



Holy Trinity Hillcrest

News Letter May 2016

Dear God's people,

Rector's Reflections



What a hectic past few weeks. We have yet again enjoyed the privilege of journeying with Jesus as we remembered His entry into Jerusalem and the march through the hostile crowd until he was nailed on the Cross at Calvary. For me it always is the best time on our liturgical calendar. This year topped it, for me, with the sharing of personal testimonies from the Lay Ministers and Bruce. On behalf of all here at Holy Trinity I want to thank them for helping us realise how the Cross of Christ can have a different meaning relative to who we are and our faith journey. I also want to thank Revds Margie and Dave Silva for stepping in and allowing me some time off and Bruce and Jenipher for sharing the preaching. Breaks are always good for the soul. More importantly I want to thank all the parishioners who have again shown their love in the generous Easter Offering we received. Thank you for your generosity.

Then after that spiritual high we were struck by a rather unsuspecting awakening, the ruling of the Constitutional Court on the Nkandla debacle. Many had given up and had become accepting of all the shenanigans of those in power. Corruption, lack of accountability and flouting the rule of law had become a part of who we had become. The Constitutional Court ruling reminded us that we have a default that is a higher authority than any citizen in this country. In the wake of that ruling many things seem to have been drawn in and flung out by the decision of the full Bench of Judges. It appears also that in the wake of all that happened the Church arose from what was a slumber when we think of how vigilant it was in former times. In seeking and encouraging righteousness and justice she was 'warned' to stay out of politics. I had personally found this cautionary message by some members of the ruling party and their allies puzzling. Many of us who lived through the sixties until the dawn of democracy will remember similar advice given by the then apartheid supporters. It is interesting that the liberation movement would adopt a similar stance to their once sworn enemies. It is also sad that a mere twenty-two years after that historic elections members of the ruling party had forgotten the role the church played in enabling this desired outcome after centuries of oppressive rule. As I pondered this I remembered how the first ANC government under Nelson Mandela appointed clerics and members of Religious Communities to serve in the National and Provincial parliaments.

This has also raised new concerns. How does the Christian community respond to the current social and political 'hurricane'? Fore mostly, Christians need to be discerning – listening attentively to the dissenting voices and weighing the words we hear against the teaching and example of our Lord, Jesus, the Christ. Many Christians have a misconception that Christianity has to restrict itself

to the spiritual well-being of humanity and not concern themselves with the material or physical realities of life. But is that the example given by Jesus?

The first question that we, as Christians, have to ask ourselves is, **did Jesus turn a blind eye to the social and political ills of His day?** In the Gospels we regularly read that Jesus denounced and criticised the leaders of the Temple whose demands placed a major burden on the followers that impacted their social lives. In Matthew 23: 23 Jesus says to these men with influence on the religious, political and social elements of the communities life's, *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practised without neglecting the others."*

The second question that we should ask is, **did Jesus' concern for the social, political, physical and material components of life mean that He was meddling in politics?** Jesus commandment to His followers is, *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."*³⁸ *This is the greatest and first commandment.*³⁹ *And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself."* (Matt 22: 37-39) Love is not a political act.

Maybe the third question should be, **what would the purpose have been of God coming to dwell among us, suffering the humiliation on the cross and manifesting His glory at the resurrection if it was not for the well-being of all humanity?** In John 10:10 he said *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."*

In my humble opinion, raising concerns about issues that are wrong, unjust, sinful and evil is not about taking a political position but trying in our frailty and weakness to do what our Lord, Jesus, the Christ, would have done if he were here today. The disturbing thing that should be a matter of concern for all of us is the flagrant dismissal of a matter as serious as flouting the Constitution of the Land and not sincerely confessing the wrong and showing remorse. I think that our country is on a precipice and people have taken up positions – some for and others against. That in this country with its history of violence is not a good thing. I urge you all that as we move forward and will soon approach the time for the local elections that we earnestly pray for solutions to this crisis, that the electorate will be discerning and as all authority in heaven and earth comes from God we ask that God appoint God's servant to govern God's people in this, God's land.

Your priest and friend

Fr Gary





The autumn of life is a strange mixture of nostalgia, blessings, and potential. It yields the harvest of seeds we've sown throughout life and braces us for colder days to come.

When life's autumn arrives, we look back and better understand the way God led us; but we still have work to do—the best and fullest. It's a good transition time.

In Jude 1:12, false teachers are compared to “autumn trees without fruit,” implying that autumn should be a fruitful season, the most abundant of the year. How can we take advantage of the “autumn of life”?

The Unchanging Nature of God

The seasons come and go, so focus on the God who remains unchanged and unchanging. “LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God” (Psalm 90:1-2).

There's a lot of unwelcome change in our world. Moral and societal changes bother us most when we turn on our television or glance at the magazines. We're painfully aware our kids are growing up in a world far different from the one we knew as children.

And personal changes—children leaving home, the passing of dear friends, and the slow, steady decline in our vitality and health. Sometimes we feel outdated at work.

