

NATAL ANGLICAN NEWS

A NEWSPAPER FOR THE DIOCESE OF NATAL
IPHEPHA LESIFUNDAMBISHOBI SASENATAL

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CPSA Bishops declare Church's stand on Marriage

Same-sex relationships

In the light of current controversy on the matter of marriage and same-sex relationships the Bishops of our Church meeting in Kempton Park in May issued a statement for the guidance of Anglican clergy and people.



Aware that the decision of the Supreme Court of Appeal of South Africa in regard to same-sex partnerships had caused some concern, the Bishops recognised people's fears that "the notion of marriage in our society is being changed and that this may have consequences for liberty of conscience and religion, interfere with the church's belief and practice, and affect the freedom of its clergy in their ministry".

"Our Church's position is clear in the Marriage Service in the Anglican Prayer Book, and in the Canons where Canon 34 Of Holy Matrimony begins with the affirmation: *'The Church of the Province of Southern Africa affirms that marriage by divine institution is a lifelong and exclusive union partnership between one man and one woman.'*

"Our teaching and practice, even when dealing with complex pastoral situations such as marriage after divorce, are guided and governed by this principle.

"Our Church has repeatedly affirmed that partnership between two persons of the same sex cannot be regarded as a marriage in the eyes of God, and that consequently we do not recognise or bless such liaisons.

"There is currently a well-known

process of discussion and debate about matters of human sexuality in our Church but while this continues, our stance remains unchanged.

"As we understand the decision of the Appeal Court, its effect is to extend the common-law concept of marriage to include same-sex partners, and provide them with the same legal protections as marriage partners enjoy.

"In its judgement the Court affirms two points which seek to address in advance, concerns which our people have subsequently expressed. The first of these is in regard to religious freedom in general. The judgement says: 'It is important to emphasise that neither our decision, nor the ministerial grant of such a formula, in any way impinges on religious freedom. The extension of the common-law definition of marriage does not

compel any religious denomination or minister of religion to approve or perform same-sex marriages'. (para (36)287e)

"Secondly the Court spells this out in relation to marriage officers, by quoting section 31 of the Marriage Act (of South Africa) as follows: *'Nothing in this Act contained shall be construed so as to compel a marriage officer who is a minister of religion or a person holding a responsible position in a religious denomination or organisation to solemnise a marriage which would not conform to the rites, formularies, tenets, doctrines or discipline of his religious denomination or organisation.'*

"It is important to understand that Anglican clergy are not required to be state marriage officers in order to celebrate marriages in church. It is the

responsibility of the couple to register their marriage with the relevant authority in the country in which they live.

"However many clergy become marriage officers as a service to those whom they marry, and as a service to the state. When this happens, the state recognises the rites and rules of the Church and appoints clerics to serve as marriage officers *within the tenets and discipline of the Church.*

"This has 3 consequences. The state never requires a church marriage officer to marry anyone outside the framework of the church's regulations. For example, Canon 34 provides that save for exceptional situations, one

party to a marriage in church must be baptised; we cannot be required to marry two atheists or adherents of another faith in our churches or by our liturgy. The same

applies to our practice regarding marriages after divorce. There does not seem to be any intention on the part of the state to apply pressure in this regard, whether regarding same-sex partnerships or otherwise.

"Clerics who are state marriage officers are not free to operate autonomously, but only within the terms of their licences as clergy, and therefore within the framework of the Canons.

"Thus a cleric may only normally marry a couple of whom one is baptised, may only marry someone who has been divorced with a licence from the bishop in terms of Canon 34, and may not agree to conduct a marriage service or liturgical blessing for a same-sex couple. To do otherwise would lay a cleric open to ecclesiastical discipline. In South

Africa, this basis of operation is clearly accepted and protected by the Marriage Act.

The law of the land recognises the freedom of conscience of a cleric in regard to conducting marriages, as does Canon 34, notably where a divorce has taken place. This secures the right to decline to do something a cleric is licensed to do, but it does not authorise an individual to do something which their oath of obedience to the church precludes them from doing. Of course an individual may make choices, but as long as a cleric who has qualified as a state marriage officer exercises this role within the terms of a clergy licence and thus as an official representative of the Church, he or she may only do so within the prevailing law and regulations of the CPSA. Therefore the decision of the Appeal Court should not cause alarm among Anglicans. *The Church is not compelled to conduct same-sex marriages. Clergy are not being required to do anything which the Church does not believe or permit.*



"More importantly, we call on our people to continue celebrating the joy of Christian marriage as a lifelong holy partnership under God's blessing, to practise sexual abstinence before and outside the marriage bond, to show concern and compassion to those whose relationships have become broken, to avoid and resist all forms of inter-personal abuse or exploitation, and to continue in love and respect for all those with whom we relate from day to day".

