

The Vicar General writes ...

My dear Family of God,

2026!! It seems like just yesterday it was 2025 and now here we are in 2026. What will this year bring?

The turning of the calendar is more than a date change - it is a gentle invitation from God to pause, breathe, and begin again. Each New Year arrives like a fresh page, unmarked and full of possibility. It reminds us that the God who created seasons also created rhythms of renewal for our lives.

A Time to Reflect

Before we rush into resolutions or plans, the New Year invites us to look back with honesty and gratitude.

We acknowledge the joys that strengthened us, the challenges that shaped us, and the moments that reminded us of God's faithfulness.

Reflection is not about dwelling on the past but learning from it - carrying forward what is life giving and releasing what no longer serves our journey.

A Time to Reset

New beginnings are woven into the heart of Scripture. From Genesis to Revelation, God repeatedly brings light out of darkness, hope out of despair, and life out of what seemed lost. The prophet Isaiah captures this beautifully: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" New beginnings are not merely human efforts; they are divine gifts.

2026 gives us permission to reset our priorities, renew our commitments, and realign our hearts with God's purposes. It is a moment to ask: What is God inviting me to start, to stop, or to surrender?

A Time to Rebuild

Every beginning requires courage. Stepping into something new often means stepping out of what is familiar. Yet we do so with confidence because we do not walk alone. God goes before



Vicar General Sharon Nell with Bishop-elect Grant Walters.

our steps, and reminds us that even small beginnings matter.

As we enter this New Year, may we carry hope like a lantern - lighting our path and encouraging those who walk with us.

A Blessing for the Journey Ahead

May this New Year, 2026, be a season of renewal for your spirit, clarity for your mind, and peace for your heart. May God surprise you with joy, strengthen you with courage, and surround you with grace. And may every new

beginning - big or small - draw you deeper into the love of Christ, who makes all things new.

Thank you for the privileged of having been your Vicar General and now I hand over the reigns to our new Bishop - Bishop Grant - and pray God's blessing upon him as he leads us forward with hope and courage into what 2026 will bring.

Love and blessings.



Vicar General Sharon+

Looking at 2026

Praying into 2026



We pray for the Consecration and installation of Canon Grant Walters as our Bishop on 14 February.

Pray for:

- Grant and his family;
- Archbishop Thabo Makgoba as he leads the service;
- Our guest Bishops and dignitaries - for safe journeys;
- for the service and the celebration meal to run smoothly.

Also use the Prayer on pages 600-601 in the APB.

We continue to cry to the Lord for Africa

God bless Africa

Protect her children
Transform her leaders
Heal her communities
Restore her dignity
And give her peace
For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen



Sacrificial ministry honoured



Thank you for giving of your time and knowledge so freely to the Diocese

Many members of our Diocese do not realise that there is a band of dedicated people who freely give of their time, talents and knowledge to help our Diocese function properly.

These men and women have knowledge on what is needed for things such as building plans, financial investments, the archives ... and, in many cases, were involved in these areas of business before retiring.

Their dedication saves the Diocese and the staff costly mistakes, or time waiting in queues, or scrolling the Internet for who/ what/ where to get the information they need.

On Tuesday 2 December some of them were able to join the Diocesan staff for a Thank you Tea to honour them. It proved to be a wonderful, slightly noisy, morning of sharing of stories, and much laughter.

They were all given a small gift of appreciation. Sadly, Anton Rousseau said he would not be available to help from the new year as he felt he needed time to enjoy his retirement.



Ronnie Booysen;
Andre Kleinschmidt;
Rod Philip;
Anton Rousseau;
Malcolm Topper;
Ernest Moodley;
Alan Montgomery;
Anne (not in photo).

Liturgy forms Christian habits

Deon Lombard



Charles Qoto, Bishop Eddie Daniels with clergy members Vulelwa Gogo, Andrea Potgieter and Phumla Mtila at the Clergy Forum.

Last year, Bishop Eddie gave a lecture at NMU Business School on the Anglican liturgy and how it teaches leadership principles.

Our Vicar General, Sharon Nell, enjoyed it so much that she arranged a Clergy Forum for 9 December 2025. And were we glad that she did!

