

ST GEORGE'S NEWS



Our Church Family Magazine

Easter 2021

*Anglican Church of St George the Martyr with the Chapelries of
St Mark, the Evangelist, Rotterdam and St Monica, Wesbank*



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⁵ But because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment he suffered, made whole by the blows he received.⁶ All of us were like sheep that were lost, each of us going his own way. But the Lord made the punishment fall on him, the punishment all of us deserved.

Isaiah 53:5-6



The Rector's Easter Message



We did not do Easter in 2020 – a global reality! The Church is the witness to the Resurrection and the life, yet we needed to enter into the darkness and death COVID-19 brought to us.

It has been a year that I did not see all of you together. I have fond memories of the capacity services, especially at major festivals, celebrating the presence and work of God through Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit no matter what the circumstances. I miss the Sunday School and Confirmation and all the other activities of the Parish.

We tried to stay in touch, to keep the faith alive focussing on and delving in the resources of our faith - Scripture and our Prayer Book. I enjoy this added way of doing worship and ministry – sharing worship on social media platforms. It certainly helped me to create a sense of community even when I could not see your faces.

In the midst of death, we were seeking life. Even when we buried loved ones, we were celebrating life – celebrating Jesus who pointed out to Martha – ‘I am the resurrection and the life.’ Calling us to deeper faith walk with and in him.

On our Lenten journey we were companioned by Henri Nouwen in his work, ‘Finding my way Home’ (Pathways to Life and Spirit). Our theme was:

Journeying through the vale of the crisis of COVID with reference to Psalm 23:4. We explored this journey learning that along the way there are important paths to walk, realities we need for the journey – Path of POWER/POWERLESSNESS, Path of PEACE, Path of WAITING, Path of LIVING AND DYING. For me, it was an empowering and enlightened experience. We tried doing these weekday services on Zoom and had a small congregation. People however, preferred the church building. I apologise for the confusion if it caused this.

Having to manage a limited number of attendees, compliancy to protocols and time limits, challenged us to be prayerfully creative with liturgy especially if you cannot use books and sing. It was a wonderful learning experience and prepares us for the future.

We continue to live with the victory of the Cross and the hope of the Resurrection. **Isaiah 25:8** we read, ‘*Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.*’ Yes, many tears are being wept. The reality is painful, our souls are troubled and weary. The promise of the living God is to wipe away the tears from our faces. Tears are important to weep; it is a divine gift and must be used. Yet, it needs to be wiped from our faces, and God promises to do this. Only the God who weeps with us and weeps for us can wipe our tears. This is the glory of the Resurrection – the hope of Easter!

The hope of Easter means we are still challenged to live with the virus and through responsible living with care for each other, for the common good we can defeat it with the vaccine.

I wish you all the promises that God seeks to fulfil in our lives, which comes through the event of the Resurrection, who Jesus is.

We look forward to the time rather sooner than later for us to gather in worship to capacity. In the meanwhile, we will reach out through whatever means possible.

Blessed Easter!

Love

Rodney Whiteman



Resurrection? Prove it to me

"**R**aised from the dead? Sure. Right. And I have a bridge I'd like to sell you." That is how Thomas might have responded if he had lived in our day. "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." He had seen dead people before. And Jesus was dead. He sounds like the sophisticated rationalists of the Twenty-first Century. "It isn't plausible," they would contend. "It didn't happen."

But what if it did happen?

Thomas was convinced when Jesus appeared to him, reached out his hands to Thomas, and said, "Put your finger here."

Thomas dropped to his knees. "My Lord and my God!"

It was self-hypnosis, you counter. The disciples wanted to believe that their Lord was not dead, so they just invented it out of whole cloth.

Really? Let us look at some of the evidence.

1. Jesus' body was missing. If the Jews could have found it, they could have stilled the preaching of Jesus' resurrection that filled Jerusalem. But they could not.

2. The body was not stolen. The Romans had no motive. The Jews had no motive. Ah-ha, you say, the disciples stole it. There is the matter of the Roman guards, and the disciples' initial disbelief when the women brought them the news early that Easter morning. This brings me to my third point.

3. If the disciples had stolen the body, you would not expect them to risk their lives. People do not die for what they know is not true. But the disciples put their lives on the line, and nearly all were eventually martyred for their faith. They certainly believed it.

4. The church mushroomed size in Jerusalem, the very place he was crucified. Followers of Jesus in the city of Jerusalem grew from a few dozen to thousands upon thousands soon after Jesus' resurrection. They believed it was true.

5. Contemporary documents refer to the event. Thallus the Samaritan, Suetonius, Tacitus, Pliny contain references to Jesus. Jewish historian

Josephus writes about Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. They knew something had happened.

Jesus' resurrection from the dead is actually more plausible than any other explanation. That is why we Christians make such a big deal about Easter. That is why we celebrate.

