

# ST GEORGE'S NEWS



Our Church Family Magazine

## EASTER 2020

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



Volume 4 Issue 1  
Easter 2020

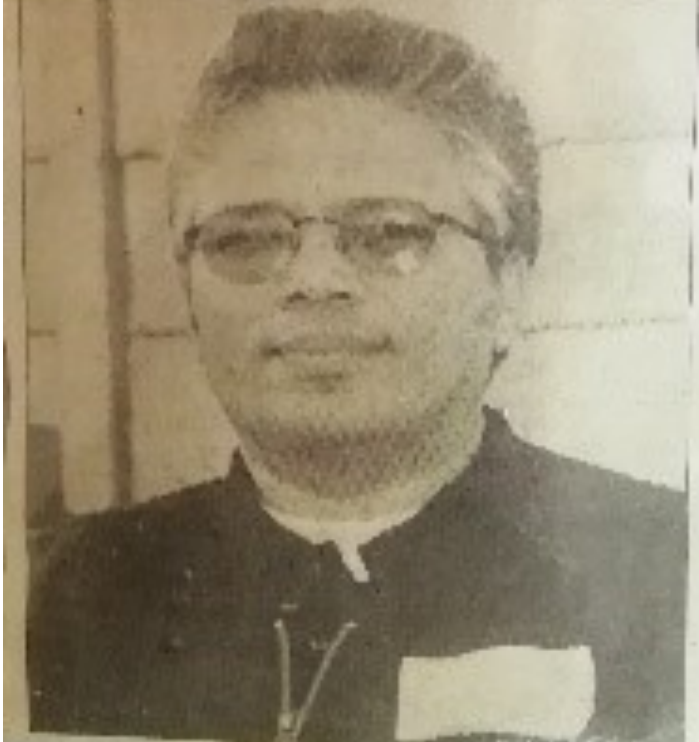
**“We despised Him and rejected Him;  
He endured suffering and pain... But be-  
cause of our sins He was wounded, beaten  
because of the evil we did. We are healed by  
the punishment he suffered, made whole by  
the blows He received.” Isaiah 53:3,5**





## The Privilege to Serve

**In December 2019, it was 35 years since the Venerable Revd Rodney Whiteman was ordained to the priesthood. In celebration of this milestone, the Magazine Committee requested that he share some thoughts on his journey thus far. We congratulate Revd Rodney on this achievement and thank God for his ministry at St George The Martyr, and the chapelries of St Mark Rotterdam and St Monica Westbank. We pray God's blessing on him and his family as he continues on his priestly journey—Editor**



I recall, yes, I do, that at age 12, I had a sense of call to tell others the Good News of Jesus. It was in the year of my Confirmation and of my personal and conscious acceptance and acknowledgement of Jesus as my Saviour and Lord.

Listening to gospel music, reading and reciting Scriptural texts and participation in house prayer meetings all contributed to my formation. I found my interest to be in pastoral care and therefore visited and helped parishioners who were part of the Area Ministry.

It was amongst the Lay Ministers giving leadership in the house prayer meetings that discernment was made about a vocation to ministry. Still in my teens, I was oblivious and naïve about this, but through the encouragement of those close to me, I allowed myself to follow my desire to become a priest.

I had just matriculated, when an opportunity came for me to work in a parochial context as Parish Worker at the Church of the Reconciliation in Manenberg, with Revd Bob De Maar. This came, after I had been interviewed for vacancies in a bank, an accounting firm as well as at a parastatal. At this stage I had an interest in accountancy with no financial support for further study.

I worked in Manenberg and resided with the De Maar and Esterhuizen families where I was exposed to priestly ministry on a daily basis. I attended Fellowship of Voca-

tion to further test my vocation, and in 1980 I went to Selection Conference under Archbishop Selby Taylor, followed by further discernment and study.

I spent three years at St Bede Seminary in Umtata. By mid 1983 all non-Transkeians were declared 'terrorists' and had to leave. Despite this setback I graduated with a Diploma in Theology in 1984.

Another highlight for me during this time, was when I was made deacon in the magnificent ambience of Anglican worship in St George Cathedral, by Archbishop Philip Russel on 16 December 1983 in collegiate with fellow students. Soon after I served in the 'cathedral' of the Cape Flats as the Church of the Resurrection, Bonteheuwel, became known. This church had a glorious history of ministry to a displaced, angry, wounded people, who were the victims of that great evil, Apartheid. Yet, this community was shaped and formed into a gifted and talented community, through loving and faithful priests whose names ring out in the annals of history, and who brought beauty where ugliness existed, hope where hopelessness thrived and love where hate was eroding relationships.

On 16 December 1984, I was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Russel and continued a wonderful ministry in fellowship and friendship with Revds David Daniels, Victor Jones and John Dyers.

It was here that I fell in love with and married one of the 'children' of the parish. A star singer was she, and still is – Ms Gertruida van Niekerk, Gerty/Trudy to many. She was teaching at her alma mater, Bonteheuwel High School at the time. It took me seven months to ask for her hand in marriage, and on 20 April 1985 we were married by our beloved Bishop Charles Albertyn, a former rector of the 'cathedral' of the Flats. Apparently, I was the only 'inkommer' who married a local lass.

