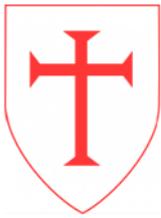


ST GEORGE'S NEWS



Our Church Family Magazine



September 2020: COVID-19
Anglican Church of St George the Martyr with the Chapelries of
St Mark, the Evangelist, Rotterdam and St Monica, Wesbank

Volume 4 Issue 2
September 2020





Rodney's Musings



Dear People of God, COVID-19 has indeed changed life - perhaps forever. I am not sure what people did immediately after the other global pandemics, such as the Spanish Flu of 1918, but we know that WW2 followed not long afterwards. We hope that current and future generations will be more creative about preserving life than destroying it – this truly divine gift which God not only created, redeemed but also sanctifies.

A terrible reality caught my eye – a subheading, 'Rape is the most unreported crime – Globally.' Rape speaks generally of violence against women. This is a reality-check during the month of August in which we have our attention on Compassion and National Women's Month. Are those perpetrators devoid from this public awareness? Whilst they drive fear into their victims by forcing them to silence, they do this out of fear of revelation, exposure and prosecution. We need to expose this fear.

In South Africa we have generations of victims. A country that prided itself on the majority mostly being religious, has a record of crime against women, children, disabled, elderly and the marginalised. We are a country, not yet a nation, which cares not for victims – we do not notice, or listen, nor have the courage to identify with, or speak out as we should.

How then can our songs of worship to a just God, our reading and proclamation of Scripture, our altars and the sacrament become worship, message and food of healing for the body, mind and spirit of the victims living amongst family and community?

When Jesus said, 'Do this in remembrance of me,' did he mean of 'me who in becoming the Victim, remember all victims?' On the cross, Jesus broke the silence, whilst we are preserving the silence. On the cross his wounds were exposed, whilst we cover up the wounds of victims. On the cross he said it was 'finished,' whilst in the misery of our silence the crime continues, the victim cries in silence and the perpetrators go unpunished to continue the violence.

Do we have a safe space in our congregations for victims to speak without fear of exposure nor stigmatisation? How many victims are there currently at St George, St Mark and St Monica, as well as victims who have been silent for a long time? How many victims have we helped towards healing? How many perpetrators have we led to repentance, confession and retribution? How many trusts the clergy to assist pastorally?

Violence against women and other forms of destructive and anti-social behaviour continues to break the country and does not bring us closer to truly becoming a nation celebrating diversity.

In the month of Compassion and Women's Month, I conclude with words which is an appropriate challenge to us: "As long as religious people are well dressed, well fed, and well cared for, words about being in solidarity with the poor will remain pious words more likely to evoke good feelings than creative actions. As long as we are doing well what others are doing better and more efficiently, we can hardly expect to be considered the salt of the earth or the light of the world. In short, as long as we avoid displacement, we will miss the compassionate life to which our Lord calls us." — Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life*

Love and blessings to all.
Rodney Whiteman

A Prayer at the time of COVID-19

Author of life,

Healer of the nations;

Grant us courage to face our trial,

Give us wisdom to find relief,

Give us faith to be responsible

And grant us your salvation

For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen

Rodney Whiteman



EDITORIAL—THE ERA OF THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC

There is a universal awareness that with COVID-19 we are experiencing a once-in-a-lifetime historical event. Years from now we will share stories with family and friends, teach about COVID-19 in schools, write theses and tell our children and grandchildren about what life was like in 2020. Our stories about this era will no doubt start with: Can you still remember....? There was a time when... It is at such times, we hope, that our Magazine could be of assistance.

I can say without fear of contradiction, that no one of us had the slightest inkling at the end of 2019 that 2020 was going to turn out the way it has. At the beginning of 2020 we had our plans for the New Year – our New Years’ resolutions – still waiting to be ‘unwrapped’ – like some of our Christmas presents. We were convinced that 2020 could not be worse than the previous year. For business it was going to be a more profitable year; our government was dealing with so many difficult issues at the same time to try to make South Africans more hopeful, amidst all the gloom and doom our country is experiencing; students who successfully completed their exams were full of hope and expectations for the New Year ahead. If someone were to have said the greatest catastrophe to hit mankind since the Second World War was waiting for us in 2020, we would have mocked the idea.

Then suddenly everything changed. All the plans, carefully thought through, came to an abrupt end. What had happened? Since January 2020 reports started circulating that a new virus was doing the rounds. These reports also speculated that this virus originated in China’s Wuhan Province late in 2019, in a ‘wet market’ where, amongst other things, fresh produce and live animals were sold, and that the virus transitioned there from an animal to humans. It was further reported that there was no cure for the virus. It was described as a novel virus which resembled other existing Coronaviruses in appearance, but was more deadly. It was named COVID-19, short for Coronavirus disease with 19 indicating the year, 2019, in which it was first detected.

Since then COVID-19 has rapidly spread across the world. On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, indicating that the virus was spreading across the world. Africa was amongst the last continents to be affected by the virus, with the first case reported in Egypt on 14 February 2020. In South Africa, the first COVID-19 case was confirmed on 5 March 2020 and at the time of writing, has one of the highest rates of infection on the continent. The speed with which COVID-19 spread around the world, led to many countries adopting extreme measures to try and curb the spread, by closing their borders to all air, maritime and road traffic and ordering people to stay indoors. The president of South Africa, Mr Cyril Rama-

phosa, declared a national state of disaster on 15 March 2020. This allowed the government to take urgent and drastic measures to manage the disease and to protect the people of S.A. On 23 March 2020, the president announced a national lockdown for 21 days which took effect on 26 March 2020. This lockdown was subsequently extended. To slow down the rate of infection the government introduced a Risk Adjusted Strategy consisting of 5 levels with level 5 consisting of drastic lockdown to level 1 where the country could resume most normal activities.

Soon the virus reached all continents and over 177 countries. The virus was extremely contagious and led to death in the most vulnerable, particularly those over 60 and those with underlying health conditions or so-called comorbidities. Those with stronger immune systems survived the infection – some, only after hospitalization. The most critical cases led to an overwhelming number being admitted to the intensive care units of hospitals, leading to a concern that the infections would overwhelm local health care systems. The human toll was staggering, and experts predicted the possibility of a second wave of infections.

As the death toll rose from the virus that had no known treatment or vaccine, countries shut their borders, banned travel to other countries and began to issue orders for their citizens to stay at home and limited the number of individuals at gatherings. Schools and universities were closed and where possible moved education online. Sporting events were cancelled, airline flights came to a halt or were drastically cut back, tourism stopped dead, restaurants, cinemas, theatres, manufacturing processes including factories and retail stores closed. In some businesses and industries employees have been able to work remotely from home, but other workers have been laid off, put on leave, or had their working hours cut. Sadly, some businesses closed permanently as they could not withstand the extended lockdown periods without any income, while others such as wine producers, started supplying alcohol to be used in the manufacturing of sanitizers. Some motor car manufacturing businesses as well as other engineering firms started manufacturing much needed ventilators used in hospitals to assist COVID-19 patients in ICU with

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breathing.

While first world countries such as those in Europe and North America suffered severely, the effect on developing countries was even more critical. Since there was no cure or vaccine for this virus, the WHO urged all countries to educate their citizens to wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water or to use an alcohol-based sanitizer, to wear cloth masks and to observe social distancing in an effort to slow down the spread of the disease. Another protocol was to trace those who came into contact with infected persons and then to test them for the virus and request them to isolate themselves from others for up to 14 days. These measures went a long way to protect citizens from contracting the virus and was especially useful in developing countries, such as South Africa. Amazingly, amidst all the doom and gloom that COVID-19 brought, it also made us realise that we need to pay much more attention to how we live and use the resources of this planet. As all types of social, economic, industrial activity, including international and domestic travel came to a sudden stop in the initial stages of the virus, it resulted in an improvement in the quality of the air, cleaner rivers, less noise pollution and a more peaceful wildlife. In heavily polluted cities around the world, the drop in air pollution was almost immediate. There were even reports of wild animals venturing into urban areas. These observations led a researcher to remark grimly that:

“Although a Coronavirus vaccine is not yet available, Coronavirus itself is earth’s vaccine and us humans are the virus”.