"Clerics who are state marriage officers are not free to operate autonomously, but only within the terms of their licences as clergy, and therefore within the framework of the Canons".

Bishop Rubin's Anniversary

On Friday August 26th Bishop Rubin is celebrating his tenth anniversary as a Bishop, and has asked his clergy please to set this date aside in their diaries, for the Eucharist, followed by dinner, at the Cathedral at about 5pm. saying "I can think of no better people to celebrate it with than you, your spouses and a few friends and family members." Ordained deacon by Bishop Vernon Inman in 1971, priested by Bishop Kenneth Hallowes the following year, consecrated bishop by Archbishop Desmond Tutu in 1995 (16 August) our bishop was enthroned as Bishop of Natal by Archbishop Njongo Ndungane on 12th February 2000.



Anglo/Roman Relationships

The Archbishop of Canterbury and two U.S. Episcopal Church bishops were among ecumenical representatives greeted by Pope Benedict XVI during an April 25 audience at the Vatican.

Archbishop Rowan Williams greeted the Pope in German and presented him with a pectoral cross. Representing the Episcopal Church were Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold's deputy for Ecumenical Relations, the Rt. Revd Christopher Epting, and the Paris-based Bishop-in-Charge of the Convocation of American Churches in Europe, the Rt. Rev. Pierre Whalon.

"I have appreciated the signals Pope Benedict XVI has been sending with respect to ecumenical and interreligious affairs," said Bishop Epting, who added that "actions speak louder than words, so we shall have to wait and see" in terms of new advancements.

Epting said the Pope "told me, face to face, in our audience that he prayed that specific steps toward unity could be taken soon. I would expect that to include, at least, the release of the Mary document in Seattle in the middle of May and a renewing of the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission and the Commission on Unity and Mission, both of which have been on hiatus lately."

"When asked how I evaluate the Pope's 'new' openness to some of his recent writings, I can only say two things: (1) being open to ecumenical and interfaith dialogue does not mean that one cannot be fully committed to one's own tradition and its truth; (2) Benedict is now Pope, not head of the office of the Doctrine of the Faith. He will hear voices even he has never heard before and this can be a good thing. Our church remains open to dialogue and, as always, the ultimate goal of full communion. We approach the future with hope...and cautious optimism."

"No man was better placed to pick up where John Paul left off. Pope Benedict XVI could conceivably make some significant changes; re-start the ecumenical movement, for instance," said Bishop Whalon.

When Pope Benedict's election was announced from the Vatican, Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold said: "Along with many others, both within and beyond the Roman Catholic Church, I offer my prayers for Pope Benedict XVI as he takes up the august responsibility of his office. I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide him in his words and his actions and that he may become a focus of unity and a minister of reconciliation in a church and a world in which faithfulness and truth wear many faces."

The place of St Mary in Church doctrine

An international delegation of Anglicans and Roman Catholics has just released a joint statement of understanding on the place of Mary in the doctrine and life of the Church. The document, entitled *Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ*, represents the first major agreed statement by a formal international dialogue between two Christian world communions on this important aspect of Christian faith and devotion.

The statement draws together the fruits of five years of work by the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC), a dialogue officially sponsored by the Anglican Consultative Council and by the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

As the work of ARCIC, the text is not an authoritative declaration by the Roman Catholic Church or the Anglican Communion. With its publication, the statement will be offered for study and evaluation by the churches.

The document is referred to as the 'Seattle Statement' because members of ARCIC completed it in Seattle during their February 2004 meeting. The theologians who constitute the commission include bishops, clergy, religious and laypersons from 10 different countries.

ANS



Visit by Network leader

Bruce Collins, leader of the International Network of New Wine (now operating in 22 countries) visited South Africa in April. New Wine hosted him for a morning conference at St Agnes in Kloof. when he tackled the hot issues in the Church of The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture and the related matter of Human Sexuality. Both addresses are available from St Agnes on either audio cassette or DVD. Bruce gave the perspective on the battle for truth which has raged through the centuries and the critical place in our post modern world where the general view now is that there is no absolute truth.

