

**Cathedral of St Michael & St George
Grahamstown
Annual Vestry Report 2017**



Sunday 12th March 2017

At this Vestry we give great thanks to the following Donors:

- Professor Andrew & Heather Tracey
- Jeanette Eve and Family
- Jenny Gon
- Kath Freeman
- The late Professor Beth Dickerson

**CATHEDRAL PARISH of St MICHAEL and St GEORGE,
GRAHAMSTOWN
AGENDA of the ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING to be held in
St GEORGE'S HALL
on SUNDAY 12th MARCH 2017**

- 1. OPENING PRAYER**
- 2. APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY**
- 3. ELECTION OF SCRUTINEERS**
- 4. PRESENT** (Please complete the attendance register which is being circulated)
- 5. APOLOGIES** (Please complete the apologies register which is being circulated)
- 6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS VESTRY MEETING HELD ON 13th MARCH 2016, and the adoption thereof.**
- 7. MATTERS ARISING from the minutes of the 2016 Vestry meeting:**
 - 7.1. The Verger.** (Item 9 page 2 of the Vestry 2016 minutes). Timothy Stephen was appointed as the Verger from the beginning of May 2016, and he continues to work in that position. Timothy is commended for the manner in which he continues to fulfil his duties.
 - 7.2. Election procedure for parish councillors.** (Item 11 page 4). Vestry 2016 affirmed that the election procedure for Parish Councillors that was adopted in 2014, 2015 and 2016 which required a majority of votes (that is 50% + 1) for a candidate to be elected, would be adopted for future Vestry meetings.
 - 7.3. Diocesan Synod report.** (Item 12 page 4). Vestry 2016 elected Wayne Jayes and Rose Spannenberg as the Cathedral's representatives at the Diocesan Synod. They attended synod and gave a comprehensive report back to the Parish. The Parish Council has subsequently tasked a small sub-committee to assess the Diocesan Synod resolutions, and the Synod theme of "God's Mission in a Missionary Model", with a view to considering what they mean for us at the Cathedral and how we should take each resolution and the Synod theme forward.
 - 7.4. Motion concerning Diversity in Worship.** (Item 12.1 page 4). Vestry 2016 adopted a motion to print an experimental hymnal compiled by Andrew-John Bethke. The hymnal includes hymns in a number of South African languages, and would be used alongside the

hymnbooks already in use at the Cathedral. Following a subsequent Parish Council decision, the hymnal was locally printed and has been used periodically in worship in the Cathedral. Its use was endorsed by Diocesan synod.

7.5. Motion concerning Inclusion. (Item 12.2 page 5). Vestry 2016 adopted a motion which tasked the Parish Council with finding ways in which we can be more welcoming to all. This includes being mindful of pastoral care in the context of inclusion and diverse human sexuality that would be discussed at Provincial Synod in September 2016. This has been discussed by the Parish Council, and the Council has closely followed the developments in this regard at the Diocesan and Provincial Synods. Provincial Synod defeated the motion that a Bishop may “provide for prayers for blessing to be offered for those in same sex civil unions”. The Parish Council considers it important that the issues concerning pastoral care and diverse human sexuality should continue to be considered and discussed within the Cathedral parish and has requested the clergy to give guidance as to how the matter should be taken forward within the parish.

8. DEAN’S REPORT AND SLIDE SHOW

9. CHURCHWARDENS’ REPORT

10. FINANCIAL REPORT AND ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS:

- 10.1 Makana Choir School Financial Report 2016
- 10.2 Cathedral Financial Report 2016
- 10.3 Cathedral Budget 2017

11. ELECTIONS:

- 11.1 Parish Roll – Canon 27 (2) and Article XXIV (10) of the ACSA constitution
- 11.2 Ballot papers & pencils
- 11.3 Scrutineers
- 11.4 Proposers or seconders to speak
- 11.5 Election of Churchwardens – Canon 29 (1) and (2)
- 11.6 Election of Alternate Churchwarden – Canon 29 (4)
- 11.7 PCC Elections – voting procedure
- 11.8 Election of Parish Councillors – Canon 28

12. REPORTS:

- 12.1 Ansoc Chaplaincy
- 12.2 Altar Servers
- 12.3 Cathedral Student Ministry
- 12.4 Children’s Church

- 12.5 Director of Music
- 12.6 Fort England
- 12.7 Flower Guild
- 12.8 Grocery Basket
- 12.9 Lay Ministers
- 12.10 Makana School
- 12.11 Marimbas
- 12.12 Meditation Group
- 12.13 Mothers Union
- 12.14 Sacristans
- 12.15 Sidespeople
- 12.16 Sound System
- 12.17 Spiritfest
- 12.18 Steeple Keeper

- 13. **MOTIONS.** *Only those received by noon on Monday 20th February 2017 will be tabled.*
- 14. **THANKS**
- 15. **CLOSURE**

Cathedral of St Michael and St George, Grahamstown
Minutes of the Annual Vestry meeting held in St George's Hall
on Sunday 13 March 2016 at 10h30

1 The meeting opened with prayer and a reading from John 15: 1-8

2 The Dean proposed that Claire Cordell be appointed as secretary to minute the proceedings. Seconded by Cathy Pringle.

3 The Dean explained that there was a need to elect scrutineers for the four elections that would take place at the meeting. The scrutineers would hand out ballot papers, gather and count them. Nominations for scrutineers were called for from the floor and the following people were proposed and accepted by the meeting: Rev Siphokazi Njokweni, Pat Terry, Marian Walwyn and Michael Whisson.

The attendance register and apologies list were circulated among those present.

4 Present: Andrew-John Bethke, Jane Bradshaw, Elizabeth Breetzke, Rosalie Breitenbach, Rodney Bridger, Rose Buchner, Lorraine Cassem, Maggy Clarke, Claire Cordell, Sister Neheng CR, Vuyokazi De Beer, Lunga Dongwana, Theodore Duxbury, Rev Mzinzisi Dyantyi, Roger & Rosalind Embling, Catherine Euijen, Akona Gabavana, Jeanette Hodgson, Dean Andrew Hunter (chair), Rev Claire Nye Hunter, John Jackson, Nceba January, Wayne & Marian Jayes, Joyce Maarman, Rev Luthando Madiba, Lusanda Madiba, Zoleka Maqwili, Lynette Marais, Ian & Cathy Meiklejohn, Rosa Msweli, Nomfuneko Ntapane, Rev Siphokazi Njokweni, Nokulunga Peter, Patrick & Cathy Pringle, Jennifer Reynolds, Busisiwe Soxujwa, Rose Spanneberg, Pat & Sally Terry, Rev Ezra Tisani, Thami Tisani, Niels Vandereyken, June Venn, Paul & June Walters, Chris & Marian Walwyn, Anne Warring, Michael Whisson, Clive & Penny Whitford, Thabisa Yili

5 Apologies: Geoff & Margie Antrobus, Peter Baillie, Mandy Bridger, Val Buchner, Ronaldo Burger, Yolizwa Dongwana, Jeanette Eve, Rudi & Kay Marx, Duma Myemane, Thelma Neville, Linda Nyarashe, Rev Monwabisi Peter, Daphne Rink, Peter & Ann Stockwell, Joy Tandy, Andrew & Heather Tracey

6 The minutes of the 2015 Vestry meeting were tabled and accepted, subject to one correction: On page 1 of the minutes (p 4 of the purple

booklet) “Eleonor Barker” should read “Eleanor Barker”. Proposed by Patrick Pringle. Seconded by Lunga Dongwana.

7 Matters Arising

Jane Bradshaw tabled points 7.1 to 7.13 on the agenda which detailed all action taken on matters arising from last year’s Vestry meeting. In response to 7.1 (Nave Piano chock blocks), A-J Bethke thanked Wayne Jayes for the piano cage system which had been constructed and installed on the Nave Piano as it made the instrument much easier to move.

8 Dean’s Report was tabled in the Cathedral during the service preceding the Vestry meeting (the full text may be found pp 11-13 of the purple booklet).

9 Churchwardens’ Report:

Paul Walters drew the attention of those present to some of the most important points in the Churchwardens’ Report which may be found on pages 1-3 of the blue booklet.

