

CARITAS

Volume 2007 Issue 16

June 2007.



Editor:

This Caritas has been edited and DTP'd by
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Bulletin blooper

With the departure of Tom Ramsden the Choir is minus one tenor (our ONLY tenor!)

Perhaps we need to ask for volunteers but **not** in the style of a certain parish:

"Choir rehearsals begin next week. Anyone who is interested is welcome to come sin with us."

I believe it didn't work - choir size remained the same!

Maybe their "sins" were just singing wrong notes and rather boring!

Next Edition **1st July 07**
Any material gratefully accepted by 25 June 07

THE GREEN SEASON

When the liturgical colour of green is used on a Sunday it indicates that it is what some prayer books call an "Ordinary Sunday". This means, of course, that it is not a feast or festival but does not mean that it is "plain and ordinary". I think I have said in past that no Sunday is "ordinary" because each Sunday is a commemoration of Easter.

Suddenly after Trinity Sunday we have "Sundays of The Year" which are often cold and wet. So we have to try desperate means to attract people to leave their warm beds and come and worship with us. Last year I tried a series of sermons on the life and times of King David which many of you said you enjoyed. Trouble is now I have to "cap" it with something just as good (if not better) this year!

A look at this years Green Sundays

Well, if Green is the liturgical colour, why not make it also the theme. For example, starting with September—we are having a flower festival on the weekend of 2nd September. This enables me to link Spring with flowers and new green shoots and new life through to the New Life that St Paul's Church brought through Christ to the people of Rondebosch for 175 years.

Another example would be the developing the pastoral caring idea we had in Lent a bit further. After all the Lord does lead us to "pastures green"!

Green in a positive way

Green can be used in a positive way, looking at growth when we say to a gardener, "You have green fingers" meaning that what he has planted has grown. So we must have a Sunday when we can re-do our "roll" up Sunday and make sure that our list is completely up-to-date and growing! Also we can see if we can resurrect the Area Visitors—perhaps we need to get them some "Bounce-Back" for them or that pushing

By Derek Pratt (a bit tongue in cheek)

the metaphor too much?

Green is also the term used to describe those concerned about the Environment (World Environment Day is 5th June—just after Trinity Sunday and before Corpus Christi but I think we can move our Parish Environment Day to the end of June.

Another positive "Green" usage is linking it to the Emerald Isle. St Patrick's Day might be past but we can celebrate our Celtic Heritage one Sunday and link that to our African-ness because Celtic and African spirituality have so much in common.

Goodness—so many "Green" connections to fill the Calendar !

So that is what we will do—follow "A Theme of Green" for June –September 2007. For detailed programme see on page 6 .

Margaret Elsworth gets Rotary Highest award

On Tuesday night, the 29th of May, our long standing parishioner, Margaret Elsworth was awarded by the Rotary Club of Claremont, the highest award that Rotary can give.

Margaret has been working for the African Scholars Fund for many years and has seen thousands of scholars achieving their potential by receiving this financial aid.

She was awarded some years ago by the University of Cape Town with an Honorary Masters degree and also an MBE from Queen Elizabeth II. She thus joins an elite group of people who have been recognised by Rotary International for their Service above Self in helping those less fortunate than themselves. These include Archbishop Tutu and Nelson Mandela.

The parish congratulations .you Margaret.

Jill Rainer-Pope

NEWS IN BRIEF

Youth Day Sunday

On **Sunday 17th June at 9.30** we will celebrate **Youth Day** with a more informal service with contemporary Christian music.

Wall of Remembrance

Most parishioners are very pleased that the Wall of Remembrance for the internment of Ashes is to be constructed. Cost wise, this is a self-generating project which will in the long run not only pay for itself but also create sufficient capital for us to start on phase 2 of the wall before it is required.

As a Parish Councillor put it (rather bluntly), "You don't have to be dead to buy your niche!" What she meant that was that we should plan ahead and the parish even offers the opportunity to pay it off, so the full R1000 (for parishioners) can be paid off and not in one go.

Why not contact the Parish Office to obtain an application form and discuss it with your family.

