

Ascension News

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

September 2011 – No. 4 for this year

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STEWARDS, NOT OWNERS ... OCTOBER SERMON SERIES

During October we will be focusing on aspects of this theme, together with many parishes in our Diocese, in our regular 7.00am and 9.00am services each Sunday.

Christians describe ourselves as Stewards, as accountable to God because "the earth is the Lord's, and everything in it - the world, and all who live in it." (Psalm 24:1). Environment, health, wealth and talents are given into our care. We do not own these gifts; we take care of them on behalf of God, because God has given all and God owns all.

Oct 2: Stewards, Not Owners of the Environment

Oct 9: Stewards, Not Owners of our Health

Oct 16: Stewards, Not Owners of our Wealth

Oct 23: Stewards, Not Owners of our Talents

Oct 30: We Respond as Stewards of God's Gifts (Stewardship Sunday)

Quiz Evening, Saturday 8 October – raising FUN and funds

Come and enjoy a general knowledge quiz evening accompanied by soup and rolls. Register your team of up to 8 people with the church office, but hurry – space is limited and 4 teams are already registered. Teams will consult to answer general knowledge questions – rest assured that individuals will not be 'picked on' to answer awkward questions!

Local businesses have sponsored prizes for lucky draws that include restaurant, jewellery and pharmacy vouchers.

When:	Saturday 8 October
Time:	6.00pm
Where:	Church hall
What:	Bottomless cup of soup, rolls plus tea / coffee
Bar:	Wine and juice by donation
How much:	R40 per person
Children welcome:	DVD in the library
Booking:	Church office

Art Auction raises R1 million...

...worth of fun and fellowship

I thought that might get your attention. Although a slight exaggeration, there is some truth in this claim, as those who attended this successful event did enjoy a wonderful evening of good company, good food, and great entertainment in the form of the auctioneer, Mark Hohls. As stated from the outset, the objective of the event was not only fund-raising, but also FUN-raising. Those who attended all agreed that both objectives were successfully met.

Through the generosity and participation of many people we raised R11 726. Some will go to the parish tithe that is given to deserving ministry organisations like Never Never Land Crèche; some to the jungle gym for which the event was organised; and the rest to parish funds.

The top bids recorded were:

- * R1 000 for a floral painting by Jean Bailie
- * R1 000 for a silk scarf by Keith Fey
- * R1 000 for a triptych of taps by Laura Woudberg

Special thanks to the art co-ordinator Dennis Henning; auctioneer Mark Hohls; catering team under Isabel Johnston; Julia Lloyd and Jennifer Howlett for administration and Graeme Mackenzie & Charles Rilett for being barmen.

Julia DD

Church of Ascension, Hilton
Flowers through the Church
& Open Garden

On
Saturday 15th October, 10h00 – 17h00
& Sunday 16 October 2011,
11h30 ~ 17h00

We invite you to join us for a very special event...

Our Flowers through the Church
& Open Garden

This is our opportunity to share with you, the beautiful buildings and gardens in which we are privileged to worship every week.

Why not take a few minutes from your busy schedules to stroll through our beautiful old church buildings, enjoying artistic flower arrangements, each designed and created around a passage from scripture, with organ music accompaniment by Church Organist, Robin Walton.

You can also enjoy the tranquil and peaceful beauty of the gardens around the Church, including our Remembrance Garden.

Lastly, sit down and enjoy some of the delicious light refreshments in the tea garden.

Entrance to the Church and Garden is free,
with secure parking off Brindy Road.

Donations to Church Funds are gratefully welcomed.

For more information, please contact
Roma Pridmore (033) 3434838

OUR FINANCIAL POSITION

Parish Council received some negative feedback over the frequent publication of the “Good News, Bad News” Financial Analysis in pew bulletins. Although Council believed that regular feedback was in everyone’s best interests, our feeling was that the impact of the information was possibly reduced by monthly publication.

Accordingly the decision was made to limit feedback to twice a year – with a live presentation on occasion to both Sunday services, reinforced by publication in the *Ascension News*. The dry financial statistics would be integrated with a general review of the parish’s mission and activities.