Jesus' resurrection means that death is not the end. That though my body may lie mouldering in the ground, Jesus, whom the Father raised from the dead, gives me eternal life. Ultimately, we Christians believe, our bodies, too, will be raised from the dead.

And since Jesus is not dead, people can encounter him today. You can know him through a personal relationship. I could point to lots of people who can testify what Jesus has done in their lives to bring them from the brink of disaster to peace and meaning and joy. He changes people for good.

If you are not sure, cannot really say you have met this risen Jesus, this Easter Sunday why do you not slip into church to seek him? And perhaps in the midst of our celebration, you will find him for yourself.

He is alive, you know. That is what Easter is all about! ~

Dr Ralph Wilson

The Editorial team wish all readers a blessed and peaceful Easter. May you experience anew God's boundless love.





The Life and Times of Ivan and Blanche King



It is only when the trials and tribulations of the lives of her members are mirrored in her own daily toil and strife that the relevance of church to society can be appreciated. As more and more of the older generation of the Church have been moving on and the face of the church has been changing, it is perhaps necessary for the younger generation to own a bit of that perspective on the Church of St George, the Martyr, Kuils River. One family, who, no doubt can testify to the relevance of church to their lives, is the King family. To this day, their story is one of being intimately interwoven into the rich fabric of the beautiful tapestry that is the Church of St George.

Ivan King, our dad, is the third of four sons, Ronald, Daniel and Norman born to James and Mathilda King in Stellenbosch in 1938. He was baptized at St Mary's Anglican Church by Rev Brown and

confirmed at St John's church in Bellville South. Ivan first attended Glen Lily School in Parow and then St Augustine's. After finishing school, he enrolled for an apprenticeship at the South African Cabinet Works company where he qualified as cabinet maker in 1958 and started his first job as a cabinet maker there.

Blanche King, our mother, was born to Rudolph and Wilhelmina Behr (née Du Plooy) in Kuils River. She was the second eldest of siblings Jocelyn, Pamela and Patrick; Patrick tragically lost his life in a motor vehicle accident at age sixteen. Our grandfather Rudolph Behr, a star soccer player with the physique of a body builder, owned a plot of land on Sammy Street, near the Kuils River railway station. After having made the bricks himself, he, singlehandedly, built a house for his growing family. Blanche was baptized in the old church building of St George's (at the font currently displayed in the church's front garden)

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by Father Carter. She attended confirmation classes conducted by Rev. Llewellyn at the Church of the Transfiguration, Bellville and was confirmed by Bishop Robert Selby Taylor in 1964. She attended the church's school, headed by Father Banks, till standard six (Grade 8), after which she moved to Zonnebloem School to obtain her Junior Certificate (Grade 10). She started her career in the printing industry at Printkor, where she would remain until her retirement in 1998.

Our parents, Blanche and Ivan were married on 7 December 1963. Out of this union three daughters, Charlene, Karen and Sharon were born. Charlene, their eldest daughter, was destined to become the church's current Secretary.

Growing up we remember how fond our Dad was of sports. He lifted weights, excelled at cricket and soccer playing for the Bellville Cricket Club and the Caledonians Soccer Club. He clearly remembers the glorious matches played in the 1950's against various teams on Robben Island before it became a prison for political prisoners during the Apartheid Era. An avid cyclist, he undertook long cycle trips with his brothers to areas as far afield as Greyton, in the Boland. As such he had much in common with Grandfather Rudolph. Small wonder that Blanche could not resist when this handsome, young go-getter from Stellenbosch, with the intriguing initials, I.M. King, started turning on the charms. Pa Ivan often light-heartedly pokes fun at the British royals with the pun that he was born a King and not made a king like they were.

Our mom and dad remember well that St George's started as a chapelry of the Church of the Transfiguration in Bellville. Services were held at the church building near the Kuils River railway station on the 'other side' of the track, the 'right' side. The first chapelry warden was the late David Behr, father of Auntie Daphne Behr, who now is also one of the most senior members at St George's.

He also clearly remembers the agony that accompanied the start of World War II, when, much like today, the government of the day implemented extraordinary measures that encroached on people's freedom of movement. At night, windows had to be covered by blankets and candles had to be extinguished when aeroplanes flew overhead. Rationing of groceries and other essential items was the order of the day.

Mom and Dad clearly recall the time during the 1960's when the National Party Government started, under their cruel Apartheid policy to move settled communities of colour out of areas re-designated for settlement by white people. One can only imagine the heart-rending sorrow our grandparents, Rudolph, Wil-

helmina and their children had to endure while witnessing their lovingly built home as well as other homes cold-heartedly being bulldozed to a pile of rubble. The family relocated to Owen Street in Deshamdon where, till today, their grandchildren live. Blanche, Ivan and their daughters, subsequently, moved into their own home in the Pan in 1971, fifty years ago.

