

NATAL ANGLICAN NEWS

A NEWSPAPER FOR THE DIOCESE OF NATAL
 IPHEPHA LESIFUNDAMBISHOBI SASENATAL

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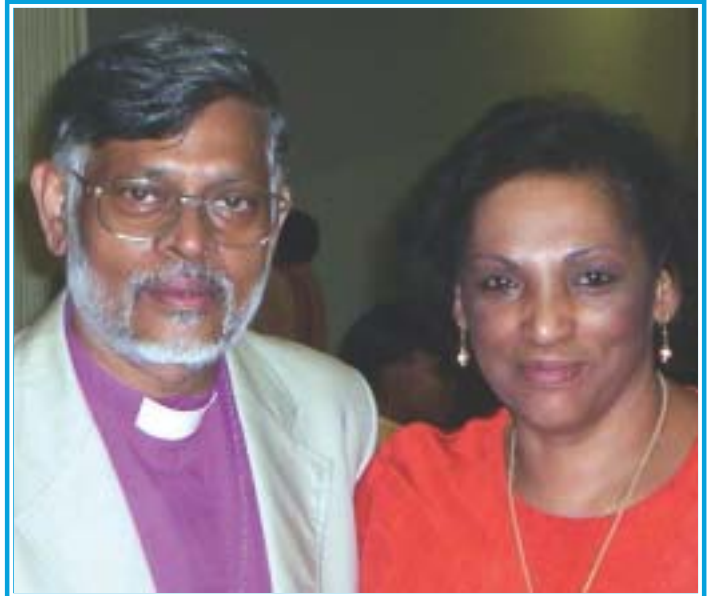


Bishop taken seriously ill Synod postponed to next year

On Friday September 2nd Bishop Rubin was rushed in to Parklands Hospital to undergo an emergency operation for a ruptured appendix. The treatment was successful but he has been advised to take things very quietly for some time before returning to work.

The bishop's personal Assistant, Frank Kantor, reports that after a third follow-up visit to his surgeon bishop Rubin's progress has been described as "steady, but although the doctor is satisfied with his progress "his body still needs some time to heal from the extensive surgery he underwent. He is now [at the end of September] able to sit up a lot more and take gentle walks.

"Rose has been providing admirable support in caring for him during his convalescence at home", says Frank Kantor, "and based on his doctor's advice, Bishop Rubin will only resume active duties with the Special Budget Meeting on 12th October, which is to be followed by a residential meeting of Chapter on the 13th to 14th October."



Celebrations - before Surgery!

ONLY a few days before he fell ill, Bishop Rubin and his wife Rose held a celebration at the Cathedral to mark the tenth anniversary of his consecration as a bishop.

On Saturday 27th August he presided genially over a leisurely thanksgiving Eucharist in which Rose and family members played a part, with a daughter-in-law reading the lesson and a musically talented son leading his accomplished quartet in brilliant choral items.

The family atmosphere extended throughout the following luncheon for the clergy and diocesan staff, with an invitation eventually extended at the end of the service to include the whole congregation.

The Bishop drew attention to the part played by his wife during his ministry. She had recently been licensed as a Lay Minister at St Paul's Durban, and in a letter to the clergy he had written in this connection:

"I am particularly pleased for Rose, as she has quietly gone about exercising her own gifts within the life of our Diocese, and does not live in my shadow!

"Apart from her ministry at St Paul's she has been involved in some Sunday School teachers training by invitation of the Rectors. She is also training pre-school teachers from the parishes of St Chad's, Mphophomeni, Ngcwayi and St Hild's Osizweni. Her dream is to establish Children's Educational Centres in the poorest parishes of the diocese."



Rose handed out roses to all the women.



Servers modelling the latest style in 'Sanctuary Slippers'



A daughter-in-law reads the lesson



Lance Philip's classical quartet



The Anniversary cake

Trial of Zim Bishop collapses

by Peta Thornycroft writing in *The Telegraph*

THE Ecclesiastical Trial of an Anglican bishop who is an ardent supporter of President Robert Mugabe ended in farce when the presiding judge withdrew from the case before a plea had been heard.

Bishop Nolbert Kunonga, 55, the head of the Diocese of Harare, had been accused by priests and parishioners of 11 charges ranging from incitement to commit murder to bringing the Anglican church into disrepute. He rejects the charges. But the trial, ordered by Archbishop Bernard Malunga, the head of the Church of the Province of Central Africa in Malawi which has authority over Zimbabwe, was quickly bogged down in technicalities and adjournments raised by the defence.

Judge James Kalaile, from the Malawian Supreme Court, told the court, mostly filled with black Anglicans gathered to give evidence against their bishop: "I have not in my years as a judge in Malawi or elsewhere heard anything like this dispute. I will contact the archbishop and ask him to appoint another judge."