Four months into our marriage the Church was challenged to call for the release of Madiba, our leader of the struggle and other worthy leaders. A march organised by the Council of Churches from Hewat College along Kromboom Road in Athlone, led by Church leaders, laity and ordained, ended in the beating of the marchers and the arrest of the leaders.

For Victor and I Pollsmoor prison and Wynberg Court became our 'home', incarcerated for protesting against an unjust State. The late Ashley Kriel, one of my heroes, stands out as someone who taught me a lot about being courageous.

Towards the end of 1985 the Diocese moved us to Namaqualand. There I served a curacy of six months



with Revd Michael Phillips and was then appointed Priest in Charge of All Saints Bergsig, Springbok with responsibility for congregations in Komaggas, Steinkopf, Nababeep and Fonteintjie. Both our children were born there, Trudy taught there and we enjoyed four wonderful formative years there.

The loving, supportive and generous congregants and leaders in the Parishes where I served as Rector, and who contributed richly to my formation were:

Christ the King, Rocklands – 1990 to 1999; St Augustine of Hippo, Lotus River – 1999 to 2007; St Margaret, Fish Hoek – 2007 to 2015; St George the Martyr with the chapelries of St Mark Rotterdam and St Monica Wesbank, Kuils River, from 2015 to current. This all adds up to serving 36 years as a deacon and 35 years as a priest.

Longevity enabled me to settle and grow with the people in the ministry of God's Church and His kingdom in the beauty of creation and the context of society and community.

I also humbly appreciate serving as Fellowship of Vocation Warden for 16 years, Canon for almost 10 years, Acting Archdeacon of the Overberg for over a year, and currently as Archdeacon of Blue Downs. With the loyal support of my family and the church, I had the opportunity to do further theological studies and obtained a Certificate in Biblical Studies from the University of Stellenbosch, a Certificate in Pastoral Counselling from the University of Pretoria, a Higher Certificate in Biblical Studies from St Augustine Catholic College and a Bachelor in Theology degree from the South African Theological Seminary.

I also contribute to the publication *Word and Worship* which assists priests with the preparation of the liturgy and sermons.

Apart from the blessings I received from loving and supportive family and parishes, I have greatly benefitted from working with the clergy of the Dioceses of Cape Town and False Bay, and with Archbishops Russel, Tutu, Ndungane and Bishops Matalengwe, McKenzie, Albertyn, Castle and Vertue. I was both rewarded and challenged by engaging colleagues, who were placed with me as deacons and first year priests, as well as retired clergy with many years of experience.

I, like the song writer, often ask: 'Why me, Lord?' Only God truly knows why. Yet, I am where God wants me to be. I accept this humbly. To God be the glory!✠

**Rodney Whiteman**

## A Prayer

**S**cientists are scrambling to find a vaccine for COVID-19 and as we listen to them, we are also called to re-examine our faith in the powerful God we worship and to try to understand what it is God wants us to do at this time. The one thing all of us can do is to pray. Prayer is powerful! Many prayers are already in circulation.

Below we publish a prayer authored by Revd Rodney Whiteman which we can pray every day, wherever we are.

**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**

## The Corona Virus (COVID-19)

**T**he 2019-2020 Corona virus pandemic spread to South Africa with the first confirmed case announced on 5 March 2020 by the Minister of Health, Zweli Mkize. The disease was later officially named COVID-19, i.e. Corona Virus Disease 2019. By this time most countries in Europe, China, the USA and elsewhere had already reported thousands of cases of people having contracted the disease and thousands who had already died. The first outbreak was recorded in Wuhan, the capital city in Hubei Province in the People's Republic of China, the epicentre, and quickly spread throughout most countries.

As the virus causes severe acute respiratory reactions in patients and because it spreads so quickly, the South African President, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, declared a national disaster and later a national lockdown, lasting 21 days from 27 March 2020 to 16 April 2020. This was necessary to allow for social distancing and thus avoiding close contact between people. Also, by this time it became known that this measure together with washing hands often and thoroughly with soap and water and using hand sanitizer with a high alcohol content would offer reasonable protection against contracting the virus. So serious was this lockdown that churches closed their doors and found alternative and innovative ways, mostly digital, to continue communicating with parishioners—Revd Rodney used podcasts twice weekly. This pandemic certainly counts in South Africa and world wide as unprecedented.

Will we see a world that has changed for the better after this has passed? Perhaps a world that will appreciate our humanity more than anything else? **Editor**

## A First

**F**or the first time St George's News Magazine will only be available in digital format due to the closure of most businesses, including printers as a result of the lock down during the Corona Virus outbreak. The magazine will also, for the first time, be available on the parish website. More parishioners have now requested to receive the digital copy.





