



ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH FOURWAYS GARDENS

Anglican Diocese of Johannesburg. PBO Number: 930018128



VESTRY REPORT FEBRUARY 2023

RECTOR: DR. ANASTASIA HUNTLEY

Tel: 011 467 0316 | Mob: 066 132 7755 | Email: allsaintsadmin@vebo.co.za | Web: www.allsaints.co.za

Postal Address: Postnet Suite 1634, Private Bag X153, Bryanston 2021.

Physical Address: 31 Richard Road, Kengies, Fourways Gardens.

1. INTERIM RECTOR REPORT

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

What a year 2022 was! Everyone entered this time with a half full tank, going full speed, almost as if we were trying to catch up on 2 years of lost time. What was most heartening was to see the trend of a growing number of people returning to in-person worship this year. We are also seeing a continuation of new members joining. A true delight to experience our growth as a community.

I offer this report as a reflection on what we have achieved and learnt from 2022 and outline some priorities for 2023.

Last Vestry I shared my discernment that God was inviting us to become a more prayerful community, and offered Romans 12:12 as a scripture to journey with ***“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer”***. It is my sense that this remains a Godly scripture, as we navigate an increasingly chaotic and challenging daily life. I offer it to each of us planted in this community as a touch point for all that will happen in 2023.

In November 2021 Strategic Planning we made three big decisions and worked on their implementation. I would like to offer the following reflection on what has been achieved and what we have learned:

1. To align ourselves more closely with the Diocesan Vision of growing a “ministry of all believers”. In order to do this, we re-structured our Parish Council to reflect the pillars that support this vision, namely Spiritual Formation, Vibrant Christian Community, Radical Outreach and Visionary Servant Leadership. The idea was that these pillars would work to support our ministries to live out our call to “Belong, Believe, Become”. It was hoped that this would be a more integrated way of working, give support to existing ministries and open space for new ministries to grow.

What we learnt in 2022 is that having our 3 major events gave so much opportunity for members to become involved in our parish life. This truly grew us in Belonging, Believing and Becoming. However, the amount of time and energy these required really meant that Parish Council was mostly focused on the events rather than on supporting existing ministries. This is something that we will be reflecting on going into 2023 and welcome any thoughts from you.

2. We experimented with our new “brand” and logo. This has been well received and I believe we are learning how to better live into this call.
3. Finally, in seeking to share this beautiful site with the surrounding community thereby giving us an opportunity to be priests to them, by meeting them in their ordinary and everyday needs. We had earmarked for 2022 a major revamp to our youth centre to convert into a community centre and coffee shop. However, as you will read in the Radical Outreach Report there are a number of considerations that led to us not implementing these projects.

What we have learned is that these are far more complicated questions that require a larger

vision. To this end we will be engaging you more on these matters.

Based on of our November 2022 Strategic Planning session I would like to offer the following priorities, keeping with the spirit of doing a few things well:

- ✓ Property Development & Partnerships – our physical site and buildings remain one of our greatest assets for ministry. An immediate need is to find an architect and landscape artist to assist us in developing a larger plan. The landscaping plan is to allow our space to be more accessible and user-friendly. We are committed to maintaining a quiet and natural environment for reflection, meditation and relaxation. We currently have some partnering options and many ideas on how to move forward. This is a priority of Parish Council as it also assists us in creating alternative income streams.
- ✓ Youth Ministry – as you will read in the reports, we are seeking people who can focus on this ministry. Creating a community that is youth focused, that offers them opportunities to connect and grow and to increase their participation in parish life is a key priority.
- ✓ Music for worship – we are blessed to have creative and interesting liturgies, and when we have been able to include live music, this has deepened our worship experience. We are calling on all musicians and those who love music to join in building this capacity in our service offerings.
- ✓ Radical Outreach – this is a growing ministry with many ideas as can be seen in the report. It is also a key aspect of our ministry to those outside of our community. Included in this is partnerships with other organizations, offering of community service opportunities, using our site to assist with food security, and so many more ideas.
- ✓ Administration & social media – in our reflections we are missing many opportunities to build off our successes. This includes taking advantage of the profile we receive through our major events. Creating a more systematic manner to communicate internally and externally will create momentum off our wonderful offerings.

