



Anglican Church of Southern Africa
Diocese of Grahamstown

The Bishop of Grahamstown
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Ad Clerum

January to April 2017

No. 01/2017

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

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

1. **Bishopsbourne**

We +Ebenezer, MamaNoncedo, all our children and grandchildren give thanks to God for your different kinds of support, especially for your prayers. In our moving in and out of the 57 parishes and ACSA we have an assurance that you are upholding us in your prayers. Thank you for joining us as a diocesan family in our different spiritual journeys during Lent. We pray that God may pour His grace upon all of us as the Diocesan family. The Bishopsbourne buildings are in demand of an expensive kind of repair. The Trust Board is trying its level best to do its maintenance. The Property Manager will communicate at some stage how much will be needed for its full repair.

2. **Institutions**

This is to inform you that we have done the following Institutions;

- Revd Dr Liz Thomas as Rector of St Patrick Hogsback on the 5th March 2017
- Archdeacon Cynthia Webbstock as Rector of St Paul Port Alfred on the 12th March 2017
- Revd Wezo Bloko as Rector of Christ Church Amalinda on the 19th March 2017
- Revd Etienne Maree as Rector of St Michael Nahoon on the 2nd April 2017
- Revd Noelene Arends as Rector of St Martin-by-the-Sea on the 9th of April 2017

We have enjoyed the love, the warmth, the joy and smiles, interacting with God's people in these institutions. Let alone the hospitality, the vibrancy and the generosity of God's people.

Do pray for these new rectors, their families and parishioners as they adjust to each other in the new environment.

3. **Lenten Project 2017**

We give thanks to God in Christ that we fasted with a particular aim for projects in our diocese. Our Lenten contributions of 2017 will be going to the following:

3.1 **Diocese of Angola; the funds will assist the bishop in transport costs. These transport costs are ± R10 000.**

3.2 In the Synod of Bishops we received the sad news that people of Mozambique and Swaziland were affected by heavy rains, wind and flooding that destroyed crops. Many communities have lost livestock in the floods. Homesteads and buildings have been damaged and currently people are housed in community and church halls. Further reported damages are as follows:

- 7 people have lost their lives;
- 150 have suffered injury and 170 000 people have been affected by the storms in Mozambique;
- Church property, Hospitals and Schools have been damaged;
- Roads and bridges damaged and some swept away

The affected communities will soon be challenged with food and water shortages, waterborne diseases and homelessness. We suggest, from our Lenten contributions we donate ± R30 000.

Kindly donate generously!!!

3.3 **St Peter Zozo;** This is one of the small parishes in the diocese and they currently have their services in a small iron structure where people are trying to raise money to rebuild a new church. We would like to donate R10 000 from the Lenten contributions

3.4 **St Philips Grahamstown:** their old church needs renovations seriously. A little bit from all of us will add to their efforts of restoration of their buildings. This too will cost in the region of R10 000.

3.5 Diocesan Training for Ministry remains an ongoing programme in the diocese to raise clergy for the future leadership of God's church. Please be a generous and cheerful giver and God's steward in Christ. We would like to send an ordinand to the CoTT and would like to get R40 000 from the Lenten contributions for this.

To make the above donations we need to raise about R100 000.00 with the Lenten Appeal.

We apologise for the unavailability of Lenten envelopes. This is because they are out of print at Dupliprint in Grahamstown. We pray and hope that you will bear with us and deposit your Lenten contributions in the Diocesan revenue account before the 15th of May 2017.

4. **Diocesan Retreats for the year 2017**

- All Diocesan spouses and widows retreat will be from the 6th – 8th July 2017 at St John EL. Retreat conductor Bishop Ebenezer and the programme will be communicated.
- Diocesan clergy retreat is from the 11th – 14th July 2017.
- Diocesan clergy retreat is from the 1st – 4th August 2017.
- Diocesan clergy retreat is from the 3rd – 6th October

Please prepare yourselves to attend any of these three clergy retreats of the Diocese which are compulsory to clerics. Make an effort for your own spiritual growth which will be a blessing to all God's people.

5. **Clergy School**

Diocesan clergy school will be on the 16th May 2017, from 09h00 to 15h30 at St John's, East London and will be focussing on the following:

- Looking at ourselves as clergy
- Stipendiary clergy
- Non-stipendiary clergy
- Looking at HR issues
- Looking at age
- Looking at remuneration
- Looking at housing subsidy
- Looking at benefit of pension, medical aid and other wellness
- Looking at retirement

Speakers will be Bishop followed by PSG consultant Mr. Ross Marriner; Alexander Forbes Mr. Buntu Bam, NFB Mr. Glen Watruss, Diocesan Administrator Ms Zoleka Maqwili and Diocesan Finance Manager Mr Nceba January.