Over against this is the Christian conviction that truth is found in God, revealed through both the written and Living Word, Jesus Who came to fulfill, not abolish the scriptures (Matthew 5: 19).

In the light of Jesus' well known words in John 8: 31, 32 'If you hold to my teaching...then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free' we come to

realise that receiving truth comes from a heart attitude.

When we judge God's Word, it will not yield its truth to us. When we submit to it and to Him, we will discover the truth which sets us free. It is in his light that we see light. The Word and our attitude to it are at the heart of our relationship with God, reflecting the degree of our consecration to him and his purposes.

As Bruce put it: The debate over human sexuality is actually a debate about the authority of scripture. Unfortunately those in a homoerotic lifestyle have been caught in the crossfire. In his second address, Bruce opened up the second half of Romans 1, and the recognition by Paul that when something goes wrong in our inner spiritual life, it comes out firstly in our sexuality and flows over into other relationships.

Just as the universe reflects the truth about God, men and women as the climax of creation, made in God's image and



likeness, are the glory and revelation of Him in the world. Our sexuality either expresses truths about God or denies them. The marriage covenant speaks of his faithfulness whereas to have sex without commitment grossly misrepresents him.

Consultation postponed

The Marriage Consultation for clergy has been cancelled, the reason being the inability to secure a representative from the Department of Home Affairs to address our several concerns, such as the proof of registration of marriages etc.

However, that was not the only item on our agenda. The Bishop was also going to address such matters as: marriage preparation, the Canons governing marriage, conducting weddings in private chapels, the filling-in of the application forms for a divorced person wishing to marry in church and so on.

But the meeting with a top level Department of Home Affairs person is also important, so once it has been possible to secure this person, a new date for meeting will be announced.

Current tensions in Anglican Church – A statement by Canadian Bishops

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bishops of the Anglican Church of Canada, meeting collegially in Windsor, Ontario, April 25-27, 2005, send warm greetings to the Church. We met together in an atmosphere of prayer, which was hallmarked by charity and generosity of spirit.

In the midst of current tensions and disagreements within the Anglican Communion, we endeavoured in our conversation to be guided by the counsel of St Paul writing to the Romans, "if it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all" (Rom12:18) Having considered the Report of the Lambeth Commission on Communion commonly known as the Windsor Report and the Communiqué from the Primates of the Anglican Communion issued in February 2005, we make the following statement:

We affirm our continuing membership in the worldwide Anglican Communion. Our Church regularly supports the work of the Communion and a number of Canadians have served and continue to serve in significant roles through the work of the Anglican Communion Office in London, England. In partnership with other Provinces we remain committed to evangelism, a compassionate response to the needs of suffering humanity, and to programs in world relief, justice and peace for all. With humility we seek to honour our commitments, knowing our need to listen and learn from the experiences of our brothers and sisters in faith in other Provinces of the Communion.

We recognize that synodical decisions in some parts of the Canadian Church, and the response to these, have caused distress in some parts of the Communion. We are sorry for the pain that this has caused and

we regret that together we have not achieved a level of consultation deemed sufficient to the magnitude of the issues under consideration.

In October 2004, we received with thanks the Windsor Report. Recognizing its importance we commended it for study throughout the Church. We requested our Primate to write a pastoral letter inviting response from Anglicans across Canada. Many responded to this invitation. Their responses were drawn together and formed the basis of the Canadian Response to the Windsor Report.

In acknowledging the collective desires expressed in the Primates' Communiqué we commit ourselves to respond as fully as possible to those of their recommendations as lie within our respective contexts and jurisdictions.

We appreciate the commitments of the Primates to "neither encourage nor to initiate cross boundary interventions" by Primates or other Bishops in Provinces other than their own. This commitment is in keeping with the Councils of the early Church, statements of successive Lambeth Conferences and the Windsor Report. We have already adopted a procedure for Shared Episcopal Ministry.

On the matter of a moratorium on the authorization of public rites for the blessing of same sex unions, we commit ourselves neither to encourage nor to initiate the use of such rites until General Synod has made a decision on the matter. In our consideration of the request of the Primates that the Anglican Church of Canada voluntarily withdraw its members from the Anglican Consultative Council meeting in Nottingham in June 2005, we see the value of the opportunity for reflection and response called for in the

Windsor Report, but we also see risks inherent in honouring the request. We recognize that within our constitutional polity it is the responsibility of the Council of General Synod to consider and make a decision regarding this request. We support our Primate's statement that he will do all in his power to persuade the Council to honour it. We ask for the prayers of the whole Church, for the Primate and the members of the Council as they meet May 6-8 in Mississauga.