Minutes after proceedings began, the defence attorney James Matizha demanded 17 pages of "further particulars" of the Church's case against his client. Jeremy Lewis, the prosecuting barrister who is a prominent Anglican, said the objections were "vexatious" and out of step with ecclesiastical justice and intent. "The bishop has not even been asked to plead. Let him admit or deny

the charges, that is why we are all here," he said.

Pauline Makoni, another leading Zimbabwean Anglican who travelled from London to give evidence against the bishop, said: "Our canons remain broken, our case against the bishop will not go away, we will continue."

Wearing a cerise cassock and surrounded by family members, Bishop Kunonga emerged from the courtroom, convened at Harare Royal Golf Club, smiling broadly and claiming victory.

Bishop Kunonga would only speak to Zimbabwe's state media after the hearing. He is an open supporter of Mr Mugabe, who has given him at least two farms seized from their white owners.

An Anglican priest, Rev James

Mukunga, who fled Zimbabwe last year, claimed in an affidavit signed in London last week that Bishop Kunonga had solicited assistance from state security agents and militant war veterans loyal to Mr Mugabe to have 10 "unruly" parishioners and priests killed because they opposed his tenure at Harare cathedral.

The chancellor of the Harare diocese, Bob Stumbles, who Bishop Kunonga has tried to sack, said: "I understand this case may now be investigated to see if charges can be brought against the bishop in the civil court."

The allegations against the bishop, had they culminated in a full trial would have been the first time charges of such a serious nature would have been decided by the Anglican Church in Africa.

Anglican House of Studies

THE ANGLICAN HOUSE OF STUDIES, an institution of the Church of the Province of Southern Africa located in Pietermaritzburg in close location to the University of KwaZulu-Natal, is seeking to appoint a Director of Studies on a one year contract, renewable subject to funding.

The mission of the Anglican House of Studies is to be a centre for Anglican students of theology offering support in Anglican spirituality, academic modules in Anglican theology as part of a Masters degree in theology, accommodation for a limited number of students, a centre for ongoing lay and clergy training at all levels, a centre where individuals can be supported in Anglican spirituality.

The responsibilities of the Director will be to assist in the development of a vision for the Anglican House of Studies; network with funders and missionary societies to assist in fundraising for the House; liaise with other bodies of the CPSA and its dioceses concerned with theological

education to ensure that the vision for the House of Studies is consistent with and dovetails with Provincial needs and plans; represent the House of Studies in discussions with such bodies, assist in negotiations to align the House of Studies with the School of Religion and Theology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and to have its teaching programme recognized within qualifications offered by the University; assist in negotiations to align the House of Studies with the Cluster of Theological Institutions around Pietermaritzburg; initiate the design of post graduate modules in Anglican theology, spirituality or pastoralia; plan a variety of options to assist with post-ordination theological education, pastoral training and appropriate field work of Anglican lay leaders and clergy.

With regard to the House of Studies the responsibilities of the Director will be to: assist the part-time manager in the day-to-day running of the House of Studies,

take responsibility for selecting any students to be accommodated in the House, and to liaise with their bishops and those who send and fund them, arrange for regular opportunities for worship in the House; provide learning opportunities for prayer, spiritual growth and creative liturgy. oversee the discipline of students accommodated in the house as set out in the Code of Conduct.

He or she will report to the Advisory Board of the Anglican House of Studies and be a member of the local Management Committee.

Minimum requirements are a good understanding of the theology, ethos and structures of the Church of the Province of Southern Africa, and at least a relevant Masters degree in theology or equivalent, although a PhD would be an advantage. Also necessary is at least three years pastoral experience, e.g. as Rector of a Parish or as a chaplain, or experience in spiritual direction, some experience in

administration - e.g. in handling a small staff, in managing a budget, in responding to written queries and requests. And computer literacy in emails, word processing and spreadsheets is a requirement, as well as competence in written and spoken English and the ability to communicate accurately and dynamically.

Academic teaching experience would be an advantage, as would post graduate supervision and experience in fund raising and negotiations with donor organizations would be an added advantage.

The remuneration package is the equivalent of a basic CPSA clergy remuneration and includes benefits.

Applications, marked "Director: applications" should include the names of two referees, and should reach PO Box 899 Pietermaritzburg 3200 as soon as possible as the selection process will continue until a suitable applicant is appointed. The CPSA reserves the right not to fill this position.

Servers' Annual Conference

by Christian Ngiba, Ekuvukeni

IT was a dream when servers from the Diocese of Natal wanted to know each other. So they decided to start a conference in which they would meet, share ideas and gain knowledge on what they do. This dream was realized last year (2004) when Bishop Rubin gave his blessing and they had their first annual conference in Pietermaritzburg.

