



NATAL ANGLICAN NEWS

A NEWSPAPER FOR THE DIOCESE OF NATAL
IPHEPHA LESIFUNDAMBISHOBI SASENATAL

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ANNIVERSARY YEAR

2003 - a year of celebrations

Diocese of Natal is 150 Years Old



Festivities in Richmond

ONE of the first churches to mark the year of anniversary celebrations in the diocese was St Mary's in Richmond, being the oldest consecrated Anglican Church in the Diocese of Natal.



The Bishops welcomed a packed congregation which included representatives of many other churches in the town...



...with a special welcome into the Sanctuary for Fr Dominic, the parish priest of the Roman Catholic congregation...

On Sunday morning March 30 the church was packed with parishioners and representatives of other congregations in the town (which has always had a reputation for ecumenical co-operation) to share in the celebratory Eucharist presided over by Bishop Rubin assisted by Bishop Funginkosi and the rector the Reverend Geoff Harrison.

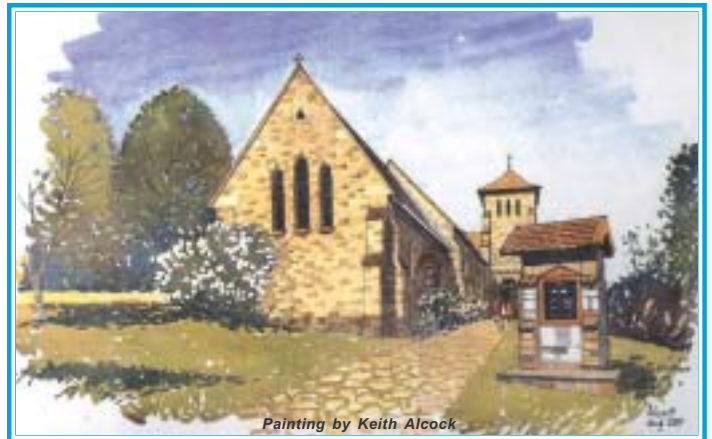
The proceedings were relayed, with some difficulty, to an overflow congregation in a marquee outside. Last minute arrangements had to

be made to replace the amplifying system which had been stolen overnight, but even this theft could not dampen the joy of the simple and well-organised ceremony; it was treated as a sobering reminder of the lawlessness and violence which used to characterise life in this little community over recent years.

The parish began with a small pole-and-daga church in March 1853 and St Mary's was consecrated three years later by Bishop Colenso and used by other denominations until their own churches were built.



...with a birthday cake afterwards...



Painting by Keith Alcock

SHAFTON chapelry in the Karkloof will be the next church to hold 150th anniversary celebrations, having been founded in 1853.

Originally built for the Weslyans by James Methley, St Mark's chapel was handed over to the Anglican Church to be staffed by travelling clergy. Now surrounded by Sappi land it is still in regular use today. The painting by Colleen Hughes for Sappi Forests was donated by them to the chapelry.

Archdeacon Kevin Reddiar is busy compiling a history of St Katherine's, Port Shepstone, in preparation for celebrations there and would be glad of any material. His parish phone number is 039-6822026. Who else is doing the same? Use *Anglican News* to appeal for information.



The Bishop's Letter

150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Natal



Dear Friends,

The history of the founding of the diocese starts with the consecration of John William Colenso on St Andrew's Day, 30 November 1853, at the Lambeth Parish Church in England. Before then Anglicans had been in Natal since 1824 when settlers from England arrived. The first missionaries came in 1830's, and in 1849 Colonial Chaplains were appointed for Pietermaritzburg and Durban.

In 1847 Robert Grey was appointed Bishop of Cape Town and his vast diocese included the Colony of Natal. Following his visit to Natal in 1850 he decided to look for someone with missionary interest to be Bishop of Natal. He found and recommended Colenso to be the first Bishop of the Colony. The new bishop came to his diocese in January 1854.

The focus of our celebrations this year will be the celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Sunday 30th November (the date of Colenso's consecration) at 10.00am at the Showgrounds in Pietermaritzburg. The Archbishop of Cape Town will preside and preach. We will be joined by some of the Bishops of CPSA, the Bishop of Southwell and about 15 others from our link Diocese of Southwell in England, ecumenical church leaders from KZN and other dignitaries. My hope is that all the parishes will be well represented at the service. This is an open service, so all are welcome.