We are pleased to note the opportunity extended through the Primates' Communiqué to send a delegation to the Anglican Consultative Council meeting in June "to set out the thinking behind the recent actions of their Provinces", including the diversity of views on the matter of the blessing of same sex unions held by a number of constituencies within our Church, including ourselves, and the manner by which we endeavour to remain in dialogue and communion.

In keeping with resolutions of the General Synod and previous statements of the House of Bishops, we affirm the place of gay and lesbian persons in our church and give thanks for their contribution to its life and witness. We agree with the words of paragraph 6 of the Primates' Communiqué, which reads "the victimization or diminishment of human beings whose affections happen to be ordered towards people of the same sex is anathema to us". In our struggle to consider the blessing of their unions, we recognize that their various voices need to be heard more fully. We are grateful to note that in paragraph 17 of the Primates' Communiqué that the Anglican Consultative Council is asked "to take positive steps to initiate the listening and

study process called for by Lambeth 1998 and earlier Conferences"

In conclusion we wholeheartedly affirm our adherence to the Lambeth Quadrilateral which states: The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as 'containing all things necessary to salvation,' and as being the rule and ultimate standard of faith. The Apostles' Creed, as the Baptismal Symbol; and the Nicene Creed, as the sufficient statement of the Christian faith. The two Sacraments ordained by Christ Himself - Baptism and the Supper of the Lord - ministered with unflinching use of Christ's Words of Institution, and of the Elements ordained by Him. The Historic Episcopate, locally adapted in the methods of its administration to the varying needs of the nations and peoples called of God into the Unity of His Church.

We uphold the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Primates' Meeting, The Lambeth Conference, and The Anglican Consultative Council. We further affirm the Ten Principles of Partnership adopted by the Anglican Consultative Council in 1993 and the Anglican Cycle of Prayer as sources of unity in the cause of mission. In the endeavour to live peaceably with all, we pray for humility, wisdom and compassion. Blessings in the name of Jesus Christ who calls us into communion for the sake of his mission in the world.



55 year old Place of Safety facing financial difficulties

Kerr House is the short-term shelter for women run by The Durban Hospice for Women (a non-profit organisation) and the Rectors of St. Paul's and St. Cyprian's in Durban are the Trustees.

It not large, catering for a maximum of 15 persons (both women and children) and now facing a financial crisis, appealing urgently to parishes and members of the Diocese for support.

Through Kerr House, the hospice provides temporary refuge for women in a homely atmosphere. Meals, and where necessary clothing, as well as counselling and psychological support by a skilled social worker, are provided. Today, many of the women who are brought or referred to the Hospice have been physically and/or psychologically abused, including having been raped.

The problems are varied, often being complex. Frequently young children accompany their mothers.

Every effort is made by the staff (a social worker, a matron, and her assistant) to empower the women to cope with the outside world. This includes teaching them "Life Skills", attempting to trace relatives or friends who are willing to help, and where necessary assisting with finding employment.

"Recently we had a visit from Joy (not her real name) and her child of six whom she had just registered at a nearby school. Joy came in to us in 1999 as a six months pregnant schoolgirl who had been rejected by her family. She continued with her schooling, and stayed at Kerr House until after her baby had been born.

"We then found her a place at Tennyson House for girls, run by Youth for Christ. She wrote her matric while there and passed. Joy was reunited with her mother, who helped her care for the baby. Joy found a job as a waitress in a leading Durban hotel. She is now P.A. to one of the managers. During the six years since she came to Kerr House, she has kept in contact. Today she and her common law husband live in a central flat, and her daughter is with them."

"We give thanks for happy endings such as the one above. Regrettably there are also the failures, where a woman returns to her previous condition. "

The funds of the Hospice as well as gifts in kind come from donors and benefactors. The Department of Welfare provides a monthly subsidy towards the salary of the social worker and administrative costs, but what they are receiving no longer matches the costs of the Hospice, and they are looking for financial help, if possible on a regular basis and gifts of food and clothing also are welcome.

For the safety of abused women who seek refuge and help, the address is not published, so anyone interested in being of assistance should telephone Beth Watts (031-564-6722), or Alison King (031-201-4193) or Heather, the matron (031-303-2912), to be given the necessary information. Visits to Kerr House by arrangement with Heather, are welcome.

