

# St. Michael and All Angels

## Anglican Church

*The Diocese of Saldanha Bay*



### Our Mission

*To honour God by proclaiming His Word in a spirit filled church, nurturing leadership, holistic growth, missions and care groups in a Discipling Environment*

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RECTOR: The Revd Canon David Mills

20<sup>th</sup> January 2017

**TO: ALL THE MEMBERS OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, EDGEMOOR**

### **A PASTORAL LETTER – EPIPHANY 2017**

Dear Friends,

Greetings in our Lord's Name. I do hope that you have returned from the Christmas and the New Year break, feeling refreshed, energised and ready for all that our Lord holds for us in 2017.

This forms one of several Pastoral Letters that I am planning to write to you as our parish family, in order to reflect on certain matters in our common life together, as well as share important information and planning that is being done in our parish.

### ***The Feast of the Epiphany of our Lord***

This is a wonderful Feast which can so easily be lost in importance, as it follows fairly soon after the joyous celebration Christmas and the beginning of the New Year. It marks the visitation of the three Wise men, or Magi as they were also called, who had followed the star to see the new King that had been born.

A commentator on the Matthew passage about the visitation of the three Kings or Magi as they were also called (Matthew 2:1-12), affirms that **Gold** is the sign of Kingship – Jesus is our King; **Frankincense** was burned by the Priests in the Jerusalem Temple – this reminds us that Jesus, as our High Priest, in the eternal order of Melchizedek, represents us to God and God to us; Myrrh is a perfume often used to prepare bodies for burial - this foreshadows Jesus' death and burial.

For me though the most powerful symbol of the Epiphany is light – the light of the star that drew the Magi to see and worship Jesus, who is the **Light of the world**. One of the great prophecies in Isaiah refers to the light that will shine upon the people who are walking in great darkness (Isaiah 9: 2-7).

*For us though light is important, as it helps us in the following ways:*

- It gives shape and perspective to that which is seen;
- It enables us to see both safety and danger;
- It, that is the Light of Christ, illumines out inmost being
- It guides us in our relationships with others, as we strive to live as, 'children of the light' (Ephesians 5:8-14)
- It helps us hold onto hope, even when we seem to be surrounded by darkness (Psalm 23: 4; Psalm 139: 11-12).

Take a moment to reflect on the above aspects of light in terms of your own life and experience – what makes sense to you?

May this year be a year of the **light of Christ**, for each one of us – may we, as a parish, walk in the light and see God's light in one another, no matter how different we may be, or how diverse our convictions might be. In this way, as 'a city set upon a hill', God will draw many into our fellowship and community and we will know this, as a special and wonderful blessing.

### ***Forthcoming Events and parish News***

#### **Ryan the Rhino – a special journey for our Sunday School:**

At the end of last year, on the occasion of our Sunday School Christmas Party, Amanda spoke about the exciting programme that our children will be part of for the first 10 weeks this year. As part of this a PowerPoint illustration was given of how the programme will work and what it is all about.

On the notice board you will see a full schedule of the dates and programme topics for our Sunday School, for the next 10 weeks – please have look at this. We ask our parents to please make every effort to ensure that you child does not miss any of the Sundays in this programme, as the topics build on one another.

#### **Special Vestry Meeting: Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017:**

As indicated in the formal notice, read last Sunday, we will be holding a Special Vestry Meeting, at the end of the 09h00 Communion service this coming Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup>. The reason for this is to inform the congregation about the condition of the roofs and gutters of our Church and Hall complex, which are urgently in need of repair and refurbishment. Chris Robson, who has been advising the parish Executive and PCC, will explain the project, including projected costs etc. fully at the meeting.

#### **Annual Parish Vestry Meeting, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2017:**

The nomination lists for Vestry will be on the notice board from this coming Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017. The reason for this is to give our parish family a good period of time in which to consider and pray about standing for a position of leadership in the life of our parish, as a Churchwarden or Parish Councillor. While traditionally the Parish Council at St Michael's has been small, there is no limit to how many people can serve on the

Council. As canonically required, formal notice will be given 1 week before the Vestry Meeting.

I have also put in some notes about the different ministry portfolios – if you would like to be associated with a particular ministry portfolio, there is a slot for you to indicate this, if you wish, next to your nomination. Please ensure that you have a proposer, seconder and sign your acceptance of nomination.

I am also hoping that we will have at least 2 youth representatives serving on the Parish Council.

Parish Quiet Day, Saturday 28h January 2017: Theme: Listening to God with, ‘the ear of the heart’:

This has been advertised in our Pew News – for those perhaps unfamiliar with a Quiet Day, a short note of explanation – the time is an opportunity for us to enter a time of silence – this means ***we do not talk to anyone*** during the period of the Quiet Day. In this instance it will be from: 14h00 to 17h00. There will be a short address at the beginning and end of the Quiet Day. Tea and coffee, on a self-service basis, will be available throughout the afternoon. This is a time to draw aside from the busyness and noise of the world and, in silence, listen to the Lord – a time to orientate ourselves to the opportunities and experiences that await for us, as 2017 unfolds.

Follow-up meeting for those interested in the Ministry of Healing:

We had a good meeting of a number of folk, who indicated interest in the ministry of healing last year. I am calling a follow-up meeting of all who may be interested in this ministry – this includes ***anyone who would like to attend***, not necessarily only those who attended the first meeting last year. Please meet with me as follows: **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January: 19h30 in the Youth Hall.**

Assistance with Flower arrangements at St Michael’s

We have, through the Pew News, been appealing for helpers to assist Ray Patience with the flower arrangements in our church – we have, to date, had no response. I am sure though that there must be people, both men and women who have this skill and interest and would be happy to come and give Ray a hand. If you have never done this before and are interested, please come forward – Ray will be more than willing to share her experience with you. While we will not have flowers in the church for the duration of Lent, from Easter Day (16<sup>th</sup> April) onwards, we will regularly have flowers in the sanctuary.

Lent 2017: Shrove Tuesday (28<sup>th</sup> February) and Ash Wednesday (1<sup>st</sup> March):

The parish programme of event for Lent, Holy Week and Easter is still being finalised. That said, time passes so quickly so to give you advance notice for Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday:

Shrove Tuesday: 28<sup>th</sup> February: 18h00 onwards: Pancake evening – we are sharing this event with our neighbours, Holy Trinity, Bothasig – this promises to be a tremendous evening of fun and fellowship – please diarise the date now.

Ash Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March: as in the past, there will be 2 Holy Communion services on this special day, at which ashing will be offered: 09h00 and 19h30. This is a very

important day in our Christian calendar, when we begin our Lenten journey, ultimately to the Cross and the open Tomb, as we once again will celebrate the glorious Resurrection of our Lord.

Baptisms:

Throughout the history of the Church it has been customary to have baptisms on Easter Sunday – for this reason we are appealing to those families, wishing to present children for baptism, to accommodate the request that we conduct the baptisms on this day. If you have as not yet made contact with our parish office in this respect, please do so as soon as possible.

Yours in Christ,  
Revd David Mills

***The Revd Canon David Mills***

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Our Vision

To be a Multi-Generational Church creating a culture of discipleship where all people can Believe, Belong and Become

◆ Relevant ◆ Effective ◆ Dynamic

Followers of Jesus Christ.