But amid all the changes, one thing, one person, never changes—our eternal God. Remember this verse from “Abide with Me”?

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away; Change and decay in all around I see; O Thou who changest not, abide with me.—Henry F. Lyte

J. I. Packer points out that God does not change. His life is always the same. His character is always dependable. His truth, ways, and purposes do not change. His Son does not change. He's the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

His children will enjoy His fellowship a million years from now. The world may fade, the stars may fall, the seasons may change, and winter may come. But the God who has been our help in ages past is our hope for years to come. In Him we have permanence, stability, joy unshakable, and life unending.

The Divine Foresight of God

We've all suffered setbacks along the way. But God promised, “I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten. . . . You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God” (Joel 2:25-26). His divine forethought knew it all in advance, and He can be trusted with what has happened to us in years past.

Our omniscient Savior knows the end from the beginning, and He will bless whatever is yielded to Him. Focus on His foreknowledge, providence, and sovereignty.

The Wonderful Blessings of God

The autumn of life is a great time to focus on God's wonderful blessings—family, friends, strength, shelter, provision, guidance, care, fruitful ministry, opportunities to serve, more time to pray and study His Word, and eternal life still to come.

During life's autumn, we have a richer perspective and can count more blessings than ever before.

A Renewed Commitment to God

Autumn is a good time to focus on your commitment to God. Some of the saddest words in the Bible are in Jeremiah 8:20, “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” If you've never made a commitment to Jesus Christ, do it now, while there is still time.

If you are a follower of Christ, remember to remain close to Him during the shifting seasons of life. During autumn, we all know that winter lies ahead, but if winter comes, can spring be far behind?

This article is an excerpt from Turning Points, Dr. David Jeremiah's devotional magazine.

Social Outreach far and wide..

With the cooler weather comes the outreach! As usual we have been asked to knit jerseys for our littles ones at Zikwanele House of Hope in Shongweni. It is such an honour to be able to give of our time and talent to bring such joy and warmth to those little bodies.

Ann Maud received two bags baby beanies and tiny jerseys all the way from New Zealand to be donated where the need is. I was so amazed that people so far away would think of a simple yet wonderful gift. I wanted to know more so I did what I do best and googled! This is what I found....

An Invercargill retirement home resident and her South African nurse have discovered an unlikely bond.

Lex Stuck, 90, moved to Vickery Court in October. About the same time she had started knitting Fish and Chip baby jumpers to be sent to newborn babies in Africa.

The majority of the recipient babies are suffering from Aids and the jumpers are the only warm garments they are likely to receive. Without them the babies are sent home from hospital wrapped in newspaper for warmth thus the name "Fish and Chip".

Mrs Stuck said it was not long after she moved that a new nurse started on the ward.

"This lass comes in and she's new on the floor and she said 'what are you knitting' and I said 'fish and chip singlets'. I thought that would stump her." As it turns out, the name was new to Jeanne Cech, who moved to New Zealand from South Africa almost four years ago, but the concept was not. She had trained in South Africa as a nurse and midwife and after marrying became involved with a non-practising group of nurses that made and

handed out the very same vests as well as beanies and wraps to the children.

Now both women are involved in knitting the vests, collecting wool and engaging others in the work and have become close friends.

Mrs Stuck said she liked to be kept busy and when she was not knitting she was busy sewing hand-towels, bibs and whatever was required by grandchildren and friends on the machine she had set up in her room. "It's very good for the brain," Mrs Stuck said.

Hutt's mother Anna Miller, who is involved in sending the vests overseas, said New Zealanders had been incredibly generous and thousands of the vests had been sent to many parts of the world. In the past year they had sent items to Tajikistan, South Africa, Afghanistan, Haiti, Mongolia and Russia.



When one of the Anglican Churches in New Zealand heard that Tanya Lane, (Dave and Muriel Harris' daughter - they are parish-ioners and live at Botha's Hill) was coming to visit her parents she was asked to bring them with her. The jerseys and beanies will be shared between Zikwanele House of Hope and 1000 Hills Community Centre in Inchanga.



The beanies and jerseys for distribution

The Anglican Mothers Union (MU)

The MU is a worldwide organisation founded in 1876 by Mary Sumner, wife of the rectors in the Church of England parish of Old Alresford near Winchester. In 1885 Ernest Roland Wilberforce, the first Bishop of Newcastle, having listened to Mary's address at a church congress, declared that the Mothers' Union become a diocesan organisation [further filtering to parishes].

Mary believed that good parenting was more than providing for the physical needs of the child, its primary responsibility was to raise children in the love of God, in stable families and families that were united in prayer.

The MU is a parochial/parish women organisation whose aim is to advance Christian religion in the sphere of marriage, and family life **in its many forms**. It brings together Anglican women under the following 5 objectives:

- * To promote and support **married** life, (*uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and promote its wider understanding*)
- * To encourage **parents** in their role to develop the faith in their children. (*to bring up their children in the faith and life of the church*)
- * To maintain a worldwide **fellowship** of Christians united in prayer, worship and service,
- * To promote conditions in society favourable to **stable family life** and the **protection** of children, and
- * To help those whose family life has met with **adversity**.

