

NEW PLEDGE NUMBERS

By now the majority of our parishioners have been allocated with new pledge numbers and are using them - when pledging. There are however quite a number of parishioners who are still using their old pledge numbers. We encourage all to please convert to the new number system.

CHILDREN who over the age of 18 years should have their own pledge number. IF children are married and still living with their parents they SHOULD have their own pledge number. Parents should also encourage children to pledge at the young age.

PLEASE complete a REGISTRATION form to get your new pledge number as our new PLEDGE DATABASE system is fully operational.

USAGE OF ALCOHOL ON CHURCH PREMISES

A directive from the last Provincial Synod of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa states that Parishes should be very circumspect with regards the usage of alcohol on its premises. When alcohol is not used responsibly, it can cause all sorts of social problems and as a caring church we must guard against this. Parish Council on 30 November resolved that with immediate effect to ban the usage of alcohol on Parish properties. This means that all future functions in the Parish Hall as well as future Parish Bazaars will be alcohol free. Functions where alcohol is to be consumed should be held offsite - at another venue.

PARISH PLANNING WORKSHOP

A very successful planning workshop was held on 28 November with 60 representatives from Organisations, Areas and Ministries participating. The workshop was held in a very good spirit and was very interactive. Although we were not able to complete the amendment of the Strategic plan due to time constraints, were able to do a full review of the plan. The next step is to take all of the points raised and combine them with the Vision and Mission of the Parish and amend the Strategic Plan accordingly. It was agreed that with the amendment, we should move our focus from 2020 to 2025. A follow-up meeting will be held early in the New Year to complete the Plan.

OFFICE CLOSURE AND ANNUAL LEAVE

The Parish Office will close on 21 December 2017 and reopen on 15 January 2018. Thus the Administrator will be on leave for that period.

Clergy Leave: Revd. D. Jackson from 26 -31 December 2017
Revd. D. Apples from 01 - 14 January 2018
Revd. D. Jackson from 15 - 21 January 2018



**December
2017**

Christmas message from your Rector

As we gather to celebrate Christmas, another year has passed with many events, public and private, touching our lives in different ways. No doubt this year has brought joys and sadness in different measures to each person, all colouring our memories of 2017.

Traditionally, we see Christmas as a time of peace and joy, a time to celebrate with family, with friends and loved ones. We do hope that your Christmas will have something of that peace, joy and celebration. Such joyful celebrations may not be possible for some. You may have lost a loved one since last Christmas, or you may be overburdened by money worries, family problems or for many other reasons. If you are, we want to assure you that, as a parish community, we do care and offer you our support.

At Christ the Mediator together with Christ the Good Shepherd, we have seen some exciting changes occur as we near the ending of the year. We have a new Clergy Team, who will enable and encourage us to offer our gifts to the glory of God. Our website and facebook page are up to date, that will show the world what a dynamic place the Parish of Christ the Mediator is. We have also introduced a new logo and pray that all may find this parish as warm, caring. But stay tuned – we have more exciting things coming your way as we strive to allow you to grow through prayer and obedience to God's call.

Many people have been involved in bringing about these initiatives. We give thanks for the many parishioners who have given generously of their time and talents in making this parish such an energetic, faith-filled community. Maybe the Christmas message this year is a challenge for all of us to become more involved. It is not so much a question of giving more; it is a question of giving more of ourselves. After all, that's what God was doing when he got involved with us and our world at the first Christmas. Christmas belongs to believers, to those who believe that Jesus Christ, Son of God, was born of the Virgin Mary to reconcile us to one another and to the Father. This is why he came. God will fill us with his peace if there is room in our lives for him.

Thank you for helping us along the journey. May you be blessed with peace and joy at Christmas and in the New Year.

**Fr. Dean F. Apples
Rector**





Diarize these dates for 2018

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| 14 February | Ash Wednesday |
| 11 March | Vestry |
| 30 March | Good Friday |
| 01 April | Easter |
| 05 May | Food Fair |
| 20 May | Pentecost |
| 01 Sept | Confirmation |
| 02 Sept | Gospel Afternoon |
| 30 Sept | Dance Extravaganza |
| 06 Oct | Parish Bazaar |
| 25 Nov | Thanksgiving Service |



A 2018 Parish Calendar will soon be available.

The Wardens and Councilors would like to thank all parishioners for your loyal support during 2017 and we want to take this opportunity of wishing you and your families a very blessed and holy Christmas.

A Christmas Prayer for us.

"Dear Lord, don't let us miss You this Christmas season. Help us to simplify our activities and traditions so we can focus our celebration on Your birth. Thank you for being the Prince of Peace, and we ask You for that supernatural peace to reign in our hearts. Thank You for the simple but life-changing message of Your love for us. In Jesus' Name, Amen"

SERVICES DURING DECEMBER 2017 AND JANUARY 2018

Wednesday	20 December 2017	19h30	Nine Lessons and Carols - Portland
Sunday	24 December 2017	08h00	Christ the Mediator
		08h00	Christ the Good Shepherd
		22h30	Christ the Mediator
Christmas Day	25 December 2017	08h00	Christ the Mediator
		08h00	Christ the Good Shepherd
Sunday	31 December 2017	08h00	Christ the Mediator
		08h00	Christ the Good Shepherd
Sunday	07 January 2017	08h00	Christ the Mediator
		08h00	Christ the Good Shepherd
Sunday	14 January 2017	08h00	Christ the Mediator
		08h00	Christ the Good Shepherd
Sunday	21 January 2017	08h00	Christ the Mediator
			Back to School Sunday. No service at Christ the Good Shepherd
Sunday	28 January 2017	07h30	Eucharist Christ the Mediator
		09h30	Eucharist Christ the Mediator
		09h30	Eucharist Christ the Good Shepherd

Please note the new starting time of Sunday services at Christ the Good Shepherd

A week of prayer hosted by Organizations will be held from Monday 22 January to Saturday 27 January 2018. Please see the schedule below.

WEEK OF PRAYER		
Starting times: 19h30		Venue: Christ The Mediator
DATE	DAY	HOST
22/01/2018	MONDAY	CMS
23/01/2018	TUESDAY	LAYMINISTERS
24/01/2018	WEDNESDAY	AWF & MU
25/01/2018	THURSDAY	CHOIR
26/01/2018	FRIDAY	CHRIST. EDUCATION
27/01/2018	SATURDAY	CL & GB

