

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: 20th December 2015.
The Fourth Sunday of Advent.**

Time	Service	Preacher	Presider/Officiant
07h30	Holy Communion (AAPB)	Prof Paul Walters	Revd Monwabisi Peter
09h30	Holy Communion (AAPB)	Prof Paul Walters	Revd Monwabisi Peter
19h00	Carol service	Revd Monwabisi Peter	
Weekday services in the Cathedral are in abeyance and will resume on 18 January.			

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.
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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>
23 Dec	14h00	Rehearsal for the crib service in the Cathedral.	Revd Claire
23 Dec	16h00	Rehearsal for the midnight mass. Lay ministers, altar servers and musicians should attend.	The Dean

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:

OUR CHURCH: We pray for all who gather for worship at this Christmas time; for our hopes and dreams for the year ahead. May we draw closer to the Lord who loves us.

OUR COMMUNITY: We pray for those on holiday; for children and youngsters at home. May we care for and protect one another through this time.

OUR COUNTRY: We pray for those travelling on the roads; for the SAPS, fire brigade, traffic officers, emergency and rescue workers during this holiday season. May the love and peace of Christ surround us.

THE WORLD: We pray for all places of conflict and destruction; for those in prison or enslavement; for all living in poverty.

BIRTHDAYS: 20th Amila Yili, 21st Lynette Marais, 24th Andile Nyarashe; Vuyani Dyasi, and Maggy Clarke, 25th, Anne Warring, 31st Faith Magwenzi.

PARISH CYCLE of PRAYER: Kay and Rudy Marx, Bongiwé, Lunga, Bunono, Lunga, Thembisa and Vusumizi Matomane; Sally Matthews, Khanya Mazibuko.

PARISHIONERS who are sick, convalescing, or with long-term illnesses: Isabel Bridger, 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, Shona Domeris, Canon James Hoyle, Peter Ingwersen (Roswitha Hobson's brother), Nolutho Mbolekwa, Owen Pearce, Thembeke Peter, Mary-Clare Tracey-Craigen.

*Services next Sunday, 27th December – The First Sunday after Christmas
n.b. one service only*

Time	Services	Preacher	Presider / Officiant
08h30	Holy Communion (AAPB)	Revd Claire Nye Hunter	

Our Christmas services this week will include:

- **Crib service; Thursday 24th December, 17h00.** Children are invited to come dressed up as their favourite nativity character. Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, wise men (and women), shepherds, sheep, ox, some Grahamstown donkeys, a couple of goats ... all are welcome!
- **Christmas “Midnight” Mass, Thursday 24th December, 22h30** (note earlier time). Our Bishop will preach and preside.
- **Christmas Day, Friday 25th December, 08h30:** Holy Communion AAPB. Revd Monwabisi Peter will preach and the Dean will preside.

Here are the Gospel readings for this week.

Mon	21	John 4: 39-42	Thurs	24	Luke 2: 1-14
Tues	22	John 6: 35-40	Fri	25	Luke 2: 8-20
Weds	23	John 7: 37-42	Sat	26	Matthew 10: 17-22
Sun	27	1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26	Psalm 148	Colossians 3: 12-17	John 1: 1-18

Please see our web and FB pages for more information:

www.grahamstowncathedral.org and [facebook.com/grahamstown.cathedral](https://www.facebook.com/grahamstown.cathedral)

Dean's letter, Sunday, 20th December 2015

Dear Cathedral family,

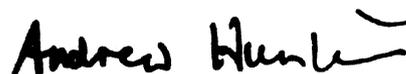
There is always a sense of disbelief – and enormous gratitude – as we reach Christmas and the end of yet another year. What a roller-coaster it has been. These last few months in particular have been very fragile, with the xenophobic attacks here in Grahamstown, the #feesmustfall student protests, the terror attacks in Paris and in Beirut, and this past week the removal of Mr Nhlanhla Nene as Minister of Finance and the further fall of the Rand and negative impact on our economy that this has had; the appointment of David van Rooyen, and four days later, the appointment of Pravin Gordhan in an apparent effort to repair the damage. We seemed to have pulled back from the brink of disaster: Minister Nene was seen as the one who stood against the bail-out of SAA, and the hugely expensive nuclear program; his departure was for many a sign that there is no stopping leading politicians in spending for personal gain and in protecting their privileges. It is into this world of power and struggle that Christ is born. We are witnesses to God's love, hope and justice.

The 4th Sunday of Advent focuses on the role of Mary, Joseph, and Elizabeth (mother of John the Baptist). The Gospel reading for today is the visitation of Mary to Elizabeth. It is the story of two women looking forward to the birth of their children; two women, with their families, who said "yes" to God. Mary's prayer, "I am the Lord's servant; may it be as you have said" (Luke 1:38) is our model for prayer, for saying "yes" to God and God's will in our lives. Advent reminds us that we live in the "between" times, the time of hope and expectancy, looking forward to the coming of Christ at Christmas, and his return as King and Lord and Judge. Christ will be born amongst us on Christmas Day. God comes into the world as a child, vulnerable, in human form, to live amongst us, a sign that God is with us – even in the turmoil.

At a wedding I conducted recently, one of the readings was Paul's prayer for the church at Ephesus. It is also a prayer for us all at this time: "... I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name, that out of the treasures of his glory he may grant you inward strength and power through his Spirit, that through faith Christ may dwell in your hearts in love.... May you... be strong to grasp what is the breadth and length and height and depth of Christ's love, and to know it, though it is beyond knowing. So may you be filled with the very fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:14-19)

The marriage preparation sessions with the couple were interesting, taking place as they did in the midst of the #feesmustfall protests, the xenophobic attacks, an angry, unsettled community. Those events were the context in which we were reflecting and speaking together about relationship, love, communication, disagreement, handling conflict, active listening, being assertive without being aggressive – and we realised, as we spoke, that our discussions were a microcosm of what we as a community and a country need to put into practice. Shall we see what we can do about this, in 2016? I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a happy new year.

My love to you all,



GENERAL NOTICES

Dean Andrew and Revd Claire are both visiting St Peter's, Kei Mouth today, where the Dean is preaching.

The **Sub Dean** is out of town today, attending the graduation ceremony of his nephew, Phambili Gada, from the initiation school

Office closure: Please note that the Parish Office has closed and will re-open at 08h00 on Monday, 11th January next year.

The Dean and Revd Claire will be away from 6th – 23rd January

The **Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN)** will, for the first time, be holding its International Representative Meeting in South Africa next year. Revd Dr. Sarah Hills, Canon for Reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral, will be visiting prior to the meeting. She will preach at both services on Sunday 24th January. This will be followed by a short gathering at the Cathedral, over tea, for all those interested in hearing more about the work of CCN and for all involved in any way in outreach, reconciliation, peace and justice. The choice of South Africa as the venue will allow Revd Dr Sarah to visit Grahamstown which she is keen to do, having been born here.

Services after Christmas will include:

Sunday 27th December, 1st Sunday after Christmas. Holy Eucharist, 08h30.

Sunday 3rd January, Epiphany. Holy Eucharist, 08h30

Thursday 7th January, Somerset Place service, 09h30.

Sunday 10th January, Epiphany 1. Holy Eucharist, 08h30; Epiphany Service of Light, 19h00

Sunday 17th January, Epiphany 2. Holy Eucharist 07h30 & 09h30

Thursday 21st January, St Luke's service (Community of the Resurrection), 09h30

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

Autographed copies of **Bishop Michael Nuttall's latest book**, *A Voice within Church and Society – A personal anthology*, are available for sale at the Cathedral parish office at R150 each. If you would like to buy one, do contact the office as soon as possible and make arrangements for payment. Bishop Michael has asked that we (Dean and Cathedral) act as distributors, so we suggest that people pay at the parish office, so that we can then make a single EFT payment.

The **new Choir CD** compilation, "Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual Songs", featuring our own Cathedral Choir, will be on sale after all three services today; at R50,00 per copy, 'tis excellent value. Catch Dr A-J Bethke after each service.

Cathy Euijen is appealing for assistance from parishioners and friends who are able to help her decorate the Cathedral for Christmas. This will entail flower gathering and arranging, the setting up of the crib and its related figurines, the Christmas tree and decorating. Please contact her at 076 858 4688 or at c.euijen@kingswoodcollege.co.za.

Found: Two original certificates are in the Parish office awaiting their owners. One is a birth certificate, in the name of Zintle Veto and the other is a confirmation certificate in the name of Brenda van Deemter. If you are Zintle or Brenda or know the whereabouts of either, please let the Parish Secretary know at admin@grahamstowncathedral.org or 046 622 2445.

Lady Chapel flowers: The roster for 2016 is on the glass cabinet near the West Door of the Cathedral. Please consider using this opportunity to remember anniversaries and people in your lives. See Peter and Ann Stockwell for more details.