We have chosen as our theme for the celebrations "Life in all its Fullness". This is from John 10 verse 10 where Jesus said, "I have come so that they may have life, and may have it in all its fullness". What a glorious promise! These words of Jesus go to the very heart of the gospel. And this is what the Diocese of Natal is about or should be about: agents of God in bringing fullness of life to all who are in need, spiritual and materially.

In our world of spiritual blindness, uncertainty about the future, disunity, war, poverty, HIV/AIDS the opportunities to preach the gospel of life in words and in works are unlimited.

Christ, we recall, came not simply to convert us from this life to some other life, but from something less than life to the possibility of full life itself. This fullness of life is also about dignity, food, shelter, peace, jobs, reconciliation. It is about thriving not surviving, as the African - American, Maya Angelou put it: "To survive is important, but to thrive is elegant".

There is much to celebrate as we look over 150 years of our history as a Diocese - and much for which we are ashamed. So, in the words of a popular hymn:

For our life together, we celebrate.

Life that lasts forever, we celebrate.

For the joy and for the sorrow.

Yesterday, today, tomorrow, we celebrate.

Yours in the risen Christ

+Rubin Natal

Other main events to mark the 150th "birthday" of the Diocese are:

May 23 rd	-	launch of celebrations at the opening of Diocesan Synod.
June 1 - 8 th	-	Week of Prayer for Renewal
June 16 th	-	Youth Festival at the Cathedral
September 27 th	-	Music Festival - Durban
November 24 - 29 th	-	Visit of the Archbishop Cape Town : Lectures, meetings etc in different areas of the Diocese.
Colenso lectures	-	Cathedral (evenings) Visit by the Bishop of Southwell meetings
November 30 th	-	10.00am - Holy Eucharist - Showgrounds
December 25 th	-	Midnight Eucharist - Cathedral

Moral Regeneration

Reviving the spirit of ubuntu

THROUGHOUT the months of February, March and April, the people of South Africa have been encouraged to focus attention on the issue of united action towards the building of a moral society in the midst of growing moral decay.

Bishop Rubin Philip, as Chairman of the Moral Regeneration Movement committee in Durban, reports that the MRM was launched a year ago 'to facilitate, encourage and co-ordinate the quest for the transformation of society and the restoration of its moral fibre', and is compiling a draft charter for united action. Ideas and suggestions in this regard should be submitted by the end of April, and the contact person for the province of Natal is Bishop Rubin.

In its 'Call to Moral Communities' the MRM says that while most citizens of the country, within their varied cultural backgrounds and expressions, uphold the ideal of high personal moral conduct, 'these values fall short and community influences

encourage or permit anti-ubuntu behaviour and practices'.

Moral citizens find themselves living in the midst of communities which 'glorify corruption, hero worship criminals, denigrate and abuse women and children, mock compassion and acts of charity, manipulate people, despise responsibility, worship the accumulation of profit above justice and honesty, accept wealth inequity and the resultant poverty as a norm and discriminate against those who are deemed as outsiders.'

'Attempts to develop a transformed, peaceful, just and caring society must include the creation of moral communities. Our families, our neighbourhoods, our schools, our shop floors and offices, our places of worship, our places of entertainment, our business and our social communities must become moral communities and agents of moral transformation in the broader society'.

+Rubin Natal Chairman MRM



A Letter from Archbishop Hurley

Denis E Hurley OMI: Archbishop Emeritus
SABON HOUSE: P O BOX 17035: CONGELLA : 4013
DURBAN: SOUTH AFRICA
Telephone: (033) 205 2209: Fax (031) 206 0270
Email: hurley@africa.com

10 January 2003

The Editor
Anglican News
244 Longmarket Street
Pietermaritzburg
3201

Dear Editor

The article in your issue in December 2002 on the "Re-instatement" of Bishop Colenso gave me immense joy.

It took the Pope a little longer to reinstate Galileo but Rome is known for the time it takes on certain decisions.

What a great man Colenso was. Among his other claims to fame history recalls that he was very kind to the first Roman Catholic Bishop in Natal. Marie Jane Francis Allard, a Frenchman slightly at sea in the English colonial culture of Natal.

