

Dean's Letter, 17 June 2018

Dear Cathedral family

We have received a letter of thanks from Archdeacon Eduardo Bukutu, who has arrived home safely in Mozambique, after some days by bus and boat. He writes:

Dear Dean Andrew,

I humbly come to you in the name of Jesus Christ to thank you to accept me so that I should come to learn there.

My sincere gratitude to my lord Bishop Ebenezer for his acceptance also.

During my stay in the Cathedral in Grahamstown, I have learnt a lot of many things as follows:

More about regular prayers in the cathedral.

More about regular meetings of staff meetings in cathedral.

More about different meetings on which I had been attending during my stay there.

More about vestments and many more things.

I thank you very much,

Warm greeting to everyone in the Cathedral.

Archdeacon Eduardo T. Bukutu.

My sincere thanks to all who helped make his time here with us, a happy one.

I write this in growing anticipation of our daughters' arrival back home from university, for their midyear break! Schoolchildren and students are coming to the end of the June exam period. It is almost always stressful and demanding for everyone – students, parents, teachers, academic staff – and there is a huge sigh of relief when all is over. Then our prayers are needed for safe travels as young people return home for the holidays. May God go with each one.

Our Old Testament reading for today continues with the stories from 1 and 2 Samuel. Now we are into David's anointing as king, by Samuel. The reading begins with tragic words of disappointment, loss, grief and regret: "Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel." (1 Sam 15:35). The end of a dream, the desolation of failure, when someone with immense promise throws it all away; or when an institution or project that we have poured our lives into, decays and goes to ruin. There is no easy answer or word of comfort when that happens.

But the Lord has not given up. He rouses Samuel out of his grief and sends him off to find and anoint a new king for the nation. Samuel is sent to Jesse, to find a king from among the sons of Jesse. The one to be anointed is not the obvious one – the oldest, or the strongest. God says to Samuel: "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." (1 Sam 16:7). Eventually, the youngest son is sent for, and is brought to Samuel. It is David who is to be God's anointed and the future king. In time, one born of David's line is to be our Lord and Messiah, Jesus Christ.

My love to you all

