



# ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH FOURWAYS GARDENS

Anglican Diocese of Johannesburg. PBO Number: 930018128

## VESTRY REPORTS FEBRUARY 2021

### 1. INTERIM RECTOR REPORT

Beautiful saints, planted by grace in this place, peace be upon you!

We entered 2020 full of energy, enthusiasm and great plans! Our service attendance numbers had tripled, our finances were starting to stabilize, we had a great plan for our youth centre and programmes, and we were on a roll! Then came COVID.....

What a year we have seen! This COVID pandemic has completely changed the world, and for the moment it seems that there is still a road to travel. Yet it has also been a time of great opportunity, particularly in the early months of 2020 with hard lockdown in effect, all our lives hit the pause button. This created an opportunity for reflection and a realignment of priorities. And so, it was too for our community of faith. As leadership we took a step back and spent time in deep prayer and discernment. In essence it was an opportunity to really draw close to God and seek to follow Him in the uncertainty we all found ourselves in. The other opportunity created by the pandemic is that my contract was extended from May 2020 to December 2021.

I am deeply appreciative of this extension of time together. It is a tremendous privilege and joy to serve as Interim Rector in this community. The generosity shown by each of you in the Christmas collection was a deeply humbling experience. I am so aware of how your commitment to our community has not wavered despite us minimally being able to worship in person.

I offer this report as a reflection on what we have achieved and learnt from 2020 and offer some priorities for 2021.

In 2020 we had identified 3 aspects to focus on: growing ministry capacity, solidifying staff support and increasing our musical capacity for worship. Our theme for the year was God inviting us to **“become living members of this holy fellowship and grow in love and obedience”**. Little did I understand how important this invitation would be, as our entire church life was disrupted, and every home became the centre of our life of faith. As leadership it was a very sharp learning curve to create virtual ministry offerings and resources for home use, as well as how to continue offering the various courses we were busy with online. My move into the Rectory was also very conducive to my ability to continue ministry in this lockdown environment and I would like to especially thank my family for how they supported me in very practical ways to enter the virtual ministering space.

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God had definitely gone before us, with the co-option of Mosidi onto the “sharing the message” portfolio. Her dedication, vision and skill allowed us to move into the social media space very quickly.

We managed to:

- Move our baptism course on-line and eventually hold baptism for 4 new members in November 2020. Gratitude to Jean and Jeanette for their assistance in this course.
- Complete our 1-year Confirmation Class in November 2020 on schedule. Deep gratitude to the candidates and their families for their unwavering commitment. A special thanks to Keenan, Jean and Beth for co-facilitating this course with me. Confirmation service has not yet happened, but we managed to celebrate this milestone in our in-person service in November 2020. We await the Diocese on their plan for the official service.
- Do an entire Holy Week and full Easter offering on-line and with home offerings.
- Offer daily reflections based on the lectionary readings. Gratitude to the team who assist with this (Heather, Charles, Jean, Beth and now in 2021 Frank). Also, these would not be possible without the dedicated broadcasting of these messages twice a day on our social media platforms by Mosidi, Lorelle and Sonique (when she was interim assistant);
- Offer a Saturday evening bedtime bible story made possible by our confirmation candidates and Jean in the editing.
- Offer a video reflection every Wednesday and a pre-recorded service every Sunday. Gratitude to Tam for always being available and willing to assist.
- Revamp our website and You Tube channel in order to consolidate offerings and allow people to know of our presence. This initiative began with Lionel and Mosidi and has come to fruition through the hard work and dedication of Owen.

The greatest challenge in going “virtual” was trying to create content and processes that allowed people to feel connected to one another and could support each individual in their personal life of faith. In order to assist us we began reviewing our parish roll in an effort to find better ways to connect with people. Deep gratitude to those who took up this initiative (Nadene, Mike, Charles, Del, Sharon & Heather). We are still not there with an updated roll and so I encourage each of you to go to our website and fill out the membership form there to assist us.