In closing, I am deeply appreciative of this All Saints family. It is a tremendous privilege and joy to serve as Interim Rector in this community. Your love and generosity is deeply humbling, and I am so grateful for the ways you continue to care for me and my family. I am very excited by what I sense God is doing in and with and through us, and look forward to prayerfully following where Jesus is leading.

Thank you to the parish and especially Parish Council and staff 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, deepening in prayer as we travel.

With much love and light on you all

Revd. Anastasia

2. CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT

In 2022 All Saints reviewed portfolios and aligned them with the Diocesan vision, the following portfolios were then identified, with the elected leaders:

- Spiritual Formation – Jean Pienaar
- Visionary Servant Leadership – Beth Heydenrych
- Vibrant Christian Community – Natasha Bailey
- Radical Outreach – Ofentse Modise

The following members were elected as Church Wardens:

- Sharon Ellis
- Jeanine Line

It is with great sadness that Beth is unable to continue her tenure on PC for 2023. We cannot express our gratitude for her invaluable contribution towards our fundraising events throughout 2022. Her expertise & knowledge are recognised & will be missed. We would like to thank her for being willing to stay on as the co-ordinator for our Spring Faire in 2023.

We would also like to thank Lindsay de Villiers, who looked after maintenance & Heather Mutch, for beautifying the landscape. Their long-serving contribution and commitment to All Saints will forever be appreciated & remembered.

As Church Wardens, we would also like to express our sincere gratitude to Revd. Anastasia whose strong leadership and creativity ensured that ministry continued during an extremely challenging year. It goes to say that we also extend our appreciation to her family, in particular Tam, for their support. Revd. Anastasia's continuation as interim rector is still under review with the Bishop. Pending his request for a meeting with the churchwardens, to review her MOU, feedback on his decision will be communicated as soon as it is deliberated.

A special thanks also goes to our staff members (Lorelle, Mdu, Nomsa, Gillian and Peter). Their continuous support and contribution to the ministry and fundraising activities do not go unnoticed. Staff contracts will be reviewed in June 2023. At this point the Diocese is not allowing any parishes who have a debt to grant increases, but we hope to negotiate this once we have a better sense of where things stand in 4 months time.

The zero-based budgeting and dashboard system is still in place and continues to serve us. The 2021 vision to reduce the debt was continued in 2022. We are happy to inform the parish that our efforts contributed to a R237 669.00 reduction in our debt.

Advice from the verifier confirms that the 5-year repayment plan is unrealistic and that the Diocese should be approached to review the debt terms and consider a long term long instead of an overdraft.

Overview of 2022 finance factors:

1. An increased in-person attendance positively impacted weekly plate income.

2. Dedicated Giving remained consistent with 2021 numbers, possibly due to the aftermath of Covid and lockdown.
3. Additional income was received through various rentals:
 - The cottage.
 - The Youth Centre.
 - A small, identified section of the property.

Our biggest challenge remains servicing the debt account. The strategy implemented in 2022 was to find alternative sources of income to service this account. This was through a combination of our events as well as creating partnerships around maintenance and property development. We continue to investigate further options for 2023.

As of 31st December 2022, our debt account stands at R1604 038 (2021 R1841 707, 2020 R1 920 895 and 2019: R2,179,787). This represents a decrease of R575 749 for a four-year period. In addition, we are pleased to inform the parish that the planned payment, towards the debt account, of R25 000 per month was successfully achieved in 2022. We thank you as parishioners and give God all the glory!

As a continuation of our success, we are planning 4 events:

- 3 golf days – Provisioned for April, August, and November.
- A combined event replacing the Concert in the gardens and the Spring Faire, which will take place in September.

By aligning our Parish Council structure to the Diocesan Vision, we successfully grew our numbers despite maintaining one Sunday service and increased opportunities for participation by more members in ministry activities were achieved.

In closing, we would like to thank you, as All Saints parishioners, for your dedication and continued support. Without your support it would not have been possible to achieve our goals

We pray for God's continued blessing on this parish.

Yours in His Service,

Sharon and Jeanine (Church Wardens)

3. MAINTENANCE REPORT

The property has undergone some changes during the year, the most noticeable being the removal of the fence on the lower length of the property, and a brick wall being built in its place. This was done by the contractor building the complex below the property. A thank you must be extended to the generosity of the contractor. The removed fencing has been erected around the vestry and the cottage to give privacy and beautify the property over time with plant growth etc on the fence.

