



**Christ Church Cathedral
Polokwane**

Annual Vestry Meeting

28 February 2016

Agenda

and

Dean's Report

Agenda

Annual Vestry Meeting - Christ Church Cathedral

28th February, 2016, after the Combined 08h00 Eucharist Service

1. **Welcome & Opening Prayer**
2. **Appointment of Minute Secretary**
3. **Roll & Apologies**
4. **Acceptance of the Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on
22nd February 2015**
5. **Voting for Office Bearers**
6. **Matters Arising**
7. **Presentation of Reports**
 - 7.1 Dean's Report (*presented at preceding Eucharist Service*)
 - 7.2 Treasurer – Financial Statements for 2015
8. **Election of Office Bearers** (*voting conducted at beginning of
the Vestry*)
 - 8.1 Wardens (*2 plus 1 Alternate*)
 - 8.2 Councillors (*maximum 8. At least one licensed lay minister*)
 - 8.3 Synod, DSC, Elective Assembly and Archdeaonry Council
(*2 laity plus 1 lay alternate*)
9. **Appointment of Auditor for 2016 - DZB**
10. **Vote of Thanks to Outgoing Council and Prayer for New
Council**
11. **Date of next Meeting** – Exco 08th March, Council 15th March
12. **Close of Vestry**

Annual Vestry Report

2016

Dean of Christ Church Cathedral

I extend a warm welcome to you all at this Annual Vestry Meeting for Christ Church Cathedral for 2016.

We stand once more at the threshold of a New Year. There is much ministry to be done and which still lies ahead of us. There is also that ministry already completed, upon which we must reflect, and permit this reflection to guide us forward.

With your permission I share the achievements of the past year.

Achievements for 2015 and a Vision for 2016

Numerical Growth

The Cathedral congregation continues to show a steady net growth. There are not many weeks in the year where we do not process new membership forms. This is encouraging and surely indicates that we are doing something right and are welcoming as a congregation to those who wish to join us. I welcome all those who have joined us since we last met as Vestry in February of last year.

Discipleship

A key aspect of this growth in membership is that we must disciple all new members into a full and inclusive membership that entails regular attendance and participation in the life of the Cathedral. This is an area which I believe still requires growth and prayerful consideration. Council are aware of this and we are always mindful of what more we can do.

I would suggest that this requirement is true not only of our new members but must also be true for our older members. We must all lead

by example and show our commitment by being regular and faithful attendees of the Sunday services and sundry weekday activities.

Financial Growth

Another area of growth is that of the Cathedral Pledge ministry. This is the predominant means through which we receive our income and meet our budget and ministry requirements.

I am happy to announce that the Cathedral Pledge ministry is growing, albeit slowly. The extra income generated has already permitted us to employ a full-time Youth Worker from 2015 and for this current year a full-time Children's Worker.

Ministry to Young People

The ministry we provide for our young people must never be underestimated. We are laying a foundation and sowing into the lives of our young people. The fruits of this ministry may only be reaped in the years to come, but reap we will; not only in this Cathedral but in our Diocese and in the Country. Thank you for your support and encouragement in making this important ministry possible.

May I use this opportunity to welcome Ms Tebogo Monyai as the newest member of our staff and whose ministry is that of caring for our very young members. We have a gifted leader in Tebogo and I am excited at the ministry opportunities that lie ahead of us.

Maintenance

This past year saw much maintenance done. The long-overdue painting of the Church and Office Blocks, new Kitchen Cupboards and wall tiles, the revamping of the Cry-Room and two large street notice boards provide five very noticeable examples. Plumbing repairs at both the Rectory and the Deanery have solved ongoing problems which were a constant drain on our finances and which now successfully repaired ensure we will not need to spend money on them for years to come.

Teaching and Training

We have continued to offer in-depth teaching on a Wednesday evening at the Teaching Service and offer quarterly training for the various ministries of the church, such as Sacristans, Readers, Sidespeople, etc. This ministry of Discipleship ensures our lay-leaders are competent and confident in the duties they perform.

We also invited Jews for Jesus and The Gideons to present teaching. As always there was a good turn-out and we all grew in our knowledge in these areas.

