

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALSTONVILLE

14th May 2017



*We rejoice and give thanks to our gracious God on the announcement
of our new Rector,*

Reverend Dr Desiree Snyman

whose Commissioning will be held on Friday 28th July.

ALSTONVILLE FESTIVAL—SUNDAY 28th MAY

We will have our own stand this year to share with the community, Messy Church, Play Place and the Op Shop as well as our hospitality and caring ministry for all. We would like as many people as possible to volunteer to go on the roster to be at the stall, hand out pamphlets and be a bright face of our church in our community! Please contact Margaret Brown or Carol Stone to indicate your availability to share in this special festival day.

We will also be supporting the Churches on the Plateau stall, who will have a more general focus on the Christian faith. The combined churches are coordinating the live entertainment and there are a couple of 30 min slots still to fill. If you can assist with playing Gospel music, please contact Jim Willis (Mob 0413332744). Pray for this Godly interaction with the Alstonville community through the presence of church people at the Festival.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

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| Sunday | 14th May | 5.00pm - Messy Extra |
| Monday | 15th May | 9:30am - MU Meeting - Meeting Room 1 10.00am - Study Group - Main Hall |
| Tuesday | 16th May | 11.00am - SDA Service 1.00pm - Study Group - Meeting Room 1 |
| Wednesday | 17th May | 4.00pm - Study Group - Helen Nicholson 6.00pm - Parish Council Meeting |
| Thursday | 18th May | 9.30am - Play Place 7.30pm - Study Group - Des & Susan Fitzpatrick |
| Friday | 19th May | 10.00am - St Barts Holy Communion 2.00pm - Choir Practice 6.00pm - Music Group |

Bible Readings:

14th May
21st May

Acts 7: 55-60
Acts 17: 22-31

John 14:1-14
John 14:15-21

Our Rector Designate writes:

Greetings from Reverend Dr Desiree Snyman. I greatly look forward to my journey with the people of God in Alstonville. There is so much that I see in you that excites me and resonates with me. I come with love to share through word and sacrament, blessing and challenge, prayer and presence.

My background. I experience myself as one who is deeply loved. I am grateful fundamentally for the extravagant, abundant and reckless love of God that pours into, onto and over me, embracing me intimately, even as this same grace embraces all humans. What I have in common then with the human family, is the intimacy and vulnerability of this extravagant love of God that leaves inside each, a spark or seed of divinity. I don't promise to always succeed, but I hope to celebrate and rejoice in the mystery of each person I come across, who is birthed into the world as an original blessing from God: Creator and Source of all being.

I am grateful also for the unconditional love of my parents, Marina and Desmond. Marina is a retired teacher and holds a doctorate in psychology and education, but her most cherished title is "Granny". My father still practices as a chartered accountant and auditor. He often says that the best we ever did for him was give him grandchildren.

It is the love and safety that was offered in the home environment that gave my three younger sisters and I the confidence to launch into various parts of the globe. Lindi, three years younger than me, is an anaesthetist consultant in Ireland and has a young daughter that she calls Niamh and that I call Possum. Vicki, who is four years younger than Lindi, is a teacher and is about to start an appointment in Oman, having completed a contract with her husband Rheedan in Seoul. Jenna is five years younger than Vicki and is completing community service in Nelspruit working as a medical doctor.

Marius is one of the great joys of my life. We met at Rhodes University Grahamstown where I studied Theology and Marius studied music. We married in 2001 and have loved each other more and more each year. In 2003 we were joined by Connor Mpho and Keehan Siphso who we delight in, celebrate and are deeply proud of.

Called to the ministry at the age of 14, I have dedicated my love and life to God and to God's church. I have had farewell services now at several churches, all of which have left an indelible mark of care and appreciation on me; I am lucky to have been loved by so many.

Grace and peace, Desiree

THANKSGIVING FOR NEW RECTOR

Generous God,
we give you thanks for the provision of a new Rector,
for her willingness to receive your call
and for the Presentation Board and our Parish Nominators
for their patient and Godly discernment.
Give to us warm and generous hearts
and readiness to embrace a new future
with Reverend Desiree and her family. Amen