

Cathedral of St Michael and St George in the City and Diocese of Grahamstown

A warm welcome to those who are visiting the Cathedral and Grahamstown. Please introduce yourself to us! If you are new to the Cathedral and would like follow up, please fill in the form at the west (High Street) door and give it to one of the clergy or sidespeople.

Please turn off your cell phone and keep your valuables with you at all times.

**Today's services: 15th November 2015 – Mission Sunday.
The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

Time	Service	Preacher	Presider/Officiant
07h30	Holy Eucharist (AAPB)	Dean Andrew Hunter	Dean Andrew Hunter
09h30	Holy Communion (AAPB)	Dean Andrew Hunter	Revd Claire Nye Hunter
17h00	Said Evening Prayer with hymns	Dean Andrew Hunter	
Holy Communion or Morning Prayer is celebrated on weekdays (excluding Tuesdays), at 07h00 in our Lady Chapel. Evening Prayer (Eucharist on Tuesdays) is presented in the same venue at 16h30 on weekdays			

Today's meetings and events:

07h20 & 09h20	Pre-service prayers for readers, prayer ministers, Children's Church teacher/s and altar servers in the Chapter House.
± 11h30	2016 Grade 11s and 12s meeting with Revd Claire to plan Back-to-School Sunday.

OFFICE and CLERGY staff contact details Cathedral Parish Office: (046 622 2445):

*Dean of Grahamstown	082 308 8654	046 622 3976	dean@grahamstowncathedral.org
*The Sub Dean	073 604 5232	046 622 5633	angaavile@live.co.za
To contact the Parish Office staff by email, use: office@grahamstowncathedral.org (Administrator -- Anet) and admin@grahamstowncathedral.org (Parish Secretary -- Chris). *Members of the Clergy are available for confessions and interviews by appointment.			

<i>Forthcoming events and THIS WEEK; for your diary</i>			<i>Contact:</i>
17 Nov	17h30	Sacristan's meeting in the Chapter House	June Venn
19 Nov	09h30	Holy Communion for the CR sisters at St Luke's.	
19 Nov	18h00	Archdeaconry churchwardens' meeting in the Cory Room	Ven Mzinzisi Dyantyi
21 Nov	noon	CR Sisters Fellowship meeting in the Cory Room	

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa seeks to be:

- *Anchored in the love of Christ* ●
- *Committed to God's Mission* ●
- *Transformed by the Holy Spirit* ●

Please join with us this week as we pray for:

THE CHURCH: We pray for the diocese of Umzimvubu, following the destruction of its diocesan centre at Kokstad; for the Vicar-General, Bishop Sithembile Mzamane (Bishop of Mthatha); for the newly appointed diocesan staff; for the people of that diocese; for Archbishop Thabo in his leadership of our Province.

OUR COMMUNITY: We continue to pray for all matrics, and students, as they write exams; for those displaced by recent xenophobic violence. May we find a way to live together in peace.

OUR COUNTRY: We pray for drought-stricken areas in our country, praying for rain and blessing from God to be poured out on them.

THE WORLD: We continue to pray for all refugees, and all places of conflict, violence and terror.

BIRTHDAYS: 15th Margot Brooks, Sambesiwe Dyantyi and Luzuko Mvula, 16th Rodney Bridger, 19th, Mikilitha Gabavana.

PARISH CYCLE of PRAYER: Audrey Holmes, Andrew, Claire, Nicola and Rachel Hunter, Alexa, Kyla and Samuel Jack, Gillian Jacobs-Martin, Nceba January.

PARISHIONERS who are sick, convalescing, or with long-term illnesses: Isabel Bridger, Lunga Dongwana, Roger Embling, Kerry Jane Gutridge, Celia Jameson, Thelma Neville, Paul Pillay and Colleen Rippon.

FRIENDS and FAMILY who are ill: Steve Ashcroft, Revd Ruth Brandt, Ronnie Burger, Canon James Hoyle, Peter Ingwersen (Roswitha Hobson's brother), Nolutho Mbolekwa, Lihle Njokweni, Owen Pearce, Thembeke Peter, Bishop Eric Pike, Marguerite Poland, Angela Stuurman, Mary-Clare Tracey-Craigen, and Graham Whitford.

The **LADY CHAPEL FLOWERS** this week are from Leela Pienaar, in memory of Peter Pienaar.

DECEASED: The Revd Canon Nancy Charton.

Services next Sunday, 22nd November – Feast of Christ the King

Time	Services	Preacher	Presider / Officiant
07h30	Holy Communion (SAPB)	Revd Monwabisi Peter	
09h30	Sung Eucharist (AAPB)	Revd Monwabisi Peter	Sub Dean Mzinzisi Dyantyi
19h00	Carol Service		

Here are the Gospel readings for the twenty-sixth week after Pentecost

Mon	16	Luke 18: 35-43	Thurs	19	Luke 19: 41-44
Tues	17	Luke 19: 1-10	Fri	20	Luke 19: 45-48
Weds	18	Luke 19: 11-28	Sat	21	Luke 20: 27-40
Sun	22	2 Samuel 23: 1-7	Psalm 132: 1-12	Revelation 1: 4b-8	John 18: 33-37

We are asked to record a word of thanks and appreciation from the Dongwana family for the support from which Lunga benefitted during the service last Sunday morning.