This year was no different; and with the number attending doubling, this proved to be an ongoing affair. This year the conference was graced with presence of Bishop Mbhele who resided in services and gave a teaching on Prayer. The Venerable Dr. H.C.N. Ndwandwe also graced the conference giving talks on "The Calling" and "Holiness." This was also accompanied by a brief informative History on the Anglican Church in Maritzburg.

Parishes that attended were St. Mark's (eMbalu), St. Raphael's (Sweetwaters), St. Augustine's (Umlazi) and Ekuvukeni (Kwa-Mashu).

This conference is ahead of the 6th Celebratory Mass of St. Michael and All Angels that will be held on the 1st of October 2005, at the Cathedral of the Holy Nativity. This is the first to be held in the Cathedral following its tremendous growth after it has been hosted by the Parish of Ekuvukeni in Kwa-Mashu for the past five years.

Vacancy for House Parent(s)

THERE IS an urgent need for a single lady, or a married couple, to be appointed to the position of Houseparents at Careways Home in Richmond for intellectually impaired adults.

It is important that applicants who wish to be considered for this position demonstrate strong Christian values as well as a clear calling to serve in the community of the intellectually impaired. The successful applicants will be required to create a homely family atmosphere for residents of the Home, and display a practical understanding of the needs of the intellectually impaired. They will be required to live in.

Contact the Chairperson, Careways Community Centre, P. O. Box 1186, Kloof, 3640. Careways is a project of the Kloof Methodist Church.

Founder of Taize Killed

BROTHER ROGER, one of the 20th century's leading ecumenical figures, was stabbed to death by a woman during a service at the Taize community he founded in eastern France. Police said a woman stood up during a religious ceremony attended by some 2,500 people and stabbed him three times in the throat.

The 90-year-old died immediately, and a 36-year-old Romanian woman was overpowered by worshippers and detained.

Brother Roger, a Protestant pastor from Switzerland, enjoyed great respect among religious leaders, and organisers of the Catholic Church's World Youth Day in Germany said they were shocked at the killing.

"Brother Roger has always been closely attached to the Catholic Church," Heiner Koch, the secretary general of the event in Cologne, said in a statement. "We were all happy and grateful that he attended the funeral of Pope John Paul II."

Brother Roger founded the Taize monastic community in 1940 after leaving Switzerland at the age of 25 and buying a small house in the village of Taize, where he welcomed refugees fleeing World War II.

Today, the Taize community is made up of more than a hundred brothers, including Catholics and Protestants, from more than 25 nations. The community sees itself as an effort to reconcile divided Christians and separated peoples.

Thousands of young people of both Catholic and Protestant faiths flock to the Taize community each year to meet and take part in communal prayer and song. Many religious leaders have also visited the community, including Pope John Paul II, Archbishops of Canterbury, Orthodox metropolitans and pastors from all over the world.

Youth Camp in the North

THE All Saints Ladysmith youth went on a weekend camp during August. The theme of the camp was "Finding Jesus in all things", and tree climbing, hikes, a camp-fire and bible studies formed part of the wonderful weekend experience.

The Parish youth leaders, Belinda Isaacs and Sharon Small, organized the event which catered for 16 high school youth, and the venue was the Vulindhlela Bush camp near Dundee.

The photograph shows some of the youth at lunch with The Rev. Jean Smith assistant priest at All Saints.



Celebration in Estcourt

The Parish of Estcourt celebrated its Patronal Festival on St. Matthew's day, 21st September. This well attended festival Eucharist was followed by a shared supper and good fellowship.

The above photo shows part of the 70 strong congregation which included clergy from the region and visiting clergy from elsewhere.

The celebrant and preacher was Archdeacon Rod Smith. He spoke of the apostle Matthew as the marginalized person whom Jesus called to be a disciple.



Community Deacon

A MEMBER of the congregation of All Saints United Church was ordained as a Community Deacon on Tuesday 23 August.

The Revd Francis Harrison is probably the first Community clergyperson to be ordained in a United Church - certainly the first in KZN.

Regional "empowerment"

THE decision of Synod a few years ago that the Diocese would remain geographically unchanged marked the beginning of changes to the episcopal boundaries and the responsibilities of the regions.

The idea was that the regions would be "empowered", which meant that the Diocese would be able to rely on them to a greater extent than previously. It is expected that this will be a gradual, ongoing, evolutionary process depending, on the one hand, on Diocesan Synod, Diocesan Council or Episcopal decisions and, on the other, the eagerness with which the regions are willing and able to accept the new responsibilities.

