



The Dean writes ...

Dear Diocesan Family of God,

In Song of Songs, chapter 2 and verses 11 – 12, we read *"See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come..."*

September heralds the start of Spring and with it comes a glorious reminder of God's artistry and His promise of renewal.

The dull greys of winter give way to vibrant greens, radiant blossoms, and skies painted with light. Each colour, each fragrance, each gentle breeze whispers of the Creator's love and faithfulness.

Spring is more than a change of season—it is a parable written in creation.

The flowers that push through the soil remind us that life can emerge even from places that seemed barren.

The trees clothed in fresh leaves remind us that God restores what was weary.

The colours of Spring are not only a delight to our senses but a testimony that God makes all things new.

Psalm 65 proclaims: "You crown the year with Your bounty; Your wagon tracks overflow with abundance."

This abundance is not only seen in nature but also in the grace that God pours into our lives. Just as the earth is renewed, so too does the Lord renew our spirits, our communities, and our hope.

Spring invites us to live with expectancy.

It calls us to sow seeds of kindness, to nurture relationships, and to reflect the beauty of Christ in our words and deeds.

The colours of the season remind us

God's promise of renewal



Is the Bishop being taken for a ride? Dean Sharon Nell revs up this monster machine in preparation for taking Bishop Grant around the block during the St Saviour's Carnival.

that the Christian life is not drab or weary, but vibrant with joy, hope, and love.

As a diocesan family, may this Spring be a season of renewal in our faith and fellowship.

Let us rejoice together in the God who brings life out of death, hope out of despair, and beauty out of ashes.

May the colours of Spring inspire us to be a people of light, reflecting the splendour of Christ in our community.

Much love and blessings

Dean Sharon+

September SOB and Provincial Synod



Lord of all wisdom, you led your people through the wilderness in the cloud by day and the fire by night. Grant to all who gather in the Provincial Synod of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa the grace to listen to your direction, the assurance of your Spirit, and the joy to celebrate your presence.

Guide the minds of all bishops, clergy, and lay members. Help them make choices that honor you and serve your church well.

Please pray for wisdom for:

- Bishop Grant attending Synod of Bishops 17-19 September;
- and our representatives to Synod 20-23 September -

Clergy: Deon Lombard, Lulamile Ngesi, Andrea Potgieter;

Lay: Charles Qoto, Advocate Méchelle Beneke, Corinne Gin.

Getting to know some of the parishes

Claire Phelps



The long, and the short, and the tall - Seen with Bishop Grant at Clergy School were our priests Robin Berhns, Ernest Cengani, Lindelwa Mama and Pakama Plaatjies.

On Thursday, 23 July, clergy from across the Anglican Diocese of Port Elizabeth gathered for our Clergy Forum at St John's, Walmer.

The day began with a fun and engaging "Amazing Race" around Port Elizabeth, as teams followed clues, explored where parish churches are in different locations, and worked together to make their way back to St John's. There was plenty of laughter, healthy competition, and fellowship along the way.

Following the race, Bishop Grant shared a presentation entitled "Amazing Race, Filled with Grace," reflecting on our shared journey of faith and ministry. Just as the teams navigated challenges and discoveries throughout the morning, we were reminded that God's grace accompanies us in every step of our calling.

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the day such a memorable time of learning, encouragement, and fellowship.

Tag lines!



You must remember you are
unique -
just like everybody else.