The MU objectives strongly support stable married and family life, however, because of the changes in our social lives membership is open

to all women in the Anglican Church.

Members of the MU are women from all social classes who come together to provide support for one another through prayer and reading of the scriptures. These are

women who are concerned about the well-being of women and their families. The work of the MU emphasises prayer which underpins its work. Within the parish/diocese the work of the MU is influenced by various celebrations and prayer days in the MU calendar that give the members a sense of unity in prayer (e.g. Mothering Sunday, Lady Day, Clergy Prayer Day, etc).

MU work is volunteer work where members use their skills, time and other resources to support stable family life. MU community projects range from small parish/community projects to bigger projects in partnership with organisations of the same mind. *Thandeka Zungu*

Income and Expenditure 1 January to 31 March 2016

Income	Budgeted	Actual
Plate offering	22 992.00	25 610.55
Planned giving	274 890.00	277 904.00
Donations	12 495.00	2 400.00
Use of Premises	12 744.00	10 250.00
Interest received	3 750.00	13 244.23
Total	326 871.00	329 408.78
Expenditure		
Admin & Finance	91 362.49	100 147.30
Worship	6 075.00	2 826.56
Property & Maintenance	37 400.00	28 679.48
Young & Messy Church	10 440.00	7 978.58
Diocesan Assessment	129 165.00	129 165.00
Social Outreach	2 862.00	1 440.00
Clergy Costs	42 309.00	18 588.29
Total	319 613.49	288 825.21
Net Income/(Loss)		40 583.57

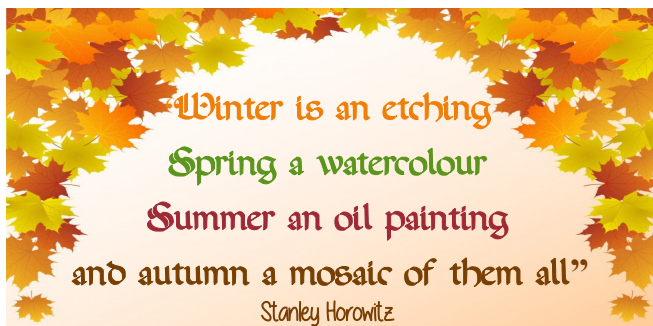
BITS AND PIECES!

May Birthdays

Happy Birthday!

01- Lyn Elliott 01- Wendy Hartley 01-Penny Hudson 03-Lauren Stainbank 04-Trish Groenink 06-Alta Manzie 06- Sue Jones 07-Barry Stops 07-Charles Rich 08-Lorraine Kuter	10-Beth Buckland 11-Joyce Small 11-Wendy Logan 13-David Sheppard 14-Peter Evennett 14-Graham Thurbon 17-Ann Harker 20-Wendy McCormack 20-Nalane Walker 20-Rob Hartley 21-Rose Scherzer 25-Siyotula Ntombizonke
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14-Nigel & Cynthia Bourne
20-Derek & Jean Blunden
26- Gavin & Gail McEwan



It is not only children who grow. Parents do too. As much as we watch to see what our children do with their lives, they are watching us to see what we do with ours. I can't tell my children to reach for the sun all I can do is reach for it myself.
 Joyce Maynard.

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS:

Rector:

Rev Gary Thompson
 031 765 2578 082 442 3241

Deacon:

Rev Bruce Woolley 079 544 7566

Church Wardens:

Peter Craig 082 896 3516
 Harold Walker 076 055 4240

Alternate Warden:

Clive Dunn 031 776 3463

Youth Worker

Althea Kroone 031 765 5942

Parish Ministries:

Audio Visual	Enid Vreedenburgh	031 765 5942
Bookkeeper	Doreen Hood	082 550 8387
Companionship	Glenys Dickson	031 767 2213

Environmental
 Evening Women's Gp
 Flowers
 Food Parcels
 Garden
 Hospital Visitors
 Lay Ministers
 Martha's Friends
 Morning Women's Gp
 Musicians
 Music Group
 Prayer Chain
 Publications
 Recorder
 Readers
 Sacristans
 Sides people
 Tea Pourers
 Treasurer
 Warwick Link

Maggie Fleming	031 765 7157
Lynette Reynolds	031 716 8161
Margaret Vorwerf	031 765 4390
Rosemary Dickinson	031 765 2782
Jill Howard	031 765 1061
Elaine Hutt	031 765 2188
Rosemary Combes	031 762 1176
Ann Maud	031 765 2111
Ann Maud	031 765 2111
Matthew du Sart	082 526 3518
Pat Dawson	031 765 8013
Julia Evans	079 814 9679
Enid Vreedenburgh	031 765 5942
Marion Wakefield	031 716 8201
Sue Yates	031 765 4272
Brenda Saville	031 765 1111
Errol Hicks	031 716 8872
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