On that day, a group of clergy from all over the Diocese came together at St John the Baptist, Walmer, and were treated to a real pre-Christmas motivator. After the busy year, with Advent well underway, and Christmas on the horizon, this Clergy Forum became an oasis of creativity as we sat in rapt attention to Bishop Eddie’s application of our beloved Anglican liturgical history to leadership in our world.

The now retired Bishop showed that he is still most active as he took the clergy on a journey through the shape of the Eucharist and how it applies to our world even today.

The Eucharist in Anglican churches always begins with the ‘Gathering’. We open up a safe space, we practice a measure of vulnerability in the penitence, and we change the focus from ‘I’ to ‘we’. In the corporate sphere, board rooms and agendas would do well to use the gathering component of our liturgy, transforming the boardroom into something more meaningful. So too our Vestries and other meetings.

The next part of the Eucharist is ‘Listening’. The liturgy teaches us to discern the proclaimed word. We learn to be attentive, silent (it can be a real asset), and to listen out for the sub text and missing voices.

‘Responding’ is the next component. It’s the place in the service where one crosses over from hearing to doing. Through our prayers, affirmation of faith, and the sharing of the peace, we bring the world into the church. The offertory is also an important doing movement. In the world we rush from challenge to solution whereas the liturgy shows the value of pausing before responding.

‘Sharing’ is what ensues from the response. It’s a profound moment where hierarchies fall away. The world is transactional but the church liturgy is koinonia based. There’s no score keeping in the Eucharist but re-membering as the Body of Christ.

The ‘Sending’ is not a dismissal but a commissioning. We move from ‘date of next meeting’ to being intentionally sent out into the world. People leave different from when they entered. Changed. Transformed.

The liturgy creates freedom through its structure. Its defined processes dispel anxiety. Leaders do not perform but serve. And, ultimately, we become not rungs on a corporate ladder but a community.

Bishop Eddie has put a lot of intellectual property into this ‘project’ and our thanks goes to him for sharing with the Diocese.

It is an insightful and inspiring look into what Anglicanism has to offer. I am sure that our beloved retired Bishop is going to make a deep impact on those who come under his influence and mentorship in years to come. Thank you for not only imparting knowledge but sharing experiential wisdom with the people of God.

Mission District launched

Charles Qoto



Locum Priest-in-Charge of the Mission District, Sabelo Ndlebe.

On Sunday 30 November 2025 Charles and Nomonde Qoto attended the Launch Service of the Mission District, Desmond Tutu Memorial Church and the Good Samaritan Church, both being situated in Motherwell.

During the service Sabelo Ndlebe was licensed as Locum Priest-in-Charge of the two churches. The licensing was undertaken by Lulamile Ngesi, the Archdeacon of the Greater Addo Archdeaconry, who officiated on behalf of the Vicar General Sharon Nell.

“It was a Sunday afternoon well spent” said Charles after the Service.

The view from pulpit and pew

❖ During Advent iindaba is always reminded that many clergy and lay readers of the Word during services do not know the last book of the New Testament - the Revelation of John. iindaba is not sure what translation they read that has a book of ‘RevelationS’ ... but iindaba doubts if it is an authorised version.

Developments around the freedom of religion issue

Michael Swain, Executive Director of FOR SA (Freedom of Religion SA)

The Chairperson of the CRL Rights Commission’s Section 22 Committee, The Reverend Professor Musa Xulu, has now publicly resigned and convened a press conference explaining his reasons for doing so. His account provides important confirmation of concerns that FOR SA has consistently raised regarding the direction, integrity, and ultimate purpose of the Section 22 process.

According to Professor Xulu’s own account, he could no longer serve as Chair of a Committee:

- whose processes he did not control,
- whose outcomes he did not endorse,
- whose existence, he alleges, was being used to mask a predetermined agenda of State control of religion.

These statements are not minor disagreements. They represent a decisive moment of exposure which confirms what FOR SA has warned from the outset.

Please go to the FOR SA website to read the full text of Professor Xulu’s and the FOR SA statements.

Choir celebration and renewal

Lungsi Ntlokwana



The Diocesan Choir resplendent in their new uniforms.