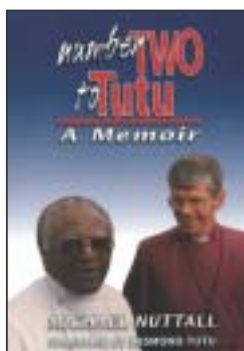
And who can forget the post-Isanlwana sermon on the Micah text: "And what doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk with God?" (Micah 6:8)

A old colleague, Father Denis Howard St George used to reminisce about his childhood in Pietermaritzburg when from time to time he used to encounter the daughters (then elderly woman) of Bishop Colenso.

Sincerely yours in the Lord

Denis E Hurley OMI
Archbishop Emeritus of Durban

Three timely publications Episcopal Partnership



The evocative title and symbolic cover picture combine to introduce a fascinating story involving two church leaders, during the dramatic and decisive 1980s and 1990s in the history of South Africa. Its timely appearance in print coincides appropriately with the publication of the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Election as Dean of the Province (i.e. the bishop next senior to the Archbishop) meant that Bishop Michael of Natal was drawn into a remarkable partnership with the courageous and prophetic Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and in this highly personal memoir he has opened the curtains on some intriguing and transforming situations in which he and

Desmond Tutu became involved.

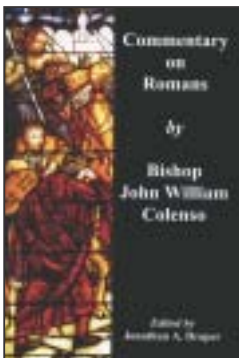
His account, written largely while on a sabbatical Fellowship at the University of Durham, indicates how the church, through its leaders as well as in other ways, played an important part in South Africa's journey to a new democratic dispensation - at the same time as having to continue to attend to its own internal needs and challenges.

The photographs which enliven the very readable text are not only personal snapshots (one was taken by his wife Dorrie) but in their own way a collection of newspaper records capturing some historic moments in the political evolution of those tumultuous decades.

Bishop Michael received from the Archbishop of Canterbury an award of The Silver Cross of St Augustine in recognition of his service.

* *Number Two to Tutu - a Memoir* by Michael Nuttall.
Cluster Publications - 033-3459897 - R70

Commentary on a Commentary

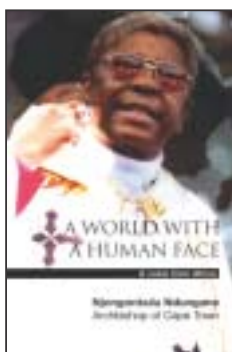


THIS is more than just a reprint of the text - in particularly readable type, which makes up for the inordinately long paragraphs so popular in a previous century - of a historic commentary on a difficult Epistle of Paul by an advanced-thinking 19th century theologian who is particularly in the news during this anniversary year.

This latest product of Cluster Publications is enhanced by the lengthy (35-page) introduction and commentary by a present-day theologian, Professor Jonathan Draper of the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg, setting the theological and historical context of the controversial work of the deposed John William Colenso, one-time Bishop of Natal.

* *Commentary on Romans by Bishop John William Colenso* - edited by Jonathan A. Draper
Cluster Publications - 033-3459897 - R120

Challenging Poverty



"Apartheid has ended, but the work of building a just society for all in South Africa has only just begun...."

The fall of apartheid was one of the most exciting events in recent history. The struggle against institutionalized injustice allowed heroes to come to the fore and brought great hope for the future.

Archbishop Ndungane shared in that fight for freedom, and here he tells of his youth under apartheid and of his imprisonment on Robben Island where he was made to build the prison that would later house Nelson Mandela.

During his captivity he came to realize that apartheid's end would not bring about a perfect

society and that a new South Africa would need heroes of a different kind - those willing to challenge poverty.

A World with a Human Face is a call to South Africans and the international community to work together to overcome social injustice, adverse economic forces and the weight of history to build a just society for all.

* *A World with a Human Face - a voice from Africa* by Njongonkulu Ndungane
David Philip New Africa Books

Changing times

(From the St James Dundee parish magazine)

'Some of us will remember learning that in 1863, Dr Colenso was deposed and excommunicated by the Synod of Bishops. He had been accused of heresy: his teachings and actions, it was said, showed that he no longer held the faith of the Church, denying the atonement for example.

Bishop Gray appealed to England, but the English bishops refused Colenso permission to officiate in their dioceses; and recommended that proceedings should be taken against him.

In 1867, the first Lambeth Conference met, and they passed a resolution recognising the validity of the sentence upon Colenso, by the South African bishops. This resulted in a schism, so that Natal had two Anglican Churches, although some of those who supported Colenso have now become part of the C.P.S.A.

