

St Paul's Church, Rondebosch
Parish Newsletter

CARITAS

August 2019



**Every month there will be one service at 9 a.m.
Remember and enjoy it.**

The pews were full at the combined service at the beginning of August and it was a lovely service with young people taking an active part. Thank you all.
8 o'clockers can sleep in a bit.
9.30s wake a little earlier.

St Paul's has a serious problem (this is the editor only talking!) We do not have enough money to pay our accounts. Like any household St Paul's has to pay
Electricity, Water and Sewage, Security services,
Cleaning services/ groundsman
Rector's travelling costs, Organist and organ tuning,
An office secretary – she is really vital to the system.
Building repairs!!! Damage done by rain, vagrants etc.

and the really big expense is what we must pay the Diocese, a formula for all parishes for diocesan expenses and to pay our Rector a reasonable salary - so this Diocesan Assessment each month adds about R45 000

and the basic total is

R HUGE 000

Even if all our pledged Income actually arrived, we would still be short.

I am not going into details about the amount of salaries etc. – that is for the Parish Councillors to discuss and is not “public knowledge”, but you can be sure that they ensure that we economise on things like buying candles, etc. but we must have sacramental wine, we must have wafers, and we must have money to fix a broken drain or gutter or whatever.

Last month, July, alone there was a Deficit of R44 0037. Help! Most of us cannot even imagine a debt like that for our households, especially when it adds up each month! Now we have an Accumulated Deficit of R124 471! This is no longer funny, or just awkward - this is Christ's Church going broke. So when our lovely, beloved, kind, generous congregation PLEDGE, we really do expect them to keep their pledges. We know that disaster can happen - someone loses a job or gets sick or has unexpected expenses but we have to wake up to reality.

MONEY

Pie-in-the-sky is not good enough. We dare not short-change God. There are many philosophies about money.

I was taught that

money represents work

because every cent has to be earned by someone somehow.

I was taught that

work is Love made visible

and therefore MONEY is a manifestation of LOVE itself, and is therefore a very important subject for discussion in the Christian church. How do we love? How do we work? What are we doing with money when we have it?

In the very early church the Christians tried bringing all their property and money and handing it over to the church but this did not work. The system of tithing is sensible – one tenth of income goes to the church but of course, if one has a project in hand or a large family, that is not possible. It is certain, however, that when I put money into something I love, I make sure that it works and I help to look after it.

If 300 people on our parish register each put in an extra R200 this would immediately bring in R60 000 and settle the immediate, but not the long-term, deficit! Some people can't do that. But some can. To settle the long-term deficit would need R500 extra each and, personally speaking, I don't think that our people can do that. Ideas on this tricky subject would be welcome.

It is dangerous to write about money in a church newsletter because, of course, God loves us whether we are rich or poor.

You may be one of those people who just can't give money because you need every cent to keep going and it would be terrible if you felt "left out" because of this. Don't feel embarrassed about it – many of us have been in that position at some time or another. Serve the church in other ways especially when it comes to the sacristan work and cleaning out the pews and so on. Talking about money is not meant to make anyone feel "less".

This is definitely a situation in which we need positive input from our congregation.

WHITE ELEPHANTS may be lurking in your home . . .



“A white elephant is a possession which its owner cannot dispose of and whose cost, particularly that of maintenance, is out of proportion to its usefulness. In modern usage, it is an object, building project, scheme, business venture, facility, etc., considered expensive but without use or value.” That is the Google definition.

Church bazaars, by contrast, have an entirely different opinion, and are far less scathing. A White Elephant may be a lovely or useful thing for which one no longer has a use and anyway no space to keep. White Elephants congregate in homes which are being down-sized, either when the children leave home or when people move into smaller accommodation. They are often unwieldy (large vases), or noisy (a loud clock), or need polishing (silver teapots), or too big (pictures), or out of date (typewriters), or unsuitable because the children have gone long since (car seats and tents and toys) White elephants tend to accumulate after a few years and join herds in the garage or attic. They are fascinating, sometimes lovely, sometimes they work, and sometimes they are very valuable.

There will be a chance to make money at the end of the year because there is going to be a Bazaar in November

HOORAY!

Bazaars are really hard work but so sociable and such fun!! Interesting people come and there are interesting things on sale – look for bargains and so on especially on the White Elephant stall. So get busy out there, beloveds. Make the marmalade and the coconut ice, put out the seedling trays, knit the scarves I hope there are workers brave enough to tackle selling secondhand clothes. Books are on-going and always good for browsing. DVDs sell well.