To start with the financial results for the first seven months of the year were, as follows:

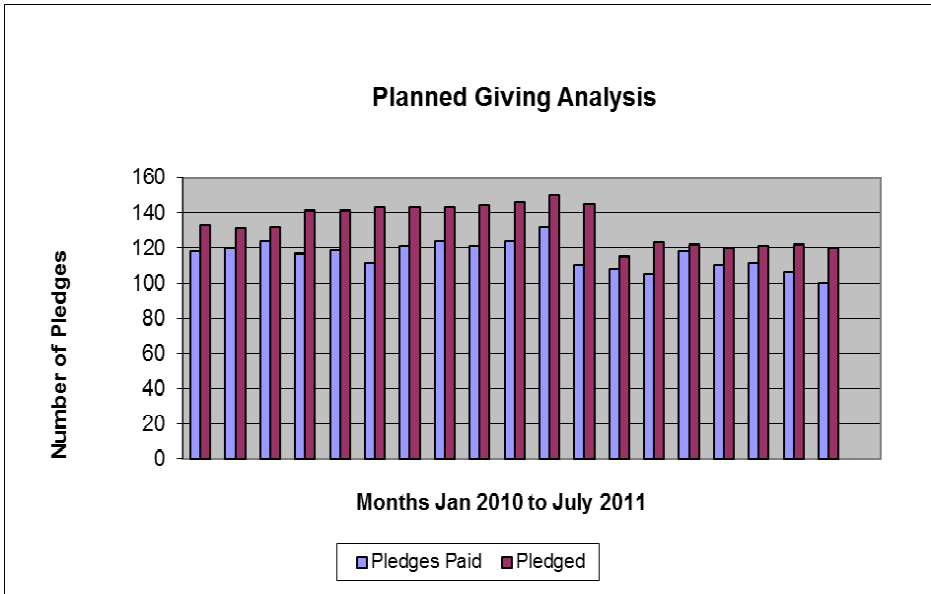
January to July 2011 Accumulated				
Income	Expected	Received	Diff	
Planned Giving	R 540169	R 490098	-R 50071	Bad News
Loose Plate Collections	R 54846	R 54712	-R 134	Bad News
Other including Donations & Fund Raising	R 37618	R 38044	R 426	Good News
	R 632633	R 582853	-R 49780	Bad News
Less Expenditure:		Incurred	Diff	
All Expenses	R 640547	R 624044	R 16503	Good News
Net Position		-R 41191		Bad News

Essentially, expenses have been well controlled and the net deficit against expectation (budget) of **R31 900** (in round numbers), is due entirely to a “revenue” deficiency. Planned giving was behind budget by **8%** while fund raising and other irregular income was on par with budget.

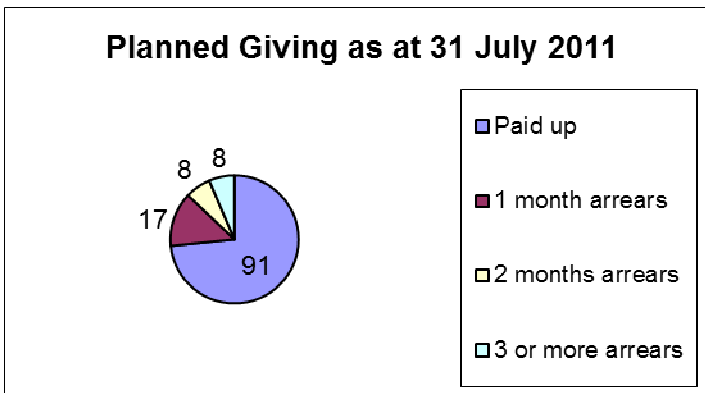
This meant that after seven months, the parish has a deficit of **R41 191**, instead of the **R7 914** shortfall, which had been budgeted and the **R9 202** deficit at the end of July last year..

The "Revenue" Problem

Essentially, the number of planned givers has declined over the past 18 months.



While those parishioners committed to the planned giving programme had to all intents and purposes honoured their undertakings, with 73% being fully paid at the end of July. The following shows numbers of planned givers in relation to arrears as at 31 July:



How to fix the revenue deficiency:

The obvious solution is to motivate more people to sign up to the planned giving programme, but this means inviting greater numbers to participate in our parish life.

We want to draw more people into our parish life. We need more people to volunteer in parish projects, events and ministries. We want to encourage people, where they are able to, to support “fun-raising” events such as the planned Art Auction and Quiz Evening, and the Car Boot Sale (which unavoidably had to be postponed from this Spring to May 2012).

At the last round of planning meetings run by the parish (remember the meetings in the church hall a few years ago?), much emphasis was given to the role of youth ministry in continuing to develop our parish into a “vibrant” faith community. One generation of youth have left school and moved on, as has Andy Kruger, but the good news is that a new crop has now germinated and is being nurtured with great passion and enthusiasm.

A Note on Expenditure

The question is always whether we are getting full value from the spending the parish does. This means looking at what the expenditure actually achieves, in the context of the parish’s wider mission.

Over the past three years the parish has built-up it’s involvement in the wider community, through;

- the food parcel and other projects of the Social Responsibility programme,
- the parish tithe
- involvement with the Never Never Land Crèche

Through the Diocesan Assessment, the parish pays the stipend of not only our own rector, but we effectively provide clergy for two other parishes that would be unable to afford them.