At this stage the regions have already (by a Diocesan Act) been entrusted with certain matters related to property and finances. The empowerment process has now reached a point where changes in the functioning of the archdeacons and the regional councils (accompanied by changes in the composition of the regional councils) are being effected. These changes have already been applied in the North Durban Region with success.

The North Durban Region held its first Regional conference on 6 August 2005 to which the seven parishes in the Region were invited.

Bishop Rubin, as the guest and keynote speaker, addressed the seventy nine clergy and lay persons present on the theme of the conference which was "Preparing for the Future".

In his address which was based on a vision for the Diocese of Natal over the next five to seven years, he outlined the infrastructure of the universal church as it applied to Anglicans, the role of the Diocese and the functions of the bishop and the part which parishes have to play in the process of growth and development.

He looked briefly at the recently completed Parish Charter exercise which focussed on twelve elements with which a "healthy" parish must identify, and concluded that the forthcoming vision needs to be one of Growth and Development of the Church.

Thereafter each parish made presentations on their achievements, problems, challenges, and opportunities and possibilities.

An interesting observation was that the social, economic and spiritual backgrounds of the people in the different parishes have a significant impact on their achievements, problems, challenges, opportunities and possibilities. This was microcosmically representative of the Diocese (and even the universal Church) where the factors which promoted diversity are present in more polarised extremes, exerting influences with greater impact.

Interfaith convocation insists "Hunger No More"

IN an unprecedented gathering, more than 1,000 people of various religious affiliations joined leaders of more than 40 faith communities for an interfaith convocation at Washington National Cathedral June 6 united in a common conviction that no one should go hungry.

Addressing the "Hunger No More" convocation, The Archbishop of Cape Town spoke passionately about how "the plight of the hungry must not be left for heaven" saying that 852 million people faced hunger every day and that, even in a wealthy nation such as the United States, there were 36 million people who were "food insecure," almost 13 million of whom are children.. He stressed that people would rather be given opportunities than hand-outs.

Drawing on different cultures and traditions, the convocation featured a feast of readings and musical offerings that included a Zulu freedom song, gospel choir performances, a Xhosa hymn and texts from Sikh, Hebrew, Christian, Muslim and Buddhist sacred writings.

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Celebration of Creativity Howick Community

THE Meander Floral and Quilt Festival at St Luke's Church in Howick at the end of November is an opportunity for the public to appreciate the creativity of local men and women.

A full programme is scheduled for Friday, 25 November and Saturday, 26 November. There will be a champagne breakfast and floral art demonstration on Friday at 9.00 am. Althea Higham, a well-known floral artist from Hillcrest, will demonstrate how to create a floral arrangement depicting the food on the menu at the breakfast. She will also depict one of the quilts on the exhibition in the form of a floral arrangement.

Tickets for this unique breakfast are now on sale for R100.00 per person. If you are interested in buying a ticket, please contact Colleen Gibson on (033) 330-7071 or Lindy Briscoe on (033) 330-8117. Only 150 people can be accommodated at the breakfast and tickets are selling quickly.

After the breakfast which will be held in a marquee in the grounds of St Luke's Church, the exhibition of quilts made by the Meander Quilters' Guild will be opened. Guild members participated in a Round Robin challenge issued by their chairlady, Lindy Briscoe.

"The quilts are beautiful and inspiring," said Lindy. "Every quilt is the product of all that is good and each person has explored the challenges of colour and creativity. The quilts have been made with love and this is clear when looking at them," she added.

There will also be a mini Fete over the two day festival where interesting and useful gifts, plants, home bakes and other goodies will be on sale. A Christmas hamper will also be raffled. Proceeds will all be donated to the Parish of Karkloof.



One of two quilts which will be raffled during the festival. The picture shown here has been "paper pieced" and hand quilted - an heirloom well worth the R5.00 entry fee. More information can be obtained from Lindy Briscoe on (033) 330-8117 or at email nomajuba@netfocus.co.za.

Schools' joint birthdays

THE Wykeham Collegiate presented St Nicholas School with a framed copy of Harold Bailey's Pen and Ink sketch of 'The Quad' as part of the joint celebrations of their 15th birthdays.

In 1990 The Anglican Church bought the Wykeham buildings when Wykeham and Collegiate joined forces and moved campus to Collegiate in Villiers Drive.

The Wykeham Collegiate Junior Wind Ensemble recently came to play for St Nicholas School and in turn the St Nicholas Choir and Steel Drum Band entertained them.

The St Nicholas Grade 9 Steel Drum Band recently won the National Steel Drum Band Competition held in Durban and the Grade 6 band won their section.

Steel Drum Bands at St Nicholas have been a great success, and the children involved have really benefitted from their participation. They have grown in their self confidence and self discipline and they have had the opportunities of travelling to many different places to play.



(from left to right) Deb Avery, Deputy Head of St Nicholas Diocesan School, receives a framed copy of Harold Bailey's Pen and Ink Sketch of 'The Quad' drawn in 1970 from Emily Hellens, Tori Sylvester, pupils of The Wykeham Collegiate, and Ilona Dobejn, Marketing Department of the Wykeham Collegiate, as a present for St Nicholas School's 15th Birthday.



Bryan Clarke leads the St Nicholas Diocesan School Grade 9 Steel Drum Band. They were the recent winners of the National Steel Drum Band Festival held in Durban recently.

Meander Floral & Quilt Festival at St Luke's Church, Howick

Friday, 25th November
9 a.m. Champagne Breakfast
with Floral Art Demonstration by Althea Higham
11 a.m. Meander Quilters' Guild exhibition opens
Mini Fete

Saturday, 26th November
9 a.m. Meander Quilters' Guild exhibition
St Luke's Tea Garden
Mini Fete

Theological College seeks Counsellor

THE College of the Transfiguration, a residential theological college belonging to the CPSA, is seeking to appoint a counsellor. The anticipated starting date is 1st January 2006, and subject to the satisfactory completion of a probationary year this appointment will initially be for three years.

The College is looking for a Christian with a passion for preparing men and women for Christian ministry who is a psychologically trained counsellor. In addition it is desirable that the successful candidate possesses expertise in the administrative and Information Technology fields.

The appointee will be expected to provide psychological support to learners enrolled with the College of Transfiguration and to run workshops for both staff and learners that will encourage their formation as agents of transformation. The successful candidate will have minimal teaching responsibilities (e.g. providing a personal development course) and will not be involved in the disciplinary procedures of the College.

The successful candidate will also be expected to provide administrative assistance, specifically with regard to the promotion of the College in Southern Africa and beyond. These expectations will involve the candidate partaking in the Anglican ethos of the College and offering pastoral care to its learners and their families.

Preference will be given to persons who are South African citizens and who are ordained in one of the CUC churches. Women and previously disadvantaged persons are encouraged to apply. Applicants should submit a letter of interest, together with a current curriculum vitae and the names of two referees to the Revd Canon Livingstone Ngewu, the College of the Transfiguration, PO Box 77, Grahamstown, 6140, Republic of South Africa. Materials may also be sent to cotoffice@intekom.co.za. The closing deadline for all applications is 31st October 2005.

Koinonia Klear-up

THE Environment Committee of the Diocese is arranging a family picnic day to mark "International Weed Buster Week" at Koinonia Conference Centre, Botha's Hill on Saturday 15 October from 9 to 3.

Speakers will be available to demonstrate and advise on the problem of invasive plants. The event is open to all. Bring a picnic lunch, dress in gardening clothes and, if possible, bring a tool to assist in the eradication of these plants from the Koinonia grounds. Cool drinks will be provided.

For further information contact Andrew Warmback by phone at 031 3103541, or by email to andrew.warmback@diakonia.org.za

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Telephone: 031 777-1480 - Fax: 031 777-1483 - e-mail: koinonia@diakonia.org.za

Woodlands parish to celebrate 150 Years

PREPARATIONS for the Parish of Woodlands, Montclair cum Yellowwood Park's 150th Anniversary Celebrations on Sunday, 23rd October 2005 are well underway. The Committee appointed to oversee the Celebration has been busy over the past year not only planning for the event, but also in implementing a number of Supporting Projects identified by Parishioners.

One of the Projects which has attracted considerable interest is the Fabric Wall Hanging, co-ordinated by Susan Gace and assembled from the contributions of past and present members of the Parish, all having 'Our Church' as their central theme. Some 76 squares were received resulting in three separate wall hangings representing St Etheldreda's and St Stephen's Congregations, as well as our Sunday School. The love and support for our Parish is reflected in the response and the Committee has been 'blown away' by the variety and quality of the artwork and the completed work will be a wonderful reminder of the diverse talents and rich cultures which sewn together, make up our Parish.



Abantwana bakaSonto sikole beveza amathalente abo.

All three of these pieces will form part of the Flower's Thru' the Church display which will be open for public viewing on Saturday 22 October 2005.

The alterations and additions currently taking place at St Stephen's Church is a further significant Project and levels of 'excitement' increase with each brick that's laid.

Driven by the need to increase the capacity of the Church the opportunity has been taken to create a new entrance which is not only functional, but which also 'celebrates' our 150th year and a commemorative plaque will accordingly be built into this new entrance.

A commemorative wall will also be created on the inside rear wall of the Church where the new wall hanging and other memorabilia will be displayed.

