

Dean's Letter, 17 November 2019

Dear Cathedral family, Brothers and Sisters in Christ

We are rapidly approaching the end of the Church Year – which is different from the calendar of months and years that we follow normally. The Church's Year tells the story of our salvation, God's acts of redemption. It begins with the 1st Sunday of Advent, moves to Christmas and Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week, Good Friday, Easter Day, Ascension, Pentecost, and then into the "green" season. Next Sunday is the final Sunday of the Church Year and the Sunday before Advent. Today, the 23rd Sunday after Pentecost, is also known as Mission Sunday. Mission is a big word! For some of us, it brings to mind the music of "Mission Impossible", and of course the hero of the film succeeds in his mission, impossible though it may have seemed in the beginning.

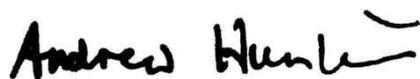
As Anglicans we recognise five "Marks" or signs of mission, being the work – the task – the mission – our calling as the people of God. This is what the church is called to do. The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ. The Five Marks of Mission are as follows:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

It is good, at this stage in the Church's Year, that we use these Marks as something of a checklist. To what extent are we as the Cathedral, or as individuals, engaged in the mission of Christ? Are we doing any of the above? Let's think about this for a bit...

As noted last Sunday, we have been hosting the annual conference of Deans and Senior Priests of ACSA, this past week. Our speakers and topics were: Dr Sizwe Mabizela, RU VC: "Gender based violence on our campuses"; Mr Andrew Renard, teacher at St Andrew's College: "Preventing rape and changing boys' attitudes, using the study of literature and drama"; The Revd Canon Dr Vicentia Kgabe, rector of COTT: "Theological Education, ACSA and COTT – the state of the nation"; Mr Dumisa Mpupha, Mr Dudu Saki and Mr Mandlenkosi Dyakala (a trio of local poets): "In the Foot Steps of Amandlambe – Our Heritage"; Mr Lewis Manthata, Deputy Head, St Andrew's College (and PhD candidate): "Locating the decolonial role of the church in education"; Ms Kim Barker, DSG teacher (and PhD candidate): "Gender-based violence: What difference can the Church make?"; The Rt Revd Dr Eddie Daniels, Bishop of Port Elizabeth: "Clergy wellness and the spiritual life"; Dean Andrew Hunter: "Canon Law developments at Provincial Synod". Many thanks to our planning team, Lou-Anne and Tandiwe!

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.