# In Celebration of my 50th Anniversary to the Priesthood

## 1969 to 2020

**T**he Magazine Committee asked Revd John Goliath to share some thoughts on reaching his 50th year to the ordained ministry. This is certainly quite a milestone! We congratulate Revd John on this achievement and thank God that he still continues to serve God and the Church in various capacities in his retirement. We pray God's blessings on him and his family as he continues to be obedient to God's call—Editor

I had a strong sense of vocation to the priesthood from the age of 10 when I was a barefooted altar server in the church of St. James, Knysna. My nickname, given to me by my peers, was 'Predikantjie.' It was probably this that heightened my sense of vocation. This sense was nearly scuttled at the age of 16. I was walking in the Main Road, Knysna, when I lifted my hat to a certain 'antie'. She stopped, shouting across the street at me: "Jy moenie dink ek sal jou Father noem nie...ek ken jou ma..." She didn't even have the decency to acknowledge my gentlemanlike gesture! Many years later, when I was indeed a "Father", she did call me that... and all was forgiven.

Growing up, I had two enemies against me that could so easily have prevented me from reaching my goal – Apartheid and the Anglican Church. I passed standard 10 (grade 12) at the age of 19. By that time, my sense of vocation had grown to a life-time goal. In 1963, I presented myself for Holy Orders to the Bishop of George. The 1960's were the years during which Apartheid gathered momentum and the Anglican Church in South Africa was its 'obedient servant'. So, here I was, the 'Coloured boy' from the impoverished backwaters of Knysna, daring to become a priest... What an effrontery! The bishop did not actually know how to handle me. Coloured clergy were scarce in those days. There were only three in the diocese. One had his vocation tested at Mirfield England, and the other two trained at the then Zonnebloem College. "Real clergy" were English men from Britain. But since I was going to serve in a '**Mission Church**' to '**my people**', he accepted me. By that time I

was wearing shoes; I started wearing them when I was in grade 9, then a source of great discomfort!

The Anglican Church had a Test School for aspirant Coloured and Black clergy. So, I was packed off to Modderpoort in the Free State to the St. Augustine's Test School to have my vocation tested. The year was 1964. Testing consisted of **Obedience** - the first and highest priority. **Passing an IQ test**, the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest priority and

**Proficiency in English**, the third priority. In addition, I had to pass New Testament Greek and do manual labour. I passed them all and was now a **worthy** candidate for Holy Orders.

I started training to become a priest at the Federal Theological Seminary in Alice, Eastern Cape, in 1965. This Seminary was the designated College for Black and Coloured clergy. My Old Testament lecturer was the then Fr. Desmond Tutu, later to be Archbishop of Cape Town. I obtained the Diploma in Theology (with Greek) in 1968 and was made Deacon in the same year, at the Church



of All Saints, Mossel Bay. I was ordained to the priesthood in December 1969 in St. Andrew's, Riversdale, where I chose to celebrate my 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary to the Priesthood in December 2019. Sense of vocation accomplished and life-goal achieved!

My first Rectorship came in 1972 at the church of St. Luke, Albertinia. Doris and I were married in the same year. The Rectory was in town, which was in the "white area" and the Bishop instructed me to apply for a permit which would allow me to live there. I promptly refused and I lived there 'illegally'. I was tasked with building a rectory. As part of my preparation for it I taught myself to



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draw a plan for the building of the rectory. The plan had four bedrooms, one was en-suite, three toilets and a study. The Diocesan Board refused to accept the plan on the basis that it had too many rooms and too many toilets (the Board was white). The bishop called me in, "John", he said, "my house has four bedrooms and not as many toilets". Whereupon I retorted, "Oh, so that is the reason I can't have four bedrooms." Exasperated he said, "John, build your house". The rectory in Albertinia became the blueprint for all new houses.

My next task was to build a church. The Board decided that any new church built in townships should start with a hall to be used as church building. The hall-church would serve as venue for functions until enough money was raised to build a church. I refused and proceeded to build a church and laid the ground work for the building of a hall. This time I had the bishop on my side!

I became Rector of All Saints Mossel Bay in 1979. This was the biggest church in the diocese with fourteen outstations. I only had one assistant. Two watershed things happened at All Saints. One morning as I went to Church to celebrate the Parish Eucharist, I was met outside the church by a very irate visitor. He was put out of church by a sidesman for not wearing a jacket. I took him back to church and before the service started I stood him beside me and called the sidesman to join us. I told the congregation what had happened and declared that from that day everybody was welcome... jacket or no jacket! And I apologized to the visitor. Needless to say, a new trend of jacketless gents followed. At the second watershed episode Doris left the service crying, taking our two boys, aged 6 and 3, with her. The two culprits had taken off her hat, using it as a football in the aisle! I encouraged Doris to, in order to stop the boys from honing their football skills, not to wear a hat to church. She promptly decided that the rector had in fact saved her further embarrassment and stopped wearing a hat to church. *'Toe is die tonge los! Want my voorganger het gesê elke vrou en meisie moet 'n hoed dra want 'n engel het aan hom verskyn en gesê dis reg so'*. Needless to say, the Angel lost, and a new trend of hatless women started! The church is so quick to make rules that have no bearing on decent decorum, but more than that, it is quick to set burdensome rules that have no spiritual significance nor any theological grounding. A rule in a church is for the building up and spiritual nurturing of its members. If it does not do that, it is obsolete! We left All Saints after three years and came to The Diocese of Cape Town.