At the time of writing, South Africa had cumulatively conducted 3 535 067 tests, had 607 045 positive cases identified, 504 127 total recoveries (83%), 12 987 deaths and 3 707 new cases, thus allowing scientists to advise that the number of infections have declined to a level that would allow the government to move the country to Level 2 lockdown. This, however, came with a grave warning that the virus is still with us and still has no cure. While some team sports can compete, spectators are still prohibited from sporting events. Other limitations remain in place, such as gyms who could only function at 50% capacity as well as religious gatherings.

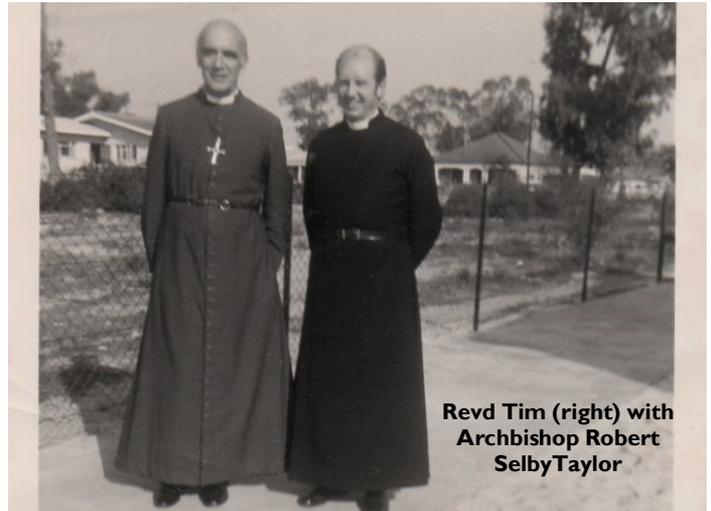
Religious gatherings are permitted with a maximum of 50 congregants.

A number of countries are racing against the clock to find an effective vaccine to reign in the spread of the virus. Although there are hopeful signs of finding a vaccine, no one can say for sure how long it will take.

For now ... the world waits.

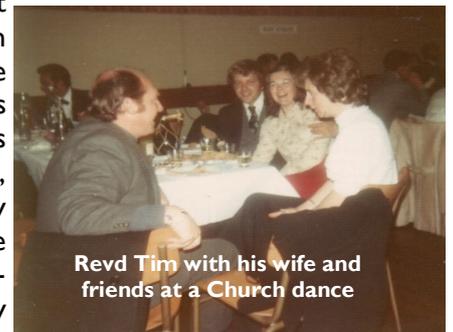
Eddie Davis

In Memory of Revd Tim Bravington 8 February 1934 – 29 March 2020



Revd Tim (right) with
Archbishop Robert
Selby Taylor

Revd Tim Bravington’s connection with St George the Martyr started in 1971 when he became Rector of the Church of the Transfiguration in Bellville until he left in 1976. St George the Martyr was a chapelry of the Church of Transfiguration at that time. The Revd Tom Inman was his curate and resided in Kuils River. Revd Tim’s wife, Rosemary, writes of the many friends they made among the congregation and how they enjoyed the functions and dances. She also speaks fondly of the late Ginger Doherty—Owen, the late Errol and Merle Rayner’s father—who was the Chapel Warden at the time, and of the dedication and friendliness of the Doherty family and parishioners.



Revd Tim with his wife and
friends at a Church dance

Before arriving in Bellville, Revd Tim was the Rector of St Augustine’s, O’Kiep, in Namaqualand where he and Rosemary were engaged. It was there, in 1967, that he officiated at the marriage of Desmond and Hilda Williams, the parents of Dr Anthea Jacobs. Desmond and Hilda later settled in Kuils River where they became active parishioners of St George the Martyr. Both Desmond and Hilda, have since passed away.

On leaving Bellville, Revd Bravington and his family moved to St Martin in the Fields, in Durban North. In 1984 he was appointed Rector of St Mary’s Stellenbosch, where he was tasked with reconciling the factions in the congregation after a major split. While there he was one

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Higher Education Teaching and Learning in the time of COVID-19

The world and humanity as we know it, has come under immense threat of the coronavirus disease of 2019 (COVID-19). This pandemic has disrupted our routine, compelling us into quarantining, lockdowns and physical and social distancing. Since South Africa recorded its first confirmed case of COVID-19 in March 2020, higher education institutions have undergone great-unanticipated changes in the way they operate generally, and in the way they deliver the academic programme.

After implementation of the national lockdown higher education institutions have had little choice but to embark on wide-scale emergency remote teaching (ERT) to try to salvage the 2020 academic year. Even those institutions who felt less ready to venture into remote teaching and learning had to gear themselves up for the inevitable, given the longer than expected lockdown and the uncertainty of the COVID-19 trajectory. The shift to ERT is however, easier said than done, and higher education institutions are faced with unprecedented challenges.

Many hidden teaching and learning and curriculum issues surfaced during this time, such as a lack of physical access to resources, availability of data and bandwidth and language challenges, to name but a few. Moving the face-to-face academic offering to the virtual space while maintaining a business-as-usual approach, when the challenges seem insurmountable, always held the risk of widening existing inequalities and increasing marginalisation. The past four months have shown that these issues are indeed amplified in the virtual mode, with large numbers of disadvantaged students unable to continue their studies. Higher education practitioners therefore need to be extra vigilant about honouring the notion of 'leave no one behind'. We need to maintain solid relationships of compassion with our students, because if our relationships with our students weaken or lapse in the shift to online learning, many students could flounder. While a solutions-driven response from higher education management to the pandemic is fully understandable, it is our responsibility as higher educationists not to lose sight of contextual issues that might not always be visible in the online space. After 26 years of democracy, there are still gross inequalities on educational, social and political levels, which have reared their unpleasant heads and become even more visible now in the wake of COVID-19.

To illustrate, let us look at the challenges related to ERT reported by the four universities in the Western Cape, according to Universities South Africa:

University A: Students' lack of appropriate devices and issues of connectivity remained a stumbling block for online

learning. Most students are from rural settlements of the Eastern Cape, some with no electricity and absolutely no internet connectivity.

University B: Admitted that theirs was not a perfect situation where every student had a proper online learning device. However, not offering teaching and learning online was not an option.

University C: The issue of vulnerable students went further than students without devices and connectivity. It also included students living in environments un conducive to learning. Even the better-resourced students had not signed up for online learning and were therefore anxious. A strong support system was therefore imperative, if students, and staff, were to cope in this environment.

University D: Students without devices; internet connectivity and data.

These challenges are not surprising, as a recent global study on the impact of COVID-19 on student affairs, produced similar findings. However, unlike universities abroad, South African universities appeared to have provided more relief to poor students than typically seen globally. This relief was evident in universities' provision of transport money to students; providing increased internet bandwidth; procuring laptops and other learning devices for needy students; providing data and negotiating reduced data costs. This is exactly what makes the South African response unique. As painful and stressful a time as this is, these are baby steps in the process of a long overdue reconsideration of our higher education system. The pandemic has been a great leveller in a way, giving all stakeholders (educators, learners, policy-makers and society at large) a better understanding of our current education systems' vulnerabilities and shortcomings. Not only has it emphasised the importance of digital literacy and communication in a world in which social distancing may increasingly become the norm, but it has also taught us more about the importance of a more humanising, empathetic approach.

COVID-19 has shaken the higher education system to its core, and we can expect a different kind of educational model to emerge from the pandemic. It is inevitable that many higher education institutions will be operating very differently in a post-COVID-19 world. The current radical uncertainty will most probably continue to pervade all aspects of higher education. Moving forward, it will be important for higher education in South Africa to demonstrate that the country is living up to its world-renowned Constitution, which entrenches equality as a fundamental right. It will require a careful bal-

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ancing act between responding to the challenges of COVID-19 and ensuring that no student is left behind. Yes, it will take higher education practitioners out of their comfort zones, but it would be irresponsible not to embrace the opportunity to reconsider and potentially transform the higher education landscape.