Please see our web and FB pages for more information:

www.grahamstowncathedral.org and facebook.com/grahamstown.cathedral

Dean's letter, *Sunday, 15th November 2015*

Dear Cathedral family,

What would a miracle look like? The reflections below were written by Revd Dr Mary Ellen Ashcroft, mother of Steve Ashcroft, who has been on our extended prayer list for some months. She writes: "Steve's chemo is working really well; his CEA numbers continue to drop; primary and secondary tumours are shrinking. Is this a miracle? Many can't tolerate chemo and must choose between quality and quantity of life. Steve feels good. Is this a miracle? 'You know, mom,' Susannah says, 'We should have an annual tradition of going to that little neighbourhood carnival—the one we went to that night after the diagnosis, and we were all together, watching the kids go around and around in those little cars. We were eating cheese curds and we really appreciated being together. Because we didn't know how long we had.' Could watching kids in pink, yellow and blue cars go round and round while eating cheese curds be a miracle? Anna sends an article on a new breakthrough: T-VEC, using a modified virus to hunt cancer cells. I bless God for those researchers, robed in their white coats as they perform miracles. Steve and I talk about family and friends who have emerged—to support, to cook, to drive to chemo, to walk the dog. Total strangers have given money, helped find jobs, sanded floors. Is this a miracle?

"What is a miracle? Would we know one if we saw it? How do we begin to think and speak about miracles? On one end are those who demand scientific rational explanations. "Miracles" can be rationally explained. On the other are those for whom miracles must be God's direct intervention, unexplainable in any other way. Both of these—the ultra-rational and the ultra-religious—reflect a longing for clarity, for certain standards set in stone. Most know these fundamentalisms don't account for the rainbow of life experience; we know there's way more to our world than meets the eye—like poetry, love, music, wonder. The ultra-religious claim that miracles must be entirely other-worldly. Really! Must Mother Teresa have other-worldly miracles attested in a life that was a living miracle of this-worldly care for the poor? And the ultra-rational! I am a great believer in the liberal arts, but I see how many wonderful colleges have hurt students, as their brilliant professors have set up a straw man—of the ignorant, bigoted believer—and then knocked it down. Many young students, admiring these great minds, assume faith is a silly relic. Longing for meaning, they try random hook ups, and end up vulnerable to contrails and astral projections.

"Much theological education swallowed the ultra-rational and fed people a liberalism that needed to demythologize—removing all magic (miracles) from the gospels to make them palatable to moderns—as if we western minds have progressed up a ladder from superstition to enlightened rationality. (Two world wars and the holocaust helped to debunk this one.) A more contemporary version is one I held: Yes, of course God could heal, and does, but really, we should emphasize a holistic approach, with healing of relationships and emotional wounds, peace at the approach of death. I sit with several friends, chatting about this. My dear friend Jo brings this intellectually considered, theological approach—that ultimate healing is what happens after death; that God promises presence; not miracles. She's stating what I've believed about the

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Dean's letter – continued from previous page

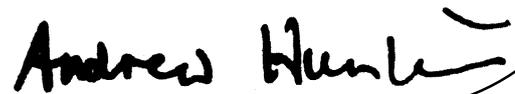
difference between “cure” and “healing”—we can ask for healing and wholeness, even when someone is dying. Her words are familiar because I've said them myself. Blah, blah, blah.

“But now Steve has cancer, I've got skin in this game. Of course I want Steve's spiritual wholeness—whatever the hell that is—but I also want him to be alive, his flesh and blood touching his children's flesh and blood. I want to eat fresh bread and mussels with him. I'm sick of this theologically sophisticated version of ‘pie in the sky when you die.’ It isn't enough. We're sitting in the sunshine looking across at the mountains. I remember Steve saying when he was here, “This is my favourite place in the whole world.” I want him to be physically present here, smelling the newly mown hay, hearing the cowbells, feeling sun on skin. Our discussion feels like I'm covering for God, who could do something, but doesn't seem to bother. I feel a wave of despair. And then Letha talks about hearing a distinguished Old Testament scholar say how wrong it is to privilege our western, intellectual approach to discount miracles. Why should we feel superior to those who may be less educated, less sophisticated, but who really believe? It hits me: I have allowed my perspective to be limited: my inherited scepticism about miracles isn't necessarily true. Millions who believe God performs miracles in the world may be right. I want, I need a miracle, more real than what can be captured in theological discussions. I need to know God has skin in this game too.

“What does a miracle look like? Over the last few months, I've seen many—researchers in white coats, carnival cars and cheese curds, loving compassion, dropping CEA counts, people who show up with food or to walk the dog. Miracles of people realizing how much they love each other; remembering what really matters. Of people praying all over the world. But I'm dropping my sophisticated, over-educated façade. Call me primitive, foolish, or some kind of nut. I'm thanking God for all these miracles, and asking, not only for the miracle of healing, but for cure.”

Mary Ellen Ashcroft

My love to you all,



GENERAL NOTICES

Back to School Sunday, 31st January 2016: as usual, we are planning something special for that annual service, held just after the start of the new school year. We invite next year's Grade 11s and 12s to plan it and lead it, with support from the Cathedral clergy. Please meet briefly with Revd Claire, after our 9.30 a.m. service today, for an initial discussion.

Farewell to all our students: to all who are on their way, those who have completed their degrees, and those who will be returning next year, we thank God for you, and we pray for God's blessings on you all.

Found: an original birth certificate, in the name of Zintle Veto. Please contact the parish office. Please provide proof of ID with you.

Confirmation: If you would like to be prepared for confirmation next year (Grade 10 or older) please speak to the Dean.