



Christ Church Chronicle

January 2013

Bishop Justin Welby officially becomes Archbishop of Canterbury-elect

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Remember the Anglican Afternoon on 9 February: Come and learn about your church and its traditions!

Join us at 12 noon in the hall—all welcome!

A medieval ceremony has begun the process of the Rt Revd Justin Welby becoming the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The College of Canons of Canterbury Cathedral has unanimously elected Bishop Justin Welby as the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury. The 35-strong College of Canons, made up of senior clergy and lay people from the Diocese of Canterbury, met at Canterbury Cathedral's 14th-century Chapter House on 10 January to take part in the formality, which dates back more than 1000 years.

The process of electing the next Archbishop of Canterbury by the cathedral community is enshrined within its constitution and can only take place once a Congé d'Élire and Letter Missive from the Crown has been received.

The ceremony was chaired by the Dean of Canterbury, Robert Willis. As is traditional, the candidate was not invited to attend the ceremony, and only one name featured on the ballot sheet for the College of Canons to select.

The Dean of Canterbury Cathedral Reverend Dr Robert Willis said: 'The decision we made this morning is taken formally to London. In St Paul's Cathedral on February 4, I shall present this to the Queen's commission. They will say that is valid, legal and right and at that moment Justin Welby becomes in all powers the Archbishop of Canterbury.'

IRENE HOMES NEEDS YOU!

As you know, Irene Homes provides care to intellectually challenged women who live in houses with a house mother. In addition they have a sheltered workshop which provides work to men and women who come in on a daily basis.

Irene Homes has survived for over 100 years and for it to continue to do so despite rising costs, funds need to be raised. The Picnic in the Park on Friday 22 February is such a fund-raiser.

Please come and support this worthy cause—and have a great evening out! Bring a picnic and enjoy the music of "It Takes Four". Come prepared to have a good time. Contact Ingrid on 012 667 1035 for tickets.

Booking essential.
Contact: Ingrid 012 667 1035

Sweet Mystery of Life

An extract from *The Gift of Years* by Joan Chittister

Mystery is what happens to us when we allow life to evolve rather than having to make it happen all the time. It is the strange knock at the door, the sudden sight of an unceremoniously blooming flower, an afternoon in the yard, a day of riding the midtown bus. Just to see. Just to notice. Just to be there.

There is something holy-making about simply presuming that what happens to us in any given day is sent to awaken our souls to something new: another smell, a different taste, a moment when we allow ourselves to lock eyes with a stranger, to smile a bit, to nod our heads in greeting. Who knows? Maybe one of those things will open us to the refreshing memory of pain, a poignant reminder of glory, a breathless moment of astonishment, a sense of the presence of God in life.

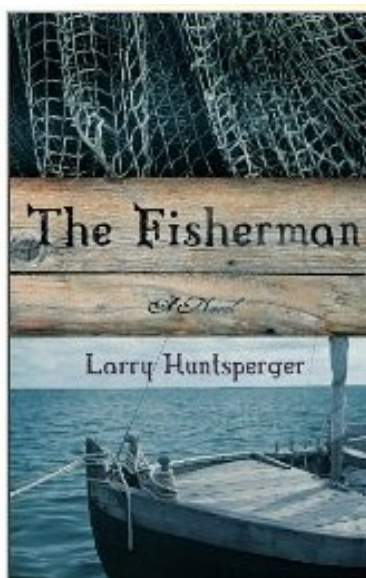
The sunlight brings back in new shades of colour the meaning of a moment long ago. Astonishment shakes us into conscious awareness of things long seen, but long unseen as well. Those things are of the essence of mystery.

There is purpose to mystery in a coolly-calculated world. We live lives that are so precisely timed now. Before people owned watches, dawn and dark were enough of a frame to live by. "I'll come tomorrow" meant I will be there when I get there tomorrow. Now, "I'll come tomorrow" only means when, precisely: by the minute, to the moment. No mystery there. Just expectation.

So mystery, the notion that something wonderful can happen at any time if we will only allow space for it, takes us into a whole new awareness of the immanence of God in time. God comes, we learn now, when we least expect it. Maybe most likely of all when we least expect it.

In age, mystery comes alive. Nothing is very sure anymore. Everything speaks of maybe and perhaps, might and possibly. I might still be here. And I might not. Like children, we learn to wonder again. We learn that getting up every day can be fun, can be wonder-full. Something will surely happen. What will it be?

Then, as the years go by, we learn to trust the goodness of time, the glorious cornucopia of life called God. And who knows? At the end of life, the mystery waiting for us there, finally visible under the glare of time, may be more than the soul can hold.