On 18 October 2025, St Stephen’s Church Hall became a vibrant home of worship, unity, and celebration as Diocesan choirs, clergy, friends from various denominations, and community partners came together for a day dedicated to re-introduction, revival, and thanksgiving.

The event was built on a profound and heartfelt purpose - the re-introduction of the Port Elizabeth Diocesan Choir after a period of rebuilding and reflection. The day symbolised a fresh start, a renewed commitment to sacred music, and a celebration of the choir’s return as a strong, unified, and spiritually inspired musical family.

In the spirit of Psalm 95:1 - “Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation” the choir sang with revived purpose - to worship, to serve, and to uplift God’s people through the ministry of song.

The occasion also marked the launch of the Choir’s second recorded musical album, a project that reflects the dedication,

hard work, and deep faith of its members.

The event was enhanced by the presence and participation of invited guests who shared in our celebration: Mthatha Anglican Diocesan Choir; the Methodist Church Choir and the Presbyterian Church Choir, bringing ecumenical warmth and musical excellence; the Anglican Guilds, who delivered messages of support; and the clergy, whose presence brought spiritual authority, guidance, and blessing.

One of the highlights of the event was the introduction of the new choir uniforms, and the unveiling of the new choir banner. As it was revealed, the hall filled with applause and emotion, marking a milestone that reflects our identity, heritage, and future vision.

The choir expressed their gratitude to everyone who supported, attended, and contributed towards making this day an overwhelming success. May the unity and inspiration shared continue to guide us into the years ahead.

Hard work acknowledged

Jill Bromiley

After a Carol service at Stella Londt on 9 December the Rector of St Hugh’s, Andrea Potgieter, presented Joy Williams with a gift of appreciation.

Joy prepares the Stella Londt Chapel whenever St Hugh’s hold a service there. Margaret Lee, the organist, was also presented with a gift.



Joy Williams received a gift of appreciation from the Rector of St Hugh’s, Andrea Potgieter.

Tag lines!



Never count someone elses money.
It’s not the money that counts,
it’s characters and actions.

Christmas around the Diocese

Thank you everyone who sent in their Christmas celebration photos and reports. It is so good to share these with the Diocesan family - after all, that is what the *iindaba* is all about ... and, of course, the Vicar General / Bishop's letter (Ad Laos) each month.

St Saviour's Nativity and lunch

Desre Foaden



The nativity scene with all the participants.

The actors hardly stuck to the script and arrived and left the stage at will, but what a fun Nativity it was!

St Saviour's members and friends gathered in the hall on Sunday evening 30 November to enjoy adults and children performing the age-old story of the birth of the Christ-child, done a little differently. It was fun for all.



A full hall at the Pensioner's Christmas lunch.

The hall at St Saviour's was so full that two tables needed to be placed on the stage.

Pensioners who normally attend the monthly lunch arrived in full force (although the Diocesan staff, who also attended, can hardly be called pensioners!) to enjoy a delicious and abundant, three course meal.

Nine Lessons and Carols end celebration year

Lindsay Woods



On the afternoon of Saturday 6 December 2025, the last event of the 200th Anniversary of the Cathedral, a wonderful Nine Lessons and Carols, was organised by the Choir, headed by our outstanding Organist, Justin Stone.

With a few extra people in the choir, plus the GQ Brass Quintet, we were all set for an unforgettable afternoon. The Quintet blended beautifully with the organ.

From the traditional first verse of Once in Royal David's City sung by a soloist, joined by the rest of the Choir, as they processed from the back to the front of the Church, until the Choir and Clergy processed out, to the harmonious sounds of the Quintet, the congregation were able to leave with full and happy hearts.

Holy Spirit - blessed by Spar

Oyintanda Kombela



In front surrounded by all the gift parcels are - Andile Ngetu, Spar manager Lindelwa Sidlabane, Deacon Elizabeth Rasmani, Fundile Mkhutswana, the Rector of Holy Spirit - Xola Nodwele, and Mark Connellar of Daku Spar.

On 14 December 2025, the manager of Daku Spar visited Holy Spirit in KwaZakhele and presented the church with hampers to give to our senior citizens for Christmas.

