

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

Address: Letchworth Drive, Edgemean Cape Town, 7441

Phones: (021) 558-4139 or 558-8628, Fax (021) 558-0881,

E-mail: edgemeananglican@telkomsa.net Website: www.stmichaelsedgemean.org.za

RECTOR: The Revd Canon David Mills

TO THE PARISH FAMILY OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, EDGEMEAD
JULY 2018

Dear Friends,

As we look ahead to the rest of the year unfolding, which it seems to do so rapidly, the following news and reflections are shared with you.

In respect of my last letter to our parish family, talking about communication, I would value some feedback on these communications from our parish office – while the last letter was long I hope that it contained items of interest and value. This letter is also not short, for which I make no apology – I wish to particularly draw your attention to the invitation, set out below, to attend an **Open Forum, on Sunday 2nd September**, in which we will discuss the Motion on Human Sexuality to go before the Diocesan Synod, to be held in early October.

Please let us know how you feel about getting these letters of information and reflection.

Special Vestry Meeting: 5th August 2018, at the end of the 09h00 combined Eucharist

As David Baird has, for personal reasons, resigned as a Churchwarden, we need to hold a Special Vestry meeting to elect a second Warden (and, if the Vestry so wishes, an Alternate Warden). As is Canonically required, the Bishop has accepted his resignation.

The Nomination List, together with the normal notice calling for the Vestry meeting, are on the notice board at the back of the church. We also enclose a nomination form with the Pew News today, in case you wish to send in a nomination via email. Please can we have these nominations by Wednesday 1st August at the latest.

Please give this matter careful thought and prayer so that we can together discern our Lord's will in this matter. I wish to express our sincere appreciation to David, for his hard work and caring leadership as Churchwarden.

Parish 40th Anniversary Plans

You will all, I am sure, be aware that as we celebrate our Parish's 40th Anniversary this year – we have a planning team, which is working hard behind the scenes to put in place a number of events to mark this occasion. These include both fellowship events, such as the Karaoke evening (**3rd August at the Tafelberg School Clubhouse**) and Bingo Evening (**in our parish hall on 31st August**), as well as the formal Parish Dinner, taking place on **Saturday 29th September** and the Patronal Festival of St Michael and All Angels on **Sunday, 7th October, when the Bishop will be with us.**

Please save these dates, so as to be sure to join us to mark 40 years of ministry as the parish of Michael and All Angels in the communities of Edgemead, Bothasig, Monte Vista, to name but a few.

Although not scripted as part of these plans, the Revd Winston Dickerson, one of our former rectors, will be visiting St Michael's on Sunday 19th August – I have invited him to preside and preach at the 09h00 Eucharist service. He will also be promoting his book, entitled, "Water and the Living Waters" which will be on sale after the service. I will unfortunately be away on leave then - Revd Rod will represent me in welcoming Revd Winston - do make a plan to come and greet him on this occasion.

2018 Session of Diocesan Synod

Our next session of Diocesan Synod rapidly approaches – this will be held on 3rd to 6th October at the parish of Good Shepherd, Kensington. This year the Bishop has called for Youth Representatives to also be elected to join us for the Synod – to this end a Special Vestry meeting elected Toni Adams and Chelsea Ziegler to represent our parish. The other representatives are Donald Sparks and June Lane. Please keep these representatives in your prayers, as preparations continue to be made for this important milestone in the wider life of the Diocese.

Parish Open Forum - Sunday 2nd September - discussion of the Motion on Human Sexuality to go before Synod

This year a Motion on Human Sexuality will be presented to the Synod for debate and possible adoption. This is a complex, sensitive and very important matter, which is the subject of ongoing reflections and discussion throughout the Anglican Church of Southern Africa (ACSA). The Archbishop has appointed an *Archbishop's Commission on Human Sexuality* which is chaired by Bishop Raphael and has been tasked to hold consultations on this matter with all the Dioceses throughout ACSA, in preparing for the Provincial Synod which takes place next year.

The Bishop has asked that all parishes create an opportunity for parishioners to meet and discuss this very important matter – this will especially give our parish clergy and Synod representatives an opportunity to gain insight into the diverse views held by members of our parish family.

*I am therefore calling as many of our parishioners as possible to meet for this **Parish Open Forum on Sunday 2nd September** – we will have a shorter Eucharist, immediately after which we will move into the Forum. Furthermore, I ask us to pray about this matter and especially for our Synod representatives, so that we can be open to hear one another clearly and respect one another's views.*

What follows is an appropriate text, into which I ask us to delve deeply and from which to gain inspiration in praying for grace to hear God's voice speaking through one another at the Parish Open Forum.

***"I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all."* (Eph. 4: 1-6 NRSV)**

¹⁴ *We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming.* ¹⁵ *But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,* ¹⁶ *from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."* (Eph. 4: 14-16. NRSV)

The context of Eph. 4, vs. 14-16 is given in the first quote above, viz. Eph.4 vs. 1-6, that is the Apostle calling for unity in the Ephesian Church – it is this unity, which comes through ‘speaking the truth in (a spirit of) love’, in order that the church ‘the body’ builds itself up in love.

Unequivocally, this is my fervent hope and objective in calling for the Parish Open Forum – while we differ strongly and must indeed agree to differ, that we are called to be those who are, *“...with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”* (Eph. 4:2-3). In this process it is essential that we ensure that there is room for every voice to be heard – and that, no matter how strongly we may personally differ from the convictions thus expressed, judgement and dismissal of other’s views is unacceptable.

The *modus operandi* of the Forum will be as follows: A short presentation given by the rector, division into small groups for discussion, after which we gather in plenary for report back and any further conversations.

If any member of our parish family wishes to meet with me or any of the other clergy of our parish, to talk about Human Sexuality in preparing for the Parish Open Forum, please do not hesitate to be in touch with us.

God bless you all,
Fr David

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.