One example of how this discipleship ministry has grown and is impacting the wider Diocese is that of providing training to the newly ordained on how to ministry at the Lord's Table. Moruti Alfred Maletle discerned this need and has met it by offering regular training opportunities to any in the Diocese. He has already helped a number of clergy and will continue to help others. I salute Alfred for this ministry.

Volunteers

There are many volunteers, some anonymous, who offer of themselves to fix and donate items for the Cathedral. To these heroes I offer my profound gratitude. Your service may not be visible to the church at large, but God in Heaven sees what you do and rewards you accordingly.

Soup Kitchen

During the year we reduced the number of weekday soup kitchen meals we offer from four to two. The reason being a number of new soup kitchens opened and which supplied the needs of those coming to our kitchen.

Worship and Worship Requirements

Our Sunday Services are an important and visible aspect of our public ministry. We have recently completed three years of Lay Minister training and licensed a number of new Layministers. Because of the

growth in the 07h30 service we now have three chalices serving the communion rail.

We are also exploring the acquisition of a projector and screen for the back of the church to facilitate the worship team and preachers when using digital media.

The Cathedral continues to offer special services during Lent and Advent. The numbers attending are good and growing. This includes the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Evening which meets the need of fellowship. Thank you to Piera and Sheena who oversee this event every year.

Our annual HIV/Aids Day service is growing and I believe meets a real need in education and empowerment on issues of health. Thank you to Kedibone Kgomogadieo and Dr. Tlou Makweya who run this service, your input is greatly appreciated.

Energy Efficiency

We are still exploring and raising funds for improving our energy efficiency in the use of electricity and water. Unfortunately the exorbitant costs associated with this makes it impossible to replace equipment before it breaks. Therefore, as and when necessary we slowly improve. However, one area that will require a capital outlay is that of water tanks. It seems right that we collect rain water for use in the garden and thus reduce the costs of using expensive municipal water. I would like to install tanks here at church as well as at the Rectory and Deanery.

Home Groups and Wards

We are still developing these. It is a slow process and is reliant on volunteers to run them. Although we are making only nominal progress this remains a priority.

Additional Services and Fresh Expressions of Church

This is another area of potential growth and is a constant item in discussion between Moruti Philip and myself. Very little has been achieved thus far, but we continue to monitor and explore opportunities.

Fund Raising

Council have authorised a number of different fundraising methods. The largest being that of the annual Golf Day and Puno. Others include the special collection on the last Sunday of the month and a Market held on Heritage Day.

These endeavours all require an inordinate amount of hard work and I wish to thank the organisers of each for the time and effort and sacrifice they put into it. The funds so raised help tremendously in meeting extra-ordinary costs of the church, especially that of maintenance.

A decision by Council sees ten percent of all fund-raising being paid back to our borrowing from own funds when we purchased the Deanery.

Security

During the past year we experienced a significant rise in theft from out of vehicles belonging to parishioners and those attending meetings. To solve this Council took the decision to employ a security firm to supply guards at every service and to offer this for the different meetings being held on the venue. Since this decision was made there have been no further incidents of robbery. However, this decision has come at a cost and we appeal for special donations to off-set the extra budget item incurred as a result of this decision.

In Conclusion

I wish to end by again thanking you all for your support of our church. Without you we would never achieve what God has planned for us. However, in similar vein, we will never achieve all that God has prepared for us unless we all do our best in supporting our church.

My prayer is for growth in our relationship with God and for God to richly bless and reward us for what we do for our church.

I conclude by again thanking Jenny for her constant support in my ministry. She completes me and encourages me to give of myself for the service of you and of God.

On a personal note 2015 was the year that both our daughters were married. This made the year exciting and also very busy. Thank you for your prayers and support as we excitedly welcomed two son-in-law's into our family.

I remain excited and committed to the ministry potential that lies before us. I believe we have an incredible opportunity for ministry in 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 are supportive of one another.

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

May God bless and guide us all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Pretorius', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Luke Pretorius
Dean, Christ Church Cathedral
Archdeacon, Kopanong Archdeaconry