As part of this reflective time, we engaged the parish through the different portfolios in a “Strategic Conversation and Vision process”. We asked three simple questions and consolidated the answers:



What makes All Saints unique?

- ✓ Welcoming, safe & fun space.
- ✓ Diversity of our people & relaxed atmosphere.
- ✓ An oasis of peace, a haven to meet God in nature.
- ✓ Authentic simplicity.

Where are our members in their walk with God?

- ✓ Desire to walk closer to God.
- ✓ Seeking an encounter with a relevant God.
- ✓ The personal message found in the sermons.

What work of grace is God seeking to do in us?

- ✓ Transforming us into a people of God.
- ✓ Doing more with our gifts & talents.
- ✓ Using the property to invite people into a deeper relationship with God.

Where most of 2020 felt like living in reactive mode, we now enter 2021 with the understanding that the whole way we “do and be” church has changed. We know now that opportunities to do things in-person will be limited, we expect a series of rolling lock downs, we are experiencing a financial knock-on effect from last year, and we need to get ahead of the curve. If we have learnt anything from these uncertain times it is that we need to be able to pivot at a moment’s notice, be flexible in our planning, pay attention to opportunities even if they look like disaster, and allow God to steer a course through the storm.

With this in mind our November strategy meeting decided that in 2021 we need to focus on a few things and do these well. In the process we need to embrace the virtual space and find ways to minister effectively and with relevant offerings in this space. Going from an average of 180 – 200 people in-person per Sunday (in February 2020) to less than 40 when we open for services (in November 2020) is a sobering statistic. The challenge becomes how to continue to feel part of a vibrant worshipping community when we are not physically present.

Building off the November strategy we have identified 4 areas of focus for 2021:

1. Creating a vibrant virtual ministry with offerings that are timeous and relevant. This means that whether in-person or not our members are able to journey through the liturgical year together, as well as fellowship with one another.
2. Create a youth centred community, that supports and learns from our young people. This includes creating youth relevant content for our social media platforms, as well as deeper engagement with parents.
3. Find creative ways to utilize the beautiful property that makes us so unique. This involves partnerships with others and while abiding by relevant regulations, ensuring that the gem we have is shared.



