



DIOCESE OF THE HIGHVELD

DIOCESAN, PARISH AND CLERGY NEWS

for

WEDNESDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2020

Mission of the Diocese of the Highveld

To be a unified Diocese where the spiritual growth of an increasing number of people is fulfilled through experiencing the fullness of God

Gazette:

- **Diocesan Council** : 12th December 2020 at 09h30 at St Francis Church, Meyersdal, Alberton.
- A resolution from Diocesan Synod 2019 asked that **each parish** has a **liaison person** who will deal with issues of the care of the earth linking to the Province's Green Anglican Desk. **Please send the names to the office as soon as possible.**
- **Almanacs 2021** have arrived. They are still R10 each. Diaries are not yet available.

➤ ADVENT SERIES

We would like to invite you to join a very interesting Advent Series of webinars "Listening to the prophetic Indigenous Voices" Indigenous people are at the forefront of Climate Change and environmental degradation and they are also the people who hold world views that are important for the healing of the Earth

Every Monday evening, starting on the 30th of November at 1500 , join us as we hear from indigenous Anglicans from the Arctic, Aotearoa (New Zealand and Polynesia), Africa and the Amazon

Register at this link: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUlcetqDsoEtwbIH29zsreAt5-%20%20X9KgZ7Xs> (Portuguese translation is offered)

#PRAY4COP26 Five years ago the world gathered in Paris and signed the Paris agreement on climate change. It is now time for the countries of the world to commit to the next five years of action, which will take place in Glasgow in one years time. Please join us for a launch service of a year of prayer and action, Sunday 22nd at 4pm

Please register here: https://lutheranworld-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UhizIBsxSnKvdi1rRjAqA

AFRICA AND CLIMATE CHANGE What is the impact on Africa of Climate change? What does the future hold?

Join a webinar on Tuesday 24th at 6pm, you can sign up here

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArduqgrz4tGt171jW7BCnG4nyUFI5XgRKg>

ENVIRONMENTAL HYMN COLLECTION During lockdown Green Anglicans produced a weekly environmental service. We would like to share with you a play list of hymns with lyrics and beautiful images that you can feel free to use in your services. We

will be gradually adding to the list. Please find the list

here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkTM3laIbXdDUVoDG9KTZN TVLJYACKCMf>

GREENING THE CANONS WORKSHOP At Provincial Synod, changes were made to the Canons to incorporate the environmental resolutions passed over the past few years. Each Diocese has been offered an online workshop on Greening the Canons and we kicked off with a very interesting discussion with the Diocese of Port Elizabeth. Do please sign up your chapter or clergy forum for a date that suits you

➤ **Note from the Administrator:**

LIST OF UNIDENTIFIED PAYMENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reference</u>
15/09/2020	R 380.00	13 SEPCOLLECTION
17/10/2020	R 1020.00	ALL SOULS CHURCH

- Parish post can only be collected from the offices by appointment in future. Please call to make your arrangements and follow the guidelines for the protocols:

DIOCESE OF THE HIGHVELD COVID-19 PROTOCOLS UNDER

ALERT **LEVEL 1**

1. **No casual visits will be allowed - no mask, no entry allowed.**
Access will still be by appointment so please call in advance to arrange suitable times for your visit and to arrange access. A record must be kept of the names and contact details of anyone entering the premises. If a visitor presents with any symptoms they will not be granted access and will be asked to leave the property immediately.
 2. Please make prior arrangements when you wish to collect items from the offices so that we can avoid crowding. We would like to have your things ready for you to help make the transaction safe, speedy and efficient.
 3. **Bishop's meetings.** Everyone must sanitise on entering the meeting venue and record their contact details on the Meeting Register. Attendees are please to practice proper social distancing at all times.
 4. No Group or Guild Meetings allowed on the premises until further notice as we cannot accommodate large groups.
- **From the Library:** Roy Williamson was a former Bishop of Bradford. He wrote a book *"Can you Spare a Minute?"* This is a readable and sensitive book that actually starts where people are with their questions, doubts and fears. It is about faith, hope and other important things that really matter. "Its very simplicity is its appeal". George Carey, former Archbishop of Canterbury. Many of us find it difficult to grasp the basic truths of Christianity. We may go to Church, but our questions and doubts persist. What is the gospel really all about? And how can we live it out? Roy Williamson comes alongside us in

our questioning, offering us help on the journey of faith. He writes with humour and simplicity for those who want to 'spare a minute' to consider the nature of Christian belief in an often perplexing and distracting world.

He explains the basics of Christianity, as he sees them, rooting everything he says in stories from ordinary life. In short, entertaining chapters he deals with the key themes of prayer. God the Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Church, the Bible, doubt, suffering, Creation and Christian hope. Questions at the end of each chapter make the book ideal for group discussion as well as individual reading.

Can you spare a Minute? will be welcomed by all those, both within the Church and on its periphery, who want to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith. [230 RIC]

Our second book is *Devotional Classics: Selected Readings for Individuals and Groups* edited by Richard Foster and James Bryan Smith. I own a copy of this book and periodically dip into the richness of its contents to help me on my own Christian path. It has a set way of learning about the person: namely a short biographical introduction, excerpts from their writings, a Bible selection, reflection questions (for groups, or individuals), suggested exercises with insights into our own Christian life and reflections written by Richard Foster. This volume (524 pages) has fifty two readings that have been carefully chosen to introduce readers to classic Christian devotional writers. From Julian of Norwich to C S Lewis, from Augustine of Hippo to Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the martyr, here is "writing which has stood the test of time and that seeks to form the soul before Christ". This book sobers and reminds us that grace is not cheap. Our discipleship to Jesus Christ costs nothing less than everything. As Dallas Willard writes, the cost of nondiscipleship is far greater: "Nondiscipleship costs abiding peace, a life penetrated throughout by love, faith that sees everything in the light of God's overriding governance for good, hopefulness that stands firm in the most discouraging of circumstances, power to do what is right and withstands the forces of evil. In short, it costs exactly that abundance of life Jesus said he came to bring".

[243.3 FOS]