Anthea H M Jacobs | PhD

A reflection on parish life and the church during the COVID-19 period

When one revisits the last edition of our Parish magazine, we boldly stated that the Music Team would be hosting the Ihlombe Festival this year, the Recorder Group was canvassing for more members, areas and organizations were planning their yearly events and tickets for the church's bi-annual raffle were being sold. Little did we know how the next couple of months would play itself out! The COVID-19 pandemic also impacted on other activities, such as the Sunday School, Confirmation classes, wedding and baptism preparation, Bible Study and Parish Council meetings, as everyone had to start adhering to prescribed measures to ensure our health and safety.

The President announced a "lock-down" in the country for 21 days from 26 March 2020, which effectively barred us from physically gathering in the church building. Five months later, and we are still in the grip of COVID-19, with certain regulations still in place. More defining of this time is the spike of cases, with some of our loved ones having succumbed.

How has the Parish responded to this lockdown? For the first month, Revd Rodney Whiteman reached us all via the broadcast of a podcast, generously facilitated by a parishioner, Lindsay Schutters, I am sure I speak on behalf of the many parishioners who were delighted with this form of worship. Later, a WhatsApp group chat was formed where Revd Rodney held morning and evening devotions and Bishop Margaret sent daily prayers. It is very comforting to hear Bishop Margaret's steady, reassuring voice every day, reaching out to all of us in the False Bay diocese, spiritually uplifting us and giving us a mandate to reach out to someone whom we would not normally do. One definitely felt held, sustained and cared for during this time. As we became aware that this "new normal" would continue for a longer time than we had anticipated, the church at large responded by broadcast-

ing the Archbishop's YouTube virtual Easter Sunday service. Other parishes soon followed suit. Later, at St George, evening prayers, Parish Council meetings and wedding preparation were broadcast by video conferencing meetings using Zoom. Rushmond May released a compilation of photos of the Senior Choir's Outreach to Arniston and Bredasdorp, to their rendition of the song "Flying Free". So, it came about that the idea of a virtual, spiritual holy communion service, broadcast on YouTube, was born. Not only our Parish, but many other parishes and denominations responded to the restrictions imposed on worshipping in the traditional way by using technology. They reached their congregations via voice notes or virtual services.

Little did the clergy know that we had taken to binge watching on a Sunday morning! I think everybody was so excited to hear their minister, pastor, or priest in this new mode, that they shared with friends and family alike. That carried on for a while until we realised, "Ok, you can relax now, everyone's spiritual needs are being catered for in a special way." There were definite perks. One could choose a time, and mode of worship, listening to a service being broadcast on YouTube or on podcast. If some of us were honest, you would hear about the *Pyjama mode*, whereas other families worshipped together around a lit candle and cross. Whatever the "mode" of worship, we found ourselves sharing with others what we took away from the sermon. I dare say, that was a new, lovely experience for many of us. Another positive outcome was that if one missed any of the virtual services or morning and evening prayer, one could access it anytime.

It was heart-warming when some of our members attached palm fronds, or a resemblance thereof, to their front doors or gates as a tangible way of worship on Palm Sunday and by so doing we navigated our most Holy period in the Christian calendar. We took part in "Wear an item of yellow clothing" on Sundays, an initiative of the Diocese of False Bay, Table Bay and Saldanha Bay, and wore red for Pentecost Sunday.

Recently, different organisations such as the Youth Fellowship, GAP, Music Ministry, Sunday School, Silver and Golden Threads, Crafty Knitters, Mother's Union and the Anglican Women's Fellowship have all had a turn to participate in the virtual services. As parishioners we have also had to make major adjustments around protocols at funerals. The rules of social distancing apply, which means that a total not exceeding 50 people is allowed at any given moment in one space. Bereaved family and friends participate in a "Drive – by memorial" to pay their last respects to those who passed away. Provision is made outside of the home, where one can lay tributes of flowers, cards, photographs or offer some words of comfort or a prayer, all the while maintaining social distancing and wearing masks. In other words, you drive off once you have had

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a turn. The regulations are even more stringent with weddings, where only five people may be present. The prescribed totals for weddings and funerals include the presiding priests.

What does the future hold for us? Will we be having a “Drive-By Bazaar”? Would we like to expand and have “Drive-In” services in our parking lot like some churches are doing, where they can sing to their heart’s delight at the top of their voices? At the time of writing, restrictions on church services and other activities have been relaxed somehow under lock-down level 2 and we are looking forward to 1 September 2020 – the day on which False Bay Diocese will reopen its church doors, with certain limitations such as a maximum of 50 persons per gathering. Given all these restrictions and whether we worship at home or at church, we must bear in mind that “we are the church”.

In the words of Rev Dr Rachel Mash, convenor of the Green Anglicans: “Do you want to go back to a church building like during Roman and Greek times, or do you want to follow Jesus the Christ into the community and become part of a circle of care and defence”? Will we start focusing on God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, as well as the whole Creation that is an inseparable part of the Holy Trinity? Can we become the messengers who bring the good news that the Earth’s bounty is meant for everyone? Can we, during this time of COVID-19, passionately start advocating to end practises harmful to the Earth and one another?

May we find the strength to redefine ourselves individually and as a congregation during this time.

John 4:24 “God is a Spirit; and they that worship Him, must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

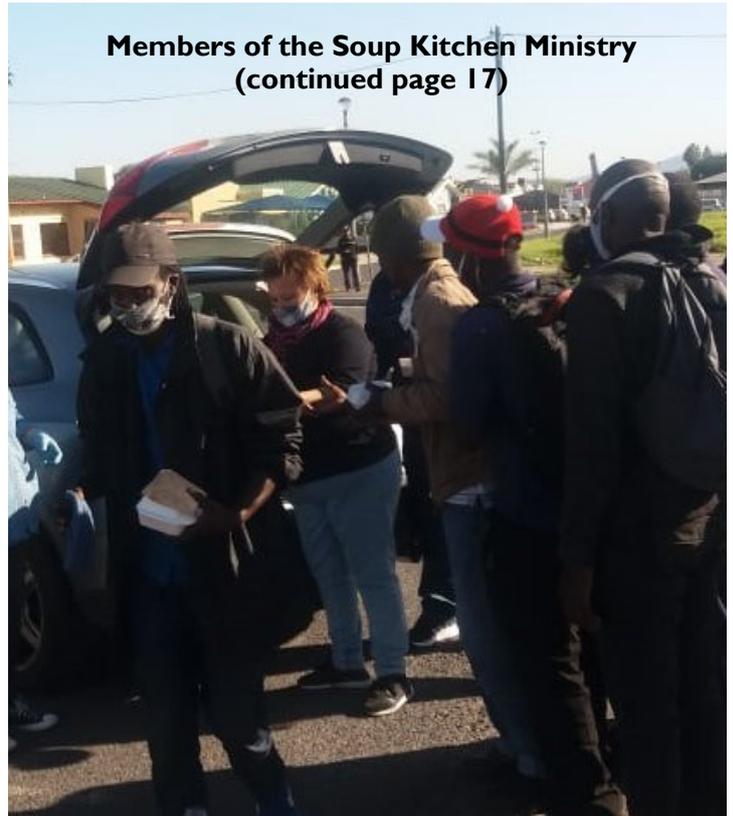
Please visit the church’s website www.stgeorgeskr.org.za, Facebook page or WhatsApp Communications group to join in the devotions and virtual services.

Merle May

St George’s Soup Kitchen Outreach

While most activities at the church came to an abrupt end during COVID-19 pandemic, the needs in the impoverished communities did not. Providing food for the hungry became a priority of our soup kitchen ministry as well as many other charitable organizations in the area. As the needs in the communities became more acute during the strict lock-down period in the initial stages of the pandemic, our soup kitchen extended its reach to include the areas of St Mark, Rotterdam and St Monica, Wesbank. The soup kitchen group would like to thank all those who contributed in cash and in kind to make their work possible.