*I praise you because I am
fearfully and wonderfully made.
Ps 149:14*

Getting it right

*Please note that incorrect
contact details were given
in the last iindaba for the
following:*

Reuben Africa: Work 4 A Living
Reubenafrica@gmail.com
073 502 5647

Sue Hagemann: Harambee
Work Readiness Programme
Sue@harambee.co.za
0824176187

The view from pulpit and pew

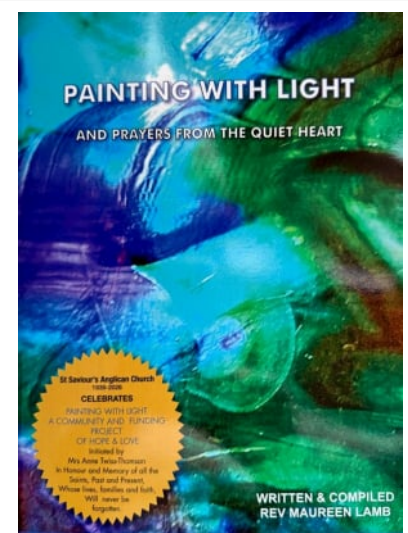
❖ *iindaba* asks that readers begin praying for Synod of Bishops 17 to 19 September, followed by Provincial Synod 20-23 September. This is the highest decision making body of ACSA and needs to be covered with soaking prayer.

Restructuring Diocesan Office

- The position of Diocesan Treasurer/ Secretary has been restructured with Dean Sharon Nell taking over the duties of Diocesan Administrator;
- and Mr Mike Smith (retired CA) in holding position of Diocesan Financial Administrator.

Clergy on the move

- Archdeacon Deon Lombard moves to St Francis Xavier as Rector - with the retirement of Brian Axcell;
 - Thembele Sixaba moves to Alexandria parish;
 - Nomphele Mbuzwana will move to become Priest in Charge of St Boniface Middelburg, St Agnes Noupport and St Andrews Steynsburg;
 - Nizam Kader moves to St Saviour's as Rector;
- Dean Sharon Nell will become an Assistant Priest at St John the Baptist.



**History of the stained glass
windows at St Saviour's. R130
available from St Saviour's
office.**

Media hitting all platforms



Standing - Bishop Grant and Shaun Gouws (Web page) and sitting Debbie Vencencie (Facebook), Anda Nanana (Instagram etc) and Frankie Simpson (iindaba) attended the Media meeting.

The need for our Diocese to begin using the various media platforms was discussed at a meeting on 4 August.

Anda Nanana has been appointed to make sure the Diocese features on Instagram, TikTok and the other media platforms that the younger generations spend their time viewing. Once he has created the accounts, he will need input/photos/notices of events from parishes so that he can share them. Debbie will also appreciate photos and notices to go onto our Facebook page.

All available at the R5 table



Were it the bags of oranges and pumpkin pieces being sold for R5 each ... or the clergy? Seen having a lot of fun at the R5 table at St Saviour's Carnival were Karen du Preez, Claire Phelps and Fumi Kula at the back and Sharon Nell and Bishop Grant sitting.

Holy Spirit Patronal

Mandla Tofo



The Rector of Holy Spirit, Xola Nodwele with winning team leaders Fundile Mkutswana, Andile Ngetu, Monde Kombela and retired Priest, Victor Mtshingila.

On 12 July, Holy Spirit Church joyfully celebrated its Patronal Festival, a memorable occasion that brought together parishioners in worship, fellowship, and a shared commitment to the growth and mission of the Church.

One of the highlights of the celebration was the Cell Group Fund raising competition, when the various cell groups presented the proceeds of their fund raising initiatives. The competition reflected the dedication, creativity, and generosity of the parishioners, who worked tirelessly in support of a common cause. While some groups raised more funds than others, every contribution was a meaningful expression of stewardship and commitment to the life of the church.

The day was filled with excitement as members enjoyed inspiring presentations, exchanged ideas, strengthened relationships through fellowship, and shared delicious meals in a warm and joyful atmosphere.

Following the announcement of the results, Malihambe Cell Group was awarded third place, uKhanyiso Cell Group secured second place, and Ilitye Lembombo Cell Group took first place after an outstanding fund raising effort. The parish extends its heartfelt congratulations to all the groups on their remarkable achievements. Their dedication, teamwork, and commitment are worthy of recognition and serve as an inspiration to the entire congregation, all of whose hard work and enthusiasm contributed significantly to the success of the event.