That Colenso devoted his life to understanding Zulu culture and Zulu language is, today, well known, and he is commended for it, but in Colonial Natal of his days, it was an act most contemptible. How could he, a Cambridge wrangler, befriend the Natives or "Naked Kifirs", as Revd W.C. Holden called them (he was not part of the Colenso conflicts). The same change in attitude is true of his doctrinal writings. They were regarded as heresy in his days, though not so now.

When in the 60s The Bishop of Woolwich published his book "Honest to God" and said that God was not 'up there' or 'out there' but was 'the ground of our being', church people said that he, too, was being heretical. What a hoo-ha there was when the Bishop of Durham in 1984 said that the nativity stories were not literally true but symbolical. But neither Woolwich nor Durham was excommunicated.

I am sure Colenso's thinking was too ahead of his times. What would we expect? He was a mathematician, a lawyer and a theologian. By today's standards there is nothing amiss in his observation that some of the customs of the Zulu people are similar to those of the Hebrew people as recorded in the Bible. However, to associate the Holy Bible with heathen customs was in those days blasphemy.

Let us thank God for the work He accomplished among the Zulus through the instrumentality of John William Colenso and other missionaries like him.'

Fr Victor Mkhize

Diakonia's tribute to Archbishop Russell



CITATION from the Council of Churches

*Partners in Faith and Action.
Sibambisene Okholweni Nasekusebenzeni*

Philip Welesford Richmond Russell is an Anglican Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town and a Patron Emeritus of the Diakonia Council of Churches.

Born in Durban in 1919 he schooled at Clifton and Durban High School. His first career was quantity surveying, then he took part in the Second World War rising to the rank of Lieutenant in the South African army.

But it is his career in the church which we recognize in naming one of the Diakonia Centre's conference rooms in his honour. Philip Russell has been Bishop in Cape Town (both as suffragan and as Archbishop), Port Elizabeth and Natal during which time he has been an ardent supporter of human rights through the S.A. Institute of Race Relations and the Civic Rights League.

His ecumenical enthusiasm has led him to an active involvement in Diakonia, Vuleka Trust, the SACC and the World Council of Churches, and in naming this room in his honour, we remember especially his keen support of Diakonia as Chairperson, Treasurer and Acting Director. In all these roles he has taken a keen pastoral interest in the welfare of staff and has encouraged the member churches to be ever more closely linked with the organisation.

Some of the friends of the Archbishop who attended the Dedication ceremony of the Philip Russell Room as part of the new conference facilities at the Diakonia Centre in Durban



Standing in front of the plaque of his grandfather with their daughter are Charles and Kathy Walters



Zimbabwe Human Rights

The Bishop particularly wishes this report of the situation in Zimbabwe to have the widest publicity in the Diocese

The "Pretoria Statement"

From 4-6 March 2003 Zimbabwean human rights activists, media practitioners, academics, professionals and officials of all political persuasions joined with South African politicians, academics and activists who are concerned about the political, economic and humanitarian crisis in Zimbabwe, at Zebra Lodge, near Pretoria, South Africa. Through the Conference, the following Statement was agreed:

The Problem: A Crisis of Governance

The Zimbabwean governance crisis has the following social, political and economic dimensions:

- Collapse of the rule of law, characterised by brutal and partisan policing;
- State-sponsored human rights violations have become a daily occurrence, and non-legislated youth militia also perpetuate political violence;
- A compromised and politicised judiciary;
- Weakened and significantly corrupted institutions of governance;
- Economic collapse, resulting in a humanitarian tragedy as over half the population is in need of food aid for survival. Meanwhile, food is being distributed in a partisan manner, to ruling party supporters;
- The chaotic fast-track land-resettlement programme which has left hundreds of thousands of farm workers and their families homeless, destitute, and abandoned;
- The persistent downward economic spiral, characterised by skyrocketing inflation;
- This inflation erodes the dignity and security of working people, and further jeopardise the livelihoods of the growing number of unemployed;
- Authoritarian laws and repressive policing which muffles the freedoms of expression, association and assembly, of pro-democracy actors and independent media practitioners.