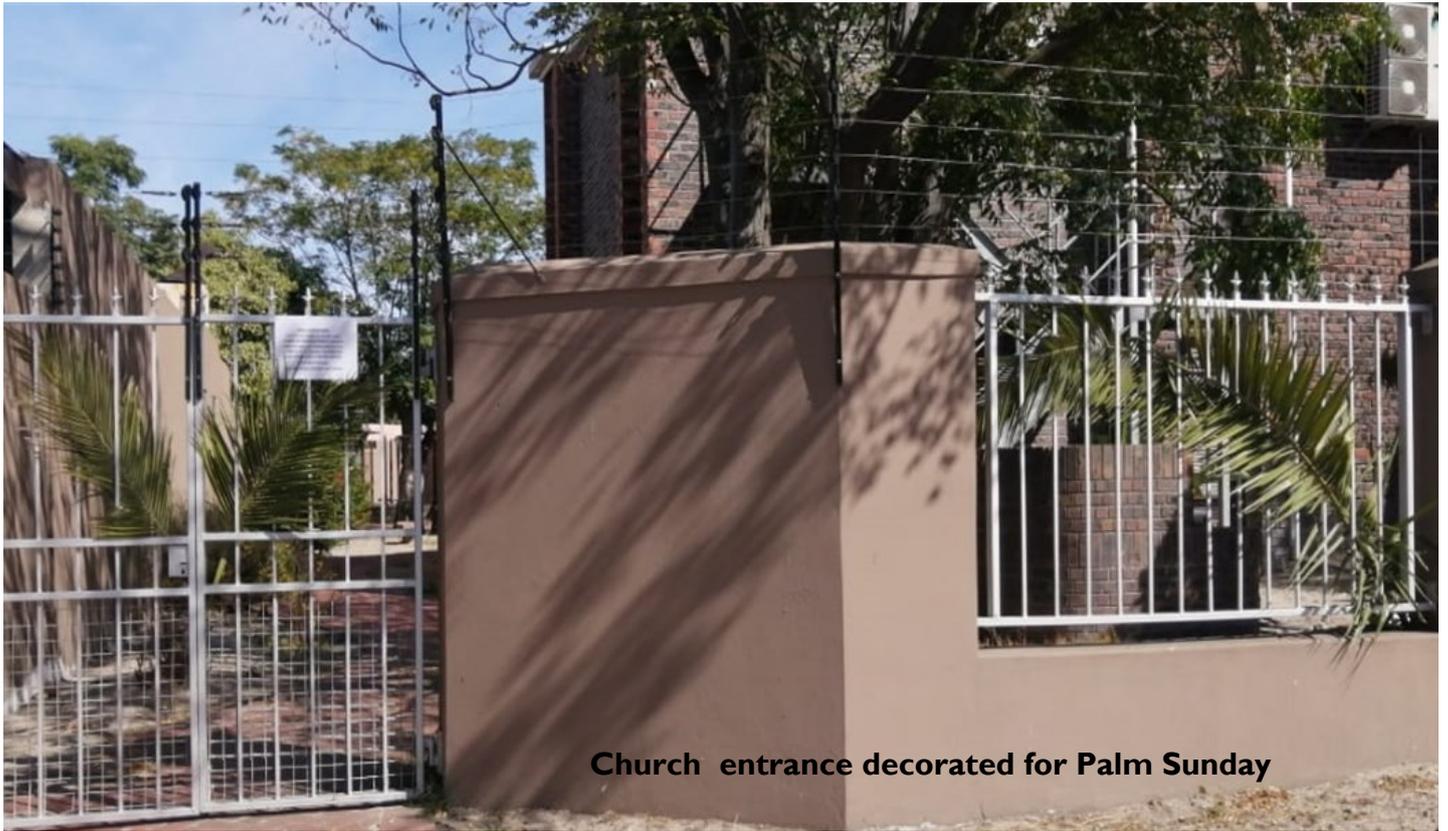
Members of the Soup Kitchen Ministry (continued page 17)