The Patronal Festival was far more than a competition, it was a celebration of unity, faith, and collective service. It demonstrated what can be accomplished when parishioners work together with a common purpose, strengthening both the spiritual and communal life of the church. As Holy Spirit looks to the future, the spirit of cooperation and generosity displayed during this year's Patronal Festival will continue to inspire the parish in its mission and ministry.

Reaching out to those in need

Mandla Tofo

Nelson Mandela once declared, "While poverty persists, there is no true freedom." These words found profound expression on Nelson Mandela Day when the Holy Spirit Mothers' Union embodied the spirit of this call by extending their service far beyond the walls of the Church.

Traditionally serving within the perimeter of the Church, the MU chose this occasion to take their mission directly to the people of KwaZakhele, making food stops at residents' centres from early morning until evening.

Their preparations began before 08h00, and their dedication saw them serving the community until 17h00, a full day of selfless giving that truly captured the essence of Mandela's 67 minutes of service.

This act of outreach was more than charity; it was a living testimony to the Church's role as Jesus Christ's witness to a world in need. They demonstrated that faith, when put into action, becomes a powerful force for healing and hope.

Some Anglicans who were passing by, such as Mr A Ngetu and the



Members of the Holy Spirit MU hard at work cooking meals for hungry members of the community.

Revd Titi, stopped and witnessed this remarkable display of kindness, engaging in meaningful conversation with the MU members as they served.

Their presence portrayed the unity and shared commitment to social justice that binds the Church together. The Holy Spirit Mothers' Union has set an inspiring example for us all. They remind us that true freedom is not merely the absence of oppression, but the presence of compassion, dignity, and care for our neighbours.

AWF leadership licensed

Charles Qoto



Bishop Grant and Dean Sharon Nell stand behind newly licensed AWF leadership, Sindiswa Kitsana, Judy Lamani and Francine Ferguson.

On Thursday 13 August during Morning Service before the Bishop's Chapter started, the members of the executive of the diocesan Anglican Women's Fellowship were licensed by Bishop Grant.

The three in leadership are:

President - Judy Lamani,
Deputy President - Francine Ferguson, and

Alternate Deputy - Sindiswa Kitsana.
May the Lord bless their work.

Strengthening their relationship with God

Carol Brand

St Paul's Church hosted a successful and inspiring Ladies Brunch, bringing together women for a morning of fellowship, worship, and empowerment.

The event featured vibrant guest speaker Rochle Bloem, who captivated the audience with an uplifting message encouraging women to strengthen their relationship with God, comparing it to tuning a radio to the correct frequency to establish a clear connection.

The programme began with a warm welcome, devotional message, and powerful opening prayer by Glennis Jacobs, which set a spirit-filled atmosphere for the day. The morning was filled with joyful moments, including singing, dancing, and heartfelt fellowship, leaving attendees encouraged and inspired.

We extend sincere gratitude to the



The wonderful crowd of ladies who enjoyed the Ladies Brunch at St Paul's.

organising committee, volunteers, and everyone who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the event a memorable success, as well as to every lady who attended and contributed to the wonderful spirit of the gathering.

I'm convinced a *Tell Them Theory* would make the world a better place:

Waiters were friendly? *Tell them.*

Friends look good? *Tell them.*

Been inspired? *Tell them.*

Our lawyers licensed

Claire Phelps



Dean Sharon Nell, Bishop Grant and the BEO, Fumi Kula with our newly licesed legal team -

Deputy Chancellor: Adv Mechelle Beneke SC (LL.B LL.M);

Diocesan Chancellor : Canon Adv Lee-Anne Ah Shene B. Juris, LL.B, LL.M;

Deputy Registrar: Mrs Leigh Bosman LL.B (NMMU);

Diocesan Registrar: Miss Kyla Gallant LL.B (NMU).