I obtained my Bachelors in Theology Degree from Unisa in 1984. I was Rector of St. Joseph, Macassar, for three years and then moved to the Church of St. John's, Bellville South. When a certain old man laid eyes on me for the first time, he looked me up and down and said, *'Watse klonkie het die biskop nou vir ons gestuur!'* His words brought back words spoken to me when I was about 14 years old, by a white

child, when I had the audacity to knock on their front door to see my sister who was working for them. "Mammie" she said, *"hier's 'n klonkie wat by die voordeur klop!"* Wat sy nie geweet het nie, is dat hierdie klonkie nooit by enigiemand se agterdeur klop nie!

While I was at St. John's, I obtained a scholarship to study overseas. My family and I went to Dallas, USA, in 1987. I obtained the Master of Divinity Degree in 1989 from the Southern Methodist University. Thereafter I became rector of St. Saviour's, Claremont, in 1990. When it was asked of a certain woman why she does not attend services anymore, she said, "I will come back when the Coloured boy is no longer Rector." It so happened that this person had problems with her grandchild and the Coloured boy paid her a pastoral visit. She came back to church while he was still Rector.

Caring for God's people is a God-given obligation. It supersedes all hurts and human frailties. Ministry for its effectiveness does not depend on race or culture; it depends solely on God's grace and the obedience of the caregiver - a truth with which I have come face-to-face throughout my ministry to God's people.

The beginning of 1993 saw me become Vice-Rector and Dean of Studies of the new College of the Transfiguration in Grahamstown, a position I held for eight years. It was during this time that I was also part-time lecturer in Ethics and Pastoral Studies at Rhodes University. I enrolled at the University of Stellenbosch and obtained the Master of Theology Degree (*cum laude*) in 2001. Also, during this time, in 1995, I was visiting Professor of New Testament (The gospel of St. John and Revelation) at the Union Theological College, Seattle, for a term.

In 1996 I visited theological colleges in Bangalore and Madurai, India. I studied at the Institute for Human Relations, Counselling and Psychotherapy in Vellore, Tamilnadu, and obtained a post-graduate certificate in Pastoral Counselling. It was here that I was bitten by a mosquito and contracted malaria, and became very sick. Fortunately, I received medical treatment in SA just in time... I left the College of the Transfiguration in 2000 and became Rector of the Parish of St. Martin-by-the-Sea, Gonubie in the Eastern Cape. I started my last parish at St. Nicholas, Matroosfontein, in 2003 and retired in December 2010.

During my first year of retirement, in 2011, I lectured at UWC in New Testament Studies. I worked in numerous parishes as interim rector from 2012 to 2017 in the dioceses of Saldanha Bay, George and False Bay. Currently I am consultant and co-ordinator of Theological Education and Ministerial Formation for the Diocese of False Bay. A workbook on this subject will be launched in August of this year.

I want to bring special honour to Doris, my wife and

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## Parish Councils 2020



**St George the Martyr, Kuils River**

**In front L—R: Church Wardens: Wilma Koopman, Andrea Jacobs, Priscilla Joseph**  
**Middle L—R: Councillors: Alvenia de la Cruz, Lester Geldenhuis, Elphinstone Jenneker, Angus Williams, William Morris, Wilfred Joseph, Alister de la Cruz, Verna de la Cruz**



**St Mark Rotterdam and St Monica Wesbank**

**Back L—R: Colin September, Gavin Bernado, Abel van Wyk (Chapelry Warden St Mark), Leslie Foster, Richard Hill**  
**Middle L—R: Danny Minnaar, Bruce Pland (Chapelry Warden St Mark), Danny Tobin**  
**Front L—R: Ursula Felix, Shirine Collins, Georgina Kaiters, Garth Adams (Chapelry Warden St Mark), Anthony Morta**  
**Absent: Hiram Collins**





## The Sunday School Performing in the 2019 Nativity Play







## St George's Ordinands 2020



**TOP:** Gerald Kestoor, a parishioner at St George (next to Revd Merle Karkora), with his wife Maylene and sons Zeno (R) and Josh at the service where he was licensed as an ordinand by Bishop Margaret Vertue on 2 February 2020. Gerald has been placed at St Michael, Harare, Khayelitsha.

**LEFT:** Wayne van Rooyen (middle) at the service on 2 February 2020, where he too was licenced as an ordinand by Bishop Margaret Virtue. Wayne has been placed at St George, Kuils River.

*We pray that God will bless them abundantly as they continue this journey in obedience to God's call.*  
Editor





## Jaffe De Morney 13 September 1939 – 29 January 2020



**J**affe De Morney was one of St Mark's senior parishioners who, in his own way, was always busy behind the scenes not wanting any 'phaffing' about him. Jaffe, who hails from the Sir Lowry's Pass district, was a caravan mechanic during his working years. It is during this time that he met and subsequently married Isobel, the love of his life.

Aunty Isobel is the pillar of strength behind the Soup Kitchen and Holiday Club meals, with her team. Uncle Jaffe made sure to drive her to church with her pots and then fetch her again.

He was an avid bird lover and bred pigeons. Uncle Jaffe was instrumental in starting a bird club in Elsie's River. He enjoyed his feathered friends and they were often 'more important' than anything else. They had to be fed on time, let

free to fly at a certain time and he knew each one of his birds. These birds were his pride and the awards for racing is proof of how passionate he was about it.