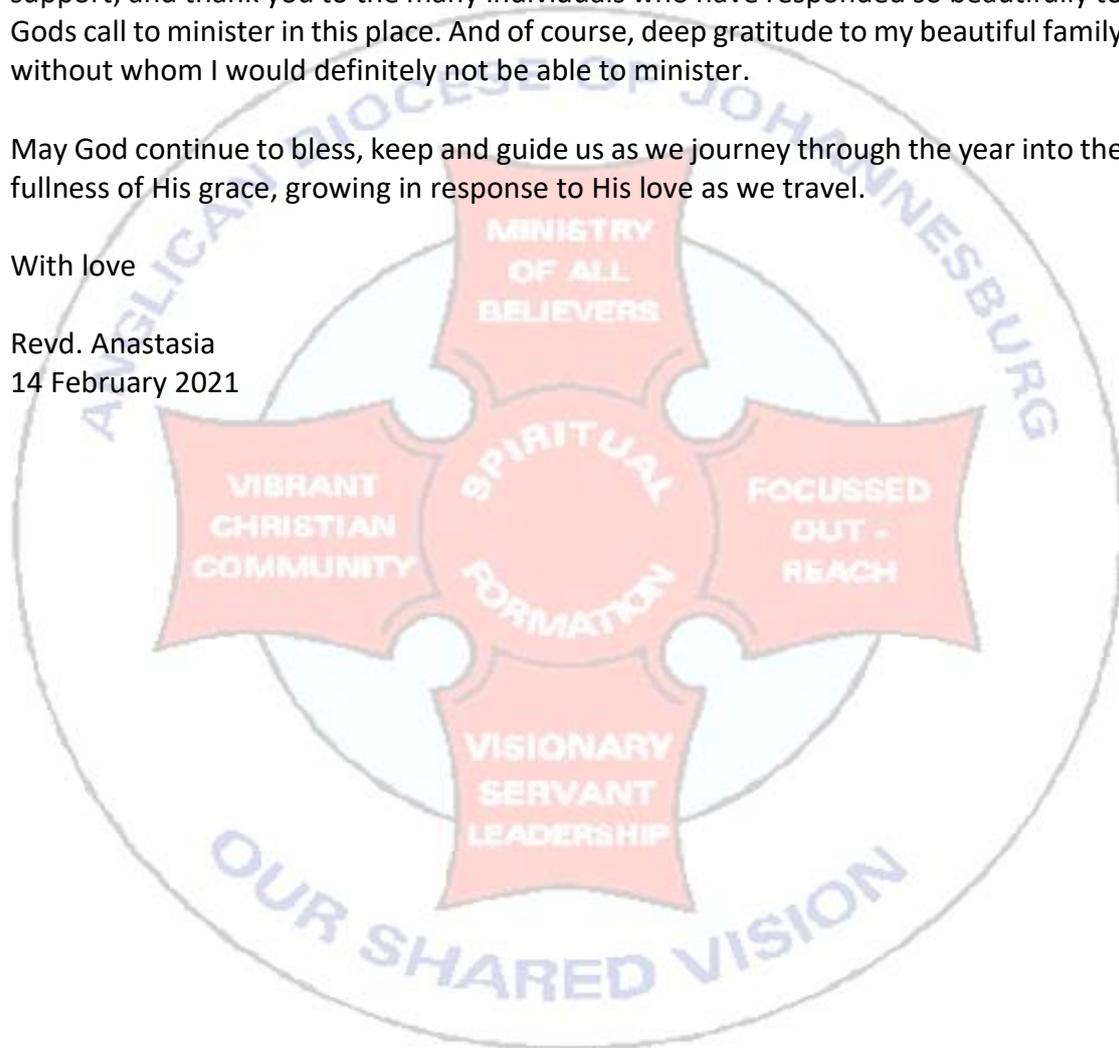
As I have already shared, it is my discernment that the theme for 2021 is **“living in response to God’s love”**. The year ahead will be challenging, and unpredictable. We will need to make hard decisions and find creative solutions. Yet, as we remain grounded and rooted in God’s love for us, I believe this will give us wisdom, endurance and courage to face whatever lies ahead.

In conclusion, thank you to the parish and especially Parish Council for your unfailing support; and thank you to the many individuals who have responded so beautifully to Gods call to minister in this place. And of course, deep gratitude to my beautiful family without whom I would definitely not be able to minister.

May God continue to bless, keep and guide us as we journey through the year into the fullness of His grace, growing in response to His love as we travel.

With love

Rev. Anastasia  
14 February 2021





## 2. CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT

We as Wardens are pleased to be able to report on 2020, a year which has been full of challenges. Rev Anastasia has been with us since May 2019 and has really had a significant impact on the Parish in terms of the ministry and on the leadership front. She seamlessly transitioned to holding Virtual Services, keeping the ministry vibrant and alive during the COVID 19 lockdown.

Despite the challenge of COVID 19, the church has managed to stabilize its finances. Factors that have impacted or finances have been:

- Limited number of in-person services.
- Decline of Income from rentals  
The New Apostolic Church (NAC) and Seventh Day Apostolic Church (SDA) both were granted payment holidays and no income was received from September to December 2020. The NAC has had to terminate their contract due to financial constraints brought about by COVID 19.

As of 31st December 2020, All Saints Church has an overdraft of R1 920 895 (2019: R2,179,787). The decrease in the overdraft is as a result of efforts made at all cost, to live within our means. Our out-going Treasurer, Keenan Jansen, has set a solid foundation for the parish that should see the overdraft cleared within the next 5 years. This does mean that we need to stick to the course set out in the plan and it also means making some hard decisions around how to further bring down our expenses. There will need to be a continued focus on how to increase income, particularly as rental income has diminished. 2021 is showing signs that we will still have intermittent in-person services and will therefore need to encourage plate offering, even when virtual services are held.