Small Group

Chris and Jill Rainer Pope have a Bible Study Group that meets on Wednesday evenings at 7.30, rotating the venue at the

different members homes. The evening starts with socialising and catching up on news for quarter of an hour, then open with prayer, go straight into the Bible study, lead by a different person each week (who has to do the home work). They end with the grace and followed by tea and chat. They are studying I Timothy at present. If anyone wishes to join please contact Jill or Chris R-Pope 0216855876

Quiet Afternoon

A Quiet Afternoon will take place on **Saturday 23rd June 2007 beginning at 2.00pm and ending at 5.30pm** after a special service. It will be led by Fr Derek

The theme for the Quiet Afternoon is to be "Purification" and the three addresses to be used as springboards for meditation will cover Personal Purification, Purification of the Other, Purification of the Church. This theme developed from Fr Barry Wood's sermon just after Easter where he told of St Thomas's positive experience of how purifying the church building with Holy Water seemed to bring a new brightness into the atmosphere in the building.

St Paul's website

Missed a **SERMON** or a copy of the **Caritas**? Fear not! You will find it on the St Paul's web site. Also on the site is the list of hymns for the quarter, the music list for the next Evensong and other useful information. Also check out the interesting **LINKS** to other web pages and the **PAPERS** (not all by Derek Pratt! Some are by Bishops and Archbishops!)

www.stpaulsrondebosch.co.za

If you see errors (factual, grammatical or spelling) please let me know so we can correct them. Fr Derek Pratt

Maintenance Team

Len Teasdale Chairman 0217621290

Richard Warwick 0216899403

John Strachan 0216714127

Tom Botha Snr. 0215310269

Tom Botha Jnr as above or 0824576193

Michael Bester is the Churchwarden in charge of property so he should be consulted at all times—
0214264110

Parish Council News

Investment & Giving Accounts

Balance of Investments Accounts reported to the Parish Council are as follows:

Building Fund R425 696

Organ Fund R22 957

Pat Sullivan Bequest R 9 788

Tithing fund R 649

(this is a tite from each fund raising effort and at the end of the year will, for 2007, go to the African Scholars Fund)

Anderson Almshouse Fund R47 186

(Interest to be distributed at end of the year while capital to be added to, with each 5th Sunday plate collection)

Current Account R18 262

Annual Financial Statement

If you remember there was a qualification to the Auditors report because they could not find bank statements for one of our accounts. This was an account that had been shut and the money transferred to our Current Account but unfortunately the Auditors simply brought the amount forwarded and also included the

transferred amount so our balance sheet (not our income or expenditure) showed a larger balance than it should have. This has now be corrected and we therefore



need to have a Special Vestry to approve this correction. We will also use this vestry to approve the audited accounts

from Anhouse and to elect two representatives (and alternate reps) for the elective assembly to elect a new Archbishop at the end of September. The date of the Vestry is Sunday 10th June. We are having it after the 9.30 Service so that we will not be rushed and any questions concerning the accounts can be answered fully.

Maintenance

The Maintenance Team has visited the Rectory and Goodwin Cottage and reported back to the Council what needed to be done. Minor repairs will be carried out by the team and we will pay for materials (estimated expenses R3000). Other repairs to be carried out if and when funds allow but most are necessary but not essential.

[See above for list of Maintenance Team members.]

Historical Note: The St Paul's Mission School

Below, I'm going to copy the information from the Parish website dealing with the school.

You will notice that there is lots of information about the early school but not too much about the school in the 20th Century.

The school was only closed down in December 1951 and many of the former pupils are still alive and we need to chat to them and record for prosperity their memories of the school.

Thus on Saturday 30th June 2007 at 2.30pm we are inviting as many of the former pupils as we can get hold of for a re-union.

We have to rely on you, the congregation, to carry out two tasks. Firstly, to try and let as many former pupils as possible know about the event. If they can't make it then we need to get their names and addresses on a "Former Pupils" database. Articles will be placed in the dailies and the community papers but word of mouth is also important. Because the June edition of *Good Hope* has been reserved for Synod information, I hope to send a letter to all parishes in Cape Town, False Bay and Saldanha Bay Dioceses asking them to make an announcement about the School Reunion.

The second task is we need parishioners to serve the tea and also to help capture the information—on tape, written out or even remembered and typed up later. A certain amount of training will be given for this.

The earliest schools at Rondebosch were private establishments or mission schools, run by the various churches. The Cape Almanac for 1840 states that



St Paul's School Room with pupils about 1872

"there is at present no government free school, or infant school, in this populous part of the environs of the Cape", i.e. Rondebosch. One of the earliest private schools is mentioned in "The Findlay Letters" to the effect that in 1838 "Miss Hanbury has taken Miss Smith's school at Rondebosch" and that a daughter of the Findlay family, living on Camp Ground Road, was attending it.

