



Anglican Church of Southern Africa
Diocese of Grahamstown

The Bishop of Grahamstown
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Ad Clerum

December 2018

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

BISHOPSBOURNE

Seasonal greetings: Advent, Christmas, New Year and Epiphany from us +Ebenezer, Mama Noncedo, children, grandchildren and Diocesan staff. We pray that you will enjoy God's presence and protection and we wish you well as Diocesan family and your visitors during this Festive Season.

News from Bishopsbourne is that Zipho will receive her Honours Degree in Public Administration at Nelson Mandela University on the 14th of December 2018. Esona and Buhle have passed grades 4 and 5 respectively – both at DSG. Cwayita has passed her first year BA at NMU and she has been admitted in the law faculty at that university for 2019. Anda will be doing his second year at Cape College next year in Graphic Design. Aphiwe will be going back to NMU for a diploma in IT. Lilitha is doing her Master's Degree at NMU. Sambe has also passed her present grade. Samila has turned two years on the 10th of December. Mzinzisi is doing well at the Cathedral and the Grahamstown Archdeaconry. Xolile our nephew has improved matric and written his exams. He has been successful at the circumcision school.

Thank you for your prayers. May God bless all of us as we are members of God's Kingdom and the Body of Christ.

HOPE AFRICA PLANNING WORKSHOP

Revd Canon Melany Adonis attended this workshop and has the following to say:- Hope Africa invited representatives from all the dioceses to a workshop from 23-25 October 2018. It was held at the offices of Hope Africa and offered the opportunity to meet people from as far as Uganda as well as reflect on the past and dream about the future.

As we were looking at our contexts, what was done in the past and looking ahead to 2028, it became clear that there was need for transition. A new paradigm was needed. Our understanding around mission needs to be clarified. Five major shifts were identified:

- Move from donations to investments and partnerships
- Move from poverty reduction to wealth creation.
- Move from job creation to economic inclusion.
- Move from charity and hand-outs to business and empowerment.
- Move from interventions to solutions.

During a session on finding metaphors to describe Hope Africa, it was described as:

- The “salt and Light” of ACSA.
- The “blood in the veins of the Body of Christ”.
- A “tree planted by living water”.
- A mother (Prov. 31:25-30).
- The wheels of the wagon – moving side by side.

As the Diocese of Grahamstown, we are challenged to look at our relationship with Hope Africa – to also think about our vision for Development and how it fits into the greater vision of Hope Africa for 2028.

We call upon the diocesan family to pray for God’s continuous grace on our mission and Hope Africa as we are partners in God’s mission.

TRAINING FOR MINISTRIES CONFERENCE AT CoTT ATTENDED BY REVD CANON MELANY ADONIS

The TfM Conference was held at the College of Transfiguration from 20-23 November 2018. It offered the opportunity to meet people responsible for training from different dioceses, worship together, learn from each other and share resources. The Revd Dr Claire Nye Hunter also offered a presentation on her PhD Thesis on the Gospel of John. This was well received and created good conversation.

Prof Barney Pityana outlined the work of the “Commission of Theological Education and Ministerial Formation”. The commission is expected to report to the Archbishop on their work at Synod in 2019. The question raised by Prof Pityana created lively discussions on the ACSA. The commission will be researching:

- Patterns of Ordination
 - Who/ where/ basis of what/ cost?
 - What systems or processes of discernment are in place?
 - What training is done after ordination?
 - Percentage of people who studied at COTT / percentage not been.
 - What is happening in neighbouring provinces?
- The College of Transfiguration
 - Models for sustaining the college.
 - Models for funding

We were reminded that we are training people for the wider Church and not for a specific diocese. We were also challenged to think critically about the Anglican Church and ask difficult questions, e.g. “What are we saying to people in the pews, if we think they are not worthy to have people who are properly trained?” Also “Why is theological education falling apart now?”

