



Anglican Church of Southern Africa
Diocese of Grahamstown

The Bishop of Grahamstown
The Rt Reverend Ebenezer St Mark Ntlali

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Ad Clerum

March to May 2018

No. 02/2018

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

BISHOPSBOURNE

We +Ebenezer, Mama Noncedo and Bishopsbourne family give thanks to God in Christ for the diocesan leadership and diocesan family for your love, prayers, different kinds of support and your generosity.

Zipho graduated on 21 April 2018 – BA majoring in psychology and public administration at the NMU. She is presently doing her honours with the same university. Cwayita who has been head day girl at DSG, passed her grade 12 with bachelors and she is doing her first year in law at the NMU. Anda is doing Arts and Design at Cape College in Cape Town. He is focusing on graphic design. Buhle is doing grade 5 and Esona grade 4 at DSG. Sambesiwe Dyantyi is doing grade 0 at St Andrew's Preparatory School while her mother Lilitha is doing a 1-year post-graduate teachers course at Rhodes University after her honours in Chemistry. Masandi, Buntu and Aphiwe are enjoying their jobs.

Bishopbourne fabric is still under renovations to be a safe dwelling place. We are excited with the family that the windows, at least, would be done. Let us continue to pray for each other throughout the diocese as we are members of the Kingdom of God and the Body of Christ in the Eastern Cape Province of Southern Africa.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

We encourage the Diocesan Family and Leadership with the words of St John: "See what great love the Father (Creator) has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God. And that it what we are! The reason the world does not know us, is that it did not know Him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure (1 John 3: 1-3)".

DIOCESAN LAUNCH CONFERENCE OF IBUTHO LWABAVUSELELI BAKAKRISTU

Be informed that the Diocesan Synod of May 2016 passed a resolution for Iviyo Lofakazi Bakakristu. We are pleased to inform you that we have changed the name of this programme to be "IBUTHO LWABAVUSELELI BAKAKRISTU". This programme, which is one of the programmes of Growing the Church of ACSA,

will be launched on the 24th to the 27th May 2018 at Bernard Mizeki, Scenery Park, East London.

We call upon all diocesan structures, leadership and family to attend and participate in this diocesan launch conference of this renewal programme which will add value to our spiritual needs.

We will be graced by the presence of other dioceses, diocesan Bishops and various speakers. Amongst other things, will be the unveiling of the Diocesan Banner of this renewal movement. We call upon you to pray for this launch and that you own it as our diocesan programme as requested in the last Synod and for God's Glory and for our own spiritual life (Diocese of Grahamstown 2016 Year Book Part II page 4).

The speakers, apart from us, will be Bishop Dr Nkosinathi of Mthatha, Revd Canon Mbatha, Bishop Monument of Zululand, the Revd Dr Henry Mbaya.

DIOCESAN MOTHER'S UNION

We call upon you to pray for the election of a Diocesan MU President on the 19th of May 2018 at our Cathedral at 10h00 in Grahamstown. This happens after the able leadership of President Mrs Mandisa Mhlwatika who has served for two successful terms.

CHAPTER NEWS

Be informed that the vacancy at St Francis, Mdantsane has now been filled. We welcome the Revd Andile Mbutye, his wife and children in our diocese and we wish them a happy stay at St Francis, in the Archdeaconry of East London Central under the able leadership of the Ven N Matshaya. Let us continue to uphold the parish in our prayers. Revd Andile started at St Francis on the 1st of May 2018.

After a longstanding advertisement of the vacancy at St Alban's parish, Chapter has now taken a decision for an interregnum of two years. On the 20th of May 2018 we will institute Revd Sharon Summers-Smith as Non-Stipendiary Rector of St Alban's Parish, East London. We have also allowed Bishop Bethlehem to stay in the Rectory for two years as they prepare their dwelling place at Cove Rock. We are excited as Bishop in Chapter as Bishop Bethlehem of Port Elizabeth will be retiring in our diocese. At an appropriate time, we will license him with a Permission to Officiate and he will be requested to assist us where necessary. Let us continue to pray for St Alban's family. We will continue to look for a future Rector. We thank God for their unceasing support of the diocese in different ways.

