

Dean's Letter, 30 September 2018

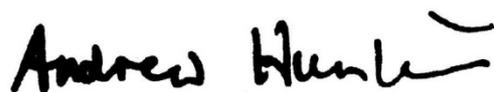
Dear Cathedral family

I am writing this over a week before you read it, as I am to be away at PSC (Provincial Standing Committee) in Johannesburg in the week leading up to 30th September. Much will have happened between then and now. All going well, many of us shall have enjoyed hearing Professor Adam Habib at the Neil Aggett Memorial Lecture at Kingswood, and also a lecture delivered by our own Mama Dr Thami Tisani. This coming week sees the annual Archbishop Thabo Makgoba Development Trust lecture (on Monday evening), and the launch (in East London) of Archbishop Thabo's book, Faith and Courage: Praying with Nelson Mandela.

We begin this week with our annual Stewardship month and related sermon series. The topics are relevant for us all. We are immensely grateful, and thankful to God, for all of you who give faithful support and who have pledged, over this past year. Cathedral finances are looking good! I ask that each of us as Cathedral parishioners once again commit to regular and faithful tithing and pledging, to support the work, life and ministry of the Cathedral, together with the wider diocese and Province. We are part of a Christian family and community. The Cathedral depends on each one of us for ministry and financial support. We give as part of lives that are dedicated to God.

On a personal note, I am now facing serious deadlines for the completion of my PhD thesis (I am registered at NMU), and hope to do so by the end of October, so as to allow for proof-reading in November and submission in early December. It might sound like plenty of time, but I am not so sure! My research is in the field of conflict, and my thesis title is Conflict Transformation and campus protests at Rhodes University, 2015 – 2016. My central research question is: faced with intractable, deep-rooted conflict, how can South African university communities effectively address and respond to student protests? Protest is part of South African life. It is a near-daily section of news broadcasts. We are an angry, hurting country, and all too often this emerges in our public debates. As many of us know, our university campuses were gripped by protests for those two years, and the issues raised then continue to engage us now: finances, fees, the cost of tertiary education, gender-based violence, sexual assault and "rape culture". I am grateful for the support given and interest shown by many, in my research and during this crucial writing-up period. These next few weeks for me are critical.

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.