

KEEPING in TOUCH

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH NEWLANDS

Tel. 021 674 3851

Fax. 021 671 0504

office@standrewsnewlands.org.za

www.standrewsnewlands.org.za

Autumn
Newsletter 2023

BIRD SEEDS

INTERIM PRIEST-IN-CHARGE REPORT TO VESTRY

Dear People of God,

In Isaiah 30:15, the prophet says; "In returning to me, in resting in me, you will be saved. In quietness and confidence is your strength", and so I greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, with these powerful words.

I am eternally grateful to God for the privilege I have been afforded to serve God and you as your Interim Priest-in-Charge here at St Andrews, during this period of interregnum, which I am sure we had all hoped would have come to an end by April. I remain hopeful that it will no be protracted for too long and that the Diocese will be able to make an appointment soon.

I do however need to add that finding a suitable fit is never an easy exercise and requires much prayer and discernment, so I commend this process to your continued prayers.

I thank God for the love, support, and encouragement I have received so graciously from you, my faithful companions, as we journey together in the exploration of our faith.

With gratitude and humility, I present my Annual Report to Vestry.

The past year has indeed been a year of blessing, in which we have had so many wonderful opportunities to celebrate God's abundance, particularly as we witness the return from exile of our members, since the Covid lockdown and for the implementation of Livestreaming our services enabling us to reach those who are housebound or ill. At the same time, it has been a year in which

we experienced the sadness of the physical absence of many of our members who have entered their eternal rest. Nonetheless, we have also witnessed the outpouring of grace and healing as many recovered from serious illnesses.

Having had first hand experience, as an Archdeacon, of the affect that an overzealous Interim Priest-in-Charge can have on a parish, I have found it incredibly challenging to try and maintain the status quo, during the interregnum until an incumbent is appointed, and have found the words from Isaiah, quoted, a great source of comfort. I nonetheless remain committed to ministry among you.

Yesterday the theme from our Old Testament reading of the Exodus events, highlights the generosity of our God, that even when things seem bleak, it is God who unfailingly provides for our needs.

While there were no Children admitted to Communion during 2022 and only 1 candidate Confirmed, there were also 6 Baptisms.

The work of God and the life of the parish continues and this is borne out in the unwavering commitment of so many, who ensure that the work of God never falters.

I am pleased to report that the Financial Statements are presented to parish council monthly, that our Diocesan Assessments are up to date and all financial matters addressed regularly. We have once again by God's grace been able to meet our financial commitments. Thank you for your generosity, for your faithful pledged giving and your support of our fundraising initiatives, albeit that our income was below what had been budgeted for.



FROM OUR REGISTERS

Died

8 July 2022 Joyce Swiel

31 August 2022 Nicholas Porter

10 September 2022 Martin Blomerus

28 November 2022 Simon Finsen

29 November 2022 Joan Bester

13 January 2023 Gladys Griffiths

3 March 2023 Robert Kingdon

Baptism

1 January 2023 Julia Richards

Confirmed

20 November 2022 Alexandria Heugh

HOLY WEEK 2023

2 APRIL PALM SUNDAY

08:30 One service

6 APRIL MAUNDY THURSDAY

19:00 Holy Eucharist

7 APRIL GOOD FRIDAY

10:00 Children's Service

12:00 Three hour devotions

9 APRIL EASTER SUNDAY

06:30 Service of Light, Holy Eucharist

09:00 – Holy Eucharist

I wish to express my sincere thanks:

To your Churchwardens, Jim Te Water Naude, Debbie Coombe and alternate Warden Nicky Andersen, for your loyalty and dedication to your parish, for your selfless giving of yourselves, your time and skill in the running of your parish, even when so much of what you do often goes unnoticed or may even seem unappreciated.

To our secretary Bev Shaw, for managing the administration, your historical knowledge and for rescuing us wherever

the rubber hits the road.

To Bishop Geoff Revd, Revd Stephen Middelkoop and Revd Elizabeth Cherry for your collegiality and sharing in ministry here at St Andrews.

