

Ascension News

**Church of the Ascension – Hilton
Anglican Diocese of Natal**

April & Easter 2011 – No. 3 for this year

In this newsletter:

Holy Week & Easter Services @ Ascension
After Vestry: New Wardens & Parish Council

Getting Married at 84

Winter Warmth

2010 Tithes Distribution

Letter from Grahamstown: Andy writes...

“Kirby Hilton” – where does that name come from?

General News, Greetings, Remembrances, Arrivals and Departures

EVENTS WAY AHEAD – AN INDICATION OF EVENTS YET TO OCCUR:

Family Service: At 9.00am on Sun 22 May

Parish Breakfast: Sadly, the intended breakfast for 22 May no longer suits several of the helpers; a new date in May or early June will be announced

Car Boot Sale: A parishioner has volunteered to organise this in Aug.

Organ Recital: Friday evening, 5 August, by David Orr

“Flowers through the Church”: Oct 15 & 16: Floral displays, and possibly other associated creative and fun events, organised by Roma Pridmore and team

“The Life of Jesus”: An exciting and faith-building 6-part DVD series – details still to be arranged

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT ASCENSION

Palm Sunday - 17 April - at 7.00am and 9.00am

Julia will preach at both of these services for the start of Holy Week. Weather permitting, we will begin both services in the circular driveway with the blessing of palms, proceeding into the church. Sunday School resumes at 9.00am on that day - Government schools will be in Term 2.

Maundy Thursday - 21 April - recalling the Last Supper & related events

10.00am morning service and
7.00pm evening service, both with music
Nic preaching at both, followed by...

"Watch through the night"

As in previous years, for those who want to participate in the church for an hour or more; security guard on site all night. People may also participate at home. A roster will be placed at the back of the church for you to indicate time preferences; arrive and depart (or pray at home) at a time of your choice!

Good Friday - 22 April - 10.00am to 12 Noon

Led by Revd Julia Denny-Dimitriou, Revd Ingrid Andersen and Revd Dr Susan van Niekerk, the service this year blends traditional and contemporary material including a series of meditations and related artwork based on the words of Jesus on the cross. There is also a liturgy of repentance in which all can participate, and the service will also incorporate some of the Prayer Book Liturgy for Good Friday incl. reception of Communion (bread only, consecrated at the service on the previous night). Well known hymns suitable for the day have also been chosen.

[Our Rector, Nic, will be the guest preacher at a 3-hour Good Friday Service at Holy Trinity Church, the Anglican Parish of Hillcrest]

Easter Sunday 24 April

5.30am - Dawn Service (activities for children led by Louise Graham)
8.00am - Easter Eucharist (activities for children led by Julia Denny-Dimitriou)

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***After Easter, mid-week services on Thursdays at 10.00am continue as usual, and Sunday services resume at 7.00am and 9.00am every week.***

## **THURSDAY SERVICE - UPDATE**

There is a wonderful regular group who attend this service, and occasional visitors; for many, it is their "Sabbath service".

We are grateful to the varied group of musicians who take turns to accompany us with our usual two hymns, including Maureen McLuckie, Gill Watson, Twan Renwick, and now also Cleone Miller (all on piano), Pat Potgieter on flute, and occasionally Robin Walton on the organ.

Our intention is an APB (contemporary prayer book) service on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, and an SAPB (older prayer book) service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, although occasionally this is altered to suit a visiting priest.

We are grateful to the following priests who assist Nic from time to time: Colin Anderson – though leaving Howick in June / July; Don Thomson – fairly newly retired in Howick, and Tom Fawdry, also from Howick. For the time being, Bishop Michael is attending to Dorrie, recovering from her stroke, and is not regularly available to assist at this as he has been in the past. Oh yes – and our Rector Nic still preaches and presides at this service, usually two and often three Thursdays each month!

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WINTER WARMTH: JERSEYS & BLANKETS

This year we would like to respond to a definite need for winter warmth for the 45 children attending the Never Never Land Creche.

We have been very fortunate in that the mother of one of the members of our church knits strips for blankets on a regular ongoing basis and these are being sewn into small blankets for the children. Another member of the parish (name unknown) has handed in a large number of small squares and these have been made up into a large blanket which will be lined and used for the children to sit on at story time.

