

Mediator News

CHRISTMAS
EDITION

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Parishioners,

On that first Christmas, the angels praised God, saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!" The shepherds came and adored the newborn Saviour. St. Luke wrote, "But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."

For this very reason, we too need to pause and treasure the gift of Christmas in our hearts. And that gift is simply Jesus, true God who became true man, who came to reveal perfectly God's truth and love to us, who died and rose for our salvation, and who founded the Church – the family – where His presence continues in both Word and Sacrament. Treasure and reflect on the gift of Jesus and the faith you share in Him as a member of the Anglican Church.

Moreover, we must not let Christmas just be a passing day. Live in the spirit of Christmas each day. Reflect upon how to better treasure this gift each day by making prayer a critical part of your day, by continuing to read Sacred Scripture and the teachings of our Church, by having a stronger devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and the Eucharist, by regularly making a self-examination of conscience and going to Confession, and doing those good works for those entrusted to our care and for those in need. May such reflection of the gift of Christmas, move us by God's grace to an even more intimate relationship with our Lord this year. May our souls be like the stable in Bethlehem where



Christ first made His dwelling among us.

Lastly as your priest, I treasure the gift of you and the dedication, sacrifices, and hard work you have shown to make this parish a beacon of Christ's love. In particular, I thank those who serve in the various ministries and organizations. On behalf of myself, Revd. Desiree C. Jackson, our Churchwardens and Chapel Wardens, and all the Staff at Christ the Mediator, I wish each of you a blessed and joyous Christmas and New Year! Please be assured of my prayers for your intentions and a remembrance at Holy Eucharist. May the peace, joy, and love of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, be present in your lives each day of the New Year.

May God bless you,

Revd. Dean F. Apples
Rector

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. - Galatians 4:4-5

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6 New International Version



Services during the Festive Season



16 th December	Holy Eucharist	07:30 & 09:30 (CtM) 09:30 (CtG)
19 th December	CAROL SERVICE	19:30 (CtM)
23 rd December	Holy Eucharist	07:30 & 09:30 (CtM) 09:30 (CtG)
24 th December	CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT SERVICE	22:00 (CtM)
25 th December	CHRISTMAS DAY	08:00 (CtM & CtG)
30 th December	Holy Eucharist	08:00 (CtM & CtG)
31 st December	NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE	17:00 (CtM)
6 th January	Holy Eucharist	08:00 (CtM & CtG)
13 th January	Holy Eucharist	07:30 & 09:30 (CtM) 09:30 (CtG)

(CtM) Christ the Mediator (CtG) Christ the Good Shepherd

Prayer for Advent

God of all hope and joy,
open our hearts in welcome,
that your Son Jesus Christ at his
coming
may find in us a dwelling prepared for
himself;
who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.

- A New Zealand Prayer Book

Words of Encouragement from Revd. Desiree



Amidst Life there is death!

To speak about the subject of death or when a loved one dies can be very difficult. However, it is important to face the reality and deal with the grieving process.

Jesus wept when Lazarus died, this, showing a sign of humanity. We are human therefore we are not able to be strong all the time so we will have times when we feel sad, angry or confused.

Jesus knows and understands when you go through the different emotions and He will give you the necessary strength. Do not try to avoid the grieving process by keeping yourself too busy as it will surface at a later stage, then the healing process will take much longer. During the festive season life might be unbearable because you long to have a loved one with you. However, use the opportunity when you are with your family to share the memories you have of your loved one. Your family will try to encourage you, however, without them realising they might say things which you might find hurtful. Let them know you are feeling uncomfortable. That way they will know they are hurting you – instead of helping you.

Visiting and spending time at the loved one's graveside or at the Garden of Remembrance is another way of feeling close to your loved one.

Grieving is not an easy process, however, you have God the Good Shepherd who is always with you to comfort and strengthen you. The important thing is to be prayerful and enjoy the time you have with family and friends – because they love you and want to see you grow in joy.

