

## Dean's Letter, 2 September 2018

Dear Cathedral family

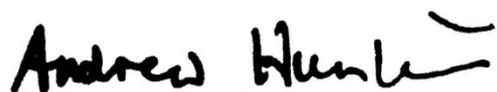
We shall be licensing two of our students, Theo Duxbury and Tandiwe Gabavana, as Lay Ministers today, in the context of the 9.30 a.m. service. We thank God for them and for their lives of worship, witness and service.

As noted in last week's pew leaflet, we are beginning another sermon series today, The Season of Creation. Our care for the earth is not a luxury, but a matter of survival, human rights and human responsibilities, and passing on the world to our children and grandchildren. In the four weeks of the Season, we shall explore the themes of Stewardship of the Earth, Water, Waste, and Land. All of these are highly relevant at this time! An article in the Daily Dispatch, 21 August 2018 was asking what the church was going to do about land or property that we own. Apart from church buildings and rectories, this diocese has owned some quite large pieces of agricultural land, centred around the historic mission stations at St John's Bholotwa (near Queenstown) and St Luke's Nxarhuni (near East London), and which had been donated to the diocese.

The diocese took the initiative in land redistribution about 10 years ago, with about 100 hectares of church land near Bholotwa being transferred to local beneficiaries in January 2006. And in November 2008 the Diocese of Grahamstown handed back to the community at Nxarhuni 240 hectares of prime riverside land which was part of a gift to the Anglican Church in the 1850's. A member of the community told those present of how the land had originally been given to the Diocese by the local chief in 1854 - and not by Sir George Grey - in order to prevent the land from being lost to white farmers and the colonial government. The 45 local people receiving the land had been trained in farming by the Department of Agriculture. Envisioned for this area are 200 houses, a police station, taxi rank, small business park and clinic, in addition to the large area to be used for agriculture. This project is still ongoing.

I had the privilege, last weekend (25th August), to attend the funeral of the late Mama Zondeni Sobukwe, in Graaff Reinet, and to represent the Archbishop and our diocese at that event. I had never met the Sobukwe family. But in November last year, on a visit to Robben Island, I spent some time at the Sobukwe House, where Robert Sokukwe had been imprisoned for about six years. Copies of his letters to his wife were there. Written from that place of darkness and captivity, his words to her moved me to the depths. There was longing and love, concern for her and their children; there was wisdom, compassion, zeal, determination, and courage. His letters portrayed someone with that quality of Ubuntu – Humanity - which seeks to build and heal, rather than break down and destroy; courage to stand firm and to put right ancient wrongs. We pay tribute to Mama Sobukwe as one of the mothers of our nation; for her dignity, courage and strength; and we give thanks for her faith in Jesus Christ which sustained her all these years.

My love to you all

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