To Penny Middelkoop, Di Grant and Alexandra Grant (Apprentice) for your leadership and unfailing commitment to Childrens Church, even when attendance fluctuates so drastically.

To the Parish Council for your loyalty dedication, and continued willingness to establish such structures that ensure the fulfilling of your roles and responsibilities.

To the Layministers, Sacristans, Organists, Musicians, Live streamers, Sidespersons, MTN fundraisers and all the various leaders for your commitment to serving God and all God's people with such dedication.

And last, but not least I thank all parishioners for your faithfulness and pray that you will continue to bring glory to God in this place.

My love to you in Christ

Revd Cheryl Bird

WARDENS' VESTRY REPORT 2023

Another year has passed, and a deep breath is needed – so far so good! At our last Vestry on 23 May 2022, our Rector had returned from a sabbatical and we were coming out of COVID to embrace going back to "normal" as much as possible. Only to be informed on 29 May that Mark Long has been appointed a vicar in the Diocese of Hereford and would be leaving us in July 2022. And so, our period of interregnum began. We accepted Bishops Joshua's appointment of Melaney Klassen as our new rector in August 2022, only to be told in February 2023 that she had withdrawn her acceptance of the position. So sadly, interregnum will continue for some time yet.

We are fortunate that Cheryl Bird was and is available and happy to extend her stay with us as interim priest, and we have really felt loved by her. Many thanks Cheryl! As hard as interregnum continues to be, as I said when we announced Melaney's withdrawal, this has not been wasted time.

We only have to look at how we as a community have survived and grown during this interregnum so far – how we have supported one another, our Bible studies are going strong, we've had our Mini-Markets and raised funds for MTN, we continue to spend those funds on the needy, our Christmas services were back in full, we had Vox and other concerts, the Pancake supper was back this year, tea after the 9h15 service is back every Sunday, Quiet Mornings are booked for the year and Council have contin-

ued to meet and care for the Parish. We've started making plans to deal with loadshedding and our building plans have been approved by Heritage Western Cape. And of course, through all this Bev even managed to get her new hip!

This all shows once again what a loving, resilient, and strong community we are!

The last year has not been without sadness, with there being a fair number of funerals. I especially would like to mention William Tough and Simon Finsen, both very involved in our Parish life. Both true disciples of Christ and dearly missed by us all.

I would like to touch on a few aspects of Parish life:

COVID

We are now back to pretty much how things were pre-COVID. Perhaps, not all our services, but we can be grateful that in-person numbers appear to be increasing again, and as wonderful as Zoom was at the time, nothing beats being in person and being able to give a hug to someone.

Children's Church

I was delighted to see a group of St Andrew's youngsters gather yesterday morning to go off and support The Cape Town Cycle Tour. There appear to be a few more children attending Children's Church and we pray that this continues to grow. Many thanks to Penny and Diana for leading this group.

Youth

There was one confirmation candidate last year and we have 2 so far this year. Many thanks to Elizabeth for so ably leading this part of Parish life. It is great to see that the Rondebosch Archdeaconry Youth movement is gaining momentum and that our hall is being used for some of their functions. How wonderful it will be to host these in our new hall one day!

Mini-Markets

We have now hosted a few Mini-Markets since the start of COVID and these continue to be successful. Our last market in December 2022 brought in R146 000. This year we will host two markets on 22 April and 2 December. Please continue to support these not only by coming along and enjoying what is on offer but by donating goodies to be sold at the various stalls. Thank you to all involved, from stall convenors and to all those who donated goodies to be sold. All proceeds of the market go towards our Ministry to the Needy Outreach fund.

Dedicated Giving

Graham will address this in the budget, but to say that Dedicated Giving has again decreased over the last year. And while this is not unexpected, we cannot afford to let it continue dropping and still be able to run the Parish and support our MTN outreach. In 2022 we dropped our MTN budget from R500 000 to R 400 000 to be prudent and will again set the budget at R400 000 in 2023. Please keep our fundraising and outreach in your prayers.