One of his sons, Kevin, calls his dad "a Man of Steel". He remembers his dad being there through the highs and lows and being there for the family. Happy memories of days spent fishing and camping with his dad are still clearly etched in his mind.

There are memories of him insisting on having certain things to be done on every night of the week, be it watching television with the family or a simple meal of fish and chips. They are lasting and very precious memories for his family.

A few years ago, Uncle Jaffe became ill and underwent an operation. This was a minor setback till he fell ill again. This time though, the setback was more serious for the blue-eyed man with the sparkle in his eyes, as he was not able to be as active as before.

Uncle Jaffe was a survivor, as we heard from many. In Kevin's tribute to his dad he said, "Everything we go through is for a reason and we are not here by chance. Every day is an opportunity to reconcile and make peace, nothing just happens. No matter what God puts on your path, your faith is continually being tested. Whether we are healed or not, our faith is the only thing that should be unshaken. Just like the pigeons, who use the wind and storm to take them from place to place, so too should our faith take us through the challenges we face".

**Kevin Samuels and Avril Assur**

## St Mark—Seniors Outing

**T**he journey started off with a prayer to send us on our way. The first stop was at the lovely and quaint St George's Church, Groot Drakenstein, where Revd William Arendse warmly welcomed all and shared Morning Prayer.

During this service we learnt of the struggles of the surrounding farm people. With a little bit of background from Revd William and the appreciation of those who were there, a collection was taken in aid of food parcels for the farm workers. A tidy amount of R1100 was collected. All Glory to God for enabling us to help in a small way. Clothes have since been collected and will be sent to the church for distribution. A light breakfast was served after the Service.

The trip continued with a visit to the Berg River Dam. This stop did not last long as the wind threatened to blow us away.

Then on we went to the highlight of the day! A visit to Victor Verster Prison for lunch. Unfortunately, we were

*(Continued on page 15)*





# Parish Family News: November 2019—March 2020

## My Baptism Day

24 November 2019—8 March 2020



Seth Shawn Alexander  
Aaron Richard Fester  
Dane Robert Fester  
Brody Luca Joubert  
Luca Adam Daames  
Blake William Lamb  
Connor George Johnson

Nova Amy Leah Marankey  
Quade Carter Marthinus  
Georgia Charlsey Walbrugh  
Daniel Donald Carels  
Kingsley Debesha  
Noah Kai Linters  
Gabriel Perez Petersen  
Cody Alexander

## Weddings



Ruben Petersen and Alicia  
Hartzenberg  
Lee Schilder and Lauren Muller  
Luzuko Bashe and Jodie Senosi  
Faldiel Hill and Samantha Dreyer  
Chesley Kensley and Carol Pedro  
Alston Orange and Monique Philander  
Ray Goliath and Robyn Rossouw

## Welcome New Parishioners



Ian and Astra Roberts  
Stephanie Anthonie  
Gavin and John Peterson  
Cheslyn and Arlanza Smith  
Bruce, Deidre and Daniel Carels  
Shane Petersen  
Christie and Gabriel Saunders  
Barry, Cameron, Clint and Chelsea Coetzee  
Anne and Adrian Matroos  
Bernica Engelbrecht  
Johannes, Georgina Nancy-Leigh and Carter Batchelor  
Stephen, Karen, Noah and Gabriella Arendse  
Preston Heideman

## In Memoriam

John Slinger  
Mildred Samuels  
Les Abrahams  
Clive Arries  
Ella van der Merwe



## Newly Elected Bishop of Table Bay

**C**ongratulations to the Venerable Revd Joshua Louw, the newly elected Bishop of Table Bay. He was born and grew up as one of seven children in Tiervlei (now, Ravensmead). He replaces Bishop Emeritus Garth Counsell who retired on 11 May 2019. (See **St George's News Magazine June 2019**)

We pray God's richest blessings on Bishop Joshua and his family as he labours in this part of God's vineyard.





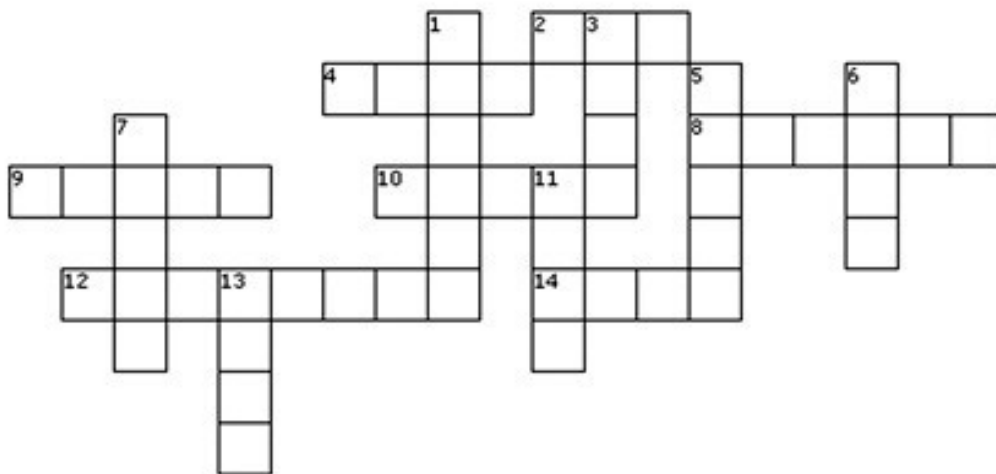


# Kids corner

## Easter Word Puzzle

*He is not here. He has risen!*

Words taken from John 20:1-18 (NIV)



