

Vestry 2021

Dear Parishioners,

On Sunday, 14 February services will resume. It will be the commencement of in-person services for 2021. How fitting that it should be on the commemoration of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, one Sunday before Lent.

It is customary and a Canonical requirement to have our Vestry meeting at this time of the year. It functions as a type of AGM where the annual financial statements and budget for the next year are reviewed. Reports from the various portfolios and what to expect in the coming year are presented. A particular emphasis I like to make at Vestry meetings is that of 'vision casting,' inviting people to join in on the Church's projects.

Needless to say 2020 was not a great year, when most projects and ministry budgets were cut. It would make a parish meeting almost superfluous, except dwelling on the implications of Covid-19, and its devastating impact on our sense of community and aspirations.

With Covid-19 still part of our lives, it restricts many parishes across Southern Africa from having well-represented meetings and the ability to hold elections for vacant positions on their respective councils. The leadership of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa has therefore made a decision to cancel vestry meetings in all dioceses. This is in solidarity to the loss and inability of communities to meet as they would normally.

The annual financial statements will however be published, along with reports from the portfolios, which will be available for comment. The tenure of the sitting council will continue until such time that a vestry meeting can be convened. Despite the limitations and restrictions brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, certain goals were met and ministry continued thanks to parishioners' sense of duty and generosity. The various reports will be published by early March, wherein you can read more of the parish's activities over the last year.

While the council will continue its work of serving the parish community and managing the church's administrative affairs, we are hoping to recruit and co-opt new members to portfolios. As we look to the future, acknowledging that our world and lives will not be same again, we have to adapt, stay relevant, and be part of societal conversations. I believe that the church, with each of its members, is currently much needed. I trust that as you engage with reports about the parish, you will get a sense of St George's commitment amid difficult times to make a continuing contribution to the common good, and fulfilling its hope-filled mandate of serving the world in Jesus' name.

Rev Eben