

Dean's Letter, 29 April 2018

Dear Cathedral family

We extend a very warm welcome to our preacher this morning, Theuns Pauw.

He is the head of African Enterprise (AE), a mission and evangelism organisation established some years ago by Michael Cassidy. A brief profile of Theuns is elsewhere in our pew leaflet.

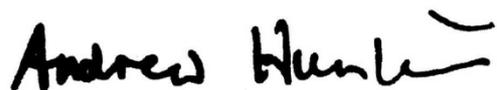
AE exists "to see the continent of Africa saved by the love of Jesus, and to see Africa's people disciplined by the church and transformed for good works" (from their website). AE's three main areas of ministry are evangelism, community development, and leadership training, and it has been on the go for over fifty years. AE's presence in Grahamstown this week is to support the "Grahamstown for Jesus" mission, 28th April – 6th May, initiated by a number of our local churches. We are really glad to have a mission preacher with us today. Thank you to the organising committee for all their hard work! Our prayer is that this week of mission will be a real spiritual turning point for many in our community, as we commit our lives to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. The program for the mission is on the notice board.

Some Cathedral news: we have received a newsletter from Namso Nyamela, giving an update of her doings. There is a copy on the notice board in the Cathedral, and also at the Cory Room. If you would like it emailed to you, please let Lou-Anne know. Today is Carlos Respeito's last Sunday with us, for a while; he returns for his second and final block with us, mid-July. Next week we shall be welcoming our student placement team from the College of the Transfiguration. They will be with us during COTT term time, until around mid-November.

We shall also be joined, this coming week, by The Revd (The Venerable) Eduardo Bukutu, from the diocese of Niassa, in Mozambique. He is their dean-designate, and the Bishop of Niassa has requested that he be placed with us for a month, to get some experience of the life of a cathedral. He shall be with us for the month of May, will be part of our various acts of worship, as well as some of our weekday events and activities, and shall also experience something of the life of the archdeaconry and the diocese. We have invited him to preach on Ascension Day, and on Trinity Sunday.

Our 2nd reading 1 John 4:7-21, says, "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." (1 Jn 4:7). As Christians, as the body of Christ, the church, we are called to be completely different from the world: to live the values of the kingdom of God, to have kingdom-shaped relationships with others. Instead of anger and hatred and resentment, we are called to love. Instead of jealousy and bitterness, we are called to love. Can we be instruments of healing and reconciliation in our community and country? Can we be signs of God's love for the world? I write the day before the planned national strike (24th April), as the bus drivers' strike continues into its second week, and as the violent protests in Mahikeng are much in the news. We are a very angry country. May we as Christians be signs of God's love in the midst of it all.

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.