The need to strive to grow our numbers and leverage the Virtual Ministry to bring members who may not necessarily have come to services in person. The financial health of the church is reliant on ALL members of All Saints pulling together. In 2019 the Parish excess of income over expenditure of R 259 623 (provision for taxation - R56 669). In 2020 the excess in the income over the expenditure was R 115 263 (provision for taxation – R 21 008), a very significant outcome in the face of COVID 19. More importantly, despite the significant decrease in income, we still managed to make a significant dent in the loan account

We would like to thank the entire Parish Council and Executive who have worked tirelessly on improving the parishes' finances and have placed All Saints on a firm path towards financial health.

At the beginning of 2020, the decision was taken to transform the fundraising team into the fellowship team, which would focus on growing fellowship within the church as well as encouraging new members to become active members of the church.



Due to the lockdown, there was very little opportunity to grow this ministry. The challenge in 2021 will be for the Fellowship Team to find innovative ways of growing fellowship in the context of the new normal of virtual ministry.

There were a few fundraising initiatives that continued during lockdown, notably the 100 Club and the Easter Raffle both of which happened virtually.

Faced with the challenge of COVID 19 the church was able to rapidly move to virtual platforms:

- Sunday service on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram and on the Website
- WhatsApp, morning, midday and evening prayers
- WhatsApp Newsletter and other notices
- WhatsApp Bedtime Bible stories
- Website has been re-vamped and modernised

Our traditional Patronal was held on the 1 November 2020, this was an in-person service which was held outside the church in line with social distancing requirements. The Carol Service was held on the 13 December 2020.

Thanks also to Jean Pienaar for persisting with Messy Church despite the challenges of the lockdown. Messy Church at All Saints continues to be a very important ministry for our children.

Our Outreach program was a challenge in 2020, due to the lockdown restrictions. Understandably the needs of community were even greater during lockdown and due to restrictions on movement limited relief could be offered. Soup was distributed via Witkoppen clinic. The church continued to assist where they could, mostly from generous donations from parishioners as well as non-parishioners. Di Levisohn left for Australia and this has left a considerable gap in the outreach program. We continue to ask for parishioners to prayerfully consider getting involved in this wonderful ministry. We wish Di all the best as she settles with her family in Australia.

Finally, heartfelt THANK YOU to all who served in whatever capacity during this very difficult year. The Parish Councillors, Parish Ministers, Children & Youth Church, Fellowship Team and all Parishioners who got involved in taking us into the Virtual Ministry. Your willingness to be part of this journey in 2020 was welcomed and noted with extreme gratitude.

We thank you for the trust and faith you have placed in us in what was an extremely challenging year. We pray for God's continued blessing on this parish.

Yours in His Service,

Sharon Ellis (Warden)

Lindi Kekana (Warden)

Lione Marumahoko (Warden)



### 3. MAINTENANCE REPORT

The start of the year saw some electrical repairs being done at the rectory, as well as the stove hot plate being replaced. The rectory patio sliding door was also fitted with new runners.