In January 1844 the Rondebosch Infant School was established with a committee consisting of John Montagu (Colonial Secretary) as chairman, and as members J. B. Ebdon, Rev. J. Fry, Lt.-Col. Alexander, A. Steedman as treasurer and Duff Watt as Secretary. It was a "free school established chiefly through the benevolent exertions of Maj.-Genl. and Lady Catherine Bell, immediately prior to their departure from the Colony. A neat and appropriate school house built from funds raised principally by the voluntary contributions of the gentry and inhabitants in the neighbourhood" was erected. In 1845 there were 100 pupils. This school, it was claimed, "now furnishes the less wealthy and poorer part of the community that desideratum, so long earnestly desired, viz, a good school for the education of their children." This school was later known as St. Paul's (Church of England) Mission School.

A picture in the Cape Archives shows the children gathering outside the School Room. Although the Cape Archives entitles the picture as being the school at the Congregational Church, Belmont Road it is quite obviously at St Paul's and many of the grave stones in the picture still extant. The picture was taken around



This is a photo of St Thomas Church when it was still a chapelry and school. Notice the handwritten inscription "St Paul's Mission Chapel, Rondebosch C.P.:" The photo from an old family album was given to me by Mrs Heather MacAlister of www.ancestry24.com

1872 when the schoolmaster was a Mr Cowper (is he the bearded gentleman in the picture, I wonder?). In 1865 the Parish Vestry Minutes (as the St Paul's Parish Council was known in those days) inform us that there were "25 coloured children, 18 emancipated slaves' children, 6 negroes, 8 Malays and 45 white children" in the upper school.

After the WWII the numbers at the School had increased to between 150 and 180 pupils. Miss Currey reported that this led to over-crowding and the Education Department decided to limit the numbers to 150 by making the cut off at Std 4 (Grade 6).

The facilities at the school however were not up to the Education Departments requirements and some land belonging to the City council alongside St Andrew's, Newlands was offered to the Parish to combine the two schools (that of St Andrews and St Paul's). Plans for this continued to be delayed until on 13th December 1951 the School at St Paul's shut its doors for the last time.

According to the Parish Council Minutes, the majority of the pupils were transferred to "the Hindu School in Main Street." Quite which school this was and whether it was "Main Road" or "Main Street, Newlands" is at present not known.

Paul v. Jesus — a bid to take over?

On the Fulcrum website last week (www.fulcrum-anglican.org.uk), the Bishop of Durham, Dr Tom Wright, dropped a bombshell. "There is a substantial swathe of contemporary Evangelicalism which would rather elevate 'Paul' (inverted commas, because it is their reading of Paul, rather than the real thing, that they elevate) and treat Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John as mere repositories of Jesus' stories from which certain doctrinal and theological nuggets may be collected."

Too many Evangelicals believe that "Paul's epistles give us 'the gospel' while 'the Gospels' simply give us stories about Jesus."

Dr Wright goes on to reveal that some people are now arguing that we must demote the Gospel reading from its pride of place at the apex of the first half of the communion service. Apparently, the current situation gives the Gospels too much prominence.

I was gob smacked by this. Are these people embarrassed by Jesus?

Yet, when I think about it more, I realise I might inadvertently be making the opposite mistake. I almost always preach on the Gospels, sometimes on the Old Testament, yet very rarely on the Epistles. Am I embarrassed by Paul? I started to wonder whether there wasn't some truth to the claim by the Bishop of Rochester, Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, that Anglicans are made up of two religions: liberals for Jesus, Evangelicals for Paul.

Of course, the Paul v. Jesus argument isn't new. Carl Jung may have had a point when he suggested: "Paul hardly ever allows the real Jesus of Nazareth to get a word in." Thomas Jefferson, though, surely went way too far in suggesting that "Paul was the first corrupter of the doctrines of Jesus." Yet it's a view that is shared by Muslims. And I have a hunch that — though it may be dangerous to admit it — many in our pews secretly nurture similar anxieties.

The influential philosopher Slavoj Zizek has compared the relationship between Jesus and Paul to that between Marx and Lenin. He argues that it is too easy and sentimental to read the Paul and Lenin figures as selling out the original teaching. Rather: "It is an inner necessity of the 'original' teaching to submit to and survive this 'betrayal', to survive this

violent act of being torn out of one's original context and thrown into a foreign landscape where it has to reinvent itself — only in this way, universality is born."

In other words, Paul needs more credit for taking Christianity global. That may be true. But the attempt to replace Jesus with Paul must rank as the most audacious takeover bid in the history of culture.

The Revd Dr Giles Fraser is Team Rector of Putney.

This article was in The Church Times 4 May 07

Why do we use incense?