The ultimate of ironies materialised when the church, too, suffered the indignity of being declared an unwanted presence in Kuils River's "white" town centre - much like the rejection our Saviour suffered at the behest of the Jewish authorities of old. In accordance with her mandate from the Lord, to never leave, or forsake her children, the church magnanimously decided to join them in their exodus from the white town, to be a church in their midst. The proud cross, that once adorned the church's spire, was taken down and was placed on the load bed of Seaton Dyers' bakkie and, in a memorable procession of souls, the people of God marched out of the town on their own via dolorosa, behind the cross on the bakkie, to its new home in Sarepta Road, where it once again proudly proclaims victory by the King of kings over all, on its new spire. Our parents clearly remember walking in the procession pushing little Charlene in her pram.

St George's soon acquired parish status, and after an appeal by the new rector, Fr. Garth Counsell, to the congregation for an organist, the King family answered the call: both Sharon and Charlene offered our services and continued to musically enrich the Eucharist Sunday after Sunday. Charlene went on to head the church's music ministry group and together with Abigail Morkel, daughter of Fr Bob Pietersen, established the youth gospel band, EC1109. Both Charlene's sons, Ryan and Matthew, as well as Sharon's son, Luke, served as members of the band. Who can predict what contribution Pa Ivan and Ma Blanche's youngest grandchildren (Karen's youngsters, Joshua and Sean and Sharon's daughter Lea), or their first great-granddaughter, little Emily, are still to make to the life of St George's? For the recent past St George's had built a tradition of hosting a series of outstanding annual musical events, all produced by Charlene, the choir director, Peter Roux, and the Church choir. COVID-19 has, however, brought a halt to that programme.

As a result of COVID-19 and lockdown protocols, Ivan and Blanche's seats in the third row of the church building, where the Kings have found their



L to R: Shane and Sharon Samson, Ivan and Blanche King, Charlene Williams, Karen and Roger Achilles on the occasion of their mom's 80th birthday (Charlene's husband Pierre took the photograph).

comfort and nourishment at the feet of the Lord for the last fifty years, have mostly been unoccupied. They are fervently awaiting the days when thoughts of Covid-19 will just be another profound reminder of how, amidst the sacrifices, misery and heartache suffered by the people of God, they have been sustained, protected and cared for by the Giver of all good things, the King victorious over all adversity, through the tireless endeavour of His own suffering servants here in Kuils River, the Church of St George, the Martyr.

Our love and devotion to the church no doubt comes from the example set by our parents, who as staunch Anglicans, brought us up in the age-old traditions of the church. Today, as adults, we can only

thank them for instilling in us the importance of leading exemplary, Christian lives which we in turn will pass on to our children. We are what we are today because of the love and support of our parents and we thank them for it.

In appreciation of what our parents meant and continue to mean to us, the daughters and their families, have now started a new tradition of spending quality time every Sunday afternoon with these loving, kind and gentle saints, both now octogenarians, and married for 58 years. 🌹

**Submitted by: Charlene and Pierre Williams
assisted by Sharon Samson and Karen Achilles**



Royal School Of Church Music Award For Local Musician



RSCM
CAPE TOWN

THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC IS
PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE CONFERRING OF
THE ASSOCIATE OF THE RSCM AWARD TO

MR ROY BENJAMIN

THIS HONOUR WILL BE CONFERRED ON CELEBRATION
DAY IN OCTOBER 2021.

CONGRATULATIONS, MR BENJAMIN!

A local musician, Roy Benjamin, was honoured by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) with the coveted Associate of the RSCM Award. Roy regards it as a great honour and is humbled by this gesture in recognition of his music ministry, mainly in the Anglican Archdeaconry of Bellville. Also recognised by the award is his involvement in Liturgical matters in events leading to the establishment of the Diocese of Saldanha Bay in 2005, the consecration of Bishop Raphael Hess as Bishop of Saldanha Bay Diocese in ACSA in the St George's Cathedral in Cape Town in 2006 and the Bishop's subsequent first service in O'Kiep, Namaqualand. Roy continues to be an integral part of the RSCM local network.

The Award Ceremony would have taken place in Durham Cathedral in England, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it will be held virtually. Roy says he would have loved to attend the ceremony in person but understands the reasons for not having a face-to-face ceremony during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Roy, whose son Roger is the organist at St Mark's Anglican Church in Rotterdam, Kuils River, has a remarkable memory and recalls details from his younger life with astounding clarity. So, he remembers that he

"started piano lessons in 1951 with Mrs Dorothy McMin (née McGowan) for 10 shillings (today's R1.00) per month. I got distinctions for piano practicals and theory in every annual examination with Trinity College, London until Dorothy McGowan got married and posted me to the formidable Dorothy Gray (later to become Mrs Hans) late in 1952." During this time, at the age of 10, he became the Junior and Senior Schools accompanist until he went off to Trafalgar High School. In 1970 he resumed piano lessons in Parow. He passed Unisa's preliminary and qualifying theory examination with distinction and passed piano exams in Grade 5, 6 and 7. "I passed Grade 5 with the highest marks in the country and was awarded prize money of R25!"