6. **Diocesan Workshop for Churchwarden 6th May 2017**

This is to inform you that there will be a workshop of all parish wardens in the Diocese on the 6th May 2017. All Churchwardens are invited to attend. The programs and the time will be communicated.

7. **Bereavements**

- We have received the sad news that Denzel the husband of Revd Pen Schultz has passed away. The funeral took place on the 8th April 2017 at St Paul Port Alfred.

- The Mother of Archdeacon Gareth Jones by the name of Doreen Jones has passed away. The funeral took place on the 5th April 2017 at the cathedral of the Diocese of Free State.
- The son of the late Revd T Moletsane and Revd Canon N Moletsane, Mandlethu Moletsane has passed away. The funeral was on the 10th February 2017 in Holy Cross, Mdantsane.

We call upon the Diocese to pray for the Revd Pen Schultz, Revd Canon N Moletsane, Archdeacon Gareth Jones and their families for healing and strength. May the souls of Doreen, Denzel and Mandlethu rest in peace and rise in glory.

8. **COTT – ACSA**

This is the only residential Theology seminary we have in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. We give thanks to God for its presence in our Diocese under the capable leadership of The Revd Canon Dr Vicentia Kgabe. We call upon the Diocesan family to donate generously towards the life and ministry of this college, especially on Theological Sunday. Any donation you make will be forwarded to our Diocesan Revenue Account and mark it for The College of Transfiguration. It is currently doing well. Please pray for the college, professional staff, ground staff and ordinands. We congratulate the rector of the college for the new fencing she has put in and its clean garden.

9. **Diocesan School for Girls**

We continue to pray and thank God for DSG for its life and ministry in Grahamstown. We thank God for our sound relationships with the Diocese. We wish the Headmistress, her team, chair of council, council

members, professional staff, ground staff, students, donors, DSG community a successful 2017. We are pleased by the ministry of our Chaplain Revd Rob Penrith who is doing an outstanding ministry. We thank God for their outreach ministry at Holy Cross School, Mariya Umama weThemba.

10. **St Andrews College**

We thank God for the ministry of Allen Thompson Headmaster of St Andrews College with his family. The school is running smoothly as he leads it with his professional staff, ground staff, members of council, students, college community, donors and partners. We continue to give thanks to God for the ministry of our Chaplains Revd David Standsbury and Revd Monwabisi Peter and their families. We thank God for their outreach ministry to St Matthews and Good Shepherd.

11. **Fees Must Fall**

We thank God that the University students were able to write their January and February examinations. We appreciate that we observe peace and calmness in 2017 in our universities. We pray that government,

parents, university management and sponsors will support the students as they grow and learn to be the future leaders of our country. It has been unfortunate that the national convention failed before it started as it was trying to find a funding model for free education in South Africa.

Nevertheless conversations must continue to find a funding model for free education in South Africa.

12. **Diocesan Council**

We had our Diocesan Council Meeting on the 30th March 2017 at St Albans church East London. Financially we have seen that we are gradually growing in dealing with our debts. We also received reports from all Guilds, Diocesan Development Trust, DSR and Carpraway. We can assure you that there is life and vibrancy and a form of accountability of what our Guilds, formations and legal entities are doing for God's mission in the Diocese.

13. **ACSA NEWS**

We had an empowering Synod of Bishop from the 19th February -- 25th February 2107. From the 20th -- 24th February we had focussed on Theology, Economics and General Management. This gave us insight of what can one do in running a growing diocese in an area of finance, asset management and property management. This could inform a programme of sustainable projects in the Diocese. St Gallen model was bringing together the Economics and General Management as components that are rooted in theology for a better life of the Church with the kingdom of God values.

We give thanks to God for the two new bishops that were ordained and consecrated on the 25th February 2017. That is +William Mostert as Bishop of Christ the King and +Vincente Msosa as Bishop of Niassa. We call upon you to continue to uphold the ministry of the Archbishop and all Bishops of the Province.

14. **BISHOP EBENEZER TRAVELLING TO GERMANY**

We will be representing ACSA as the liaison Bishop for the World Council of Churches at the 500th anniversary of the Reformation at Berlin – Wittenberg from 22nd to 29th May 2017. Kindly uphold us in your prayers.

15. **CONCLUSION**

We thank you all for your hard work in the diocese and we wish to conclude with the words of St Teresa de Avila "Christ has no body on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours. Ours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out; ours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good; and ours are the hands with which He is to bless us now".

Grace and peace

Yours in the service of the Shepherd of shepherds

+ George Grahamstown

BISHOP OF GRAHAMSTOWN

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