Mark Connellar, the manager of Daku Spar, sponsored the church with the hampers after Fundile Mkhutswana had organised this wonderful project.

Senior's brunch was fun and laughter

Jill Bromily



Cheers! Senior parishioners of St Hugh's raise their glasses as they toast life!

After the morning service at St Hugh's the senior members of the parish adjourned to the hall to enjoy a wonderful brunch arranged by the parish.

As always, when friends get together there was much laughter and noise as they shared stories - after all, they only see one another for a short while after the Sunday services, but seldom manage to slow down and chat as they were able to do at the brunch.

Carols ring out from St Peter's South End once again

Shirmell Newman



Our Vicar General, Sharon Nell, bedecked in Mountie hat, was co-opted into the band at St Peter's for the Carol service.

On 16 December 2025 a Carol Service was held at St Peter's heritage site, appropriately on the Day of Reconciliation. A blessed time for those who attended as they reminisced about times when they were part of the worshipping community. Traditional carols were sung, accompanied by the Salvation Army band. Thank you to all who came out to be part of this very special service. It's been 53 years since a service was held in this 'church building'. Praise God for new memories made.

Circle us, Lord!

Colleen Callahan

Christ the Centre...Christ the Light... Christ the One who surrounds and fills us with His peace and loving presence: these are some of the images echoed in the ancient prayers of Celtic Christians, which we offered at the Celtic Eucharist Service at St John's in Walmer on Sunday evening, 14 December.

The soft glow of candle-light, the peace-filled strains of the worship led by the group of musicians and singers, beautiful prayers inspired by Celtic spirituality, scripture readings focusing on our ever-present Creator God (Psalm 139) and the Light of Christ (John 1: 3-5), all made for a very moving and beautiful experience of the peace and love of Jesus.

The service was led by Retired Priest, Angela Brown. In his sermon-reflection, retired Priest Barry Sendall, encouraged us to not only regard Christ's light as our guide in the darkness, but to open ourselves to the light of Christ within us, as its transforming touch empowers us to be bearers of Christ's light and love to others.

Many who attended the Celtic Eucharist have shared how they were touched by the love of Jesus and enfolded in His peace as they encountered Him in the silence and contemplation which suffused the service.



Jane Herbert and Eleanor Palmer are flanked by retired Priests Angela Brown and Barry Sendall at the Celtic Eucharist.

Two 'must' reads for Christians

Nabeel Qureshi describes his dramatic journey from Islam to Christianity.

Nabeel Qureshi first began to study the Bible in order to challenge it and, incredibly, came to know Jesus as a result. In this book he describes his dramatic journey from Islam to Christianity, complete with friendships, investigations, and supernatural dreams along the way. First printed in 2014 and available on various shops at an average price of R399.

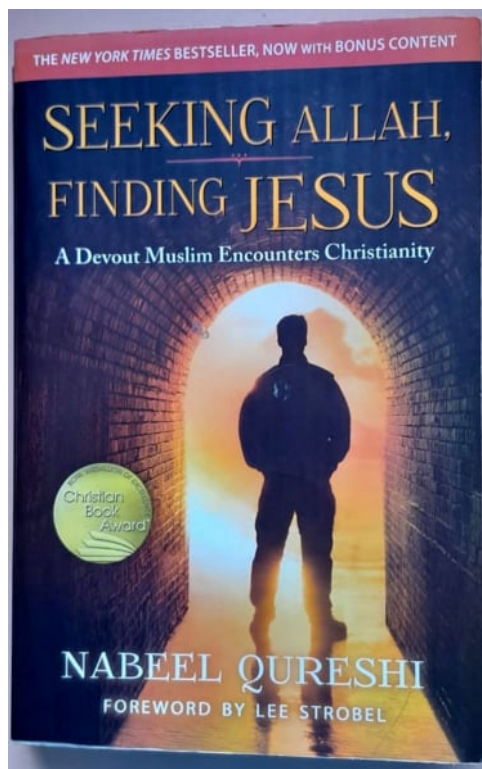
Editor's note:

Having read this book over the Christmas holidays I felt I needed to follow on with a check on the life of Muhammed so I read the following book -

The Story of Mohammed - Islam unveiled - by Harry Richardson

He presents itself as a critical examination of Prophet Muhammad's life to explain modern Islam, arguing it's a political system with roots in 7th-century conquest and jihad, challenging conventional views and offering an account of Islam's political and militant aspects.