When Bishop Grant was consecrated as our Bishop, he 'inherited' the legal team, Chapter, archdeacons, members and staff of the Diocesan office.

After having time to work with all of them for over six months, the Canons allow the Bishop to begin making his own appointments.

On Saturday 15 August Bishop Grant licensed our legal team under his seal at St Margaret's, with members of Diocesan Council present.

Three new members of the family

Sisanda Mbodlela



On 9 July St Paul's joyfully celebrated, as they welcomed through baptism, three new members.

The service was a meaningful occasion filled with prayer, worship,

and thanksgiving as family, friends, and the congregation gathered to witness and support the candidates on this important step in their spiritual journey. The church rejoices with the newly baptised members and prays that God will continue to guide, strengthen, and bless them.

Revealing Revelation

Jenny Yates



St Margaret's parishioners listen as their rector, Andrew White, enlightens them on the Seven Churches of Revelation.

A group of somewhat perplexed parishioners stood at the Church notice board where they viewed the reminder for the forthcoming Teaching Series - "Seven Churches of Revelation" REVELATION of all things! some gasped. Our dear Andrew must have gone off his head!!

No doubt the Holy Spirit was hard at work so, despite the cold and wet weather, numerous dedicated and curious people appeared at the introductory lesson of what was to be a fascinating series. Had we any idea that Ephesus, a coastal city of Asia Minor, was rather like our beautiful city of Cape Town. It was beautiful, cosmopolitan, but- a city without Godly love. Through discussions and questions from those present it became apparent that the Church in Ephesus was doing the right things but out of sheer habit and not out of a deep love of Jesus. Its former apostolic foundations were being eroded!

This series was certainly destined to be a revelation in itself, something that would become abundantly clear in the weeks to come.

TEACHING SERIES

7 CHURCHES OF REVELATION

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

REVELATION 2-3

EPHESUS The Loveless Church	SMYRNA The Persecuted Church	PERGAMUM The Compromising Church	THYATIRA The Corrupt Church	SARDIS The Dead Church	PHILADELPHIA The Faithful Church	LAODICEA The Lukewarm Church
--------------------------------	---------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------------------------	---------------------------------

29 JULY TO 9 SEPT 2026
WEDNESDAYS

10:30 | 18:00

St Margaret's Anglican Church
2 Torquay Street, Summerstrand.

— LET US HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES TODAY. —

MU celebrate 150 years



The MU Chaplain, Xola Nodwele, displays the cake from the main table, and is surrounded by members dressed in the various MU clothing.

Cutting the official cake are Nomfundu Tuku, Nomonde Qoto, the Chaplain, Xola Nodwele, and the President, Veronica Kaibe.



On Saturday 8 August Mothers' Union celebrated 150 years of the founding of the MU by Mary Sumner with a High Tea at All Saints' in Kabega.

The church hall was packed with over 200 guests from all the MU Christian Family Life branches in the Diocese. Each branch had also baked a cake and provided the decorations and eats for their table, creating a beautiful setting for the celebration. And, of course, when we Africans celebrate, we sing, dance and make a lot of noise - making this a truly vibrant and joyous occasion.

The chaplain, Xolo Nodwele, was present (the only male among all those women!) to bring a word and prayer and Nolitha Sibengile had the unenviable job, as Programme Director, of trying to check the exuberance when it was time for the speakers to share their insights on the history of Mary Sumner.

All three speakers, Nomonde Qoto, Nosikumbuzo Dano and Nomfundu Tuku, shared different parts of Mary's history and insights into her family and the motive that led her to found the Mothers' Union in order to help new mothers care for their babies in a world that expects women to know how to do so by instinct. Mary drew from her experiences while helping her own daughter - and so the concept was birthed.

As the wife of a clergyman, the Bishop of Guildford, in 1876 she introduced the idea to the new mothers in the congregation ... and so it grew to what is now a worldwide Anglican organisation. She was supported fully by her husband, the Bishop.