General maintenance done includes: adding vertical bolts to the kitchen doors to prevent the alarm being activated by wind; repair of the electric fence keypad; blocked toilets in the rectory were repaired (however this is a recurring issue due to invasive tree roots); sanding and re-varnishing the rectory wooden window frames; and repair of the main gate rail and the replacement of worn wheels. We have also begun working on the Verger cottage by replacing ceiling boards, upgrading the bathroom and increasing usage of the kitchen area.

Further to this, two major property clean-ups were undertaken to prepare for the fundraising events. Thanks to those that helped in person or lent their gardeners and equipment.

Maintenance on the property and buildings continues to be of high importance. Smaller jobs are easily done by our Verger (Mdu) and we are grateful for this. However, there are some major jobs needed on the roof of the church and the Rectory sliding door to name but two. We have therefore created a partnership with Amco Build who currently store some of their equipment on our site to do “in kind” donations as well as supervision of major tasks. Please pray with us that God will provide a workable solution to our need to remove some of the pine trees which continue to grow into our sewerage system.

We also would like to formally thank Lindsay de Villiers for all his time and resources given to assisting with this portfolio. It would be wonderful if the Men’s Ministry would consider getting more involved in this aspect of church life.

4. VIBRANT CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AND CHILDRENS CHURCH

In the year 2022 ALL SAINTS Anglican Church under the Godly leadership of Rev Anastasia Huntley introduced 4 strategic Christian pillars. One of them is Vibrant Christian Community under which Children’s Church and Youth is placed.

The Vibrant Christian Community portfolio only hosted 1 specific stand-alone events/community engagements in the ear of 2022, this was the ALL SAINTS GOLF DAY. The Golf Day goal and objective set for fund raising was achieved and a profit of more than R40K was made. This is referenced in the financial statements.

Besides the goal of fund raising achieved, this portfolio also brought members of our Christian community together in celebration of each other and God’s love. The event was supported by the church leadership as well as the youth. It took place in June 2022.



Children’s Church started again in 2022 with a low number of children returning to CC initially. On average there was between 5-8 children returning to CC in the first half of the year. The children returning was many from our JAM (Jesus and Me) kids’ group. These are our 3–7-year-old children’s group. Not many from our Disciples group (8-12 years) returned.

In the 2nd half of the year, we saw an increase in the number of children returning, this meant that we needed more CC teachers to assist with the number of children returning. A plea was extended to the congregation and with God's help and encouragement we had 4 more teachers join the CC team 3 from the senior youth. We are now a team of 8 teachers which allows for some specific attention to be given to both our JAM kids and the Disciples group. We are unfortunately still short of a Youth Leader and the age group 13-15 is a concern as we do not have someone to guide and lead this group.

Other activities that saw the CC participate in was CONCERT IN THE GARDEN – the CC opened for the young to come with their parents to the CITG, enjoy themselves in a safe environment. This both for the parents and their kids. Similarly happened with the SPRING FARE!
For the year ahead (2023) – the plans are as follows for VIBRANT CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

1. Continue with the Golf Day fundraiser.
2. Social Media Platform alignment and engagement – same message across all the social media platforms.
3. Movies under the STARS.
4. Focus on the 13-15 group and find a leader.

All in God's Name and All in God's Time!



5. PARENTS IN WAITING

Prayers-in-Waiting prayer ministry is run through a prayer chain group (Heather Mutch; Lorelle Samuel; Maggie Maunye; Samantha Petersen and Rev Anastasia) 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 up to and during the delivery. The new baby, together with parents and siblings, are then covered in prayer for the first 3 months of baby's precious little life.

9 babies, together with their parents were prayed for during 2022.

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 the prayer list.

Prayer for Expectant Parents

O God, Lord and Giver of life, who came among us as a baby, bless all who are awaiting the birth of a child. Give them health, patience, peace, and joyful expectancy, in the knowledge that they are sharing in your creating and your glory. Amen

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.



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. Bless this baby and be with baby's parents in their happiness and fill them with your love and peace, our Lord and Creator. Amen

This is a wonderful ministry and if you interested in joining the prayer team, no meeting involved just praying, or would like to know more about it please contact:

Heather Mutch – 0837897311 - hmaccserv@mweb.co.za

6. RADICAL OUTREACH REPORT

INTRODUCTION:

The report gives an overview of the activities of the RO ministry for the year ending February 2023.

THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY

Radical outreach is our Parish's endeavour to reach and spread the love of God among the communities in our neighbourhood, and in some instances beyond our immediate communities.

PROJECTS EARMARKED FOR THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW

We set out to undertake the following projects:

1. Convert a portion of the Sunday school/scouts building to operate a coffee shop and meeting rooms.
2. Work with the Parish in Cosmo City to reach and support needy communities with basic necessities.

PROGRESS MADE

1. The Coffee Shop

The project stalled after being approached by St. Peters school that proposed to establish part of their elementary school on our premises, while working with us to establish the coffee shop/meeting rooms. St. Peters is still considering the extent to which our tax profile may be changed by their proposal.

The proposal by St. Peters was preceded by an offer by the Scouts in terms of which they were to foot the bill for the reconfiguration of the building for us to be able to operate the coffee shop/meeting rooms, while they will use a section thereof for storage. We prepared a contract for their consideration. We are still awaiting their response.

2. Support to Cosmo City

The leader of the Ministry simply ran out of time as he got involved with establishing his business operations outside of the province of Gauteng and got called to do travelling that compromised the project. Accordingly, the project never took off and if needed, may have to be resumed by the new team.

ISSUES TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE NEXT COMMITTEE

1. The Coffee Shop

The incoming team will have to consider the two developments (St. Peters and the Scouts) and pursue the one that, in their view and the PC will be beneficial to the Parish.

Furthermore, we were also approached by a lady called Lungi Lichabe. She is based in Protea Glen and runs a Pick and Pay supermarket in that area. She also operates a coffee shop. In the meeting we had between her, our rector and myself, she expressed her interest in partnering

with the Parish in the establishment of the coffee shop and its running. Her involvement was put in abeyance until our issue with either St. Peters and/or the Scouts is finalized. I will introduce the new leader of the ministry to her should there be a need to do so.

2. Support of communities in our periphery

The new committee is to decide on how best to approach this issue.

3. Wills and basic legal services

We were approached by a lady who assists women in abuse relationships with legal services. We intended to have a session with her, together with our rector. Because of clashing schedules, this never had happened. She indicated during our last interaction that she is amenable to resuming the project in the new year.

4. School shoes

We have pairs of school shoes that need to be distributed to a primary school in our area. We sent an email to Witkoppen Primary School to enquire whether they have a need for school shoes. We are still to receive a response from them.

Again, the new committee will have to decide how to best to proceed on this issue. It is important to notify Heather Mutch of the handover day because she was asked by the donor to take pictures of the handover.

5. School jerseys and socks

We have a sizeable number of school jerseys and socks in different colours that were donated to the Parish by one of our parishioners. In seeking to establish a distribution mechanism, Rev. Anastasia introduced me to Rev. Mbekezeli whom I approached to assist with identifying schools that use uniform that match the colours we have in stock. He in turn referred the pictures we sent him to the “relevant people”. We therefore await further directions from them. We further have jerseys that have school names on them. The new committee may have to consider getting in contact with such schools to have the jerseys donated to them.

Thank you.

Kind Regards
Ofentse Modise

7. SPIRITUAL FORMATION

What is Spiritual Formation?

Spiritual formation is one of the pillars of our Diocesan Vision. It concerns the process and practice of developing our inner lives. It is also a journey through which we accept the invitation into relationship and a deeper connection with God. Spiritual formation helps us to reclaim our relationship with God as it was meant to be.

As Anglicans we are formed by and rooted in Scripture, shaped by its worship of the living God, ordered for communion, and directed in faithfulness to God's mission in the world. Spiritual formation is lifelong learning, requiring regular input and mentoring.

Spiritual Formation at All Saints

Spiritual formation often happens within the context of community. Scriptural foundation is encouraged through regular Bible reading as suggested within the scope provided by the lectionary. This should be complemented with sound teaching because literal and out-of-context interpretations can be misleading. In this regard, small groups meeting together to discuss the bible is invaluable in the learning process and should be encouraged. Opportunities to pray together through the Tuesday Centering Prayer group are also important in spiritual formation.

Regular teaching opportunities for the congregation are primarily during Sunday or Wednesday worship services. A concerted effort was made to provide a range of inter-generational activities and inclusive learning opportunities for feast day services. The Prayer Course (fantastically facilitated by Pete Greig) was held online during Lent, but this was not very well supported. The quarterly Parish Quiet Days provide the congregation with a further opportunity for teaching and reflection, and to deepen their Christian faith.

