



### SERVICES AT CHRISTMAS AND DURING JANUARY 2017

16 December	-	Carol Service in the Park at 17h00
24 December	-	Christmas Eve Service at 22h30
25 December	-	Christmas Day Service at 08h00 at Portland Christmas Day Service at 08h00 at Eastridge
01 January 2017	-	Eucharist at 08h00 at Portland Eucharist at 08h00 at Eastridge
08 January	-	Eucharist at 08h00 at Portland Eucharist at 08h00 at Eastridge
15 January	-	Eucharist at 08h00 at Portland Eucharist at 08h00 at Eastridge
22 January	-	Eucharist at 07h30 at Portland Eucharist at 08h00 at Eastridge
29 January	-	Eucharist at 09h30 at Portland Eucharist at 07h30 at Portland Eucharist at 08h00 at Eastridge Eucharist at 09h30 at Portland



- The Parish Office will close on 22 December 2016 and reopen on 09 January 2017
- Clergy office hour will resume on 17 January 2017
- Thursday morning services will resume on 26 January 2017.

*Christmas blessings to you and your family!*

Christ the Mediator  
Christ the Good Shepherd

December

**Bulletin**

2016

Dear Friends

2016 has been a very eventful year for the Parish. We had the retirement of our Rector, we experienced a few months of being in arrears with the bank, we celebrated our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Portland and our 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Eastridge, we had some very good fundraising events which brought us back into a positive financial situation and we had Christ the Good Shepherd declared a Chapelry, amongst other things. What a year and we thank God for His continued blessings on our Parish. The end of this year is approaching us very fast and as we journey through Advent, we should take some time out and reflect on the past year and see where we should improve in 2017. Our church is blessed with a wonderful and loyal community of Christians and as such we each have a part to play in the life of the church.

Every Christian has a role in the church because we are all part of the body of Christ. Each member helps make up the whole, and if one member hurts, the whole body shares that pain (1 Corinthians 12:26). We support each other while serving our risen Saviour Jesus Christ—who is the Head of the body—and everyone has a part to play. Paul illustrated this truth when he stated, "The whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love" (Ephesians 4:16). Jesus does not select just a few members of His body to fulfil His command to make disciples; Christ uses everyone to accomplish His purposes.

So, having said this, each of us who are members of the Parish should do some introspection and ask ourselves if we have done what was expected of us during this past year. Let us ask the following questions of ourselves:

1. Have I always supported my church in all its activities?
2. Have I been faithful in my attendance at church services?
3. Have I given of my talents and time to the church?
4. Have I been faithful in my giving and pledging to the church?
5. Have I always given my pledge on time?

Those of us who are leaders in the church should ask additional questions of ourselves:

1. Have I been loyal to my ministry, my calling - by doing what is expected of me?
2. Have I let others down by not doing what is expected of me?
3. Have I always tried to do my best in my role in the church?

Thank you for your continued support for everything that we do in the church. Thank you also for your time, effort, hard work and prayers.

### CHURCH FINANCES

We are pleased to report that unlike the first half of the year, we will be ending the year in a very positive financial position. This has been due to a number of factors like good fundraising, prudent spending but most importantly the good support that we have received from all our parishioners. ***For this we have to thank you!*** This positive position however does not mean that we should relax. January and February months are normally lean financial months for the church but we are still expected to pay our bills. Having said this, we are appealing to all, to please make a concerted effort to ensure that your pledges are paid up and that especially over the next two months that you do not miss a payment.

### CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD

**Congratulations** to the people of Eastridge on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of Christ The Good Shepherd - Eastridge and secondly on being declared a Chapelry of Christ The Mediator - Portland. We have certainly travelled a long road from the time of conception to where we are today – a **Chapelry** and we need to acknowledge and thank all those who contributed in any way from the time of planning, building and during the development of the church.

**A Chapelry? What does this mean?** A Chapelry is really a subdivision of a Parish. Where a Parish is large, the Bishop may according to Canon 23 declare part of the parish as a Chapelry – for easier management. They are then allowed to elect a Chapelry Council with two Chapelry Wardens to oversee the life the chapelry. The Chapelry Council and Wardens are accountable to the Rector or Priest in Charge and the Parish Council. So this does not mean that Christ the Mediator will be cutting ties with Christ the Good Shepherd. On the contrary, we will still be “holding their hands”, supporting them and guiding them as they journey on this new road that will eventually lead them to one day becoming a Parish. We pray that God will bless the church and the people of Eastridge as they continue to minister to the people of that community.

### PURPLE ENVELOPES FUNDRAISER

You will recall that this fundraiser is for the replacement of the ceiling at Christ The Mediator and we have been very ambitious in wanting to raise R350 000 through this process. We subsequently distributed more than 1000 envelopes in the hope that many would buy into it and support us in this venture. Well, to date, we have only received back less than 250 envelopes amounting to R70 830.00. It is not too late to bring in the envelope. This is an ongoing fundraiser so please consider this and help us reach our target.

### WHEN ARE WE GETTING A RECTOR?

This is a question that many have asked and one that we are not able to answer at this moment. We have repeatedly heard – from Bishop Margaret that Fr. Richard will be leaving the Parish. We also don't know when this will take place but we need to prepare ourselves. It is a given that he will move. We appreciate that fact that Bishop Margaret has allowed him to stay on until this Advent but if you were at Eastridge this past Sunday, she mentioned his leaving again and also said: “*soon and very soon..*” We need to continue to pray that God will in His time place the right person here to work in this part of His vineyard!

### VESTRY 2017

This is an early notice that the annual Vestry meeting will take place on Sunday 19 March 2017. The time will be announced later. All organisations are encouraged to complete their Annual Reports (compulsory) and to hand it in at the office by 31 December 2016. Organisations that handle monies are to include a financial report of all monies received and spent for the year 2016. This is also a time for the broader congregation to evaluate those who have served you as Wardens and as Parish Councillors and to consider if you would like them to continue in that role during the next year. New Wardens and Parish Councillors will be admitted on 2 April 2017.