Were the parish to be forced to cut spending in any of these areas, the impact would be borne mainly by the vulnerable.

The Bottom Line

Much has been gained over the years. Going forward, your time, talent and passion are essential ingredients.

Graeme Mackenzie and Jane Elsworth (Church Wardens)
Neville Bailey (Honorary Treasurer)
On behalf of your Parish Property & Finance Committee

ANDY KRUGER – CELEBRATORY NEWS

Since Andy's Ordination last November as a Deacon, prior to his move from our parish to Grahamstown in January 2011, Bishop Rubin's tentative intention was to ordain him Priest at the end of this year.

It was recently confirmed that this will indeed happen, on Saturday 26 November at the Ordination Service in the Pietermaritzburg Cathedral at 9.30am. Andy asked to preside at his first Eucharist in our parish the next day, and this will be a great joy for us: Sunday 27 Nov at both services. [Andy will probably be at the Cathedral on the subsequent Sunday and then away until after Christmas, so his stay will be brief.]

And in Grahamstown in mid-September, Andy and Heather Prince announced their engagement! Andy will continue working at the Grahamstown Cathedral until the end of 2012, residing and participating in the life of the Seminary there, whilst Heather completes her Science degree at Rhodes University, after which they intend to marry and return to this diocese in 2013.

Contact details: New email address for Andrew David Kruger:
ak47david@gmail.com / Andy 073 1575 492 / Heather 082 614 8743.

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## **New Bishop Suffragan for the North Western Region of the Anglican Diocese of Natal (KwaZulu-Natal)**

Archdeacon Tsietsi Seleokane has been elected as the new Bishop Suffragan of the North Western Episcopal area of the Anglican Diocese of Natal. He replaces Bishop Funginkosi Mbhele, who retired in March after ten years as Bishop, and will also serve as the bishop of our Umgeni Region incorporating Hilton Parish. Tsietsi (53) is married to Rachel. He was ordained priest in 1997 and has a Diploma in Missiology, studied at the Evangelical Bible Seminary of South Africa in PMB, and obtained a B.Th. (Hons) (University of Natal).

Archdeacon Seleokane has experience in both rural and urban ministry, beginning at Michaelhouse & Zenzane Village. As a Priest, he has served the parish of Drakensberg and as Rector, parishes in Dundee and Newcastle.

**Extract from Press Release: 30 August 2011**

*[More will be printed in your October parish magazine, prior to Tsietsi's Consecration as Bishop in November by Archbishop Thabo Makgoba.]*

## PARISH NEWS

### ADMITTED TO COMMUNION:

31 July 2011 Georgia & Scott Harvey, Ryan Kingham & Andisa Ngwira

### BAPTISMS:

31 July 2011 Georgia, Scott & Angie Harvey

### CONTRATULATIONS TO:

Angela & Allan Manning who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Friday 8 May 2011.

### DEATHS:

|              |                                                  |                |                    |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 20 July 2011 | Gerald Lancaster                                 | 22 July 2011   | Ann Mitchell-Innes |
| 07 August    | Anna McLeod                                      | 15 August 2011 | Di Stubbs          |
| 29 August    | Craig Brown ( grandson of John & Heather Bennie) |                |                    |
| 31 August    | Pam Craib                                        | 18 September   | Emily Stevens      |

### GRANDCHILDREN:

Bailey Sophie Immelman, grand-daughter for Chris & Margi Immelman  
 Ruby Earle, grand-daughter for Audrey & Richie Earle  
 Emily Stevens, grand-daughter for Chris & Penny Purchase  
 Barrie Faye Speirs, grand-daughter for Jenni Smith  
 William Terence Downing, grandson for Jennifer Howlett

### MARRIAGES:

16 April Laura Johnston (daughter of Isabel) & Mark Platt  
 29 April Chantelle Howlett (daughter of Jennifer ) and Hendri Downing  
 30 April Kate Lund (daughter of Sandy & Stuart) and Bradley Griffiths  
 14 May Lauren Owen (daughter of Gary & Karen) and Andrew Mitchell  
 Stephanie Poltera (daughter of Gion & Karen) and Miklós Szecsei  
 Clarisa Loubser (step grand-daughter of Roma Pridmore) and  
 Raymond Smale  
 03 Sept Debbie & Syd Mills

### WELCOME TO RECENT NEWCOMERS:

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Joan Anderson          | Joy Roberts   |
| John & Veronica Bailey | Mark Chaplin  |
| Patrick Sharp          | Merle Prosser |

### YEARS MIND

|                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 07 May Margaret Dowle | 13 June Piet van Wyngaard |
| 26 July Norman Tyner  | 11 August Dan le Cordeur  |