

DIOCESAN YEAR OF THE SYNOD

Perhaps we should first answer the question: What is the Synod?

Wikipedia describes a Synod as:

"A synod historically is a council of a church, usually convened to decide an issue of doctrine, administration or application. In modern usage, the word often refers to the governing body of a particular church, whether its members are meeting or not. It is also sometimes used to refer to a church that is governed by a synod".

The Anglican Church is an Episcopal Church meaning that it is led by Bishops and governed by the Synod. The Diocesan Synod is therefore the highest decision making body of the Diocese which meets every three years and consists of both the clergy and the laity. This year the Diocese has for the first time facilitated or will facilitate a number of gatherings that will feed into the Diocesan Synod where decisions will be made.

- The first of these was the **People's Conference** held on 6 May in Stellenbosch when Church Wardens Brian February and Leona Hill together with Chapelry Wardens Bridgette Anthony and Vanda Solomons as well as Lance Du Toit represented the Parish.
- The next one to take place will be the **Youth Indaba** for young people between the ages of 16 and 35 years. Cheyenne Mouton, Keagan Hans, Tamsyn Quintini, Shaska Thorne, Sherezaan Hendricks, Keenan Lodewyk, Melissa Pretorius, Evangeline Du Toit, Dylan Leaner, Marenita Whiting, Sade Jadison, Jaydene Douw, Gillian Hammer, Michayla Heuwel and Kristen Heuwel will represent the Parish.
- The Youth Synod will be held in Robertson from 30 June to 1 July 2017. Keenan Lodewyk and Marilyn Samuels will be our representatives.
- The Diocesan Synod will be held at All Saints – Belhar from 27 – 30 August 2017 while Sacred Synod reserved only for clergy will be held sometime before this. Our representatives to the Synod will be Merle Absalom and Brian February.

NEW COUNCILLORS AND WARDENS

The following people have been elected at the recent Vestry Meetings to serve the Parish and Chapelry.

Chapelry Wardens

Bridgett Anthony, Vanda Solomons and Quinton Eberbach

Chapelry Councillors

Avril Lotter, Catherine Andrews, Charlotte Kemp, Denise September, Mary Oliver, Michelle Liedeman, Tony Burgess

Church Wardens:

Brian February, Leona Hill and Cyril Samuels

Parish Councillors:

Alaric Prins, Freddy Frans, Gillian Hammer, Iris Tremble, Kenny Jacobs, Marilyn Samuels, Shireen Delily,

By agreement, the three Chapelry Wardens and Avril Lotter (Chapelry Councillor) will join the Parish Council.

The duty of the Chapelry Wardens and Councillors is to manage the life of the Chapelry while the duty of the Parish Council and Church Wardens is to manage the life of the entire Parish (including that of the Chapelry)

Please continue to pray for them and support them in their various roles.



May
2017

Dear Friends

The past few months have been really been a new experience for the Wardens of the Parish as we have had to deal with a number of things that would normally have landed on the Rector's desk. We can honestly say that it has not been a burden but rather a new learning curve as it has given us the opportunity to learn new ways of managing the Parish. Having said that, we are extremely grateful for the support we have received and are still receiving from our Archdeacon, the Venerable Ruth Swartz, the visiting Clergy and our parishioners.

LENT AND EASTER

We really had a blessed Lenten period which ended with a special Easter Triduum when we had Bishop Margaret on Maundy Thursday at Portland, Canon Ron Phillips (Senior Priest) on Good Friday and at the Easter Vigil and finally Bishop Margaret at Eastridge on Easter Sunday morning. We thank both Bishop Margaret and Fr. Ron for choosing to spend these holy days at our Parish.

BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL

Those of you who have been around for a long time will know that at the start of each Lenten period, the Bishop will put out an appeal for churches to collect funds, which would be used to assist churches in need of development. Unlike other years, the Wardens decided not to ask our Parishioners to collect money during Lent, but rather to donate a portion of the Wednesday Lenten Services collection, towards this initiative. An amount of R4600.00 will be paid over to the Diocese.

APPOINTMENT OF RECTOR

We are constantly being asked by our parishioners about the appointment of the Rector. We can report that we have had an initial meeting with Bishop Margaret to start the process and have provided her with an updated Parish Profile. Appointing a Rector is not as straight forward as just placing someone who is available – in that position. Bishop is very much aware of the size of our Parish and of the type of priest that she needs to appoint as Rector. The process as we have said has started and is ongoing. As soon as we are able to, we will provide more information. In the meantime let us continue to pray for our Parish and the imminent appointment.