My prayer is that you will find peace in Christ.

I take this opportunity of wishing you and your family a very blessed and holy Christmas and joyous New Year.

Revd. Desiree Jackson

Wardens' review of the past year

As the year comes to an end, this is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the past year.

In the recent **Thanksgiving Letter**, the Rector highlighted some of our achievements this past year. We thought this would be a good opportunity to expand on some of the information so that you have a full picture of what we have done and what we are planning for the future.

No organisation can operate without a plan and our church is no different. **Vision 2025, our Strategic Plan** with its seven Focus Areas has been our guide with regards to our vision and objectives for the year and we have been very hard at work to ensure that we reach the goals set out - at all times.

Admin and Governance: Practicing good governance in our administration and financial management is very important. To this end, we are constantly improving our administrative processes. Our financial management is very sound with good checks and balances in place ensuring that we can account for every rand received and spent. Income from collection and pledges is up by 15% on last year's income. This is used for the day to day running of the Parish so we

must continue to be firmly committed in our giving and ensure that with each year, we increase our giving in line with inflation. Improvement of our administrative processes is an ongoing exercise as we attempt to provide you with a professional service.

Communication: Our team has been very busy ensuring that all of our events and main services were photographed, posted on the various social media platforms, the print media and the False Bay Anchor. Our church events have featured regularly in the local newspaper too. Our website is currently under construction. You will soon be introduced to a new fresh looking website. We are also experimenting the recording of sermons to make it available to you after services – especially for the sick and housebound.

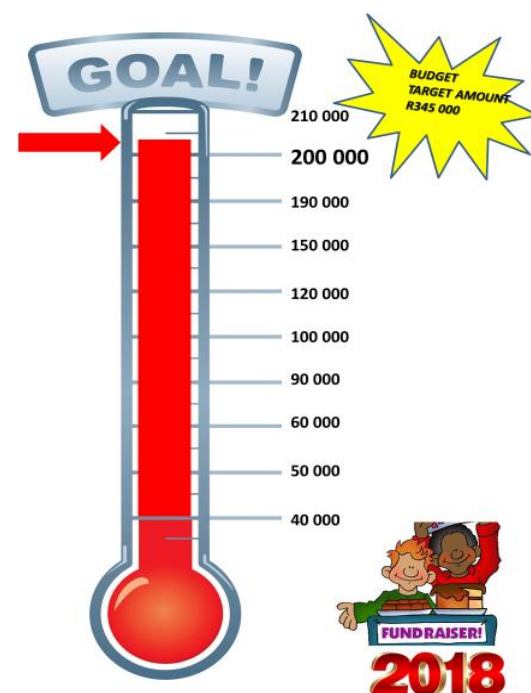
Fundraising:

While the Fundraising Team has different abilities and gifts, they are one in the service of Christ. It was only possible through the grace of God that every event was a success. We are extremely grateful for each organization and area, together with their leaders for working alongside us in making these events successful. We are also very grateful

Prayer for Christmas

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in:
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Phillips Brooks (1835-93)



for every parishioner who came alongside us in supporting these events and for putting your hands in your pockets to contribute towards this year's successes. May God bless you abundantly!

The income from fundraising this past year is R 203 550.00.

This money is set aside for the maintenance and development of our properties.

Social Responsibility: *"For it is in giving that we receive"*. Our Parish has been very blessed with our income. So while we have received, we have also given to those less fortunate by running soup-kitchens in the various communities, provided food-parcels to the elderly in our areas and for those coming to knock on our doors. We have also contributed to the Diocesan Social Responsibility Department's food projects and Anglican Students Federation's Conference. We live in very difficult times so there will always be a need to help those less fortunate than ourselves - so as a caring church community we must continue to reach out to others. We thank you for your contribution in this regard.

Stewardship and Spirituality: The Parish hosted two *Quiet Days* which were spiritually enriching. It is our hope that more people will join us at future *quiet days*. Regular *Small Group Prayer Meetings* took place on Wednesday mornings and evenings in our Areas.

