

News

RECENT NEWCOMERS

Several individuals and families recently joined our parish, including some who have moved to Hilton this year. We will include their names in the February edition – meanwhile, please look out for and welcome anyone who seems new or not yet “at home” in our parish!

DEATHS - Relatives of Parishioners:

Douglas Saint, nephew of Gilly & John Saint

Marge Hohls, mother of Mark Hohls

Fr Louis Ilett, father of Dominic Ilett

FAREWELL:

- Helen Boulle, from St Anne's DSG, retired to Wilderness
- Marian Loveday, who now worships at St David's Parish, Prestbury. Her two younger school-going children, David & Kate de Gruchy, will participate in our youth activities when able to. Several years ago, the family were founder members, with Marian's husband the late Steve de Gruchy, of our Music Ensemble
- Anne and Fred Pitout, who now also worship at Prestbury Parish (Blackridge Chapel of St Mary's), where Fred also assists as a Priest. They continue to live in Hilton, where Anne runs her church vestment business; Fred continues to work with Michaelhouse School in spiritual and rural development and with the Old Boys' Association
- Colin Prince, who has relocated to Greytown where he works for Pannar Seeds
- Bee Van Blomestein, moving to Calgary, Canada in February

DEPARTURE IMMINENT

- Sandra and John Bower, emigrating soon to Canada; they still await final papers and a final destination. This will be a particular loss to our parish as Sandra has been an organist in our parish for many years, and John has been a reader and chalice bearer at the 7am service for years too!

RETURNED:

- Barrie & Jean Lewis, long-standing parishioners who have spent the past 7 years in various parts of The Netherlands where Barrie worked as a Chiropractor; he has joined his daughter Jane in a joint practice at the family home in Groenekloof Rd. It is good to have you back, Jean and Barrie!
- The Revd Ingrid Andersen, after a sabbatical year living outside PMB and working on her Masters and other studies

YEAR'S MIND:

28 January Joan Hoole 4
21 February Steve de Gruchy

Ascension News

Church of the Ascension – Hilton
Anglican Diocese of Natal

January 2011 – Edition 1

In this newsletter:

Endowment Fund – Our Heritage Continues
General News, Remembrances, Departures from the parish

Inserts:

Endowment Fund Brochures x 2

Dear Parishioners

The February Edition of your magazine will have information about Parish events including our Annual Vestry Meeting (Parish AGM), Lent course material, and Good News & Thanks re 2010 parish finances. Dates and general info will also be communicated as usual in the weekly printed leaflets, the Ascension Flash email and on our Website.

This Edition is focused on our Parish Endowment Fund (2 brochures enclosed), launched at our Thanksgiving Dinner last October; we chose to distribute them now rather than risk them being lost or put aside in the busyness of the Christmas holiday season.

Your Property and Finance Committee (P&F), chaired by one of our Church Wardens Gavin Bulman, and your elected Parish Council, have firmly endorsed this. We are grateful for the extensive preparatory work of Gavin, and of Sven Jager (P&F Committee) re financial expertise, tax matters etc.

Gavin's words at the launch stand out: Current members of Church of the Ascension are privileged recipients of the great heritage of previous generations of worshippers. Our response needs to be one of continuing that excellent tradition.

OUR HERITAGE OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

Our parish heritage from previous generations of Hilton worshippers is not “any old faith”, but the specific faith of the Christian community expressed in the creeds and worship of the church, and given its particular and varied Anglican expressions.

It is the faith of a community who, founding the parish over 100 years ago, did so not solely for themselves or their immediate needs, but also for those coming after them; they built a church building larger than their current needs.

This is in keeping with Jesus’ establishment of the church: Not for ourselves alone, but for others whom God has called us to serve, and for those followers of Christ who will come after us.

BUILDING FOR THOSE WHO COME AFTER US

In years following, the Anglican Church in Hilton grew in numbers and ministry, serving God in many ways. In recent years, your parish has significantly upgraded and extended the buildings to accommodate some of our growing and changing needs.

**It needs to be said:
Buildings alone are not the church!
People are the church
Established by God’s Spirit to live as the Body of Christ**

Yet unless we wish to meet purely in homes or under trees – as indeed many Christians still do – we prefer to use buildings as places for Disciples of Christ to meet, to share faith together and publicly, to allow for proper rituals in our life journey of faith, and to be nurtured in our Christian discipleship.

In our urban context, good administration enables these things to take place, thus offices and infrastructure with modern technology are not optional extras.

GIFTS HAVE ENABLED US...

When doing extensive upgrading and building extensions a few years ago, in addition to fund raising, more than one third of our funds came from endowment-type giving: Significant gifts of capital ranging from a few thousand to tens-of-thousands from wills and inheritances of parishioners. They also ensured that we were not saddled with debt!

Also, two large donations enabled us to replace our dysfunctional pipe organ which, being beyond repair was in danger of having to be discarded. One of those donations was in memory of the Mclean sisters, Allison and Sandy, after their tragic death in a motor accident.

The other was from Basil Hancock who was terminally ill but wanted to make his gift and enjoy it whilst still alive, in recognition of the gift of faith given to him through this church. He and many others also continue to derive huge pleasure in expressing their worship accompanied by our beautiful organ.

There was also, for example, a parishioner who wished anonymously to tithe an inheritance from a relative in England to enable us to upgrade and build our hall and related facilities. It not only gave her pleasure to do so, but was an important expression of obedience to God in her living faith!

ESTABLISHMENT GIFT TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND: R75 000+

This month marks one year since Joan Hoole died. A parishioner for decades, originally with her late husband Errol, Joan left an amount in her will as a gift to the parish which had been so important to her.

**A one-time Church Warden, Joan was the one who encouraged us
not only to be “impulse buyers” at the supermarket, but to be
“impulse givers” in God’s world and God’s church.**

Thus when your church leadership learned late last year of a gift from her Estate, we unhesitatingly recommended the major portion as the first contribution to the Endowment Fund. (A smaller amount of separate shares will be put into our general donations fund.)

At the same time we also learned of donations of R4 000 (Estate Late Robert Barras) and R5 000 (family gift from the late Margaret Dowle). The gift of giving continues to enable us to do the work of God in this place, for which we thank the Lord! The Endowment Fund is another way to continue doing that – Your Parish Council urges you not only to read the brochures but to store them somewhere safe even if you feel you have no use of them now, for you may wish to use them at a later date.

CHAPLAINS

Our December magazine carried information on 2 departing and 2 new chaplains to St Anne’s DSG and Hilton College, and their families. Due to space constraints, the following was omitted:

- The Revd Diane Pickford – who moved from Underberg to Hilton last year with her husband Andrew, completing his internship in Psychiatry, and their 4 school-going children. Diane was appointed Chaplain to St John’s DSG from August 2010. Although mostly involved in worship at the school esp. on Sunday nights together with families and boarders from St Charles, they remain “country members” of our parish and some of their children participate in our youth activities.

CORRECTION

Apologies to Erica Prince for our incorrect note in the Dec 2010 Magazine. Erica was appointed Head Girl at PMB Girls’ High School for 2011. Congratulations, Erica!