



Anglican By Choice

In the year 2008, it occurred to me that some Anglicans were no longer as proud or at least not as enthusiastic about their church/denomination as they should be. It also seemed to me that there was quite a serious push “to be like other denominations” where young people “were running to”. While there is nothing wrong in learning from others in order to improve our worship, there *is something special about being different!* Our ways of meeting and experiencing God (seen through our worship style) can never be the same and the way denominations mediate that experience cannot be the same as well.

Following on the above, the phrase Anglican By Choice came into my mind and I preached a sermon (2008) on it in the congregations of All Saints eMbalenhle, St Paul’s eMzinoni and St James’ Leslie (all in Mpumalanga). The idea was to encourage fellow Anglicans to take ownership of their own denomination and know that in actual fact no one is forced to be Anglican but we do have a CHOICE! We should not be embarrassed to declare that we are Anglican and that in the space of being Anglican we experience the fullness of God. This happens even in our use incense, our Eucharist, our Mothers Union uniforms, our Bernard Mizeki, our vestments, our singing, our praise, our Common Book of Prayer and other symbols.

Yes we are happily Anglican and Anglican By Choice and are not stuck because we are born into the denomination or brought in by marriage!

The middle aged group (25-55) at St John the Baptist Anglican Church Pinetown have now taken the concept of Anglican By Choice (ABC as they call it) further. They are now making it a branded campaign encouraging all parishioners, through merchandise like Golf shirts, stickers and so on; to proudly declare that they are Christians who have chosen to express their Christianity within the Anglican tradition. We will continue to learn from other denominations, learn from each other but still we choose to remain Anglican and we do not wish we were anywhere else. We will be here happily, support each other, raise our families within this rich and diverse tradition

and we are not desperately holding on to a dying tradition! No! We are alive and well!
We pray that the ABC fire will be lit by all other Anglicans around us.

Forbes Maupa

Rector of St John's (ABC)