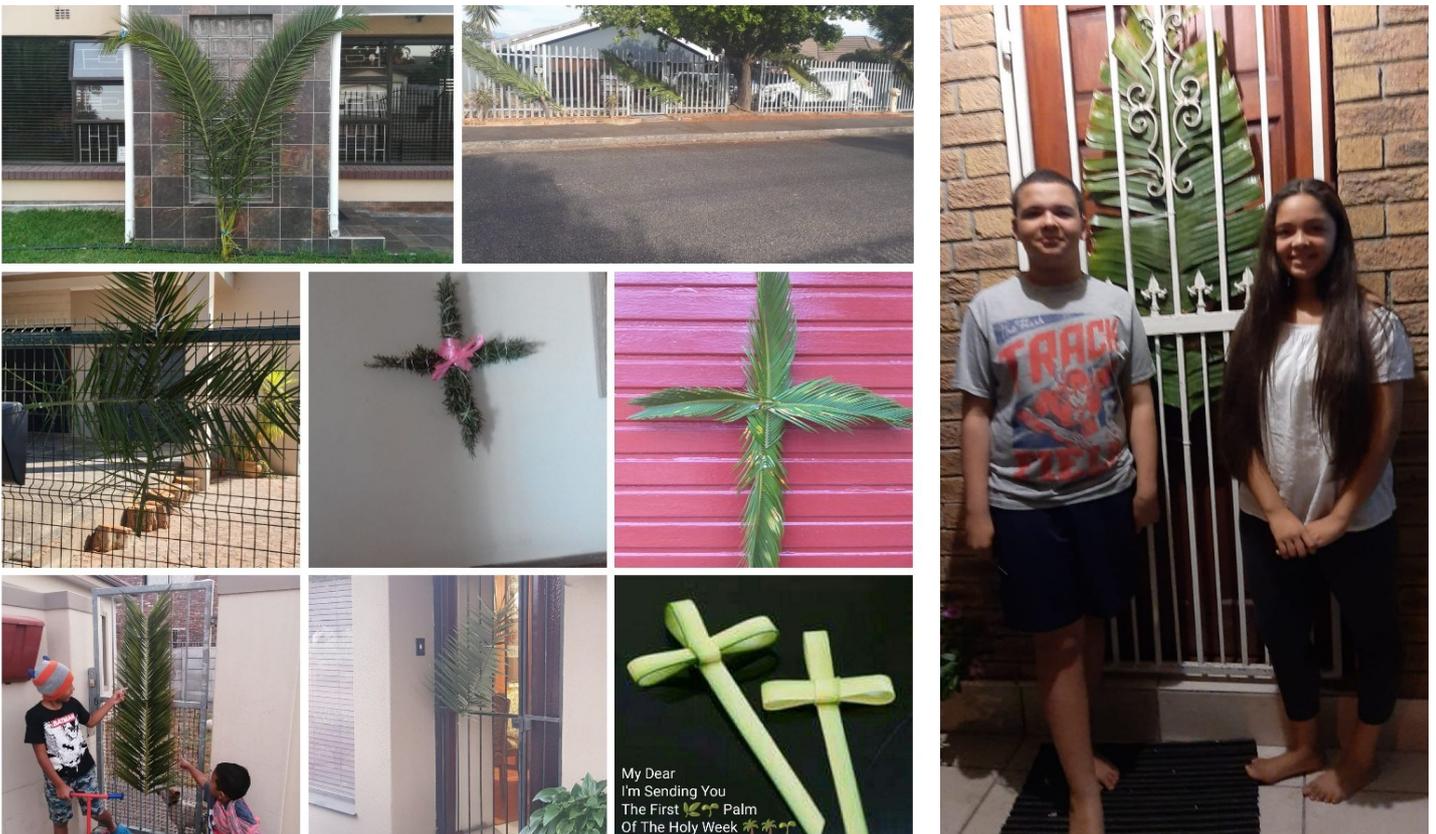
Palm Sunday during Lockdown

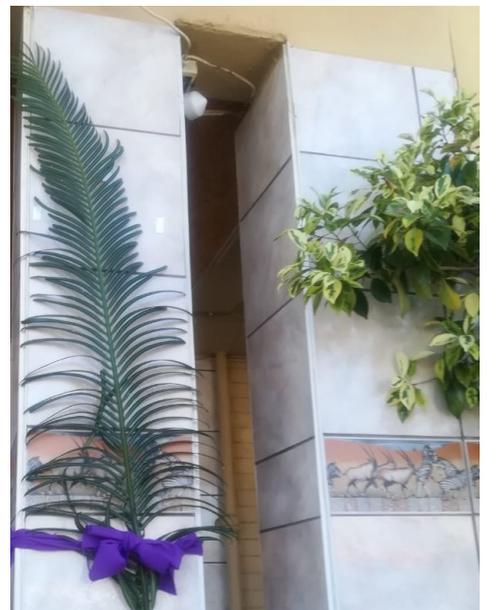
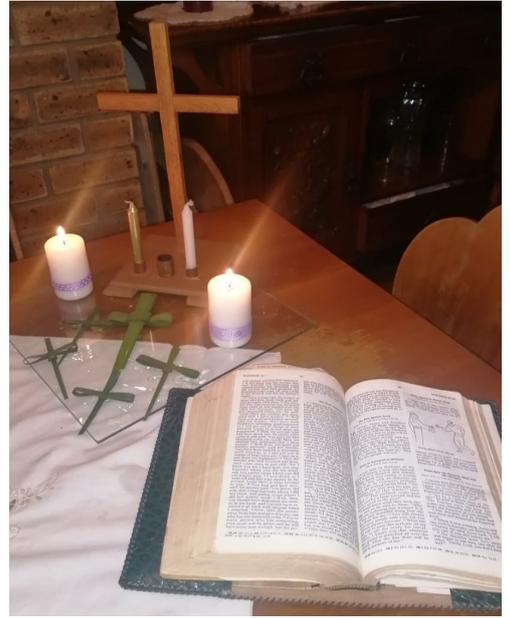
Although parishioners could not attend mass on Palm Sunday because of COVID-19 lockdown, there was no lack of enthusiasm to celebrate the day in many creative ways



Church entrance decorated for Palm Sunday

Celebrating Palm Sunday at Home (below)







COVID-19 – the ultimate psychological wellness tester?

What a big task to try and put down on paper how COVID-19 has impacted our world as we know it. Every societal institution, from family, religion, education to business, among others have been tested to the beyond. Every group in society from toddlers, school aged children, the employed and unemployed, the elderly, the vulnerable, have been asked to think of a 'new normal'. Every country in the world compelled leadership to show their mettle, or lack of mettle for the greater good. This is what the year 2020 thus far and it is not over yet. We are psychologically asked to dig even deeper and show even more resilience and courage ahead.

Family life under lockdown has had its ups and downs. For those who had a roof over their heads, an income, enough food and strong and sound relationships, it was just a matter of grinning and bearing it and being safe and healthy. However, for those with large families that needed to be fed daily at every meal, food insecurity became part and parcel of their daily lives. For South Africa this was the old 'new normal' for many of its citizens.

Gender-based-violence also reared its ugly head at every possible turn. For many vulnerable women this was the time where the lockdown allowed total power for the perpetrators and they could bare their claws. This was the time of no escape and domestic life was a living hell for many families. Many homes had their own little 'civil wars' inside their walls.

Businesses suffered greatly in every sector. Uncertainty became a dominant theme everywhere. People were laid off, along with the stress and trauma and consequences of losing one's income. Markets have been ravished and experts predict that South Africa will take about 5 years to get to 2019 financial security levels. Economic uncertainty has never helped one to sleep easier.

Learners and college students have been at home for almost 6 months. What a tragedy in our unequal country where education makes a difference in one's future and life path. A chosen few will be right and ready to become productive students again when schools resume. However, for the rest it will be hard to be truly motivated and ready again. Even educators will have to be psychologically ready for this new post-lockdown group of youngsters. Education experts will have to have 'war rooms' to strategize the future of those learners as South Africa cannot afford another 'lost generation'.

Religion is an anchor for many. The church as a place of worship is still closed for gatherings as I write this article. For many the church is their space of service and

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#Sundaysinyellow





COVID-19 – A POWERFUL REMINDER THAT (Y)OUR TEACHING DOES MATTER!

(Originally published on HELTASA website:
<http://heltasa.org.za/covid-19-a-powerful-reminder-that-your-teaching-does-matter/March-2020>)

It is hard to believe that I wrote this blog piece, “Through the lens of humanity: (Y)our teaching matters!” only nineteen days ago. So much has changed since then. The human race is under threat of COVID-19. Right now, in South Africa, we find ourselves in lockdown, in an effort to combat the spread of COVID-19. I think it is safe to say that *Lockdown South Africa* has affected us all, whether at work and/or educational institution, home or play. This pandemic has disrupted our routines. It has also forced us to think creatively, innovatively and collaboratively about what measures we can put in place to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on our normality.

At the Stellenbosch University (SU) Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) where I work as academic developer, we have been working frantically, almost twenty-four-seven, to put comprehensive contingency plans and support measures in place to ensure that quality teaching and learning at the University continues. One of the main support measures has been the establishment of a Lecturer Support for Teaching Online site. Further CTL efforts address, amongst others, preparing lecturers for online assessment and offering suggestions for planning online assessment. Thus far the CTL has presented four online webinars and there are more to follow. We are also working on an assessment resource for lecturers, which will be placed on the SU online learning management system, called SUNLearn, as well as a set of frequently asked questions and answers. All the CTL efforts have been well received, especially the online webinars. I quote the following message of feedback from one of the participants: “*Ek hoop dat die universiteitsgemeenskap in hierdie krisis SOL se personeel se waarde... opnuut sal beseef. Verder is dit verrykend om so 'n klomp US-kollegas op een slag bymekaar te hê om na te dink oor die regverdigheid en redelikheid van ons assesserings, en die werklikhede van ons studente se omstandighede.*” The last part of this message ignited the following question in my mind: What is the nature of our consideration of our students? Are we honouring the call for humanity mentioned in my blog piece, referred to earlier? In it, I questioned our *raison d'être* as university educators. I suggested we try and improve our students' lives by forming trustworthy, mutually affirming relationships with them where they feel safe.

As I explore the nature of our response to a call for humanity, I do so on a meso, SU divisional level, of which the CTL forms part, as well as a macro, SU institutional level. At the CTL, we are serious about encouraging academics to keep communicating with students, to keep

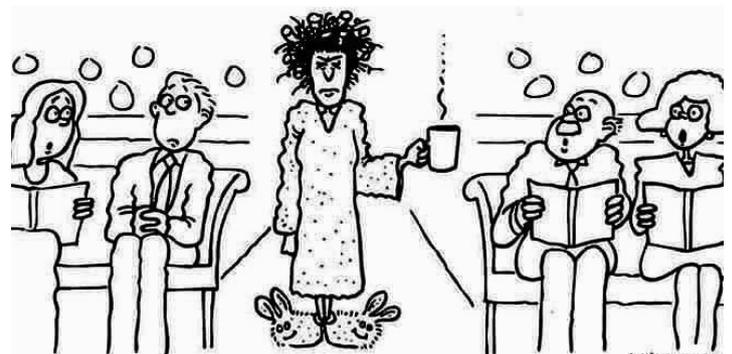
students informed and to assure them that every effort will be made to make online assessment opportunities accessible and fair. At an institutional level, there is the SU latest COVID-19 update to students. I quote, “*Online learning is a joint responsibility between the University and each student. We will ensure that the relevant platforms and learning materials are available, and will engage with mobile service providers for zero-rated data to give our students access to higher education domains. It is the responsibility of each student to arrange access to a suitable device, at least a smart phone, by 20 April.*” The reference to the notion of ‘zero-rated data’ for students, even though business-like (which is understandable), is hugely encouraging. Lest we forget that it brings with it its own underlying complexities, which needs further exploration. What counts is that, in my opinion, it does something to make students feel safe and re-assured, because it addresses the challenge of access to data for online learning, which could easily be the biggest challenge for most students right now. In my opinion, there is of course room for improvement for making students feel even more re-assured. We need to apply ourselves more fully in the space of engaging with students in this context, in the interest of humanity, and by implication, social justice. Our teaching matters

I conclude with the following reminder/call from my blog piece, because I think it now rings truer than ever before:

It is not about the ability to be tech savvy and relying on systems and structures, but it is about the ability to strike up relationships with our students built on trust. It is about humanity” – Richard Gerver, EDULEARN 19

The SU CTL is answering the call for humanity in a unique way, and I am therefore a proud CTL'er.