It is fitting that the Parish's 150th Celebration takes place at its birthplace, on the grounds of St Stephen's Church in Montclair and we look forward to celebrating the Holy Eucharist with friends and past Parishioners who faithfully served and worshiped in the Parish over the years.

At a time of cell phones, email and the internet it is difficult to comprehend the challenges faced by early settlers in building a Church without so much as access to either telephone or motor vehicle, and it is an apt reminder of the truism that the only guarantee of the future is that there will be change.



Nanti iqembu elisebenze kakhulu ukwakha isonto u Peggy Xaki, Rob May and Stanley Sokhulu



Nasi isakhiwo ngaphambi kokuba senziwe kabusha. Leli isonto elesine kulesi sizinda, sakhiwa ngo 1958.



Ibandla selilangazelela ukubona isakhiwo sesiphelile kanye nokuvulwa kwaso, sivulwa nguBaba uMbhishobhi u Rubin Phillip mhla zingu 23 ku Okthoba 2005.

Veteran Organist

MR. Barry Callaway is the church organist of All Saint's Ladysmith. His grandfather who died in Zimbabwe was directly related to the famous Henry Callaway of Springvale Mission. Barry was taught organ playing by Lesley Owen the organist of Church of the Ascension Bulawayo.

The rector of the parish at the time was Fr. Chris Ross who was head student at St. Paul's Grahamtown in 1969. Barry, who is the HOD at Egerton Primary School Ladysmith, was church organist at St. Mary's Bulawayo, Melsetter, Selukwe and St. Cuthbert's Cathedral Gwelo. He came to Ladysmith in 1988.

The All Saint's Ladysmith Church organ was installed in 1894. The pipes, tracker action mechanism, leather bellows came by sea from Palmer's in London and were brought by ox wagon to Ladysmith from Durban at a cost of one pound ten shillings (the receipt for this payment is in the archives). In 1960 SAOB refurbished the organ and installed "modern" electrical switching which is still working at present. Barry however will tell you that there are times which a kick or a pull gets the old wires working again.



More recently the organ has been partially overhauled by Byrne Organ Builders with the eye to a complete restoration. The generous funding from the Gladys Jones bequest has enabled this to happen. New leather bellows were installed, pipe racks replaced, a new floor on which the organ stands built and new pipes cast.

The organ featured prominently during the recent Ladysmith Rivers Arts Festival which was held at the All Saint's Church grounds.

The "A-Team" of Ladysmith Region

HARDWORKING clergy with excellent leadership work in extended parishes which are mainly rural poor are Fr. Thami Tembe is Rector of Steadville Pansh which extends from Ladysmith to the Drakensberg.

Fr. Malusi Msimango is assistant priest at the Parish of Klipriver (the Archdeacon is priest-in-charge). This Parish extends from StChad's to Ekhuvuknei on one side and eMhlumayo on the other.

Father SW Zulu is rector of Wembezi Parish which is the largest in the region and consists of 18 congregations. A round trip of this Parish is about 210 kms.



Retirement accomodation needed A Natal Diocesan Priest of 25 years ministry retiring at the end of January 2006. is looking for a two bedroomed Flat/ Small Cottage/Granny Flat to rent, preferably from the beginning of January, and in the Durban or greater Durban area. Please Contact: Revd. Roger Sparks on 031-916 3245, or Celia Sparks on 031-260 2086 (w).

Mbeki's meeting with Religious Leaders

The situation in Zimbabwe is changing too fast to be kept up to date in an occasional periodical like this, but it is important for Anglican News readers to be reminded of the statement made by our Archbishop at the time.

I and other religious leaders met with President Mbeki on the issue of Zimbabwe. Also present at the meeting were Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka, Finance Minister Trevor Manuel and Minister of Land Affairs Thoko Didiza. The religious leaders included the President of the South African Council of Churches, Professor Russel Bothman; the Vice President of the SACC; General Secretary of the SACC, Dr Molefe Tsele; Cardinal Napier of the Catholic Church; Dr Coenie Burger, Moderator of the NGK; Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church, Ivan Abrahams; Bishop Paswana of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and Pastor Ntsha of the Evangelical Alliance.

This meeting followed our initial meeting with the President a few weeks ago where we reported back on our July fact-finding visit to Zimbabwe and discussed what we, as the religious community could do to help the situation. The President then promised to meet with us once he had read and digested the UN report.

Subsequent to that meeting we started an assistance fund for the victims of Operation Murambatsvina and collected some food and blankets to send to Zimbabwe, to be distributed by the Zimbabwe Council of Churches. You will also be aware by now that the trucks carrying 37 tons of food and a few thousand blankets have not been able to leave South Africa yet. This is due to the Zimbabweans insisting on certificates from the suppliers of the food as well as from the Ministry of Agriculture to certify that the food is not genetically modified. We know that many countries Africa are quite sensitive about GMO foods and want to ensure that developed world countries do not offload these foods on our doorstep.