"Prayer Walks"

Members of St Matthew's parish, Hayfields went for a "Prayer Walk" in May in the Bisley Valley Nature Reserve just south of Pietermaritzburg, walking silently, and stopping frequently to meditate on one of the Psalms.



They invite others to join them on future unusual meditations and expeditions such as Cumberland Skottel Braai Breakfast and Walk meeting in Cumberland at 8:30am on Saturday 4 June, when a Children's Programme will be provided. People who need directions can depart from St Matthews' Hayfields at 8:00am. The cost is R5 per person – and you must bring your breakfast to put on the skottel.



On Saturday 11 June, 6 pm-7 pm, Contemplative service of worship at St Matthew's around the Scripture theme – "Season of Hidden Fruitfulness"

Cramond Community where "Small is beautiful"

The enthusiasm of a small country community is helping to bring joy in the lives of the littlest ones among them, seen here on parade in thanksgiving for the latest fund raising efforts for their little *Nkosinathi* creche.

Seen here also at the fund-raising event are some of the many dramatic flower



displays against the backdrop of the beautiful home of Di and Tony Erskine overlooking Albert Falls Dam. The day brought in nearly R6000 which will go towards improving amenities such as cooking piots, swings and even a Video Tape-Recorder.

With the approach of winter the little work party calling themselves "The Cramond Comforters" are appealing once again for donations of knitting wool and material for them to make up into clothes and blankets for distribution to the needy through their local Clinic. These may be left for collection at the Diocesan Office in PMB or at St Alphege's Parish office in Scottsville.



St John's Pinetown Gearing up for its 150th anniversary

In 2006, St John's Anglican Church in Pinetown celebrates its 150th anniversary. Current and past parishioners are invited to provide ideas on what format the celebrations should take. It is important that parishioners are involved in this auspicious occasion.

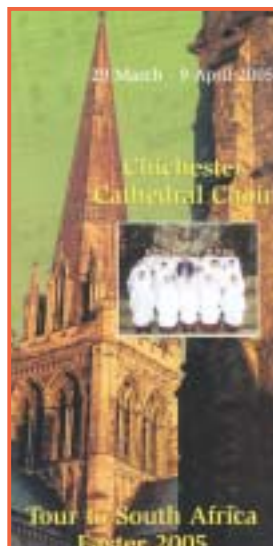
The major event will be a celebratory service to be held on Patronal Sunday. All ideas and suggestions regarding additional functions will be welcomed. In order to proceed timeously with the planning of any events, it is vital that any submissions be received before 30th June 2005.

As part of the celebrations, a commemorative booklet is to be printed. This will cover the major events in Pinetown and St Johns over the 150 years. They are most anxious to include as much interesting information about descendants and events, both local and historical, in the booklet.

Anything that might be of interest should be posted to the Church at 5 Payne Street, Pinetown 3610, or e-mailed to church@stjohnbaptist.co.za.



Archdeacon Margie Wishart and the Revd. Sifiso Dube officiated at the wedding of Lay Minister Joyce Maker and Bernard Rhodes on the 13 May 2005 at St Margaret's of Antioch, Margate.



The Choir of Chichester Cathedral performed before a packed Cathedral in aid of the building of the District West church at Nxamalala in Sweetwaters.

Holiday breaks for clergy

Mrs Jill Smith, whose late husband was a priest in the Johannesburg, P.E. and Kuruman Dioceses runs a Guest House and B&B in Port Alfred, she has written to say she would like to offer very reduced charges for clergy in need of a holiday.

They can normally accommodate a maximum of 7, with double and twin rooms, all with DSTV and all rooms are en-suite with private entrances. The self-catering cottage sleeps 5 and by special arrangement they are able to make their facilities available to parties of up to 11 people.

Her Diocesan Sandals Guest House is close to beaches, golf course, good restaurants game reserves, and she would welcome enquiries at 046-624 4049 or 082-3733959.



Christian Dance Fellowship of South Africa

Conference 2005
In Durban
10th - 13th July

"...a tender shoot..."

I saiah 53:2

Come, let us minister to the Lord and each other through the beauty and creativity of the dance ministry.

"...praise the beauty of holiness..."

2 Chronicles 20:21 (KJV)

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News from St John's DSG

St John's Day is traditionally a time for the gathering of Old Girls in Pietermaritzburg from all over and this year Old Girls travelled from as far afield as Holland and Australia.