The Conference was therefore a time to firstly have some introspection. Furthermore, we were challenged to look at our context and then we spent time looking ahead and checking whether we have succession plans for academics, theologians, bishops, leaders. The “listeners” summarised our time together as us asking three questions:

1. Who are we?
2. Where are we?
3. Where are we going?

GROWING THE CHURCH CO-ORDINATORS CONFERENCE

Our Canon Missioner, Revd Etienne Maree, recently attended the Growing the Church (GtC) Coordinators conference in Johannesburg, meeting with other GtC coordinators from across the province and hosted by Bishop Martin, Bishop Tsietsi, and Revd Trevor Pearce. The coordinators conference continued with the momentum generated by the recent Anglicans Ablaze conference and each diocesan coordinator was encouraged to work toward the establishment of effective Growing the Church teams in their diocese. The purpose of these GtC teams are to help each diocese in the Province to nurture “a vibrant God-centered Anglican Church that is clearly growing spiritually, numerically and holistically.” This happens when we encounter Jesus afresh in the power of the Holy Spirit and become renewed in our commission to be God’s witnesses in our local churches and communities. In order to help facilitate this, Growing the Church offers various resources and training events for programs such as Rooted in Jesus, LEAD (Leadership, Evangelism and Discipleship), Alpha and SOMA. We hope to establish a strong and vibrant Growing the Church team in our own Diocese of Grahamstown in the year ahead.

ELECTIVE ASSEMBLY PE

The Revd Dr Edward Ronald Daniels was elected on 5th December 2018, as the 5th Bishop of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth. Please pray for Bishop Elect Edward as he prepares for this new Episcopal ministry with his family. He will be consecrated on Saturday, 23rd February 2019.

ELECTIVE ASSEMBLY MZIMVUBU

The diocese of Mzimvubu failed to elect a Bishop and delegated the election of their Bishop to the Synod of Bishops.

ACSA

We thank the Synod of Bishops and the Provincial Standing Committee that have acknowledged the following towards a new prayer book for the Church Calendar:-

- (a) Sophie Gray – 27 April 1871. Wife of Bishop Robert Gray, Architect of many churches in the Cape. Accountant and expert horsewoman.
- (b) Steve Biko – 12 September 1977. Martyr of Hope for a New South Africa.
- (c) Bishop John William Colenso – 20 June 1883. First Bishop of Natal 1853, known as *Sobantu – Father of the People*.

We congratulate their families.

ORDINATIONS

These are the planned dates for the 2019 ordinations:-

- Deacons – 10h00 on 18th May at St Alban’s, East London;
- Priests – 10h00 on 16th March at the Cathedral, Grahamstown.

IVIYO CONFERENCE

We humbly request that Rectors release parishioners who want to travel to Umzikhulwana, Diocese of Natal for this year’s Iviyo Conference which will be held from 13 to 16 December 2018. Registration is R200.00.

FINANCE MANAGER

Mr Nceba January, the Diocesan Finance Manager will be leaving us at the end of December 2018. He will be taking up a teaching post at St Andrew's College in Grahamstown in January 2019. We wish him well in his new venture. This, however, leaves a vacancy in the Diocesan Office and we have received a mandate from the Executive to advertise for this position under a separate notice and that of a Finance Officer.

ST AGNES & ASSOCIATES

There will be a Diocesan Commemoration Service for St Agnes and Associates at Bernard Mizeki Parish, Scenery Park on Saturday, 26 January 2019 starting at 10h00. Kindly pray for the Guild members and their work.

ST BERNARD MIZEKI DIOCESAN MEN'S GUILD

Be informed that the above guild will be having an opening service of 2019 on Sunday, 27th of January 2019 at St Philip's. Gompo starting at 09h00. We call upon you to pray for Bernard Mizeki members and their probationers.

INTERCESSIONS

We call upon the diocesan family to pray for our country. In so doing please use the litany from now right up to Trinity Sunday – APB page 73 to 77 – prayer 1 to 11 as part of your other prayers.

OFFICE CLOSURE

We have incorrectly informed you in the previous Ad Clerum that the Diocesan Office closes for the Christmas break on 21 December 2018. Kindly take notice that we are, in fact, closing at 13h00 on Friday, 14 December 2018 and re-open at 08h30 on Monday, 7th January 2019.

Grace and peace



BISHOP OF GRAHAMSTOWN

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.

(St Teresa de Avila)