Training and Development: Bible and Christian Instruction for Sunday School, Bible Class, 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation, Admission to 1st Holy Communion, Baptism and Marriage preparation is an integral part of our ongoing training and development programme for both youth and adults.

Building and Plant Maintenance: The maintenance and development of our properties has been neglected over the past few years so we have started in earnest with a maintenance and property development programme

- The administration block which includes the Parish Administration Office, Library, Mary & Martha Office, Rector's Office and two Boardrooms were revamped and modernized to provide a more user friendly, spiritual and professional atmosphere.
- At Portland, the electricity integrity in the Parish hall and church is currently being restored through the removal of disused, dangerous wiring and the cancellation of overloaded circuit breakers. All high energy lights have been replaced with low energy LED lights. This will brighten up all areas making reading easier and reduce our energy bill.
The whole property has been cleaned up, the vagrants moved off the property and new electric fencing and security beams installed.
- At Eastridge, the kitchen has been ungraded with new cupboards, stove, fridge and curtains while in the church a new sound system has been installed. The entire perimeter fence has also been painted. New security gates have been fitted and security upgraded.
- New notice boards have been installed at both churches to eliminate any confusion over worship times.

Future developments will include the erection of cellphone towers and base stations at both Portland and Eastridge. We have endured a long process of obtaining permission from the Diocesan Trust Board. This we have now received so the construction company is in the process of obtaining permission from the City of Cape Town before construction commences. Once completed, the towers will provide us with a steady income for at least the next nine years, which will be used for future developments and the upkeep of the properties. We have also received approval for the enlarging of the Rectory lounge as well as the building of a storeroom onto the hall. This work will be done next year.

The Bible teaches us that *"There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body..." 1 Corinthians 12:12.*

We are therefore all part of the body of Christ. We are all part of the family of Christ the Mediator and Christ the Good Shepherd so the achievements this year would not have been possible without God working through us. As a collective, we have done well, so we thank you for whatever role you have played in the life of our church this year, and look forward with excitement to the next year.

Blessed and Holy Christmas to you and your families.

Church and Chapel Wardens

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR JANUARY 2019

13 January – 07h30 Eucharist Portland
09h30 Eucharist Portland
09h30 Eucharist –
Eastridge

WEEK OF PRAYER

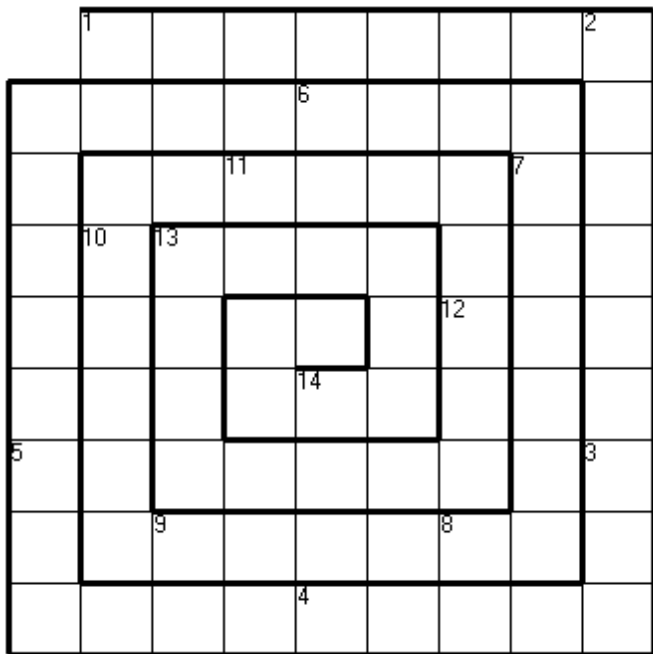
Please join us for a week of prayer from 14 – 19 January 2018. Each evening will be hosted by a different Organisation.

