**Reflecting on 2016**

Another year has flown by, and now we look back and reflect on 2016.

At the outset, I must thank our JAEI Committee:

Fiona Maskell, Mark Franklin (as treasurer), Revd Martha Gordon, Revd Kevin Balkwill (Chaplin), Gift Ngwenya, Michael Maskell, Revd Tsepo Matubatuba, Anne Wright, Revd Judy Bassingthwaighte, John Moalusi, and Prof. Lulama Makhubela for their faithful involvement during the year.

Sadly, Mike Maskell has now retired from JAEI (although will now doubt be hovering in the background as our “go to guy” and John has had to resign due to pressures from other commitments.

We enjoy the support of our Provincial Environmental Desk (ACSAEN - Anglican Church of Southern Africa Environmental Network) through Revd Rachel Mash and her staff.

December 2016 saw the termination of the WWF Intern Project. Vincent Letale interned with JAEI from May 2015 to December 2016. Unfortunately, this project did not have the impact or desired results that we had hoped, but wish Vincent every success in his new position with Ipelegeng Community Centre.

JAEI was not able to approach nearly as many Parishes as we had hoped, but we are fortunate that we still have the support of our Archdeacons and +Steve. This will be pursued in 2017.

Even so, many Parishes continued (and some begun) a diverse array of environmental initiatives and projects and celebrated Creation in Services with focused sermons and prayers.

These included:

***St. Andrews, Pimville***

* Fledgling Green Parish
* Sermon on Water during Season of Creation

***St. Augustine’s, Orange Grove***

* Indigenous planting and clearing of invasives and non-waterwise plants
* Installing a Mondi waste-paper dome, encouraging parishioners and the surrounding community to recycle their paper
* “Ronnie Bags” from Mondi were handed out on World Environment Day
* Parishioners are encouraged to bring plastic bottle tops for recycling and income generation purposes

***Christ the King, Coronationville***

* Fledgling Green Parish
* Recycling initiative
* Clean-up day

***St Francis, Parkview***

* Eco themes regular feature in services
* Season of Creation
* Articles on enviro topics in quarterly parish magazine
* Some monthly “Park Views” talks of environmental nature
* Eco-group committee meets regularly to organise activities to promote green objectives.
* Group weekend - Nylsvlei – cancelled
* Photo-voltaic cell is being considered. Investigations complete - funding a problem.
* An ecology survey to congregation - poor response. Results will be published separately.
* Recycling bins installed.
* A list of common invader alien plants to be circulated to parishioners in 2017 for removal action

***St Marks, Northriding***

* Sermon on “Celebrate Biodiversity” sermon near to World Environment Day
* The parish tries to be environmentally sensitive in all decisions and has taken a lot of action to reduce the electricity and water bills

***St Martins in the Veld, Rosebank***

* Annual Jonathan Rands memorial Dinner
* Trying to resuscitate the Sustainability Committee

***St Mary’s Cathedral***

* A clean-up around the cathedral was done at the beginning of 2016
* High priority of the parish council is to create a Cathedral Precinct
* Talks have been had with the City Council officials and there is more visibility of Metro Police
* The pollution status around the Cathedral has reduced a great deal
* Wanderers Street in front of the Cathedral has been closed to traffic and looks much better now and there is more parking space for the Cathedral users.

***St Michaels, Bryanston***

* 12 March – visual presentation of 2 parishioners’ month-long hike on the Appalachian Trail, USA (36 attended).
* 5 May – visit to a fragrant rose garden/farm (20 people).
* 5 June – celebrated World Environment Day in all 4 Sunday services and one Sunday service including music and liturgy, preaching and prayers.
* 25 June – parish hike to Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens (28 people young and old.) The hike offered 2 options of longer hike and short walk around the gardens near the entrance.
* September (Season of Creation) Sunday School classes followed Ryan the Rhino (80 children).
* September – completion of the major building development of 2 houses and reconstruction of the parking lot. The project involved eco features such as solar geysers, dual flush toilets and north-facing for the homes. The parking area involved an extensive eco drainage plan that had to be approved by the city to ensure the grass and plants could absorb rain runoff. Extensive planting of indigenous trees, shrubs and flowers. Various herbs and vegetables have also been planted at different locations in the parish grounds.
* growing awareness and support for greening the church
* Green activities cut across parish life, and included various portfolios such as Sunday School, worship, evangelism, outreach, grounds and maintenance.
* Weekly green tip in pew leaflet
* paper recycling & garden refuse composted.
* eco-friendly pest control
* Borehole water is used for gardening
* Several Creation articles featured in the parish quarterly newsletter
* “Good as New” shop which sells used clothes and income is donated to charity.
* Portfolio and other meetings are moving towards increased use of tablets to avoid printing
* Sunday evening service is PowerPoint avoid use of any printed materials.

