

Dean's Letter, 21 October 2018

Dear Cathedral family, brothers and sisters in Christ

Although we are only in the month of October, we are rapidly approaching that time of the year when things end off for 2018. Today sees the start of this. At our Annual end-of-year Choir Concert this evening, 5 p.m., we shall be saying goodbye to two matrices, Avile Soyamba and Sine Nqumbe. Avile has also been our Head Chorister this year. We thank them both for their service to the choir, and their leadership. Our final CSM (Cathedral Student Ministry) service for 2018 is also today, at 6.30 p.m. Our wonderful students will still be around, but with swot week and final exams rapidly approaching, their availability for extra meetings and services is very limited. Although our evening student numbers have not been large this year, the services have been wonderful, and very special to all who have been part of these acts of worship.

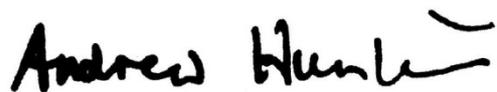
Our morning services next Sunday, 28th October, will have three aspects to them. We shall be celebrating our Patronal Festival (St Michael & All Angels). It will be our Dedication Sunday, when we commit or recommit ourselves to give financial support to the life and ministry of the Cathedral, for the 12 months ahead. And it will also be Harvest Festival, when we gather foodstuffs (non-perishables) to supplement our monthly Grocery Baskets for families and households we support. Details of all this are on the back page of the pew leaflet.

In particular, may I draw your attention to the idea of an "open mic" during both morning services next Sunday. Our Patronal Festival is a time to celebrate all that we are, all that has happened over this past year in the life of the Cathedral, and to give thanks to God for this. I encourage us all to think about what we would like to say or share, as a testimony to the goodness of God, as a word of thanks to God, and in appreciation of one or other aspect of the life and witness of the Cathedral. We don't always get it right, but at the same time there is a great deal that is wonderful about who we are as the people of God here at the Cathedral. Let's celebrate and give thanks!

Please let us hold in prayer at this time all victims of rape. Often happening behind the scenes and out of sight, it is frighteningly common. The trauma is immense. Let's pray for families affected, whether they be the family of the victim or the family of the (alleged) rapist.

News just in: I am among those who have been nominated to the vacancy of the See of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth. There are eight candidates, and the Elective Assembly will be held from 5th – 7th December 2018. Please let us hold the entire process, all those who have been nominated, the diocese of Port Elizabeth, the Cathedral, Claire, Rachel and Nicola, in our love and prayers through this time.

My love to you all

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