



GREEN ANGLICANS

Anglican Church of Southern African Environmental Network

Youth News Letter 2015

Sunday School Children caring for Creation Mozambique

Diocese of Lebombo Sunday School Teachers are engaged in teaching children how to care for creation.

The Parish of St. Stephen and Lawrence had their workshop on "how to care about creation" by: Saving water, Planting trees and flowers, and "recycle, reduce, reuse"

The above topics were accompanied by practical activities:

- ◆ They had Gymnastics to warm-up since it was a cold morning
Children watched a 5 min movie on "if all trees disappear, all things die"
They did research... children were separated in three groups: one group to find cans another group for glass and the third group for paper and plastics. They all won because they managed to put the garden clean.

Children also identified things that are not good in the parish garden:

- The way the waste is kept
- Trees are getting dry
- Erosion is taking part of the garden land

Two Children from the group were chosen to take notes of the findings and they have a proposal which will be sent to the parish council. The last activity of the day was gardening. We now have a little Sunday school garden. Children have planted some palm trees which they say will be used during the next year palm Sunday. They also planted different kind of flowers seeds. They are anxious to see the results in a few months!!!



Diocese with a Green difference !

They refer to Mthata as the Diocese with a difference and we indeed saw them striving for change. They held their first environmental conference on the 24th-25th of April 2015. On the first day the conference started with a clergy workshop focusing on the link between theology and the environment, Rev Andrew Warmback, Assistant Dean and Diocesan Environmental Coordinator for the Diocese of Natal fixed on issues the diocese may face environmentally because of their geographical orientation. With life threatening repercussions from climate change and other environmental issues the clergy agreed that care for creation and environmental ministry must be prioritised in churches. Read full story [HERE](#)



NAMIBIA – ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE

The Namibian Diocesan Environmental Conference took place at the convent of the Holy Family at Onekwaya, about as far to the north of Namibia as you can get!

We were greeted by the warm and hospitable Sister Gertrude who hails from Lesotho. The north of Namibia is in the grip of one of the worst recorded droughts. Families are struggling as their crops have failed and the government has encouraged people to slaughter their precious cows rather than let them starve to death. This has then flooded the market and dropped the price of beef. People wept as they

came home with the tiny amount they were paid for a precious head of cattle.

The environmental conference was organized by Fr Joseph Hanghome, Diocesan Environmental Coordinator, Fr Lasarus Ngube and Emmanuel Nakambale

Although the numbers were small they were enthusiastic –with members from nine churches and four of the seven archdeaconries present.

We had a wonderful practical session on farming led by Fr Lasarus, a passionate farmer who took us on a visit to the sisters' vegetable garden.

“Hope and optimism in spite of present drought”

Caring for Creation at Confirmation Camp

The Confirmation candidates of Bishops and St Cyprians Schools gathered at Mizpah centre for their confirmation retreat. In this beautiful setting they learned about their faith and creation.

They started the morning with a quiet reflective space and built their own prayer labyrinths.

They did a bible study in small groups looking at the story of the Fall in Genesis and its consequences. We then looked at what a holistic understanding of salvation would mean for our lives. The learners then used their creative talents to



WESTERN CAPE REGIONAL ANGLICANS ABLAZE

Green Anglicans was invited to the Western Cape Anglicans Ablaze to enlighten people about environmental challenges facing Western Cape as a province and how the church can respond to those. About 35 people attended the environmental session to participate on ways of which we can cut down our carbon foot print and the day began with vibrant ice breaking games lead by Ncumisa Magadla.

Rev Rachel Mash shared impacts of climate change around the province what it is to expect in future. She also clearly defined what is a green Anglican and why it is important we become green especially in the Western Cape. Rev Shaun Cozett presented practical steps that can be taken by church's to cut down on their carbon footprint and ecologically friendly. He shared practical things his church has done and how they inspired other people to take part.

Participants were later divided into focus groups discussing different environmental issues (water, energy, worship, land& water) and how the church can respond to them respectively. The event was also graced by a new member of the Green Anglicans team, Malakhiwe Bada, who joined the provincial office from the Eastern Cape.





Green Anglicans joined SAFCEI in their weekly vigil outside Parliament in Cape Town.

Earth Hour Celebrations at All Saints

The Green Saints an environmental group from All Saints Lansdowne celebrated Earth Hour on the 28th of March. The evening event attracted visitors from other parishes. They celebrated with poetry, songs accompanied by the guitar, breathing and laughter exercises and education about natural cleaning products vs harmful chemicals. Wonder Bags kept the healthy soup warm and the candles in jam jars gave a comforting soft light.

“What a lovely warm fellowship evening. We look forward to more green evening where we learn about greening our bodies, homes and the environment.” The Green Saint’s mission is to create an awareness to be green conscious, and to have green events and to raise funds for green initiatives.



NUCLEAR ENERGY COSTS THE EARTH

Bishop Geoff Davies explains why Nuclear power is not the right answer to South Africa’s energy crisis.