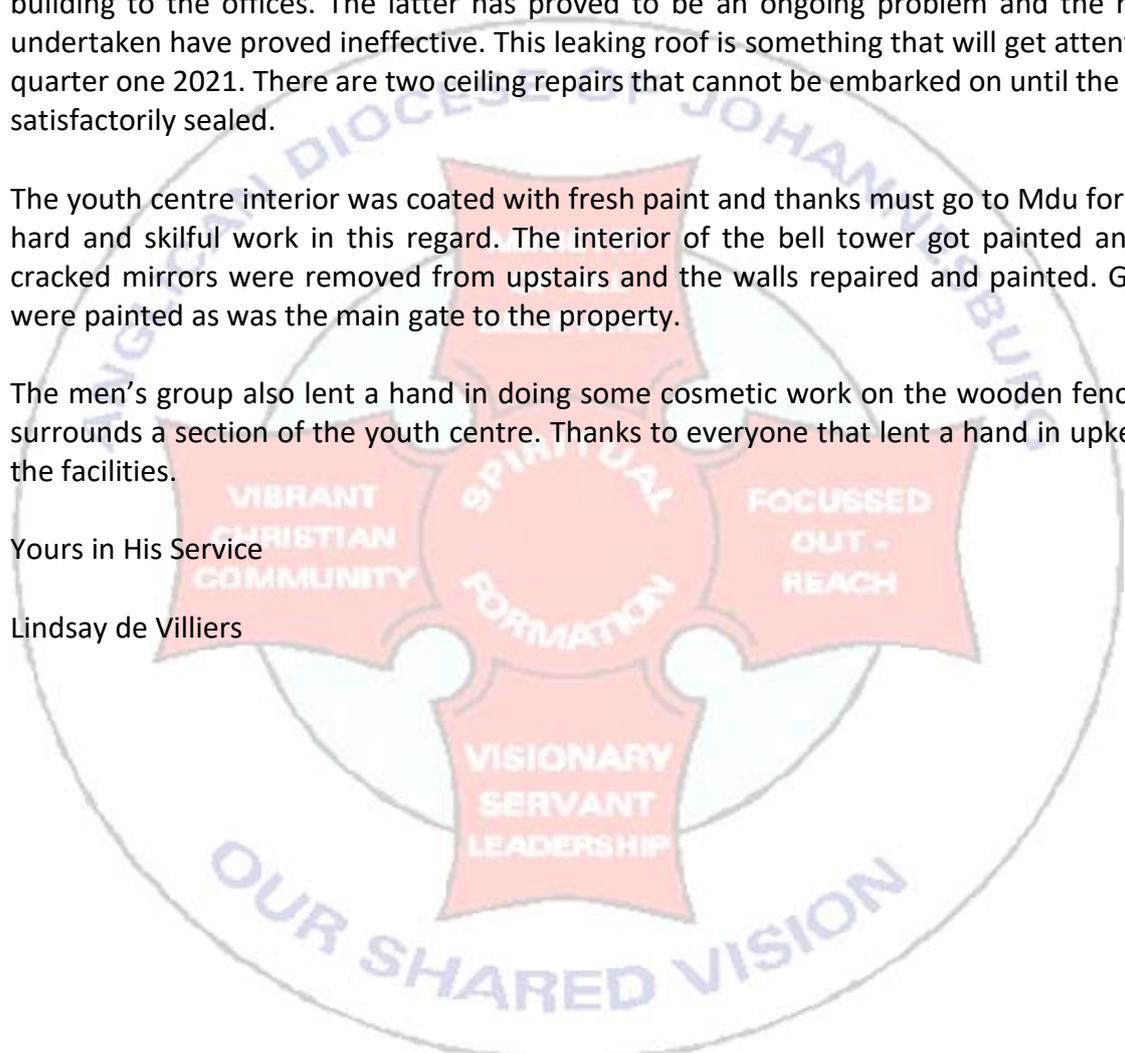
During the hard lockdown various projects were completed. The waterproofing of the youth centre roof and waterproof repairs were done to the flat roof adjoining the main church building to the offices. The latter has proved to be an ongoing problem and the repairs undertaken have proved ineffective. This leaking roof is something that will get attention in quarter one 2021. There are two ceiling repairs that cannot be embarked on until the leak is satisfactorily sealed.

The youth centre interior was coated with fresh paint and thanks must go to Mdu for all his hard and skilful work in this regard. The interior of the bell tower got painted and two cracked mirrors were removed from upstairs and the walls repaired and painted. Gutters were painted as was the main gate to the property.

The men's group also lent a hand in doing some cosmetic work on the wooden fence that surrounds a section of the youth centre. Thanks to everyone that lent a hand in upkeeping the facilities.