Early in his teaching career, Roy became a sought-after church organist. When the School Music Specialist at Glen Lily Primary School in Parow where he was teaching left, the "principal told me that I would now become the church organist...that was it!"

At various times Roy was the organist at St Faith and St Nicholas in Elsie's River until he was asked to become the organist and choir master at St Joseph the Worker in Bishop Lavis, which he did for 45 years.

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Parishioners at outdoor Ash Wednesday service





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Among Roy's achievements was also his involvement in a very successful production of John Stainer's *The Crucifixion*, with amongst others, outstanding organ accompanists and soloists, namely Keith Jenneker and Kevin Kraak.

Roy's music repertoire is wide and varied and



Roy with his wife, Sylvia after conducting choristers after Evensong in St George's Cathedral on 7 July 2019

does not end with playing the organ and directing church choirs. He was also a member of the Symphony Choir of Cape Town and served as Vice Chairman for some time. Also, as an accomplished and versatile pianist he played for some years as the solo pianist in the Dunsheer Quartet in Matroosfontein and later in the Harmony Kings Dance Band.

Roy retired as a lecturer in music at the Bellville College of Education (BOK) in 1996. He turned 80 in 2020 and was quite disappointed that his plans to celebrate this milestone was derailed by the COVID-19 lockdown prevailing at the time. In his retirement he continues to share his musical talents, and currently plays the organ at St Alban's, Goodwood on Wednesdays and some Sundays and plays at other churches when invited. He added, "Oh yes, weddings and funerals continue to keep me fairly busy."

We congratulate Roy on this outstanding achievement, wishing him well and pray God's blessings on him and his family as he continues to share his musical talents. ✨

Editor

Kayden Solomons

A young and talented parishioner at St George the Martyr goes from strength to strength as a cricketer. Kayden Solomons a Grade 12 learner at South African College School (SACS), has been selected for the S.A. U-19 Cricket squad after the Cobras won Cubs Week earlier in the year. Kayden started playing cricket at the age of seven and was selected in 2018 to play in the Western Province under 15 squad. (see St George's News, June 2018).

We congratulate Kayden on this commendable achievement and wish him well for the future. ✨





Rev. Fred Hendricks Retires



Centre, provided much needed space for meetings, functions, the Sunday School and church bazaars. Rev. Fred was instrumental in starting the first Parish magazine, *St George's News*. The establishment of the Social Responsibility Group tasked with assisting disadvantaged members of the area together with a bursary fund for needy tertiary students were timely interventions at a particular dark time towards the end of Apartheid.

The establishment of the St Mark and St Monica chapelries as well as the Wesbank Educare/St Monica's Worship Centre extended the reach of St George, the Martyr to Rotterdam and Wesbank. St Mark is in the initial stages of becoming a fully independent parish.

As the building of a strong sense of community was an important feature of Rev. Fred's ministry, he encouraged the formation of Small Christian Community groups where a few parishioners in the areas could meet regularly in one another's homes for prayer and spiritual togetherness. As a lover of nature, Rev. Fred spent many off days in the rectory garden or hiking or cycling and of course reading prolifically. He travelled widely and counts the 800 km Camino de Santiago pilgrimage, which he undertook in 2010 from France to Santiago in Spain, as a profound experience.

As it is difficult to capture in a few sentences Rev. Fred's significant contribution to growing the parish after it became independent, the following messages wishing Rev. Fred well in his retirement may paint a more complete picture.

We wish Rev. Fred and Dorothea God's richest blessings as they embark on this new journey.

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*The Venerable Rev. Canon Rodney  
Whiteman (Rector)*

*Rev. Fred Hendricks is almost synonymous with St George Kuils River. He played a role in assisting the beginnings of St Mark and St Monica. He is a remarkable pastor, preacher, teacher and priest. Rev. Fred's life of reading and prayer is exemplary and a challenge to all of us. He built the people of God in this place with serious outreach*

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**R**ev. Fred Stuart Hendricks, a former rector of the parish of St George, the Martyr, retired in December 2020. He served as our rector from 1989, when he was instituted one month after St George was granted full parish status.

Rev. Fred succeeded Rev. Garth Counsell, who later became the Bishop of the Diocese of Cape Town. Thereafter he became Rector of All Saints Durbanville and later Rector of St John Bellville South where he retired. Rev. Margaret Vertue, now Bishop of the Diocese of False Bay, succeeded Rev. Fred as Rector of St George.

Having assumed leadership of the newly established parish of St George, the Martyr, Rev. Fred had his work cut out for him when he and his newly wedded wife, Dorothea, arrived here in 1989. He is credited with a number of innovations that served to enrich parish life at St George.

In collaboration with architect Rodney Lategan, a parishioner, the well-designed Multi-Purpose-



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which is phenomenal. The current state of the congregations with a growing witness is built on what Rev. Fred taught. After over 40 years in full-time ministry including lecturing at St Paul theological College, he and his wonderful spouse, Dorothea enters into retirement. We are thankful to God for his and their ministry, and the way they allowed God to use them among God's people. 'Rev. Fred and Dorothea, thank you very much and God bless you to enjoy many years of retirement.'



