



# Umbuliso

## The Greeting



Newsletter of the Diocese of Grahamstown June-August 2022. Vol.1 after COVID-19

### Bishop appoints the Vicar General

The Bishop of Grahamstown, Ebenezer Ntlali, and his wife Noncedo are in the UK to attend the 14-day Lambeth Conference. This is a gathering of bishops from across the Anglican Communion for prayer and reflection, fellowship and dialogue on church and world affairs, which takes place about once every ten years.

The previous Lambeth Conference was in 2008, when Ebenezer Ntlali attended as Bishop-Elect of Grahamstown. On his absence, Bishop appointed and licensed the Dean Mzinzi Dyantyi as Vicar General with effect from 18 July to 02 September 2022. Please pray for the Dean as he discharges his duties to administer the affairs of the Diocese.



Vicar General being licensed

### Diocese of Grahamstown Mothers' Union celebrated Mary Sumner day

Transformed Women, Transformed Society... The Diocese of Grahamstown Mothers' Union celebrated Mary Sumner day in style on the 13th of August 2022 at Cambridge Hall in East London. It was an event with a difference where mothers attended in numbers, dressed in Hats & Heels... WOW, they were so beautiful.



Some members of the Mothers Union



Mothers' Union Executive and the Dean

The event was attended by our Vicar General, Rev Mzinzi Dyantyi and his wife Mrs Lilitha Dyantyi, Members of Chapter and Clergy. The speakers of the day addressed various social ills (Mental Health & Depression, Bullying, Dealing with grief, Wills) we are faced with in our society, and off course we also had a

briefing on beauty therapy. We are indeed following in Mary Sumner's footsteps ...Thank you Mothers, you were the perfect audience. Fun was had, especially on the dance floor



We are looking for someone who can assist in translation the Bishop's Letter from English to Xhosa version.

# Bishop Ebenezer writes:

## Becoming more aware of our Triune God ...



**We welcome you from your lovely homes back to worship the living God in Christ Jesus in your and our churches. A lot of life has been lost in the last 2 years of pandemic virus, we buried 19 clergies and 6 houses and lot of parishioners. Nevertheless, our God community is with us in Jesus, in the Spirit.**

Dear People of God

We greet you all in the Name of Christ our Saviour and Redeemer. Since our last pastoral letter, we have moved beyond Easter, commemorated the Feast of Pentecost and we have started with the Season after Pentecost with Trinity Sunday being the first Sunday after Pentecost. These two feasts are important days on the Calendar of the Church.

Pentecost Sunday has reminded us of the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit and the presence of God's Spirit who empowers and brings about movement and change. The story in Acts 2 creates an image of unnatural activity which caused everybody and everything to change. The work of the Holy Spirit is mysterious and complicated and therefore Johannes van Oort (2012) explains that "readers of the New Testament will

find that it speaks of the Holy Spirit often and in a multifaceted way. It is rather impossible to summarise all these characteristics and workings of the Spirit in a few sentences. The authors of the New Testament speak of the all-encompassing work of the Spirit in both the world and mankind..." Although we do not always have the language to speak about the Holy Spirit, we are able to be aware of the working of God's Spirit. My prayer is therefore that we as a Diocese will live in greater awareness of God's Holy Spirit at work in our lives.

Trinity Sunday, another important Feast Day in the Calendar of the Church, encourages us to reflect on our Triune God. This is no easy task as God continues to be a mystery to us all. However, in the Gospel of John Chapter 16: 12-15 Jesus is explaining, that somehow the Holy Spirit (who Jesus is referring to in the future and who is still to come), will know what Jesus is explaining at that present moment and will then be able to continue this conversation he is having with the disciples. The Holy Spirit will not speak on its own but will be guided on what to say. There is also communal property –sharing of stuff, whatever that stuff might be because what belongs to Jesus, belongs also to the Father but the Holy Spirit is able to "take what belongs to Jesus" and declare it to the disciples. Here is a clear image of sharing, which also reminds of fluidity of one

flowing into the other. Apart from the 'labels' the 'titles' given to the different parts of the Trinity – Christ Jesus, the Father, the Holy Spirit, there is not a clear distinction between the relationship. They are all intricately part of God the Trinity - of the inner life of God. This relationship and connection between the different parts is an amazing mystery which we do not have the words to explain but it is a wonderful encouragement for us to strive to follow this connectedness of the Trinity which Bryan Gabba calls community.