Volunteers

It is wonderful to see that folk have and are stepping up to help with various roles within the Parish – we cannot function without volunteers! We continue looking

for new folk to step up and help us carry the load of guiding and caring for our Parish. Thank you to Council Members who have ALL put themselves forward to stand on Council again, so we have continuity during interregnum, we are very grateful. There is always room for more volunteers!

New Building Fundraising

While we have been waiting for certain CoCt Council and Heritage approvals over the last year, we have not been actively fundraising for our new building. But now that Heritage have given their approval, we are moving forward again. I said at Vestry 2019 that we would be continuing to fundraise for quite a while as building costs keep escalating, and that once the building is up, we would need to keep on fundraising until we had paid back the Diocesan loan facility. Some of you have continued to give every month to our new building, for which we are extremely grateful, and we have for some time now been earning approximately R50 000 interest per month which certainly helps with the escalating costs! Rob will give further information in his Building Report, but these are the fundraising numbers as at February 2023:

Ministry to the Needy(MTN)

We are so grateful that we were able to continue with our MTN outreach in 2022. A summary of the main items include:

- A bursary to an engineering student at Stellenbosch University
- A bursary to a Kildare Pre-Primary School student
- We packed 1350 Love Packs in 2022. As COVID eased, the packing of Love Packs was opened to the broader Parish in 2022, as in addition to the food parcels that go the needy, it is a wonderful time of fellowship for us! The food parcels are distributed by Fikelela and Safeline. It is wonderful to note that we still receive support from the Parish of St James and Warblington in England, for which we are extremely grateful
- For Woodside Special care Unit we provided an industrial cake mixer and provided funds to repair their walk-in fridge
- At Heavens Nest we repaired and strengthened the security of their boundary wall
- The Homestead for Street Children, we provided funding for food parcels for those children who were able to go home at Christmas, to take along with them so they are not a burden to their families

New Building Fundraising

Cash available at February 2023		9 460 185
Kildare commitment (needs to increase by cost escalation)		1 500 000
		10 960 185
Diocesan Loan	Facility	2 500 000
Building funds available		13 460 185

- St Anne's Home for Mothers and Babies, we funded the conversion of a room into a kiln room for the therapy pottery classes that are held there
- Die Eiland Huis, we supplied nappies for the disabled children
- We supplied food to the Turfhall Chesire Home and Peace Haven for Senior Citizens
- We supported the Good Start Trust Breakfast Club again this year with funds towards food for providing breakfast to children before the school day begins
- This is our 6th year of supporting Imange and Linathi with school uniforms and stationery at Caravelle Primary School in Mitchell's Plain
- We have supported a project run by parishioner, called 67 Kids to School. This project supplies school uniforms and stationery packs.
- For Sisters Incorporated, we provided new curtain rails and curtains
- We supported Children A' Loud with a camp to Rocklands for 38 vulnerable children
- Through a parishioner we were able to make a substantial donation to The Parent Centre this year to help keep their Parent Infant and Fatherhood programmes running in vulnerable communities around Cape Town

On this last point, while our MTN budget has been reduced to R 400 000, MTN was able to channel funds from parish donors directly to MTN beneficiaries so the donor could benefit from a Section 18A donations tax certificate. This not only means that we can do more, but also that the donor receives the tax benefit. So, in fact through MTN, we actually benefitted beneficiaries to the amount of R 1 430 000 in 2022. How blessed are we to be able to do this! For those of you who would like to go this route please do get in contact with me.

Thank you to those of you who fund the MTN budget with your dedicated giving.