### *Rev. Eugene and Susan Kearns*

It is said that when boxers go into retirement, they hang up their gloves. Rugby and football players, hang up their boots. Golfers put aside their clubs. Others call it a day. But what do ministers of religion do?

I have heard it said that in God's vocabulary the word 'retirement' does not exist! Fred, it has been a long association, from the time of our first encounter, as you co-led the very first confirmation weekend encounter of the Parish of Bellville, at the Scripture Union Christian Camp in Noordhoek. Later you were introduced to us by Bishop Geoff Quinlan, and the Parish Council accepted the nomination, and you commenced your tenure as the first rector of the newly constituted Parish of St. George, the Martyr.

Thank you, together with your wife, Dorothea, for being a 'Barnabas' in the testing of my vocation; and in the spiritual growth of many in the church. Dit word gesê, "vir 'n predikant is aftree nie uittree nie."

Enjoy every moment of your retirement, together with Dorothea, as you seek new ways of serving God and God's people.



### *John Van De Rhee*

Father Fred Hendricks and Dorothea are two people whom my family and I love very much and hold very dear in our hearts. Father Fred baptised my youngest daughter Jade and was always prepared to assist and advise when needed.

I had the opportunity to serve on Parish Council for 3 years while Father Fred was our Rector. This was a great learning experience and I distinctly remember how Father Fred would at 9,30 in the evening request the Parish Council to go into groups to discuss a specific topic and council meetings would end at 10,30pm. There was no moaning and groaning about time, we all enjoyed serving God and His Church.

Father Fred's well-prepared sermons were very special and will stay with me. Those sermons played a significant role in my personal Christian Journey for which I am eternally thankful. I remember two of Father Fred's themes amongst many were that God's people should always show love and humility.



**Rev. Fred and Dorothea easing into his retirement as they relax in their garden.**

Father Fred contributed tremendously to grow the St George's as a family within the Church and thereby spreading God's Gospel to a wider range of people. He had the foresight to engage with the Oostenberg Municipality at the time and the Anglican Board of Trustees to purchase land in Silversands and Wesbank. It is on this land where we could build St Mark's and Wesbank Educare/St Monica's Worship Centre which enabled St George's, in an incredibly significant way to spread God's Gospel and serve the poor. We remain thankful for this vision of Father Fred.

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With Father Fred's support, Eddie Davis, Peter Brown, the late Dawie Weber, Phillip Balie, Father Jonathon Londt and I established the Social Responsibility Group at St George's which focussed on Social Justice and Equity Issues. Those were the years during Apartheid and prior to 1994. I remember during those years the late Felicity Charles and other ladies assisted with a soup kitchen in Kalkfontein. We were also instrumental in the building of Ekwesi Educare in Kalkfontein with the assistance of the Anglican Grey Ladies Association. Many Social Justice issues were also addressed. Serving God in this way at St George's gave Father Fred much pleasure.

Father Fred and Dorothea, you have served God, the Church and the Community to the best of your ability. May God bless you in your retirement and be merciful and graceful towards both of you.

Love and Blessings

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Juanita (Nita) Kannemeyer

They say good things come to those who wait and that was definitely the case when Reverend Canon Fred and Dorothea Hendricks joined St George the Martyr after a long interregnum.

Through Father Fred's leadership, commitment, vision and hard work, he cemented the role of the church as the centre of the community. He did this through a number of initiatives.

The Renew and Care groups are ones that first come to mind. They bridged the gap between church and community by providing new avenues for people to connect with the church, and for the church to be there for the community. His passion and commitment were evident in his actions as well as his powerful sermons which inspired young and old.

As an avid gardener, he transformed the church gardens and established the Garden of Remembrance. He was actively and personally involved with fundraising, and every year donated a bicycle to be raffled at the church bazaar.

He had Maurice, my husband, craft little wooden crosses which he then sold to raise funds for Wesbank. Maurice helped Father Fred with various maintenance projects in and around the church and through this we got to know him and Dorothea on a more personal level.

Dorothea was as instrumental in supporting Father Fred and actively involved with all the community initiatives, and together they left a lasting legacy at St George the Martyr.

My heartfelt gratitude goes out to both Father Fred and Dorothea for all they have achieved in growing and uplifting St George the Martyr and its community.

May God continue to richly bless you in your retirement with many, many happy years of good health, surrounded by your loved ones and may He grant you peace now and always.

