

## Dean's Letter, 15 March 2020

Dear Cathedral family, Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Our Annual Vestry Meeting to be held today is a necessary and important part of the life and ongoing work of the Cathedral. Having said that, Vestries and meetings of this nature are not always the flavour of the month! I encourage all Cathedral members to attend Vestry and to take part, as far as possible. We do our best to keep things moving: reports have been drawn up and printed; we take a great deal of the agenda as "read" (i.e. we don't spend time during the meeting delivering the reports, but merely taking and responding to questions). And the slide show during our service today gives an overview of aspects of our life together. Pictures can often say much more than words! Many thanks to our faithful photographers, to Maggy Clarke for putting the slide show together, and to Lungile Penxa for doing the screening in the context of our worship today.

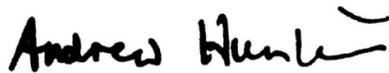
Our scripture readings for this morning tell us of God's provision of water in the wilderness (Exodus 17:1-7); the salvation that Jesus came to bring (Romans 5:1-11); the water of life (John 4:7-26). "But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8). This is the living water that Jesus speaks of in the Gospel: "those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life" (John 4:14-15). We come to drink of the living water; we come to eat the living bread and drink from the cup of salvation; we come thirsty for the water of life. We are sustained and fed by all that God gives to us.

Whether we are sixteen or sixty, or anywhere in between, we thirst and long for hope, for help in despair, in times of personal or national crisis. Wondering where to go from here. Desperate for strength and for light in the darkness; perhaps we are like the Samaritan woman who came to the well in secret, to draw water, so that no one would see just how desperate and alone she was. Yet it was there that Jesus met her and offered her living water. May it be so with us.

So we come once again to the well of living water, like the Israelites in the wilderness. They were desperate. No food, no water, nowhere to go. Lost and drifting. Yet again and again, God provided. Water from the rock. Manna and quails. Bread and meat. The cloud by day and the fire by night. The place where there is nothing we can do except look to God to provide.

May God bless us in our life and journey together

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 small flourish at the end.