The younger members of the Parish appreciate Children's Church during school terms, and families enjoy the relaxed time of learning, creating and sharing together during the monthly Messy Church sessions. These congregations have grown slowly but steadily over the year. Our Youth VIBE (high school) and Connect (post-high school) youth have been meeting online and sometimes in person. These are wonderful opportunities for ongoing spiritual formation and fellowship.

Parish Ministers receive on-going training through the monthly meetings and the Diocesan training course.

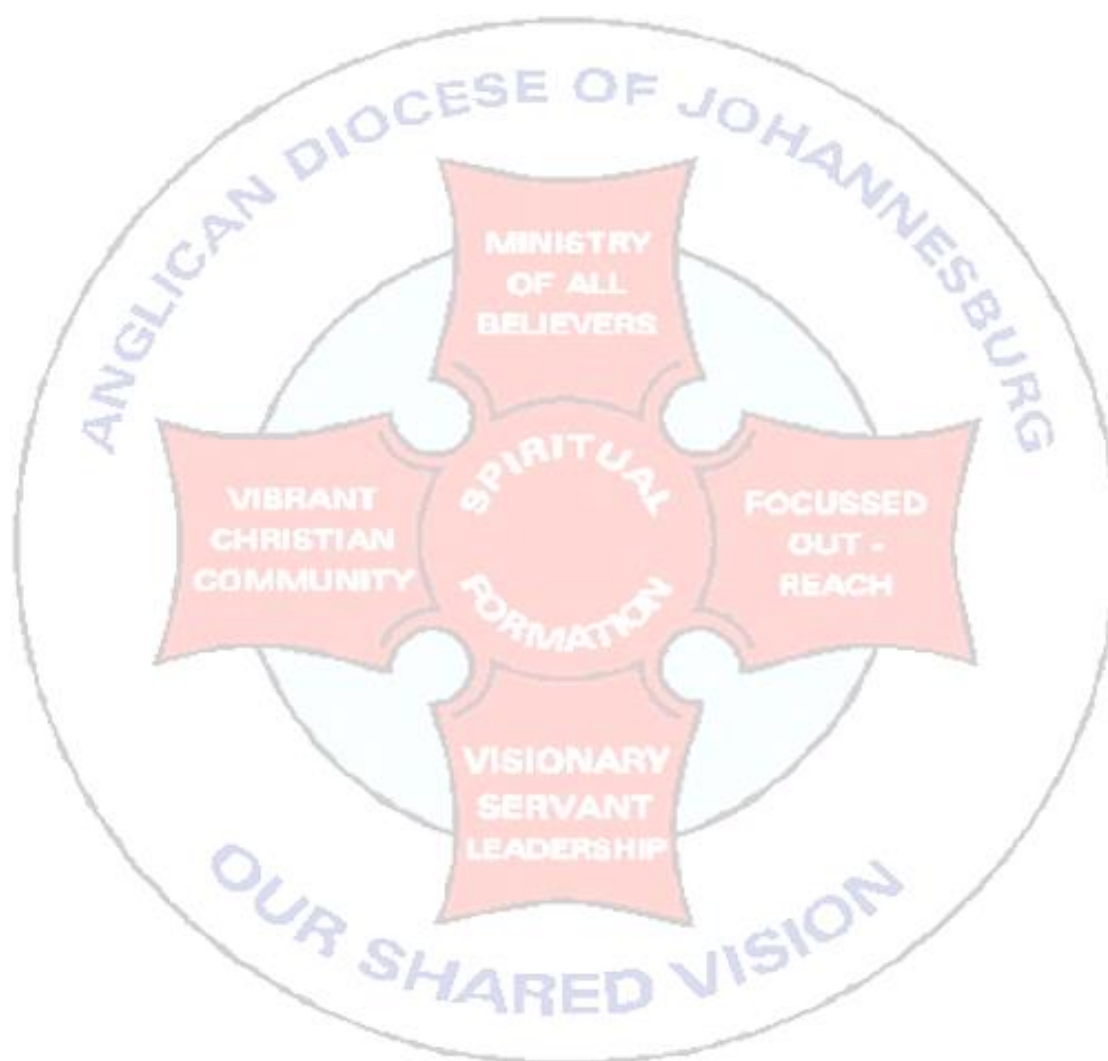
Focussed and occasional spiritual formation also takes place through Baptism Preparation courses which were run by Revd Anastasia Huntley (3 baptised in the past year). We were thrilled to explore our faith alongside the nine confirmands who diligently and enthusiastically participated in the confirmation classes and camp in 2022. Each confirmand was subsequently paired with a mentor from within the parish to journey with between Advent and Easter.