Mothers' Union now has over 4 000 000 members in over 80 countries. Around half of the total membership is located in Africa, with significant representatives also in areas like South Africa (over 60,000 members), Asia, and the UK. Because of sensitivity some countries cannot be quoted - hence the 'over 80 countries'. At present over 2 000 000 people worldwide are indirectly supported from MU work annually.

In our Diocese we have 21 branches of the MU, five of which are in the Karoo and representatives were unable to attend the celebration.

Who owns Israel? or why is it called The Holy Land?



"The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is Mine and you reside in My land as foreigners and strangers."
(Leviticus 25:23)

According to Leviticus 25:23 YHWH retains ownership of the Holy Land.

Kruger National Park and Israel are very close in total land area. Kruger National Park spans roughly 19,485 square kilometres, while Israel covers approximately 22,072 square kilometres. So, although Israel is only slightly larger than the Kruger National Park, it is one of the most contested areas in the world.

As recently as 1924, the Supreme Muslim Council, which controlled the Temple Mount area, published its first English-language tourist guide which stated:

"The site is one of the oldest in the world. Its sanctity dates from the earliest times. Its identity with the site of Solomon's Temple is beyond dispute. This, too, is the spot, according to universal belief, on which David built there an altar unto the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings" (*A Brief Guide to al-Haram al-Sharif*).

Even with this admission of the Jewish connection to the Land, the guide made it clear that the Jewish and Christian narrative had now evolved into the Muslim narrative.

Islam claims to reveal the final chapter of God's eternal plan for mankind, and all holy sites now rightfully belong to the Muslims. A new narrative now disputes Jewish history in the Holy Land.

However, God promised Abraham that the land would belong to him and his descendants as an everlasting possession. ***"The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."*** (Genesis 17:8)

Bringing Wellness to Communities

Sweetness Mgedezi



Lizalise, a Grade 12 representative; Ntombomzi Maliza, a churchwarden at St Andrew's; Churchwarden Mgedezi, chaplain for the Health Desk; Sweetness Mgedezi; Asekhona and Achumile Grade 12 representatives.

The Health Desk chaplain, Churchwarden Mgedezi visited St Andrew's in KwaNobuhle during July. He and his wife, Sweetness, motivated Grade 12s and Pretty Manzana, Health Promotion Practitioner in Nelson Mandela Health District, established a Forum that will implement Healthcare programmes in the Community.



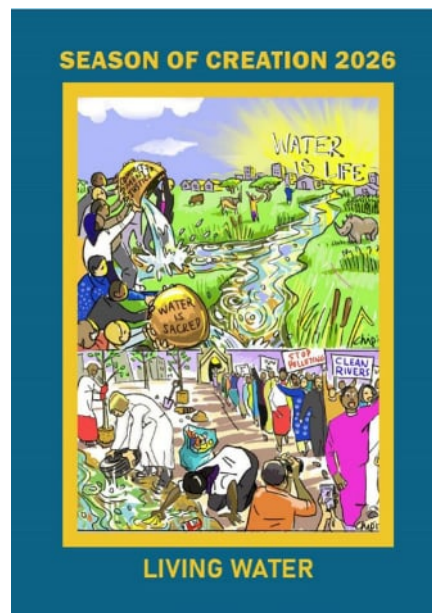
This wonderful reminder was seen at a stall at the St Saviour's Carnival.

Upcoming events

Send your parish events to *iindaba* so that members of the Diocesan family can support them.



Quote by Princess Diana:
Carry out a random act of kindness
with no expectation of reward,
safe in the knowledge that
someday someone
might do the same for you.



This year's resource for Season of Creation on the Theme of "Living Waters"

The materials are based on the Revised Common Lectionary focussing on the Exodus readings

<https://www.greenanglicans.org/acsa-season-of-creation-resource-2026/>



Letter to the ed

COVID was a surreal time.