Now we need to provide a warm jersey for each child - the ages range from 2 to 5 years. We are requesting people to knit a jersey (a certain amount of wool is available at the back of the church) or to buy one. We need 29 jerseys for children of 4-5 years' and 16 jerseys for children of 2-3 years'. Of course more jerseys will mean that other needy children in the area can be provided for. If you have any queries, do not hesitate to phone: Roma Pridmore (033- 343 4838)

AFTER VESTRY – NEW WARDENS AND PARISH COUNCIL

Our 2011 Vestry Meeting was successfully held on Sunday 13 March, and gave departing Church Wardens Gavin Bulman and Glen Crouch opportunity to present, together with Treasurer Neville Bailey and Auditor Sven Jager, our accounts for 2010 and our Budget for 2011. All were received and agreed to by those present at Vestry, and the following parishioners were elected to Parish Council (portfolios indicated where relevant):

Graeme Mackenzie – Church Warden

Jane Elsworth – Church Warden

Ingrid Andersen – Spirituality

Wendy Norman-Smith – Sunday School

Mary Davidge – Worship

Youth – Vacant (but currently overseen by Julia Denny-Dimitriou)

Nicolette Hohls

Julian Dottridge

Callum Smythe

The Rector chairs Parish Council, and any other clergy of the parish are entitled to be present and to participate in Council meetings.

Graeme Mackenzie

Together with his wife Bronwyn and three children, Graeme has lived in Hilton for more than two decades, and been involved in various aspects of the life of the Parish. Graeme has served on Council for several years. He has been a Director of Companies for over 2 decades and is now an independent Financial & Investment advisor.

Jane Elsworth

Jane has been a member of Hilton parish for 8 years. Having previously been married to a priest, she knows “the inside of a rectory”. She has been a single parent for many years and her daughter, at St. Anne’s, is an active member of our parish youth. Jane ran the Pietermaritzburg branch of an NGO Feeding Scheme years ago, and is now P.A. to the Headmaster of Cordwalles School. She has also served on our Parish Council previously.

The current Property & Finance Committee members are:

Church Wardens – ex officio

Nic Denny-Dimitriou – Rector

Neville Bailey – Honorary Treasurer

Julia Lloyd – Parish Administrator

Richard Heathcote – Maintenance

Ron Glaister – Maintenance and property-related matters

Jeremy Upfold (also a forensic auditor for KZN Province)

Sven Jager (Auditor, also Bursar at PMB College)

PARISH TITHES: ALLOCATION OF 2% OF 2010 INCOME

After consideration, your Parish Council, meeting in February unanimously agreed to the following allocations; all are to organisations closely connected to the parish in one or other way:

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| Sweetwaters Project: | R5 500 | Parishioners Sarah & Julian Dottridge and Carol Cassidy |
| Social Responsibility: | R5 000 | Managed by Rosemarie Bullock on behalf of our parish |
| Neverland Crèche: | R5 500 | Parish supported |
| Kings Trust: | R1 500 | Parishioner Graham Beggs |
| African Enterprise: | R1 500 | Africa-wide ministry initiated and led over 4 decades by parishioner Michael Cassidy |
| PACSA: | R1 500 | Director: Daniela Gennrich. PMB Agency for Christian Social Awareness |
| Scripture Union – Independent Schools: | R1 500 | Julian Dottridge and others, who also oversee Em’seni conference venue for young people |
| Total: | R22 000 | |

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## **KIRBY-HILTON PARISH ... AN EXPLANATION**

*We recently had to inform parishioners that our bank no longer accepted cheques in any name except our formal parish name; many wondered why we were called “Kirby...” Sally Henderson, long a parishioner here and the widow of Canon John Henderson, a priest of this Diocese, submitted the following:*

Why Kirby-Hilton? Crazy! But so were our founding parishioners. I think a lot of them were of “north country” English extract, hence “kirk” for church. Hilton is the name of the Henderson family farm; the school, village and station took their names from it. The Hendersons bought the land from the Boers who were fleeing from English rule, and the countryside reminded Jane Henderson (nee Pearson) of her English home district, Hilton.

Hilton Station was the stop for Hilton farm, and the school was first called Upper Hilton, both with permission from the Henderson family. The village grew up around the station along the road leading to Hilton farm – hence the original name, “Hilton Road Village”. The church, built in 1906-7, was the “Kirk-by-Hilton”. Say it quickly...

Why on earth the Diocese accepted this as the name of the parish is anyone’s guess! But Wilfrid Henderson was very like John Henderson as regards jokes and wordplay.

## **GETTING MARRIED AT 84?**

## NIC HAS A LIGHT-HEARTED MOMENT

I laughed recently when a priest friend sent me the email below. It was in response to a comment that, on one day in March, I had no less than THREE sets of older people see me about getting married: One in their 40's and 50's (but delaying marriage to deal with past issues of divorce etc.), one couple in their 70's, and another in their 80's. And only a few days later, I would be conducting a marriage of a couple in their 50's. We started wondering what was in the Hilton water these days?

