

Dean's Letter, 18 March 2018

Dear Cathedral family

Many thanks to all who worked to prepare for our Annual Vestry Meeting last Sunday: the churchwardens, including our treasurer; our office and admin staff; all who wrote reports; our auditors; and all who attended, nominated, spoke, voted, and took part in any way. And to Chris Mann (aka Fafa Hopkins) and Julia Skeen for the musical items and profound lyrics composed specially for the occasion, and which were sung before and during the meeting. The tea was wonderful – thank you! Maggy Clarke produced the slide show, and I hope that we can see it again. What a rich tapestry of our life we were given by the slides and by the reports.

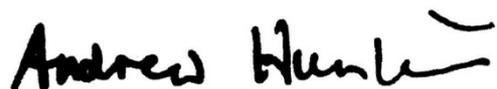
And now we are on the journey with the new leadership team, for the months ahead. PCC 2018! An exciting moment, and we ask for God's blessing on those elected or re-elected as churchwardens and as PCC members. Their names appear elsewhere in the pew leaflet, and they will be admitted into office during the 9.30 a.m. service this morning.

We are also licensing (on behalf of the Bishop) four new lay ministers: Lithemba Busakwe, Lou-Anne Liebenberg, Luvuyo Mvaphantsi, and Dawn Long. This will be done at the 7.30 a.m. service. And, early in the new university term, Anelisa Kelemi and Kundai Jimi, two of our students, will also be licensed as lay ministers. We thank God for our lay ministers, and for their ministry amongst us. They are an extension of the pastoral and sacramental life of the Cathedral, through assisting with worship, administration of Communion, and pastoral care for the sick and house-bound. They are also a valuable sounding board for issues in the life of the church, although ultimately it is PCC, together with the Dean, who is responsible for governance and overall vision and direction.

On another matter: The South African writer Ishtiyag Shukri has written an open letter in which he responds to Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu's recent stepping down as an ambassador for Oxfam after a scandal around allegations of sexual misconduct. In the letter, Mr Shukri said he was the victim of sexual abuse by Anglican priests and accused Archbishop Desmond of never fully addressing what he claimed was "systematic and institutionalised sexual abuse happening in his own organisation". There has been a response from the office of Archbishop Tutu, and from the Archbishop of Cape Town. A copy of their statements is on the notice board.

The Archbishop, in his statement, noted that "Every human being deserves to have the dignity bestowed on them by God respected. Anyone who demeans this through any form of abuse demeans themselves and God. Abusing others is unbiblical and cannot be condoned. As the current Archbishop of Southern Africa, I take responsibility for what has happened during the time of my predecessors and where we have wronged or failed anyone, we beg their forgiveness. I am committed to giving the 'Safe Church' initiative significant attention, especially when abuse has been reported and nothing done about allegations. Our Synod of Bishops is drawing up policies and procedures to ensure the safety of all in the Church."

My love to you all

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.