There were many class reunions including the 1955 matric group, in which seventeen of the original class of twenty-three were present.

St John's Day celebrations began with a morning chapel service led by the School Chaplain, the Revd. Lloyd Smith and Sisters of St John the Divine, Sisters Mary Evelyn, Margaret Anne and Hilary, held in honour of the Old Girls and Senior Girls.

The school sang beautifully under the directorship of Mrs Tania Moir, and following the Old Girls' tea and AGM an annual picnic concert was held in the beautiful grounds where talented musicians from schools in the KwaZulu Natal area provided entertainment for families of St John's DSG and their guests.

The Service gave an opportunity to introduce a successor to popular Headmistress Mrs Jill Champion (left) who is to retire next year.

The Board of Governors have chosen Mrs Linda Stoffberg who is currently Senior Deputy Head of St Mary's DSG, Kloof in KwaZulu-Natal. She was appointed to St Mary's in 1982 as an Afrikaans teacher and subsequently became a senior English teacher before becoming Deputy Principal.

Mrs Stoffberg is in her fifties and has two adult daughters. Sadly, she was widowed 16 years ago. According to Bishop Michael Nuttall, Chairman of the Schools Board of Governors, "She comes to St John's with the highest commendations, a lively Christian faith and a rich educational experience. The school will continue to be in good hands."



Liturgical Dance

St MARY'S girls school in Kloof will provide the venue for the 2005 National Conference of the Christian Dance Fellowship on 10th to 13th July. Mary Jones who founded the fellowship in 1988, will be coming from Australia to be one of the teachers who are drawn from around South Africa..

This international and inter-denominational fellowship aims to encourage the sharing of experiences of those who use dance and movement as an expression of their faith, and to provide workshops and teaching to maintain standards.

National Coordinator Karen Kerr can be contacted at 031-701 6389, or 083-650 2211 or else by email to karen@rejoice.co.za

Ashburton Farm School

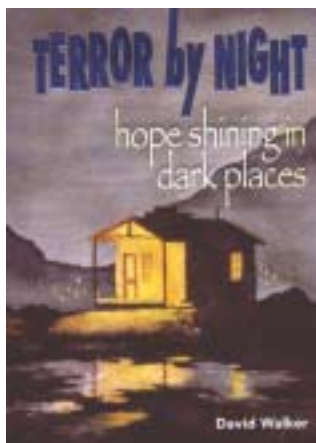


The Ashburton Farm School draws its pupils from a very poor community. For many years St Matthew's Parish and St John's Diocesan School for Girls have provided assistance and support in a variety of ways.

On Tuesday, 8 March 2005, the school was severely damaged in a storm. The roof of the classroom was blown off and three walls collapsed inwards. Luckily, even though the children were in the classroom at the time of the incident, no one was hurt.



St John's and St Matthew's have recently contributed a considerable sum to the building program at Ashburton. Two new classrooms and a store room are nearing completion. This structure was not damaged in the storm. The repairs to (or the rebuilding of) the damaged classroom is the acknowledged responsibility of the state. It is hoped that all the buildings will soon be ready for occupation.



Book on Depression draws the crowds

A FULL HOUSE requiring extra chairs to be brought in to the Cathedral Hall for the launch of David Walker's book on Depression showed the extent of interest in a condition of varying degrees of severity from minor to completely incapacitating.

An in-depth study, autobiographical in nature and related to David's personal search for a fulfilling spiritual home, *Terror by Night - Hope shining*



in dark places was introduced by speakers Bishop Michael Nuttall, who had written the Foreword, and Professor Graham Lindegger, both of whom had been close to the author in its production.

Pastoral in nature and "bravely personal" this book should have a wide appeal in its interweaving of personal biography, psychodynamic insights and meditational sermons. It is available for R75 (plus postage of R15) from Cluster Publications at 033 345 9897.



Looking far from depressed at the launch were author's wife Shirley with Elizabeth Jenkins and Professor Lindegger

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Archbishop challenges USA on poverty

When he gave the annual Martin Luther King Jr. lecture at Duke Divinity School in North Carolina, USA Archbishop, Njongonkulu Ndungane challenged international institutions such as the IMF, World Bank and World Trade Organisation which, he said "are all on paper committed to overcoming poverty and pursuing prosperity". He pointed out that in practice the unprecedented economic growth of recent decades has profited the richest most and had a minimal, sometimes negative impact on the poorest.