Yours in His Service

Lindsay de Villiers





#### 4. SUNDAY SCHOOL AND VIBE

##### **Sunday School 2020**

The start of 2020 held a lot of promise with Sunday School teachers and children looking forward to an exciting year ahead, especially that finally we had a dedicated space we could call our own. Unfortunately, due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, this was all put on-hold and disappointingly teachers and children were not able to meet in person.

##### **Vibe 2020**

For the Vibe this was pretty much the same as for the Sunday School children as above, but the Vibe were able during lockdown to still do numerous Zoom Calls and check in's with each other, this was a great help as the Vibe youth really needed each other and Leaders support in these trying time of the Covid 19 Pandemic and Lockdown. The Vibe was unfortunately unable to meet in person for their year-end Social as there was a clash of programming, this Social was then postponed to the beginning of January but due to the country going into Level 3 Lockdown this too had to be postponed.

##### **Sunday School 2021**

We as the teachers due to the Lockdown of last year are planning more a virtual approach for the Children this year, this being to start with a monthly Sunday School Lesson with activities for the children, as the demand grows, we as the teachers will then set up a roster We are also planning a support virtual group for the parents this will also take place monthly on a Zoom call. What we in essence wanting to do is that the in-person lessons will flow with the Online Lesson.

##### **Vibe 2021**

We are pretty much going to take the same approach as last year, with as many Zoom Check in's as we can. That being said when the Vibe are able to meet this will be a bonus to all. The in-person lessons will also have the flow through with the on line Zoom calls.

Planned Activities Vibe and Sunday School

Vibe start of the year social

Vibe Some work get together days at the centre (Fire Pit and Painting of Playground)

Vibe 2 Socials outside of the Church

Sunday School also get together day at the centre with paint brushes

Sunday School 1 social still to be discussed

Sunday School and Vibe end of year Nativity

The teachers and myself are excited for the year ahead, we are truly blessed to have this role as teachers and mentors to our young ones and our young adults.

Stay Blessed,

Del



## 5. MENS FELLOWSHIP

The All Saints Men's Group started in September 2020 out of a need for the men of All Saints Fourways and our surrounding community to have a safe space among fellow men of Christ to share some of our challenges. It also allowed us to Fellowship during the pandemic. The group is mainly active via the WhatsApp medium where words of encouragement is shared. We have had one get together which was a bring and braai. It was a typical 'men's braai' which consisted of meat and a plate! It was a really memorable time together where we just laughed and enjoyed the moment. We pray that we can have more of these in the near future. We did embark on one project for the year, which was to fix up the fencing at the youth centre.

