



Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist

Notices: Advent 2013

Please read and act on this information!

Check out our Diocesan Web site: <http://www.stmark.org.za>

At the time of writing our phones are out of order after a lightning strike. We hope they will soon be working again.

1 Diocesan Diary 2014

Please note, the diary you received with the last Ad Clerum was **only a draft!! Please throw it away now and check your dates!** The final version is enclosed – and some of the dates have changed.

2 Anglicans Ablaze Conference

The 2nd ACSA Anglicans Ablaze Conference will take place from 2nd to 5th July 2014 at the New Life Centre in Johannesburg (the same venue as last time). Our keynote speaker will be Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby. Please pray for all of us who are leading Anglicans Ablaze in these exciting and challenging times! And please book your place as soon as possible. We are expecting up to 3,500 people and booking is already open. If you have access to the internet, please go to www.anglicansablaze.org to register. If you cannot do that, we will be able to help you at the Diocesan Office as from early next year.

3 Appointments and Moves

3.1 People

- ✦ Philemon Mudzvovera retires as Sub Dean at the end of December after distinguished service in the Diocese as Rector of Mahwelereng and Mokopane, Archdeacon of the South, Rector of Christ Church, Archdeacon of the Centre, and Sub-Dean of the Cathedral. He also served as Senior Priest of the Diocese and Vicar General when I was away. Please pray for Philemon and Priscilla as they return to Zimbabwe and the house they have been building in Harare.
- ✦ With the agreement of Ben Ngoako, the parish of Seshego, Diocesan Chapter and myself, Ben has stepped down as Rector of St Matthew's Seshego. Please pray that we will be able to find a suitable placement for him in this or another Diocese. Pray also that we will identify the person whom God is calling to Seshego.
- ✦ Robbie Novella (Vhembe) and David Maubane (West) will serve as Deputy Archdeacons as from 1st January 2014.
- ✦ Linda Lubbe will serve as Archdeacon of the South as from 1st January 2014.
- ✦ Malin Mokou has moved to the Parish of Lebowakgomo where she is licensed as Self Supporting Assistant Priest.
- ✦ Lesiba Meso has moved to Mokopane as Priest in Charge for a probationary period before being licensed, hopefully, as Rector sometime next year.
- ✦ The new Archdeaconry of the South-West will be under the oversight of Archdeacon Shashi Ledwaba, assisted by David Maubane as from 1st January 2014.

3.2 New Archdeaconries

I hope this will be the last time that I create new Archdeaconries or rearrange them! After a lot of consultation and discussion, Chapter has agreed with the following seven Archdeaconries with their Archdeacons and Assistant Archdeacons:

<p><u>Vhembe (North)</u> Archdeacon: Luke Pretorius Deputy: Robbie Novella 1) Zoutpansberg 2) Musina 3) Sibasa (3 clusters) ✦ Centre ✦ West ✦ East A 4th cluster is possible in the future</p>	<p><u>Kopanong (Centre)</u> Archdeacon: Luke Pretorius 4) Christ Church Cathedral 5) Good Shepherd (Ext 44) 6) Seshego 7) Moletši</p>	<p><u>Lepelle</u> Archdeacon: Jack Kudumela 8) Lebowakgomo 9) Sekhukhuneland (3 clusters) ✦ Jane Furse & Manganeng ✦ Moganyaka ✦ Marishane</p>
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<u>Waterberg (South)</u> Archdeacon: Linda Lubbe 10) Ga Seabe 11) Modimolle 12) St Michael's Modimolle (United)	<u>West</u> Archdeacon: Shashi Ledwaba Deputy: David Maubane 13) Mashashane 14) Baken-Matji 15) Matlala	<u>South-West</u> (Archdeacon: Shashi Ledwaba) (Deputy: David Maubane) 16) Mokopane 17) Mapela 18) Lephallale
<u>Mopani</u> Archdeacon: Gail Blunden 19) Letaba 6th April 20) St Luke: 26th January		
21) Baobab 22) St Paul's Haenertsburg (United)		
23) Tlhatlaganya		

3.3 Ordinations in March

God willing, I intend to ordain the following people at Christ Church Cathedral at 14:00 on Saturday 15th March 2014. The Ordination Retreat will be held at Linga Longa (near Bela Bela) from 18:00 on Wednesday 12th March until immediately before the service.

Deacons

- ✠ Kwena Makololo (Matlala)
- ✠ Rhoda Nyanhongo (Modimolle)
- ✠ Lucia Komape (Seshego)
- ✠ Neville Phalane (Matlala)
- ✠ Isaac Maja (Moletšhi)

Priests

- ✠ Kwena Makgoka (Christ Church)
- ✠ Lilly Ledwaba (Mashashane)

Please pray for those candidates who still have to meet certain requirements before they can be ordained.