### ACROSS

2. To shed tears
4. The opposite of alive
8. A heavenly being
9. The thing that covered the entrance to Jesus' tomb
10. The color that is the opposite of black
12. A person who takes care of plants and flowers
14. The name of the woman who discovered Jesus' empty tomb

### DOWN

1. The male parent
3. Return to an upright position after lying down; to return from the dead
5. The opposite of late
6. A period of seven days
7. An adult female person
11. A place where someone is buried; another name for grave
13. The opposite of light

### Words Used

early	angels	gardener	rise
week	white	Mary	dead
dark	woman	tomb	
stone	cry	father	



## Running is fun with Kuils River Runners Club (KRRC)

**X**avier Lewis, a parishioner at our church, is the public relations officer and treasurer of the KRRC. The club was started in November 2016 with only a handful of members but has since grown to around 90 members. Most of the members are from Kuils River, but there are also some from outlying areas.

The club offers training sessions from Monday to Wednesday from 17:00 until 18:00 on the campus of the Western Cape Sports School. On Mondays and Wednesdays, they concentrate on speed and on Tuesdays they do core exercises. Time-trial practices happen every Thursday at 18:00 at the park in Samuel Street in Deshamdon.

The club caters for all types of runners, from the serious ones as well as those who run for leisure and to stay healthy. Everyone receives the same dedicated attention of the club coaches.

According to Xavier, the club's mission and vision are focussed on the youth. The idea is to awaken in them an interest in sport and especially outdoor activities, thereby keeping them off the streets, out of gangs and free from drugs. He believes that this approach will lead to young people having a balanced outlook on life – a quality that is needed at school as well as at work. The club also welcomes people who are physically challenged. Being in “a wheelchair or being blind is not the end of your life – I can work with you, God is great”, says Xavier.

Xavier, who completed several Comrades and Two Oceans Ultra-Marathons in his younger years, also coaches long-distance runners.

Other members in management are Shawn Abrahams – Chairman and middle-distance coach – who is a former 800 m S.A. champion and also ran a qualifying time for the Sydney Olympics in 2000. Gary Morris is the sprint coach while Clifffie Jacobs, the vice-Chairman, was involved in W.P. Athletics from 1978 – 2016 and served for more than 30 years on the cross-country committee. ❧



Shawn Abrahams (chair), Xavier Lewis (PR) and Clifffie Jacobs (vice-chair) of Kuils River Runners.

PHOTOS: CARINA ROUX



Members of the Kuils River Runners Club

**Xavier Lewis**

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friend through all of these 50 years. She supported me and stood by my side throughout my many travels and ventures, without once complaining. She is a very remarkable woman. Our children, Eustace, Dominic and Egan, who had no choice but to follow me wherever I went, deserve medals of their own.

Thank you to all parishioners where I worked, for allowing me to be their Shepherd.

From the age of 10, God spoke to me and was faithfully guiding and directing my course in fulfilment of His plan for me. I know God is not yet done with me, so thanks be to God who has made me, fashioned me and has assured me

that I am God's very own, and continues to forgive and love me.

Die klonkie het nou mooi groot geword. Is ook nie meer 'n Coloured predikant nie. Net 'n predikant.... En dis hoe God dit wil hê. ❧

**Revd John Goliath**

### Raffle 2020

**1st Prize**—Fridge and Washing Machine Combo

**2nd Prize**—40" Flat Screen TV

**3rd Prize**—Laptop and Printer

Spot Prizes on the day

**Donation: R10**





## Opera Stars in the Making?

**G**ian Williams, 11, Keith and Elphinstone Jenneker's grandson, along with the **ERUB Children's Choir**, recently participated in the Cape Town Opera's production of Bizet's Opera, **La Bohème** at the Artscape Theatre in Cape Town. The performances ran from 14<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020, but their rehearsals started on the 16<sup>th</sup> January. He was one of the 16 members required by the artistic director for the production. The Children's Chorus' musical contribution was rather tricky at times because not only did they sing



two complete songs but also had conversational bits to fill in. Gian bravely volunteered to sing the solo line which he executed with aplomb at all five performances.


Gian has always had a love for music, both classical and pop, and showed a keen interest in learning to play an instrument at an early age. He is a Michael Jackson fanatic and has a collection of Michael Jackson CD's and memorabilia. He also tunes into Fine Music Radio (FMR 101.3FM) every afternoon in the car on the way home from school as he says the classical music has a very calming effect.

As a baby, he sat on grandpa Keith's lap enjoying be-



ing sung to at the piano. Gian learnt to play on a toy recorder which his granny, Elphin, bought him before he started school. The two of them would play simple tunes together. When he was in Grade 2, Gian joined the St George's recorder group led by Charlene Williams and also sang in the Junior Choir under the direction of Peter Roux until extra-mural activities at school forced him to stop both. Theo and I give Gian all the necessary encouragement and support we can to enable him to do what he enjoys most.

