



*Anglican Church of Southern Africa*  
***Diocese of Grahamstown***

*The Bishop of Grahamstown*  
*The Rt Reverend Ebenezer St Mark Ntlali*

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***Ad Clerum***

**May to July 2018**

**No. 03/2018**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

**BISHOPSBOURNE**

We +Ebenezer, Mama Noncedo and family are well. Thank you to you all as Diocesan Family and leadership as you uphold us in prayer as we do the Lord's work in the diocese. We do this work in ACSA and worldwide Anglican Communion as well.

The Trust Board has approved the second phase of repairs for Bishopsbourne. We are grateful for that although we have limited resources. This building has many challenges as if nothing is being done such as rattling windows which threaten to fall out, portion of the floors that are loose both upstairs and downstairs, the children's bathroom needs attention and the list is long. We shall forward the quotations to you as parishes and guilds so that if you have something to donate towards these repairs you could do so freely to the Trust Board account.

Let us pray for one another as we are all God's family in Christ Jesus.

**DIOCESAN LAUNCH CONFERENCE OF IBUTHO LWABAVUSELELI BAKAKRISTU**

The launch of Ibutho LaBavuseleli bakaKristu in the Diocese of Grahamstown is a sequel to the Diocesan Synod resolution of 2016. This evangelical occasion was graced by the presence of the Bishop of Zululand; Bishop Monument Makhanya, Bishop Dr Nkosinathi Ndwandwe of Mthatha, Provincial Chaplain for Iviyo Lofakazi bakaKrestu Canon Mbatha, Dr Mbaya from the University of Stellenbosch and the Diocese of False Bay, Cape Town and Anglicans from ACSA as well as Christians from other denominations. The Provincial Chair of Iviyo the Revd Mbulelo Mabindla from the Diocese of Mthatha and ourselves also attended.

The Diocesan launch and its programmes empowered the faithful who attended which energised their faith. The speakers covered a number of topics starting from the history of Iviyo Lofakazi, discipleship, mission and evangelism, reference and

forgiveness, what does it mean to be receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, what does it mean to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ etc. This marked the beginning of education, so that those that see themselves as called to this ministry could be well skilled. Why? The Evangelist Mark records that Jesus “appointed twelve—designating them apostles—that they may be with him” (Mark 3:14; Luke 8:1). It is from this verse that we get the “with him” principle. The disciples had to first be “with him” before they could be “sent out to preach” or do ministry. Therefore, Abavakalisi have to be well trained and soaked in the Word before they are dispatched to do God’s ministry.

For Jesus, life was the classroom. As situations developed, it was an opportunity to teach theology, display and teach character or demonstrate a skill. Then after some time, he gave them instruction on evangelism, and they were ready to go (Matthew 10:5-20; Luke 9:2-6). How did Jesus achieve his goals of evangelism so fast? He was training his disciple’s right alongside himself. Every moment of being “with him” was an opportunity to observe how he ministered to a myriad of needs. The diocese will be embarking on training for Abavakalisi and the Diocesan Family and it’s leadership in the coming months and programmes will be communicated.

You are all invited, ordained priests and laity as the diocesan family to these workshops/training so that we be revived, empowered for God’s mission and that we grow as Anglicans of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa [ACSA] and other Christians.

**The newly elected Executive of Ibutho Labavuseleli Bakakristu is as follows:-**

Mr T. Mgatyelwa	President
Canon L. Nzwana	Chaplain
Mrs N. Ngewu	Secretary
Mrs Z. Madyibi	Treasurer
Additional Members	
Ms Siki Wababa-Putini	
Revd Mndi	

**DIOCESAN MOTHER’S UNION**

The Mother’s Union recently held their Presidential Elections and elected Mrs Anna Mangaliso as their new President after the able leadership of President Mrs Mandisa Mhlwatika who has served for two successful terms. Mother’s Union Diocesan Council has elected Mrs Wendy Mfazwe as Diocesan Deputy President of the Mother’s Union on Saturday, 16 June 2018. Both Anna Mangaliso and Wendy Mfazwe were instituted in their offices on the same day.