Challenges and highlights

Teaching occasions that are not during regular Sunday or Wednesday worship tend to have reduced support. Saturday's suit some of the congregation as an opportunity for additional spiritual formation. Perhaps this is due to a limited appetite for communal learning, or people

are too busy with other priorities. Congregation members who participate in small group activities (e.g., quiet days, baptism prep, confirmation class) often appreciate and benefit from the opportunity for small group interaction that offers a greater opportunity for participation and in-depth questioning.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who have assisted, walked alongside and facilitated spiritual formation within All Saints, especially to Revd Anastasia for her guidance, support and leadership.



8. CENTERING PRAYER

A Centering Prayer group was formed a few months ago and we have been blessed with five new members to start with. The group meets each week on a Tuesday morning at 9.30am and spend just over one hour together.

Centering Prayer is a time of surrender and silence before God. Rev 3: “Listen I am standing at the door knocking...” This is simply a time to be still and give ourselves to surrender, rather than being distracted by the demands which we live with most of the time. We are encouraged by the Psalmists who call us to “Be still and know that I am God...”

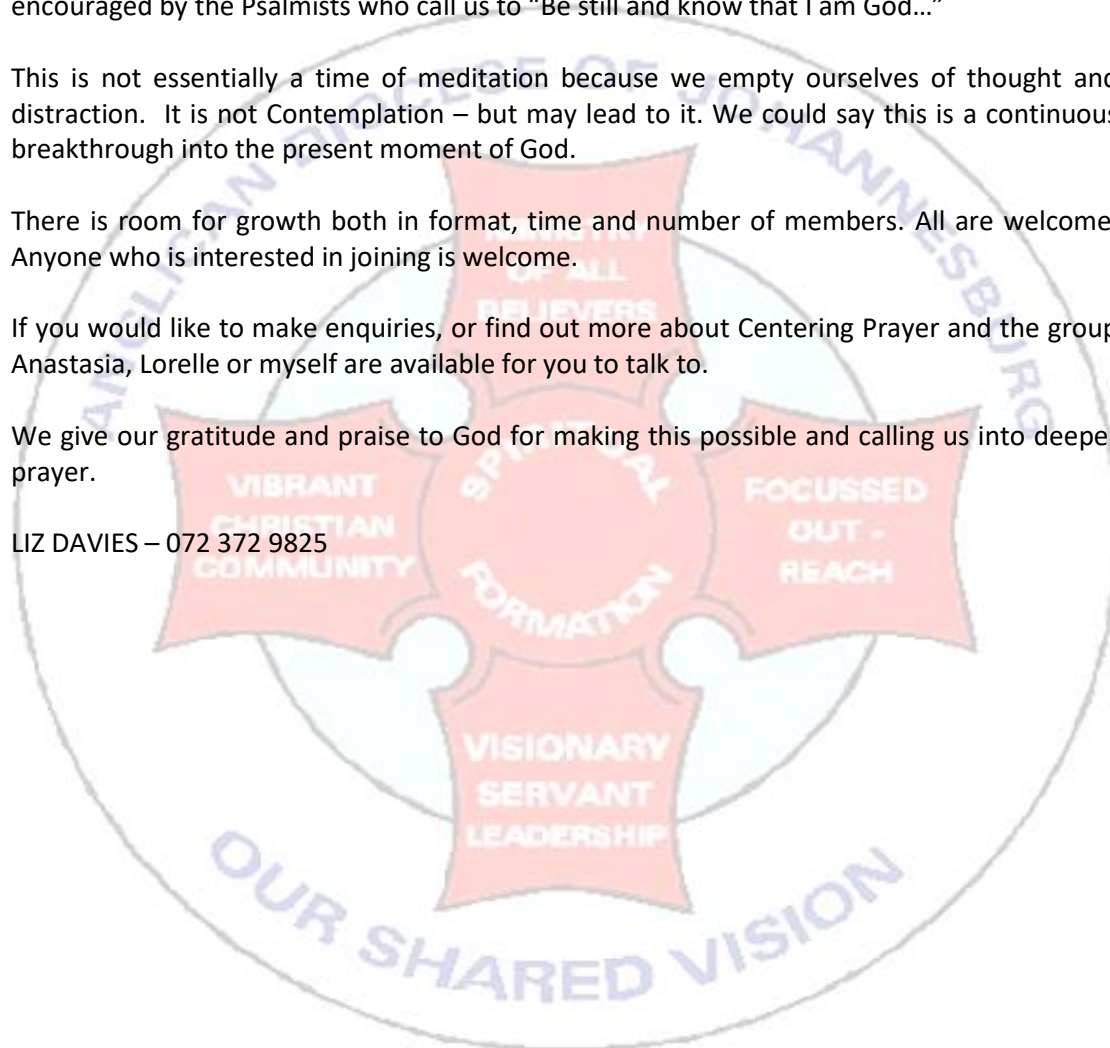
This is not essentially a time of meditation because we empty ourselves of thought and distraction. It is not Contemplation – but may lead to it. We could say this is a continuous breakthrough into the present moment of God.

