



St Paul's Church, Rondebosch

February 2016

Father Derek Pratt, we wish you Godspeed! Thank you for all your work here. We shall miss you and we shall miss Karen too, especially in the choir.

Hambani kakuhle!

Students – the people of St Paul's church are happy to welcome you, and we look forward to getting to know you better. Many of you come from other countries in Africa, or even further away, in order to study here so, if you find our form of worship a bit different, please be patient. There is a service on Sunday evenings in term-time at 7 p.m. which caters for students. It is friendly, less formal, more adaptable to new ideas, and worth the effort. The important thing is that you can find spiritual support St Paul's, as well as friends.

Although we have no formal rector at present, there are many who serve - Fr Darron Mispion, Revd Erica Murray, Fr Ivan Weiss, Fr Clive McBride and Fr Bob de Maar are among them. Some of you will already have met Carol Hartley at Anhouse. So WELCOME!

Blaming past history does not justify **outbursts of violence**. Destruction of property is indefensible. "We pray for all in authority . . ." this prayer takes on new meaning. We pray for Dr Max Price, all who are in authority, and all the students at the University, that God will give them strength and wisdom – they need an extraordinary supply of these, plus patience! Meanwhile, ordinary folk trying to live good lives may become discouraged and in danger of losing one of the three great virtues - HOPE is in danger of being thrown into the dustbin, forgotten, and when we lose hope, we lose our vision and, of course, when there is no hope and no vision we are reduced to violence. Have we lost hope?

With **hope** the force of the history where we came from is outweighed by the vision of where we are going to. Carl Jung described how life not only explodes from an original First cause, but is drawn irresistibly to the Final cause of its direction. The impetus of Life has two causes, not one - we are not only pushed out, exploded, from the womb of history, we are pulled onwards as though by a tremendous magnet to an eternal vision. We are affected as much, if not more, by what we are going to as by what we have come from. That is Hope.

LENT is characterised by Hope. Christian liturgy developed in Judaism, in the north, where Lent = Spring and New Life, new buds, new leaves, the return of longer daylight and warmth. Hope!

“Looking Back, Moving Forward.” (Fr Darron)

“This is a good time for Christians to take stock, to reflect upon the things that separate us from God. Jesus is calling me - but there is a problem because I often find myself looking backward, over my shoulder as it were, focussing on things that I cannot change. That is when I stumble because I can no longer see the forward path clearly. It takes courage to turn away from the past and I just waste energy when I cling to it. None of us find it easy because we like our old habits and comfort zones, but to walk forward we have to focus forward, looking at Jesus and the Cross so that we can walk ahead in His light.”

In Lent, although aware of the past, both good and bad, we live looking forward, to the life of Jesus, His Death on the Cross and then . . . beyond.

St Paul's parish is beginning what is likely to be a drawn-out interregnum.

(Rev. Michael Bester)

This raises questions about God's will, both individually and also collectively for the parish. What is God's will for you? What is God calling on you to do?

An interregnum is not easy, especially for the leaders in the parish. Many things that one assumes will be done are suddenly not done and even vision may be placed on hold but, though there may be changes to its form, the Church cannot stop its ministry. God calls us to an active response – not to do nothing! His call changes us just as it changed Saul, who became a completely new person. It cannot be ignored. So radical was the change in Saul's outlook and relationship with God that even his name had to change. He had a new identity - Paul.

In an interregnum, fellow-Christians, if something needs being done, it is you that will need to do it. If there is an issue, an outreach, an initiative that cries for attention, then the initiative is yours to grasp. You may even have to find another name, your own 'true name' by which the Master calls you? Change is hard; it involves struggle and, unavoidably, suffering of some kind. We are not expected to like it, but an interregnum does have one most valuable benefit – it makes us consider our commitment both to the Church and the wider community and that is worth it!

What is your role?

Come to church Bring a friend Begin a small prayer group at home Keep the church open at lunchtime just one day a week Wash up tea-things in the Hall Sing in the choir Visit newcomers. Discuss issues of the day, or the church, or personal problems. Help with parish breakfasts Help someone in trouble Plan your own study and way of life. Seek your own vocation. Above all, have faith, foster hope, and be in love.

Introducing two of our parish people . . .