We have discussed in Chapter to promote theological education and its future amongst our clergy. We have committed ourselves to see to it that we train our clergy in leadership and all other areas in order that the Anglican Communion, ACSA and the diocese can get clergy that have sound learning, doctrine and spiritual formation in order that they may be a blessing to the church and communities in which they find themselves. We call upon the diocesan family to pray for this process which is steered by the Cathedral Chancellor Revd Canon Dr Claire, Revd Canon Godfrey Walton and the Revd Canon Melany Adonis on behalf of the Bishop in Chapter.

FIRST DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING OF 12TH APRIL 2018

We thank God for our diocesan team under the Archdeacon to the Ordinary BTM Mfenyana for preparing for the diocesan Council. We cannot forget the warm welcome of our hosts – the Revd Canon Randall and his team at St John’s, East London.

We are pleased to inform you that our Trust Board and Diocesan Council as Diocese of Grahamstown accounts are being audited. Our trust funds are still growing under the present economic, political and unstable conditions. We still need to work hard in our Diocesan Council accounts as we experience a yearly rise in insurance and medical aid.

CLERGY AND STIPEND INCREASE

Be informed that the Diocesan Council has effected a 10% increase on stipend and staff salaries from January 2018. We pray and hope that parishes would work hard to maintain this increase which has been done after 4 years. We are grateful to our stipendiary clergy and diocesan staff for their unceasing hard work. We thank the non-stipendiary clergy as well for their hard work. Let us make sure that our assessments and other diocesan obligations are up to date for the smooth-running of the diocese and ACSA.

INSURANCE

We call upon all Archdeacons, Rectors, Priests-in-charge, Acting Priests-in-Charge, churchwardens, members of parish councils to make sure that their parish property, furniture, belongings of stipendiary clergy are adequately evaluated and insured with the diocese.

Our insurance year ends 30th September each year and begin its new year every 1st of October. Please observe these dates and do not let your insurance fall arrears. Make sure that your parish vehicle or the vehicle used by your stipendiary clergy and non-stipendiary clergy is adequately insured. Churchwardens and Parish Councillors Manual 2001 Chapter 5: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5; Chapter 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4; Acts of the Diocese pages 27 to 29 as reflected in the Churchwardens and Councillors Manual pages 4 and 5.

MEDICAL AID

Archdeacons, Rectors, Acting Rectors, Priests-in-Charge, Acting Priests-in-Charge, Churchwardens be informed that it is a must to take notice of the welfare of all stipendiary clergy. Medical Aid is part of their stipend package. We call upon all 57 parishes of the diocese to pay what the Diocesan Council has billed you with on medical aid in assistance of the welfare of our stipendiary clergy and the full subsidy we pay for our retired stipendiary clergy and staff (Churchwardens & Parish Councillors Handbook 2001: 6.3 pg 5). We do not underestimate your ceaseless support of our clergy and especially the stipendiary retired clergy.

REMINDER FOR LENT CONTRIBUTIONS

We remind all our Archdeacons, Rectors, Acting Rectors, Priests-in-Charge, Acting Priests-in-Charge, Churchwardens, Treasurers and parish councils to pay your contributions to the diocese in order that we fulfil our goals and obligations that we have set in the Lord’s name.

CLERGY SCHOOL AND DIOCESAN CLERGY RETREATS

Be informed, and we call upon all clergy to attend our clergy schools and Diocesan Clergy Retreats. This is compulsory for your own spiritual growth. The clergy school and retreat expenses are paid by the parish for stipendiary clergy (Acts of the Diocese of Grahamstown Chapter 7:9 pg 33).