Upcoming: a major project is underway in 2017 to roll out PowerPoint presentations in all services. This will allow for a greater variety of hymns and services without the need to print booklets and song sheets, and we will not need to buy more prayer books and hymn books which are deteriorating.

***St Michael ad All Angels, Weltevreden Park***

* The Waste Management project continues.
* The Weekly Eco-corner continues as do the Eco-notice boards.
* All Services are on PowerPoint (Service, hymns, etc) to minimise paper usage
* Enviro friendly products are used were possible
* Indigenous garden requires little maintenance
* Parish Environmental Policy (based on Diocesan Environmental Policy) upheld across the management and activities
* Water harvesting/renewable energy:The planned water harvesting has not yet begun but it is scheduled to begin in 2017. It is the intention of the Parish to become energy self-sufficient in the next five years.
* Various events/activities are planned for 2017

*Activities during 2016:*

* *Annual Sunrise Service* – 7 February at Kloofendal Nature Reserve. 42 people attended.
* *Painting in nature* – 12 March & 23 July

A group of “would be” artists got together under the expert guidance of acclaimed artist, David Moore. 2nd workshop was held in July. Total of 22 people attended. (This will be repeated in 2017)

* *Kloofendal hike* – 12 March

A leisurely hike around the very beautiful Kloofendal Nature Reserve.

* *Earth hour* – 19 March

Posters encouraging participation in Earth Hour were put up on the Eco-notice boards as well as in the pew leaflet. An email reminder circular was also sent out.

* *Holiday club* – 22 March

An environmentally focused day was included in the Holiday Club

* *Eco-quiz* */Earth Day* – 22 April

An Eco-quiz was held for the monthly Social on 22nd April – Earth Day. A lot of fun was had by all, and participants came away with some new environmental insights. Prizes were all made from recycled materials.

* *World Environment* *Sunday* – 5 June

Eco-liturgy was used compiled by Rev Doug Torr and Noeleen Mullett. Feedback was very positive.

* *Sterkfontein Caves* - 16 July

An outing to the Caves was enjoyed by an enthusiastic group of 30 people

* *Breakfast & JAEI Sharing morning* – 27 August

St Mikes hosted the JAEI Sharing morning with a breakfast. Speaker Ashlea Strong (environmental consultant) enlightened us with her presentation *“The Cost of your Morning Cup of Coffee”* which addressed the various energy sources that we use, and the environmental impacts that this has which we are not aware of.

* *Season of Creation/Youth/Spring Day* – 4 September

A combined Season of Creation/Spring Day and Youth Service was held to mark the Season of Creation month.

* *Quiet morning* – 17 September

Revd Kevin Balkwill lead a Quiet Morning entitled “Consider the Buds“) The morning was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all

* *World Food Day* – 16 October

To acknowledge World Food Day, the Eco-team paired with the ACTS (Outreach) Group to encourage parishioners to bring items of non-perishable food to all Services. This food was then distributed to one of the needy crèches/preschools in KyaSands.

* *Hartebeeshoek* – 22 October

An outing was held to Hartbeeshoek Radio Astronomy Observatory (HartRAO). The group of about 40 thoroughly enjoyed the tour as well as the fun experiments afterwards.