Can you guess who this might be? Her father was a blacksmith, a farrier, like his father before him, so she was brought up to know racehorses!! They lived in Protea next to Bishopscourt, the first village demolished under the Group Areas Act, just below Kirstenbosch, were moved to Palmboom Road in Newlands – and that was declared White – so off they went again to Wetton. While still at school she began working for the Mauerbergers, a family in the property business who grew their money and then gave it away to wonderful causes - notably the University of Cape Town. She became the trusted administrator of real estate, of benefactor funding and a dear friend to a great circle of people, mostly Jewish! Now retired, she gives her extraordinary organising skills to St Paul's. What a blessing!

Enid Taylor not only inspires fund-raising in this parish - the breakfasts, the Food Fair, Brass Band concert – she makes sure that there are flowers in the church. The programme is mapped out for the year – breakfasts every month, **Food Fair on April 8th** after Easter, Book Sale, concerts If you can help her, she will welcome you in service for Our Lord. Try her telephone 083 2877 876
(and she might give you racing tips on the side!)

And who is this? you don't need DSTV for drama in real life . . .

As a child he lived in Belgium before the family returned to Africa, living in many countries and then the Congo – he can speak many languages. His mother was a member of Parliament, his father in Law. So much happened to them there that the Poisonwood Bible pales by comparison. He himself has been beaten up and badly injured several times - he can show you the scars - he had to find a new life. 15 years ago he left his family to come to South Africa. Sadly he says, "*I have never seen my father's grave*". Bravely he has survived and, with generous financial and social help, he triumphantly completed his B.Sc at UCT. Then he was beaten up on one of our SA trains because 'they' said he did not have a ticket - but he took the case to civil court and won. He has had to work very hard at many things in order to survive. From a Pentecostal background, he was married here at St Paul's. He and his wife have developed a business and they have two children. Tall, thin, dark and handsome, he has a delicious courtesy, a gentle manner and, in spite of his gruesome past, a lovely smile. Here in Rondebosch he has grown in faith, loving Christ, our Master, and he is so much part of our congregation that he serves on the Parish Council. Olivier Kalenga, may God bless you and your family.

The Lord of the Dance

Only last week, someone mentioned that this was her favourite hymn and that she would like it for her funeral one day - an unusual choice. It was in the 1960s that Jo Dunstan of the United Church in Belmont Road introduced dancing into church services and it became a popular feature even in the Cathedral, but there were no seductive houris so Mr and Mrs Grundy could not protest too much. Ten years later, visiting an old mission outpost deep in the Appalachian mountains (where square-dancing was the chief sport and the thick forest had not been touched for over 100 years) I was invited to hear the old hymn tunes -

and there it was, slow, written in minims, dead-pan stuff, no grace notes, no quavers, stolid. “But that is the Lord of the Dance” said I, and it was explained to me that this old tune, like many others, had been brought over to the States by the early Quakers from England. The staid “quaker” solemnity had remained for 300 years – down there, deep in the hill-billy valley of the Appalachian mountains. Our version is a joyful dance.

ST PAUL’S Church is on a hill, in a forest of trees above the Main Road where the Liesbeek River used to flood 2-3 foot deep!

The twelve Wild Fig trees (*Ficus nataliensis*) growing there, some over 20 M high, with beautiful silver trunks and branches, are one of the glories of Rondebosch, giving both shade and shelter. A grove of olive trees fills a triangle of green at the north end of the property. A Heritage Site graveyard, suitably dark with cypress trees, is on the south end – just in front of the Police station. The garden, hard to maintain owing to its size and littering vagrants, still manages to produce lilies and roses, agapanthus and daisies.

Are you available to serve on the Parish Council? Can you help with even a small part of the ordinary day to day upkeep of our parish community. The vestry meeting will be on **Sunday 13th March** – and of course there will only be one service that day at 9 a.m.

People are needed to keep the church open every day 12.30 -1.30 p.m. – we are two people short!

Weekdays: Eucharists - Tues 9.30 am, Wed 1 pm, Fri 7 am.

Sunday Eucharist: 8 a.m., 9.30 a.m. 7 p.m.

Parish breakfast: 8.30 – 11 a.m. Last Saturday of the month

Office: 021 6894720 Email stpauls@netdial.co.za