his department officials, National Treasury and Business SA.

National Church Leaders’ Consultation at Bishops Court



National Church Leaders’ Consultation (NCL) met at Bishop’s Court on Thursday,12 and Friday 13 June 2025. Their discussion was about Strengthening Democracy and Human Dignity in South Africa and beyond. They met in partnership with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the meeting was chaired by Bishop Dr Sithembele Sipuka, Catholic Bishop of Mthatha and President of Southern African Council of Churches.

A copy of the statement released is available from the editor.

Plenty of choice at St Cuthbert’s Fair



Putting finishing touches to their Christmas gift stall were the ‘Faithful Flonst Team’45r of Monica Belstead, Sani Meyer and Catharine Bingle.

St Cuthbert’s Fair on Saturday 1 November was well attended and there were lots of goods on offer - especially those with a Christmas theme.

Visitors were also offered lots to eat, some magic to enjoy, plants and White Elephant bargains.

CRL draft Bill FOR SA

At times, critical moments arise that determine the future of our constitutional freedoms says Freedom of Religion SA Executive Director Michael Swain.



This is one of those times.

In a new 4-minute video, (view on www.forsa.org.za), Freedom of Religion SA Executive Director, Michael Swain, reveals clear evidence that, despite assurances to the contrary, the Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Rights Commission is indeed actively pursuing legislation to regulate religion in South Africa.

The CRL’s Section 22 Committee has produced a Draft White Paper proposing a State-appointed Religious Peer Review Council with the power to monitor, investigate, and sanction faith communities nationwide.

If implemented, the proposed system could mean that every pastor, priest, imam and rabbi would require State approval to minister — or could face suspension or sanction simply for how they live out their faith.

Make no mistake, what is being proposed is not “self-regulation.” It is State control of religion, and it strikes at the very heart of our constitutional democracy.

The White Paper may be a draft, but it exposes a clear policy direction which aligns with what the CRL Chair has been pushing for during her current and previous term. For this reason, we are convinced that we are rightly seriously concerned that this process has a predetermined outcome - state regulation of religion.

FOR SA’s mission has always been to protect and promote the right to religious freedom — not just for one faith community, but for everyone. Together, we can stand for faith, freedom, and the future of our democracy.

Thank you for continuing to partner with and standing with us to uphold and protect this vital freedom - for you and for future generations!

Sign the petition against this Bill. Go to: www.forsa.org.za