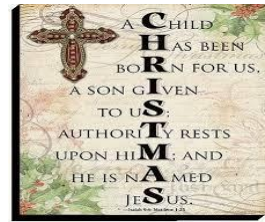




CHRIST THE MEDIATOR & CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Rector's Christmas & New Year Message



ADVENT is essentially a season of patient waiting. Waiting is a waiting together. Now, one of the most beautiful passages of Scripture is Luke 1:39 – 56, which tells about Mary's visit to Elizabeth. What happened when Mary received the words promise? She went to Elizabeth. Something was happening as well as to Mary. But how could they live this out?

I find the meeting of these two women very moving, because Elizabeth and Mary came together and enabled each other to wait. Mary's visit made Elizabeth aware of what she was waiting for. The child leapt for joy in her. Mary affirmed Elizabeth's waiting. And then Elizabeth said to Mary, "Blessed is she who believed that the promise made to her by the Lord would be fulfilled" (Luke 1:45). And Mary responded, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord" (Luke 1:46). She burst into joy herself. These two women created space for each other to wait: they affirmed each other that something was happening worth waiting for.

Here we see a model for the Christian community. It is a community of support, celebration and affirmation in which we can lift up what has already begun in us. The visit of Elizabeth to Mary is one of the Bible's most beautiful expressions of what it means to form community, to be together, gathered around a promise, affirming what is happening among us. And so too are we I pray, the people of Christ the Mediator & Christ the Good Shepherd a community of faith, a community of prayer, a community of love & support.

Then also the angel said to the shepherds, "Behold I bring you good news of great joy, for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour."

CHRISTMAS tells of God's glory as foretold. This has now been fulfilled in the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem. The disciples of Christ have to convey this God's story of our salvation to all humankind.

Let us remind ourselves this CHRISTMAS season that our God is "Immanuel", he is with us. Whenever you feel rejected by the world or feel lonely, turn to the Babe of Bethlehem, for he is a far better companion than the closest friend or relative. Whenever you face challenges like Goliath, turn to the Lord like David and with God's help it will be solved. Whenever you are afraid of some situation, turn to the Lord. For the Lord is stronger than the darkest fear, because our God is Immanuel.

Let us this CHRISTMAS season renew our faith in our God. God is with us in all our circumstances. Let us not forget to turn to him. He will help us. It is my prayer that you will enjoy a blessed CHRISTMAS celebration with your families, never forgetting our families whose loved ones have gone to be with our Lord forever.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your faithfulness, love and support of me, my family and our Church this past year. I am mindful that the global recession did not have an impact on our lives. Let us take the decision for the NEW YEAR 2015, "I will make use of the opportunities and talents God gives me in my life and to do my best to do something beautiful for God." May the NEW YEAR be filled with many opportunities for you and your families as I wish you every strength and blessing.

WISHING YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!!!!!!

Father Clarence, Fr Richard, Wardens, Councillors, supportive staff & our parish administrator Sylvia.

THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS OF THE MEDIATOR NEWS

*AWF; Lay Ministers. Sunday School; Joe Michaels; Lance du Toit;
Fast Keys & Locksmiths (076 0197080)
Brian February & Karsten Clan in memory of Mrs Shirley Judd.*



BAZAAR



*Dance extravaganza:
When Jesus says "Yes!" nobody can say "No!"*



Anglican Women's Fellowship. Fun day at Mykanos.
Welcoming a new member: Daphne Kapp.



Sunday School Thanksgiving Service: "If I were a butterfly."



Young readers Thandi & Marvin

Welcome Fr Richard Dunsdon
The youngest priest in the Diocese !



Fr Richard was licensed by Bishop Margaret earlier this month. The Bishop encouraged him to build his ministry on solid ground, especially when storms come. She added that it will be great if he can take Eastridge under his wing and together with his Rector take the Church to greater heights. His special gift is his love of people. He should remember that his ministry is not about himself, but about God.

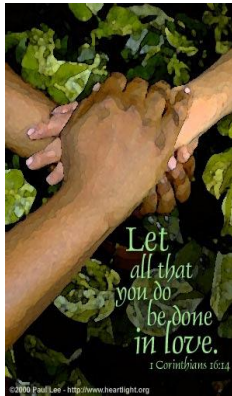
We pray that God will bless him in his ministry here with us.