Anthea H M Jacobs | PhD



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.



The Impact of COVID-19 on the Basic Education Sector

Like most countries around the world, South Africa has experienced disruptions of unprecedented proportions to all sectors of the economy, including education.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the inequalities in the education system in South Africa, like no other event could have done. The legacies of Apartheid unfolded slowly but the suddenness and speed with which the pandemic impacted the country could never have been foreseen. It was especially in the efforts to stem the ravages of the pandemic while at the same time trying to keep the education functioning in some form or other, that the inequalities were most evident.

The government closed all schools in March 2020 as part of the lockdown measures to curb the spread of the disease, while it worked on a plan to gradually reopen the schools. This proved no easy task, with the Minister of Basic Education, Angie Motshekga saying: "The virus has forced us to re-engineer the Basic Education system". At the root of the problem, was the fact that many schools were not in a condition to welcome pupils back while at the same time ensuring their health and safety. Also, the education department could not guarantee that it could comply with all the safety protocols such as providing water, soap, sanitizer and ensuring social distancing, especially inside classrooms. Inadequate sanitation and water provision, overcrowded classrooms, as well as a shortage of teachers in some phases and subjects were only some of the challenges that the education system was wrestling with. In addition, teachers had to have personal protective equipment (PPE) to safeguard their health. At this stage teacher unions started to voice their concerns as to whether the school environment could pose a threat to their members. Compounding these problems were that because of widespread corruption the government had been practically bankrupted.

After weeks of uncertainty as to what the best route would be to gradually open the schools, the Minister announced that grades 7 and 12 would be going back to school on 1 June 2020, as a first phase.

While trade unions allowed the continuation of schooling for grades 7 and 12, they were opposed to the further opening of schools before their concerns are met. These included the provision of water, proper toilet facilities and classrooms, observance of social distancing inside and outside classrooms, fewer pupils per classroom, providing soap, sanitizers and masks and screening of learners, teachers and support staff. Thrown into this mix was the real fear that parents had for their children is their safety, should schools reopen. Some parents opted for home schooling while others outrightly were opposed to sending their children back to school.

Many schools made plans to use technology to provide learning material to teach learners at home. Online learning including WhatsApp messages, Zoom rooms and Microsoft Teams were employed to support learning at home. Commendable as these efforts were, it favoured mostly learners who had access to technology, leaving the disadvantaged learners once again excluded.

The schools opened on 1 June 2020 amid much confusion but were soon closed again mainly because of the spike in infections in the country. At the time of writing, schools were still closed and were to reopen, for some grades, on Monday 24 August 2020.

Eddie Davis

(Continued from page 4)

of a delegation of five who accompanied Archbishop Desmond Tutu to meet with academics from the United States, who said that they could no longer support the South African National Party with its Apartheid policies. His last parish was at St Michael and All Angels in Elgin. After a quadruple heart bypass operation, he had to retire and settled in a rented cottage on Rustenberg Farm outside Stellenbosch. Ten years later they moved to Oxford, England where in 2019, on the Feast of the Transfiguration, he celebrated his 60th anniversary to the priesthood. He sadly passed away peacefully on 29 March 2020 and leaves behind his wife Rosemary and children, Des and Helen. May his soul rest in peace.

Eddie Davis



Desmond and Hilda Williams with Revd Tim at their wedding in 1967



Revd Tim with Wilma Koopman whom he baptized



Pentecost Sunday — #SundayInRed





Parish Family News

26 March 2020—6 September 2020



Baptism resumed on 13 September 2020

Weddings



Edson Jones and Zea Lawrence
Lucien Leonard and Petroleum Fortuin
Luke Petersen and Micayla Baatjes
Jade Freswick and Calylynn de la Cruz

New Parishioners



Tayla-Jade Coenraad
Lindela Betya
Tamsin Booysen
Jeanné May
Trudy Marthinus



In Memoriam

Lynette Davids
Rene Arendse
Hazel Davidse
Donald Kora

Albert Eksteen
Clyde Behr
Warren Geldenhuis
Denise Cairncross

Daniel Langenhoven
Denise Kenrick
Daniel Jeftha
Edgar George

Susan Rhoda
Ivor Lategan
Paulina Theunissen
Gail Appels
Roderick August

Tribute to the oldest parishioner of St George the Martyr Paulina Theunissen 23 October 1920—9 August 2020



At the "drive-by" memorial

Paulina Theunissen passed away peacefully on 9 August 2020 at the age of 99. Her husband Jan passed away in 1980. As COVID-19 regulations were in place during lockdown level 3 and no memorial service could be held for her at the church, the family held a very dignified "Drive-Bye" Memorial to celebrate the life of Ma Paulina with her family, friends and parishioners of St George. The Brass Ensemble of the Moravian Church played beautiful renditions of her favourite hymns as people gathered in front of the home of Jenny (daughter) and Hein Swartz, who lovingly cared for her through many years of ill health; while cars drove by in silence, honouring the *grand dame* of St George. Revd Rodney came to pray with the family and spoke fondly of Ma Theunissen. She was laid to rest on 15 August at the ancestral burial place in Botrivier. She is survived by 4 of her 5 daughters. Of her 3 brothers and 6 sisters, Ma Theunissen also leaves behind 2 brothers and 3 sisters, all in their 90's.

May her soul rest in peace

Lucretia Davis



Kids corner



Use the image below to write your own story about COVID-19 and send it to us for publication in our next issue/s.

GUESS WHO

Match the Bible Character/s with the Bible Story.

1. He builds a huge boat.
2. He is a shepherd who used a slingshot to stop a giant.
3. He received the Ten Commandments from God.
4. She is the mother of Jesus.
5. He is Esau's twin brother.
6. She talks to the snake.
7. He walks on water.
8. He is a King known for his wisdom.
9. He is swallowed by a great fish.
10. The name of the place where Jesus was crucified.

Characters

- A. Mary
- B. Jacob
- C. Noah
- D. Golgotha
- E. Jonah
- F. Jesus
- G. David
- H. Moses
- I. Eve
- J. Solomon



(Continued from page 10)

mission. For many the church is the place where they are made whole every Sunday to face another day. Clergy had to become technology experts overnight and do virtual services. Clergy had to obey lockdown rules for the greater good of society from funerals to weddings. For many God is in the building and in the bricks and mortar. Parishioners are now being tested with home shrines and prayer 'mats' and seeking God everywhere. Virtual choirs have even sprung up. Life has really changed.

Human beings thrive on interaction. Human beings thrive on touch and togetherness. Human beings grow and develop through contact with other humans. Babies feel safe if they are held and touched by those close to them. To stay safe and alive and well, humans are now asked to avoid contact. Humans are asked to have social distance and to become individualistic. It is unimaginable to fathom what this means psychologically for this and future generations to come.

We must remain positive because it is not all doom and gloom. Many families learnt how to bond and grew closer during this period. Many families learnt about frugality and grocery lists and spending money wisely. Home cooked meals appeared out of nowhere and baked bread became fashionable again. People cleaned their homes and decluttered because they had time to spare. Families prayed together almost like the olden days. Some stopped smoking and some stopped alcohol altogether. We all learnt how to value life and our health, especially.

Thus, we can only pray and hope that all our leaders remain wise during these challenging times. We must pray for our country with its many problems from corruption, to poverty, to crime. We must pray for our schools. We must pray for our churches and we must unite as God fearing peoples during these times. And we hope that the good habits gained will remain with us.

Will COVID-19 prove to truly become the ultimate psychological wellness tester OR will we show up more resilient than ever like with all other challenges before this???

Time will tell.