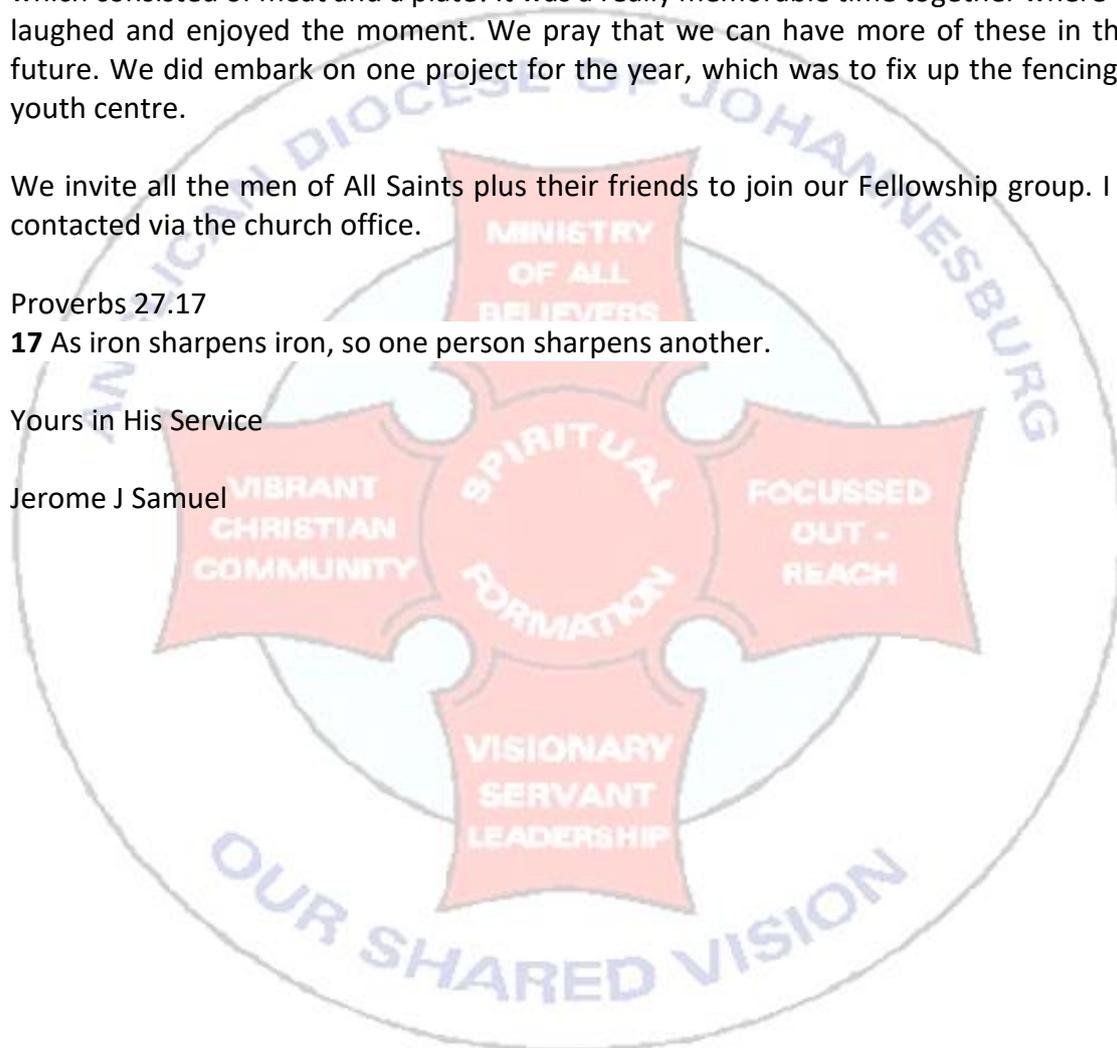
We invite all the men of All Saints plus their friends to join our Fellowship group. I can be contacted via the church office.

Proverbs 27.17

**17** As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Yours in His Service

Jerome J Samuel





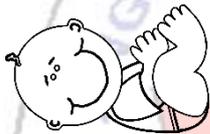
## 6. PARENTS IN WAITING PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY

Mums-in-Waiting prayer ministry is run through a prayer chain group (Heather Mutch; Lorelle Samuel; Maggie Maunye; and Samantha Petersen) using SMS or WhatsApp, to pray for pregnant couples as they await the birth of their child. When mum goes into labour a SMS/WhatsApp is sent to the group for prayer during the delivery. The new baby, together with parents and siblings (if there are any) are then covered in prayer for the first 3 months of baby's precious little life.

16 babies have been prayed for during the 2020 year.

If you know of any family awaiting the birth of a child, not necessarily a member of All Saints, and they would like prayers, please e-mail me or call me and I'll add to list.

This is a wonderful ministry and if you want to be a part of it please contact me and you can be added to the group. Once a month a list is sent out for prayers, and a SMS/WhatsApp is sent out when there is a new name or when mum goes into labour as mentioned above.