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*Fr Bob Petersen*

Dear Fred

We appreciate your years of ministry and service to the Lord and the support and love you and Dorothea have shown to my family and so many others. You have continued to be a blessing and a pillar to our family during times of sadness and celebration. And we thank you for your compassion and dedication. Wishing you and Dorothea a blessed retirement and may God continue to bless and watch over you.

~~~~~

Heather Steenkamp

I fondly remember this friendly, newlywed couple introducing themselves to me at the Rectory on a parish visit prior to their move to St. George's.

During my journey with Fred and Dorothea I have experienced them to be humble, wise, compassionate, generous in sharing their gifts and always willing to be of service.

In our lives we all look up to good role models whenever we are charting any path. Fred and Dorothea are true figures of inspiration. They are both caring and community orientated.

Fred is a faithful man of God, a spiritual leader and a dedicated servant who has the amazing ability to relate to anyone.

I remember how Dorothea with her busy schedule, always made time for our youth when they needed assistance, be it spiritually or academically.

Many elderly and homebound would eagerly await Fred's visit on a Wednesday or Thursday knowing that

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they could just be themselves and unburden or sometimes just entertain him. Always such a generous giver of time.

Fred, you served with passion. We are eternally grateful to have had and still have you in our lives.

Now as this new chapter unfolds, may you find joy as He inspires you day by day.

I know that you will be cycling, working in your garden, hiking and of course reading. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement with Dorothea.

Love and Blessings.



Rev. Jonathan Robert Londt

To Fr. Fred and Dorothea

On 16 December 1997, I was ordained to the Diaconate, in St. George's Cathedral, Cape Town. I was joined by my family, friends and my Rector, Fr. Fred Hendricks at this most solemn and memorable event. I was the first Deacon and Priest under his rectorship at St. George the Martyr, Kuilsriver.



Rev. Fred with Rev. Jonathan Londt on the occasion of his ordination to the diaconate

When I searched through my photo albums, it dawned on me that Fr. Fred and Dorothea were present at most of my family functions. As a newlywed couple Fred and Dorothea moved into the Parish in the late eighties. They made an indelible impact on the Parish. What was most appreciated was their house visitations on Sunday afternoons.

Fr. Fred surrounded himself with resourceful, committed and loyal people of God. Together they would expand St. George the Martyr beyond its boundaries to Rotterdam and Wesbank. Leaders on every level of the Parish were equipped with tools of ministry. The Parish flourished in leaps and bounds.

His Benedictine spirituality and discipline assisted me to grow immensely as a person. His generosity, simplicity and kindness were reflected in his spiritual life. On Sunday mornings an hour before the Service you would find Fred praying in solitude and silence. "We are silent early in the morning because God should have the first word, and we are silent before going to bed because the last word belongs to God". (Dietrich Bonhoeffer). Prayer in solitude and silence was a central part of the ministry of Fred and Dorothea.

When it came to reading books, he would ask you "what book are you reading?" Beware if he had read the book! You would surely be asked to give some account of it. Even if you have not read a book, he would on a walk, hike or cycle read the book to you. He is an ardent reader and excellent New Testament Scholar.

My friendship with Fred and Dorothea spans over thirty years. You have opened your home and hearts to me and many. I am grateful for your mentorship, friendship and wish you well in your retirement.



Linda Davids

Dear Fred and Dorothea

May your new home in Kuils River, where you will be spending your retirement years, be blessed and filled with love and fruitful life. I have no doubt that you and Dorothea will build beautiful memories here too. Enjoy your retirement and God bless you always.

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Bishop Garth & Marion Counsell

Marion and I would firstly like to congratulate Fr. Fred Hendricks (and his beloved Dorothea) on his new status and warmly welcome them to the august club of the retired clergy. Well done and richly deserved, God's good and faithful servant!

I remember so well stopping off in Caledon in 1977/78 for Fred to jump into my Datsun SSS alongside +Raphael Hess, +Oswald Swartz and myself on our often last-minute, but never boring, road trips to St. Pauls College Grahamstown. Not to mention the much-anticipated end of term return journeys back to Cape Town and our families! Never a thought then about this time decades later when we would relax on our retirement couches and reminisce about those youthful and memorable moments. I must admit that if anyone had to venture a guess during that time as to who would later end up in episcopal office the finger would unquestionably have pointed in Fred's direction rather than the other 3 of us. Not that Fred was never considered for nomination, and rightly so. Some would say that, given his greater wisdom, Fred simply managed to sidestep that fate befalling him!

More seriously though, I am deeply honoured for this opportunity to express my sincere THANKS to Fred for his dedicated and most exemplary life of humble and consistent servant ministry over 42 years. I can safely say that my life and ministry have been enriched through having Fred as a colleague, long-time friend and fellow sojourner on the path of faith in following Christ. I know that your influence has been enormous in the lives of many you have had the joy of ministering to. Thank you also to you Dorothea for who you are, and for all you have contributed alongside Fred supporting him as his "darling", and in enhancement of his love and care for all God's people.

We wish you many happy, wonderful, healthy and relaxing years shared in retirement. Enjoy every moment as much as we do.

God bless!



Dr Dimitri Erasmus and family

It is indeed an honour and an immense privilege for me to write this short tribute to Rev. Canon Fred Hendricks as I have come to know him at a very personal level as a priest, friend, family friend, confidant, spiritual

guide and debater. When Sharon and I joined St George in 1989 Rev. Fred welcomed us with open arms.

I was so moved by his deeply shining spirituality, gentleness, caring and intent interest in us. I knew that God had guided us to join St George's then and make it our spiritual home.

Fred and Dorothea became an integral part of our lives as we knew many mutual friends and some of each other's family members - our mutual respect was and is deeply sincere. Fred played an immense role in shaping our children Terry and Lisa since when Terry, as a toddler, curiously walked around the altar each Sunday and Lisa once taking off her dress in front of the altar, eliciting much laughter from Rev. Fred who told her that he wished he could join her as it was quite hot in church at the time. Our children warmly cherish their memories of Rev. Fred and Dorothea.

Fred was an immense support to us and to me personally during the illness of my beloved Mum and Dad even though they were members of the Ebenezer Congregational Church (further testimony to his calling which transcends religious practice boundaries seamlessly and doing so with reverence and respect). My parents loved and revered him to bits. I vividly remember the comfort I received from Fred at their passing on - he helped me to navigate through those heart-wrenching times.

And then there are so many good interactions, engagements and activities I enjoyed with Fred. I still cherish the talks together in the rectory's kitchen with the Rt Revd Raphael Hess (now Bishop of Saldanha), the church outings and best of all a cycling buddy with him. The Camino pilgrimage he undertook no doubt served as a time for spiritual growth and renewal for him. I enjoyed listening to the story of his pilgrimage.

All men should take a leaf out of his book - he respects, honours, appreciates, adores and loves Dorothea unconditionally - I was so privileged to observe this in and out of their home.

Fred is a true scholar and a highly intelligent and mindful person and an excellent and patient listener with absolute intent and sincerity. It was with great sadness that we as a family had to take leave of Fred when he left St George's.

What will probably be one of my greatest and most memorable memories of Fred is the spiritual support and encouragement and appreciation he gave to me right from the onset of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. I very often still refer to those messages for inspiration during my personal times of reflection. More recently has been his caring and prayerful intercessions on my behalf during my recent hospitalisation for COVID treatment.

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(Continued from page 15)

Sharon, Terry, Lisa and I wish Fred a very blessed and fulfilling retirement - it is truly deserved and ordained.

I know that Fred will not be bored as he is also a very competent handy man, gardener, avid reader and storyteller.

We also wish Dorothea a very blessed, fulfilling, joy-filled and loving time together with Fred. May God bless them and keep them with us for many years and may they age beautifully and gracefully.

All our love and blessings

