

Dean's Letter, 20 October 2019

Dear Cathedral family, Brothers and Sisters in Christ

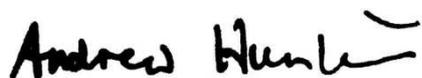
The week began on a sad note for me with the news of the death, early on Monday morning, of Rev Mxolisi Somandi, father to the twins, Mfundo and Khonzi. He was a priest in the PE diocese, but his home is here in Grahamstown. And the twins were faithful servers during their school years at Graeme College, and we got to know them well. His death at 57, after a period of ill health, is a great shock. It was good to be able to visit his family, accompanied by Rev Luthando and Rev Lunga. His funeral is on Tuesday.

Next Sunday (27th October) is our Dedication Sunday, in the context of our Patronal Festival of St Michael & All Angels (transferred from 29th September). It is also Bible Sunday, which we shall observe at Choral Evensong on that day. Our Patronal Festival, together with Dedication Sunday, is a time to give thanks for the life and witness of the Cathedral, and for the many signs of God's grace in our life together. And it is when we are all asked to make our financial commitment to the life and ministry of the Cathedral (and the wider Diocese and Province) for the year ahead. We ask all Cathedral members to tithe – to give a tenth – of take-home income, so that ministry can be sustained. I thank all who have given faithfully in the past, and who continue to do so. Someone wrote recently:

“There is a paradox – God owns everything, yet He will have nothing unless His people give what they have back to Him. There are practical costs involved to advance the message, mission and ministry of God's church. All God's money is sitting in our pockets – He asks us to be wise stewards of what we have been given and release financial resources so His will can be done on earth. We all know the saying, 'God has no hands but your hands'. Perhaps we can add 'God has no money but your money'. Let us give in order to provide the needed resources for ministry and mission.”

This evening is the final Cathedral Student Ministry (CSM) service for the year. We shall be saying goodbye to some students, and we shall be praying and anointing all who are to be writing exams. What a gift the CSM has been to us all over the past 12 years. During the time of prayer within the service, last Sunday, the overall need and theme was asking for grace and strength for the week ahead, with assignments and exams looming. To trust daily. Moment by moment. Most of us face overwhelming events and circumstances; very few have a plain sailing life. How we need God's grace to sustain us. And wisdom and courage for the hard things. From one of the psalms for this week: “In you, O Lord, I seek refuge, do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me. Incline your ear to me, rescue me speedily.”

My love to you all

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