

## Dean's Letter, 18 November 2018

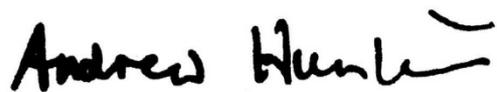
Dear Cathedral family, brothers and sisters in Christ

I had the privilege, a week ago (5th – 9th November), to attend the annual conference of Deans and Senior Priests of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa (ACSA). This is a fairly informal and voluntary gathering, which enables me and others holding this office in dioceses throughout ACSA, to meet and discuss, receive and give input, encourage and learn from one another. We move from diocese to diocese each year, and over the last six years have met in Polokwane (St Mark the Evangelist), Swaziland, Gauteng, Stellenbosch, and Namibia. This year we were in Mpumalanga, and next year the plan is to meet here in Grahamstown (Makhanda). Discussions and activities included ACSA's work on Safe Church; canon law matters and changes; initiatives to address the dreadful reality of human trafficking; the work and training of self-supporting clergy; ecumenical vision and discussions; a visit to the Samora Machel Monument and museum; regular daily worship; and plenty of fellowship and social interaction! We also had a morning game drive in the southern part of the Kruger National Park – a real treat, as many of us had never been to the park.

The two most significant events for most of us, I think, were the visit to the Samora Machel monument – located where his aircraft crashed in 1986; and the discussion on human trafficking, led by a Catholic priest, Fr Jean-Pierre, who has ministered in this area for a number of years. He spoke of how girls or young women caught up in human trafficking end up dehumanized by their experiences, living in fear of their pimp, and often addicted to drugs. It is a vicious cycle of cruelty, hopelessness and shame. It is frightening to realise how vulnerable young people are, and the extent to which their vulnerability is exploited by others. I hope that we can have a focus, during the course of next year, on this and reflect and see what appropriate action we can take in this regard.

We seem no closer to finding a Director of Music. Your PCC Executive was horrified to discover that to advertise the post in two national newspapers (The Sunday Times and City Press) – as part of the requirements from the Department of Home Affairs should a foreign applicant wish to obtain a work visa – would cost us in the region of R62,500 for one advert in each of those two newspapers. We simply don't have that kind of money. So the adverts will be in Grocotts, two regional newspapers, The Herald and the Daily Dispatch, and online. Sadly, this will probably rule out the possibility of getting anyone from outside SA for this post. Surely, though, we can find someone local, and with the necessary skills and potential, who would like to come here and to take up this exciting position! Any suggestions?

My love to you all



Finally, at Provincial Standing Committee a couple of months ago, we revised the ACSA missional priorities to correspond with the ACSA Vision statement of ACT, as follows:

- 1) **Liturgical** renewal and transformative worship
- 2) **Discipleship** - including theological education, formation and leadership development
- 3) **Prophetic ministry** - including advocacy in education, nurture of the young, women and gender, environment and health.

These priorities correspond with:

- **Anchored** in the love of Christ: whose expression is in (1) - liturgical and worship matters;
- **Committed** to God's mission: which includes (2) - disciples equipped for leadership and ministry
- **Transformed** by the Holy Spirit, exercising (3) - a prophetic ministry in the world.