About 3 years ago, Gian asked his grandparents if he could learn to play the violin. After purchasing an instrument for him, initially his grandpa Keith taught him the basics and later he joined the Ronnie Samaai Music Education Project (RSMEP) at Kuils River Technical High School, where he is currently a member.

Every day we hear the choruses from *La Bohème* resounding from the bathroom, at the top of his voice, as our opera star relives his amazing experience. 

**Tarryn Williams**

### Church Chuckle

The priest was dejected before Sunday Mass and complained to the congregation: "Our town is in trouble. We've lost our faith. Nobody is listening to me anymore. Few people are coming to Mass these days. Even our organist didn't turn up this morning."

A voice came from the congregation: "So who's playing today?"

Another voice echoed through the church: "The Stormers against the Bulls!" (The Southern Cross)



## Green Anglicans

**D**o you know about an organisation called the GREEN ANGLICANS? All of us are aware by now that our interaction as human beings with nature and mother earth have fallen short of the glory of God. Lots of our practices have led to wide scale destruction, and this continues on a daily basis. I often recall the service where our liturgical response was “We are sorry, We are sorry”.

As Anglicans we are very proud to have a Diocesan Environmental Group, the **Green Anglicans**, to deal with this issue. Both the provincial co-ordinator, Rev Rachel Mash, and the Youth co-ordinator, Bino Makhallany, are based right here in Cape Town. Let me share with you their key values:

- The work flows from a love for our Creator, and all that God has created.
- Recognising the seriousness of climate change, the Church, that is, everyone of us, has a special role to play in bringing HOPE.
- Youth, as the leaders of *today*, not tomorrow, have to be empowered to be movers and shakers.

### What is happening in 2020?

The Green Anglicans are supporting the **Spekboom Challenge**. It involves trying to plant ten trees in 2020. All you need is small cuttings of this “wonderplant” that removes ten times more carbon dioxide from the environment than a pine tree.

Please feel free to join the group in the **Global Youth for Climate Change March** on 3 June 2020 which celebrates World Environment Day falling on 5 June 2020. Also join the hikes on 18 July and 12 September 2020 and clean-ups of beaches or rivers. Venues will be made known.

Rev Rachel has suggested that we use the #FAST4EARTH Lenten calendar as a guideline to implement changes in our everyday lives. For all this and more you have to follow this group on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. You will gain more insight as to what they are all about, but more importantly, it is an opportunity to get on board. All of us can be instrumental in the Anglican Church’s fifth mark of mission, which is: **“Striving to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.”**

*Remember to submit photos and feedback to the Editor.* ☞

**Merle May**

## What’s new in the Music Ministry of St George

**S**ome exciting ventures are being tackled this year. A few members of the senior choir have endeavoured to start learning to play an instrument. They make up the newly formed **St George Recorder Ensemble**. The benefits of being able to read music and play an instrument are numerous. With each session, a different aspect of music is explored, like “muscle memory” and



Some of St George Senior Choir members during their Outreach to Arniston and Bredasdorp

Back L—R: Jenny Crouch, Sonia Petersen, Des Stevens, Wilfred Josephs, Yolanda Solomons, Marita Presence, Glynnis Ismail  
Front L—R: Rushmond May (Accompanist) Joan Brown, Priscilla Josephs, Charlene Williams, Peter Roux (Director), Lanese September, Trudie Whiteman, Gerise Hudsonberg, Jenny Theron

“don’t bully your fingers!”

The **Youth Recorder ensemble** features a full recorder quartet, with Descant, Alto, Tenor and Bass recorders. They are working on Baroque repertoire to be launched later in the year.

We can also look forward to a Soirée and an Evensong during the second half of the year.

We are thrilled to announce that St George will be hosting the **Ihlombe Choral Festival** again on 30 June 2020. It will be a great privilege and honour for us. The visiting choir will be the **Duke Ellington School for the Arts, Washington D.C.**

Please grab these wonderful opportunities with both hands that God has so graciously bestowed upon us here at St George.

**Ps 150:1,3,4-6** Praise God in His temple...! Praise Him with trumpets. Praise Him with harps and flutes. Praise Him with loud cymbals. Praise the Lord, all living creatures!

**Please contact Charlene Williams (0836576266) to join the Senior and Youth Recorder Ensembles, and the Senior and Youth Choirs.** ☞

**Merle May & Charlene Williams**





## PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE 2020

### "Will there be a church in 50 years?"

**T**his was the key question of the People's Conference on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2020 at St George the Martyr. The conference was aimed at the topic of young people moving away from the church. What are long-standing members of the church doing about this? There is a contrast between ancient vs traditional and modern vs contemporary methods of church life. These attitudes and atmospheres need to be revised and integrated into our churches. Our churches are our families, so how do we provide for varied generations? It's about the spirit, a clean heart and a right mindset. This pretty much sums up the attitude of the conference, i.e. being open to the spirit.