I now need to mention that there is a heaviness in my heart. In February 2023, The Global South Fellowship of Anglican Churches announced that it will no longer recognise the Archbishop of Canterbury as the "leader of the global communion", following the decision to allow same-sex couples to be blessed within the Church of England. Our diocese is affiliated to the Global South. I quote Desmond Tutu: "Every human being is precious. We are all – ALL of us – part of God's family. To discriminate against our sisters and brothers who are lesbian or gay on grounds of their sexual orientation for me is as totally unacceptable and unjust as apartheid ever was". St Andrew's has been and is a place of inclusivity. God's love is inclusive of all regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, economic status and other diversity.

God loves all of us. Please pray that the church comes to accept that all are part of God's family.

All that is left for me to say, is huge thanks to my fellow wardens, Jim and Nickie, as well as each Councillor for your time and dedication, Graham as Treasurer, Cullen Penny for being Honorary Auditor and especially to Bev for all your hard work and making sure we keep on track. To Cheryl and Stephen, thank you for your guidance and care for all of us. To Bishop Geoff and Elizabeth for your support and involvement, many thanks. And then to all of you, the Parishioners of St Andrew's, it is through your commitment, dedication and love that we are able to do God's work both within and without our Parish – thank you! Please do keep us in prayer during interregnum and continue to have faith that God will provide us with the right person to be our new Rector.

Abundant Blessings

Debbie

BUILDING PROJECT

VESTRY REPORT 2023

This exciting project has its core purpose to support our Parish Mission - to be a community-based church that takes God's love to the local community, to the poor, the needy and the world. More than a hall, it is an expression of both our faith and of our hope for the future, where St Andrew's is a growing and welcoming church. For many years we have held the vision of our church welcoming parishioners - families, youth and older members - with a vibrant special environment that is active every day, supporting the varied needs of our community, both today and into the future.

Our primary focus during 2022 was to obtain heritage approval for the development from the City, Newlands Residents Association and Heritage Western Cape. We are pleased to report that these approvals were obtained in January 2023. The building plans, together with supporting approvals and departures, are being finalised for submission to the City of Cape Town and we are hopeful that given the extended engagement to date the final approval will not be a drawn-out process, allowing the project to progress to the building phase.

The builder is still to be appointed, whereafter the detailed building program will be developed in collaboration with the builder and Kildare Pre-Primary School.

Due to ongoing loadshedding situation, we are currently investigating power back up alternatives for the church and office, with intention that these are appropriately incorporated into the building plans.

In terms of the building costs and funding requirements, the cost estimate that was reported at our vestry meeting in May 2022, remains the most recent costing, which as a reminder projected a total cost of building of R11.5 million, and professional fees of R2.2 million, giving a required total outlay of R13.7 million and therefore R0.2 million more than the R13.5 million reported in the Wardens' report as the available funding. As communicated previously the final costing, confirmed by the builder's contract, and the adequacy of funding for the project will be a critical factor at the time where the decision is made to commence building.

A big thank you to all that continue to support the project in different ways.

Kind regards,
Rob Coombe

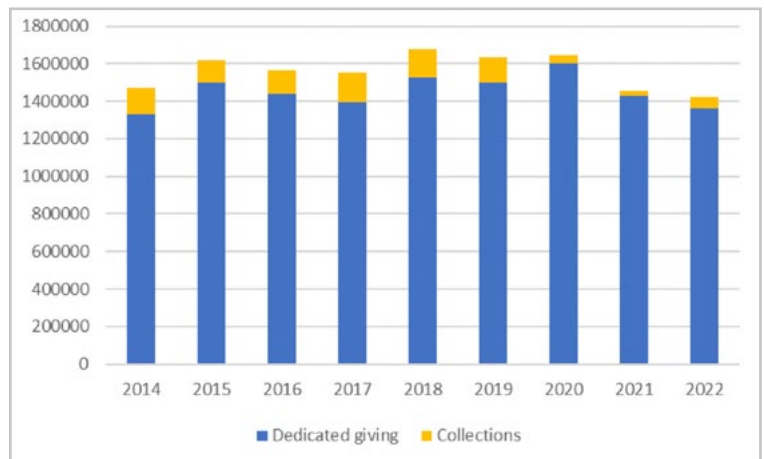
FINANCE

VESTRY REPORT 2023

1. INCOME AND EXPENSES - 2022

2. GIVING

a. Total giving and collections received for the year were R1.424m, which was R28 745 less than in 2021. Although monthly dedicated giving dropped from the previous year, Collections increased as the Church once again opened after the Pandemic.

