

Rectors Report: St Michael & All Angels Anglican Church

Year Ended 31 January 2013

Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me. [John 12:26](#)

Dear People of God

Our service to each other is as we are serving Christ indeed. There is honour to be granted to those who serve God faithfully.

I wish to thank all of you for your warm embrace and kind heartedness to which you have welcomed me and my family. I am ever thankful for your acts of kindness you shower on us as we grow to know you and walk with you on this road of recovery, healing, restoration and revival. You have come a long way, but you have stayed faithful to God in all your endeavours for our Lord Jesus Christ. For this I say thank you and pray God's abundant blessing on our future here.

Allow me to report on my work as your Priest under different headings:

Worship

With my arrival I found that there was hard work to be done in this area of ministry. I met with former members and new members and we prayed about this very important ministry.

Worship is ultimately for God, He is the Creator. It is ultimately for God's benefit and bringing honour to God's name. Worship is ultimately relational and it is both for giving and receiving that we do worship but it must not lose sight of the objective of worship which is the edification and the thanksgiving of God.

Thus we tried to develop a workbook/policy to help us too discern only what is best for the glorification of God but to also bring us under authority of God's plan for all of us at St Michael's. It seeks to help the ministry grow and develop and evaluate and focus its objectives on our Lord Jesus Christ.

As St Paul says: Ephesians 4:11-12 *It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers. To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.* Not all of us share the same gifts and so it helps in regulating and looking to develop and grow in God's ministry.

This ministry is still a work in progress and we beg your patience. To all those who serve in any capacity in this ministry to help our worship I thank you. We have also added to our number 1 new lay minister in training and are seeking to bring young people and children into this very important work.

We have introduced the Family service and have just introduced an earlier service.

Ministry

I have met with all the ministries in the parish and have highlighted and guided some to work hard at growth and more structured organisational life.

I am happy to report that our ministries are doing well. We have placed much emphasis on the Training of our children and have introduced them to Syllabi called "Living stones" which are now taught by the able and capable teachers corresponding to our readings and lessons during our normal Sunday service.

Ministries face many challenges and we will zoom in on these this coming year to help them in their very important work of bringing the Gospel to those they serve.

Education

We have embarked on our Discipleship course...to teach and train... to equip the saints for the work of God. This is exciting and a valuable tool for our future growth as a congregation to serve the world better.

Evangelism

With the ministry of Roadside within our walls we were able to reach out to those who are in need of the Word of God. They do a tremendous work in trying to feed both physically and spiritually and I thank them for this. As a congregation I hope that we will take up the course more and more to help evangelise the world to know Christ better.

Unity

We have strengthened the bonds with our Diocese but also ecumenically through our partnership and membership of the Tygerberg Fellowship of Ministers. This body helps ministers to grow together despite their Doctrinal and Theological disagreement and works on the basis of us all serving the one true God.

There is still much that can be done.....

Development

At the beginning of August we started a process of strategic planning. The Old Testament and New Testament are filled with examples of leaders who established strategic plans and carried them through. We can point to Jesus Christ as a great example of one who had a strategy. He began by recruiting His leadership, developing them, then sending them "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). His strategy included some public teaching and miracle working. Ultimately, His strategy took Him all the way to the cross, the grave, and the resurrection. Jesus Christ knew the plan to provide redemption for all of mankind long before leaving heaven to carry it through.

We have had numerous sessions of discernment to what God is saying through his spirit and this has culminated in our New Vision & Mission statements and accepting the objectives set before us to achieve all these things for God.

This is hard work and I pray that you will keep this very important work soaked in prayer: I remind you of that Vision, Mission & Objectives:

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.

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

Discipleship

To research, adapt and develop materials and courses to nurture, a discipleship culture. – In Progress

Leadership

To identify potential, and raise up Godly leaders, to grow and serve the church. – In Progress

Family

To create an environment that encourages all families to come to church. – In Progress

Youth & Children

To appoint a youth pastor/children's worker to provide Christian education focusing on, integration, sense of belonging and accountability within the church. –In Progress

Finances

To steward the finances, apportioning the necessary funds for the Diocese, sustainable growth and our mission – Continues

Communication

To create multi-generational communication utilizing different forms of media where a re-designed brand platforms our strategic focus. – **In Hibernation**

Facilities

To develop a sustainable plan for the optimal use of our facilities to encompass the life of the church. –**In Progress**

Mission

To instil a missions mindset aligning ourselves to God's vision, locally and abroad. – **In Hibernation**

Monitoring & Evaluation

To Develop and effective evaluation and assessment tools resulting in efficient structures, systems and procedures across the board. – **In developing stages**

I thank all those who so generously give of their time to focus their attention to this very important work. We have also embarked on a membership analysis which was incorporated into this very strategic plan to speak to the needs of the parishioners. We are hopeful God will reveal more as this process unfolds.

Social Responsibility

This is a huge area in our daily parish life...from tithing some of our income to charities to knitting scarf's for school children, food parcels, and clothing and financial gifts for those struggling to make ends meet. The list is big and you are very generous in your care for others.

We hope this year to streamline our giving so that we are able to know if our efforts are making a change in the lives of the very people we help. We want to partner with other organisations that would be able to help us achieve even more.

Ordinands

We are privilege to have Allan Marshall & Andrew Weiss with us as ordinands. It is our hope to give them a comprehensive experience of what ministry is all about and form them to be good leaders for the church. Please give them your support.

Statistics

Area	2013	2012	Total
Average Nr attending Sunday service	145	127	18
Number Baptised	5	9	-4
Number Confirmed	14	4	10
Number received into the Church	49 (22 Families)	37(28 Families)	12
Number persons who left the church	3	6	-3
Number Marriages	0	0	0
Number Funerals/Cremations	6	3	3
Number Sundayschool	22	15	7
Number Teachers	15	7	8
Number Youth	Launch 21st	No Formal	-

Conclusion

A big thank you to the Wardens & Church Council especially, Marchell Anthony our treasurer for splendid work done in managing the household of God to the best of your abilities. This report on the pastoral work and the many facets of our ministry and life together.

May God strengthen you all for the year ahead?

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Yours in Christ Service

Fr Jerome Prins AHC

Rector

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany