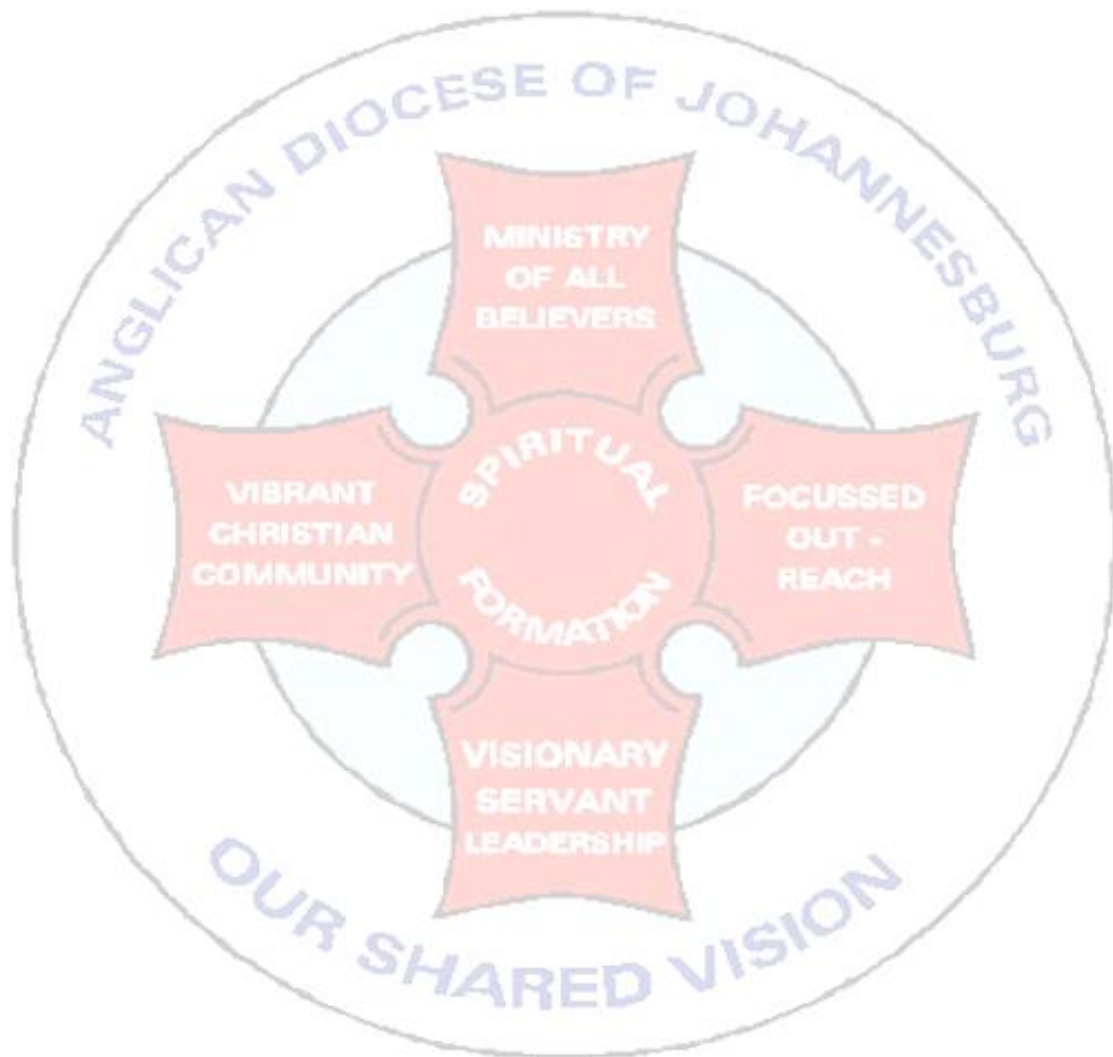




# ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH FOURWAYS GARDENS

Anglican Diocese of Johannesburg. PBO Number: 930018128

## VESTRY REPORT 2024



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## 1. INTERIM RECTOR VESTRY REPORT

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

What a delight to reflect on 2023 which was my last year serving as your priest in this place. Building on the 2022 trend of a growing number of people returning to in-person worship this year, we have seen a growing number of new members joining through 2023. This growth was especially reflected in the 19 baptisms we did this year alone. What a delight to bring new members into the liberation of the children of God!

We set ourselves as a goal in 2023 to live more fully into our tagline “Belong, Believe, Become”. This expresses our desire to individually and corporately live into our call as a “Ministry of All Believers”, or as I like to say, priests of God to a broken and wounded world. I will therefore use this as the criteria for assessing ministry in our community.

Belong – we have seen a huge increase in participation in various events, services and activities through 2023. This shows a growing sense of belonging to a family where we feel accepted and loved. Some of these include increased attendance at our Lent Course, Easter Services, Quiet Mornings, Christmas and Sunday Services. In addition, as was reported with the Spring Faire, the overwhelming support with in-kind donations as well as the amount of people who volunteered on the day is a great indicator of the growing sense of belonging.

Believe – our community is extremely diverse in theological and denominational background. This is a wonderful gift to our Anglican identity, allowing us to be more open in liturgical expression and in worship. In particular, we have used creative liturgies for the main seasons of Lent and Advent which has deepened our sense of connection with God and one another. We have also had the pleasure of the music group leading us in services and have all experienced what a difference having our own organist has made. This has also been a year of continuing to experiment with all age worship, giving us opportunities to connect and share during our services. What a wonderful growing sense of taking individual responsibility to grow as a priest of God.

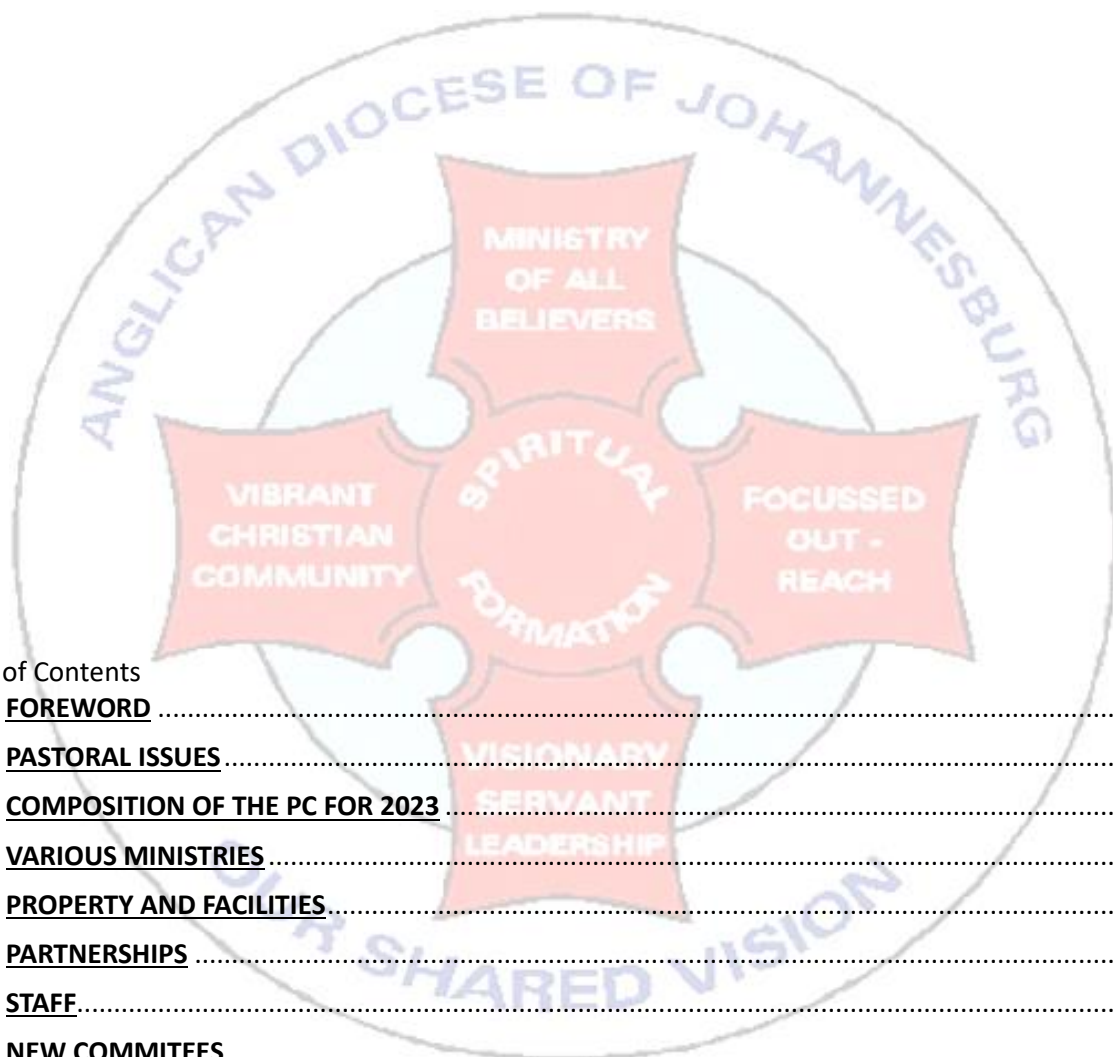
Become – week by week we are called together in corporate worship to be renewed, so that we may participate in Jesus’ priestly ministry to the world. The most outstanding example of this was our Spring Faire. Here we got so much affirmation from those who attended to how loved and accepted they felt in our space. It is so special that we were able to offer people a haven of peace and enjoyment in an otherwise chaotic world.

At our Patronal Festival in November, we used the opportunity to do some corporate reflection as we head into this time of transitioning to a full-time stipendiary priest. The purpose of this was to locate and articulate **what we love about All Saints and our hopes for All Saints**. I offer these now as a guidepost as the community moves into this new season.

What we love about being members of this family is something that comes naturally to each of us, and I encourage you to keep remembering and strengthening these aspects.



## 2. REPORT OF THE CHURCH WARDENS



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## 1. FOREWORD

We present this report to you with utmost humility, and appreciation for the honour to lead the resurgence of this beautiful and intimate community. For many of us who have been Anglicans all our lives, we are able to attest to the fact that All Saints is truly blessed with good people. It is this character that made our job, which was at most times stressful, much easier. With time, the thought that wardenship is a ministry, became entrenched and also added to our personal special memories as members of this parish.

## 2. PASTORAL ISSUES

Though that day was to come at some stage, the announcement of the departure of Reverend Anastasia rattled us greatly. The saving grace was the foundational work she had already put in place. It is because of such work that we are now able to look into the future with hope, and as evidenced during our time of uncertainty in the past few weeks, are able to keep the ship afloat. Just as well that as she presides over this vestry, she is able to have a full appreciation of the culmination of her good work.

Our hope to find a rector to join the parish from the beginning of the year was dashed when our negotiations with the proposed incumbent did not succeed. However, we are grateful to the diocese for allocating Reverend Dave Osburn to our parish for a period of three months while a permanent priest is being sought. We were informed that the process has already began.

## 3. COMPOSITION OF THE PC FOR 2023

We express our gratitude to our fellow council members with whom we held hands to navigate the turbulent times we faced during the course of this past year. Their support and prayerful service will remain the highlight of our time of service and will forever be indebted to them.

Our team in the past year was made up of:

- Wardens: Sharon Ellis and Ofentse Modise
- Alternate warden: Jeanine Line
- Spiritual formation: Jean Pienaar
- Vibrant Christian community: Natasha Bailey
- Vibrant Servant leadership: Vacant
- Radical Outreach: Irvan Gomwe

Regretfully, for various personal reasons, Jeanine Line and Irvan Gomwe are not able to make themselves available for the upcoming year, leaving behind Sharon, Ofentse, Jean and Natasha should we be reappointed by vestry.

The greatest challenge we faced during our tenure as a collective leadership was our inability to fill the position for vibrant servant leadership. We did not receive any offer to perform such function, leading us to compromise on the vibrancy of our worship. On this score, we would like to express our gratitude to Beth Heydenrych who worked tirelessly to ensure that our worship experience did not collapse completely. This was seen with the occasional visit and support by Clement from Saint Monica in Midrand, which Beth was central to arranging.

#### 4. VARIOUS MINISTRIES

As it has always been the case over the years, our ministry as a parish is made up of:

- Spiritual formation
- Vibrant Christian community
- Vibrant Servant leadership, and
- Radical Outreach

To align our operations with the newly imposed reporting template from diocese, which is also an indication of the new strategic direction taken, we believe that the parish will be better served if an additional ministry called, prophetic relevance is to be added to the above.

Further, to make provision for projects that will enable us to improve our commercial viability as an parish, we believe that the introduction of another ministry will add value. It is to be called sustainable structures. It is within this ministry that activities like organizing events and fundraising will be located.

The additional benefit of this expansion of the PC from four ministries to six, is expected to resolve the issue of constant failure to have good attendance at our meetings as a simple occurrence like absence of just two members robbed us of more meaningful engagements and deliberations.

#### 5. PROPERTY AND FACILITIES

We will not be doing justice to this report if we don't start this section with a special word of gratitude to the forefathers and mothers of this parish. Some are here today, and others are either back with our Lord, or relocated, or incapacitated because of age. Whatever the case may be, they have enabled us to gather in a glorious manifestation of love for our Lord, Jesus Christ. We are bequeathed a very special legacy in this property and its history. That said, the least we could do as the leadership was to ensure that things don't degenerate under our watch. Therefore, as part of our fiduciary duties, we recently conducted an inspection of the various properties within the parish and assessed facilities as well. The report of this aspect of our parish is set out to cover the following:

i. Rectory

We found the rectory to be in a good condition after being vacated by Rev. Anastasia and her family. There were minor issues occasioned by wear and tear and damp, as well as water entering the house during heavy downpours. We were accompanied by our maintenance partner (renting space on our premises). He is to determine how much it will cost to make the repairs before the arrival of the new rector. We intent to use the time while the search for the new rector is undertaken, meaning that the house may stand empty for a period of three months.

Importantly, we decided to offset the cost of the work done by Rev. Anastasia's family in the rectory by relieving her of cleaning the carpet. We undertook to carry that cost, which may entail replacing it altogether.

ii. Verger's home

We were quite concerned by the condition of the verger's house in that acidic leaves are allowed to gather on the roof for extended periods of time and cause it rot thus making it porous. We also found windows were painted because the family did not have curtains. Ceilings were in some places not properly joined leaving gaps and openings causing dust and pests to drop into the house. The walls also need repainting.

We directed that the paint on the windows be removed and windows be cleaned, and that, together with our maintenance partner, we will support the family with obtaining curtain rails and blinds. We will also work on sourcing paint for the verger to paint the walls himself. He is also to clean the leaves on the roof once a month to avoid the rot that leads to leaks. We also directed that their washing line be relocated to the area between the house and the perimeter wall, to make it less visible to the traffic entering and leaving the church premises.

iii. Rental apartment

We found the apartment occupied by two additional adults. The original agreement was for the tenant and her partner. They subsequently had a baby, and now added two more adults. We decided to bring this issue to the attention of the PC for deliberations and further directives, as the limited space is now used for much more people, contrary to the original agreement. We were also concerned about the fact that the tenant's boyfriend has parked his car on bricks for extended periods of time, gathering dust on church premises. This too will be dealt with and corrected.

Our attention was brought to taps in the bathroom that were blocked. Our maintenance partner is to attend to them.

Apart from these concerns, we found the apartment clean and well taken care of.

iv. Room used by workshop tenant

We also have a room that we converted into a single room to be occupied by our maintenance partner's employee. He works for him during the week and does our garden and other maintenance over the weekend. We are concerned about the fact that the windows may be too small for decent habitation. As a result, we will revisit the place in his presence to make a better assessment.

v. Youth centre

This centre is in many ways a white elephant, bar it being used on Sundays for Sunday school. Further, the scouts use some of the cupboards for storage, and during inclement weather, as shelter during their sessions.

We had hoped that we would by now have started the process of converting it into a coffee shop and a meeting place. When our discussions with targeted stakeholders failed to bear fruit, we put it before the newly formed fundraising committee to brainstorm ideas on how we can leverage it as part of our beautifying the space project.

vi. Security and gate

The gate motor and the electric fence need repairs and possibly upgrade. We sourced a number of quotations but could not proceed with the project because of financial constraints. As a result, we continue to reach out to our parishioners who either operate in this space or have some relations therein, to consider supporting with resolving this issue. In the interim, we received a donation of R10 000 from a parishioner to repair our borehole. We are awaiting him to finish his consultation with his family on whether we can redirect his donation towards our security.

We have from our own resources, only managed to repair some of the motion detectors around the church building just to ensure that the church alarm functions properly.

vii. Office equipment

Loadshedding caused serious disruption to our administrative function. This led to us reaching out to one of our partners, narcotics anonymous for support. They procured an uninterrupted power supply device for our computer and Wi-Fi. It was delivered in the past two weeks. This intervention will assist us with saving money on petrol for the generator during loadshedding and other outages.

We are locked into a rental contract for photocopying and high-volume printing machine. It is coming up for renewal this year and will be going out to source a contract that lines up better with our financial strategy.

We are considering consolidating the Wi-Fi at the rectory and the parish office. The decision will be made after receiving all the information needed to make such decision. Rev. Anastasia and her family had installed some infrastructure at the house which may be joined with the church operation going forward.

Further, we resolved to discontinue the post box as it has become redundant.

viii. Maintenance tools and equipment

The parish maintenance tools and equipment have aged and need replacement. Particularly the lawnmower and carpet hoover.

ix. Insurance

The parish property is covered by an insurance policy taken out by the diocese. We contribute regularly towards the premium and are pleased to report that we are up to date and never defaulted.

## 6. PARTNERSHIPS

i. Scouts

The scouts utilize the church premises for their activities every Friday and make a monthly donation of R2 200 for such access. They recently requested space for them to put up a container for their equipment. PC agreed that it be put next to the mast, subject to the MTN engineers confirming that such steel structure will not interfere with their mast. We agreed with the representatives of the scouts that they consider covering our outside worship space as consideration for the space for the container. We are awaiting such determination and will incorporate such detail in the contract that we are in process of generating.

ii. Narcotics Anonymous

We also have a partnership with NA for them to have their meetings on the church premises. They do not pay any regular amount, but as mentioned earlier, they are always willing to assist whenever we call out for support.



iii. Maintenance partner

We permitted a gentleman called Gerald to put up storage for his tools in the corner in front of the rectory. In exchange he is doing maintenance we identify in the parish and attempt to equate it to the equivalent of what the rent would have been. Some of the things he has done is to fit awnings in the front section of the church and provide cupboards and kitchen appliances that we decided recently where they are to be fitted.

iv. Available partnership opportunities

Given the tight financial environment we operate in, we always look out for opportunities for strategic partnerships where some repairs and maintenance can be done through such partnerships. As a result, we invite our parishioners to identify issues listed under plans for the new year hereunder, to partner with the parish to address such issues.

## 7. STAFF

Our staff complement is the same as last year, and they have been a true blessing to all of us. They are the real anchors of this parish. We thank our Lord for them.

We are in the process of designing a team building program through the kind assistance of Arnold Shkaidy (one of our parishioners). We believe that it will go a long way towards boosting our staff morale and synchronising values of all those who serve in our parish. We also agreed with Rev. Dave Osburn to design a program that will take the team leadership session further to instil oneness of spirit in how we do our work.

## 8. NEW COMMITTEES

We don't have events planning committees but do establish ad hoc committees for our golf day and Spring Faire when they take place. We also established a fundraising committee to act as support to such ad hoc committees. This is another area where parishioners who are not occupying leadership positions can participate as part of their personal ministry.

## 9. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND OUR CONTROL ENVIRONMENT

i. New policy and procedures

We developed a policy and procedures manual for the parish to ensure standardization of processes and improving our governance. We have already had a workshop with our key staff members who are central to the administration, HR and finance function. The manual is a living document and will be improved with time.

ii. Congregation monthly update

We have designed a reporting template for monthly reporting to the congregation. It is a summary of the detailed report that is uploaded on the website and put up on the notice board after being approved by PC at its monthly meeting.

iii. Record keeping

We are working on improving our record keeping, especially by ensuring that we have both our hard and electronic copies synchronised, and cloud storage kept up to date.

iv. Independent verification

We are concerned that the independent verifier does not believe that he needs to deal with the wardens directly when inspecting our books. We brought this to his attention, but in return, he escalated this issue to the interim diocesan executive officer (IDEO), Rev. Shimmin still maintaining that he is only accountable to the diocese. Though we don't dispute that, we are of the opinion that as custodians of the affairs of the parish, he must engage with us directly and raise issues with us and present us with an opportunity to let him in into the various measures we have introduced, and also solicit his opinion on areas to improve in our control environment. We intend to engage him and the IDEO further.

That said, we don't see this as an impediment to his reappointment for the new year.

## 10. LONG TERM DEBT

Great strides were made in the past year, in that, though we had planned to pay R340k towards reducing it, we actually paid R427k. Considering interest, the net reduction amounted to R267k, reducing it from R1 604m to R1 337m.

A new financial obligation we assumed, though not having any effect on our sustainability, is the decision to take over the loss that our verger suffered when the challenges the diocese faced resulted in him losing his deposit he made towards his pension. PC decided to intervene and undertake to refund him to ensure that his pension is secured. As a result, we proposed to diocese that we withhold our monthly tithe to diocese and redirect it to the verger for him to rebuild his pension. We are awaiting confirmation from the diocesan bursar on whether we can proceed with such intervention.

## 11. DG AND ATTENDANCE

We are pleased to report that we have been able to exceed our budgeted monthly DG of R70k. Our attendance figures also show a constant increase from the month of May 2023. This is an indication of a parish that is growing and experiencing some level of stability as it emerges from a very difficult time, as evidenced by the long-term debt mentioned above.

## 12. PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR

- Intensify work on the various ministries in our parish.
- Grow our congregation.
- Improve our worship experience.
- Reduce the debt account by net amount of R360 000 (R30k per month).
- Have annual golf day in August.
- Have a Spring faire in September.
- Beautify the space, viz. garden and the youth centre.
- Effect repairs in the rectory.
- Effect repairs at the verger's home.
- Install an oven and hob in the church kitchen.
- Acquire maintenance tools and equipment.
- Repair or upgrade the gate and security system.
- Team building for our staff.
- Importantly, position our parish as a warm and welcoming home for all.

### 13. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we would like to express our gratitude to each and every one of you, our parishioners. Your love for your parish and your Church made our work less difficult and a real blessing to serve our Lord. We also thank our staff and our accounting service provider, Heather Mutch for their continued support and cooperation.

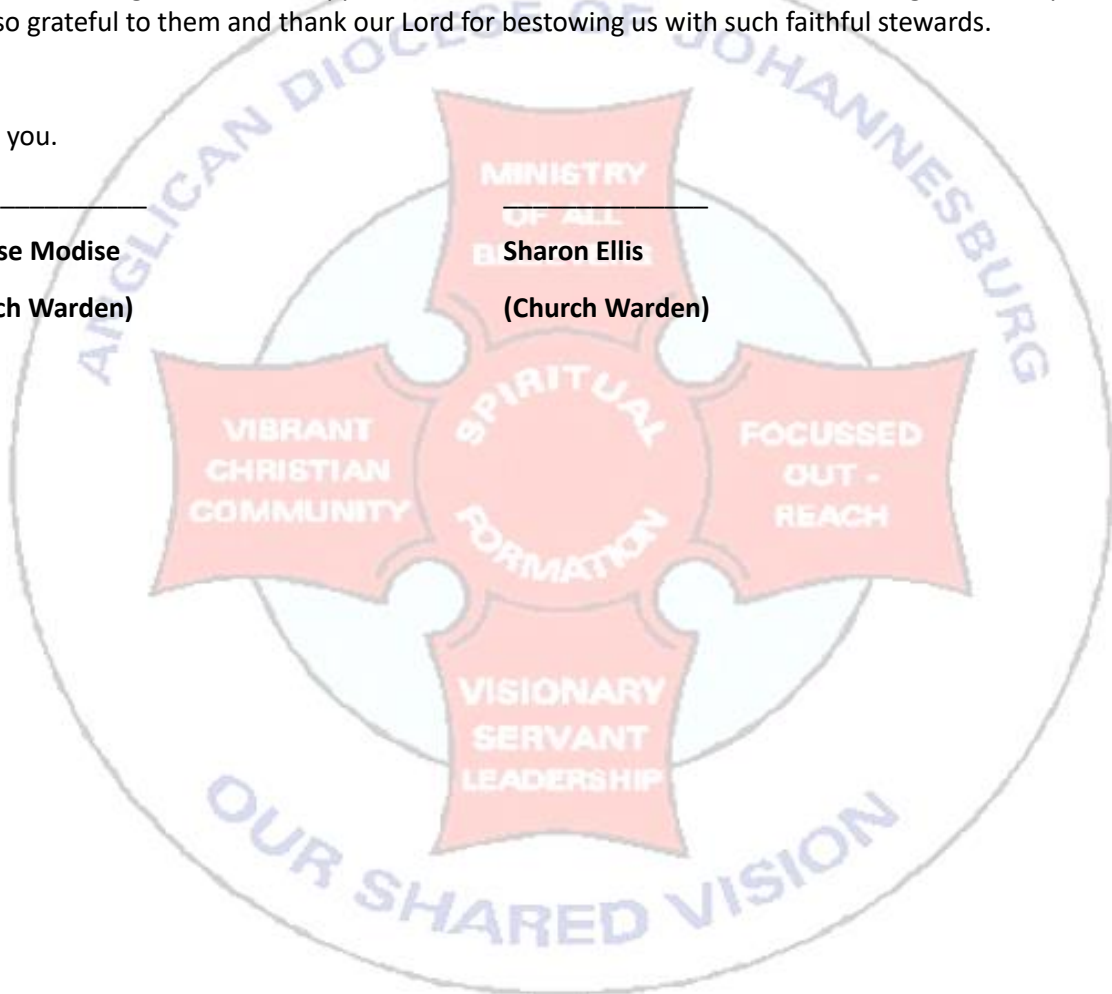
Finally, we thank Rev. Anastasia for guidance over the past four years. She can rest assured that she left behind a solid foundation and that we intend to only improve and do better. Of course, we cannot end this report without recognising the apprehension that beset us during the early stages of our transitional period while a replacement was sought for our rector. It is our view that things would have been much harder had we not received guidance and support from our archdeacon, Rev Shona Flemming and bishop Steve. We are also grateful to them and thank our Lord for bestowing us with such faithful stewards.

Thank you.

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**Ofentse Modise**  
**(Church Warden)**

**MINISTRY  
OF ALL  
BELIEVERS**  
**Sharon Ellis**  
**(Church Warden)**



### 3. SPRING FAIRE REPORT

Our annual Spring Faire in the garden was held on 7 October 2023 and what a beautiful day it was! Not just the weather, but the whole atmosphere. It was a fabulous opportunity to show off our lovely large gardens to the community and to our own families and friends. All the planning and preparation work over many months meant that the day ran like clockwork, everyone knowing what was expected of them and so many people working incredibly hard from early morning until well after sunset.

The level of participation was outstanding. Apart from the leadership team, almost our whole All Saints family was involved in one way or another - lending equipment, sponsoring supplies, bringing friends, working at a stall donating goods and offering help where needed. Once again, it was truly wonderful to see our youth stepping up and taking on responsibility as they actively participated – and they seemed to really enjoy themselves! For all those who worked so hard and took responsibility for various aspects, a huge, huge thank you!

A special thanks needs to go to Judith Mugeni and her team at Ganizani Consulting - this despite Judith having relocated to Montreal, Canada earlier in 2023. Without Judith's team, we would certainly not be able to host an event of this calibre. The sponsorships and furniture that Ganizani secured were truly wonderful, an answer to prayer and made the event so special. The artists and performers that they managed to secure for us were top class, and such a draw card, truly elevating the event - Shado Twala, Lilly Million, Aus Temba, Nothemba Madumo, DJ Shauny B and DJ Devlin to name a few. We were delighted that a parishioner's grandson and Mdu & Nomsa's talented daughter Kholeka, also performed on the day. We hope that the Spring Faire will grow as an opportunity to exhibit our own talented performers. Using the Outdoor Worship area as the stage worked really well and also meant that this saved a lot of money.

We introduced more "things to do" at the Spring Faire including a very popular "Sip and Paint" activity and also playing Table Tennis and Pool. Perhaps we can have even more experiential activities in 2024. We are always keen for new ideas and hope that this aspect of the Faire will grow.

The support and constant encouragement from Rev Anastasia also had a huge impact on the event. We will miss her input in 2024, and her incredible husband Tam will also leave a huge gap as he was always willing to do any job that presented itself.

We trust and pray that the foundations laid in previous years will be built on and will extend to involve even more Parishioners in 2024. For anyone looking for a fun way to get involved at All Saints, in Fund Raising and in the creation of a fun and fabulous event, you are warmly invited to be part of this team for our 2024 Spring Faire. Let us know, and we'll be delighted to have you on board. Watch this space .....

**Beth Heydenrych**

## 4. SPIRITUAL FORMATION

### 1. Introduction

Spiritual formation is one of the pillars of our Diocesan Vision. It concerns the process and practice of developing our inner lives through lifelong learning and mentoring. Spiritual formation is a journey through which we accept the invitation into relationship and a deeper connection with God. It helps us to reclaim our relationship with God as it was meant to be, within the context of community. Therefore, it is important to approach spiritual formation with an intergenerational focus that embeds community and family practices.

### 2. Spiritual Formation at All Saints

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, and we are pleased that this group has continued to meet.

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. Revd Anastasia presented the 3 Colours of Ministry course during Advent, and those who attended found it extremely enlightening. 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, which the children from the Mother of Peace attend. These congregations have grown slowly but steadily over the year. 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 and Jean Pienaar (19 baptised in the past year). We were thrilled to explore our faith alongside the seven confirmands who diligently and enthusiastically participated in the confirmation classes and camp in 2023.

We are looking forward to the upcoming 6-week Lent Course exploring the paradoxes that draw us into the Mystery of God to be held on a Wednesday morning and a Saturday afternoon (you only need to attend once a week!). The congregation are encouraged to include this opportunity for growth as part of their Lenten discipline.

### 3. Challenges and highlights

Teaching occasions that are not during regular Sunday or Wednesday worship tend to have reduced support. However, congregation members who participate in small group activities (e.g. quiet days, baptism preparation, confirmation class, Messy Church) often appreciate and benefit from the opportunity for small group interaction that offers a greater opportunity for participation and in-depth questioning.

On the whole, the All Saints community seem receptive to the intergenerational initiatives for festivals (e.g. Good Friday, Pentecost, Patronal Festival, etc.). It is encouraging that there has been an openness to explore more participative and reflective worship that extends beyond being a passive recipient of information.

Messy Church provides opportunities for intergenerational ministry to build capacity within families as they confront life's joys and challenges. Through the strengthening of inter-family communication and the building of relationships within the community, spiritual formation can reach families as they belong, believe and become.

To further embed and practise spiritual formation, it will require all-ages intentionally worshipping together on a regular basis. Inclusion and welcome is not just providing a grape juice option for the eucharist. All-age worship is not about young people performing for an audience. The focus for the Anglican church is the altar, not the stage. Spiritual Formation requires engaging with members of the community and modelling a life of faith so that people of all ages are nurtured to become co-nurturers.

We encourage the members of the congregation to embrace opportunities for spiritual growth as we *belong* to the community, explore what we *believe* and *become* what God had intended us to be to this broken and would world.

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, and to the Parish Ministers for their willingness to serve.

**Jean Pienaar**

## 5. SACRISTANS

Sacristan ministry has no formal structure at this point, with limited volunteers carrying out the duties. Duties remain limited to preparation of the trays for the eucharist. We extend the call for more people to join the ministry and assist with Sacristan duties.

The current team of Sacristans have expressed that they would like to receive training, in order to carry out their duties with confidence.

Stock take is conducted on a weekly basis, arrangements to replenish stock are facilitated by the Sacristans through the parish office. Donations are welcome.

We are grateful to the volunteers and Parish Ministers who are working diligently towards this ministry.

**Available stock as at 2 February 2024:**

Item	Available	On order
Wafers	1pkt (500)	Yes
Wafers (Priest)	4	Yes
Wine	11 bottles	
Grape juice	1L	
Altar candles	1 pkt (6)	
Votive candles	+ - 100	

## **6. RADICAL OUTREACH**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

This report gives all activities that the radical outreach did until February 2024.

### **2. THE WORK OF THIS MINISTRY**

Radical Outreach is our parishes endeavour to reach and spread the Love of God among our communities in our immediate neighbourhood also communities that are beyond that are in need of help and assistance.

### **3. MAJOR DONATIONS THE CHURCH RECEIVED THAT WERE EARMARKED FOR DISTRIBUTION**

#### **1. School Jerseys and Socks.**

This was the biggest task we had to undertake as due to the sizeable number of jerseys and socks we had received, we started off slowly with our distribution as we major assistance from our parishioners who would contact us with colour of the jerseys and sizes of the children they had identified so we pack the jerseys and the parishioner would collect from the church and deliver. We then got a major breakthrough with the assistance of one of our parish members who got us in touch with Thintane Foundation who then managed to get us directly in touch with office of the Deputy Minister of The Department of Social Development. The Department of Social Development extended an invitation to our parish to attend a CHOMMY activation event on Saturday 13 May 2023 in Vooslorus to handover to the schools around Ekurhuleni the jerseys and socks. After attending this event the Department of Social Development then notified us that they had identified all the schools of the remaining jerseys we had left, they then arranged a truck which was then sent to the church to uplift all the remaining jerseys which were earmarked for distribution at the next CHOMMY event.

#### **2. Stationery donation:**

This donation was received from one of our parish members, all of this was sent to the needy children of the Mother of Peace Orphanage as we identified them as needing all the stationery for the children at the Orphanage.

#### **3. School shoes:**

This donation was made in 2022 we got major assistance in getting to distribute these shoes with a lot of assistance from our parish members as they would contact us with the sizes of shoes and numbers of pairs they required to go give to the needy children.

### **4. ISSUES HANDED OVER TO THE NEXT COMMITTEE**

- 1. Additional and more support towards the soup kitchen which is currently being done in Cosmo City.**
- 2. Additional assistance to Orphanages that might be need of extra assistance in cases where we get more donations in the coming year.**

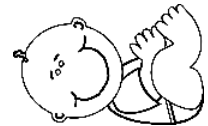
**Irvin Gomwe**



## 7. PARENTS IN WAITING

Prayers-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 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.

5 babies, together with their parents were prayed for during 2023, including a New Zealand baby.



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

### *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 and grandparents, be 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](mailto:hmaccserv@mweb.co.za)

## 8. MUSIC GROUP REPORT

Music is a very important part of worship. Communal singing is inherently a joyful activity of praise, that unites us. Music surpasses words and has a way of piercing into the deep part of our soul. Music can transport us to different place than words can take us. Without an organist, we have been using pre-recorded music, which is better than no music, but which has certain limitations.

For these reasons, in February 2023 Rev Anastasia asked me to assist with putting a music group together to bring our own musicians and singers together specifically to lead the singing for Easter Sunday. A group of about 10 responded to the call and we prepared a lovely variety of music for Easter Sunday, including being led by little Xia on the ukelele. Ofentse also led us in an acapella song. And so, the music group was born! Everyone enjoyed the music so much that it was decided we should lead the worship once a month going forward. Our next date was Pentecost Sunday which again was much enjoyed by all.

In July the Parish Council agreed that a paid musician should be secured to play monthly, and the music group was delighted to be led by Clement, a hugely talented organist and choir master. Our little singing group now gets proper musical input, and the singing has certainly been elevated under Clement's kind and generous guidance. The monthly live singing has been very well received by the All Saints family and everyone especially enjoyed the beautiful Carols by Candle light service on 6 December. We are delighted that Clement will be joining us from February again.

The choir/ singing group has a rehearsal once a month on a Saturday and then leads singing in Church the following Sunday. Going forward we hope to include more vernacular music and also include more musicians in the group. Unfortunately, Xia's dad, Tariq, has been very ill in hospital for several months. We continue to pray for him. This has meant that our little ukelele player/ guitarist has not been able to join us for quite a while. We would love for our numbers to increase and would be delighted if other musicians and those who enjoy singing, would like to join us.

Please contact Beth, Ofentse or the Church office if you would like to be part of the music group.

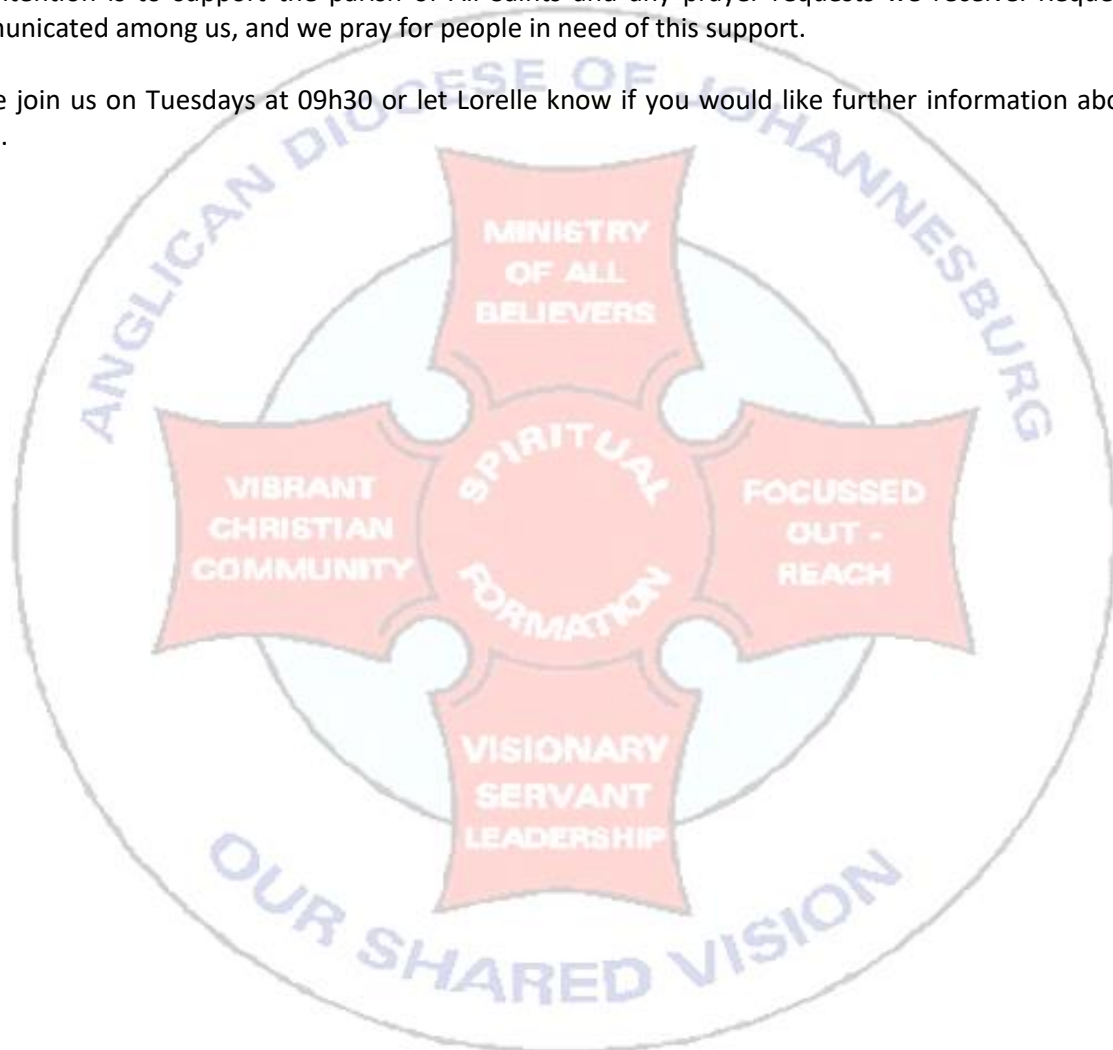
**Beth Heydenrych**

## 9. CENTERING PRAYER GROUP

The centering prayer group meets weekly for silent prayer and meditation. This small but dedicated group was started years ago by Liz Davies. While we miss her deeply, we are all so grateful for her legacy and Reverend Anastasia's encouragement as we continue to meet. It is a time of spiritual refreshment and blessing, and we would encourage people to join and share this time with us. In addition to the time of prayer we often connect about experiences or aspects of our faith and spiritual journey.

Our intention is to support the parish of All Saints and any prayer requests we receive. Requests are communicated among us, and we pray for people in need of this support.

Please join us on Tuesdays at 09h30 or let Lorelle know if you would like further information about the group.



## 10. BELL RINGING REPORT

The Bell Ringing group at All Saints has recently resumed active ringing, including the training of a number of new ringers.

We have also done some service ringing at both the major Church Festivals, ringing Rounds and Call Changes on both Easter morning and Christmas morning. In addition, we were able to ring at the final service of Rev. Anastasia – much to her delight, as she was a very strong supporter of our efforts.

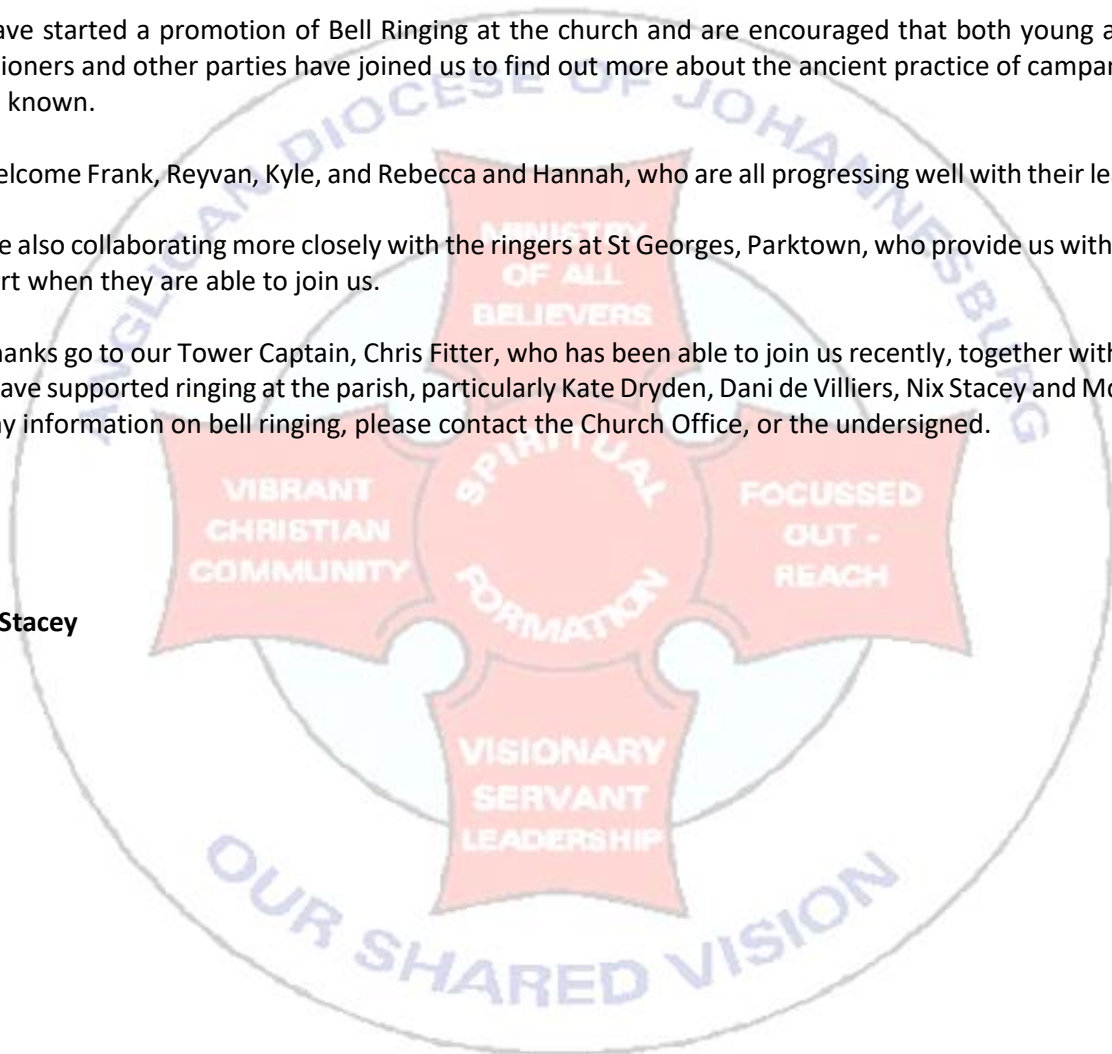
We have started a promotion of Bell Ringing at the church and are encouraged that both young and old parishioners and other parties have joined us to find out more about the ancient practice of campanology, as it is known.

We welcome Frank, Reyvan, Kyle, and Rebecca and Hannah, who are all progressing well with their learning.

We are also collaborating more closely with the ringers at St Georges, Parktown, who provide us with strong support when they are able to join us.

Our thanks go to our Tower Captain, Chris Fitter, who has been able to join us recently, together with those who have supported ringing at the parish, particularly Kate Dryden, Dani de Villiers, Nix Stacey and Mduduzi. For any information on bell ringing, please contact the Church Office, or the undersigned.

Brian Stacey



## 11. VIBRANT CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AND CHILDRENS CHURCH

In 2023 our Vibrant Christian Community Portfolio under which Children’s Church and Youth is placed spiritually touch the hearts of many of our community members including the young ones through the following activities.

The Vibrant Christian Community hosted another ALL-SAINTS GOLF DAY. The Golf Day, once more achieved its goal of raising funds to better serve our community. 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. It took place in May 2023 at Dainfern Golf Club.





Children’s Church continues to be a constant. In 2023 the number of children attending CC was constantly in the region of 10 little ones on average every Sunday. There was an increase in the number of children attending in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2022 and this has tapered off slightly in 2023. At this time the JAM (Jesus And Me) Kids are our 3-7 year olds, and the Disciples, 8-12 year olds, are combined as we don’t have sufficient kids in the Disciple Group to have separate classes.

This does, however, allow for the older group to assist the teachers. Three teachers requested a personal break in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2023 and that meant that the remaining five CC teachers had to complete the Sunday School curriculum for this year. Thank you, TEACHERS!

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. This is still a concern from 2022.

Other activities involving CC participation was the SPRING FARE. Once again CC opened to accommodate the little ones and have them housed in a safe environment while their parents enjoyed the activities of the SPRING FARE. Lots of fun was once again had by all!

For the year ahead (2024) – the plans are as follows for VIBRANT CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

1. Continue with the Golf Day fund raiser. The plan is for this to be an annual event for ALL SAINTS. Planned for Aug 2024.
2. Social Media Platform alignment and engagement – same message across all the social media platforms – this is to be continued in 2024.
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!**