Bernie September |Psychologist

“Love is the only sane and satisfactory answer to the problem of human existence”.

The Art of Loving (1956)

Erich Fromm



Dear Eddie

Thank you for your sympathy on Tim's death. We are lost without him. Today, the Feast of the Transfiguration is the anniversary of his 61st year as a priest. Last year (2019), he celebrated his 60th at St Peter's Church Wolvercote where he was still helping, taking Services, singing in the choir, etc. It was a great celebration where he preached with Afrikaans and bits of Xhosa thrown in for good measure. There was a woman in the congregation, whose son was one of the Servers, who came from Windhoek, whose husband was from Caledon, which gave Tim much pleasure.

Tim and I went to Bellville from Namaqualand in 1971—1976. Tom Inman was his Curate and he lived in Kuils River. He is now somewhere in the UK, I believe. We had many friends among the congregation and enjoyed functions and dances. Ginger Doherty was Chapel Warden at the time. They were a lovely family.

I cannot find any photographs from that time. Maybe, the minutes of the Chapelry, would be useful to you if it is available. I am sorry I cannot be of more help.

Kind regards

Rosemary Bravington (UK)

Church Chuckles

An actual note on the door of the Catholic church of St Julia in Nonza, Corsica:

It is possible that as you enter this church you will hear God's call.

However, it is unlikely that he will contact you by phone.

Please turn off your phones.

If you want to talk to God, come in, choose a quiet place and talk to him.

If you want to see him, send a text message while driving ...

Church Chuckles (Southern Cross Books)



Anglican Women’s Fellowship Outreach during Lockdown

The Anglican Women’s Fellowship has Mary and Martha of Bethany as its two patronal saints. These two sisters stayed with their brother Lazarus. During Jesus’s journey and whenever He passed through Bethany, He stayed at their home.

From Bible readings we know that the home of Mary and Martha was warm, hospitable, peaceful and happy. The Bible also describes the sisters as having different characters. Mary is quiet, relaxed and attentive to Jesus and sits at His feet. Martha is busy, wishing to please and serve her guests, and therefore less attentive to active listening to Jesus.

The AWF in our diocese honours these sisters on the 30th of July every year with a special Mary and Martha service during which the readings, prayers and ser-

mons revolve about them. At this service, all branches bring food parcels, hygiene packs and baby books as donations for the needy.

The AWF adhered to all the rules and regulations regarding COVID19 and therefore did not conduct the Mary and Martha service this year. The St. George AWF however donated Pick n Pay hamper buckets as our contribution to this year’s Mary and Martha Day celebrations. We also donated Hamper Buckets to the less fortunate in our parish. Let us continue praying for our country and the world as we combat this pandemic. May God Bless us all.

Bernie September, AWF Secretary



Edwina September and Dulcie Adonis handing over hamper buckets for St George to Cindy Owies



Hamper buckets earmarked for the Blue Downs Archdeaconry handed over by Dulcie Adonis to Eileen Valentine

(Continued from page 7)



My journey as a nurse



The first day I walked into Tygerberg Hospital I noticed how clinical everything seemed. Walls all white, floors shiny. Noise level exceptionally low, no buzz.... Hardly anybody in the passage. The large building was overwhelming even intimidating.

I started working in the neurosurgery ward, where, on the first day the patient reckoned that I was “n bog kind” and would not allow me to tend to his needs. For a brief moment I wondered if I had made the right choice.

Three years of training was filled with its challenges, studying, change of environment, rising bright and early and being ready for the next day, working shifts. Meeting new friends was a big plus in my book.

Each day was met with its own challenges. Residing in the hostel I was introduced to curfews.

At the time we had to deal with segregation, the Apartheid policy which separated South Africans into white and non-white groups. The hospital was built and structured in that way, a duplication of just about everything. The West side of the hospital catered for the whites while the East side for non-whites. There were separate tea rooms, training colleges, the works.

As an avid sports person I ended up playing netball representing the hospital at league matches. We did very well, and at some point, were feared in the province. As a hospital team we also participated in athletic meetings in which I was a long distance runner and a sprinter. Many a time we had lots to celebrate, to be happy and thereby keep our balance in life.

About 3 months after qualifying, I started working in the paediatric department. A whole new world unfolded for me. My role became clear early on in my career. I was never just going to be a caregiver. With that unofficially came the responsibility of teacher, adviser, social worker, comforter, mother, financial adviser and expert in child nursing. It was a huge responsibility which came

naturally. I learnt to pick up on the unspoken word. Understanding what a child wants to say. They have a unique way of saying a lot without speaking a single word. The evils that we hear, see and read about now were present some 30 years ago too. It was just dealt with in silence. These topics were not discussed openly.

During my 43 years a number of nominations were bestowed on me, i.e. Best Nurse of the month, Hartman prize winner in paediatrics and Elsa Reiner Trophy for excellence in Paediatric nursing. I served on the Hospital Board and for two consecutive terms as the Chairperson of the board. I became a leader and manager and this saw me climbing the ladder leading paediatric teams over many years, managing the hospital over weekends and public holidays, working as part of the managing team taking the hospital forward and being faced with difficult decisions which affected the level of care rendered at any given time.

When times became tough, I would always think back to the teachings of my parents which never failed me. They were always immensely proud of my achievements and celebrated my promotions throughout the years. They were also the ones who supported me at the time my husband died. I became a very young widow. The best I could do for the girls was to become the best nurse I could be. Through the years, I have seen and experienced a lot i.e. opening up of any bed space anywhere in the hospital [east or west side], equal opportunity for all in the nursing profession, Ebola, HINI, HIV and now the Coronavirus pandemic. I have seen a number of managers come and go.

What I have learned and would like to share is to have Faith and to *get up, dress up and show up* every single day.

I retired at the end of April 2020, as one of three Deputy Nursing Managers at the hospital.

These plans were laid out long before I decided to retire and continue my ministry in the community of Kuils River.

Andrea Jacobs

Krafty Knitters of St George

The Krafty Knitters are a group of about 10 ladies who give joy and share their love with the crafts and knitting they create. They meet every second Saturday at the church and are in the MPC for a learning and sharing session. There are always humour and



laughter, a joke or three, even stories of long ago told with skilled finesse. Do you remember ...?

They are also very compassionate and are quick to listen to those who need support emotionally or to render a helping hand. They love to eat and share recipes as well. At all meetings there will always be more than one baked goods or a newly tried recipe to taste.

The core function of the group is obviously knitting which is done with dedication, love and passion. Each creation is done with great care and love and depicts the heart of the creator. It is a place where the craft is shared and honed by the more experienced knitters. The choice of wool and abundance of colours form a tapestry of the diverse personalities and giving nature of the ladies.

COVID-19 may have locked us down bodily but not spiritually. Shared spiritual, personal and funny messages are received daily. Personal contact is sorely missed but during this lockdown that tapestry of faith, compassion and love help us to endure. More than 200 Caps, Scarves and blankets have been sent to the Tygerberg and Red Cross Cancer patients. Currently the Krafty Knitters are busy with knitting for premature babies to be distributed in November 2020. Anybody is welcome to join us to come and share you skill with us or if you would like to donate some wool please feel free to drop it off at church.

The Krafty Knitters are definitely “relatives and good friends who are like stars. One does not always see them, but you know that they are **always** there.” God bless!

The Krafty Knitters group

A CONVERSATION FROM THE CHAMBERS OF MY HEART

June 16, 2020, commemorates and celebrates what the youth of 1976 did for our country. They started something and it is not yet finished. Generations past will say the more things change, the more they stay the same. Perhaps it is so that 44 years later we still face the fight against the following: education (unequal and pricey), racism (systematic and societal), gender-based-violence (privately and publicly), healthcare, housing, poverty and most of all unemployment of which 58% is the youth of South Africa.

One would think at the start of a new decade, 20-Plenty, that we would flourish and multiply, but the Covid-19 pandemic made sure to rip the band-aid off old wounds. It seems like it is 20-Empty instead. We as a people will never be healthy or happy if we do not heal the hurts of history.