During the Season after Pentecost which we are now in, we are journeying with Christ through Scripture and learning through the life and teachings of Jesus. Jesus who was always aware of God the Father and through who the Holy Spirit flowed and worked to bring healing.

As followers of Jesus, the Christ may we be encouraged to live carefully and slowly becoming more aware of our Triune God day by day in order to bring healing to our world. May we go into the world, empowered by God to live and work to God's glory.

(IsiXhosa: tyhila kwiphepha lesi-4)

## Congratulations to new College Of Transfiguration Rector

It has been announced that Dr Percy Chinganga has been appointed the next Rector of the College of the Transfiguration. Dr Chinganga is a lecturer at the College, and a member of the Cathedral staff.

We congratulate him, and wish God's blessing on him in his new role. He is seen (left) at the Festival Eucharist on 26 June, with Dean Mzinzi Dyantyi.





# Visitors from United Kingdom to St Peters West Bank

By: Desrae

It was a very special trip down memory lane for the Whatley clan which gathered at St Peter's church on the West Bank, EL, to join in the Sunday morning Eucharist with the regular congregation. It was wonderful to see the church looking so well cared for, with tastefully chosen tiles where the familiar red carpet had been (for ease of keeping clean during covid, we learnt), a new overhead projector and screen,



Lionel, Revd Botile and Sue

However, even better was the welcome we received from Revd Botile and the congregation, many of whom we remembered from the years we spent growing up there. It reminded me that the church is a family, the family of God. Like any family, there were missing faces of many precious members who are now with the Lord, but also new faces to get to know.

We were able to reflect what the church community meant to us then, and what it can still mean today.

It is where we, as children, saw such wonderful role models (our Ouma and Papa Barrow and others). We learnt about caring for others in the community and knowing what it meant to pray and to trust God through all the ups and downs of life. Of course, as kids, we also got up to mischief in church, but it was our spiritual home.

In my teens, I discovered what it meant to make a personal commitment to Christ, and then during my student days received a call to full-time ministry in the Anglican church, but my spiritual roots are in those childhood experiences of being part of the St Peter's congregation.

My prayer is that many will learn the joys of being part of the church there, and that the labours of Revd Botile and his leadership team will bear abundant fruit as they reach out to the community of the West Bank. May God bless you and enable you to flourish as the people of God in the days and years to come



Desrae Whatley Naude

26m · 🌐

This is where it all began , many years ago.....Our family home church. St Peters Anglican Church, West Bank , East London. Rev Botile and your gracious church family, thank you for your kindness and love shown to our family today. Our hearts are rejoicing.....



# Umxholo kaBhishopu Ebenezer

Ukuya simqonda ngakumbi uThixo oziQu o b u n g a p h a k a t h i



**Siyanamkela nivela kunqula uThixo ophilileyo kuKrestu kwiicawe zenu nezethu. Mininzi imiphefumlo eye yalahleka ngethuba lale minyaka mibini yentsholongwane egqugqise kwiHlabathi lonke. Singcwabe abefundisi abali-19 namaqabane abo aba-6 nenkumbula yamarhamente. Naxa kunjalo, uThixo woluntu wethu usenathi kuYesu, kuMoya.**

Bantu abathandekayo kuThixo Siyanibulisa nonke ngegama likaKrestu uMsindisi noMhlanguli wethu. Ukususela kwincwadi yethu yokugqibela, sigqithile kwixesha lePasika, sakhumbula uMsitho wePentekosti yaye sigalisile ngethuba elilandela iPentekosti ngeCawe yoMtriniti eyicawe yokuqala emva kwePentekosti. Le misitho mibini yimihla ebalulekileyo kwiKhalenda yeCawe. ICawe yePentekosti isikhumbuzo ngokuthululwa koMoya oNgcwele kaThixo nangobukho boMoya kaThixo onika amandla uzise intshukumo

nenguqulelo. Ibali elikwiZenzo 2 lisizobela intshukumo engaqhelekanga endalweni eyenza ukuba wonke umntu nento yonke iguquke. Umsebenzi woMoya oNgcwele yimfihlelo yaye ungxakangxaka yiyo loo nto uJohannes van Oort (2012) achaza athi “abafundi beTestamente eNtsha baya kufumanisa ukuba ithetha ngoMoya oNgcwele ngeendlela ezahlukileyo ubukhulu becala. Akukwazeki ukuzishwankathela zonke ezi mpawu nokusebenza koMoya ngezivakalisi ezimbalwa. Ababhali beTestamente eNtsha bathetha ngomsebenzi oqulathe konke ehlabathini nakuluntu...” Naxa singenayo intetho nolwimi lokuthetha ngoMoya oNgcwele siyakwazi ukukuqonda ukusebenza koMoya kaThixo. Umthandazo wam ke ngoko ngowokuba sithi siyiDayosisi sihlale sisekukuqondeni ngakumbi nangakumbi ukusebenza koMoya kaThixo kubomi bethu. ICawe yoMtriniti, omnye uMhla woMsitho obalulekileyo kwiKhalenda yeCawe yethu, isikhuthaza ukuba sicinge nzulu

