

## Dean's Letter, 9 September 2018

Dear Cathedral family

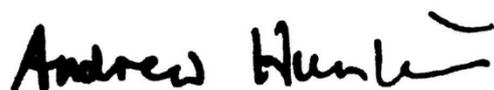
There was a bit of confusion last week on our side regarding the arrangements and dates of the licensing of our two new lay ministers, for which we apologise. All going well, we shall be licensing as Lay Ministers two of our students, Theo Duxbury and Tandiwe Gabavana, in the context of the 9.30 a.m. service today. We thank God for them and for their lives of worship, witness and service. Tandiwe is part of our DYG leadership group here at the Cathedral; Theo is a former chair of Rhodes Ansoc and is now on PCC.

We recently received an old Bible which used to belong to Fr Percy William Ernest Woodward. He was ordained to the priesthood here in the Cathedral on 24 February 1929, by Bishop Francis Phelps, who later became Archbishop of Cape Town. Fr Woodward was serving at St John's Fort Beaufort when he was tragically killed at a railway level crossing on Cape Road, in 1953. His Bible was found in the wreckage of his car and was passed onto the Ramsay family. The family have now given it to us. The Bible has clearly been well used. Its flyleaves are full of notes, verses, thoughts. Some of the references scribbled there: Lamentations 3:14-30 (Suffering and consolation). Philippians 4 (Rejoice, pray at all times, let your requests be known to God). Psalm 139 (For you created my inward parts, you knit me together in my mother's womb). And, in bold print: HIM (Christ) THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS. Glimpses into personal struggles, inward journey of faith, walking in darkness, heading towards the light.

I wonder what story your Bible, or mine, will one day tell about our journey of faith, our walk with the Lord. Mine is full of a variety of bookmarks, including photographs of my daughters. I tend not to mark the pages. But some sections are certainly more worn than others. Some of us use electronic Bibles. Some use old family Bibles. I have tended to move from one translation or version to another, over the years, and am currently using the NRSV. While on the Wild Coast hike, I had a Bible app on my phone, which also happens to be the NRSV. A lot lighter than carrying a printed version! That, and the lectionary (daily set of readings), and I was sorted!

Life brings immense challenges, certainly to me and I am sure to each one of us. I turn to the daily readings and the prayers, and find that I am caught up into a greater rhythm of prayer and worship, especially with the psalms. I don't necessarily find answers – in fact, there often aren't answers – but there is a profound sense of peace as I simply lift the issues at hand to God, and rest in whatever words or phrases come to me from the scriptures. It is an experience of drinking the living water from the well that is Christ.

My love to you all

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