Preconditions for Normalcy

There is a mutually destructive stalemate between Zimbabwe's illegitimate government on the one hand, and pro-democracy actors on the other. This destructive stalemate is inimical to regional stability and security and must be broken if Zimbabwe is to resolve its multi-layered governance crisis. In addition, a level of normalcy must be achieved in order to pave the way for a democratic transition and the stabilisation of the country's economic crisis. Normalcy implies the following pre-conditions:

1. An end to political violence and the termination of the operation of militias;
2. The depoliticisation of food distribution;
3. The repeal of the Public Order and Security Act, the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Broadcasting Authority Act;
4. A return to the rule of law, including the cessation of all farm invasions;
5. The restoration of judicial independence, with a commitment to its protection;
6. An end to partisan policing and the suspension of politically motivated prosecutions;
7. A commitment to democracy in Zimbabwe by the Presidents of South Africa and Nigeria. This commitment would end their open support of the repression of pro-democracy voices, as such repression subverts both the democratic will of Zimbabweans and the prospects of a democratic settlement by Zimbabweans.

Achieving Normalcy

In order to achieve these preconditions, the Group resolved that the following actions should be taken:

1. A Group of Eminent Persons should be created so as to promote dialogue in Zimbabwe and to monitor the full compliance of the Zimbabwean government and other stakeholders in relation to the immediate pre-conditions set out above, and that SADC and the African Union agree on the appointment of such a group forthwith;
2. Zimbabwean civil society and political parties constitute a Task Force to develop a Transitional Framework, which should propose the principles, process and time-frame for Zimbabwe's successful democratic transition.

Conclusion

Zimbabwe faces imminent disaster unless decisive and immediate action is taken. This crisis has dire implications for the entire Southern African region. A constitutional democracy which will protect the civil, political and economic rights of all Zimbabweans must be established. The Group calls upon democrats in the governments and civil societies of the region and beyond to support the people of Zimbabwe in their quest for democracy, equality, and economic prosperity.



Bishops' wives: Sibongile Makhaye, Swazi Thwala and Matrina Mbhele



Mothers' Union in Session

Mission to Seafarers Chaplain retires

THE REVD Paul Noel has officially retired from the Durban Station of the Mission to Seafarers, although until a new Chaplain is settled in he will continue to be a familiar face around Durban Harbour throughout 2003.

For some years he also worked at the point Road Seamen's Institute Centre as manager where his wife, Virginia, assisted him.

Paul's involvement with the Mission began way back in 1964 when he took on duties at the seafarers shop in the long-since demolished Wellington Road premises. His duties later expanded to lay readership, visiting and much else besides eventually being ordained as a Community Priest.





Members of Ekubonakaliswe St Agnes Guild



MOTHERS' UNION



Ms Nampumelelo Radebe giving an address

The Chapter of the Diocese

Bishops, Dean, Archdeacons, Canons

Nigel Juckes, Colin Peattie, Monica Mkhize, Ndabenzinhle Sibisi, Lindy Domony, Robin Taylor, Kevin Reddiar, Rod Smith, Victor Makhubu, Simphiwe Ncobo, Fred Pitout, Rod van Zuylen, Clerigh Samaai, Alan Smedley, May Laban, +Elijah Thwala, +Rubin Philip, +Funginkosi Mbhele



“Philharmonic Orchestra” at St Nicholas

Mr Brian Clarke, lead percussionist with the KZN Philharmonic Orchestra and Chairperson of the South African Steel Drum Foundation, brought his Steel Drums to St Nicholas School in Pietermaritzburg to teach the children to play. He gave the pupils in Grade 7 a 30 minute lesson and in that time they learnt two songs and presented them to the rest of the school.



Lent At St Nicholas

ASH WEDNESDAY at St Nicholas School was treated as a very holy occasion when the Revd Tracy Bell, the School Chaplain, explained the meaning of the ashes and the meaning of Lent to the children. A special Eucharist service and distribution of the Ashes was held in the school hall, and the Chapel at the school remained open all day during the 40 days of Lent for the children to visit whenever they had time.

As Lent is a time of Spring Cleaning at staff devotions Tracy handed out a reading taken from "Puppet on a String" by Helena Wilkinson and encouraged everyone to go out into the gardens and contemplate on it.



Rev Tracy Bell distributing the ashes to the learners in the St Nicholas School Hall



Grade 1 pupils having just received the ashes.

St Nicholas School cares for the spiritual growth of the learners and, now that they have a School Chaplain, Pupil Devotions take place every Friday and Life Orientation is run by Tracy, which is proving to be a very popular subject with the learners.