NEW BOOKS IN THE RESOURCE CENTRE

Was one of your New Year's resolutions to deepen your spiritual growth? Come and take a look at the new titles in the Resource Centre. Why don't you try this one?

***The Fisherman* by Larry Huntsperger (Revell, 2011)**

Through the voice of Simon Peter, we hear the story of the first apostles and the life of Jesus, with the Lord's miracles, trials, tragedies and the final triumph coming alive in a realistic and spellbinding tale. This story offers not only an insight into the historical reality of Jesus life, but also a wonderful spiritual journey that teaches us about Christ from a surprising new perspective.

Meet the Marthas (and Arthurs)

This is a new feature in the Chronicle, which will explore the different roles people play in the Church. Just as Martha was busy around Christ, so too are there people who are actively working in the background to make Church happen.

The sacristans

The first group to be spotlighted is the sacristans, largely invisible to the congregation but whose work is indispensable to worship. Sacristans are lay-people and all are volunteers.

What does a sacristan do?

A sacristan's role is to care for the church's sacred vessels and vestments and prepare all the necessities for the Eucharist or Holy Communion.

Practically speaking, this means that for every Eucharist, the sacristans lay out, clean and pack away such items as cruets, chalices, ciboria, linens, oils, processional crosses, candles and torches, as well as the priest's vestments. They dress the altar with linen and change the linens when the seasonal colours of the church change.

At Christ Church, we usually have three services per week, which means that all of this is done three times, twice on Sundays. Imagine the preparation, laying out and clearing up done during the Easter week, where there is a service each day, or during Christmas where there are four services in 24 hours!

Inbetween services, the sacristans ensure that the things necessary for worship are always available, such as fresh hosts (communion wafers), wine, sufficient clean purificators, hand towels, matches, incense and coals. They also spend time cleaning and maintaining the beautiful altar linen and the different vestments for different seasons, as well as checking that the candles are in place and the sanctuary lamp is burning.

For special services, the sacristans would, for instance, prepare the Advent Wreath, ashes for Ash Wednesday, and the Nativity Scene.

Where do the sacristans work?

Most work takes place in the sacristy, where the sacred vessels and the robes of the clergy are stored, which adjoins the clergy vestry. You may also notice sacristans busy around the church.

Who are the sacristans at Christ Church?

Currently there are only four sacristans at our church. Anna-Marie Arnold and Maureen Beck are the lead sacristans, while Stephanie Baker and Gill Tee help part-time as they are in the process of retiring.

Christ Church is in need of more help in the sacristy to maintain our wonderful tradition of worship. If you feel called to this worthy and deeply spiritual and reverent yet practical ministry, please contact one of the sacristans.

Christ Church, Arcadia

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Diocese of Pretoria

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Regular services at Christ Church

Thursdays: 9:00 Said Eucharist

Sundays

7:30: Said Eucharist

9:15: Choral Eucharist, Junior Church and
Crèche

Rector: The Revd. Duncan Mbonzana
Parish Administrator: Carolyn Chisadza: 012 430 2470
Director of Music: George King: 012 460 9792/ 083 306 4478

Dates for your diary

FEBRUARY

- 2 Feb:** Sidespeople training session, Resource Centre
- 3 Feb:** Evensong, 18.00
- 9 Feb:** Anglican Afternoon, 12.00; Church Hall
- 10 Feb:** Annual Vestry Meeting after 9.15 Eucharist
- 12 Feb:** Shrove Tuesday
- 13 Feb:** Ash Wednesday, Imposition of the Ashes, 19.00
- 14 Feb:** Women's Guild Meeting, 9.00
- 17 Feb:** Family Service, 9.15; Evensong, 18.00
- 20 Feb:** Lent Bible Study begins

MARCH

- 3 March:** Evensong, 17.00
- 6 March:** Lent Bible Study
- 13 March:** Lent Bible Study
- 14 March:** Women's Guild Meeting, 9.00
- 17 March:** Family Service, 9.15
- 20 March:** Lent Bible Study
- 23 March:** Making of palm crosses and decorating church, 9.00
- 24 March:** Palm Sunday: Said Mass, 7.30; Choral Mass, 9.15

25 March: Evensong, 18.00

26 March: Evensong, 18.00

27 March: Evensong, 18.00; Lent Course, 19.00

28 March: Maundy Thursday: Said Mass, 9.00; Choral Mass, 19.00, followed by Stripping of Altar and Watch

29 March: Good Friday: Good Friday Liturgy, 12 noon

30 March: Holy Saturday: Church cleaning, 9.00; Easter Eve Service, 19.00

31 March: Easter Day: Said Mass, 7.30; Choral Mass, 9.15

