

## Dean's Letter, 17 March 2019

Dear Cathedral family, brothers and sisters in Christ

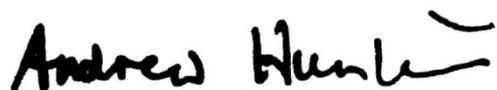
Good friends of ours from Cape Town, Bob and Rachel Mash, have been attending the United Nations Climate Change conference in Nairobi, Kenya. They, with us all, have been deeply shocked by the tragic aircraft crash of the Ethiopian Airlines flight, last week. There were no survivors. On board were a number of people who were travelling to the conference, including one of the speakers. The waste of human life and talent and energy is overwhelming. And the impact on the families of those who have died, both emotional and economic, is immense. Shattering. Devastating. Lives and dreams cut short without warning, and those left behind have to simply pick up the pieces and rebuild what they can. So we hold all those affected by this tragedy, in our prayers and hearts.

With our Annual Vestry meeting today, I am conscious of the huge amount of work done to prepare for our meeting, by many, many people: admin staff in the office, our lay leadership and our many wonderful volunteers. We do not take anyone for granted! Energised, creative and loving ministry and service goes hand in hand with good governance and careful oversight. Behind the reports that are being tabled today are hours and hours of careful work, to ensure that all is correct and in order. Thank you, one and all.

One of my dreams is to have a "green" cathedral: a cathedral – and our other buildings – that is environmentally friendly as far as possible. This dream has been embraced by PCC. And the water crisis – not over yet, in spite of the wonderful rains – has served to underline just how important this all is. We simply cannot take natural resources for granted. And the rubbish and litter we all produce on a daily basis is doing long-term damage to the environment, land, sea and air.

Some of you may know that in the crypt or basement of the Cathedral (underneath the organ loft and the muniments room, where the toilets are) is a natural spring. This goes back many years, long before the Cathedral was built, and if the old beliefs and memories are correct, was part of Nkosi Ndlambe's kraal – so it was an ancestral sacred spot and place. And as a place of worship for us all, it is a doubly sacred spot. The spring is active, though not strong, and there is a pump to prevent the crypt from flooding. We have been looking at installing a water tank to make this spring water accessible for the Cathedral and for the community. A recent meeting with Gift of the Givers to discuss their plans to drill a borehole on Church Square and drawing water from that spring, may lead to a number of large tanks being installed, and living water – sweet water - flowing from the Cathedral to the whole community. What a dream and a vision, for healing, restoration, reconciliation, witness, and blessing.

My love to you all

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