

## Dean's Letter, 6 October 2019

Dear Cathedral family, Brothers and Sisters in Christ

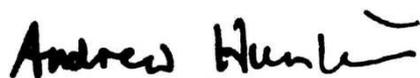
We continue today with our Dedication & Stewardship series. Our Patronal Festival of St Michael & All Angels, and our Dedication Sunday, will be celebrated on 27th October. That is also our Harvest Festival; and it is Bible Sunday – many layers of meaning and signs of God's grace, the presence of angels amongst us, all at once! As in previous years, there will be "open mic" opportunities at both our morning services to give public thanks and to testify to God's goodness to us.

What an exciting and rich couple of weeks this has been. This past Monday, we welcomed our Taizé group of students and young adults back off the bus from Cape Town. We shall hear their report back next Sunday, 13th October. On Tuesday, some of us gathered at a lunch to say thank-you to our cleaner and messenger, Mama Dinah Flani, who has worked here for over 40 years. In her quiet way, she has been a partner in the gospel (Phil 1:5) for all these years, cleaning, helping out with tasks in the office, fetching the post, joining in prayer with the rest of the staff team, every Tuesday morning. Each of us, whatever our task or role in the life of the church or community, is a partner in the gospel, as we offer ourselves to be faithful followers of the Lord. We thank Katie Appollis for arranging the lunch for Dinah.

I had the privilege, the previous week (during the school holidays) to represent our diocese at Provincial Synod. This is the highest governance body of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa (ACSA), and normally takes place every three years. It is attended by clergy and lay reps from each diocese throughout ACSA, as well as all the bishops. We are a vast and diverse Province, which includes all of SA, as well as Angola, Namibia, Mozambique and St Helena. It was an intense few days: long (we began each day at 7 a.m. with the Eucharist, and ended, for some of us, well after 10 p.m. most evenings, once legal issues and the daily minutes had been finalized); rich in worship (well prepared and well led); moving and powerful in debate (there were some big issues on the table); wonderfully diverse and exciting.

It is impossible to sum up four days of Synod in a few minutes or a couple of paragraphs! The Minutes of Synod are on the ACSA webpage, for those who would like to read them. And the ACSA Facebook page has a series of good articles and posts, high-lighting some of the key resolutions, as well as providing a link to the Archbishop's Charge. A lot of time was spent in amending the canons (the law of the church). The procedure for electing bishops has been sharpened, and the requirements expected of a person holding that office have been spelt out. We engaged once again in the ministry we should offer to those in same-sex unions. We declared a "climate emergency". We expressed our sorrow at the high levels of gender-based violence, and committed ourselves to create a new narrative of hope.

My love to you all

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Hunter". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.