The keynote speaker for the day was Reverend Desmond Lambrecht. Here follows a review of his ideas around the key question. He said, "This is a bold theme; it helps one to think and reflect. This week it was Martin Luther Junior Week." Martin Luther King said, "I have a dream of being free". So many have contributed to the struggle for freedom. They stood for justice. The life of Jesus Christ shows this when He was nailed to a tree at a young age. It was for the common good of the greater whole. It is about the Father's will and truth. The truth is, we must come home to God the Father.

Thus, we need a strategic plan to pour into the greater church of God. What we want to achieve is the increase of the witnessing of the confessing church. This is based on the scripture: "For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life". **John 3:16**. The problem we have is to get Christ at the centre, it is to bring the Lord back into the church. The present age is highly technological and has been able to develop a Web Church. You sign up on the web and clap your hands. But, what about relationship? The strategic plan we envision must encourage us to build relationships with the outside world. The church was established for non-members because God so loved the world. Two things to understand in this context is the Universal Church and the New Testament.

#### Universal Church

The universal church experiences challenges of division and confusion. In **Genesis 3**, the historical and biblical context shows the fall of man. It represents the old and the new Adam, and the city of Babylon. They knew God, but still built a tower. They knew the commandments, but still worshipped themselves.

#### New Testament

Paul was writing to the congregations of various contexts. We are the congregations he addressed. In **Romans 12**, exclusion and stigma was experienced. What about the Unbelievers? Think **John 3:16**.

#### The way forward

The church is at a crossroads. This is an old topic as

research contemplates what the church of the future looks like. Topics like, 'Finding the Church', 'More to the Church', 'Future Faith, Hope and Church', 'Mending the world through the global Church' and 'Quantum changes in the Church' grapple with this issue of modernisation and integration. The church should be taken out of the church to become the church. God is greater and is not a building. The church is about people, God's family. We are to go from here and bring back the outcast, the unbeliever. Jesus was sent to build a church, a family to be Gospel people.

Are we the church of the future?

#### There are 5 important things to be aware of:

- Revitalise the church from within: make church the place to be.
- Embrace the colour of the future: change the menu, programme or instruction for the context.
- Stop looking at the church through the lense of the West: look at what is trending on African soil.
- Receive the world as it is: focus on the inside and the outside will follow.
- Be Spirit-filled communities: that reject individualism and embrace Ubuntu.

We need to embrace our children, young people and leaders of today. What would Jesus do? Do we have a **John 3:16** attitude?

We are the cornerstone of the church and we are part of the world. Everything changes, but **John 3:16**.

✠Cleo-Ann Josephs

**The 1st People's Conference was held in May 2017 (see St George's News Magazine July/August 2017) - Editor**

(Continued from page 9)

unable to do the tour of the premises where Nelson Mandela was housed. The food was a full scrumptious Sunday roast with dessert prepared by inmates. We were able to walk and admire some of the grounds and sit under the tall trees, till it was time to make the journey back home. Everyone agreed that it was an absolutely wonderful experience.

Back at St Mark parking lot, after a day of treats, meals, sights, photos, the seniors were hot from the sun and wind, but all had a thoroughly good time and welcomed the cold bottled water and ice cream as they waited for their lifts home.

A huge thank you to all those who so generously donated water, suckers, fruit, juice and sweets. May you be richly blessed. ✠

**Abel Van Wyk**



# Meditation—Pause awhile—on St Patrick's Breastplate

I have a saying; If you can talk, you can pray. If you can think, you can meditate. I gave a talk to lay ministers and was quite surprised by a lay minister who thought that Christians do not meditate, but only Buddhists.

Meditation reminds us that we are in God's presence and that God is in our presence. When I walked the Camino in France, I came upon an inscription which read: "Only in quiet and solitude can you clearly hear God speak". Meditation seeks quiet in our lives and invites us to pause awhile in order to hear God clearly.

**St. Patrick's Breastplate** is a Celtic Meditative Prayer of Protection. Patrick is the Patron Saint of Ireland who lived there during the 5<sup>th</sup> century. The Breastplate is attributed to him. I adapted it for the purpose of this meditation.

Find a place in your garden or somewhere in your house where there is quiet. Begin your meditation by reminding yourself that you are in God's presence and that God is in yours. You may want to hold a cross or have it near you. If you are in the garden, use some of the twigs and make a cross.

Begin your meditation- **'Think'** the words **and pause** on them for as long as you find necessary.

I bind myself today to the strong name of the Trinity— God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

I bind this day to me by power of faith;  
To the Christ Jesus who loves me  
The Lord of peace who quietens my spirit  
The Spirit of God to guide me  
Jesus my lord who forgives me.

**I bind all of myself to the Lord today**

I bind to myself today  
The power of God to hold and lead me  
God's eye to watch, God's might to stay  
God's ear to hear my need  
The wisdom of my God to teach.

**I bind God to myself today**

I bind Christ to myself today  
Christ be with me, Christ within me  
Christ behind me, Christ before me  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me  
Christ to comfort and restore me  
Christ in sorrow, Christ in danger  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

**I bind Christ to myself today  
Amen**

**Submitted by Revd John Goliath**

**The Editorial Team thank 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 **3 August 2020**.

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