Why is our government, a government of the people we hope, going in entirely the wrong Why is our government, a government of the people we hope, going in entirely the wrong direction to overcome inequality, poverty and unemployment? Our country needs labour intensive development that equips and builds our people. The government’s nuclear plan will bring about further conflict, inequality and social destruction.

The government may have only signed a nuclear co-operation agreement with Russia but the statement that South Africa has already signed such agreements with South Korea and the USA and will sign similar agreements with France, China and Japan shows the government’s clear commitment to nuclear, in spite of the warning of the National Development Plan (NDP) regarding costs. Why? Why is the government hell-bent on pursuing the nuclear energy route?

We can only presume that it is because of the immense amounts of money that is involved in nuclear, and the abundant opportunities for those in power to benefit, both legally and under the counter. Recall that the Arms Deal involved R70 billion. Now we are talking at least R1 trillion. And nuclear energy is dangerous stuff, so you have to keep it under wraps, hence the need for the carefully prepared secrecy bill. We will not be kept informed, never mind consulted.

Like millions in our country, I rejoiced when the ANC came into power. Why then do we see the government pursuing policies which enrich the powerful and further impoverish the poor?

Though the government won a majority of seats, in no way did we authorise them to indebted us to the Russians – or whoever – for the next 60 years,

It is often difficult to judge how our actions and their impact on the environment are likely to affect others. What is clear is that we are the only species with the power to destroy the earth. Birds and insects have no such power, nor does any other mammal. And yet if we have the capacity to destroy the earth, we also have the capacity to protect it. I believe we have an urgent responsibility to do so.
Dalai Lama

Wetlands Church

The first "Wetlands Church" took place in Cape Town in the beautiful Glencairn Valley. Led by Fr Bob Commin we walked a poetic spiritual journey from the sea through the wetlands. We started with a prayer on the beach watching the waves and hearing the wind, sensing the presence of the Holy Spirit "I am the wind that breathes upon the sea". We looked up at the grandeur of the mountains and gave thanks for God's greatness but also recognized the damage done by human beings: "generations have trod, have trod, have trod, and all is smeared with trade".



Then we spent some time alone in the silence to let God speak to us through creation. "Forest Church" has been planted in Cape Town and we are excited to see where God will take us! We hold monthly reflective, interactive, meditative services at "River church", "Vlei church", "Mountain church" and many more as we learn to hear from God in Creation.



YOUNG GREEN ANGLICANS HIKE TABLE MOUNTAIN



Hikes are often described as steep fun adventures that allow time to connect with God through creation, nature and that is exactly how I would describe the experience Young Green Anglicans had on Saturday the 24th of January 2015. Over forty young people gathered at Table Mountain lower cable car station where the hike was set to begin, a striking image of young people ready to take on a journey through nature. The hike

started from the end of parking zone on Tafelberg road right through the rocks and contour paths of Devils Peak to the midst of the trees deep in the Newlands forest. Contrary to normal hikes this trail was gentle going down which made it easy for the participants to focus on the plants and bizarre crawling animals rather than being tired. Read More [HERE](#)

GREEN ANGLICAN INTERNS RECEIVE TRAINING WITH YOUTH FROM OTHER FAITHS

The first few days they joined young environmental leaders from other denominations and faiths for a workshop run by SAFCEI looking at issues such as climate change and energy. The second half of the week they met as Anglicans to look at strategies to roll out the Green Anglican movement throughout the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. We also looked at materials and creative ideas that could be incorporated in sessions to be run with youth groups on subjects such as waste, land management, consumerism etc.

Read More [HERE](#)

Diocese of Lesotho Youth Conference

On Friday the 11th December Green Anglicans presented to the youth in the Diocese of Lesotho. The youth conference was held at an Anglican school St Michaels and All Angels in Maputsoe, Leribe. 300 young people from the age of 7 and upwards attended the conference. The team explained to the young people what it means to be a green Anglican. The young people were asked on what it means to be green. Volunteers were asked to come up and say what they thought it meant to be green. The young people were quite clued up on how to be green. They knew how to recycle in their homes and what could be composted in their gardens. Read More [HERE](#)



Mbashe AYF Launches Environmental Project & Youth Summit

On World Environment Day, 5th of June 2015 the Anglican Youth Fellowship of the Diocese of Mbashe hosted an environmental workshop in pursue of their aim to be "young green Anglicans". The theme for the weekend was "Let's go Green and save the nation", in that spirit they launched a garden and implemented a few activities that would take place in their respective archdeaconries to kick start the care for creation program. The conference was blessed by the presence of the Diocesan Youth Chaplain Revd. Luzuko Doda, Diocesan Dean- the Very Revd. Mluleki Fikizolo.

The Green Anglicans team Lwandile Malakhiwe Bada & Ncumisa Magadla came to All Saints Cathedral assisting the young people on practical ways of achieving this goal.

Please read full report about the weekend [HERE](#)

YOUTH IN THE DIOCESE OF FREE STATE ARE GOING GREEN!