STRATEGIC PLANNING

Following a very successful workshop we would like to share the focus areas for the next five years with you all. The question we should ask ourselves is:-

Where can I be of service? **Our focus areas are:**



- ❖ Stewardship & Spirituality
- ❖ Social responsibility
- ❖ Fundraising
- ❖ Administration & Governance
- ❖ Property & Building Maintenance
- ❖ Training & Development

❖ Communication

We trust that each parishioner will give this serious thought and join us in allowing the church to “move forward”

“People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.

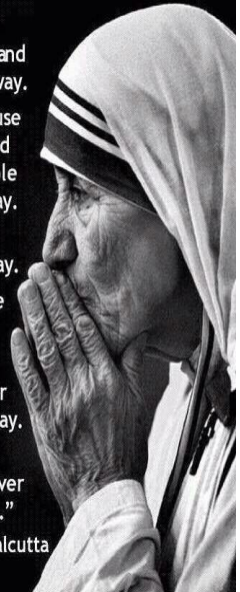
If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.

Do good. Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.

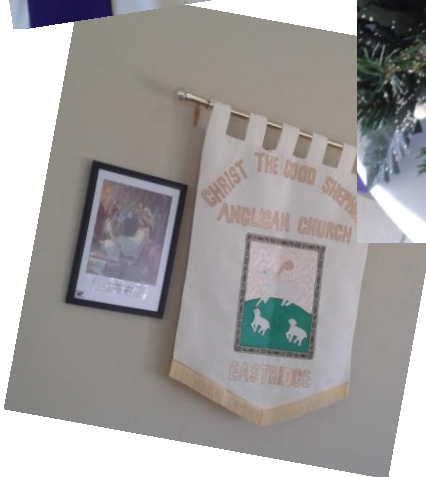
For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.”

- Mother Teresa of Calcutta



Thank You Fr Greg Lamond for your ministry at Christ the Good Shepherd.

"Well done you good and faithful servant."



The Advent Wreath

This circle of evergreen boughs reminds us of God's forever love, a love that has no beginning and no end. Four candles - three purple and one pink - stand amid the greenery. A white candle stands in the center.



The first purple candle is called *Prophecy*, or the Hope candle; it invites us to thank God for the Hope we have in Jesus, the prophesied Messiah. The second purple candle is called *Bethlehem* or peace. In Bethlehem, the Prince of Peace was born so that we sinners could be at peace with our holy God. The third purple candle is called *Angel*, or Love. Joining with the heavenly hosts that first Christmas night, we say "*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased.*" (Luke 2:14) The pink *Shepherd* candle, or Joy, celebrates the good tidings of great joy that is for all people.

Love has entered our world through the birth of Jesus, represented by the white *Christ* candle. The baby came to die on a cross as punishment for our sins. That's amazing love!

Progress on the Garden of Remembrance.



DATES FOR YOUR 2015 DIARY:

7 February: AWF presents a Day Trip to Farmyard .

R140 Adults R70 chn. (3-12 years) Contact Mrs Poole 021371 9290 / 071 059 6940

14 February – procession of witness - Woodlands

15 February – Vestry 3 pm

10 April = Parish Anniversary Dance

12 April – Everybody's Birthday / Thanksgiving

25 July – Christmas in July

9 August – Women's Day Service / AWF Anniversary Service

25 October – Dance Extravaganza

31 October – BAZAAR

22 November – Thanksgiving Service



Some of the workers behind the scenes:-

Marilyn Faro - floral arrangements



The Golden Girls



The Boys with green fingers



Sacristans

Dear friends

Once again we come to this very special time of the year in which we celebrate and appreciate the birth of Jesus Christ. In this season we do our best to reach out and be a blessing to our families as well as others who mean a lot to us.

God has given you unique abilities, talents and gifts that make you who you are and sets you apart from other people. He gave you talents to benefit others just like He gave other people talents that benefit you. We're all a part of the body of Christ and each part matters. There are no insignificant people in the family of God. You are shaped to serve God. He is pleased with what you are doing.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10 NIV)

As your Rector and Wardens we take this opportunity of thanking you for your contribution to the church during this past year. The gifts God has given you may be great or small in your eyes, but they matter to God and they matter to the people of Christ the Mediator and Christ the Good Shepherd. Whatever role you have played, your efforts are acknowledged and greatly appreciated.

We thank you and pray that God will bless you and your family abundantly during this Christmas season and that He will continue to bless you in your ministry.

Every blessing

Rector and Wardens

This letter is dedicated to all the volunteers in the Church, too numerous to mention.

Mediator News invites you to submit photographs, articles, news stories and letters for future editions. Please send information to: geraldine.february@gmail.com or leave it at the office.