

## Dean's Letter, 25 October 2020

Dear Cathedral family, Brothers and Sisters in Christ

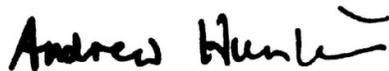
Suddenly we are in the final few weeks of the year. It is a time and a season of remembering: All Saints and All Souls next Sunday; then it is Remembrance Sunday; Mission Sunday; and the Feast of Christ the King – and then we are in Advent, with four weeks to Christmas. I am feeling frustrated at times by this upside-down year. Most of us haven't done any of our normal things that mark and celebrate the year. The usual landmarks are missing. And I am feeling it. There is an emptiness, a sense of drifting. Yet, of course, life goes on. Children and grandchildren are growing, the academic year has continued albeit under enormously challenging circumstances; there have been illness and deaths. We face huge challenges at local municipal level with governance. Like each of you, the Cathedral receives its monthly municipal accounts and we pay these; but we have been unable to get hold of municipal officials to query amounts or to raise concerns. The phones just ring.... And many of us are facing water outages for days on end. I am grateful that the Deanery and Sub Deanery have rain water tanks for times like these.

Today is Bible Sunday, as well as being our annual Dedication Sunday. We are so thankful to all our Cathedral parishioners and members of the church who support the life and work of the Cathedral with our pledging, tithing and generous giving. I also thank the organisers of "St George's Fair with a Difference" for their initiatives. Please let us continue to support as best we are able to do so. And please consider leaving a bequest to the Cathedral in your will. People have been very generous to us over the years, and it has enabled us to do crucial repair and restoration work, as well as support the ongoing life and witness of the church.

Bible Sunday is a day to give thanks for the gift of the Holy Scriptures, our sacred texts, the gathered revelation of God through the written word. At the end of each reading on Sundays, we say "Hear the word of the Lord". I find it remarkable that, day by day and week by week, we open the scriptures and receive life for our souls.

It is a long-established practice of the church to read and meditate on Holy Scripture in order to meet with the living God. From our readings this morning: "those who delight in the law of the Lord... are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither..." (Psalm 1:2-3). May your life and mine be like those trees, planted in the living water of the Spirit. From the Gospel: "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and your neighbour as yourself..." (Matt 22:37-39). May we grow in our love for God, for ourselves, for our neighbours. Love, justice, service, mercy, compassion, all drawing our strength from the streams of living water.

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.