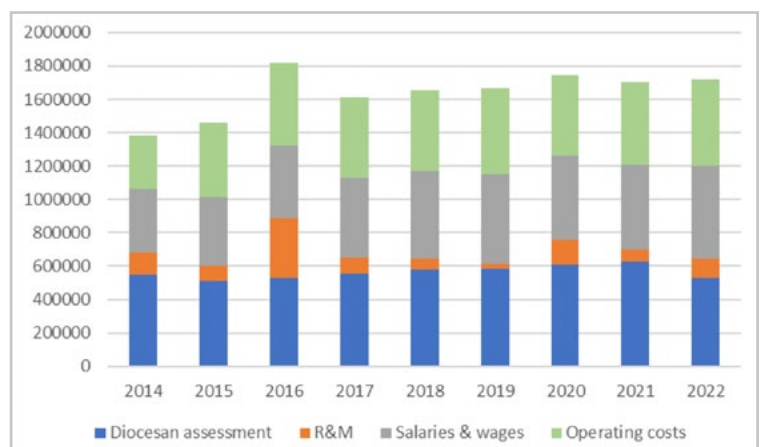


b. The amount of collections has decreased over the last two years. Since lockdown, over 99% of Giving is now done via EFT.

3. EXPENDITURE

a. Total expenditure was R1.7m, reflecting an increase of R20 000 over the previous year. The major reason being Repairs and Maintenance.

b. Looking at the last 6 years history, expenses have been kept fairly flat and well controlled.



4. We ended the year with an operating loss of R194 506 due to the fall in Giving which is becoming a trend as members leave or age. New members are not making up the reduction in giving.

5. Trending over the last 5 years reflects increasing costs under inflation but against flat/reducing Giving growth, resulting in expenses exceeding Giving since 2019, so for a few years in succession.

6. BALANCE SHEET - 2022

Our Balance Sheet has weakened after the years loss and now total liabilities exceed cash held by R374 703 (2021: R143 421). This is not a cause for concern as our current assets exceed our current liabilities reflecting a good liquid position and the Parish has sufficient resources to settle short term commitments.

7. BUDGET 2023

We have based the budget on an increase in Giving and Collections, expenses increasing for inflation, but reduced costs of not having a Rector for the first 6 months of the year.

8. REVENUE

a. We have produced a budget by looking at anticipated expenses for the year based on last year's costs taking into account new information and have provided for revenue required to meet these costs. Budgeted total revenue of R1.77m against R1.67m actual in 2022, an increase of 7%.

b. If we expect Giving to be similar to that in 2022 with an inflationary increase. Should Giving and sundry income not meet our expectations, we will need to look at reducing our MTN budget in order to avoid a further reduction in reserves.

9. EXPENSES

a. Total costs are anticipated at R1.247m (2022: R1.35m) against R1.24m actual in 2022, an increase of 1%.

b. Salaries and wages increases have been set at 6%, but the total Salaries cost is only increasing by 4% as the gardening service has replaced an employed gardener.

MINISTRY TO THE NEEDY (MTN)

In 2021 and years prior, we set an MTN budget of R500 000, but due to the shortfall in funding, this was reduced to R400 000 last year and, unfortunately, we have set the budget again to R400 000 for the 2023 year.

Graham Reynolds

To the St Andrew's Community

"Be still and know that I am God... I will be exalted in all the nations"

PS 46 v 10

I would like to use this newsletter and take this opportunity to thank you all for your faithful prayers and care for my family over our last harrowing two year journey with my son and daughter-in-law, Dave and Janet.

