



The Dean writes ...

My dear Family of God,

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

June is Youth Month.

Youth Month is a time of remembrance and renewal.

We honour the courage of young people who stood against injustice, and we celebrate the vibrant faith of today's youth who carry the torch of hope into the future.

In every generation, God raises up young men and women to be witnesses of His kingdom.

This month is not only about looking back—it is about calling today's youth to stand firm in Christian principles.

Courage Rooted in Faith

History reminds us of young voices that refused to be silenced.

Their bravery echoes the biblical witness of Daniel, who stood firm in Babylon, and Esther, who risked her life to save her people.

In the same way, today's youth are called to resist compromise and live courageously for Christ. Courage is not the absence of fear—it is faith that overcomes fear.

The Gift of Youth Today

The church does not wait for young people to grow older before they matter. They matter now.

Their creativity, resilience, and compassion are gifts to the body of Christ. In classrooms, workplaces, and communities, young believers are shaping the world with integrity and love.

Youth Month reminds us that the church is strongest when every generation stands together.

Anchored in God's Word

Scripture declares: *"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."*

(1 Timothy 4:12)

This verse is not a suggestion—it is a commission.

It calls young people to live boldly, rooted in God's Word. When faith is anchored in Scripture, it becomes unshakable, even in the storms of life.

Living Out Christian Principles

Youth Month is a reminder that faith must be lived, not only spoken.

Youth Month: A Call to Stand Firm in Christ



Answering a call for help during the floods, St Saviour's made extra pots of soup. Here the Rector, Dean Sharon Nell, gets some assistance from Archdeacon Claire Phelps stirring the pot.

- Integrity: Choosing honesty even when it costs.

- Service: Giving time and energy to uplift others.

- Purity: Guarding heart and mind against compromise.

- Love: Reflecting Christ's compassion in every relationship.

These principles are not burdens—they are the marks of a life transformed by Christ.

A Generation of Witnesses

Youth Month is more than commemoration—it is commissioning.

God equips young people to stand firm, resist the currents of culture, and shine as witnesses of His kingdom.

Every act of faith, every stand for truth, and every word of encouragement builds

a testimony that cannot be silenced.

Conclusion

As we commemorate Youth Month, let those of us who are older, encourage young believers to rise with courage, to live with integrity, and to shine with the light of Christ.

May this generation be known not for compromise, but for conviction.

May they stand firm in Christian principles, and may their witness inspire the world to see Jesus.

Much love and blessings,

Dean Sharon Nell

Youth Day 16 June



Jesus grew in wisdom, physical stature, and in favour with both God and people.

Luke 2:52.

Prayers for our Youth

- Pray for our youth who don't know Jesus, that they will receive Him into their hearts as Lord and Saviour of their lives.

- Pray for those who know Him but have decided to take another path, pray for a spiritual awakening, so that they will return back to you, Lord. For you love them and are waiting to receive them back with open arms.

- Pray that they will have hope and peace in the Lord and that they would be set free from every spirit of fear, anxiety, stress, frustration, depression and suicide in the name of Jesus. May they *'be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving'*, let their requests be made known to God.

- Pray for restoration of relationships in homes and the lives of our youth.

- For those who are daily walking with Him - pray that they will not let any person despise their youth, but be an example for the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, and in purity. Pray that the Father will bless and keep them, overwhelm them with His grace and empower them by His Spirit.

- Pray for boldness, courage, strength, and wisdom for our youth to share and live out their faith in their school, on their sports team/ extracurricular activity, at their work, and wherever they go.

- Pray that they will have a spirit of humility and servitude in Christ Jesus.

- Pray for equipping and for confidence for parents of our youth to disciple them.

- Pray for salvation for parents of our youth who do not have a relationship with Jesus.