The Dean of Cape Town, the Very Rev Rowan Smith wrote this article for the Gateway many years ago.

An old priest friend used to say to people who either stood fanning themselves during the Gospel with their hymn-books or who complained about "too much smoke" at the Sung Mass: "Well my dear, in the hereafter, it is either incense or brimstone — you choose."

That some people have difficulty in coping with incense at the Eucharist, is not unknown and for some people it could be a problem — why then do we use it?

Incense is not peculiar to Christian worship — it was used by the Jews in the temple: the Romans used it and today incense sticks are used by a

variety of believers. In the temple worship it could well have been used for hygienic purposes ie to cover up the smell of burnt offerings but later it took on a spiritual connotation and the incense was offered to God by itself. In the Old Testament there is reference to "the altar of incense" (Exodus 30 v if).

One purpose of the burning of incense was that of purification and it is this symbolism which it expresses at the offertory in the Eucharist.

The thurifer (the person who swings the incense) censens not only the clergy but also the people as preparation for the great prayer of thanksgiving. So when next you bow to the thurifer at the offertory, pray that God may purify you to receive the sacrament of the Body and Blood of Jesus in faith.

The offering of incense was also to honour God and became symbolic of the Deity, that is why one of the gifts presented to the infant Jesus by the Magi was that of frankincense (Matt 2 v 11b). The epiphany hymns refer to the symbolism:

*Sacred gifts of mystic meaning
Incense doth a god disclose.*

So to purify ourselves and to honour God but also to symbolise our prayers. "Let my prayer be counted as incense before thee, And the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice". (Ps 141 v 2). It was while Zachariah was offering incense to God, on behalf of the people, that the angel appeared and told him that Elizabeth was to have a son, John, (Luke 1 v5-13). In the New Testament, it is in the book of the Revelation of St John that we again encounter these twin elements of worship and prayer being symbolised by incense. In Rev 5 v 2, a description of the worship of heaven, we read: "And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp and with golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints" (cf Rev 8 v 3-4).

Remember that incense is an aid to worship and our worship does not depend on it. God is glorified wherever we lift up our hearts and minds to him. To some "smells and bells" are a hindrance, but to others it helps to remind them that we

worship God with our whole being and our sense of smell and of hearing are part of that offering.

If we can move beyond the symbol we will find a new and liberating experience in worship because this burning incense reminds us that we too are to present ourselves as a living sacrifice to God.

Letters to the editor

Web site comments

Hi Derek

Compliments on an excellent website reflecting worthwhile 175th anniversary activities. Warm compliments to you, as I discern your skilled hand in this, and to Richard Simons for his historical input. Also to Chris R-Pope for pics.

Best wishes
Dick Reed

Dear Derek,

As an avid reader of Anglicansonline.org I was interested to see St Paul's listed as a new website this week.

I was at UCT 1974 – 76, an occasional worshipper at St Paul's (mostly singing in the choir at St Michael's Observatory) – and very much part of ANSOC and ASF when Philip le Feuvre was chaplain.

Greetings to you from Wellington Cathedral. May you continue to enjoy God's blessings.
Frank

The Very Revd Frank Nelson (Dean of Wellington)
Wellington Cathedral of St Paul,
P O Box 12 044,
Wellington.
Tel: 04 472 0286

from Dr Donald Watson (Dorothy Greenshield's first cousin

Well done! I have spent the last hour admiring everything.

God bless you all!

Donald

Trees along the Main Road

Dear Derek,

The Sunday before last, I had occasion to hear that the Vineyard project had been approved. That is indeed very good

news and congratulations to you all.

Parallel to what is likely to unfold, I thought that this would be a good opportunity to raise another suggestion. I have become evermore conscious of the fact that St. Paul's Church building is hidden from view. I am sure that I am not the only person

who has come across folk who did not even know that there is a church located on the hillside above the Main Road of Rondebosch.

The trees that camouflage and surround the Church today were never there when the building was first constructed and besides Thomas Bowler's well-known painting, there is photographic evidence in the archives to prove this. While I am not one who relishes the thought of felling any tree, there are, however, circumstances when such action can be justified, particularly, as in the case of many of the Oak trees, when it is established that such trees are not in good or healthy condition.