- a) Jane Bradshaw and Wayne Jayes are standing down as Wardens. Thanks were extended to them for their work during their respective tenures of one and five years. Jane was particularly thanked for her care of the staff and Wayne for his careful oversight of the Cathedral finances and all practical aspects. Their efforts were acknowledged with acclaim.
- b) The Lady Chapel Altar Piece was dedicated during Spiritfest 2015
- c) A copy of the Registers and Terriers has been stored in the Muniments Room safe.
- d) Rev Claire Nye Hunter and Rev Luthando Madiba have re/joined the staff as of January 2016

The clergy were thanked with a standing ovation for the work they had done over the past year.

Thanks were also extended *in absentia* to Paul Daniels II and to the sidespersons for the welcoming work they do at services. Thanks were further extended to Anet Peter and the team responsible for restoring the Cathedral floor to shining splendour. It was noted that neither of the two Vergers to leave in the past year was dismissed – both left of their own accord.

Chris Walwyn proposed acceptance of the Churchwardens’ Report; seconded by Lynette Marais.

10 Financial Report

The **Cathedral's financial report** was presented by Wayne Jayes. He indicated that there was a deficit of R35 730 for 2015, which represented about 2% of annual turnover. He explained that the summary of the year could be found in the blue booklet (Income Statement 2015), with a detailed account provided on the pages immediately following. Bequests and Donations have been acknowledged in the Churchwardens' Report points 4.4 and 4.5. Expenditure was normal. Non-Clergy staff costs look higher because Eunice Ncwadi resigned as Verger and, as she was too old to contribute to a pension fund, money was put away for her on a monthly basis and interest accrued. This sum had to be paid out to her when she left. Wayne invited those with concerns to raise them with him at any time.

The Auditor's Report was tabled (see blue booklet). As always the auditors provided a qualified opinion as they could not be sure what happens between money leaving a pocket and being banked. It was noted however that the sidespersons and those who count the money (Peter Stockwell and Basil Coyne) do a consistently good job.

The audited financial statements for **Makana Choir School** were also tabled (see blue booklet). Marian Jayes is Treasurer and reports to the Cathedral Parish Council. Expenditure for 2015 was R99 081 and donations received late in the year meant there was a surplus of R101 000. Concerning the need for transport for young choristers to Joza or back to school, a taxi driver has been contracted to transport them on Sundays and Wednesdays and it seems to be working well. June Walters thanked A-J Bethke for all the transport he did before this scheme was put in place.

The Proposed Budget for 2016 was tabled. Wayne Jayes indicated that pledged income was based on pledge forms received. He noted that pledgers are very faithful. Loose plate collection is however variable and the estimate is therefore based on historical values. Fundraising comprises the amount expected to be generated by St George's Fair. It is not possible to budget for bequests. The Chambers figure consists of rental income so that is a known quantity. Donations include the grocery basket and other donations. If the amount set aside for donations were to be increased, the budget would have to be trimmed elsewhere. Clergy Staff Costs include Transport, Living Allowance, Maintenance, Lights and Water. Clergy residences are not rated. The Diocese has levied the same assessment as last year so there is a 0% increase for this year. This was acknowledged with acclaim. It was noted that clergy transport allowances and medical aid contributions increased mid-year last year, with further increases expected this year. A-J Bethke enquired about the item labelled "Archdeaconry fees". In reply Wayne said that the

Grahamstown and Albany archdeaconries meet quarterly and operate a combined council. Money contributed by each parish is used for clergy visits to country churches like St Barnabas (Alicedale), clergy retreats and training for deacons. The contributions are calculated by agreement on what each parish can afford.

The Treasurer was thanked with acclaim.

The accounts were adopted and approved as follows:

Cathedral accounts: proposed by Paul Walters and seconded by Lynette Marais

Makana Choir School accounts: proposed by Maggy Clarke and seconded by Cathy Euijen

2016 Budget: proposed by Lunga Dongwana and seconded by Paul Walters.

11 Elections

The Dean stated that those who appeared on the Parish Roll were eligible to nominate candidates and to vote. In terms of article 24 of the Constitution of the Province, a parishioner in good standing needed to come to communion a minimum of three times in the year. Parish Councillors should be eighteen years of age or older; Churchwardens twenty-one years of age or older.

Churchwardens

Nominees: Ian Meiklejohn (proposed by Patrick Pringle and seconded by Cathy Pringle); Ronaldo Burger (proposed by Patrick Pringle and seconded by Lunga Dongwana).

Mauve ballot papers and pencils were distributed by the scrutineers. After voting, the ballot papers were collected and counted by the scrutineers. Ian Meiklejohn received 40 votes and Ronaldo Burger 42. In total 46 ballots were cast so the requirement of 50% + 1 vote for the election of Churchwardens was well met. The nominees were pronounced duly elected with acclaim.

Alternate Churchwarden

Nominee: Paul Walters (proposed by Wayne Jayes and seconded by Claire Cordell)

Yellow ballot papers were distributed by the scrutineers. When once voting was complete, the ballots were collected and counted by the scrutineers. In total 42 ballots were cast. Paul Walters received 39 votes. There were 3 abstentions. Once again the requirement of 50% + 1 was well met. Paul Walters was duly elected Alternate Churchwarden for 2016.

Parish Councillors

Prior to the election of Parish Councillors Paul Walters proposed that those present continue with the election procedure used in 2014 and 2015 which

required a majority of votes, i.e. 50% + 1, for a candidate to be elected. This motion was seconded by Maggy Clarke and carried by Vestry.

Nominees: Eight nominations were received: Jane Bradshaw (proposed by Paul Walters; seconded by Cathy Euijen), Rodney Bridger (proposed by Paul Walters; seconded by Cathy Euijen), Lunga Dongwana (proposed by Wayne Jayes; seconded by Theo Duxbury), Roger Embling (proposed by Peter Baillie; seconded by Ros Embling), Cathy Euijen (proposed by Claire Cordell; seconded by Paul Walters), Wayne Jayes (proposed by Paul Walters; seconded by Cathy Euijen), Patrick Pringle (proposed by Wayne Jayes; seconded by Theo Duxbury), Rose Spanneberg (proposed by Paul Walters; seconded by Claire Cordell)

The attention of Vestry was drawn to the fact that there was an irregularity relating to Roger Embling's nomination. In an e-mail sent to Roger on 8 March, Peter Baillie agreed to nominate Roger for Parish Council. In a further e-mail to Roger, sent on 9 March and forwarded to the Dean, Peter Baillie, subsequent to nominating Roger for Parish Council, said that under the circumstances referred to in his e-mail he had no alternative but to withdraw his nomination of Roger. A copy of this e-mail was tabled at Vestry. Peter Baillie's withdrawal of his nomination of Roger was also confirmed in an e-mail to the Dean dated 12 March. This was further confirmed in a phone call from Peter Baillie to Rev Claire Nye Hunter on 12 March. Roger Embling then tabled his *Curriculum vitae*, which he said he had collected from Peter Baillie's attorney on 11 March. As requested by the Dean, Claire Cordell read it out to Vestry. Wayne Jayes telephoned Peter Baillie during the Vestry meeting and confirmed with him that the e-mails sent on 9 and 12 March superseded the letter of 8 March 2016. Since Peter Baillie had withdrawn his nomination of Roger, Ros Embling nominated her husband. The Dean requested a seconder from the floor, but none was forthcoming. Roger Embling's nomination therefore fell away. Roger and Ros Embling left the meeting.

Those who had put forward the nominees were asked to say briefly why they had chosen to nominate them. When this process was complete, the scrutineers handed out white ballot papers. When the voting was finished, the ballot papers were collected and counted by the scrutineers. In total 41 ballots were cast. Jane Bradshaw (34 votes), Rodney Bridger (38 votes), Lunga Dongwana (39 votes), Cathy Euijen (36 votes), Wayne Jayes (38 votes), Patrick Pringle (36 votes), Rose Spanneberg (38 votes). Once again the requirement of 50% + 1 was well met in each case.

Following the voting of Parish Councillors for 2016, Clive Whitford proposed that Vestry affirm the procedure adopted over the past three years to elect

Parish Council members in future Vestry meetings. This motion was seconded by A-J Bethke and the motion was carried by Vestry.