Changing the name of our Diocese

At our 2024 Diocesan Synod, a motion was put forward recommending a change of name for the Diocese of Port Elizabeth, on the basis that the present name does not accurately represent the whole diocese. Following Synod 2024, a committee chaired by Dean Sharon Nell was tasked with advancing the process.

All parishes were approached and

asked to forward names for consideration by the diocese.

At the end of the process, three names have been presented to the Diocesan Council, namely

- The Diocese of Christ the Redeemer
- The Diocese of the Holy Cross
- The Diocese of Living Waters

Over a few weeks parishes were asked to vote for their choice of name and let Dean Sharon Nell know by 18 May.

Bishop Grant will then submit the choice of name to the next sitting of Synod of Bishops in September for their approval.

We look forward to hearing the people's choice for our Diocesan name.

When the floods came

Parish of the Good Shepherd
Rob Berhns



Above - What was left of a shack;
Above right - Water surrounding a parishioner's house;
Right - Some of the helpers who were able to distribute soup to the community.



St Saviour's
Desre Foaden



Some of the blankets and groceries collected by St Hugh's members and supplied to GroGro for the informal settlement between Sherwood and Theescombe.



Above - Chris of MTR Smit Children's Home receiving some buckets of soup from Corinne Gin and Gail Smith at St Saviour's;
Right - Even Bishop Grant was caught stirring ... the soup pot!



St Stephen's
Xhanti Mhlontlo



Above left - The notice that went out for help.
Above - Joyce Maqhubela and Vuyokazi Nkevu-Langbooi are seen with the Rector of St Stephen's, Xhanti Mhlontlo and his wife Phumza.
In response to the floods which affected many of the St Stephen's members, plus many others in New Brighton, the Rector turned to social media and donations came in.

The view from pulpit and pew

❖ *iindaba* extends condolences to the family and friends of Alan Montgomery who passed away on 9 May. May they know the peace of Jesus enfoldng them as they mourn.

❖ *iindaba* asks prayers for:

- Peter Hopper, former Diocesan Secretary-Treasurer, who has had a stroke and is undergoing treatment;
- Zola Nanana, Priest-in-charge of St Andrew's, who is recuperating after surgery;
- Debbie Koenig, who is recovering from surgery. She is the wife of the Rector of All Saints' in Kabega Park, Joshua Koenig.

❖ *iindaba* is sad to report that our present Tresurer-Secretary has resigned as from the end of May. We wish her many blessings for her future.

Clergy on the move

• Zolani Mqoqi has been appointed as the Diocesan Youth Fellowship chaplain.

Helping Care Project

Carol Brand



Lillian St John formally handed over items to Donna, representing the hospitals project.
A meaningful act of generosity was recently shared by the parish of St Paul's, Parsons Hill, through a donation drive in support of the Livingstone/Provincial Care Project. The donations included bedding, pillows, magazines, and books, all of which will help to bring comfort, dignity, and a sense of home to those using our state hospitals.
This initiative reflects the parish's ongoing commitment to compassionate outreach, reminding us that even small acts of kindness can make a significant difference in the lives of others

Still strong at 106

Pam Berning



Retired Priest Pam Berning with Mary Watkins as she celebrated her 106th birthday.

DONATION DRIVE

for flood victims

ALL ITEMS TO BENEFIT THOSE IN NEED

Working Together

TO HELP THOSE AFFECTED BY RECENT FLOODING

- NON PERISHABLE ITEMS,
- BLANKETS,
- CLOTHING

DONATIONS CAN BE BROUGHT TO ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH NEW BRIGHTON

92/94 GRATTAN STREET 0414856009

Tag lines!



One of the advantages of being disorganized is that one is always having surprising discoveries.

‘Blind faith’ changing lives in Lesotho

Nicky Willemse



Claire Phelps, the Rector at St John’s, welcomes Pieter and Keila Mierke, a missionary couple from Africa4Jesus, Lesotho.

“People think missionaries are holy people. I used to joke and tell people: you’re looking at the most holy person. I’m so full of holes that I need Christ daily to fill them.”