* *Random Harvest* – 20 November

To close off the year, a small group gathered for brunch at the wonderfully peaceful Random Harvest Nursery

***St Pauls, Parkhurst***

* Weekly prayers from the monthly Prayer Diary in parish leaflet
* Sort-at-source recycling at church and parish house
* interactive enviro corner for early learning centre and weekly children’s church in order to teach little people about conservation, recycling and caring for the environment
* Special World Environment Day service.
* Information and “happenings” related to the environment on parish notice board

***St Stephens, Sunninghill***

* Monitoring or energy and water usage
* Walks and hikes (Windybrow, Cullinan (1 day) & Strandloper trail (5 days)
* Quiet and meditative mornings
* Vegetable garden
* Refurbished owl box
* Articles in newsletter
* The parish tries to be environmentally sensitive in all decisions and has taken a lot of action to reduce the electricity and water bills.

***St Thomas, Linden***

* Eco-ministry is led by a small eco team and with active support of the clergy
* Noticeboard erected for the Eco-ministry use (information about special days, special events and other environmental information
* The Lenten Environmental Fast Booklet booklet was emailed to the parishioners weekly through Lent.
* Various short family walks were offered:  Emmarentia Dam; Delta Park; Kloofendal.
* Short reports on eco activities are written for the church magazine.
* The Rev Dr Jeremy Jacobs (St Georges, Parktown) presented two excellent talks on Evolution and the Evolution of Religion.
* Patronal Festival was linked to Clothes of Compassion – donations of clothes for our homeless – with the Eco Ministry in the spirit of Laudato Si.
* Night visit to the Zoo
* An astronomy evening led by members of the Johannesburg Astronomical association was held at Delta Park.
* The Season of Creation was observed: a special liturgy for week 1; special prayers and hymns; season of creation lectionary readings; guest sermons; flower arrangements; an early morning outdoor Mass.

**Northern Eco-Cluster:**

JAEI is part of the Northern Eco-Cluster of GreenAnglicans (ACSAEN) – coprising Johannesburg, Christ the King, Highveld, Pretoria and Matlosane. A Northern Cluster meeting in October was unfortunately thwarted by the Fees Must Fall protests, but the small band of those who did attend, used the time to revisit JAEI’s outdated Environmental Policy – the fruits of which are before us now.

JAEI has worked with the fledgling Eco-ministry in the Pretoria Diocese which now is becoming active.

**Governance and Communication:**

JAEIs Terms of reference has been updated and will be submitted to the Diocesan Board one approved by this meeting.

The Diocese Environmental Policy was also revisited, updated and expanded and will also be submitted to +Steve for his approval before submitting to Diocesan Council and Synod later in the year.

Website continues under the hand of Gift Ngwenya, who has been very busy updating and refining the site

Enviro corners and month Prayer diaries continue to be circulated to the Diocese and others who have requested them.

Other than the 2016 AGM and Sharing morning, St Michaels, Weltevreden Park hosted a Sharing morning in August discussing various forms of energy and their impacts on the environment.

**Funding:**

We continue to experience scarce resources – both human and financial.

Endeavours to obtain external funding have not been successful during this year, but JAEI is determined to continue to pursue this avenue in order to broaden our actions. Bringing Environmental awareness throughout the Diocese is critical.

In conclusion - A quote from*Erazim Kohak* a Czech philosopher and Professor Emeritus at Boston University who has written extensively on environmental ethics, writes in his book “*The Embers and the Star”*.

*“The heavens may still declare the glory of God, but we look up not at the heavens but at neon reflected on smog; we walk not on the good earth but on asphalt. Our estrangement from nature is no longer conceptual only: it has acquired an experiential grounding. Figuratively, we are all in the position of the child who has never seen, never mind milked, a cow, and whose lived experience constantly provides an experiential confirmation for the assumption that milk comes from a supermarket cooler.”*

It is JAEI’s desire to bring awareness of the interconnectedness of all Creation to the entire Diocese. During the course of 2017, JAEI will be concentrating on deepening reconnection with all Creation – looking especially at the spiritual aspect and finding a way to balance the practical with the mystical.

And with God’s help – we will

***Noeleen Mullett***

**JAEI Chairperson (2016/17)**