He said that in the next few months there will be unique opportunities to break the grip of poverty in tangible and lasting ways, when the spotlight will be on US President Bush and how far he will support recommendations for funding to meet anti-poverty targets and for reform of international institutions enabling to compete equally on the global stage.

Describing US as "the only superpower" he said "Surely it is for this great nation to give a lead in ensuring world affairs are governed through policies that uphold equity, fairness and the well-being of all humanity".

Women Bishops? C-of-E study programme

A study programme to help parishes, deaneries and dioceses engage with the Rochester report, "Women Bishops in the Church of England?", has been published on the Church of England web site.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York commended the Rochester report for prayerful study within the Church when it was published last November. It is intended as part of the process of discussion about women in the episcopate that began with two General Synod debates on the issue in February, not aimed simply to address the question "yes or no?" but to recognise the range of issues involved in the debate.

Reading God's Word in Worship Services.

After a successful preliminary trial run, workshops are being planned in the Diocese for non-threatening teaching methods and presentation to provide readers with valuable insights, self-understanding and skills for the crucial ministry Reading God's Word in Worship.

Amongst the various aspects of the Ministry of Reading in church, the areas covered in the two part workshop will assist one to:

- * understand the importance of and the theology behind, reading God's Word in Worship;
- * be able to use the Lectionary
- * adequately and prayerfully prepare readings using helpful techniques and methods,
- * discern the meaning of passages and ways of revealing this through your reading;
- * engage with the congregation so that you facilitate the hearing of God's message;
- * be more aware of the use of posture and breathing for maximum effect;
- * begin to explore the use of your voice energy in all its range of capabilities;
- * master the correct use of a microphone and the dynamics of sound amplification;
- * deal with mistakes, disasters and any glitch that may interrupt your delivery;
- * increase your confidence, awareness and self-evaluation in this vital ministry

The Concept of Nature

Published by Darton, Longman & Todd, 2000

The word "nature" means many different things to different people in different contexts. In thinking and particularly in disputes about ethical issues, it is important that we understand that there are different meanings and that we find out from those with whom we may disagree the sense in which they are using this common word which hides complex meanings.

This fascinating book enlarges on a series of Gifford Lectures delivered at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, by the retired Archbishop of York, John Hapgood, in 2000. In six chapters Hapgood explores the multiple meanings of the word "nature", questions the assumptions underlying a purely naturalistic approach to the description of reality, considers environmental issues and asks whether there is a convincing intellectual basis for environmentalism, takes up the theme of whether there is a natural moral law of universal application and looks at this in the context of sexuality as a test case, describes how human beings have constantly tried to improve nature and asks how far massively increased powers of manipulation mainly through genetics require new ethical constraints, and finally draws together these various themes around the ideas of givenness and potentiality, and relates them to traditional beliefs about God. Not an easy book to start reading, being based on lectures delivered to the top minds at one of the top universities, 'The Concept of Nature' nevertheless rewards persistence to the closing chapters, where the style seems more accessible.

Its brilliant theology, presented in a low-key way clearly grounded in personal experience of a deeply spiritual man, is what remains, and returns again and again to challenge our thinking and push the boundaries of our concept of 'God', as well as that of 'nature'.

Book Review by John Hapgood

"The Diocesan Environment Committee has a selection of interesting and informative books on environmental issues which anyone in the Diocese is welcome to borrow. Please contact the Committee's Secretary, Pat Brooker, at 031 7020014 evenings, Andrew Warmback at 031 3103541 during working hours or Sue Britton at 082 9307474 to find out which books are available and how to borrow them.

"Ongoing Life Training"

— by The Revd Bellina Mangena

On Good Friday morning I attended the Diakonia service. There I met a friend who greeted me with enthusiasm and the words, "Mfundisi wena u all over". This being a silent procession I refrained from answering. Now I know I would not have given an appropriate response because she was telling the truth more she could ever imagine. While I have not really been all over in every sense of the phrase, I have been deep into me.

New York

On the 23 February, I left for New York to attend the 49th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women gathering. That was an education, from finding my way from J.F.Kennedy airport to the Episcopal Church Centre in Manhattan to thinking wider than parish and diocese. I was one of 41 women from 27 of the 38 provinces of the Anglican Communion. I have always admired the diversity of our church, coming from a parish that has both "Valley" and "Hill" sort of made me take this for granted. But seeing this diversity in one room and hearing all the different accents was nothing less than awesome.