Diocesan Synod representatives

Nominees were Wayne Jayes and Rose Spanneberg (both were proposed by Paul Walters and seconded by Claire Cordell). Nominations for an Alternate were requested from the floor. Patrick Pringle was proposed by Jane Bradshaw and seconded by Jeanette Hodgson. The motion was carried unanimously.

12 Motions

With the permission of Vestry, the Dean tabled the Motions before the Reports.

12.1 Motion concerning Diversity in worship.

A-J Bethke tabled a motion about diversity in worship. He would like to introduce an experimental hymnal including hymns in a number of South African languages. This hymnal would be used alongside the hymnbooks already in use at the Cathedral. The motion was seconded by Pat Terry. Wayne Jayes queried the printing costs. A-J indicated that the booklet would be about 35 pages i.e. 17 A4 pages containing about 50 hymns. Penny Whitford suggested that A5 format was easier to handle. Rev Claire Nye Hunter said that it was a wonderful initiative and probably long overdue to have a hymnbook reflecting the diverse languages in our country. Clive Whitford said that 50 hymns was a bit daunting, to which A-J replied that 20-25 of the hymns were multilingual and the others entirely in English, but addressing South African issues. Jane Bradshaw said that she strongly supported this initiative. A-J is to leave the Cathedral in 2017 and this hymnal would be part of his legacy to the Cathedral and to the Anglican Church in South Africa. Pat Terry asked whether the music would appear on one side of the page as in *A Hundred Hymns for Today*. A-J replied that this would eventually be the case and was part of a doctoral project. Niels Vandereycken said that it was very important to have songs, especially by young composers, that speak to the contemporary context.

12.2 Motion concerning Inclusion

A-J Bethke tabled a second motion concerning Inclusion. The motion was seconded by Paul Walters. A-J spoke to the motion and indicated that it had been formulated in response to an *Ad Laos* from Archbishop Thabo about Pastoral Guidelines for those in same-sex Civil Unions. A-J was concerned that the LGBTI community in Grahamstown and South Africa at large might feel like second-class citizens. He felt that the main issue was how to minister to those LGBTI couples who are part of our parish and wider community. Wayne Jayes said that identity politics were counterproductive to our nation

and the world at large. He felt that all human beings were welcome at the Cathedral. Jane Bradshaw said that she came from a homophobic background but that in the last 35 years she had heard many stories from male homosexuals and had come to learn more about their pain. She said that it was critical for the Cathedral to openly state that we offer the same love and care to all regardless of their orientation. Marian Walwyn said that the Cathedral needs to be part of the conversation. Rosalie Breitenbach commented that the Anglican Church was light years behind the NG Kerk on this issue. Lynette Marais said that she felt we were not to judge others and refuse to bless them. A-J said that the Cathedral is a very welcoming community in general. He would not like us to become complacent however. He urged the parish to keep talking about the issue, to be aware of those in pain and on the fringes of society. Ian Meiklejohn proposed amending the motion so that the incoming Parish Council could be tasked with finding ways in which we can be more welcoming to all. The amended motion was carried.

13 Reports: the Dean proposed that Vestry reports should be taken as read and adopted *en bloc* without discussion. The motion was seconded by A-J Bethke. Comments on the reports were invited. The reference to “Sally Pringle” in the Flower Guild report should be corrected to read “Sally Terry”. Cathy Pringle remarked that many of the reports had been written by people who have become weary: new and younger people are needed to become involved. Concerning the Sidespersons’ report, Rodney Bridger thanked Basil Coyne for his faithful duty at the Sunday evening services. He also thanked Basil Coyne and Peter Stockwell for counting the money every Sunday evening.

14 Thanks: the Dean thanked all those faithful and passionate people who participate in the ministry of the Cathedral. He also thanked those who provided the tea for Vestry. He then thanked Claire Cordell for taking the minutes and Chris Walwyn for organising the paperwork for Vestry. Finally, he thanked Jane Bradshaw, Wayne Jayes and Paul Walters for all their hard work over the past year.

The meeting closed with the Grace and ended at 12h40.

[As amended 18 October 2016: PLP]

DEAN'S VESTRY REPORT – 12th MARCH 2017
2nd Sunday in Lent
Genesis 12:1-4a; Ps 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

Greetings to the Sub Dean and Archdeacon of Grahamstown, the Venerable Mzinzisi Dyantyi, Lilitha, and your children, Sambesiwe Likuwe Anovuyo Dyantyi (Sambe), and Samila Sinomlibo Livuse St Mark Dyantyi (Sammi) – congratulations to you all on Sammi's birth; our Cathedral clergy team: Senior Assistant Priest and chaplain to the Cathedral Student Ministry, Revd Dr Claire Hunter (who we congratulate on being awarded her PhD last year); Revd Monwabisi Peter, Chaplain, St Andrew's Prep, together with your dear spouse Nokulunga, Ongamela and Unathi; Diocesan Media Officer Revd Luthando Madiba and your dear spouse Lusanda, and your darling baby daughter Lulibo Indyebo Madiba - congratulations on her birth; Revd Siphokazi Njokweni, and your two new children, Lisakazi and Mihlali, who we welcomed into the Cathedral last year; Revd Lunga Dongwana, made deacon in December 2016 – congratulations to you, to your dear spouse Yoliswa and your children Abongile, Onwaba and Ayamnkela; our churchwardens Professor Ian Meiklejohn – recently returned from the Antarctic, your spouse Cathy and your children; Mr Ronaldo Burger (who is also our treasurer), your spouse Michelle, and your children; Professor Paul Walters (alternate), your spouse June, your children and grandchildren; our parish councillors; lay ministers; all the people of God gathered here this morning: I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your love and prayers and care and support for Claire and me, and for our darling daughters, Rachel and Nicola – and how much we appreciate the way in which you as the Cathedral family love them and care for us and in particular our two grown-up children. They know they have a home here. Thank you for the love that you give them, and that you give us as the deanery family. Our thanks to Bishop Ebenezer for his leadership of the diocese and his ministry. And our thanks to our stipendiary, paid members of staff, and our wonderful teams of volunteers – individuals, ministry groups, organisations, guilds - for all that you do and are.

Today is (probably) the occasion of the 164th Annual Vestry for the Cathedral – assuming that Vestry has been held annually since the Cathedral was established in 1853. And it is my – and Claire's – 10th Vestry here with you all. Paging through my notes and diary for this past year as I prepared this Vestry

report has reminded me of the immensely rich tapestry of our lives here, and the intensity of this past year. Diocesan Synod and Provincial Synod. Easter Cantate and Masicule. Claire's graduation party on the Day of Pentecost. Joyful births and birthdays, including Thelma Neville's 100th birthday celebration; some sad deaths of family members, loved ones, close friends; a number of farewells, including Chris and Marian Walwyn, and Wayne and Marian Jayes (two former churchwardens, a parish secretary, organiser of St George's Fair). Spiritfest and the National Arts Festival. The Dean's Award to the Rhodes Vice Chancellor, Dr Sizwe Mabizela. Ongoing pastoral care. Meetings of Exec, PCC, Lay Ministers. Altar servers, rehearsals, practices, youth readers; the Christians @ Rhodes mission week – which found itself in the midst of the FeesMustFall student protests. The gift to me of a sabbatical, and the opportunity to engage in reading and research on conflict and student protests at Rhodes over these past two years. Our annual Confirmation service. Seniors' Tea, hosted by our students. The wedding in East London of our Cathedral Chancellor, Dr Bill Domeris, to Gill Leslie. Varsity Sing on Kyknet, and the Rhodes University Chamber Choir, directed by Dr Andrew-John Bethke, getting to the semi-finals. Our annual Back to School service, so wonderfully led by young people from the Cathedral.

And then, through much of last year, as the FMF protests escalated, our involvement on campus, both to give pastoral support for staff and students and senior university leadership, but also as a prayer presence in the Rhodes Chapel, and my own involvement as a peacekeeper. The visit of Archbishop Rowan Williams to Grahamstown, fortuitously at the height of the protests. Student arrests. Staff concerns and fears, and their own trauma. The anxiety of parents, and students. The intervention by the East Cape Council of Churches, and attempts to mediate.

