

Dean's Letter, 16 July 2017

Dear Cathedral family

I write this ahead of time, knowing that I won't be at worship with you all in the Cathedral today. Together with the Sub Dean and Revd Claire, I am attending the closing Eucharist of the Mothers' Union conference, being held in Adelaide, this morning. All going well, Claire and I shall have hopefully returned safely from Stellenbosch yesterday (Saturday 15th) and shall have left early this morning for Adelaide. The week past is intended to have been a brief visit to Stellenbosch and Cape Town to see my sister Bridget and her family, out from New Zealand for a visit; to return Rachel to university; and to see Nicola, who is already two weeks into her 3rd term. I am grateful to Fr Monwabisi for being available to lead worship at the Cathedral this morning, in our absence.

There are a number of "beginning again" events this week. We welcome our students back in town, and to the Cathedral, as Rhodes University lectures start again tomorrow. Public schools reopen the following week. CSM Core team meetings start up again. Confirmation classes, for teens and for adults, also restart. There is also a meeting of the St Andrew's College Council, on Friday, which I shall attend in my capacity as the Bishop's representative on that body. College Council meets three times a year.

In consultation with PCC, we are planning a "Part 2" of our sermon series on 1 Corinthians, tackling tricky issues that were part of the life and experience of the church in Corinth, and that have relevance to us today. The big question to ask is how we are to understand and apply what was happening then, over 2000 years ago, to our Christian life and experience today. It is essential that we understand the context in which they were living, and therefore into which St Paul was writing, as an important tool to see how we can make links with our life and witness here, in 2017, in Grahamstown, SA.

Our sermon series, with dates and preachers, is as follows:

23 July Preacher: Dean Andrew
TOPIC: CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

30 July Preacher: Sub-Dean Mzinzisi
TOPIC: "ON BEING SINGLE" (Divorce, widows, single parents, singles)

6 August Preacher: Dean Andrew
TOPIC: HOMOSEXUALITY

20 August Preacher: Revd Claire
Topic: PERMISSIBLE BUT NOT BENEFICIAL: APPROPRIATE SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

It should be an interesting series!
My love to you all