If certain trees will, in any case, have to be felled in preparation of laying out the vineyard, I would like to propose that a work-study team be established to investigate the situation of the trees that hide the Church building from view and that, if possible, upon invitation, one should attempt to include in the team an expert advisor in the form of a professional botanist from Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. Particular care should be taken to identify which trees, if any, are of a protected species and which trees, in particular, are camouflaging the Church from view when driving along the Main Road and Belmont Road as one approaches the Rondebosch Fountain intersection and finally, upon recommendation, which trees need to



Can you spot the Church behind all those trees? About 1890

be felled or extensively pruned,
With Kind Regards to you all,
Ian Faser

Editor's comment: Churchwarden Michael Bester is already in conversation with landscape gardeners and former foresters for opinion on the trees both in the area where the vineyard will go and on the Main Road side of the Church. He reported to Council that some trees will need thinning while others perhaps need to be removed as they are "passed their sell by date".

Ian is not quite accurate about the Church being visible in the past. I think in certain decades this was true as in others it was not (see pictures). We're in a "not" decade at the moment and so a little bit of thinning out might be a good idea. But for all of us who hug trees - we will only remove what is necessary and trim back others to ensure their ongoing healthiness.



St Paul's during a "clear" decade—approx 1875

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Staff at St Paul's

Rector:

Fr Derek Pratt
021 685 6940

UCT Chaplain & Assistant Priest:

Fr Christopher Swartz
021 685 6295

Parish Secretary:

Mrs Arlene Christian
021 689 4720

Musical Director:

Mr Andrew Bentley
082 237 7805

Mission Statement of St Paul's Parish incorporating the Anglican UCT Chaplaincy

... to be a united fellowship of diverse people dedicated to worshipping God and spreading the Gospel in the power and compassion of the Holy Spirit.

A THEME OF GREEN SUNDAYS

17th June Youth Sunday at 9.30am "Green behind the ears"

24th June Environment Sunday 8am & 9.30am "Becoming Green"

1st July "Eat your Greens!" The Cost of Discipleship

8th July Sea Sunday [Yes, the sea is blue but...]

15th July "The Green-eyed monster"

22nd July "Wearing of the Green" Celtic & African Spirituality

29th July "Green sign of new life— Roll Up Sunday Part 2"

5th August "Greenhorns Sunday" Transfiguration—Teaching

12th August In Green Pastures— Ongoing Pastoral care

19th August "Greensleeves"—Music & worship

26th August "Of Green and Golden" - Poetry & Worship

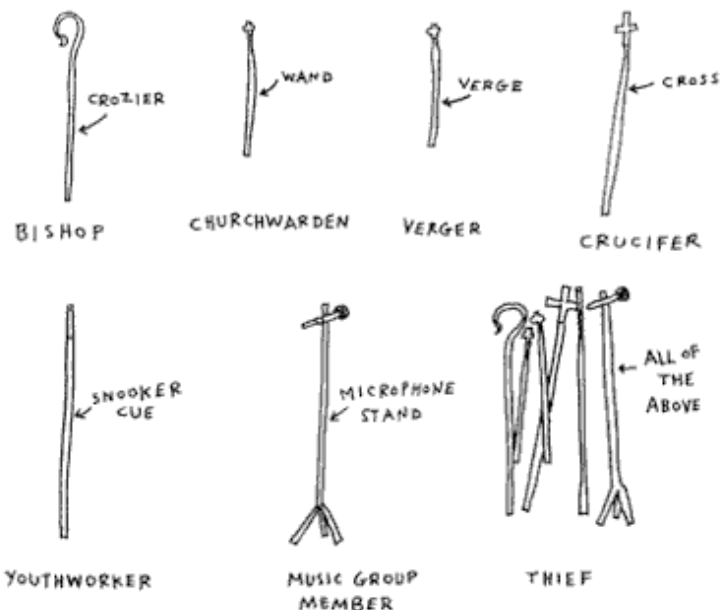
2nd September "Flower Festival Green"

30th September "Looking for Greenbacks"—Dedicated Giving I

7th October Dedication Sunday

Back Page Humour

HOW TO RECOGNISE PEOPLE BY THE KIND OF STICK THEY ARE CARRYING



By David Walker www.Cartoonchurch.com

"The Difference"

A Mice-Sized Sermonette
by Rev. Cheese



WHENEVER GOD FORGIVES, IT'S LIKE HE SAYS, "IT NEVER HAPPENED"

ISN'T THAT GLORIOUS?

BUT WHEN PEOPLE FORGIVE, THEY SAY "IT HAD BETTER NOT HAPPEN AGAIN!"

ZOROWSKI

smalls

Does anyone know of a combi or mini-bus for free (or low-cost) transport to and from the Festival? Does anyone have a carousel projector standing idle in a cupboard?

If you can help contact Peter Krummeck