

Dean's Letter, 28 October 2018

Dear Cathedral family, brothers and sisters in Christ

As noted last Sunday, our morning services today, Sunday 28th October, have three aspects to them. We are celebrating our Patronal Festival (St Michael & All Angels). It is 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 is also Harvest Festival, when we gather foodstuffs (non-perishables) to supplement our monthly Grocery Baskets for families and households we support.

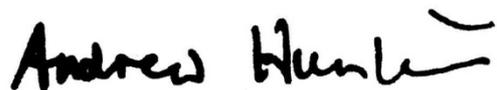
We really are in the season of farewells, thanksgivings, goodbyes, as well as new ministries being undertaken, new responsibilities being given. Today we say farewell and thank you to our 2018 COTT student team. They have been an outstanding group, committed to our life together, reliable in their duties. Two of them (Koena and Enrico) are final year leavers, and are heading off back to their dioceses and ordination; the rest of the group will be returning to COTT next year. We are also commissioning Revd Siphokazi Njokweni as Choir Chaplain, and we are inducting the new Head Chorister, Nzulu Nzwana (son of Canon Lawrence Nzwana, rector of St John & St Chad, Zwelitsha).

Could we please continue to hold the appointment of a new Director of Music, in our prayers. While continuing to hope that Cameron Luke's work visa will be granted, we have realized that we did not follow all the steps required to employ someone from overseas. At the time when we first advertised the position, it did not occur to us that we would be looking at an appointment of someone from outside SA. Our advertising process was inadequate in the eyes of the Department of Labour: we put our advertisements online, and not in any print media (national newspapers). We wrote to the Dept of Labour a few weeks back, asking them to condone this omission, but have been informed that they are unlikely to grant this. We – and Cameron Luke – are thus stuck in limbo, and unless there is a minor miracle, we could continue to wait, but with little or no prospect of Cameron's visa being granted.

We have therefore decided to re-advertise, and go through the process again. The adverts are appearing in regional newspapers and also in Grocotts, for two weeks, with the deadline for applications fairly soon. We hope to then draw up a shortlist, interview and make an appointment, either of a local musician, or confirming Cameron's appointment, but this time (hopefully) having fulfilled the requirements of the Dept of Labour to enable him to get a visa. We are keeping Cameron fully in the loop about this.

Our Patronal Festival today is an opportunity to celebrate all that we are, all that has happened over this past year in the life of the Cathedral and our community, and to give thanks to God for this. Our Old Testament reading (1 Kings 8) speaks of the community pouring out their love gifts and offerings in thanksgiving; our Gospel reading (Luke 17:11-19) is the story of the leper who, having been healed, returned to Jesus to give thanks. Today we are here to give thanks.

My love to you all

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