Youth Intervention Programme Report from Mpume Mbonami

IN the Companion Link relationship between our diocese and the Diocese of Southwell in England. This article is about one of the ways that is going to be used in order to build and maintain this relationship.

The rector of St. Peter's Nottingham, Canon Andrew Deuchar and I have shared a vision for a youth intervention programme/project that has taken us close to three years to realise. During this period we have been sharing ideas and keeping in touch in terms of what we are involved in, in our respective Parishes, Dioceses, institutions and community organisations. We have also consulted with our parishes and diocesan leaders in order for this project to get their support and to look for ways of making this have the desired impact in the life of the Church.

The programme will focus on sexual health promotion, service provision and sexual reproductive health of young people in the city centre of Nottingham. It is funded by the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG) which already has a programme called "Come Over and Help Us" through which my placement is supported through. While we do not in any way assume that we will have all the answers, this relationship is about mutual learning, benefit and enrichment in both our dioceses.

The passion I had for young people when I served in the youth ministry of I this diocese, I carried with me through my studies and my present work as a social science researcher. I believe that the experience I have gained working with young people from all walks of life in this country will give some

insight to the emerging and potential challenges that young people in England might be facing in the near future. It has also prepared me to be in a position to share and learn from others; which I hope

will also be of benefit to the diocese at large.

HIV and AIDS are worth a special mention and focus in matters of sexual health. Hence, my year in Nottingham will not be spent effectively if this was not part of the agenda. Therefore, this project has a focus on this issue and collectively we hope to find ways and means of dealing with this epidemic before it reaches the level that it has managed to reach in our country and the rest of Africa. Many of you will know that I have been involved in the fight against AIDS and especially against the discrimination against those of those who are living with the virus. I do not intend to take a break from this battle, realising fully that this attempt will not necessarily solve the problem but will hopefully have a significant enough impact for the young people involved. The social scientist in me will not allow me to leave without assessing young people's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, their perceived risk of infection and evaluating the impact of the project on their sexual behaviour.

The research will be done in collaboration with the Sheffield Centre for Sexual Health which will also facilitate a relationship with the Nottingham Health Authority. I ask for your prayers in this challenging mission.

RURAL PARISHES *Where is your news?*

If you send the information to
Anglican News
we can let others know
what is going on in
your parish

Orphan Care Search for suitable 'House Mother'

THE Orphan Care Team at St Agnes, Kloof are planning to establish a practical prototype of a means to provide Christian, family, family based, care to AIDS orphans which will eventually lead to the establishment of a network of small sustainable 'Care Homes' that can be easily duplicated and which will involve the local church and community.

The model they are adopting is of small, intimate caring units, based in cottages spread throughout the Highway area, and centred around a "House Mother" who will oversee 4-6 children. She will be supported by the local church, local community, schools and the evolving network.. This 'House Mother' system is what is actually happening in the majority of cases of orphan care in South African society, where often a grandmother is the only family member left to look after the orphans of a wider family devastated by AIDS.

There is a two bedroom cottage available at in which to start up the first Care Home for four children in the first quarter of next year, but the critical path in this process is finding the first House Mother to get the ball rolling.

The house mother needs to be a strongly committed Christian woman who will see this as a calling of the Lord to a long term ministry to bring children up in the ways of Lord, in a caring, loving environment. She should be a mature person, experienced with, or having a heart for children, a Zulu/ English speaker, probably in her forties. She would also have to be free of her own family commitments, probably a widow.

There is no salary, but she will be provided with food, accommodation and an allowance to cover clothing, personal items, pocket money etc, and she will be supported by a church team of helpers. Contact Annette Hare at 031- 7642323 as soon as possible if you have any ideas.

The outreach will be funded by the sponsorship by individuals for each child, contributions from local churches, government grants and NGO's and will operate with the minimum of administrative costs using volunteers. Each "Care Home" will be linked in with a local church who will help administer and fund the home in conjunction eventually with other similar 'Care Homes' throughout the Highway area, linked together through a relational network that would oversee the sharing of common assets, finances, helpers and basic administration, all in conjunction with local churches.

Trackathon

INSPIRED by the Trackathon story in our last issue, 9 members of St Mary's, Kingsburg sat down in the Church Hall and made 60 tracksuits on the day, with a further 45 later, and donated them to an AIDS support programme in their area.