ngoThixo wethu oziQu ziThathu. Loo nto asingomsebenzi mncinane kuba uThixo usoloko ethe gqolo eyimfihlakalo kuthi sonke. Kambe kwiVangeli kaYohane iSahluko 16: 12-15 uYesu ucacisa ukuba ngendlela ethile uMoya oNgcwele (abhekisa kuye kwixa elizayo osezayo) oya kukwazi oko akucacisayo uYesu ngelo xesha yaye uya kuba nakho ukuyiqhubela phambili le ncoko anayo nabafundi bakhe. UMoya oNgcwele akayi kuthetha okuphuma kuye koko uya kukhokelwa ukuba athini na. Kukwakho nezinto ekudityenweyo ngazo – izinto ekwabelwana ngazo, nokuba ezo zinto ziintoni na kuba nantoni na eyinto kaYesu, yinto kaYise kodwa uMoya uyakwazi “ukuthatha into kaYise” ayinikezele kubapostile. Apha sinomzekelo ocacileyo wokwabelane osikhumbuza ngokuthululuka kwento kwenye into. Ngaphandle kweeleyibhile, iitayitile ezinikwe amalungu awahlukileyo oMtriniti, uKrestu uYesu, uYise, noMoya oNgcwele, akukho kwahlukana kucacileyo kobu budlelane. Bonke bayinxelene yenzenakwahlulwa kaThixo uMtriniti – kobomi

obungaphakathi bukaThixo. Obu budlelane nonxibelelwano phakathi kwezinto ezahlukeneyo yimfihlelo emangalisayo esingenawo amazwi okuyichaza kodwa buyinkuthazo kuthi ukuba sizamele ukulandela olunxibelelwano loMtriniti athi uBryan Gaybba luluntu. Ngeli thuba lilandela iPentekosti sikulo ngoku, siseluhambeni noKrestu ngeziBhalo saye sifunda ngobomi neemfundiso zikaYesu. UYesu owayesoloko ebuqonda ubukho bukaThixo uYise, nowawuthululeka ngaye uMoya oNgcwele, usebenza ukuzisa impilo. Njngabalandeli bakaYesu Krestu, sanga singakhuthazwa ukuba siphile ngokulumka nangokuthe chui sisiya simqonda ngakumbi oziQu ziThathu ngosuku ngalunye ukuze sibe nokuzisa impilo kwiHlabathi lethu. Sanga singangena kwiHlabathi sixhotyisiwe nguThixo ukuba siphilele sisebenzele uzuko lukaThixo.

*Ebenezer*

(For English, see page 2)

## Ordination Service to Diaconate 2022

On the 11th June 2022, the Diocese of Grahamstown was graced by nine new Deacons to serve in the Church of God. The service was held at St Andrews Ginsberg King Williamstown. Bishop Ebenezer presided and Archdeacon James Rush was the preacher of the day. His emphases on the message of his sermon was “are you a good Preacher/ Pastor?”.

These are the names of the newly ordained deacons: **Alexander**, David Samuel Good Shepherd, East London, **Bam**, Mandisa St Saviour, East London, **Mabandla**, Lenge Landubuntu St John & St Chad, Zwelitsha, **Magasana**, Siyabonga Christ Church, Amalinda, **Mdala**, Astria Mina Nobantu Bernard Mizeki, Scenery Park, **Ngongoshe**, Mzwandile St Philip, Gomo, **Sithole**, Nceba St Saviour, East London, **Dunywa**, Zola Holy Cross, Mdantsane and **Katiya**, Sister Naureen Nohle Holy Cross,



Ordinands 2022



May I take this opportunity to greet you all in the most wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ who was, is and will be forever! AMEN.

We thank and praise God Almighty that we are able to resume with this spiritual space for our edification and hearing from Him as He guides us.