On receiving the UN report, President Mbeki mentioned again that he would be meeting with Southern African religious leaders and that is why we were all in Pretoria yesterday.

I think that the fact that the Deputy President, Minister of Finance and Minister of Land Affairs were all present at this meeting is an indication of how seriously the present situation in Zimbabwe is viewed by our government. It is very clear to all of us that this crisis needs clear heads and options for a solution rather than political posturing in either South Africa or in Zimbabwe at this stage.

Zimbabwe is in a very precarious situation. The crisis seems to be in three major areas:

Firstly, the humanitarian crisis exacerbated by Operation Murambatsvina and we, as churches, are doing our best to respond to that. Apart from the Operation there has been the question of a food shortage for some time. We have been given the assurance that the Department of Agriculture will be issuing a certificate (that the foods we are sending have not been genetically modified) this morning. So we hope that our trucks will be on their way soon.

The second area of major concern is that Zimbabwe is in danger of forfeiting its membership of the IMF. It owes the IMF and other institutions a lot of money, which it is apparently unable to pay at this stage. The consequences of Zimbabwe's expulsion from the IMF are very serious and will lead to a far worse situation in Zimbabwe.

I do not need to remind you that the consequences of a meltdown in Zimbabwe will actually be disastrous for the whole of Southern Africa.

There is another side to the IMF coin and that is that if the IMF itself rescues Zimbabwe, the conditions it will impose on the country in order for it to restore itself may well result in its citizens being far worse off than they are now.

Thirdly, and most importantly, it is felt that Zimbabweans from government, from opposition, from civil society and business must come together and be informed of the true facts of the crisis so that they can all begin to address that crisis together. Once that is done they can call on South Africa and other countries for the help they need.

On the visit that I and other religious leaders made to Zimbabwe in 2003, we met with President Mugabe, the opposition and civil society leaders and they all agreed that coming together was the only solution for their country.

Concern has been expressed by South Africans about the conditions of a possible loan by South Africa to Zimbabwe. Those present at our meeting yesterday were given assurances that this government has a good record of fiscal discipline and are not going to enter into any loan agreement in an irresponsible way and that all proper processes will be followed - including engaging with parliament. We believe those assurances and hope that they help to allay any fears on that score.

We South Africans need to lend our support to finding a solution in this quagmire. This is not the time to be arguing amongst ourselves about details. We must press for all stakeholders in Zimbabwe to come together and work what is best for their country. Along with help in supplying short-term humanitarian aid, that is our appeal.

+Njongonkulu

"The denial of religion and the ecological crisis"

Book Review by Michael Cottrell

Throughout my academic studies and career, I have never understood why there should be a perceived divide between science and religion.

Alister McGrath admirably addresses this issue in his book *The Reenchantment of Nature*. His academic achievements are in mathematics, natural sciences and chemistry, with doctorates in molecular biology and divinity. He is presently Professor of Theology at Oxford and Principal of Wycliffe Hall.

Such a background enables him to objectively probe this topic. McGrath, like his predecessor at Oxford, CS Lewis, subscribed to atheism in his earlier years, but subsequently both converted to Christianity. So he would be well aware of the claim that science is a precise body of empirical knowledge that negates religious claims. But he came to the realisation that much scientific thought has dulled the sense of wonder of God's creation and the respect for nature.

In studying for a Master's Degree in environmental studies in the 1970's, we were required to read a paper by American Lynn White on "The historical roots of our ecological crisis" in which the Judeo-Christian tradition is blamed for the deteriorating environmental situation. McGrath provides adequate responses to such assertions and also to those of the present day Oxford zoologist, Richard Dawkins and his fellow so-called rational thinkers, that 'belief in God or anything that might be thought to lie beyond the realm of nature is repudiated as lacking any scientific foundation' (P.177).

A selection of some of the topics included are: A Christian doctrine of creation. The ecological vision of Celtic Christianity. Christian responses to the environmental crisis and the restoration of Eden: hope for creation. The rise of anthropocentrism, the elimination of God and a temporary alliance between the sciences and atheism. Technology and the domination of nature. Human sin and the degradation of the environment. Dissatisfaction with spiritual emptiness: the longing for reenchantment, the wonder of nature and intimations of glory. Disenchanting nature: Richard Dawkins on religion. Faith, reason and science: a response to Dawkins. The reenchantment of nature: reclaiming a lost world.

In quoting the thoughts of CS Lewis (on P.183) McGrath states: 'a telling point that is of central importance to our thinking on the foundations of a positive environmental ethos' is 'that our attitude toward the world must be grounded in the deep structures of nature - structures that we did not place there and did not invent, but that were there before us, and must shape our responses to nature'.