**DIOCESAN CENTRE**

We are pleased to inform you that on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2018 at St John & St Chad, the Diocesan Mother’s Union Guild had a successful fundraising event towards the building of a Diocesan Centre. They fundraised R174 000.00. This fundraising

event was also attended by other guilds and parishioners who also contributed. This has been a great stride taken by the Mother's Union after three Synods that passed the building of a Diocesan Centre. Therefore, the Mother's Union with others have opened a new ground in implementing our Synodical decisions by putting a brick on the land. The envisaged Centre will be built in the centre of the Diocese which is King William's Town/Berlin towards Stutterheim. At the moment our land is at Kubusi Stutterheim which is just on the border of the Diocese. Some of the building will be named after the Diocesan Guilds and Orders such as St Barnabas (Layministers), St Vincent (Servers), St Stephen (Deacons) and other.

### **BERNARD MIZEKI**

This Guild had their elections on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and elected a new President in the person of Revd Wezo Bloko after the able leadership of Revd Simphiwe Silwana. Mr Nyameko Nqodi took over from Mr Mgatyelwa as chairperson. We wish them well in their new ministry with prayers.

### **DEACONS AND LAY MINISTERS' ONE DAY CONFERENCE**

On Saturday, 9 June 2018, a Conference for Deacons and Lay ministers was called by us and the Chaplain, Revd Canon Dr Beja. The conference was held at St Saviour Anglican Church in East London and well supported with 76 people attending. Ordinands and FOV members were also present.

The programme for the day was encouraging and informative including topics on spiritual formation as well as intellectual formation. A Bible study by Canon Adonis on the ministry of John the Baptist (Matt 3:1-2; Matt 4:1; Luke 3:7-14) reminded everybody about our responsibility to serve as part of the Kingdom of God. However, there is a need to first turn to God who empowers. Dr Prim Beja taught on the centrality of the sacrament of the Eucharist. She started by making connections with the tabernacle of the Old Testament and lead us to the importance of Mary as the mother of Jesus – then to Jesus who instituted the Eucharist. The Chaplain reminded everybody of their calling and used examples from scripture to show different callings. He also emphasised the importance of a Rule of Life and highlighted seven principles which could be used to develop a personal rule of life. The fact was emphasised that there is a discernment process of the Diocese in place and that discernment takes time and does not automatically lead to ordination. God calls us for different ministries in God's church and not all are called in the ordained ministry. We also emphasised the importance of a personal relationship with God in Christ – being embedded in scripture, with a strong prayer life. A time of questions and answers allowed people the opportunity to engage with issues raised.

The conference was a wonderful preparation for the Corpus Christi Service of the Sunday which was conducted by us (Bishop Ebenezer), where the Deacons renewed their vows and were practically reminded to serve by washing the feet of some of the congregation.

### **CLERGY SCHOOL AND DIOCESAN CLERGY RETREATS**

We call upon all clergy to attend our clergy schools and Diocesan Clergy Retreats. This is compulsory for your own spiritual growth. The clergy school and retreat

expenses are paid by the parish for stipendiary clergy (Acts of the Diocese of Grahamstown Chapter 7:9 pg 33).

Do not forget to put time aside to attend one of the two retreats which will take place during September and October 2018. The precise dates, venues, names of Retreat Conductors and costs will be communicated to you soon.

### **CLERGY SPOUSES RETREAT**

We invite all clergy spouses to attend the retreat which will be conducted for them from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2018. Venue to be announced in due course. We are grateful for the gift which God has given us of our spouses who are wonderful in the support ministry for us to go on with the Lord's work and our families. Therefore, it is vital that they are also empowered in their spiritual life and ministry.

Could you speak to your spouse to set that time aside for spiritual enrichment.

### **CLERGY AND SPOUSES WELLNESS INDABA**

We invite all the Clergy – Stipendiary and non-Stipendiary with their spouses to attend this indaba which will be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The venue and the programme will follow in due course.

### **DIOCESAN FAMILY WEEKEND 2018**

Our Family Weekend this year takes place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2018 with a fun day and a Eucharist Service on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> August at the Indoor Sport Centre, Joza, Grahamstown.

By now you must have received the Family Weekend targets. In case you missed it, please see the attachment for yours.