The Diocese of the Free State declared the Environment the Third Mark of Mission in their recent Synod. Bino Makhalanyane, who is the new President of the Anglican Youth of Southern Africa, got to hear about the Green Anglican Environmental Network and invited them to attend the end of year strategic planning for the Diocesan Youth. They wanted to relook at their current Aims and Goals in the light of environmental challenges. The Youth of Diocese of Free State wanted to know about the Young Green Anglicans movement and to discuss what ideas could they initiate so they as the entire Diocesan Youth. Read More [HERE](#)



“We as the young people within the Diocese of Free State will take the motion of including a portfolio to address Environmental issues with in the Diocese”-Chaplain of AYM

INTERDIOCE- SAN GREEN CARNIVAL

The three Dioceses of the Western Cape held their first ever Green Carnival to celebrate World Environment Day on the 5th of June. The theme for the day was recycling and it was a day of great fun and excitement!

Our two Very Important Persons for the day were Bishop Margaret of False Bay and the Tin Man ! Bishop Margaret, wearing green pants and a flowery sweater inspired the youth to make a difference and the Tin man entertained us all and inspired us to Collect a Can!

Music was led by Jazzinco and the wonderful musicians of Church of the Reconciliation Manenberg.

There were stalls explaining the importance of recycling and wonderful crafts from the Khayelitsha craft market which showed how to make a living from crafts such as beads made from old magazines, ornaments made from old tin cans.

We were inspired by Sedrico Huselman who started with an fun ice breaker which showed how we can all be leaders not just followers. He

then challenged the young people by talking about the need for us to follow God by caring for Creation and explained some of the new technologies that are making a difference.

Various youth groups had wonderful eats for sale, from the ASF, Diocesan Youth Council, Church of the Resurrection, St Michaels, and the smaller members had fun on the bouncy castle.

And the moment we had all been waiting for – the Green Talent competition! The talents were quite impressive, from the little children of St Michaels Sunday school, the beautiful dance of St Marks District Six. Music was inspirational from St Dominic’s and from Kraaifontein. The competition was tight but the winners were the St Michaels who walked away with great excitement with the Green Carnival Trophy..

A huge thankyou to our wonderful MC, Barry who made us laugh and wowed us with his incredible voice!

Rev Renee August inspired us to Care for God’s creation and to love the world as God does..

So we are left with one question...who will gain the trophy next year!!!



Bishop Margaret Vertue at the Green Anglicans Carnival

YOUNG GREEN ANGLICANS OF SALDANHA BAY



Rev Makhosini conducted a workshop and retreat for young people in the Diocese of Saldanha Bay. He shared life skills with the young people from a theme from the book of Matthew equipping the participants with ways of dealing with the challenges of growing up in the modern world. He challenged young people on how to take care of themselves as young stewards of God. The workshop was attended by different Youth guilds (Anglican Youth Fellowship, Girls and Boys Friendly Society and Bernard Mizeki Men's Guild) from five parishes in the archdeaconry of Bellville and Paarl.

Green Anglicans was invited to share with the young people about care for creation and being a young Green Anglicans. The presentation started with a drama that portrayed God as an artist who gave his wonderful painting (the world) to humans with a command to take care of it. In the story humans destroy the painting by drawing factories, roads, building as well as replacing trees and grazing velds with landfills. A lot of talent and participation was shown by the youth that present. We learnt so much from the participants and had an opportunity identify movers and shakers that could assist in spreading the ministry.

We would like to thank Rev Maci for his brilliant role in teaching young people

If you want to submit your environmental experience please contact

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THE YOUNG HIPPOS OF ST AUGUSTINE'S

It was May the 22nd when the Sunday school bible class of St Augustine's of Hippo from Lotus River went on a camp. The camp was Organised by Green Anglicans with the purpose of teaching the children more about nature and the importance of taking care of our environment. The camp was in False Bay Ecology Park Environmental Centre which is in Zeekovlei/Rondovlei nature reserve, where there are still a few Hippos . The Office organised the camp after Rev Mash saw they wonderful drama the Sunday School performed for her during Season of Creation.

This was a great experience and a wonderful Camp, because we got to see that most of the kids were indeed aware of how to take care of our environment and they were keen on learning other new things. The Camp consisted of the walk to Rondevlei where we learnt more about the history of Hippos and what they do, We also learnt more on how to take care of our wet lands, The team building where children learnt more on how important it is to look out for each other, The Devotions which included a few readings from the bible and the Story of Nature from Ryan The Rhino book, and the wonderful night walk which was a great experience because it also taught the kids on how they can depend on each other as they everybody was grouped in pairs.

After the weekend I must say I learnt a lot from the wonderful Young hippos of St Augustine's and their teacher. I would like to thank Anwar, Ricardo, John and Zoliswa the staff of the nature reserve for teaching our young people about the importance of nature and lastly let me thank the wonderful Sunday Teachers from St Augustine's on their job of guiding the Sunday school and making them be aware of Nature. Indeed after that weekend I can confidently say St Augustine's has produced the Young Hippos (Jaden Berry, Jimmy Patrick, Jaden Messiah) to mention a few. Nature is one of God's beautiful creations. Through nature, God is able to teach us, speak to us, and provide for us. For this reason we can find scripture that we as humans are called to protect all which is of He has created **-Job 12: 7-10**