~~~~~

### *Edwin Solomons*

To Fr. Fred and Dorothea Hendricks

Congratulations on your retirement. Time goes by, so fast. It is hard to believe that you are on retirement.

I was a young man when God sent you to continue His work at St. George, the Martyr, Kuils River. You are such Godly and loving persons. I have always loved and admired you both.

I will always remember your concern for the church and our well-being. I will always have admiration for the way you handled many a challenging situation, in a dignified and loving manner. Your spiritual leadership will always be remembered in our community. God has blessed you both with special gifts and talents. Thank you for allowing God to use you as His instruments in service to His people.

Fr. Fred, in your tenure as Rector, we were blessed to see His church grow exceptionally. I witnessed accelerated growth in membership and ministries in particular with the geographical expansion of area ministries in Kuils River East and Highbury.

We also witnessed growth with the establishment of St. Marks Chapelry in Rotterdam, Camelot and the Wesbank Educare Centre.

I fondly remember the introduction of seasons of "Renew"; "Small Christian Communities"; "Prayer & Mission Weeks".

Fr. Fred, you are a great preacher and priest, very caring and community oriented.

Thank you for your eloquently prepared sermons as well as letters and report writing. God has also richly blessed you with the gifts of administration and this has helped to strengthen many of our organizational ministries at St. George's.

Dorothea, when God sent Fred to us, He also sent us you. Your presence and witness at St. George is a blessing

unto us all. Thank you both for unselfishly sharing your deep compassion, dedication, generosity and love amongst us.

As you move over to a new chapter in your life, I humbly pray that God will continue to richly bless you and watch over you. May He fill your retirement years with His joy and sustain you by His grace.