A CONCERT ON SATURDAY 17 August 10.30 a.m.

is a great idea and the music-makers from U3A will be most welcome at St Paul's. If our venue proves successful for them, they may want to come again - which would be a pleasure and privilege.

The QUIET MORNING

which is held at St Andrew's
on the last Saturday every month
begins at 10 a.m.

Please come along – there is a small charge of R30 for the use of the premises and services there.

Taizé – Pilgrimage of Trust and HOPE 25-29 September 2019, Cape Town

Several thousand young adults will gather from South Africa, other African countries, and other continents, celebrating Christ, source of peace and true reconciliation, sharing their faith with thousands of other young people.

Although there have been many offers, we are still looking for hospitality from anyone in this area who might help. It is for the four nights of Sept 25, 26, 27 and 28. It is good for delegates to come at least in pairs so that they do not feel too strange. They will need a welcome, breakfast, possibly a lift in the morning and maybe help with a lift home in the evening. Sunday is the last day and if it is possible for them to have lunch with you, that would be good.

Use the Accommodation Form (Arlene-in-the-office has the forms) if you can help.

It seems that many of our olive trees are not going to recover. They were grafted, and because the drought made them revert to the original tree stock which is not fruit-bearing, they will not thrive and they will not bear olives. Carol bravely watered them as much as she could during the drought, but even her efforts has not been able to save them.

AN AFRICAN CANTICLE

All you works of the Lord, Bless the Lord

All you **BIG** things, bless the Lord.

Table Mountain and the Limpopo River,
The Garden Route and the Great Karoo, Fat Baobabs and Marula trees
Hippos and rhinos, elephant and eland, bless the Lord.

Praise and extol God for ever and ever.

All you **TINY** things, bless the Lord.

Busy black ants and hopping flies, Wriggling tadpoles and mosquito larvae,

Praise and extol God for ever and ever.

All you **SHARP** things, bless the Lord.

Sisal plant tips and tall red aloes. Hunting spears and fighting sticks,

Praise and extol God for ever and ever.

All you **SOFT** things, bless the Lord.

Juicy grapes and golden-ripe mangoes,

Praise and extol God for ever and ever.

All you **SWEET** things, bless the Lord.

Wild honey and Pawpaws and coconut milk,
Pineapples and sugar-cane and sun-dried dates,

Praise and extol God for ever and ever.

All you **SWIFT** things, bless the Lord.

Frightened centipedes and lightning flashes, Bless the Lord.

Praise and extol God for ever and ever.

All you **SLOW** things, bless the Lord.

Curious giraffes and old bony cows.

Praise and extol God for ever and ever.

All you **LOUD** things, bless the Lord.

South-east winds and torrential rains,
Hail stones clattering on zinc-roofed shacks,

Praise and extol God for ever and ever.

All you **QUIET** things, bless the Lord.

Graceful springboks and crawling turtles,
Grazing zebras and stalking lions, bless the Lord.

Praise and extol God for ever and ever.

ALL YOU WHO ARE PRECIOUS

Bless the Lord.

Rainbow people, bless the Lord.

Young and old, bless the Lord.

Praise and extol God for ever and ever.

Who is going to give this a try?

ANHOUSE IS LOSING ITS WARDEN at the end of the year. Do you realise that Carol Hartley took on the job of Warden at a time when the whole system was in serious trouble? She has put her heart and life into the work, making it a home from home for many students – and there are so many far from home, from Tanzania and Kenya, Nigeria, Malawi She is, of course, a teacher – a born teacher. You can hear that in her sermons. She studies, she assesses and she teaches. We have been blessed with her dedication, her patience, her honesty and the love of God Himself through her. She originally left South Africa because there was trouble brewing between her and the apartheid government. She and her husband sought refuge in Canada to live and bring up their family. Yet she still had family here in Africa, so when her husband died, sadly very young, she returned to be with them – her parents, her brother and his family. Living sparsely, often with little comfort, she has helped many people both with money and spiritual support – loved by all of them. She will retire at the end of the year and now Anhouse seeks a new Warden. There is free living accommodation and a small expenses grant but not a full salary – and responsibility for 15 students and the management of the building.

Actually this is a pastoral work too, involving time and concern and a lot of love for people. It can be demanding, but that also means rewarding. If you know anyone who would like such a job, please get in touch.

[Patience is needed too. The Angel Gabriel may apply!]

Meanwhile, we are going to miss Carol. She has been an amazing Churchwarden, always available, ready to help at any time, caring for everyone – her depth of care for people is matched only by her concern for the welfare of St Paul's.