It has been a while since we shared and reflected on kingdom mysteries as God reveals them to us in His Word. I would like us to explore and unlock one of foundational topics, **“Who is the Bride of Christ?”**

In our spiritual journey our focal point is to qualify to be the Bride of Christ referred to in Revelation 19: 6 -9. “Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”

I have also pondered over the very first verse of Hymn – “The Church is one foundation” which refers to the Church as Jesus’ holy Bride who was bought by Jesus with His own blood and for whose sake He died.

It is against this backdrop that I am persuaded that we together traverse through the Holy Scriptures and discover the many keys that help us unlock this mystery.

The parable of the 10 virgins forms the bedrock of our exploration and discussion and will be dealt with in detail in articles to follow.

### **THE PARABLE OF THE 10 VIRGINS - Read Matthew 25:1-13**

The Role players in this parable are:-

Ten virgins Five wise and Five foolish

They all have lamps – the wise took oil with them and the foolish none

At midnight a cry is heard, ‘Behold the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him.

Those without oil go to buy oil as they were found unprepared to meet the groom

The bridegroom comes and those who were wise went with him into the wedding chamber and the door was shut.

Those coming from buying came after the door was shut but

the groom who is now identified as Lord, responded by saying, “Assuredly, I do not know you.”

The parable ends with a warning “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”

It beholds us to delve deeper into the Holy Scriptures so that we may not be like the foolish virgins and are found without oil when the Groom comes.

In the Parable above the Groom is identified as Jesus Christ. It is our firm knowledge that Jesus is coming and we are preparing for His return. The question to ponder is, ‘Are we ready?’

### **THE FIRST MIRACLE**

The beginning of Christ’s ministry is around a Wedding Feast.

As though this is not enough evidence, Jesus’ very first miracle was during a Wedding Feast; setting the tone of our eschatological imperative where He will be the Groom and we the Bride.

He will be preparing and providing the best and sweetest wine for the Heavenly Feast that awaits those who have ensured they have surrendered their lives to Him, those who have been preparing and waiting with their lamps filled with oil!

What is intriguing in the first miracle in Cana as well as noticeable, is that the Groom brings the wine. Jesus is identifying Himself as the Groom!!

Worthy to note and of mentioning is that the Bible starts with a Wedding and ends with a Wedding.

The Bride and Groom first go through a process of cleansing (water immersion) before the wedding. Jesus had just been baptized and the Holy Spirit descended on Him like a dove. We, too, need to be baptized before we are imbued with the Holy Spirit who seals our relationship with Jesus Christ.

### **THE CHURCH IS THE BRIDE OF CHRIST – Read Ephesians 5: 25-26**

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that

He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”

Dividing just these few verses from the excerpt above, Jesus gave Himself for His Bride, the Church and sanctified and cleansed her with washing of water by the word. It is His Word that helps us during the sanctification and cleansing. “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:2. We may be in the world but are not of this world.



### **THE GROOM GOES TO PREPARE A PLACE AND LEAVES BRIDE WITH FRIEND**

**The Friend of the Bridegroom –**

The bridegroom would choose a close and loyal friend whose responsibility was to assist the bride in preparation for the wedding. He would stay by her side throughout this entire betrothal period and make sure she was ready for the bridegroom on the wedding day. During biblical times one of the Groom’s friend was referred to as Moses – the one the one who would assist the bride to prepare. Moses herein represents the Commandments and the Word of God. As a Bride, you soak in prayer and the Word to discover what God’s precepts are.

“But I will meditate on Your precepts. Your word is a lamp to my feet. And a light to my path.” Psalms 119:78, 105.

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” Joshua 1:8

As a bride in waiting, who is your Moses? The Word of God and those who have been chosen by God to interpret and rightly expound on His Word are your Moses.

**TO BE CONTINUED**

Prepared by Revd BP Beja

# St Mary Magdalene Guild Diocesan Conference 2022

**By Nandipha Mazinyo:**

On the 22 – 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022, we as the St Mary Magdalene guild held our conference at Holy Trinity church Dimbaza under the parish Rector Revd. S Mnukiso.

We were really excited to finally able to have the conference after a the Covid 19 Pandemic, which is the reason we decided on the theme “Restoration” which we felt was appropriate, with the aim of restoring our faith.



Chaplain of Mary Magdalene Ven S. Silwana

On the first day we were warmly welcomed by the Parish Rector, and started our day with praise and worship and a Eucharist service.

We later carried out an outreach session where we were able to assist a number children from David Russel Primary School with school uniforms which was well received by the pupils, teachers, and parents of the school.

We were also able to have our elections where Canon Dr. Beja facilitated the process and a



Coming to DAVID Russel School to donate

new executive was elected.

