



# ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH FOURWAYS GARDENS

Anglican Diocese of Johannesburg. PBO Number: 930018128

## Vestry 2025 – Interim Rectors Report

Beautiful people of God.

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus.

2024 – What a year!

The year started off with sadness as we said farewell to Revd Anastasia who had led the church efficiently and joyfully through the difficult years of the Covid Pandemic.

This was followed by the disappointment of learning that the negotiations to appoint a full time Rector could not be concluded, and that opportunity was lost.

So, not a comfortable start to the year.

But, in true All Saints style the church has managed to overcome these setbacks, and the church has continued to flourish.

And, that's when I came in, sent by the Bishop and the Archdeacon to help steer the ship, through the sometimes difficult waters. I certainly realise that being a part time priest has put extra strain on everyone else. The wardens, the council, the parish ministers, the administrator and other workers and, indeed, the many parishioners who have continued to put their heart and soul into the well-being of All Saints Church. Just goes to show what team-work can do. Everyone committed to the growth and success of All Saints. My thanks to all who have stepped forward and taken an active part in the building of the church and my thanks for the prayer and encouragement of everyone.

The wardens have reported very fully and capably on the affairs of the church, so I am not going to attempt to repeat what they have reported.

Instead, I do wish to express my heartfelt thanks to the leadership of All Saints church. At Vestry last year two Wardens were appointed, Sharon Ellis and Ofentse Modise. Unfortunately, there was no Alternate Warden. Sharon had served as warden and council member for many years and Ofentse started to serve his first year as Warden. We are grateful to both of them for the time and effort that they put into the church. Last year they both planted a Palm tree in the church grounds. In ten years' time we will remember them as we won't have to run around looking for palms for Palm Sunday, we will have our own. We continue to be grateful to Ofentse as he has continued to share his accounting expertise by completing the accounts each month and through his input in drawing up the budget for 2025

At Vestry four council members were appointed.

Jean Pienaar took on the portfolio of Spiritual Formation. Jean is Miss Wonderwoman. She is involved in just about every aspect of church life and seems to have never-ending energy.

Yanga Ncata took on the portfolio of Radical Outreach. She certainly has a passion for outreach and has been active at church and also in her day to day occupation.

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Natasha Bailey has the portfolio of Children's church (Sunday School). She has built up a fantastic team who are all doing a great job. We can see the joy in the children as they join us each week for communion.

Arnold Shkaidy took on the portfolio of Vibrant Christian Community and we really stretched him as he took on the task of looking after the Woman's group, flowers, and after service teas amongst others. But his great contribution was in leading the council in a team building season and in strategic planning and although he has now moved out of the area he has indicated that he is prepared to carry on in that role.

Jess Biesman-Simons was co-opted to record the minutes of the council, which she did very efficiently. It was also meaningful to have the voice of a young person on council. During the year our two Wardens stood down from their roles as Wardens and a Special Vestry was held to elect new Wardens. It was amazing and gratifying to see how many people came forward to fill the roles of Wardens and Council members.

Lindsay de Villiers was appointed Warden. Lindsay is Mr Fixit. He just gets things done very quietly, no fuss, no nonsense and mends the things that need to be fixed or adjusted.

Michael Zingel was also appointed Warden . He is Mr get-it-done. Move along, Next point please.

Jean Pienaar was appointed Alternate Warden. She has taken on this role in addition to continuing with her Spiritual Formation portfolio. See what I mean by Miss Wonderwoman.

Gaile Taylor was co-opted and has looked after several items including the gardens. She is particularly useful as she represents the Wednesday morning congregation.

Beth Heydenrych was co-opted and has a plateful. She is chair of the Events Committee which includes Spring Faire. She also co-ordinates our music group, which has grown from strength to strength.

Heather Mutch, while not an actual member of council, has stepped in to do the minutes. She is also heavily involved in looking after the finances of the church and doing the bookkeeping.

I would also take this opportunity to thank those who are employed by the church.

Lorelle Samuel, our super efficient administrator. She is on top of everything, and nothing is too much trouble for her to undertake.

Mdu Ngubane our Verger. Always willing and available to help.

Nomusa Mthetha and Jillian Maguguze our Janitors. Keeping the church neat and clean.

Peter Vune our Groundsman. Lot's of ground to look after.

A special mention to our Parish Ministers who are on duty every week and fill in in so many ways.

And, of course, to so many parishioners who do so much to make All Saints what we are. From bell ringers to soup kitchen, from music group to welcome group. From teas to centering prayer. From Messy Church to Projector operators. It is amazing how many people have stepped forward.

The question that you all probably want to ask. “When are we getting a full time, living on the property Rector.” I wish that I had a better answer for you, but I think that I do need to be open with you, and perhaps a little blunt. The reality is that there are two things holding us back. First is the reality that there is a shortage of Priests. There are more vacant posts than there are Priests to fill them. Second, at this stage, we simply do not have the budget available to employ a full-time Priest. The reality is that we are unlikely to have a full-time Rector this year. But, for now, I am with you and together with the Wardens, Council, Administrator, and all the Saints we will continue to make All Saints flourish.

I noted from last year’s Rector Report that Revd Anastasia ended by saying that she continues to pray Ephesians 3:14-21. This intrigued me so I had a look at it. What a wonderful prayer. It is Paul praying for the readers of his letter. In Paul’s time that would have been for the church leadership in the city of Ephesus. Today it is a prayer for us because we are the modern day readers of his prayer.

I will leave you to read it at home because it is quite long. When you read it look out for the following themes.

Spiritual Strength:

Christ's Indwelling:

Rooted and Grounded in Love:

Comprehending the Dimensions of Christ's Love:

Fullness of God:

God's Abundant Power:

Glory to God:

Perhaps this is a prayer that we can adopt for the next few months.

May God continue to Bless His Church, All Saints, and may each parishioner – each saint - be Blessed abundantly.

Rev’d Dave

Interim Priest

