

Dean's Letter, 29 November 2020

Dear Cathedral family, Brothers and Sisters in Christ

We congratulate our parish secretary, Janine (nee Jegels) to her marriage yesterday to Lyle Abdul. We pray for God's blessing on them both as they begin their married life together.

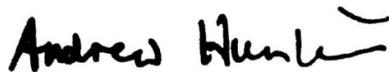
Today is the start of the season of Advent and the start of the church's liturgical year. It is a time of endings and also of new beginnings. The season of Advent is not just a time to think about Christmas celebrations and family get-togethers – though for some this is certainly part of the excitement of these weeks – but it is also a time of expectation of the coming of Christ, the birth of Jesus into our world, into our lives, into our circumstances. Advent is a fresh start. It is a time when we wait with expectation for the unexpected acts of God, the new opportunities and possibilities.

It was with very mixed emotions that I wrote to you all last week, to say that after 13 wonderful years here at the Cathedral and in this diocese, the time has come for Claire and me to move on. Claire has been appointed as Rector of St Thomas's, Rondebosch, in the Diocese of Cape Town. Her institution as Rector is being planned for Saturday 13th February 2021, just before the start of Lent. I shall be joining her in Cape Town (though it is not yet clear what I shall be doing there.) When we came to Grahamstown from Cape Town in January 2008, it was for a period of 8 years. But 8 years grew to 10, and now, at the end of December 2020, it will be 13 years, the longest that any Dean has held this office here at this Cathedral. It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to have been your Dean, and for Claire and me to share in the ministry here with our clergy colleagues and with you all. Many a time have I walked slowly through the quiet of the Cathedral, when no-one else is there, praying for you all, for the worship that is held, for our witness and our life. You have been our spiritual family and enriched our lives in countless ways. We thank God for each one of you. We shall never forget you. But now the time has come for us to begin a new chapter in our lives, back home and near our family. God willing, this will be our final move before Claire retires in 6 years' time. Our final services here will probably be on Sunday 31st January 2021.

We know that times of change and transition can be very unsettling. We entrust the Cathedral, and all of you, into the hands of the one who alone is the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ. We pray for the Bishop, Sub Dean Mzinzi and others as they seek to discern the best way forward for the Cathedral parish and for the diocese. It has been a very real privilege to serve under Bishop Ebenezer, and it has been a great gift to have Sub Dean Mzi, our other clergy colleagues, churchwardens, PCC, Lay Ministers, Directors of Music, our many wonderful volunteers, and our office staff, as part of the Cathedral team. We thank God for them and their families.

Please continue to pray for us, as Claire and I continue to pray for you.

My love to you all

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.