RACIALISM

This is actually the cardinal sin of Pride or Hubris. But let me put another angle on it. There is a book which came in to the CAFDA bookshop called 'The White Men' and it puts this question,

“What was the first response of aboriginal peoples to the white man? It is as if creatures from outer space were to land in one of our cities. The news of their arrival travels at a desperate speed from place to place . . . confused with the private fears and imaginings of each individual.” They came across the sea from beyond the horizon, and some even came from the clouds above, the very sky. Their people sing: “God save our gracious King, Long may he rain on us . . .”

“Do we ever really know how people see us? We seldom ask. No one asked Friday his opinion about Robinson Crusoe, though Crusoe was obviously a very strange character. It flatters us to think that indigenous people everywhere see us (white westerners) with all the wide-eyed wonder of the child, dazzled by our technology, awed by our intelligence. . . . the truth is less flattering.” For instance, “old orthodox Eskimos . . . the true appraisal of any White man . . . a powerful barbarian:

bigger, stronger and more powerfully equipped than themselves, a member of a strong nation that lived in a great distant land . . . bastard offspring of an arrogant disobedient woman and a dog! However, all who met a white man could not help admiring him and subjecting themselves entirely to his will. They believed his resources were inexhaustible.” Another telling description says “the White man looks at a piece of paper and laughs . . . “

Misunderstanding is still present, lurking unconsciously in a huge natural and national Unconscious realm, and it pops out suddenly like a firework flare when tensions rise.

What we know is that for us Christians there is no racial competition at all, we are all one, and here in St Paul's it is an absolute delight that we can enjoy each other together without even thinking about the subject. It comes therefore as a surprise when we have to admit that there are many people in this world who are still in the grip of racial rubbish . . and we remember that there are many people who are not as lucky as we are.

BULUNGULA Project!

We all need some good news because the political and economic outlook is so miserable. Look at this, and if you have a computer and can get on to the Internet, type in Bulungula Project and read what they are doing.

Far away in the old Transkei there are rolling hills and people with no hope because everything is so far from anywhere. The children were born and often died because nobody seemed to know about how to manage diarrhoea. And there was AIDS too, untreated because people did not understand. All this is being treated now. The children born there grew up without any proper education but NOW

There are programmes for teaching the little ones. Yes, the emphasis is on the toddlers who love to sing and dance and play, and therefore they are learning to count and to draw and to imagine and make things when they are just little. And then they go on to school and are ready to learn. But this whole idea is not academic – O no, because the vegetable gardens are producing food and there all kinds of skills being learned.

This is a programme of HOPE and hope is the keyword for all of us at the moment because that is why the Taize community is extending into Cape Town at the end of September.

We are all sick to death of miserable politics, of corrupt politicians, of graft and shoddy workmanship and incompetent services. It is high time that we stop being so depressed and DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. This is what is happening at **Bulungula.**

CHEERS ALL.

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We pray for the soul of Ayanda Ndara, a groundsman at St Paul's whom many met when he did Parking duty on a Sunday morning. He had been ill for a while, getting very thin and weak, and was found to have cancer. A stent was put in to his oesophagus so that he could eat soft foods and he was happy to have good treatment from the Oncology Department at GSH. They even arranged lifts from his home in Khayelitsha to the hospital. Then he died in his sleep, just like that - a blessed way to go. He would have liked to thank you all for your prayers because he loved St Paul's and the people here, he really did.
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New Life

We pray for those who are preparing for Confirmation – may they hear God speaking to them, and therefore be very happy. It is a wonderful thing to hear God talking to me, in person, in my heart (because that is how He does speak). Listen. He is there. Trust Him. Hooray, and join the club. You might even be able to share this with someone else.

“The fundamental fact of existence is that trust in God is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see. The act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors, set them above the crowd. . . . Each one of these people of faith died not yet having to hand what was promised, but still believing. How did they do it?

“They saw it all way off in the distance, waved their greeting, and accepted the fact that they were transients in this world. People who live this way make it plain that they are looking for their true home. If they were homesick for the old country, they could have gone back any time they wanted. But they were after a far better country than that - heaven country. You can see why God is so proud of them, and has a City waiting for them.” (Hebrews 11 – Petersen translation)

And if you have any special anniversary coming up, remember that Enid would like you to provide some flowers to commemorate this. Flowers can express what is in your heart so don't be shy.

Rector: Revd Reeva Mulder 072 3987483

Asst Priest: Rev Darron Misplon 083 603 0242

St Paul's office: Ph 021 6894720 email: stpauls@netdial.co.za

Contributions received with thanks at the A/C St Paul's, Standard Bank, Rondebosch, 71488928