There will be two Clergy Retreats for this year. The first one would be from Tuesday 17th of July to Friday 20th of July. The second one would be from Tuesday 16th October to Friday 19th of October. Both these retreats will take place at St Pius Retreat Centre in East London. Then there will be a clergy spouse retreat from Thursday 28th June to Saturday afternoon 30 June 2018 at St John's East London.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR – ALL CLERGY

This norm or culture was introduced to us at a theological seminary as part of our training. It is compulsory for each cleric or ordinand to have a spiritual director for spiritual direction – preferably and Anglican priest. If not, please discuss it with your Rector or Archdeacon or Dean or Bishop. The Revd Canon Melany Adonis will be doing a follow-up on this. We pray for your co-operation. (Diocese of Grahamstown Year Book 2016 No 82 Part II pg 9).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL AND TRUST BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2018

Thank you for your prayers in the sense that both these meetings went very well. Diocesan Council emphasized the issue of compliance by parishes. We encourage all parishes to pay the diocesan needs as requested by the Diocesan Council through the Diocesan Finance Manager. Trust Board is planning a roadshow with our Wealth Manager of PSG to encourage the parishes to invest in the Diocese for better interest rates. Parish invested capitals are well secured according to the Diocesan Acts (2016 – Acts of the Diocese of Grahamstown Chapter 5: 26 pg 25). Trust Board to see to it that church land is used for sustainability as resolved by the 2016 Synod ((Diocese of Grahamstown Year Book 2016 No 82 Part II pg 10 no 15).

DIOCESAN FAMILY DAY 2018

We invite you to this year's Diocesan Family Weekend which will take place on 25th and 26th August at the Indoor Sport Centre, Mickey Yili Stadium, Joza, Grahamstown. The other notices will follow in due course.

The Archdeacons are requested to do their Archdeaconry Family Days before the Diocesan Family Weekend. By 31st of July 2018 all the love gifts and targets must be deposited into the Diocesan Account through our Diocesan Finance Manager Please note the account number where these should be paid in:-

NAME OF ACCOUNT:	Diocesan Revenue Account
NAME OF BANK:	First National Bank
ACCOUNT NO:	5232 1144 702
REF:	FW/Name of Archdeacon

GRAHAMSTOWN DIOCESE DEVELOPMENT TRUST

The Archdeacon to the Ordinary and Executive Trustee of the Diocese of Grahamstown Development Trust, requests all Archdeacons, Priests and Priests-in-charge to send names of unemployed people in your parishes to him. These are people who will be exposed to one of the Skills Programmes that we are running. Funding comes from the Health and Welfare SETA. The programmes are as

follows: Workplace Counselling, General Counselling, Workplace Team and Management Support, Abused Person & Stress Management, Health care Project and Advocacy Campaign, Understanding Sign Language, Team-building and Time management and lastly, Public Administration 2. These should be emailed to bubelem05@gmail.com and reach him by 21 May 2018.

DIOCESAN CHOIR

We have appointed the Revd Canon Lawrence Nzwana to implement the Synod Resolution of 2016 to form a diocesan choir or mass choir. We call upon all our parishes that have choirs to work hand in hand to formulate the diocesan choir.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- St Agnes Conference: Thursday 5th to Sunday 8th July 2018
- Diocesan Council Meeting: Thursday 20th September 2018
- Electoral College for the Diocese of St Helena: Saturday 23 September 2018
- Synod of Bishops & Provincial Standing Committee Monday 24th to Saturday 29th September 2018
- AWF Provincial Council Meeting: Monday 22nd to Sunday 28th October 2018
- Trust Board and Diocesan Finance Committee Meetings: Wednesday 31st October 2018.

Grace and peace



BISHOP OF GRAHAMSTOWN
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**Christ has no body on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours.
Ours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out;
ours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good; and ours are the hands
with which**

He is to bless us now.

(St Teresa de Avila)