As God our creator is central to our religion, this is a book which every Christian should read. It provides the background, in very clear terms, for the need to be concerned about the environmental crisis and why it is important for us to care for God's world.

"The denial of religion, and the ecological crisis, by Alister McGrath, published by Doubleday, New York, 2002

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Church Music Summer Schools

by Marianne de Jager

During August I was fortunate to attend the International Summer School of the RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) in York, UK. There were 130 delegates from all over the world, including 7 from South Africa.

We sang daily morning prayer in York Minster and attended/sang Evensong as often as possible. We also sang a Saturday festival service and a Sunday morning Eucharist with the boys/young men from the specially selected RSCM Cathedral Choir that were also resident in York for that week.

It was wonderful to get to know the Minster as a place of worship, and not only as a tourist attraction. And I mean worship in the fullest sense of the word: music was an important part of it, but also the beautiful woodwork, the marble and wooden carvings and statues, the embroidered altar frontals and kneelers the graceful pillars and arches of the building itself, the stained glass windows - all evidence of worship in the widest sense of the word.

In between rehearsals and services, we had discussion groups on topics like composing, running a children's choir, directing choirs, learning to read music, to name but a few. We also had plenary sessions with people like John Bell from Iona and John Rutter ("Sing Rutter with Rutter" - he is so full of life and vitality!).

We attended a rehearsal of the RSCM Millennium Youth Choir - also resident in York that week - and on Friday night (my birthday) we attended a concert by this superb group. In the audience that evening was Gordon Stewart, the director of the next South African Summer School, and we had the opportunity to talk for about ten minutes before the recital started. Afterwards the South African group took me and David Nkosi, one of the other South Africans who also celebrated his birthday that day, to a local pub to drink to our health.

Some of the delegates that I had met previously proposed fund raising for the South African Summer School, and the idea met with so much approval that we are now in a position to offer full scholarships for deserving candidates, especially those from previously disadvantaged backgrounds, who would benefit from coming to our Summer School but would not have their own funds to do so. We would prefer some kind of referral from a RSCM member or rector of a church or director of a choir, etc.

The person who started the whole idea, Pat Lynch from Scotland is now so enthusiastic that she is also coming to our Summer School. Two more members from the UK are also coming, one of them Caroline Paget who is one of the Council Members of the RSCM and she is also bringing her husband. Mostly people who donate money felt that they would like to sponsor a chorister from a previously disadvantaged background to enable him/her to come to Summer School.

Pat Lynch also offered to do a session on the Voice for Life scheme at the Summer School. This is an excellent course published and run by the RSCM to teach people of all ages to learn to read music (stave notation), to use the voice well, and the responsibilities and joys of belonging to a choir.

Gordon Stewart absolutely loves the Pietermaritzburg City Hall organ and is looking forward to a recital for us. I have booked the City Hall and the organ for Thursday 5 January. This recital will be open to the public and details will be published in the local newspapers. For the duration of our Summer School we shall sing daily services in St George's Garrison Church and the services on Epiphany (Friday 6 January) and on Sunday 8 January will be sung in the Cathedral. Anyone is welcome to attend these service and to join us in these act of worship.

*The RSCM is able to offer some full scholarships for the Natal Branch Summer School of the Royal School of Church Music which will take place in Pietermaritzburg 2 - 9 January 2006 at St Nicholas Diocesan School. The closing date for applications is the end of November, and those wishing to apply for full scholarships must do so in writing either to Marianne de Jager (marianne@tickey.co.za or 082 853 3361 for more info) or to the treasurer, Alistair Walker, heathal@telkomsa.net or PO Box 1067, Scottburgh 4180.

Massed Choirs to sing at Ordination

THE KZN Branch of the Royal School of Church Music will sing Parry's great choral work *I was Glad* at the ordination on 26 November.

The rehearsal on November 13th will be instead of their regular Advent workshop, and will be the only rehearsal where the whole choir can practise together. Durban, Pinetown, Coastal Regions and Pietermaritzburg and Midlands choirs will all practice separately until they all come together for the singing of the anthem under the direction of Patrick Harty with Christopher Cockburn at the organ.

It will be a wonderful opportunity for the RSCM to be really visible in the Diocese.



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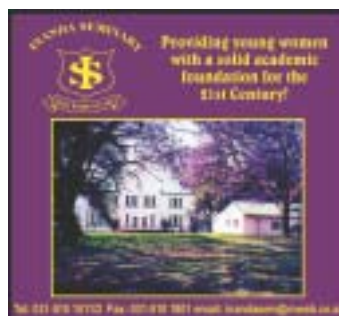
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