Here is part of our closing statement, "During our time together we reflected on the 12 planks of the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) based on a questionnaire circulated in advance. In small groups and regional caucuses, delegates were able to identify the most pressing women's concerns. The delegation highlighted 4 areas of major importance which impede world-wide development: poverty, poor education, violence and lack of access to good, affordable healthcare. These areas were the basis for consultations, which enabled delegates to discern God's call for their personal commitment and action as part of the Church's participation in God's mission for the world", I had the added privilege of being responsible for all our worship. On the last Sunday I was invited to preach in two services at the Church of the Ascension in Mount Vernon while the other delegates had the morning off.

Journey into me: My being African took precedence over my being a woman. I think that could come from the fact that in most high level church gatherings women are more the exception than the rule and there it was just us.

Kempton Park

Three days after New York, it was Kempton Park for the

Provincial Annual Planning meeting. I went there charged with taking responsibility for worship. An opportunity to experience Anglican diversity at a local level.

The focus was on the Millennium Development goals. Because we are critical of ourselves some people began to complain about the church not doing anything about these. But it soon became very clear that these goals, especially those around poverty and HIV/AIDS were no longer an option for good deeds but are essential for human survival. It also became clear that the Church is actually very busy at grass root level, (our diocese had realized that at the beginning of February at the first Rural Development workshop.)

I was very pleased to see so much time and effort dedicated to the importance of education at the crucial levels of schooling and clergy training.

Journey into me: belonging to this growing church feels good but has its demands. Yes, I did say growing, because for me growth is not just manifested in numbers but in quality and relevance.

Ongoing Training

A week after Kempton Park came "OIT". It could not have been better timed and located, Jacob's Well. Compassion and experience prevailed and our wardens gave us the afternoon to rest and we slept.

On the last day we did a gifting exercise which I was reluctant and quite skeptical about. That was such an eye opener and a pulling together of all my "all-iveness".

This exercise does not only help one identify their gifts. It goes on to give tips for training e.g. for those with the gift or missionary "the use of trips abroad to interact with people from foreign cultures, and if possible sharing in their lifestyle for some time". Possible tasks and the dangers, for instance one of the dangers for people with the gift of leadership is said to be spiritual isolation.

I would really recommend this gifting exercise for all, and I really thank God for all this coming together of the puzzle of my life in this year leaving me with a stronger sense of purpose, all this feels so good I had to share this journey with you all.

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Busy with the Liners

– by David Hughes

Since November 2004 a number of cruise liners have been calling at Durban, docking normally at the N Shed Passenger Terminal where Durban's Port Chaplains take turns to man the Seafarers Mission table and exhibition every time a liner is in port.

The Mission to Seafarers Chaplain Des Vaubell is regularly seen down at N. Shed. He shares the duties of displaying magazines, videos and spreading the gospel to any seafarers who may call at the able which is conveniently situated near the ship's gangway. Many passengers come to the table as well to enquire what they are doing there and often donate money for Bibles for Seafarers. Grateful thanks are due to Portnet who allow the setting up of the table in the terminal building.

Recent ship arrivals of note have been *The World*, *Minerva 2* and *The Rhapsody*, an Italian cruise ship based to cruise out of Durban until April. Des is also often called upon to conduct a service for crew members aboard these liners.



Rev. Des Vaubell of THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS at the exhibition table at N. Shed Passenger Terminal, ready to meet seafarers, along with Port Missionary Paddy Percival of the International Sailors Society.



Having completed their training these servers were presented with Bibles by Fr Sifiso Dube, Rector of St Margaret's parish Margate. They have four girls and boys completing their course and four new aspiring youngsters began in April.

Clergy Retreats

There will be a weekend retreat specially for Community Clergy at the Marianhill Retreat House, from Friday 3rd June at 6.00pm until after lunch on Sunday the 5th. The conductor will be the Revd Moses Thabethe. The cost is R250 and they should feel free to ask their parish to pay it for them.

Stipendiary Clergy should make a note of the dates of their Annual Clergy Retreat which will be held at St Anne's Diocesan College from 26th to 30th September.

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Urgency:
It is thanks to you, the readers, that *Anglican News* is becoming so newsworthy. We are already finalizing material for the next issue. Do please send in your news as promptly as possible.

NOTE

The e-mail address angnews@mweb.co.za has been discontinued. In future for e-mail to Anglican News only use the editor's personal mailbox: djenkins@mweb.co.za. The all hours fax number for Anglican News is now: **086 684 6426**.

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