And, on a national and international level: state capture and the Guptas, fears of church capture with the report of the Commission on Cultural and Religious Rights into the commercialisation of religion and the abuse of people's belief systems in our country; BREXIT and Trump; exploding Samsung 7s and Ford Kugas; a discredited president Zuma and an increasingly divided ANC; the SAVE SA campaign led by Siphos Pityana; the succession debate.

All this, together with our personal issues - daily struggles, joys, disappointments, hopes - is the context for our journey with Christ, our journey with the Lord. The readings for today, the 2nd Sunday in Lent, speak

to us of relationship, pilgrimage, covenant, love, belonging, moving on. God speaks to Abram, and calls him to leave the familiar, his country, his family, his father's home, and to go to a land that God will show him – the Promised Land that was the magnet for the people of Israel through the pages of the Old Testament.

God's covenant relationship with Abram (the name change to Abraham comes with his circumcision in Genesis 17) was an agreement and a promise of blessing and protection. A covenant was an ancient form of agreement between a lord and his underling. The lord would promise protection and life; the underling would promise obedience and commitment. This was the initial understanding of the relationship between God and His chosen people. They became a wandering nation, the people of God on a journey, through the wilderness, following God who had called their ancestor Abraham. They experienced God's liberating power when they were slaves in Egypt, their passage on dry land through the Red Sea – a foretaste of baptism – and were fed with manna and quails, and water from the rock, in the wilderness. They learned obedience and dependence. But it was a relationship ultimately of faith and trust: people responding to the love of God in faith and hope.

This is captured for us in the Gospel reading for today, and in what may be the most well known verse from the New Testament: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16). From the call of one man (Abraham), the invitation is now to everyone, to discover and receive eternal life: reconciliation with God, with one another, with creation, and with ourselves; forgiveness of our sins; the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower us for worship, witness and service; becoming part of the kingdom of God; being set free from the power of sin and evil and death; being born again, born anew, born from above. What a gift! What an invitation!

It is in this relationship with God that we live and move and have our being; it is the love of God that sustains us and carries us through all that lies ahead. These next few weeks will see our various farewell gatherings as we say thank-you and God bless to our outgoing Director of Music, Dr Andrew-John Bethke. What an immense gift AJ has been to us all over these past five years. He has been instrumental in shaping and deepening our life of worship here at the Cathedral; our choir has blossomed and is quite awe-inspiring in the quality of music that they produce; we have benefited from joyful worship, wonderful liturgy, a creative approach to so much; as well as helping us engage with diversity in language, and the welcome and inclusion of those who are

gay or lesbian. AJ will be a very hard act to follow; we wish him well in all that lies ahead; by the time Easter arrives, which is when he leaves us, we hope that we will have identified and appointed his successor. Thank you, AJ!

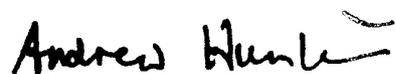
Student protests are, it seems, likely to continue in the months ahead, centering around the issues of the 8% increase, historic debt, NSFAS funding, and student accommodation; all this in the broader context of demands from last year for free, decolonised education. We are all part of this struggle, from whatever perspective: as academic or admin staff on campus, as students, as parents, as community members. And the student protests are increasingly part of a ground-swell of unhappiness and frustration with the pace of change in our country, the vast inequalities, and the loss of credibility of the ruling party. We are facing a bumpy road. Our role and witness as the church, the body of Christ, is to do all we can to remain in relationship with one another across the divides, to listen to concerns and to reach out, to carry one another's burdens. More broadly, we must support and strengthen the democratic process. Tactics that seek to bring about regime change by violent means and not through the ballot box are highly dangerous. We cannot support protest actions that involve violence against others, or the destruction of property. We do not accept the argument that such violence is simply in response to the violence of others, such as police or private security, or the intransigence of the state. Let's draw on the strength and grace of God and ask for wisdom and courage and guidance, as we support initiatives to find the solution.

The life of the Cathedral continues. Admin and governance behind the scenes – thank you, Chantel and Lou-Anne, together with our churchwardens and PCC; pastoral care and worship are our public face; we are a place of belonging, a place in which to grow; a sanctuary; a place of refuge and prayer and healing; a place of encounter with God. A place of diversity. A community of witness. A place where friends gather. We are this wonderful physical beacon in the midst of Grahamstown, the mother church of the diocese, the seat of the Bishop. But we are also the church for the whole community. A place where all can gather to celebrate or to grieve or to give thanks. To be part of the Cathedral is to be connected. I value, immensely, our links with Rhodes University and with many of our local schools - St Andrew's and DSG, Good Shepherd School, Nombulelo, VG and VP, Graeme, Oatlands, PJ Olivier, Kingswood; and with our local municipality and the various NGOs.

I thank you all, and I thank God for you all. Let's keep on going!

“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.”

(Ephesians 3:20-21)



The Very Reverend Andrew Hunter

Dean of Grahamstown

12th March 2017

Churchwardens' Report for the Year 2016/17

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 All three Churchwardens are available for re-election: Ronaldo Burger, Ian Meiklejohn, and Paul Walters (Alternate). The role of churchwarden is multi-layered; we are involved in almost every area of the Cathedral Parish's life; it is often interesting, sometimes challenging, but always satisfying.

2 BUILDINGS

Cathedral Improvement Plans

2.1 It has not been possible to progress the plans to improve the Cathedral's nave lighting this year. We were able, however, to have David Manning restore all the Lady Chapel windows thanks to a generous gift from Andrew and Heather Tracey. It is worth noting that David Manning has flagged the conservation and restoration of the four large windows in the South Wall (the oldest in the Cathedral – facing Clicks/Woolies ginnel) as extremely urgent. We had originally hoped that the bequest from the Estate of the late (Prof) Beth Dickerson would cover this and have ringfenced her bequest to that end; however, our monthly cashflow and huge shortfall in our pledged giving (approx. R92 000) do not allow for this at present. In addition, the extreme weather (leaks between Lady Chapel and in Chapter House) and the Virginia creeper (south side,

encroaching on the organ loft and two clerestory windows) have produced damage to the Cathedral's fabric which requires our even more urgent attention.

2.2 St George's Chambers

As reported last year, the Cathedral administrator has been collecting the rent and ensuring that the invoices are sent to the advocates, in addition we have been looking after all of the maintenance at the chambers. One or two leaks have required repeated attention. Thus far the process is still working well and the Cathedral is getting extra revenue because we are no longer paying an agent's commission.

2.3 St George's Hall

The wooden clerestory windows require ongoing attention because of their age (121 years) and inaccessibility. We were able to bring to completion a project begun by the previous PCC: the utilisation of donated marble to improve the serving hatch from the Hall Kitchen into the Cory Room. Some cupboards were improved and the stoves realigned to avoid damage to the door into the service corridor.

2.4 Registers and Terrier

2.4.1 Canon 32 1 of the Anglican Church of South Africa requires that the incumbent and churchwardens

- maintain an Inventory of all movable property belonging to the parish;
- maintain a Register of all immovable property occupied by or belonging to the parish;

2.4.2 In addition Canon 29. 7 states that the churchwardens are:

- to keep an inventory of all goods, ornaments and furniture belonging to the church and to deliver the same to their successors on ceasing to hold office;
- to provide for the safety and preservation of the registers.

This is an ongoing project and is receiving our attention.

3 PEOPLE

Clergy

3.1 There were few changes in the clerical staff of the Cathedral parish in 2016/7. We continue to give thanks to God and to our clergy for their faithful and dedicated work for God in our parish. Dean Hunter is a wise and patient leader who has many duties both in the Cathedral and in the archdeaconry and diocese. He does all his duties with grace, care and love. The other clergy of the Cathedral, the sub dean, the Reverend Mzinzisi Dyanti, the assistant priests, Reverend Claire Nye Hunter and Reverend Monwabisi Peter and our deacon Reverend Siphokazi Njokweni all contribute so much to our lives as parishioners; we are grateful to them and their families for their service. We congratulate Reverend Lunga Dongwana on his ordination to the Diaconate in December 2016, and are most grateful for the Revd Dr Claire in her fulltime capacity. The Parish enjoyed a wonderful celebratory lunch at Pentecost to mark Revd Claire's graduation. Dean Andrew took 3 months' study leave in the second half of the year to begin work on his PhD.