Too busy to stop and pose for a group photograph, some of the ladies can be seen in this picture: Gwen Black and Elsie Smith in the front, Gwen Ellis, Barbara Hare, June Tapinos and Merle Sewar, with backs to us and obscured June Graham, and not in the picture at all were Priscilla Going, Toni Jenkins and Dawn Spence.



Hilton and Umngeni AIDS programme

WHAT began as a ministry project within the congregation of the Church of the Ascension in Hilton, several years ago has led to a fully fledged NGO (Non Governmental Organisation) within the Midlands community of KwaZulu Natal.

In late 2002, the uMngeni AIDS Centre moved into larger premises in Hilton, and later occupied the refurbished old rectory in Mpophomeni for its "Wellness Centre", where Social Work Masters graduate Sibusiso Msomi was appointed as the new Director.

S'bu was introduced to the community at a function held at the end of February, at which tribute was also paid to the outgoing Director, Daniela Gennrich, who had served voluntarily for two years, and who together with the Board and

Trustees, raised funds to enable her successor's post to be full time and paid.

Support from local churches for the Centre continues, with Bishop Rubin as a co Patron alongside Roman Catholic Wilfred Cardinal Napier, and Bishop Funginkosi as Chairman of the Trustees, which also includes numerous clergy, professionals and local residents and parishioners.

The Church of the Ascension continues to support the Centre in wide ranging projects,

knitting of blankets, holding a monthly "Basket Sunday" for basic food parcels for destitute families in Mpophomeni and making clothing for orphaned children.

A Christmas Party for orphaned children from Mpophomeni was very successful and will be repeated. This project was done jointly with Standard Bank (Pietermaritzburg Branch) and pupils of St Anne's Diocesan College, whose facilities were used. More than 200 children were entertained with music, jumping castles, a substantial lunch and a visit from Father Christmas (Fr. Dan le Cordeur, Chaplain and Deputy Chairman of UMAC Board).

In addition, several parishioners contribute monthly to the AIDS Project directly through the church office whilst others have "adopted" and continue to support families in Mpophomeni, some with personal visits and emotional and spiritual support to voluntary counsellors.



Daniela Gennrich, the outgoing Director of the uMngeni AIDS Centre, with Sibusiso Msomi the new Director. Daniela is wearing around her shoulders, the cloth made by the community workers from Mpophomeni as a farewell gift. Sibusiso presented Daniela with a certificate as a memento of her time with the AIDS Centre.

R.I.P.

Farewell to Ann Evans

THE Funeral of Ann Vintin Evans, widow of The Revd Bill Evans, and a Companion of the Franciscan 3rd Order, was marked by the wide selection of tributes that came in bearing testimony to her involvement in the life of the church and society.

Albertina Sisulu described her 'one of the few white people who had the courage to work in Soweto during the 1976 period, a difficult and dangerous time....It is people like Ann Evans who provided the building blocks for a non racial and democratic South Africa'.

Archbishop Tutu recalled that Anne and Bill cared about important things though sometimes somewhat forthright and unconventional, while Sheena Duncan sent a message recalling how that some of the older members of the Black Sash called her 'The Rt Revd' because, just like a Bishop in those days, she was impossible to disobey' and was always in the forefront of actions.

Her special concern for the environment came from a deep spirituality and her Franciscan beliefs and she became very active in the local Wildlife and Environment Society and Professor Tobias of Witwatersrand University told of her passion to understand the reconciliation of science and religion and, more particularly, evolution and theology'.

Charmion Rogers OSC

CHARMION Rogers who died on the 12th February was a woman of many parts. Musician, teacher, historian, ornithologist, she was a devout Christian and very active member of St David's AWF in Prestbury, Pietermaritzburg where she played the organ until only days before she succumbed to cancer.

She had been an integral part of the Anglican Women's Fellowship since it was formed in 1965. She served as Provincial President and also Natal Diocesan President and was for many years a member of the Provincial Executive Committee and editor of the AWF house-magazine 'Contact'

Already honoured by the Church of the Province through the Archbishop's award of The Order of Simon of Cyrene she was unanimously appointed at the October AWF Provincial Conference in Cape Town as a 'Life Member' of the Anglican Women's Fellowship.

John Ing

THE Church lost a valuable worker, and The Reverend Nicky Ing lost a devoted husband who was such a great supporter of her ministry when John collapsed and died of a stroke so suddenly on the 24th February.

His expertise and complete integrity were recognised in his reputation as one of the foremost valuers in both the government and private sectors, which led to his being instrumental in reaching settlements under arbitration and under the Land Claims Act, and restoration of rights.

