

**St Michael & All Angels, Anglican Church**  
**WARDEN'S REPORT 2013**

We have started 2013 in much the same way as 2012 finished. We did not have a Rector and we were still being counselled and guided by Father Rod Walsh. We thank Father Rod and his wife Jenny for the invaluable time that they spent in our parish nurturing and preparing us for the arrival of our new Rector.

St. Michael's made the history books again by being the first parish in the Diocese to have a Rector appointed under the new system.

With the Rectory ready awaiting their arrival, Fr. Jerome and Fiona moved in late in January, what with Fiona being in the final stages of her pregnancy and the need to provide accommodation for their replacements in Clanwilliam.

So, we had a Rector who for the time being was not "ours" living in our Rectory. This did not prevent him from working behind the scenes to increase the Parish Role and Ava was welcomed into the world on 25th February.

April saw us bid farewell to Rod and Jenny and on Wednesday April 10<sup>th</sup> we officially welcomed Fr. Jerome, Fiona and Ava into our family at an Induction service conducted by the Bishop.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> the family was introduced to the greater congregation with an opportunity to "meet and greet" after the service.

Financially it has been a tough year. We appealed our assessment and did not get the relief that we had expected. In spite of this we were able to continue existing ministries thanks to your generosity. Being very aware that we had to carefully watch our expenses meant that we were unable to expand our ministry portfolios. The Finance Report will provide greater detail. A decision was taken in 2012 to erect a palisade fence around the Garden of Remembrance thus enhancing the security of our church and the security of anybody that was using the hall. This is now done.

Appeals through the year were well supported and we again thank everybody who donated towards stocking the Rectory cupboards, the Bishop's Lenten appeal, The Harvest Festival, the Roadside Ministries Christmas Appeal and the Barnabas Basket.

It has been refreshing to look at the life of the parish through fresh young eyes. With Father Jerome, the Parish Church Council and the various leaders we have had a close look at what we as a parish have been doing, where we are going etc. This has meant a total review of our teaching, training, vision and mission. We thank the many people who have given of their free time to form our Strategic Planning Committee. This committee was mandated by the P.C.C. to focus on the needs of people. They would be responsible to, budget and form a plan of action to be implemented year by year (phase by phase) for St Michael and its ministries. The Wardens, Treasurer and some PCC were to also form part of this committee. They were to reconsider our Vision and Mission Statements and prepare a 5 year plan. A new Vision and Mission statement were birthed.

The Strategic Planners have identified the following key areas

**Discipleship, Leadership, Family, Youth & Children, Finances, Communication, Facilities  
Mission, Monitoring & Evaluation**

All the proposed plans are tested to see if they fit in with our Vision and Mission  
Each ministry was asked to come forward with a budget proposal and plan of events for 2014 to be incorporated in the Parish Budget and calendar.

New Courses were identified and will be implemented during 2014. The first one "Discipleship" started this week. Another is pre-Confirmation. Others will follow.

All of these are seen to be moving us along a perpetual 5 year plan i.e. is each year is revised for the next 5 years. Where are we now? And What more do we need to get there?  
The new data base enabled the administration of the Parish Roll / Telephone Directory to be cleaned up. This has allowed in-depth analysis of our members. e.g. Ages, where do they come from ? ( Summergreens, Bothasig etc. ) Families and so on. This information can be used by the Strategic Planners to help identify the needs of the people.

Change inevitably see people come and go. In the beginning of the year we have seen some long standing members of this church move on and we thank them for their contribution to St Michaels and wish them well on their spiritual journey.

At the same time we welcome those that have joined us. Our Newcomers Tea was well attended and it is pleasing to see the number of young families joining our parish. This was clearly evident at the recent Family Service when the Sunday Schoolkids were all up front. May God bless our Sunday School teachers as they share the Gospel with our children. Continuing with the growing strength of our youth was Confirmation Sunday that saw 12 young people and 2 adults confirmed by Bishop Quinlan on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December.

A plant inspection conducted on behalf of the Diocese showed our buildings etc to be generally in a good condition, but highlighted a number of maintenance issues that will be tackled during the new year.

An Archdeaconry inspection advises that our books are in good order.

In conclusion, we have deliberately avoided thanking individuals for fear of offending somebody by leaving them out. To all of those who have committed and worked in their ministries during 2013 irrespective of whether it is serving on Council or serving tea, to those who are standing down and to those who remain we thank you for your unselfish input. St Michael's is what it is because God has blessed us with your hard work. May God bless you and keep you as the church moves forward. To those who have made themselves available on Council or in ministry, pray and trust in God to show you what He wants for St Michaels.

On a personal note, Maurice and I are standing down, and we would like to thank everybody that we have worked alongside, those who have guided and those who have corrected. Thank you. A special thank you to our "backroom girls" : Delecia, Barbie and June for all your hard work in the office.

Yours in Christ Service

**Mr's David Baird, Sean Cuff & Maurice Heyne**