Lay staff

3.2 We have experienced 100% staff turnover in the Parish Office and two new vergers in the course of the year. Anet Peter, the Administrator, resigned from end of July 2016, and Chris Walwyn, the Parish Secretary, resigned from the end of December 2016. Anet requested an interim audit of Parish Finances for January to June, which gave her and us a clean bill of health. Staffing, job descriptions, advertising and interviews have taken much of the Churchwardens' time in the past year, but we now rejoice in an all-new strong team, headed by Chantel Tesnar as fulltime Parish Administrator, Lou-Anne Liebenberg as Part-time Secretary, and Timothy Stephen as Verger. We hope all parishioners are enjoying the gleaming Cathedral floors!

Sidesmen

3.3 One of the many duties of the Churchwardens is "to see to the seating of the congregation, without respect of persons" (Canon 29 7); we delegate this duty to our sidesmen (of both genders). We are very grateful to the

men and women who do this important but unglamorous duty. The sidesmen and women are the first people that members of the congregation see on entering the Cathedral and their welcome is enormously important.

Choir School

3.4 The Makana Choir School (MCS) has been registered as a Public Benefit Organisation (PBO), but unfortunately the Section 18A status has not been granted. Without Section 18A status the Choir School cannot issue tax certificates to donors. We are continuing to negotiate with the South African Revenue Service (SARS) to get Section 18A status.

General

Our year began with a really useful and inspiring Day of Reflection and Planning at uMaria UMama weThemba Monastery, where – in addition - we were kitted out with files and documents carefully prepared by Anet and Chris in the Parish Office. This day together has contributed to an excellent spirit of co-operation in the PCC throughout the year under review. The governance structures and procedures instituted by Dean Andrew continue to work well – and helped to carry us all through the three months of his sabbatical.

Your Churchwardens attend 10 Executive Committee meetings and 10 PCC meetings between vestries, and there are normally 4 Archdeaconry Council meetings in that time span as well. At least one Warden is nominated to be present at each of those. Then (especially in the past year) there are special Diocesan events where representation from each parish is expected. Duties this past year have tended to be divided, with Ronaldo Burger has successfully assumed Wayne Jayes's mantle as Treasurer, Ian Meiklejohn has handled HR and Staff Liaison, and Paul Walters has assisted both where possible. Ronaldo's role was not made easier by the fact that Anet's computer was infected by a particularly malevolent virus which effectively wiped out four months of Parish financial records which had to be manually recaptured. We have implemented more stringent virus protection.

4 MONEY

Treasurer's Report

4.1 The financial reports were audited by BSG Accountants of Grahamstown, these are attached. The consolidated accounts show we

ended the year with a small surplus of R44, 726 for the year. Our cash reserves at the end of 2016 were R 229,232. (This includes the Beth Dickerson bequest of R178,058)

- 4.2 In order to reduce our banking costs we have been making use of FNB's Advanced Auto Teller Machines (ATM) which can accept deposits without the use of a bank card. Unfortunately these ATMs can't accept coins, so we only bank coins once a month. The auditor has pointed out a possible weakness in our system of handling the coin deposits and has made recommendations to strengthen our system, which we will be implementing. There is no suggestion or hint of any loss of cash due to this weakness, but if it was exploited the amount would be small as the coins are by definition small in value and we don't receive a lot of coins anyway.
- 4.3 Petty cash – we have started using a debit card to replace the old cheque system for our petty cash withdrawals. This has also reduced our bank charges considerably as we are now able to draw cash from the cashiers at Checkers/Pick 'n Pay instead of at the bank tellers or the bank ATM's. In total bank charges for the year dropped from R18, 177 (2015) to R14, 190 (2016).
- 4.4 In addition the auditor has pointed out that some collection slips are only signed by one person. This does sometimes happen as from time to time only one sidesman is present to count the money. We have reminded the sidesmen at their recent meeting that they must always get two people to count the collection and sign the collection slips.

Financial Highlights from 2016

- 4.5 From the point of view of fundraising 2016 was not a particularly good year:
- Donations received amounted to R18,869 compared to last year's R76,569
 - St George's Fair net proceeds were R27, 914 as compared to the previous year's R36, 680 (we could reason that this was partly due to a few other fete's that also took place on the same day, as well as poor marketing from our side.)

4.6 On the spending side we were very cautious and we did not make any large purchases, however we did make donations of R64,254 which included:

- R21,170 to the Diocese for Easter, Whitsunday, Ordination and lent, Family day and Theological Sunday;
- R36,737 on groceries for those on our assistance programme;
- R14,972 - Donations to the Makana Choir School, and the Diocese of Ukhahlamba;

Monthly Financial Report

4.7 Parishioners are invited to inspect our financial reports and send comments and queries to the treasurer if so moved. A copy of the audited financial statements will be made available on the Cathedral's website as well.

Pledged Giving

4.8 For the pledge year October 2015 to September 2016:

A total amount of pledges received for the year was R622, 424 as opposed to R660, 520 in 2015;

4.9 For the pledge year October 2016 to September 2017:

A total of 91 pledges were received, a further 12 people have continued to make regular gifts, but no pledge form has been received from them; A total amount of R 753,148 is expected to be pledged for this coming year; This is substantially higher (by R130,724) than the amount we received for last year;

- The pledged income received for the month of January 2017 was R49,341;

Budget 2017

4.10 A summary of the budget for 2017 is given in the attached schedule. You will see that we expect a R28, 834 surplus. The reason for this includes:

- Expected increase in pledge income;
- Increase in Chambers rental income from April 2017 onwards;

4.11 We have planned to completely cut all non-essential spending, for example we do not plan to:

- Pay Christmas bonuses should our funding allow us to (this has been included in our budget forecast for the year ahead
- make any non-mandatory donations
- do any maintenance that is not absolutely necessary

4.12 This is a budget that depends on the anticipated pledged giving. We appeal to all parishioners to remain committed to their faithful giving to the Cathedral so that we may continue to fulfil the financial commitments of the Cathedral;

Ronaldo Burger
Ian Meiklejohn
Paul Walters

Churchwardens 2016/2017

ANSOC Chaplaincy

Rhodes University Anglican Society (ANSOC) started very well in 2016. We had a very stable and functional committee with every member of the committee literally pulling their weight in all our events that were successfully undertaken. Whilst we were enjoying good numbers, attendance to planned events was not always great and this is a concern. The violent strikes and peaceful demonstration had a huge impact on our planned events because venues were locked for security reasons. Usage to the university chapel was restricted and ultimately prohibited.

We are saddened to see how the university excluded internal faith-based societies in some of the key events and discussions. Organised prayer meetings that were initiated by internal faith-based societies were discouraged whilst externally organised prayers were welcomed and this is something that continues to be a concern. Being a chaplain at a university needs support from all local parishes.

ANSOC is an official society recognised and strongly supported by Anglican Bishops. From the recent Council of Churches meeting held in Johannesburg

in an attempt to discuss and find ways to mitigate and curb any possible strike in higher education, it was agreed that chaplains and pastoral caregivers assigned to work with university students need support and this support can be in any form. In recognition of the need and importance of university chaplains, it has been widely accepted that they have a crucial role to play and as such, they must be supported financially and otherwise by the church through local parishes. We remain grateful for the support that the Cathedral of St Michael and St George gave when we hosted the regional committee. We request and plead for the Cathedral of St George and St Michael to continue its support as we are due to host a Regional Conference later on. Dates and times will be communicated as information becomes available.

Our program this year is similar to last year's program. We will continue to hold on-campus events. Our prayer meetings and bible studies will continue to be held on campus. COTT has agreed to host, support all our events. We will continue with holding retreats, quiet afternoons and other acts of worship at the monastery.

2017 promises to be a good year. Please continue to pray and support RU ANSOC so that this important ministry continues its work.