In the church he served as councillor, churchwarden, lay minister, synod representative and member of Elective Assembly for the choice of a Bishop.

At his funeral, Bishop Michael drew attention to the appropriateness of the name "John" meaning "A gift from God."

Gillian Anne Watson

AT the Requiem Mass for Gill, The Reverend Frankie Thacker described her as an extraordinary young woman, full of fun with a wonderful and often irreverent sense of humour, characterised by friendliness and fortitude. She once tackled a knife wielding intruder in the Cathedral offices, sustaining 2 stab wounds in the chest.

For 20 years she was an active member of the Cathedral Parish Gill and Martin were married there, they co-ordinated the Youth Group together and helped out with the Men's Fellowship. Gill taught Sunday School and was known to many through her role as the cheerful receptionist in the Cathedral Complex Offices. On the wider Diocesan front Gill ably fulfilled the important role as Co-ordinator and Warden for the Fellowship of Vocation in Central Natal.

Christian leaders to gather at SACLA II in Pretoria

JULY 2003 sees the city of Pretoria hosting what promises to be the most exciting and far-reaching Christian meeting in over 20 years. The South African Christian Leadership Assembly (SACLA) is to take place from 7 to 12 July at the Pretoria showgrounds with up to 10 000 Christian leaders from all walks of life in attendance. The aim of SACLA will be to look at a Christian response to the issues facing our country

This is the second time that SACLA has been convened. The first played a major role in galvanising the churches opposition to apartheid. This time the theme is "Being Real Christians in the Real South Africa" with delegates looking at leadership areas of South African life, such as church, business, student, education and media and entertainment. In the context of repentance, hope, unity and commitment it will examine the problems of poverty and unemployment, HIV/AIDS, violence, crime, gender issues and racism and reconciliation.

SACLA is being chaired by Natal evangelist Michael Cassidy of African Enterprise and Presiding Bishop Mvume Dandala of the Methodist Church. The steering committee is being convened by Bishop of Port Elizabeth, Bethlehem Nopece and the Revd Moss Nthla, General Secretary of The Evangelical Alliance of South Africa (TEASA). The day to day organisational work is being executed by African Enterprise.

Suggested names of appropriate people in leadership roles should be forwarded to African Enterprise who will invite them to participate in SACLA. Please contact Stephen Bollaert at AE on telephone 033-347 1911 or 082 577 3290, Fax 033-347 1915 or E-mail: sacla@ae.org.za.

The cost of attending SACLA II will be R1 500 per person, plus travel costs, but bursaries are available and parishes are urged to assist clergy financially where this is necessary.

Around The Diocese

The Reverend Des Vaubell moves from the Diocesan clergy strength to become Chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers in Durban at the beginning of May.

The Reverend Thami Tembe with the help of a team of Community Clergy will be caring for St Chad's, Klip River during an interregnum caused by the resignation of The Reverend Siphon from the Diocese,



The Reverend Eugene Mapumulo has been medically boarded and the Archdeacon, Victor Makhubu, is Priest in Charge of St Phillip's, Dundee until a new Rector is appointed.

The Synod of Bishops takes place in Durban this year from the 5th to 9th May.

The Reverend Nic Denny Dimitriou takes charge of the parish of Kirby-Hilton from The Reverend Stuart Mennigke who has moved onto the staff of St Luke's.

The Reverend Dennis Bailey joined the senior management team of Oxfam as their Overseas Programme Manager in Dublin from April 2003.

The Reverend Israel Gama has begun a new ministry as Rector in the Parishes of Pholela and Stoffelton.



THERE was a New Wine National Leaders Conference of all denominations for Church Leaders and Elders, and New Wine team members on Wednesday evening 30th April, to midday Saturday 3rd May St. Agnes Church, Corner of Church & Abelia Road, Kloof, KZN, with Sessions all day and every evening.

Speakers included Bruce Collins who heads up the New Wine International Network. John Coles who heads up New Wine and the New Wine UK Network. Nigel Jukes who heads up New Wine South Africa.

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St. Gregory College was initially a valiant attempt at addressing the question of non-elitist private school education at a time in our country when few wanted to go down this road.

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Edited and produced by: Canon David Jenkins

Tel/Fax: (033)3940113 Cell: 082 787 7494

Email: angnews@mweb.co.za

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