Harry Richardson draws directly from the foundational texts of Islam. He explains how they became Islamic holy canon in The Qur'an, Tawrat · Zabur



(Psalms) · Injil · Sahifah (Scrolls).

It made me understand what is happening in the World at present!

I have a .pdf copy of the book (101 pages) on my computer if any readers would like me to send a copy to them.

A call to prayer for Christians in Iran

Open Doors, In Context and many other Christian Watch groups are sending out an urgent cry for prayer for our brothers and sisters in Iran.

Official figures are given as 1½% of the population being Christian, but the underground churches estimate that well over 1 000 000 with new converts rising - especially among the women. Armenians, Assyrians and Chaldeans represent the more traditional groups and represent about 90% of believers.

Thousands of protestors are being shot by the Iranian regime headed by the Ayatollah Khomeini.

Green Piece

Let's make 2026 our year of enviro-projects!

Having attended a meeting hosted by NSRI (National Sea Rescue Institute) and with a guest speaker Jake Keeton of Raggy Charters I was again reminded on how important it is for the church to become involved in environmental projects.

I wondered when last any of our clergy preached on saving our planet. We do have Season of Creation in our Liturgy but do any of our parishes use the material?

A few projects parishes can adopt for 2026

- Do beach/street/environmental clean-ups. Clean the blocks around your church buildings!
- Encourage youth and /junior church members to become involved in encouraging their schools to be more

environmentally friendly;

- Stop buying plastic bags at the supermarket. Instead always take your enviro-friendly carry bags;
- Stop using polystyrene containers for takeouts - there are enviro safe alternatives ... and that goes for utensils too;
- plant indigenous trees to combat petrol emissions and bring peace to the surrounding areas (yes, they do help bring peace - beside the much needed shade)!
- join the fight against fracking, ship-to-ship bunkering so close to our islands, off-shore drilling along our coast;
- support the fight for ropeless fishing which will stop the killing of sharks and dolphins in the nets.

Feeding the hungry hundreds



Above - Members of St Francis Xavier busy packing the TV Trays and Spring Rolls that had been ordered.

Right - Sweating it out in the very hot kitchen.

The word went out that on Friday 5 December the parishioners of St Francis Xavier would be selling TV Trays and Spring Rolls as take-aways. Only pre-orders would be served in rallies beginning at 16h00.

As hot as the day proved to be the cooks and packing helpers were kept extremely busy as they produced, and sold, 230 TV Trays and 150 Spring Rolls.

What a mammoth task. Well done St Francis Xavier.



If you're blessed with wealth

:<https://uschecknews24h.com/2roydu>

At a lavish black-tie gala in Manhattan, surrounded by billionaires, champagne glasses, and egos large enough to fill a concert hall, Rieu took the stage to accept a Lifetime Achievement Award — but instead of giving the polite, predictable speech everyone expected, the Dutch maestro spoke from the heart.

He didn't thank sponsors, or talk about fame, or deliver a rehearsed note of gratitude.

Instead, he looked out at a room filled with the world's wealthiest — including Mark Zuckerberg and several Wall Street moguls — and said:

"If you are blessed with wealth, use it to bless others.

No man should build palaces while children have no homes.

If you have more than you need, it is not truly yours — it belongs to those in need."

Editor: Frankie Simpson Tel/WhatsApp +27 84 742 5514

e-mail: iindaba@anglicandiocesepe.org.za Web: [www. https://anglicandiocesepe.org.za/](https://anglicandiocesepe.org.za/)

iindaba is the vehicle for sharing your parish news with the rest of the diocesan family.

Please send contributions and photos to the editor.

Deadline: 6th of the month prior to publication.

Articles may be reproduced but credit must be given to **iindaba**.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Vicar General nor the editor.

Layout / design : frankie