Yours in the services of Christ

Revd Monwabisi Peter

Altar Servers 07:30 Service

The team of three servers Melanie Lancaster, Peter Bailie and Lynette Marais were joined by Dawn Long in August 2016. Sadly Dawn left for London at the end of February 2017. We extend our grateful thanks for her love and dedication and wish her happiness and success in her new venture. We continue to pray and hope that new volunteers will come forward to offer their services to God.

Altar Servers 09:30 Service

Again in 2016 the coordinating team for the Altar Servers consisted of the Sub Dean, The Ven Mzinzisi Dyantyi (Priest in charge), Rev Lunga Dongwana, Head Server and Trainer, Namso Nyamela, trainer and Sally Terry, Administrator (9.30am, Evensong and Special Services) and Lynette Marais (responsible for the 7.30am service).

Namso Nyamela continued with the intensive training with younger servers in the early part of 2016. The attendance was patchy but a number have made good use of the opportunity. This means we have a core of competent

younger members. As these members get older, sadly the schooling system demands more of their time and we lose them. However, there are always keen new children. Of the 33 signed up for 2017 from the scholars 11 are new members, which replace the matriculants who have moved onto university (out of town). It is a pleasure to see how the youngsters take a pride in taking their duties seriously.

Each year there is a small intake of Rhodes students, they arrive with experience and add to the team. The 7.30 Service has a small group of very faithful members and runs smoothly thanks to Lynette Marais.

The manual which was collated in 2015, has been revised and improved and Namso has added the duties of Thurifer, hopefully this will be reprinted soon and that each Server may have their own copy. We will miss her when MSc is completed in the next year.

The follow up Altar Servers training run by the Revd N Gixana and Revd Bada happened during a time when our servers were not able to attend. We have not had any more communication from them.

The period over December and January showed that particularly the 9.30 service and the various special services which are held during Advent, were affected by the early end of the school year and that even local people were away so providing teams was not easy, so in 2017 a recruitment of non-scholars should be a priority.

The vestments continue to be adequate and are kept beautifully clean by Di Harvey, which is most appreciated.

Lunga Dongwana, Namso Nyamela and Sally Terry would like to thank all the members of the 9.30 Altar Server Team who give their time willingly and cheerfully, despite busy schedules at school, university and work. Thank you to them all.

Revd Lunga Dongwana & Sally Terry

Cathedral Student Ministry:

At the end of 2015, most of the CSM leadership “Core Team” graduated or left Grahamstown, leaving us to start the year not knowing if our student

ministry would be viable or not! Very soon we gathered a brand new team of cheerful student volunteers who emerged into a wonderful leadership team who were dedicated, committed, enthusiastic, reliable and a pleasure to work with. Our Core Team comprised Khonzi Mfundo (Chair), Odi Lehasa (Deputy), Tshekiso Kepadisa, Anelisa Kelemi, Theo Duxbury, Rosa Msweli, Noxolo Kheswa, Ogone Mokobe, Afika, Zenande Landu.

Camp

Our first challenge (very daunting and at times nerve racking) was to recruit students for our camp at Assegaa trails – just 2 weeks into the new year. This had been booked in August the previous year as an act of faith! Our Core Team prayed hard, invited friends, recruited students at services, put up posters – and finally a group of 22 students together with Revd Claire, Matt and Zinzi Kellen set off to Assegaa trails for what proved to be a most enjoyable and significant weekend, where many friendships were formed. Our grateful thanks to the generosity of many Cathedral parishoners who sponsored students, gave generous donations towards food costs, or baked tea-time treats. In addition, through Rhodes ANSOC we were able to access busses to transport us there and back. It was such a success that the request has been to make this an annual event.

Services

Our Core Team met every Tuesday evening to plan our student services. These were held in the Cathedral Lady Chapel on Sundays at 7pm, during term time. Each term, we had a special sermon series on topics chosen by the students.

Term 1: The “F” series – Freedom, Focus, Faith, Finish

Term 2: Eastertide themes – encountering the risen Christ

Term 3: Women’s month focus – God’s perspective on self esteem, Celebrating Diversity, Where was God when Tamar was raped?, Was Paul a sexist?

Term 4: Hearing the voices of the Christian Gay and Lesbian community, Discovering and using our gifts, Developing healthy friendships, Balancing faith and action.

Outreach

C @ R: We (Cathedral) hosted the opening service for the Christians @ Rhodes Mission in the third term, and Revd Claire was invited to lead a seminar in Olive Schriener Res as part of the Mission programme.

Senior's Tea: Our students hosted a tea in St George's Hall for our Senior Parishoners, which we hope to repeat every year.

Social

We had a social "Movie evening" in the Cory room, regular birthday celebrations (Claire's famous chocolate cake and candles), ending the year with a Christmas dinner at the Deanery for the Core Team. (We had thought we would have many more social and outreach events, but students seem to have very pressurized programmes during term time!)

#Feesmustfall

As with Universities all over the country, Rhodes was part of the #feesmustfall movement. Whereas all of us were in agreement that no academically deserving student should be denied access to tertiary education for financial reasons, there were differing views as to an appropriate methodology of protest action. It was a very stressful time for our students on campus, including the arrest of one of our Cathedral students. Offering a safe place to talk, giving pastoral care and prayer support was a high priority. With the permission and blessing of the Rhodes VC and Deputy VC, a daily lunch-time prayer vigil was held in the Rhodes Chapel during the 4th term and through the end of year exams.

Congratulations

We were very proud of our deputy chairperson, Odi Lehasa (a Masters student) who was crowned "Miss Commonwealth" at the end of 2016. Many congratulations to this young woman who is beautiful both inside and outside! Congratulations also to our chairperson, Khonzi Somandi, who was given a full bursary to relocate to Wits to complete his BSc. We were very sad to receive the news of his sudden departure at the beginning of the year, but thank him for his leadership and wish him God's best in this new venture.

Conclusion

It has been a most enriching, challenging, growing, stressful and joyful year in our life together. I wish to thank the wonderful Core Team for their shared leadership over the year, in particular our Chair and Deputy-chair as well as our Worship leaders Kepa, Anelisa and Khonzi. Thank you to Jane Bradshaw and Gill Armitage for their ongoing Prayer Ministry during Student services.

I thank God for all involved in our Cathedral Student Ministry – what a joy, delight and privilege it is for me to share their lives and be involved in their Christian journey of faith.

*Revd Dr Claire Nye Hunter
Cathedral Student Ministry Chaplain*

Children's Church(Xhosa):

I was mandated by Dean Andrew Hunter to look after Xhosa Children's Church. We started by doing rooted in Jesus together with the boys in 2016. This book is about Christ disciples and how to be grounded in Christ. Later we saw a need that some of the boys should be baptized. Last year a number of them were baptized and confirmed. Not long from now we will see some of them being altar servers.

This year we are still continuing with Rooted in Jesus. We have about 18 boys. I encourage those who want to be part of the group, to join us at 09h00 in the St George's Hall on Sundays.

We have about three boys that are not yet baptized.

Thanks for their co-operation to Mrs Jane Bradshaw and the social worker Mrs Mpiyakhe and them working together for the bright future of the boys. Appreciation also to the Dean.

Revd Lunga Dongwana

Children's Church (English)

The Cathedral is committed to ministering to children of all ages, the youngest being 3 years to early adolescents. Their openness and tender hearts to the Lord have allowed them to love and know God at a very young age.

Our English children's church has been wonderfully blessed with a team of dedicated volunteers who are passionate in their love for God and His children. The team consisted of 4 enthusiastic volunteers (Neils, Theodore, Anna and myself) who open-heartedly took time out from their worship to minister to the children in any way possible including: Godly Plays, Reading Stories, Bible Spelling Bees, Crossword puzzles and Arts & crafts (just to name a few). We would like to thank God for their willingness and amazing support!

We would also like to thank God for the success of 2016 and its accomplishments and progress through Children's Church. Onward, we

continue to appeal and encourage students and members of the church to consider serving the Lord through ministering to the children. In addition, implementing fun activities that children enjoy such as picnics, plays and movie nights remains a challenge due to the limited number of volunteers.