There is room for growth both in format, time and number of members. All are welcome. Anyone who is interested in joining is welcome.

If you would like to make enquiries, or find out more about Centering Prayer and the group Anastasia, Lorelle or myself are available for you to talk to.

We give our gratitude and praise to God for making this possible and calling us into deeper prayer.

LIZ DAVIES – 072 372 9825



9. VISIONARY SERVANT LEADERSHIP REPORT

This past year, the focus of the Parish Council was to work within the framework of slogan “Belong, Believe, Become” and also within the Diocesan Vision’s 4 pillars. I was responsible for the portfolio of “visionary servant leadership”. This was probably the most all-encompassing of the portfolios and the portfolio for which it was most difficult to achieve measurable results.

Our interpretation of the meaning of “Visionary Servant Leadership” encompasses aspects of the vision of the “ministry of all believers”. Jesus was the epitome of a servant leader, even washing his disciples’ feet. One aspect of ‘Servant leadership’ is that our Rector, Rev Anastasia works alongside us all, rather than imposing her vision. In this regard, the Parish Council operated as a good example of servant leadership under Anastasia’s clear leadership, and yet alongside her. Rev Anastasia’s hard work at our Concert in the Garden and Spring Faire in the Garden showed the Parish that she rolls up her sleeves and works as hard or harder than anyone else. We are truly blessed to be led by an exceptional servant-leader.

Another aspect of servant leadership is that the leaders must show genuine concern for others. The Parish Council together with the Parish Ministers have worked hard on this aspect of ministry during the past year.

A major thrust of the Parish Council was to reduce our Parish’s debt. The “leadership” that I focussed on in this portfolio was to expand the leadership base and level of participation by the parishioners. The aim was to nurture leadership in others and in so doing, to acknowledge the talents and gifts of others and afford them an opportunity to exercise those gifts and talents. This focus on capacity building included all aspects of Church life.

The Concert in the Garden and Spring Faire in the garden were both opportunities for a high level of participation and for many to be included in leadership roles. It was very encouraging that for both these events, many parishioners who had not previously been involved in our fundraising events took on important tasks and became more actively involved. Many of those who have been involved in previous years also again took up leadership roles and helped as they could. It was particularly encouraging to see our youth stepping up and taking on responsibility as they actively participated in these events. Indeed, without the participation of the youth, the events would not have been the success they were. For all those who worked so hard and took responsibility for various aspects of these events, a huge, huge thank you!

I trust and pray that the foundations laid in 2022 will be built on and will extend to involve even more Parishioners in 2023.

10. BELL RINGING REPORT

Since the issues of the Covid lockdown we have struggled to resume the activities of the Bell Ringing group at All Saints. We had limited ringing, with a couple of practice sessions.

We rang at both the major Church Festivals, ringing Rounds and Call Changes on both Easter morning and Christmas morning.

We contributed at the funeral of the late Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain – ringing Rounds for 96 blows in her honour.

We do hope to soon have a promotion of Bell Ringing at the church, with the hope of encouraging young and old parishioners and other parties to find out more about the ancient practice of campanology, as it is known. For any information, please contact the Church Office, or the undersigned.

Our thanks go to those who have supported ringing at the parish, particularly Kate Dryden, Dani de Villiers, Nix Stacey and Mduzuzi.

Brian Stacey