So says Pieter Mierke, who, together with his wife Keila, has spent the past 15 years developing the Africa4Jesus base in the Malealea mountains of Lesotho – building ministries for prisoners, the elderly, children, and unreached villages, where they identify and disciple local leaders.

They recently visited St John’s in Walmer – which sends teams on short-term mission trips to Lesotho – where Pieter shared his testimony.

The couple moved to Lesotho in “blind faith” in 2011 with their two sons, Jon and Jaime, then just eight and nine, with whatever could fit into their old bakkie – and just R500 in their pocket.

What led them there?

For several years, even after he was married, Pieter battled alcoholism. Before becoming addicted, he had always felt shy and awkward, and alcohol gave him confidence. “I fell for the lie of the devil,” he said, until God spoke to him very clearly one day: “Choose me and I will give you life. Or choose the life you are living and I will give you death.”

This struck a chord with Pieter and he desperately sought a pastor to talk to. “I didn’t want to die and go to hell.”

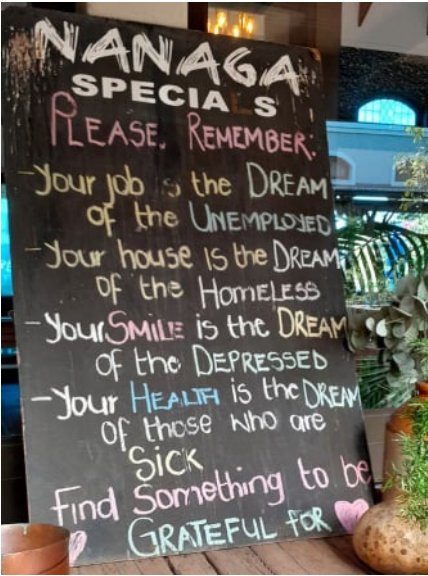
When he found one – the young pastor at Keila’s church – he arrived drunk, but the pastor still saw him and listened. Pieter repented and accepted Christ. Although he had one last drink that evening – his last ever – he woke up knowing God had changed his heart.

“He saved me from alcohol and guilt,” said Pieter. But he also felt he had been saved for something – to serve and be obedient in Christ.

And so his journey towards Lesotho began. “I just remember trusting God in every way and He never failed us,” he said. “He used fishermen, He used me ... just someone who’s willing to go.”

The needs in the area are great, and the Mierkes are hoping a medical team will visit soon, particularly optometrists and dentists. “Our ministry is open to all who feel called to be involved.”

To find out more, visit: a4jlesotho.org



Gratitude!
The board at Nanaga shop is a very good reminder to everyone that no matter how hard-up they think they are there are many who would love what we have. Let us give thanks every day for what we have.

Support for Soup Kitchen Project

Mandla Tofo



Members of the Cathedral MU, together with members of Holy Spirit, display the provisions received for the soup kitchen.

On 3 May, members of Holy Spirit in KwaZakhele warmly welcomed, in a spirit of fellowship and Christian unity, members of the Cathedral St Mary the Virgin Mothers’ Union during the Eucharist Service. The delegation was accompanied by their Rector, Fumi Kula, and his wife, Tembela, as well as his assistant Priest, Gaxamba Zolani, and his wife.

The congregation of Holy Spirit expressed great joy and appreciation for the generous donation of groceries received from St Mary’s. The donation is intended to support the parish MU soup kitchen project, which has been playing a significant role in alleviating poverty in KwaZakhele Township.

The soup kitchen initiative was established in January 2025 and has since supported many vulnerable families and households in the community. Despite its positive impact, the project continues to face challenges in securing a consistent supply of ingredients needed to sustain its operations.

Through the dedication and commitment of the Holy Spirit MU members, who regularly contribute donations, the project has continued to serve those in need and provide meals to community members facing hardship.

The Rector of Hoy Spirit, Xolo Nodwele, and Mrs Malgas expressed their sincere gratitude to the Cathedral MU for their kindness and generosity. They also offered prayers for continued support and blessings upon all those who contribute towards the success of the project.

The Holy Spirit MU continues to appeal to individuals, businesses, churches, and community organisations for grocery donations and food ingredients to help sustain the soup kitchen. Many members of the community rely on this initiative for daily support, and continued assistance will ensure that the project remains a source of hope and relief to those in need.

Sharing the gospel through personal testimony



With Brian Helsby are Karen Weiss, Archdeacon Claire Phelps and Vanessa Smith.

Brian Helsby of Heartlines spoke at a gathering of Christian leaders on how to share the Gospel in today’s Meta modern time.

The gathering of about 80 leaders took place at St John’s in Walmer on Friday 8 May and Brian said that the new way of evangelism is through sharing your story, but, that you have to first listen to the other person’s story to gain their confidence. He said that listening is a powerful tool as well as an act of love. We have to listen to their pain, to be gentle, kind and loving as we show that we are interested in why they don’t believe in God.

As we share our story in Christ, we must be truthful, never exaggerating - and always discipline gently.

Retired clergy enjoyed tea



The ed is not too sure about Archdeacon Claire Phelps being the person to contact for safe church matters - well, just look at that tea pot! However, enjoying the tea for retired clergy were Mtutuzeli and Nokuzola Belu, Hazel and Richard Goodfellow, Keith and Denise Rae and Sheila and Howard Lancaster.



Also enjoying the retired clergy tea were Lawrie and Isobel Wilmot, Vivian and Michael Brown, Pam Berning and Carole Meyer, with Shirley and Ben Durham standing.

Retired clergy and their spouses gathered at St Saviours on Thursday 23 April to enjoy tea and meet Bishop Grant.

Dean Sharon Nell, welcomed them saying they were the foundation on which this Diocese was built. She then handed over to Bishop Grant who thanked them for their continued ministry, and for their spouses who support and pray for them.

Tea was then served while Bishop Grant circulated in order to meet each of them.

Abigail meets the clergy spouses



Abigail Walters (center back) with some of the clergy spouses who enjoyed the meet and greet tea.

Having begun the afternoon with an icebreaker to relax everyone, Abigail Walters first gave a short testimony on her reaction when Bishop Grant told her he’d been asked to allow his name to go forward to our Diocesan Elective Assembly.

She then spoke on how important to clergy the support spouses give to them is, and how often they have to compromise or make sacrifices. She assured the spouses that God knows their fears, their joys, and that He loves them. She said that He cares for them and that they are here for a reason - that God wants them to be who they are - to be themselves and to find their ministry because God has a plan for them and has chosen them to help grow His church.

Dean Sharon Nell also contributed to the fun of the afternoon by having everyone join in a challenge as to how well one hears something and how accurately one passes it on.

Testimony of an unwavering journey with Autism

Submitted by Mandla Tofo

In a deeply moving and eye-opening testimony, Nobathembu Qosho shared her profound personal journey of raising a child with autism, transforming her lived experience into a lifelong mission of love, education, and community advocacy. Her story, told with both vulnerability and conviction, offered a rare and intimate glimpse into the realities of parenting a child with a neurodevelopmental disorder, and the extraordinary calling that can emerge from it. Nobathembu recounted how the diagnosis of her child set her on a path of intensive learning about autism, a condition that shapes how individuals perceive and interact with the world. Rather than allowing the challenges to overwhelm her, she embraced them, allowing the experience to mould her into a more compassionate, patient, and devoted mother.

Yet her devotion did not stop at her own doorstep. Fuelled by a desire to make a tangible difference, she stepped beyond the role of parent to become a teacher and a pioneering force in special needs education. She went on to establish a dedicated school that provides care, understanding, and tailored learning for children living with autism, a sanctuary born from one mother's refusal to accept that her child, and others like him, should be left without support.