We thank God for His blessings in 2016 and for what He accomplished in and through Children's Ministry. We enjoy seeing kids laugh and have fun together while participating in our various activities. We celebrate the spiritual interest and hunger we see in the children and their increased love for God. A huge thank you to the parents for taking seriously their role in encouraging spiritual life to their children. It is a privilege Children's Church to collaborate with parents to bless and encourage God's plans and purposes in children!

In His Grip,

Rosa Msweli

Director of Music:

2016 was a full musical year at the cathedral. Ever increasing diversity, with particular focus on South African languages and music, has ensured that the cathedral is a forerunner in transformation. In light of the calls for decolonialization in many spheres of our country, it is only appropriate the local voice of our congregation and choir is gradually emerging. More important, though, is that we continue to compose new music which strives to represent our multicultural identities. In terms of repertoire, the choir is singing more and more South African church music. I mention two examples in particular: a composition by the choristers (their Christmas carol) and a choral piece by one of our grade 11 choristers Indivile Vili. Both were received with great joy by the congregation. Our range of hymns by local composers is gradually increasing too, particularly now that we have the trial version of the *South African Hymn Book*.

The choir has continued to strive for excellence. Some of the highlights of the year were the South African Festival Evensong during the National Arts Festival (which we repeated for the visit of the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams), the annual concert in September, the All Souls service and the ever popular Festival of Lessons and Carols. A big thank-you

is offered to the choir school committee for their selfless work in ensuring that the school remains funded and supported. We also thank the New Settlers Foundation and the Donaldson Trust for their generous contributions to the choir school. The choir welcomed several new full members in 2016, and we now have a set of new probationers who are preparing for their formal auditions.

As part of the choir school's contribution to the wider society, we decided to host a conducting trainee. Anelisa Kelemi was appointed to this role for 2016, and she excelled herself with distinction. Her duties included assisting me in all the administration of the choir, setting up strong communication lines between me and the choristers, helping to lead choir practices and conducting the choir in services. As a past member of the choir, and now a student at Rhodes, we are proud to see Anelisa growing into a competent choir director. She and a number of other local young conductors participated in a conductor's course during the year. I am glad that one of the candidates from this course has now been appointed as the trainee for 2017. His name is Kutlwano Kepadisa. We wish him blessings for his time with us.

Smaller services led by adults of the choir have continued to gather momentum. In 2016 the congregations for Taize services, Lucernariums, Compline and Advent devotional services have been consistently growing and it is good to see a core of regular attendees. These services have tried to bring a sense of contemplative prayer within the devotional life of the Cathedral.

2016 was a particularly exciting in that the choir collaborated with several school choirs in large-scale services at the cathedral. During Lent St Andrew's and DSG linked with the cathedral to present their Easter Cantata and in July the annual Big Sing with several participating schools was a success. We also collaborated with Pro Carmine in the city-wide choral event *Masicule*.

Penny Whitford has faithfully trained the marimba group throughout 2016. We honour her for twelve years of faithful service. She has recently decided to step down from this role, and we wish her well as she 'retires'. The youngsters she has trained have progressed in leaps and bounds, regularly accompanying worship throughout the year. They also performed during the National Arts Festival. What a superb contribution they make to our community. We welcome Asakhe Cuntsulana as her successor and wish him well in his new role.

2017 will be a year of change. The process of finding a new musical director to take my place is in full swing, and we pray for the candidates who have applied. As I step down after five years at the Cathedral, I wish to thank the community for your love and encouragement. I have many happy memories of my time here which I will hold dearly in my heart. May God bless you richly as you continue in his service.

Andrew-John Bethke
10 February 2017

Fort England:

The celebration of the Holy Eucharist continues at Fort England on Saturday mornings at 10:30. The number of patients varies considerably depending on the weather or whether they are allowed to leave their ward. The patients are predominantly male with females attending on rare occasions. A number of patients remain after the service for special prayers.

This important outreach ministry is performed by two Cathedral lay ministers namely Rev Lunga Dongwana and Lynette Marais.

Flower Guild:

Thanks to Cathy Pringle and Sally Terry for helping me we have managed to meet any demands made. We are also using artificial/silk flowers, this has taken away the stress of sourcing flowers.

There is a book at the back of the church for anyone wanting to arrange a vase of fresh flowers themselves in memory of a loved one or for a celebration.

Elizabeth Breetzke

Grocery Baskets:

Our Parish continuous to support six needy families with groceries for the month. We were given the names by the Gadra social worker who knows their conditions. We thank the parishioners who give so unselfishly towards this very important project. Our Parish also budgets an amount for the project

each month. I do the shopping together with Dinah Flani who then divides them between the six families and they are then collected fortnightly. Each family receives the basics plus a generous amount of fresh vegetables. This last Christmas we were able to give a merry sized parcel.

Chantel Tesnar

LAY MINISTERS:

Our wonderful team of lay ministers assist in leading worship and in providing pastoral care. Our house group leaders are also largely from within this group. Brookshaw, Fort England, and those who are house-bound, receive regular ministry from lay ministers as well as from the clergy. The Synaxis and the Prayers at the Eucharist are also led by lay ministers, and their involvement in worship in this way is a great blessing. Some participate in the prayer ministry that is offered at each of our morning services, or share in the leading of the weekday offices. Our annual placement team of ordinands from the College of the Transfiguration come onto the lay ministers' roster during their time at the cathedral, and we expect our 2017 team to join us in the 2nd term this year. While the core of the team is made up of long-standing Cathedral members, we have encouraged students here with us in Grahamstown during their years of study, to be licensed, and we are enriched by their presence and their ministry. Members of the LM team take it in turns to arrange the duty roster. Some of our lay ministers are licenced to preach, and do so. Some share in the Good Friday preaching. Lay ministers meet every second month. There is regular training, input and reflection. The LM team is often a valuable sounding board for matters of pastoral concern. Two of our senior Lay Ministers, Di Harvey and Professor Michael Whisson, have asked to step down from public Cathedral duty, although Di continues to minister at Brookshaw on Fridays, and as a Prayer Minister. We thank them for their ministry over the years. Noncedo Mnandi and Vuyokazi de Beer have joined the team, and will be licensed as Lay Ministers during the course of 2017. Our very sincere thanks to all who form part of this team.

Dean Andrew Hunter

Makana Choir School:

In 2016 the school received R 177100.00 in donations (Settlers Foundation and private donations).

These were expensed:

Accounting fees R 2451.00
Bank charges R 2007.00
Books and music purchases R 500.00
Cleaning costs R 500.00
Donations R 182.00
General expenses R 270.00
Printing costs R 772.00
Salaries and wages R 37000.00
School camps R 3621.00
School fees paid to Graeme College R 34000.00
School fees paid to VGHS R 24000.00
School fees paid to VG Primary R 3000.00
Staff training R 20860.00
Travel and accommodation R 15212.00

Virginia David-Engelbrecht took over from Marian Jayes as treasurer in November 2016.

MARIMBAS:

The main task in 2016 was to begin the process of finding someone to take over the marimba group and grow the marimbas to include a junior group who can fill the shoes of those who can no longer be part of the senior group. There is great potential even in the Cathedral community. Dr Bethke was able to find someone who is a music student (doing ethnomusicology in his course) and a member of the Chamber Choir at Rhodes who was interested in filling this position. I was delighted to meet Asakhe Cuntsulana after the winter holidays and he became part of the team, coming to practices and some of the services when the children were playing. We had a 'farewell lunch' for me to take leave of the parents and children and to introduce Asakhe to the parents of the children towards the end of the final term of 2016. Asakhe is scheduled to start leading the group on February 16th 2017 and I am sure he will carry on the group's participation in the life of the Cathedral with distinction.

The group has done really well in their ministry to the worship in Grahamstown Cathedral. They have been conscientious and reliable in their

attendance and I am looking forward to enjoying their music as a member of the congregation in future.

They participated in the SpiritFest programme this year as usual with a record number of items. I am also hoping that we will soon see juniors and seniors participating in these concerts in the very near future.

It has been a privilege to lead the St Michaels Marimbas for the past 12 years and wish them well in their musical as well as their academic careers.

Penny Whitford

Meditation Group:

The Cathedral Meditation Group met regularly through out 2016 on a Wednesday morning from 9 am to 10.15am.

The group consisted of ten regular attendees.

Some of the subjects for meditation were as follows:

1. A Lent Course based on prayer meditations from Richard Rohr's Immortal Diamond book.
2. Rev. Claire Hunter devised a series of Meditations based on St John's Gospel entitled the I Am series.
3. Julia Skeen also created a course on Grace.
4. Some Joyce Rupp and Richard Rohr meditations together with Lectio Divina exercises based on "Devotions on Love" added to the variety and different styles of meditation that the group covered throughout 2016.

A session in making Anglican Prayer Beads was repeated for the special benefit of newcomers to group.

The material meditated on once again proved to be challenging, enriching and rewarding for the group.

Julia Skeen

Mother's Union:

Membership: Our Mother's Union is composed of fourteen members. We are proud to be joined by Mrs L.Dyanty and Mrs L.Madiba.

Stewardship:

Living by the aims and objectives of the Mother's Union, objective 5 which tells us to help those whose family life is met with adversity. The Cathedral mothers adopted Sonwabo who was residing at Eluxolweni Shelter at the time when he was going to an initiation school in December 2015. They took him under their wing from entering the initiation school up to homecoming in becoming a man. They have donated the money for (Ingcibi), bought groceries for the whole process, clothes and blankets. They attended the coming home ceremony (Umgidi) as he is no more accommodated at Eluxolweni due to his age.

We thank God for the strength and wisdom he is always giving our Mothers in striving to live by the five objectives of Mother's Union.

Fundraising:

We assisted to fundraise in our St George's Fair. We had a vegetable stall. During our harvest time we donate fruits, vegetables and groceries. We also designed and donated a Stole for the church.

Mother's Union is responsible for cleaning the Eucharist equipment of the church.

SACRISTAN VESTRY REPORT:

Not much has changed since the last report. Our team is still the same no additions or losses (yet). The team continue to fulfil their duties faithfully and are really committed. The clergy have cut down on weekday services – leaving only the Thursday morning Eucharist, so the work load is a little less for weekday duties. However, it is still crucial to find people who are able and willing to stand in at major feasts like Easter or Christmas. This being the case it is essential to make an effort to recruit extra people to join the team this year. We continue to meet quarterly and always welcome the clergy to inform us of extraordinary services etc. Thanks to those who assist with keeping stock of candles, incense charcoal and laundry. Thanks and gratitude to the Sacristan Team.

Sidespeople:

This past year has been a good year for the Sides Peoples Team as the team has grown and things ran smoothly.

We welcome the following people who have joined the 7.30 team as full members after they assisted occasionally, Elizabeth Breetzke, Celeste Cowie, June Walters and Jeremy Fogg.

We thank Marian Jayes and Faith Magwenzi, for their faithful service to the Cathedral as part of the Sides Peoples Team at the 9.30 Service. Marian & Wayne have moved back to KwaZulu Natal and Faith has completed her studies and will start work in Johannesburg. Thanks also goes to Peter Stockwell who occasionally assists when needed as well as Basil Coyne for doing duty at the Sunday evening Services.

We thank the whole Sides Peoples Team for their continued commitment to this ministry in our parish. You play an important role to ensure that our services run smoothly.

There is always a need for new members, so we appeal to parishioners who feel moved to be part of the Sides Peoples Team, at either the 7.30 or the 9.30 services, to contact me or any of the other Sides People.

God bless

Rodney Bridger

Sound System:

Volunteers needed – no specialised knowledge required!

A few years ago I passed the biblical three score and ten and am now feeling my age! An age when one is beset by medical problems, short term memory loss, increasing clumsiness, loss of energy etc. Urgent personal load shedding is required. I can (probably just) manage the sound system till after Easter but not till the end of the year by which time I will be in my 75th year. Hence the call for volunteers. June Venn and Rose Buchner handle the 7:30 service, but June is also a sacristan and Rose is also a sidesperson. We need a team to take over, think this whole thing through, adapt where necessary, and help June and Rose. Alas, I am quite beyond organising or driving that. HELP PLEASE! The sooner, the better so I can pass on the tips and little bits of knowledge I have picked up.

Clive Whitford

Spiritfest

During the 2016 National Arts Festival, Spiritfest built on ecumenical connections established in previous years, and we were particularly happy to have active participation from the Methodist Church. Commem hosted a concert by an award-winning choir from Port Elizabeth, and a service on the final Sunday of the Festival at which their Bishop, Andile Mbete, was the preacher. The little Wesley Methodist Church Hall was a little too far off the beaten track to draw crowds, but it proved a pleasant venue for a repeat of Fr Anthony Egan's one-man show about the martyred Archbishop Romero.

With the involvement of the Methodists, we were able to present organ recitals on two contrasting church organs, the newly restored Commemoration Church organ with Prof Albert Troskie, and our own Dr AJ Bethke on the Cathedral organ. AJ had recently composed a Chamber Eucharist, and this was performed by an invited group of singers with a group of instrumentalists, both at the wonderful Festival Eucharist on the first Sunday, and in a concert on the previous morning at which his String Quartet was also on the programme. The Cathedral Choir sang a Choral Evensong featuring all South African compositions, and the adults of the choir presented a Lucernarium. This candlelit service proved so popular that we ran out of candles. Penny Whitford conducted the St Michael's Marimbas in two lunch-time concerts. Sadly this was the last Festival at which AJ and Penny were to fulfil these roles, and their considerable contribution to Spiritfest (and the Cathedral) was recognised when they were named Honoured Guests of Spiritfest at our opening ceremony. On the final Sunday DSG choir led the music in the Cathedral, at an extremely well attended service.

For the second time the Chapter House became a "Coffee Shop" for the duration of the Festival, and this was the setting for an "Open Mic" session of poetry and song, with Harry Owen as MC. Lectures took place in St Patrick's Catholic Church, among them a controversial talk on "The Church and Same-Gender relationships" by the Revd Owen Franklin, a programme of poems and songs by Chris Mann with graphics by Julia Skeen, and the launch of AJ Bethke's first book "Celebrating the Seasons". In St Patrick's Guided Prayer was offered on the weekday afternoons, while throughout the Festival a "Quiet Space" was available in the Cathedral where people could write out and offer their resolutions and prayers. Cathy Pringle and her team sold cards and books at the back of the Cathedral between events, making over R3700 and being a presence in the Cathedral.

The Cory Room is now known by a new name in the Festival, “40 Stones”. This year the exhibition by Christian artists was entirely home-grown in Grahamstown, curated by Jonathan Griffiths. His connections with the evangelical congregations in town resulted in the flowering of another special Festival service, in His People’s worship space. This was not advertised in the Festival programme, unlike the Catholic Masses, Commem and Cathedral services, but we will remedy this for 2017.

Sadly the Gospel Africa events in the Presbyterian Church did not take place in 2016, due to the reluctance of student organisers to be in town during the vacation in troubled times. Another sadness is that there will be no repeat of the bell tower tours in 2017, despite their continued popularity last year. This is because of a shortage of bell ringers, which will no doubt be reported on elsewhere in the Annual Vestry booklet.

SpiritFest received excellent media coverage in 2016, in Grocotts, Cue, and even the Cape Argus, as well as on Radio Grahamstown, and our Facebook page kept fans up to date.

I give thanks to God for blessing our endeavours, and thank all the many people on our planning team, from the Cathedral, and from other churches, and all those who took part. Festival 2017 runs from 29 June to 9 July. By the time you read this report our 2017 programme will be in the hands of the Festival Fringe. You can access it on the Cathedral website:

<http://www.grahamstowncathedral.org/>

Maggy Clarke, SpiritFest Convener

Steeple Keeper:

Richard Tyson is the steeple keeper but he is in PE writing exams.

We haven’t rung much this year because it is only Fiona Semple and myself who arrive to ring on a Sunday evening. So we decided this past Sunday that we will take a break as it isn’t much point to just have 2 bells ringing. Hoping we can recruit some learners this year.

No maintenance to the bells has been done since early last year. No stays (wooden piece of wood to keep the bell from ringing down) have broken in the past year - because we have had no learners; who tend to pull too hard on the rope or knock the bell, and so break the stay.

We look forward to the band of British ringers who are visiting at the end of February.

Thank you

Catherine Letcher