Date	Host
14/01/2019	Liturgical Dancers
15/01/2019	Church Men's Society
16/01/2019	Anglican Women's Fellowship & Mother's Union
17/01/2019	Choir
18/01/2019	Christian Education
19/01/2019	Church Lads and Girls Brigade

BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY

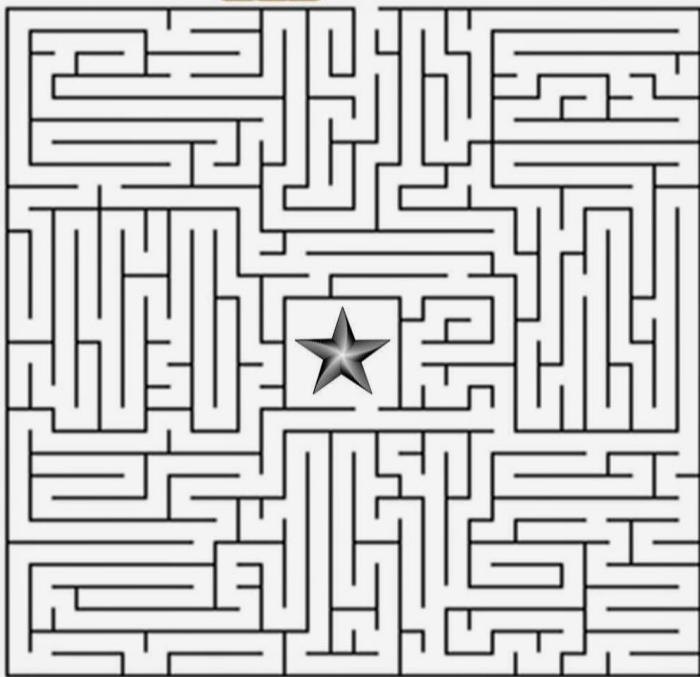
20 January 2019 - during the 09h30 services at both churches. All learners to wear uniform.

A Christmas Spiral Puzzle



1. The reason the wise men wanted to find Jesus
2. Animal that Mary rode to Bethlehem
3. Earthly father of Jesus
4. Announced Jesus' birth to the shepherds
5. Watched their flocks
6. It led the wise men to Jesus
7. Where the baby Jesus was laid
8. An infant
9. He saves people from their sin
10. There was no room there for Jesus
11. The wise men brought these to Jesus
12. City where Jesus was born
13. A place where animals sleep
14. The mother of Jesus

Can you help the wise men follow the star to find Jesus?



JOKES

- A pastor was completing a sermon on abstaining from drinking alcohol. With great expression, he said, 'If I had all of the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river.' With even greater emphasis, he said, 'And if I had all of the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river.' And then finally, he thundered, 'And if I had all of the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river.' The church was silent. Not a single congregant made a sound. The music leader then stood up hesitantly and said, 'For our closing song, let us sing the hymn "Shall We Gather at the River."'
- A pastor who was known for his lengthy sermons noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service. Afterwards, the pastor asked the man where he had gone. 'I went to get a haircut,' the man replied. 'Why didn't you do that before the service?' the pastor exclaimed. 'Well,' the man said, 'because I didn't need one then.'
- In the beginning, God created the earth and rested. Then God created man and rested. Then God created woman. Since then, neither God nor man has rested.
- A married couple was arguing who is making the coffee, the wife said that in the Bible it says that men should make the coffee and the husband asked her where it said that. The wife opened the Bible and said: "Right here in HEBREWS!"

Answers will be posted on the church Notice Board and across all social media platforms in 2 weeks. Please like and follow our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages for the latest news and any updates.

Editorial Information

Editor: Geraldine February

Photographer: Alaric Prins

Layout: Melissa Pretorius

Please send all stories to communications.ctm@gmail.com to have your stories featured in future issues.

Did you know?

- The Christmas wreath is symbolic of Jesus. The red berries symbolize his blood and the holly represents the crown of thorns.
- Nowhere in the Bible does it specify the number of wise men who came to visit Jesus.