On Sunday Very Revd Mzinzisi Dyantyi (Vicar General) led the Eucharist service, with our theme reading (Hosea 6 vs1).



Daive Russell School Choir

The new Diocesan executive was also inducted by the Vicar General as follows.

Ms. Nandipha Mazinyo – Diocesan President

Ms Philiswa Daniso- Diocesan Deputy President

Ms. Nokonwaba Adonis – Diocesan Secretary



Revd Martin was prating for the Children that received gifts

Ms. Zintle Langa – Diocesan Treasure

Ms. Nonelela Nkoloti – Diocesan Public Relations Officer

With the Acting chaplain Arcd. S. Silwana



Some of the leadership members of the guild

In conclusion, the St Mary Magdalene 2022 Conference was a great success and mostly enjoyed by all present.



# St Agnes Guid Diocesan Bi-Annual Conference 2022

By Amelia Sogcwe:

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of July, the Guild of St Agnes held it's Bi annual Conference at St Bernard Mizeki, Scenary Park. The service was lead by our bishop, Ebenezer Ntlali.

We started our service with Banner procession where all Archdeaconries had their banners as we walked the streets to the church.



Procession

The conference was a success as we were coming from a bad state of Covid 19 but the girls were eager to be revived and be rejuvenated in spirit.



Remembering those passed on during Pandemic

We are now under the new theme that says Living intentionally taken from the book of Ephesians 4:1 "Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God."



Young members of the guild of St Agnes

Lastly we had accompanied our Diocesan Mother's Union executive along with the Bishop to Enyobeni Tavern to send condolences to the 21 children who had passed away.

We would like to thank everyone who've prayed and supported us as the new committee in this journey.

We would also like to thank and acknowledge our Former Diocesan organizer Mam Siki Wababa Putini and her deputy Diocesan Organizer Mrs T Ntantiso for being with us in this long journey.





# Umbuliso uyakubulisa ....

## The writer has written again

Prof. Mtuze gave the Bishop of Grahamstown a copy of his latest book at the Archdeacons Meeting in King Williamstown on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022.



## RE: CONFERENCE – IBUTHO LABAVUSELELI BAKA KRISTU



U K r i s t u u y i N k o s i ,  
uyalawula, uyaphila.

Greetings in the name of our  
Lord, Jesus Christ, Amen.

This serves to inform you  
that the Ibutho Labavuseleli  
bakaKristu will be having its  
first conference

on 06-09 October 2022 at St.

Matthews Anglican Church at Keiskammahoek.

Therefore, this is an invite for you to grace this event  
by your presence. This Movement humble requests  
that this

invitation can also reach all the Parishes in the  
Diocese.

Yours in Christ

L. SOCISHE (Secretary)

## The Fifteenth Lambeth Conference closed in song at Canterbury Cathedral

By The Lambeth Conference Ltd, St Andrew's House  
press release:-

The 15<sup>th</sup> Lambeth Conference drew to a close today  
with a special worship service at Canterbury Cathedral.

“How should we act? Above all,  
in relationship. That is the first  
and greatest call – the one we  
haven't listed but it is the

## Bereavements and Prayers

We pray for all the faithful  
departed and for all families  
who have lost the loved ones,  
especially due to COVID-19



The Lambeth Conference 2022

The Conference saw approximately 650 bishops  
representing 165 countries gather in  
Canterbury to share in worship, prayer and  
discussion on key issues affecting the lives of  
their communities around the world.

During the service, the bishops, their spouses  
and the wider Conference community reaffirmed  
their faith in God, sharing in Holy Communion  
and saying the Lord's Prayer in many different  
languages.

The Conference will now enter Phase Three,  
when the outcomes from the bishops'  
conversations will be shared and further actions  
taken around the Anglican Communion.

Addressing the Conference this morning in his  
final keynote speech at the University of Kent,  
Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said:

greatest call because it is the scriptural call.”  
“We are a communion of churches catholic and  
reformed, autonomous and interdependent,” he  
continued, “and we must keep to the principles  
of both.”

Speaking of the Anglican Communion, he said:  
“Is it argumentative? Oh Yes. Is it diverse?  
Immensely. Is it God's holy people?  
Certainly. Let us go out together in obedience –  
sent out, as God's church for God's world.”  
All the news from the Lambeth Conference can  
be found online.

You can watch the full sermon  
including the Archbishop of Canterbury's  
closing sermon online.

**Umbuliso is your  
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Contributions welcome**

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Diocese of Grahamstown