Love & blessings.

~~~~~

Rev. Merle Kakora

Rev. Fred Hendricks it is with abundant gratitude for your ministry that I pen my thanks.

Your ministry at the Parish Church of St George the Martyr, Kuils River including St Marks, Rotterdam has left an indelible imprint on our lives and hearts. A ministry of servanthood and shared ministry pouring forth from Formation Weekends, including the crazy impromptu concerts especially the Russian, Dr. Dorothea. We hold dear the many seasons of Renew which bonded the congregation, no more "inkommers". Parish hikes and walks in nature. The likes of Elgin nature reserve, Newlands forest, Jonkershoek nature reserve, Tokai forest will never be the same again.

Every time you went away on holiday to relax, refresh and recharge yourself, you came back with bucket loads of spiritual and pastoral responsibilities/activities for the lay ministers. Always stretching and encouraging growth and the process of Becoming.

Thank you for scouring that terribly blackened frying pan – your feet always firmly on the ground. Modelling authentic Christian spiritual leadership and jealously guarding the joy of the Lord in Sabbath rest.

Fred and Dorothea, thank you for you.

As you enter this new phase may God continue to bless you both abundantly in all that you do.

Shalom!

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# Parish Family News

## 30 November 2020—15 March 2021



### Baptism—2020

|                        |                            |                     |                         |
|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Luke Visagie           | Braydon Jeremiah Hendricks | Gracie Arendse      | Lee-Hano Brandon Fourie |
| Elizabeth-Leigh Josias | Morgan Noah Murray         | Jackson Cole Samaai | Roma Lilly Jaftha       |

Baptism resumes on 4 April 2021



### Weddings

Kurt and Simone Benjamin  
 Raphael and Sarah Cockrell  
 Johannes and Rhoda van Wyk  
 Matthew and Octavia Williams  
 Timothy and Alvenia Kerspuy  
 Carlisle and Amelia Solomon

### New Parishioners



Brandon and Rene Hendricks  
 Merlenn and Andrea Titus  
 Bruce and Carmen Smith  
 Harold and Denise Daniels  
 Dalen and Sharmelene Murray  
 Brent and Elsche Stevens



### In Memoriam

|                     |                   |                 |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Henry Adams         | Vern Jaftha       | Jerome Erntzen  |
| Monica Hendricks    | Glenn van Niekerk | Douglas Davids  |
| Marishae Heyns      | Kenneth George    | Sara Collins    |
| Mavis van de Rheede | Natalie Marinus   | Natalie Marinus |
| Elizabeth Kammies   | Benjamin Europe   | Kelly Jacobs    |
| Doreen Trotter      | Adolf Vallentyn   | Samantha Hill   |
| Josias Weits        | David During      |                 |



# Kids corner

## Let's "egg-splore" Easter Traditions



**S**oon it will be Easter, and we look forward to eating chocolate Easter eggs - marshmallow filled ones, hollow ones, and some Easter bunnies. Have you ever wondered why we eat Easter eggs, besides that they are delicious? When I was a child our parents hid Easter eggs inside or outside the house for us to find. Some people still hide and find eggs, while others just eat them!

The origin of this tradition dates back to the early Christians of Mesopotamia who painted eggs with red colouring in memory of Jesus' crucifixion. They also coloured them green and yellow. It is also true that hundreds of years ago, Christians were not allowed



to eat eggs during Lent. You can imagine that children and adults were happy to eat them again when Easter arrived. It became a tradition to give eggs as a gift. In different countries around the world, people still give decorated eggs or chocolate eggs to one another.

So, what does this tradition mean for us? An egg has the potential of new life, so for us it symbolizes new life because Christ was crucified, but He rose again! If He did not die and rise again, we would not be free to go to heaven. So, eating Easter eggs as a symbol of new life is important isn't it? In Mediterranean countries children actually say: "Christ is resurrected indeed, He is" before they eat their eggs.

Where does the Easter Bunny fit in? The tradition of the Easter bunny started with Christians very long ago, in Medieval times, when rabbits were associated with the Virgin Mary. Rabbits were thought to be fer-

tile, pure and innocent. German Protestants carried on with this idea, and the Easter Bunny was said to bring Easter eggs to children who were well behaved.

I hope that you will either make an Easter card, or decorate some eggs this Easter.

Ask an adult to blow out the eggs, then paint with acrylic /craft paint. You may add decorations.

Below are some examples. (You will also get lots of ideas on the internet.)

**Have a blessed Easter!**



Merle May





## Meditation

# Love Is Stronger Than Death



**“Your real life is Christ and when he appears, then you too will appear with him and share his glory.” Colossians 3:4**

**A**s I walked through the dark woods at the end of this Easter Day, full of intimate joy, I heard you call Mary Magdalene by her name and heard how you called from the shore of the lake to your friends to throw out their nets. I also saw you entering the closed room where your disciples were gathered in fear. I saw you appearing on the mountain and at the outskirts of the village. How intimate these events really are. They are like special favours to dear friends. They were not done to impress or overwhelm anyone, but simply to show that your love is stronger than death.

O Lord, I know now that it is in silence, in a quiet moment, in a forgotten corner that you will meet me, call me by name and speak to me a word of peace. It is in my stillest hour that you become the risen Lord to me.

***Lord, the life you have given me and the new life you have won for me are treasures that will never decay. Help me to appreciate them deeply, today and throughout the Easter season.***

- Henry Nouwen

Contributions may be submitted in **English or in Afrikaans**, 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 **5 July 2021**.

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

**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.