

# Parish of St. John the Baptist



DIOCESE of ZULULAND

Ans 14. 11. 94

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Dear Sheila,

21-10-1994

Pam and I were sad when we heard about the death of Bill. News travels very slowly to these parts nowadays and sometimes I think post went faster by ox wagon, hence my delay in writing.

We remember with gratitude your ministry together in Eshowe at the Cathedral and also Bill's ministry within the Diocese on more than one occasion.

I had to smile when I read the article in Anglican Up Date about the early days of Bill's ministry. He often told us that in those days when he worked for the S.A.C.C. he did much in his own strength, but after his experience with the infilling of the Holy Spirit he did much more with greater power, and greater glory was given to God.

Yes he had a wonderful ministry, no doubt about that, and I thank God for how you supported him with love, patience and joy.

It was a great privilege to be with him and we enjoyed having him in our home in Eshowe remembering well his delightful humour and his turn of phrase when telling one of his many tales about his experiences in travelling all over the world. I can still remember waiting for him to come to the table for supper one evening. He was a long time in the loo. When he eventually appeared there was a large grin all over his face and he told how he just had to stay there and read all the Irish jokes we had on the wall. He laughed as he repeated the last joke of them all, "Why are Irish jokes so simple?" "So that the English can understand them."

I have a feeling that after Bill resigned as Archbishop he had many frustrations but now in The Lord's grace he has perfect knowledge and understands why things were sometimes hard to bear.

On Wednesday Evening we had a Thanksgiving Service for all that God in Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit has done in the parish and in the life of its people. I was glad that I could give thanks for Bill for he encouraged me to walk and live in the Spirit and for that, God's Holy Name be praised.

May the same Spirit be your comfort as you remember him.

Grace and Peace be with you Sheila always.

Yours in the service of the Christ,

*Bill*

W. McC. Johnston.

"I baptise you with water, but He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit"  
(Mark 1:8)