During a 100+ day Lockdown, enough introspection should have been made about the intense issues of our incredibly unequal society. This is evident through the different days we commemorate: Youth Day, Mandela Day, Women’s Day, Heritage Day, Reconciliation Day. Need I mention more? As empty as we most probably are feeling, more credit should be given to the innovative ideas we have for unburdening our babies, children and youth. In essence, everyday should be a special day. Every day of burden should be comprehended as a blessing.

What can we do to grow positivity instead of just going through the motions of this pandemic? I suggest the young people of South Africa build this country on their backs (like our ancestors did) and carry our families back into community with Jesus Christ our Saviour, The Holy Spirit our Helper and God our Father. We need to be the chosen generation, a royal priesthood that will lead by example how we want to live, let live and love in this country.

Over the past week I did a quick check in with each young person in my youth group. I found that most are doing well during Lockdown. They enjoy the quality time with their families. Others are just okay. They get by with keeping busy with schoolwork and their individual interests. A few are caught-up by less-than-favourable circumstances, but they find solace in God and this brings the goodness from the darkness.

At a time like this, I have TWO things I would like to say to my friends in faith: One - We have the platform at our fingertips to spiritually encourage, empathise, empower and equalise society.

(Continued on page 20)





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Two - God will never leave you or forsake you. He is the one who never leaves anyone behind.

Just as easy as it was for me to reach out to my Youth Group with a WhatsApp message, it can be for the rest of us to use our online presence to voice our ideas, opinions and support for things that matter to us. If 'Black Lives Matter', so does mine and so does yours because life is life and 'All Life Matters'. Our voices are important. We should be the change we want to see. We can start making a difference with the trends we hashtag and the words we utter against the struggles of injustice and indifference. We can use the memes and visuals we upload to rise in solidarity of inequality. What you post, has the power to provide platforms for positivity.

All of us have climbed mountains and rested in the valleys of life. The challenges of this Lockdown can be compared to climbing a mountain. During these times, we seek to belong. Perhaps with family, friends, familiar places, but maybe none of these facets find favour with us. God can fill the fragile heart with His fruit. It is only the fear of the Lord that gives us freedom to be our true selves.

Within Youth Month, THREE readings from the Bible are rooted in my heart. Genesis 8:1-15, Numbers 11: 1-23 and 1 Samuel 3: 1-15. The stories are of Noah's Deliverance, the people complaining and Samuel's First Prophecy.

Noah's Deliverance

Noah was on a ship for 40 days, waiting on a promise, just like we are in a Lockdown for double/triple that time waiting on our freedom. Noah was surrounded by winds, waves and silence. The word silent can be rearranged to listen. During this period of Lockdown, it is important to listen. Noah listened and was blessed by God.

The people complain

The Israelites led by Moses, wandered for 40 years in the desert. They often complained of conditions, instead of listening, obeying and praying. Are we not behaving in the same way during Lockdown? Perhaps we can do better by focussing on God as our provider and protector and the one who has the master plan.

Samuel's first prophecy

Samuel's first prophecy came after he obeyed Eli's instruction to listen to the voice and to simply say: "Here I am". The relationship Samuel would build with God begins here – only after listening and being obedient. Despite your ability, God counts on your availability. We believe this as the way, the truth and the life. We receive this as 20-Empty fills you up with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Cleo Josephs

Diocese of False Bay celebrates 15th Anniversary

The Diocese of False Bay was founded on Advent Sunday in 2005. It was carved out of the existing Anglican Diocese of Cape Town, presided over by Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane. This resulted in the establishment of three Dioceses, i.e. False Bay, Saldanha Bay and Table Bay, each with its own Bishop. Revd Mervyn Castle became the first Bishop of the Diocese of False Bay in 2006. On his retirement, Revd Margaret Vertue was consecrated Bishop of False Bay on 19 January 2013 by Archbishop Thabo Makgoba.

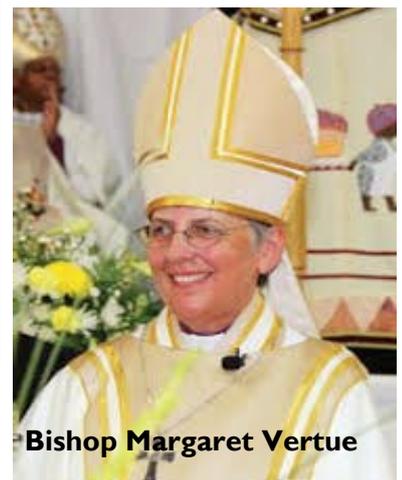
The Anglican Church of Southern Africa celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. The Archbishop of Cape Town and the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, will join Anglicans throughout Africa, on Sunday 20 September 2020 at 4pm on SABC2 and DSTV404 in a virtual service to celebrate this occasion.

Bishop Margaret wrote in the Anchor of February/March 2020: **"We thank God for our rich history and heritage"**.

We will give a broad outline of the history of the Anglican Church in South Africa in the December 2020 issue of the Magazine.
Editor



Bishop Mervyn Castle



Bishop Margaret Vertue

Congratulations

We congratulate **Archbishop Emeritus Winston Njongonkulu Ndungane** on celebrating the 24th year of his enthronement as Archbishop of Cape Town. He was enthroned by Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu on Holy Cross Day, 14 September 1996 at the Cathedral of St George in Cape Town. We wish him God's blessings as he enjoys his retirement.



Meditations — Henry Nouwen

Love is Stronger than Death

God is Spirit and the Source of all love. Our spiritual journey calls us to seek and find this living God of love in prayer, worship, spiritual reading, spiritual mentoring, compassionate service to the poor and good friends. Let us claim the truth that we are loved and open our hearts to receive God's overflowing love poured out for us. And living fully each day to let us share that love in all our wonderful and difficult relationships, responsibilities, and passages.

The seeds of death are at work in us, but love is stronger than death. Your death and mine are our final passage, our exodus to the full realization of our identity as God's beloved children and to full communion with the God of Love. Jesus walked the path ahead of us and invites us to choose the same path during our lifetime. He calls to us, "Follow me." He assures us, "do not be afraid." This is our faith.

"For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. " ISAIAH 64:3,4 (NIV)

Nature is a Gift

In recent decades we have become particularly aware of the crucial importance of our relationship with nature. As long as we relate to the trees, the rivers, the mountains, the fields, and the oceans as properties to be manipulated by us according to our real or fabricated needs, nature remains opaque and does not reveal to us its true being. When we relate to a tree as nothing more than a potential chair, it cannot speak much to us about growth. When a river is only a dumping place for our industrial wastes, it no longer informs us about movement. And when we relate to a flower as nothing more than a model for a plastic decoration, the flower loses its power to reveal to us the simple beauty of life. When we relate to nature primarily as property to be used, it becomes opaque, and this opaqueness is manifested in our society as pollution. The dirty rivers, the smog-filled skies, the strip-mined hills, and the ravaged woods are sad signs of our false relationship with nature.

Our difficult and very urgent task is to accept the truth that nature is not primarily a property to be possessed, but a gift to be received with admiration and gratitude. Only when we make a deep bow to the rivers, oceans, hills, and mountains that offer us a home, only then can they become transparent and reveal to us their real meaning.

"At least there is hope for a tree: If it is cut down, it will sprout again, and its new shoots will not fail. Its roots may grow old in the ground, and its stump die in the soil, yet at the scent of water it will bud and put forth shoots like a plant."
JOB 14:7-9 (NIV)

The Editorial Team thanks all who contributed to this edition by submitting articles, letters to the editor, photographs and information.

Parishioners may request an electronic copy of the Magazine by contacting the Editor or your distributor.

Editorial Committee: Eddie Davis, Cleo-Ann Josephs, Merle May, Anthea Jacobs and Lucretia Davis

*You are invited to submit letters to the editor, photographs, articles, news, stories, letters, cartoons, jokes or **request to be interviewed**. All contributions may be submitted via e-mail, handed in at the Parish Office or given to any member of the Editorial Committee. All contributions are subject to editing. The **deadline** for contributions to the next issue is **30 October 2020**.*

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