Seriously speaking, I find nothing surprising about it, for in over 20 years of ministry I have conducted the marriages of possibly more than 20 couples well into "retirement age", including a man in his 90's who later (sadly) survived his third wife, all of whom died of cancer. But there's no reason why older people, perhaps widowed for many years, and who later find a wonderful companion and want to be married, should not do so! [As many of you know, I was both amused and privileged to be best-man to my father at 84, marrying a companion from his church, after both had been widowed for some time.]

### *Enjoy the piece below – intended thoroughly light-heartedly*

The local news station was interviewing an 84-year old lady who had just got married ... for the fourth time! The interviewer asked her questions about her life, and about how it felt to be getting married again. Then the interviewer asked about her new husband. "He's a funeral director", she said.

"Interesting", replied the interviewer. "Would you mind telling me about your previous husbands and what they did for a living?"

She paused for a few moments - needing time to reflect on all those years - and then replied proudly with a smile on her face, explaining that she married her first husband when she was in her 20's, and he was a banker; then in her 40's, she married a circus ringmaster; in her 60's, she married a preacher, and now in her 80's, she was marrying a funeral director.

The interviewer was quite astonished and asked her why she had married four men with such diverse careers.

"That's easy, son," she replied, "I married Number One for the money, Number Two for the show, Number Three to get ready, and Number Four ... to go!"

**LETTER FROM GRAHAMSTOWN: ANDY WRITES...**

*[Originally written to Footsteps Youth, Andy Kruger's letter has been adapted with permission for the parish magazine]*

I hope you are all well and behaving yourselves! I really miss all of you and the wonderful village of Hilton. Grahamstown is a weird place where one can literally experience four seasons of weather in one day... a sudden downpour when the skies were clear five minutes ago is unpleasant for one whose mode of transportation is a mountain bike without a mud guard.

I am starting to settle down into my new responsibilities but it has been quite a shock to the system. I am only doing one course through the college where I reside and get fed. The course is called Anglican Studies... and I have had to write exams again which is as unpleasant as I remember it. The college is an interesting place, we have two worship services every weekday and an optional service on Saturday... two services a day is about as much religion as I can stomach and so I always miss Saturday on principle.

Then Sunday is the marathon of all marathons... four services at the cathedral where I am a curate (read apprentice), and I am involved in all of them, but primarily responsible for the student service at 19:00. I really enjoy these services; we have a full music group of students to lead. Ministry at the Cathedral has been really interesting, I am learning all the time. I had to use incense the other day and managed to complete my tasks without setting the bible on fire... a close call though!

Heather and I have enjoyed being closer together... her residence is 800 meters from the college where I stay, which is a vast improvement from last year. We have started ballroom dancing which has been lots of fun and about the only exercise I get (in addition to cycling everywhere).

I continue to think of you and pray for you in the rare quieter moments I have and look forward to seeing you when I'm back for the holidays.

Sincerely  
Andy

*[It should be noted that your Parish Council approved an amount from its 2011 Tithe Allocation, of R500 per month, to be granted to Andy during this year. He receives a meagre student allowance from our Diocese, although they also pay his board, lodging and tuition fees at the Theological College, and he receives no pay at all from the GTN Cathedral where he is "in training". He has written to the Council to express his gratefulness to the parish.]*

**BAPTISM:**

13 March Lucas Gray, grandson of Tony & Anne Christopher  
 03 April Alexis Davies & Angus Greeff

**FAREWELL TO:**

Pauline Cook, relocated to England to live with her son

**GRANDCHILDREN:**

Jack Fuller, grandson for Rosemarie Whitley  
 Bailey Sophie Immelman, grand-daughter for Chris & Margi Immelman  
 Ruby Earle, grand-daughter for Audrey & Richie Earle

**MARRIAGES:**

22 March Pat Quin (parishioner) and Rupert Jones  
 28 March Jean Francis (parishioner) and Stan Clarke  
 02 April Kate Leaker, daughter of Angie Leaker

**WELCOME TO RECENT NEWCOMERS:**

Danné Joubert  
 Gary & Sian McDowell

**YEARS MIND**

07 April Alice Hurworth

**GREETINGS FROM FORMER PARISHIONERS:**

Our parish recently received greetings from...

Revd Nicky Ing - a very busy "part-time" priest at St Thomas, Rondebosch, and enjoying her family who live nearby; Neil & Shelagh Carter - well settled in village and church life in Lincolnshire, England; David Orr - Music Director at St George's Cathedral, Cape Town; and from Judy Hancock - well settled in Pretoria near two of her sons, but missing Hilton terribly!