

## **Rectors Report: St Michael & All Angels Anglican Church**

**Year Ended 31 December 2014**

*"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11*

### **Dear People of God**

I wish to thank all of you for your faithfulness and particular those of you who exercise an active ministry within the church of God. With the globalisation of the world, religions are growing more and more estranged to each other's views and religious fundamentalism is at the order of the day.

The year 2014 was a particular challenging year for our ministry to God's people with lack of resources and the higher demand for more of our resources. By God's grace nothing has befallen us and we can just boast in the hope that God has only good in his store rooms for us. I am today particularly thankful for your random acts of kindness you showered on my family and wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for this.

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

#### **Worship**

This ministry is an ongoing work of prayer. It has been particularly difficult and sometimes frustrating to witness this ministry strangely not being able to come to its full potential. History dictates but God rules. We need continuation and commitment. Hearts open and willing to see themselves and God. People reaching unexpected heights in His presence. Worship is ultimately for God, He is the Creator. It is ultimately for God's benefit and bringing honour to God's name. Thus the objective of worship which is the edification and the thanksgiving of God must be our ultimate and only goal.

I am thankful for all those who served in any capacity in this ministry. We have added 2 new lay ministers to our number and have lost one because of health. We are seeking to bring young people and children into this very important work and bringing them closer into the sacred and tender service of being a servant.

#### **Ministry**

I have met with the ministries in the parish and have highlighted and guided some too work hard at growth and more structured organisational life. This year the Revd Andrew Weiss will oversee the work done in the Women, Men, Evergreens, Roadside, Youth and Children's ministry to better be able to help guide and steer. I am so thankful for all those who so willingly undertake the work of these ministries and particularly thankful to Cheryl Jacobs who now is laying down the baton and awaits someone new to take the Women's ministry forward.

Ministries face many challenges but they help in the important work of bringing the Gospel to those they serve.

#### **Education**

We ran the Discipleship course, Beyond ourselves to equip the saints for the work of God. This was an exciting and a valuable tool for our future growth as a congregation to serve the world better. We have evaluated the impact and have identified that different groups need different tools as their level of spiritual maturity differ. We are hopeful with the Revd Allan Marshall who now will look after the Cell Groups and Brian Jensen that we will empower the cell groups and draw more of our members into these pockets of spiritual lifelong learning.

Cell Groups are important for all as we all need time spend with God for refreshment and new insight to old believes. I encourage all to see if one of the cells is accommodative and if not to start one with its own particular style and character.

### Evangelism

Within our walls we were able to reach out to those who are in need of the Word of God. We can do more as we have seen that two Sundays were dedicated to take the Word to the streets and to learn that God is also found in the most unexpected places. Evangelisation is what the world, our country and our communities need and it is imperative and expected of everyone who has been signed with the cross to bring hope. We are going to work hard in setting up a mission team this year to start with the work in the vineyard.

### Unity

We strengthened ecumenically through our partnership and membership of the Tygerberg Fellowship as well as within our Diocese as we seek after God's will for all God's children. Paul says to the Philippians: *"So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."* **Philippians 2:1-3**

We all need to seek after this no matter our differences or disagreement on whatever the issue may be. This strengthens the body so that we can truly be one in Christ Jesus.

### Development

Our strategic planning is taking shape but with the challenge of limited resources, many ministerial necessities must first take the back burner. The plan is still alive and patiently waiting on your support, encouragement and energetic efforts to steer it forward even if it is just one step at a time. We have had numerous sessions of discernment and meetings to what God is saying and we will rather wait patiently then hastily 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 call your attention to our Vision, Mission & Objectives. Read it, Study it and Pray for it.

### Social Responsibility

We have had immense responses from you to help those in need. This is the work of the children of God. Thank you for all your contributions. June Johansen and team providing food and support to the Old age home in Kensington monthly. Linda Sparks and all the knitters who so diligently knitted Beanies for the Mowbray Maternity Hospital. Our Youth Groups efforts in providing toiletries and offering pampering for the aged. Nick Curry and his team for making monthly contributions to the Elim Night Shelter as well as the Men's Ministry and all those who provide for hot soup and buttered bread for the Road Side team. All of you for your generous gifts of school shoes and socks. We have provided 34 pairs of shoes and 46 pairs of socks.

### New Deacons (soon to be ordained Priests)

We were privilege to have witnessed the ordination of both Allan Marshall & Andrew Weiss. A moving ceremony that was attended by many. As the grapevine will have it they will be ordained to the order of priests in June at the church of St John the Evangelist, Bellville South. Date and time to be confirmed. Please give them your support.

### Statistics

Area	2014	2013	2012
Average Nr attending Sunday service	141	145	127
Number Baptised	8	5	9
Number Confirmed	0	14	4
Number received into the Church	46(21 Families)	49 (22 Families)	37(28 Families)
Number persons who left the church	3	3	6
Number Marriages	0	0	0
Number Funerals/Cremations	1	6	3
Number Sundayschool	40	22	15
Number Teachers	11	15	7
Number Youth	18	Launch 21 <sup>st</sup>	No Formal

### **Conclusion**

A special thanks to the Church Wardens & Council especially, Bradley our treasurer for splendid work done in managing the household of God to the best of your abilities and for being an extra consulter for the Diocese in terms of finances. To Sean Cuff thanks for all your hard work for the Lord. You have fought a good fight for our Lord we thank you for your immense contribution as you finish your term as a churchwarden. To Delecia who has been our parish secretary for the past 10 years, happy anniversary and hopeful for many years of excellent service from you for us and for God. To June Lane for her immense sacrifice and hard work and Barbie our Secretarial Assistant, thank you, thank you, thank you.

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?

**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](#)**

Yours in Christ Service

**Fr Jerome Prins AHC**

**Rector**

*Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany*