

**Annual Vestry Report**  
**Dean of Christ Church Cathedral**  
**Easter, 2013**

I greet you all in the wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Before we begin, I ask that we bow our heads in silent prayer as we remember all those who have gone to be with their Lord since our last Annual Vestry; and particularly today we remember Nozipho Kwenaita.

**Mandate from God**

We have no higher calling than to worship and serve the Lord our God and our neighbour. This is the calling upon us all, and one which Nozipho embraced with both hands.

In my report to you today I wish to emphasize the importance of our continually seeking to achieve the will of God for this church. This is an on-going and dynamic process, and the role of every member of Christ Church and especially our leadership should be focused on this goal. For your information I will highlight a sample of the ministry areas we are currently implementing.

**Hebrews 12:1–2, 14**

**12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. <sup>2</sup> Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>14</sup> Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

**Deliberation of Council**

This exhortation by the writer to the Hebrews is the duty of every Christian and of every church. As a Cathedral we take seriously this God given duty to serve him and our neighbour. The question we need to ask of ourselves is this; how best can we achieve this?

This question has been a regular point for discussion within our executive and council meetings. Accordingly, council met to strategize and plan to answer this question; which plan was presented to the council at a church service in August of last year.

**Ministries**

This year our newly elected council will continue this process and implement the prioritised decisions taken, whilst simultaneously seeking fresh instruction from God. Inter alia, we will;

1. Develop a data base of all parishioners and their allocation into clusters and small groups – the primary purpose behind this would be to grow the involvement and discipleship of all our members. This would also include the re-introduction of ALHPA and Rooted in Jesus. As you are aware we will be offering our second ALHPA course in April of this year. We are also encouraging people to attend the Rooted in Jesus training course to be run later this year.
2. Develop a thriving and active youth group and youth culture. This has begun and Revd Kwena and his leadership are busy making this a reality. For complete success we as a cathedral must seriously look to employing a full-time Youth and Children's Worker.

3. Continue outreach to orphans and vulnerable children and to the hungry. We are looking to offer the soup kitchen as a daily event. Who will be the champion of this?
4. Improve and consolidate the various worship and teaching services held at the cathedral. We are working hard to make the Wednesday evening service a strong teaching event. We are hosting an annual Lent Teaching series with the Bishop as the teacher. We are improving the delivery of the Sunday services with the introduction of professional projection software and the training of our various service leaders. We are looking to the audio and eventually video recording of the sermons. We are hosting Jews for Jesus as they present a teaching on the Passover and Jesus on the Wednesday before Easter.
5. I would like to see the cathedral obtain and maintain its own website. Allied to this would be the improvement of communication within all church members using cell phone application technology. This cell phone app is currently being developed and with your permission we will be the first church in the whole of South Africa (and the world) to test it. This will be made available to us free of charge.
6. Church planting is a huge responsibility, one which is close to both my and the Bishop's heart. I am constantly seeking opportunity to establish a home group in the outlying suburbs with the potential to grow into being its own church. Could this be you?
7. The establishment of prayer ministry, both in intercession and healing is another priority. We have established a prayer ministry team which prays for needs and healing at every service. I would like to facilitate the intercession team into praying weekly and specifically for our ministries in the church.
8. I am also developing strategic partnerships with other churches in Polokwane. Through this we could develop shared ministry and maximise our involvement in the community.

These eight items are not the entire list of activities currently before us. Neither are these activities closed to further suggestion and offers of assistance.

### Body of Believers

Every church is by definition a body of believers each committed to seeking to serve according to their God-given gifts and specific calling by God at any one time. The role of the clergy and councillors should be to assist and encourage and facilitate ministry – not to dominate and control the ministry. Is God calling any of you into a ministry passion for the extension of his Kingdom in Christ Church Cathedral? If you feel you are being called please speak to me so that I can assist you.

### Diocesan Work

My Diocesan work grows and I am often involved in ministry matters with Bishop Martin as he seeks to grow the Diocese and implement decisions and strategic plans arising from Synod and Diocesan Boards.

### In Conclusion

It remains only for me to express my appreciation for the hard work done by so many in the running of this cathedral. Without your involvement and commitment we would not have achieved much at all. This note of appreciation includes all who perform a ministry, but is especially focused on our Sub-Dean, Curate, and church staff.

In particular, I express my gratitude to my wife and partner in ministry, Jenny. Without whose support and encouragement I would not achieve half of what I do. Thank you.

Lastly, I remain excited and committed to the ministry potential that lies before us. I believe we have an incredible future of service and support to our community. This potential can only be fully realised if we all work together as a team, and if we hold ourselves and our elected leaders accountable, and support one another.

Thank you for allowing me to be your Dean and for your support.

May God bless and guide us all.

Luke Pretorius  
Dean, Christ Church Cathedral