Do you remember what it felt like?

Watching a church service through a screen. Attending weddings and funerals online. Meeting in small groups because larger gatherings weren't possible.

For two strange years, many of us lost something we might have taken for granted – the ability to gather freely. And in losing it, even briefly, we understood how precious it really is.

For many persecuted Christians, though, this isn't a memory of a season. It's everyday life.

Welcome to the world of the underground Church – where gathering to worship is precious and following Jesus can cost you your family, your home, or your safety.

Over the next two months, we want to introduce you to that world through the people living in it.

Today, we're starting with Kanya* and Phonesay*'s story from rural Laos, giving you a glimpse into a world where faith is lived quietly, courageously, and often at great personal cost.

When Kanya fell severely ill and the family couldn't afford the offering required for healing, someone told her: "If you believe in God, He can help you."

Phonesay encouraged her to try, promising he'd believe too if she was healed. "I put my faith in God, regained my strength, and was healed," says Kanya.

But instead of believing too, Phonesay left Kanya after pressure from his family, forcing her to flee while pregnant and separated from her other children. During their years apart, Kanya kept praying for Phonesay and sharing the Gospel with him. Five



years later, God worked in Phonesay's heart, and they were reunited!

Today, they serve the Lord together in the mountainous forests of Laos with a small group of believers, knowing it could be taken away at any moment. Watch the short video of Kanya and Phonesay sharing what life looks like now here.

Remember them today

This coming Sunday, many of us will gather to worship without giving it a second thought. For Kanya, Phonesay, and believers like them, every service is a precious gift that could disappear tomorrow.

Please pray for believers like them in Laos and the underground Church around the world.

United in Christ

Open Doors Africa team

Follow or join Open Doors

<https://www.opendoors.org.za/>

**Names changed for security reasons.*

Please diarise

THE CONCERNED CHURCH LEADERS IN THE NELSON MANDELA METRO
CALLS AND LEADS A

PUBLIC WORSHIP SERVICE

OF ALL CHURCHES IN THE METRO

VENUE:
NELSON MANDELA
STADIUM

1
NOVEMBER
2026
10H00

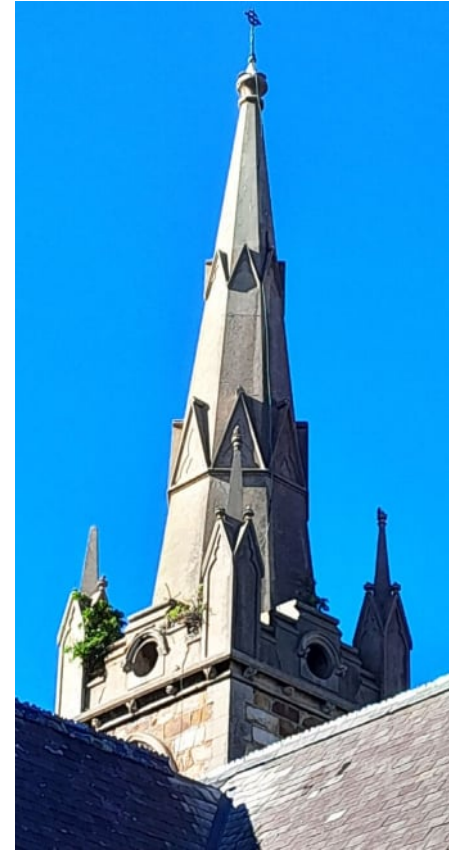
Contact us

BISHOP DR LELEKI AND BISHOP
NTANJANA
0834932539 AND 0833571165



Green Piece

Hanging on to life



These plants on the Holy Trinity tower are hanging on to life despite the lack of soil or space for roots. What a lesson for us.

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

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

e-mail: iindaba@anglicandiocesepe.org.za

Web: [www. https://anglicandiocesepe.org.za/](https://www.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 Bishop nor the editor.

Layout / design : by frankie

