

In all honesty 2014 was a challenging year in many ways, but our faithful God was with us every step of the way and we believe He will continue to guide St. Michaels in His time in the years to come.

It was a challenging year financially for us as a parish and for the Diocese of Saldanha Bay which is dependent on us and other parishes. We are however pleased to announce we have paid all the bills with the exception of falling slightly behind in our assessment payments to the Diocese. Thank you to every member of the parish who has faithfully tithed to God's Church in the past year even though we living in very trying financial times. Please continue to do so and we encourage everyone to prayerfully consider their pledge for 2015.

It was also challenging in the realisation that us as a Church is not exempt from crime, sadly St. Michaels was a victim of crime when we were burgled in March. We thank God that other than minor damage nothing of value was taken.

Sadly in this broken world we live in, so many people are forced to live life on the street. As a caring Church we try our best to help people who live on the street, we unfortunately had to take the decision in 2014 to protect our premises from a small group of people who unfortunately is growing, people who damage, mess and sometimes threaten the security of our Rector, his family, staff, tenants and faithful folk doing their ministries.

For this reason we initiated the fence fundraiser to raise funds to enclose our grounds. Please support all future events linked to raising this money. We thank all who worked so hard in making a success of the events so far, we think of the Quiz night, the Play at the Milnerton Theatre and who can forget the crazy men who raised funds by entering the freezing waters of Blouberg by taking part in the Polar Bear Challenge.

There were many highlights during 2014. We thank God for raising up all these faithful people who willingly got involved in the Children and Youth ministry. Our Sunday school and Youth group grew so much in 2014, we think of the Sunday school camp-out in March, Masterchef in June and the Youth Camp in October to name a few of the exciting events. Thank you to all who work so hard in this important ministry.

In July Fr. Jerome represented St. Michaels at the Anglicans Ablaze Conference in Johannesburg, thank you to all the folk you helped to make this happen.

In August we lost two Ordinands in our Parish but gained two Deacons, Allan and Andrew completed their studies and were ordained as Deacons. Congratulations and we will hold you in prayer as you prepare to be ordained as Priests in the near future.

We also gained two new Lay Ministers, congratulations Joyce and Charlotte, we will pray for you as you faithfully serve in this ministry.

In 2014 Fr. Charles Blows made a simple appeal for Peanut Butter or other spreads to be donated to the Kensington Home for the aged. We are so proud how this parish has given so much more and continue to give to this needy cause. A special thank you to everyone who place items of food and toiletries in the box at the back of the Church, and for those who have given time and financial aid to the home.

In an effort to save money, during 2014 we implemented cost saving measures like installing a Geysler timer and changing our security company to ECP. In 2015 we will investigate further measures starting with our Photo Copier.

We thank everyone who faithfully answer our call for help, over and above the things already mentioned, we have called on the parish for so much, things like the Lenten Appeal, the Rectors Christmas blessing and the Shoebox project where we handed over 34 pairs of shoes and 36 pairs of socks to underprivileged children in Lamberts Bay.

We thank the outgoing members of the PCC, we thank them for the time they have put into to doing God's work in leading this Church and for their contribution in growing this church over the last year. We thank the folk who has heard God's call and have made themselves available to serve on the Church council for 2015.

On a personal note as I stand down, thank you to every person who has encouraged and supported me as PCC member and a Warden. A special thank you to Clergy, Wardens and PCC members who I have served a long side over the years, your contribution to my growth is priceless.

They say one has learnt nothing if you do not pass it on. If I could pass one thing on, I recommend to everyone, it is worth your while to get involved in the many ministries in this Church sooner rather than later, you will not believe how you will be blessed.

Thank you to every person involved in a ministry in this Church, we praise God for your faithfulness. There is however room for so many more folk to get involved so we can take this Church to new heights.

We all live very busy lives and it is so easy to say "I would like to, but....."

The fact is, God needs every single one of us to help shepherd His flock and keep the doors open in this part of His vineyard.

In closing, thank you to Fr. Jerome for his leadership and to Fiona and Ava who so often loose family time while he works so hard to fulfil God's plan for St. Michaels.

May God bless the parish of St. Michael and All Angels Edgemead.

Sean Cuff