God bless

Church Wardens

RECTORY

Most of the repairs and painting of the Rectory have now been completed. The inside of the house needs to be cleaned which include the cleaning of the carpets. If there is anybody in the Parish who is involved in carpet cleaning, we would appreciate it if you would contact the Wardens to offer your services.

Some work still needs to be done in the yard - like the paving of the yard and the re-establishment of the garden, which has been neglected. In this regard we are looking for someone with gardening or landscaping skills to assist us.

You will recall that in the February Bulletin we spoke about the security of the premises and advised that we would be taking a second collection at our services to off-set the cost of hiring the security company. We know that this has not gone down well with some people but the majority has supported us and have given freely. For the months of February, March and April we have collected the amount R10 591.00 and we want to thank all who have contributed towards this. Your love and support of your church is greatly appreciated.

FUNDRAISING

Food Fair and Market Day

Planning is well on the way for our first fundraiser – the Food Fair and Market Day on 3 June 2017. Areas and Organisations are very busy preparing for this day of fellowship and raising some much needed funds for the Parish.

The Food Fair which will open at 10h00 and will offer foods and treats from the following countries:

India	Italy	South Africa	Mexico
Portugal	USA	England	

There will also be a Candy Store with a chocolate fountain for the non-diabetics as well as a R5.00 Store for bargain hunters and Baby Knit Store for those of you with babies. Bring the family along and enjoy the day with us.

Other Planned Fundraising Events

Gospel Afternoon – 3 September 2017

Parish Bazaar – 4 November 2017

Fundraising Envelopes

Last year we did exceptionally well in raising over R200 000 which helped us end the year with a good bank balance. Unlike last year, we will not have a dance this year so we need to find an alternative means of raising enough to at least equal last year's fundraising income. To this end, the Parish Council has agreed to revert to the fundraising envelopes that worked so well in the past. The first envelope is included in this Bulletin.

We are encouraging every registered member in the Parish to put R150.00 in the envelope and return it by 31 July 2017.

Once again some people may be saying that "the church just wants money". Our experience is that these people are in the minority. The majority of our members know the value of raising much needed funds for the church. Our building at Portland is more than 35 years old and in constant need of repairs and improvements while at Eastridge there is a need to provide a suitable fence and to complete the connection between the two buildings. Last year we started raising funds for the replacement of the ceiling in the main part of the church at Portland. So far we have raised in the order of R70 000 and still have a long way to go to reach the target of R350 000.

SICK VISITATIONS

If you have a family member who is ill and in need of spiritual support and prayers, please contact your Area Leader or Lay Minister who works in your Area. If you are not familiar with any of the aforesaid persons, then please contact the Parish Office and provide the Administrator with the details of the person to be visited. We will then ask the relevant Lay Minister to visit the person concerned.

PARKING ON THE CHURCH PROPERTY AT CHRIST THE MEDIATOR

We are all well aware that the parking on the church property is limited. We cannot permit the parking area to be used to such an extent that we block the exit of any vehicle or the access for emergency vehicles should the need arise. On Sunday mornings there is generally not a problem because the space inside is used by clergy and those Lay-Ministers who are on duty. The problem arises when there is a funeral or function. It is during this time that almost everyone believes they have the right to park inside the grounds. The following arrangements need to be adhered to:

Funerals:

The inside parking is reserved for the Clergy, Lay-Ministers and staff on duty. All others are to park outside the grounds where there is plenty of available space. The gates will be kept closed and only those above mentioned will be allowed in. Families of the deceased will be advised about this when they make funeral arrangements.

Functions

When the hall is used for a function, the rear entrance will be opened as this allows for easy access for those who are either dropping or collecting stuff.

We are asking all our members to co-operate with us and not to argue with the staff on duty. They are following instructions. Should anybody wish to discuss this matter, they are to approach the Wardens.

Additional Comments on Parking

Parking in front of the garage doors are only allowed now while the Rectory is vacant. Once occupied, we need to revert to no parking in this space.

Parking on the brick paving alongside the church building is also not allowed. We have addressed this matter with the congregation but some people still do not adhere to our request. This has resulted in the brick paving being damaged.

NEW PARISH POLICIES

At the recent vestry three policies were adopted to provide guidance for the leadership of the church. These policies are binding and need to be adhered to. Changes to the policies can only be made at a Vestry meeting and there is a process that needs to be followed.

The Policies are:

- Financial Policy – providing guidance for managing the finances of the Parish
- Funeral Policy – providing guidance for funeral arrangements
- Baptism Policy – providing guidance for the sacrament of baptism

We will soon be providing the Parish with a summary of the Policies while the full versions will be available at the Parish Office and on the Website

We will endeavour to develop other policies that will help us to become a well governed church.