The Archdeacons are requested to do their Archdeaconry Family Days before the Diocesan Family Weekend. By 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2018 all the love gifts and targets must be deposited into the Diocesan Account through our Diocesan Finance Manager Please note the account number where these should be paid in:-

NAME OF ACCOUNT:	Diocesan Revenue Account
NAME OF BANK:	First National Bank
ACCOUNT NO:	5232 1144 702
BRANCH CODE:	210717
REF:	FW/Name of Archdeaconry

### **OTHER IMPORTANT DATES**

- St Agnes Conference: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2018
- Diocesan Council Meeting: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018
- AWF Provincial Council Meeting: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2018
- Trust Board and Diocesan Finance Committee Meetings: Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

### **ACSA DATES**

- Electoral College for the Diocese of St Helena: Saturday 23 September 2018

- Synod of Bishops & Provincial Standing Committee Monday 24<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018
- Anglicans Ablaze 3 – 6 October 2018 at the City Hall Auditorium, Hillcrest Durban and the Theme is “LIVING A JESUS SHAPED LIFE”. Full registration R850.00; Early Bird registration R650.00; Financially assisted R650.00 and Youth registration R450.00.

### **OTHER ACSA NEWS**

We affirm the leadership of Archbishop Dr Thabo Makgoba of Cape Town and the Metropolitan of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. We congratulate him being the author of the book *Faith and Courage: Praying with Nelson Mandela* which will be launched in Grahamstown on Tuesday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2018. This will be inspirational to all of us and all its readers. We invite all clergy of the diocese and Anglicans who could attend in our diocese to come and listen to the author himself

Let us continue to pray for our Archbishop and his ministry and prophetic role in Southern Africa. He also chairs the meeting for the Lambeth Conference of 2020 and representing us in the international gatherings of the primates.

We continue to give thanks to God for him, Mama Lungi, Paballo and Nyakallo.

### **SAFE CHURCH**

We are called as Anglicans throughout the Anglican Church of Southern Africa to promote an environment of a safe church. The issue of sex scandals and other inhumane actions have emerged. Therefore, we are called to attend the workshops that will take place throughout the diocese for knowledge and share all what it means to have a Safe Church. We call upon all Archdeacons to make sure that each and every parish in your area have a copy of the Pastoral Standards and start to create Safe Church Committees in the branches and parishes and diocesan guilds and Orders. Please pray for this process.

### **ARCHBISHOP’S COMMISSION ON HUMAN SEXUALITY**

As Diocesan Family, we have been looking at human sexuality in all our parish councils and in our three previous Diocesan Synods. We thank God for the Pastoral Standards of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa which assist us of how to handle issues of human sexuality and all what we receive from the Provincial Synods. This is a continuous engagement as issues of human sexuality need our attention as the Church of God in Southern Africa. We are pleased to inform you, as a Diocese, that the Archbishop’s Commission on Human Sexuality will be holding an inter-diocesan cluster meeting from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August 2018 – venue to be communicated in due course.

### **NATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL IN GRAHAMSTOWN**

The Festival has begun. It happens this year from the 28<sup>th</sup> of June up to 8<sup>th</sup> July 2018. This is an international event. It is good to meet artists from all over the world and all what the event entails as we know it boosts the economy of Grahamstown with +/- R94 million. We are grateful to the Grahamstown community that offers accommodation space for visitors. Our Cathedral is always excellent in doing world class standards in worship especially the music and the

words that go with it. Our Cathedral remains the centre of spirituality in Grahamstown and we are proud of our Mother Church.

### INTERCESSIONS

We had the following funerals in the diocese recently:-

Revd Chris Dano, a retired priest of our Diocese;

Florence Beteni, the mother-in-law of Revd Sicelo Mfukuzo, Assistant Priest at St Luke's Mdolomba;

Regina Nashwa, the mother-in-law of Revd Canon Lawrence Nzwana, Rector at St John & St Chad, Zwelitsha.

Mrs Xolelwa Gowa and Baby Kwanda (wife and son of Rev Siyabulela Gowa the assistant priest at St Gregory Mdantsane).

Mrs Nombulelo Dora Mnyabiso, the mother of the Revd Vuyani Mnyabiso, Deacon at Scenery Park.

Mrs Lulama Barbara Dongwana, the mother of the Revd Lunga Dongwana, Deacon at the Cathedral.

Grace and peace



BISHOP OF GRAHAMSTOWN

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**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)**