

Dean's Letter, 10 November 2019

Dear Cathedral family, Brothers and Sisters in Christ

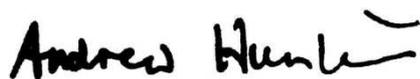
We had a very happy St George's Fair, last Saturday (the day the Springboks beat England at rugby, in case you have forgotten...!). My very sincere thanks to the Fair convenor, Rodney Bridger, together with the planning committee and all stall holders. People put in an immense amount of work behind the scenes and we can be very proud of what was achieved. The Fair is a fund-raising event, but it is also a wonderful community occasion, when we celebrate all that we are. Well done team!

The 2nd Sunday in November (today) is observed as Remembrance Sunday, being the Sunday closest to November 11th, the date which marked the Armistice and end of World War One. Since then it has become a time of solemn remembering of all those who died in war; it is an acknowledgment of the cost of warfare and conflict, and the many lives lost in battle. While the focus historically has been on the dead of the two World Wars, this day has become a time to remember all who have died in conflicts anywhere, in the cause of freedom and justice.

Who we remember, what we remember, and how we remember, are all important. April 22nd this year was the 200th anniversary of the 1819 Battle of Grahamstown. Next year, 2020, marks the 200th anniversary of the arrival of the 1820 Settlers. Both these anniversaries are linked; without the Battle of Grahamstown and the British victory, the Settlers would not have been brought here to the Eastern Cape to settle. Our history is fraught and intertwined, and we therefore remember with care and with awareness of how victory and defeat, pain and sorrow, the conqueror and the colonised, thanksgiving and despair, are two sides of the same coin, the same series of events. In the words of the psalms for Evensong today, "Deliver me, O Lord, from evil and violent people, those who devise mischief in their hearts, who stir up hatred day by day" (Ps 140:1-2). When people fight, whose prayers does God hear and answer? Which side does God choose?

The Cathedral Youth Intern programme is coming to the end of its first and highly successful year. It began when one of our young people, Tandiwe Gabavana, was appointed by the Dean as Cathedral Youth Intern for 2019. She has assisted in several Cathedral projects and ministries, while based at the Cathedral parish office, as well as being a part of the youth leadership team (DYG). We are looking for a suitable person to be the Cathedral Youth Intern for 2020: someone with at least a matric, preferably with a couple of years out of school, and who is able to assist with administrative tasks. This is a possible gap year experience during which the Youth Intern will be mentored, trained, and given a number of opportunities to be part of the life and ministry of the Cathedral. The intention is also for this to be a time of personal spiritual growth and discipleship; the Youth Intern attends the Young Adults Bible Study, is part of our youth/student ministry, and is normally licensed as a lay minister. If you are interested, please contact the Dean. The Cathedral reserves the right not to make an appointment.

My love to you all

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