

GENERAL NOTICES

Sale of Plants and Other Items: There will be a sale of wonderful plants and some other items at the back of the Cathedral on Sunday 11 December 2016. If you were not able to see and buy all you hoped for at the St George's Fair, this is your opportunity to do so. Invite your friends!

Congratulations to our Verger, Mr Timothy Stephen, who will be admitted as a member of the Bernard Mizeki Men's Guild at St Augustine's today, by Archdeacon Mzinzi.

Sub Dean Mzinzi Dyantyi will be conducting the service at St Augustine's today.

Revd. Dr. Claire Nye Hunter will be conducting the service at Christ Church today.

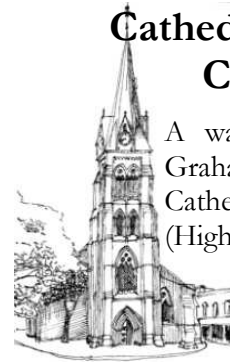
Grocery Basket Donations: We would like to thank all the parishioners who have been donating to the Grocery Baskets weekly. Without you this would not be possible. We would like to give our families a CHRISTMAS bonus grocery hamper, take an extra list with when you do your groceries to add a little extra to your basket or place your donation in the marked envelopes. Church deadline: Sunday the 11th of December, Office deadline: Wednesday the 14th of December. We currently supply eight desperate families fortnightly with a grocery hamper, but we are currently only getting on average R50 a week in monetary donations and the hampers costs us on average R2400 a month.

Pledging update: A special thanks and acknowledgement is extended to all parishioners of the Cathedral who have responded so positively to the new year of pledging. While our pledging barometer this month shows a marked improvement, we are hoping to improve on last year's pledge statistics and want to encourage those members of the Parish who have not done so yet to please pray about your pledging and commit to contributing to the financial needs of the Cathedral.

Office Closure: Thursday 15 December 2016, reopening on Monday 9 January 2017.

Position of Receptionist/Typist at the Cathedral of St Michael & St George: The Cathedral of St Michael and St George is seeking applications from Christian (preferably Anglican) persons for the part-time (four hours a day, 20 hours a week) position of Receptionist and Typist, with effect from the beginning of 2017. The main purpose of this position is to provide friendly and reliable receptionist and typing services, to ensure all aspects of meticulous and accurate answering of telephone calls and face to face enquiries within the Parish Office. The incumbent is expected to provide a quality, timeous, caring and efficient service to ensure that the work of the Cathedral office, clergy and community is supported and dealt with appropriately.

Apply in writing to the Dean, including a letter of motivation, CV and two names of referees. For more info please visit our website: www.grahamstowncathedral.org. Deadline Wednesday, 7th of December 2016.



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

04th December 2016 Second Sunday of Advent

Time	Services	Preacher	Presider / Officiant
07h30	Holy Communion SAPB	Dean Andrew Hunter	
09h30	Holy Communion AAPB	Dean Andrew Hunter	
19h00	Taizé Service	Dr. A-J Bethke	

Today's meetings and events:

07h20 & 09h20	Pre-service prayers for service leaders and participants.
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This Week

07h00	8 Dec	Holy Eucharist	Clergy
10h00	10 Dec	Ordination – Scenery Park	
Mid-week groups are in recess until schools reopen 2017.			

Stipendiary clergy contact details and Cathedral Parish Office (046 622 2445):

*Dean of Grahamstown Very Rev Andrew Hunter.	082 308 8654	046 622 3976	dean@grahamstowncathedral.org <i>(day off Friday)</i>
*The Sub Dean Ven Mzinzi Dyantyi	073 604 5232	046 622 5633	angaavile@live.co.za <i>(day off: Monday)</i>
*Senior Assistant Priest Rev Dr Claire Nye Hunter	046 622 2445	046 622 3976	claire@kingsleyemail.co.za <i>(day off: Friday)</i>

To contact the Parish Office staff by email, use: office@grahamstowncathedral.org (Administrator - Chantel) and admin@grahamstowncathedral.org (Parish Secretary).

*Members of the Clergy are available for confessions and interviews by appointment.

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 the Christian community throughout the world, particularly in places where there is sense of hopelessness. Pray that the church in this Advent will continue to preach a message of hope, joy, peace and expectancy within the context of South Africa's dismal growth projections for 2016.

OUR COUNTRY: Pray for responsible and creative leadership particularly in all of our government departments. For the leaders of our land to promote social justice and Peace for all people. For safety to all on our roads during this festive season.

OUR WORLD: We pray for areas of unrest and conflict around the world. For countries where people live in fear of terrorist attacks.