### *Prayer for the birth of a baby*

Heavenly Father, creator and giver of life, there is such joy in our hearts at the news of a baby's birth, a most special and complete gift from You, a new being and a wonder of creation. Be with the parents of this baby in their happiness and fill them with your love and peace, our Lord and Creator. Amen

Yours in His Service

Heather Mutch



## 7. BEAUTIFYING THE SPACE

All Saints has a small but strong team working on the beautiful grounds we have and beautifying the space further. Working at being water wise, using and planting around borehole taps. Only indigenous plants and trees will be planted going forward thus attracting birds to the garden. Planting in the small areas of seasonal colour and the large areas will be coloured foliage which is waterwise and useful for our flower arrangements. An Owl box is to be installed in the tree in the lower grounds.

Beautifying the space is not only about the garden but this certainly takes up a big portion of the ministry. I had a parishioner offering to do tea as she felt that this area was a beautiful space to be in, I agree. However, like many things in the church at present Covid-19 took its toll.

All Saints as it stands is a beautiful church in a beautiful space. The laying down of the labyrinth in 2019 was a special addition to the gardens and has been used on many occasions, with the Wednesday service often taking place there, till Covid-19 hit.

The gardens have been kept tidy, but with the summer and exceptional rainy days the grass is overgrown. Even with the extra help from Penny and her gardener Peter, this has been a daunting exercise. What the church really needs is an industrial petrol lawn mower to get around the large property, but we could manage with a normal petrol lawn mower, which we do not have.

Work has been done in the Rectory garden; weeding, pruning and removing conifers where the roots blocked pipes. A few plants have also been added which we hope to continue with in the future.

Zanele Masuku has very generously donated lawn and labour for the Youth Centre area. Gaile Taylor, Jeanette Joubert and Sophie and a number of other parishioners have donated plants that they have propagated or bought. We so appreciate this interest shown.

Trees have been planted near the labyrinth in memory of JJ. There have been plans of building a fire pit and utilising the grounds more, but again this has been put on hold due to Covid-19.

This is such a wonderful Ministry to be involved in and we invite all your creative ideas to be shared on our social platforms. God's creation for all.

In ending we would like to thank Penny Crawford for all the hours spent on the gardens over the years and especially during lockdown when she brought her gardener Peter to help and continues to do so. Penny will be leaving during February



for Hermanus and we wish her and Dave all the very best for their future – you will be dearly missed Penny.

Yours in His Service

Heather Mutch

## 8. DIGITAL PLATFORMS

All Saints embarked on a consolidation and update of its digital platforms during 2020. The process of developing and enhancing these digital platforms will continue into 2021. The central purpose of the development of All Saints' digital platforms is to further enhance the ability of the church to promote itself effectively and to attract new membership, community engagement and ultimately an increase in sustainable giving.

### Our digital platforms

#### Website

Our new website [www.allsaints.co.za](http://www.allsaints.co.za) went live on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Since that time, it has evolved and continues to be a central source of information and the electronic face of the church to the general public.

#### Social Media Platforms

We work extensively with well-known social media platforms, each having a specific role and aim in terms of their use.

- WhatsApp broadcast group  
Our use of WhatsApp is directed at those members of the church who required real-time information and our use of a WhatsApp broadcast group centres on daily prayers, midday reflections, sermons, pew leaflets and other general information about the church program. It has proven an invaluable tool in providing information during Covid-19 and will continue to do so.
- YouTube  
All Saints has a You Tube Channel and this is used to publish all video output from the church including sermons and midday reflections.
- Facebook  
Facebook is used as a more informal platform for updates and interaction with 'friends' of all saints.



- Zoom

Commencing 17 February 2021, All Saints will begin online and in person services simultaneously. The Zoom platform will be used to facilitate this exciting initiative which has been introduced both as a means to engage with existing parishioners during the pandemic and as a means to reach a wider online audience.

We have seen a steady increase in the participation and interaction on our digital platforms. All our services require registration, due either to COVID-19 regulations or, in order to register attendance for online services. The information is gathered via online forms and these are administered by the church and follow the applicable POPI guidelines. In better managing our contact information we are better able to tailor the message of faith and worship.

Yours in His Service

Lorelle Samuel