4 Bishop Dinis Sengulane to retire

The Right Reverend Dinis Sengulane, Bishop of Lebombo (Southern Mozambique) has announced his retirement from being Diocesan Bishop to take effect on 25th March 2014. He will have served in the Ordained Ministry for 40 years, 38 of which as a Bishop.

Dom Dinis as he is known in Mozambique will dedicate his retirement concentrating in the causes of peace, health and ethics. Farewell events will take place in due course.

5 Holiday House

Peter Houston (formerly a Priest at Christ Church) has offered a "Church House" in his parish of Umhlali on the north coast of Kwazulu Natal for clergy who need a place to go on holiday. Here is what he writes:

The top house has a separate, private, self-catering, "Guest Wing" consisting of a main bedroom with en suite bathroom, another room with a bunk-bed and a third room is a small lounge. Guests would have use of the kitchen/large-lounge area as well as the garden (to braai in or rest in) but would share that specific space with our pre-school children's ministry on a Sunday morning during our second service.

Clare is happy to co-ordinate the bookings-diary and make sure the guest wing is suitably managed and hosted. We would charge clergy a minimal rate to cover basic costs (water & electricity) but not make a profit. I think we'd have to put limits on a stay of a maximum one week (if annual leave) and three weeks (if sabbatical leave). We are easily accessible by both plane (10 minutes from airport), bus (drop off in Ballito - Lestrinah from Christ Church came down on holiday this way) and by car (we're just off the N2).

You can contact Peter by email (progress.peters@gmail.com) or cell phone (082 433 5464).

6 Jane Furse Village

Here is a message I sent to the Bishops last month:

Dear Brother and Sister Bishops,

I feel a little like the woman who found her lost coin (Luke 15:8-10) and I need to share my joy and relief with you.

A couple of years ago I reported at Provincial Trustees that the government employees vandalised the old Jane Furse hospital when they moved out. We managed to stop them but enormous damage had been done by then. After that we entered into negotiations about the compensation they needed to pay. All went well at first: they admitted liability, and we appointed a Quantity Surveyor jointly to assess the damage. He came up with a very conservative estimate of R1 million in damage. Their negotiators agreed that this was fair. But their seniors refused to pay despite numerous representations from us.

Our Diocesan Trustees felt that this was a matter of justice in addition to the damage that was done. We cannot allow those in power to treat their people with contempt. So we summonsed them and, finally, the court case was scheduled for earlier this week. Eventually, at the 11th hour, on Tuesday evening, they asked to settle. After trying to backtrack on the morning of the case (Wednesday) they finally agreed to sign the settlement agreement. I am very proud of our team and the attorney and advocate who represented us very well indeed.

Here is the report from Pam Oberholzer, our Registrar:

The High Court at Pretoria yesterday made our settlement agreement with Public Works and the Department of Health an Order of Court.

They will pay us the entire amount claimed of R1 057171.28 plus interest at 15,5% from date of summons (January 2012) to date of payment. Costs on a party and party scale. They have 60 days in which to pay.

As you can see, they will pay the R1 million, interest and costs.

The damage they did and their refusal to compensate us initially set back our work to serve the community of Jane Furse a great deal. But we are glad that our work will now receive a boost, and pray for wisdom in developing what we know call the “Jane Furse Memorial Village”.

7 “Bishop’s Big Birthday Bash in the Bush”: 1st March 2014

I turn 60 on 27th February next year! So I am planning a bring-and-share picnic day at the Lapa in the Polokwane Game Reserve on Saturday 1st March. Friends and I will be there with our musical instruments to sing and make music. I am also hoping that the Voices of St Mark will be able to join us and sing.

You are invited – but please bring your own food and drinks.

8 Mothers’ Day Celebration

A women’s committee has been established, with my blessing to plan a celebration of the 100th anniversary of Mothers’ Day in May 2014. This will also serve as our St Mark’s Family Day. Plans include:

- ✦ A Revival evening on Friday 16th May
- ✦ Family Fun and Sports Day on Saturday 17th May, with a Gala Dinner in the evening
- ✦ A special Celebration Service on Sunday 18th May.

Fund raising will be done to support the Good Shepherd Mission in Extension 44.

More details will follow in the New Year.

9 Lectionary, Diary and Almanac Available

These items are available at the Diocesan Centre. Please come in or contact Naum on 015 297 3297.

- ✦ Lectionary: R18
- ✦ Almanac: R10
- ✦ Anglican Diary: R130 (plus postage) The diary includes daily Bible readings from the lectionary.

10 Thank You Letter

Please see the thank you letter from Dr Shashi Ledwaba after his illness earlier this year.

Blessings and love in Christ,

†Martin

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