OUR COMMUNITY: We continue to pray for all those that are affected by the gender violence against women and children in our communities, in particular our universities in the past week, and who minister to them. We also pray for those who suffer for the sake of Conscience, including prisoners that you may save them from despair.

BIRTHDAYS: 4th Bubele Mvula, 5th Sinaye Sijadu, 8th Thabisa Yili, 9th Neziswa Soxywa, Pumela Nyarashe, Katie Appollis

PARISH CYCLE of PRAYER: Heather Haggard, Di Harvey, Olwethu Hlabahlaba, Roswitha Hobson, Jeanette Hodgson, Audrey Holmes; Rachel, Nicola, Revd. Dr Claire, Very Revd. Andrew Hunter.

PARISHIONERS who are sick, convalescing, or with long-term illnesses: Isabel and Ernest Bridger, Celia Jameson, Kerry-Jane Guttridge, Thelma Neville, Paul Pillay, Roger Embling, Jane Bradshaw, Clive Whitford.

FRIENDS and FAMILY who are ill: Steve Ashcroft, Cebisa, Michael Gainsborough, Jonty Nye (Claire's nephew), Jackie Shipster, Iviwe Tshabe, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, Leah Tutu, Chris Walwyn, Wilber Burger, Mpilo Ngxingo, Judith Duk (Rev Claire's sister), Mary Clare Tracey Craigen.

Here are the Gospel readings for the coming week:

Mon	05	Luke 5:17-26	Thurs	08	Matthew 11:7-15
Tues	06	Matthew 18:12-14	Fri	09	Matthew 11:16-19
Weds	07	Matthew 11:28-30	Sat	10	Matthew 17:9-13
Sun	11	Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalm 146: 5-10	James 5: 7-10	Matthew 11:2-11

Services next Sunday – 11th Dec – Third Sunday of Advent Ember Day

Time	Services	Preacher	Presider / Officiant
07h30	Holy Communion SAPB	Revd. Monwabisi Peter	
09h30	Holy Communion AAPB	Revd. Monwabisi Peter	Sub Dean Mzinzisi Dyantyi
19h00	The Office of Vespers with Lucernarium		Dr A-J Bethke

Dean's Letter – Sunday 04th December 2016:

Dear Cathedral family,

This coming Saturday, 10th December, is the ordination of a number of men and women to the diaconate. The service will be at St Bernard Mizeki Church, Scenery Park, and East London. Among those being ordained to the diaconate is our own Lunga Dongwana. He will be attending the ordination retreat this week, as part of his final preparations. Lunga has been on this journey for a number of years, studying, attending Fellowship of Vocation meetings, and doing training. We thank God for him, and we pray for him, Yoliswa, and their children, as he takes this next big step. Let's support him with our prayers, and if possible our presence at the ordination. Today is the 2nd Sunday in Advent. We continue to prepare ourselves not only for Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Christ, but also for the coming of Christ at the end of time, and into our daily lives. Each liturgical season has its own particular focus or emphasis – a bit like a wonderful trifle pudding, with its variety of colours and layers! The different seasons enable us to appreciate the different aspects and beliefs of the Christian faith. In our Gospel reading today, John the Baptist ushers in the new age: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matt 3:2). Change your lives! Wake up! See what God is doing amongst you! Get rid of apathy and indifference! Now is the time. But there are no quick fixes or easy answers. Belief in God does not necessarily mean prosperity, or success, or healing – contrary to what is sometimes spread in certain quarters, such as the so-called "Prophet of Doom"! In a 2015 address, the Revd Canon Barney Pityana put it like this (a great deal more eloquently than I can):

"For over two thousand years Christians have lived with the balance of what is promised and the reality of its lack of realization in their own lives. Christians have seen generations pass unrequited even though they lived faithful lives. Christians have lived with the evidence of evil in triumph over truth and justice, at least for a time; and many have experienced a very deep sense of the absence of God. The early church from Luke-Acts, the Pauline writings, Peter, John and James and all the ways to Revelation have had to grapple with the fact of the human condition with unfulfilled promises. The early church did not make empty promises, and did not take ownership of the promises Christ made in the gospels. All that it did was to be pastorally and spiritually conscious and affirming without simplifying the complex, to live with the uncertainty and to focus in the penultimate with a life lived to the full and in promoting goodness and truth at all times, and to seek the common good."

We are living in desperate times, many of us. Despair and fear stalk us at every corner. Things are immensely uncertain, fragile; there is no easy answer to the problems we face. Advent helps us to "live with the uncertainty" but also to hold onto hope: "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." (Isaiah 11:9). This is God's world. Let's live in that deep assurance.

My love to you all