Nobathembu did not shy away from the hardships that accompany raising a child with autism. She spoke candidly about the difficulties that shift and evolve as the



child grows, from the early years of diagnosis and adjustment to the ongoing demands of adolescence and beyond. She emphasized that autism is not a condition that can be cured through conventional medicine, traditional rituals, or spiritual interventions. Instead, she urged her audience to recognize that the true path forward lies not in searching for a cure, but in committing to acceptance, understanding, and unwavering support.

In a powerful appeal to the faith community, Nobathembu argued that the Church and the broader community stand to gain profound healing through the act of caring for children with autism. She shared how she herself draws immense strength and purpose from her own child and from every learner she

teaches, describing them not as burdens, but as sources of inspiration and spiritual growth. Her message was clear: these children are not broken, and they do not need fixing, they need inclusion, patience, and love.

Nobathembu concluded by issuing a passionate call to action to fellow believers and community members. She urged churches and communities to open their doors wide, to create spaces of genuine accommodation and warmth for parents navigating the often-isolating journey of raising a child with autism, and for the children themselves who deserve to be seen, valued, and embraced.

In her words and in her work, Nobathembu stands as a testament to the transformable power of a mother's love, and a reminder that when one person dares to lead with compassion, entire communities can be changed.

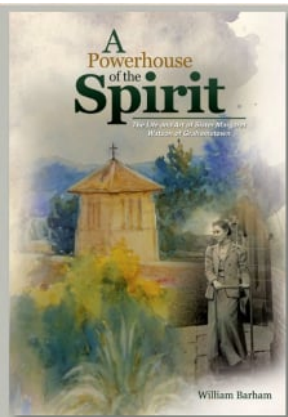
Book review - ISBN 978-1-991458-07-0

A Powerhouse of the Spirit

by William Barham



William Barham with members of the Community of the Resurrection - Mother Keke, Jenny and Sisters Neheng and Zelma in front of a display of some of Sr Margaret's work.



The Community of the Resurrection of our Lord Associates gathered at St Peter's, Makhanda, on Saturday 25 April to hear William Barham share the story of his journey as he gathered the facts about Sr Margaret CR.

The culmination of this journey was the launching of his book about this remarkable woman, Margaret Watson, who at the age of 27 in 1907, left a relatively easy life in England and moved to join the CR Sisters in Grahamstown (now Makhanda).

The Life of Rule in those days was much harder than today. Although Margaret was an artist, this was not considered part of the vocation of a Nun, so she was sent to work in St Monica's Home in Queenstown (Komani).

However through ill-health she was sent to recuperate on a farm - and so began her fantastic use of a God-given talent of painting ... from the magnificent fresco above the Apse in St Mary and All Angels Chapel in Makhanda; the panels in St Michael and All Angels in Schauderville; 'St Francis among the Mine Dumps' in Christ the King in Sophiatown ... and many, many more - large and small. A fascinating life worth reading about in this easy-read book.

R375 from www.nisc.co.za or sales@nisc.co.za

Singing in the rain

Claire Phelps

Even in the midst of the recent heavy rains, there was plenty of laughter and joy as St John's staff members took a light-hearted moment to "sing in the rain" while dressing up in some of the beautiful evening gowns donated to our monthly Clothing Sale.

Behind the fun is a meaningful purpose: every sale helps support the outreach ministry of the parish's Centre of Concern, which assists those in need within our community. We are deeply grateful for the generous donations and ongoing support that make this ministry possible. A little rain certainly couldn't dampen our spirits!

With the Rector of St John's, Claire Phelps (second right), are Pinkie Libala, Bev Sanderson and Palesa Manentsa, who were "singing in the rain."



Upcoming events!

Please send iindaba notices of parish events which are open to the public so that members of other parishes can support them. Remember that they need to be in by 6th of month for the following month. In fact, the earlier the better!



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