On Christmas day 2020 my son tested positive for COVID and became very ill. Two days later his wife followed suite. Dave was treated as an outpatient at the Kingsbury. For Janet, it was much more serious. She was 26 weeks pregnant and went into spontaneous labour and was admitted to hospital. Two days later, with David barred from being with her in the labour ward, and supporting her via speaker phone, she gave birth to their son who survived just a few hours. Thereafter, Janet's condition seriously deteriorated, and she was admitted to ICU where she was eventually put on a ventilator.

We shared this news with the church community who simply enveloped us with love and prayers and soon we heard that communities unknown to us were also praying for her life.

My prayers were desperate as her life hung in the balance over many weeks, especially when she contracted a serious hospital virus. They were all-consuming. I developed a sense that if I prayed more, God would listen more, and perhaps then I could convince Him to act in my favour. However, this sustained intensity was leading me into survival mode, and I slowly realised I was clearly ignoring the underpinning truth of our faith - that God is good, God is loving, God is always attentive and underneath are the everlasting arms.

God meets us exactly where we are. In my numbness, I confessed I could not pray any harder and it was then that I became still and God began working in me. My desperate prayers turned into occasional whispers as I turned my focus on Him rather than my request, reminding myself that whatever happened, God's promise was that He would walk with our family through any trauma. Miraculously, a certain peace came to rest over me, and when it disappeared, I knew I had to return and trust in what I knew about God and His faithfulness not only in this situation, but also in so many other areas of my life.

After almost three months in ICU, Jan was moved to a stepdown facility where she had to learn to walk and talk again. While she still does not have the health and strength she enjoyed before, God was faithful in answering the prayers of so many people over the months.

She was advised not to fall pregnant again, but she did. After a predictably difficult pregnancy she gave birth to a little boy, Finn, on 10 November. With a birth weight of 1.5kg he has lived up to his Irish name which means "warrior". After an extended stay in NCU, we welcomed him home just before Christmas.

While Dave and Jan do not share our Christian faith, they acknowledge and deeply appreciate the love, concern and prayers that have sustained them through those two long years of suffering and loss. For me, the experience allowed me to understand more fully the love and peace that comes from God in times of deep despair when we become still and wait in His presence.

The truth is that life is messy. We will all suffer and even at times discover moments of complete isolation and hopelessness. It is then that we must hold tightly to the promise that in all things, God walks alongside us. It is in the everyday events of life - whether we run, walk or limp - that He calls us to be still and remember that he is sovereign. We serve a faithful God who loves us more than we will ever be able to understand.

Thank you to the St Andrew's community for your kindness, and sustained prayers over the past two years. Janet faces final surgery in June to repair her trachea damaged during her intubation. I can say with more boldness than ever before: We are in the hands of a God of miracles, and I will be praying for her full recovery. We also give thanks for this new life in our family, praying that God will help us as grandparents teach this little boy about his Heavenly Father.

Carol and Jim te Water Naude



67kidstoschool@gmail.com
67kidstoschool.com

9th February 2023

Dear Saint Andrews Family & Friends,

UPDATE ON PROGRESS AND THANKS

With your generous support, I have watched 67 Kids To School grow from strength to strength. In 2015 it was an idea, an idea which developed into a passion project. Now it's a movement. **A MOVEMENT FOR MADIBA**. During the height of COVID-19, my team - the team of 2020/21 - took on a challenge. When normality flew out of the window we decided that we would send double the number of children to school. Impossible, right? Wrong. Just when we needed you most, you stepped up and contributed funds, time and unwavering support. We achieved our goal! Our **Shining Stars** ★ are now getting towards the end of their first month of their Grade 3 year and they are flourishing. 🌟

Our community is so wonderful because in many ways its like a real family. Its members come from so many different backgrounds and are at different ages and stages in their lives, but when push comes to shove everyone unites to make something amazing happen. **You help make miracles!** 🌟

This year's team sent **110 Shining Stars** ★ in the Grade 1 class of Ukhanyo Primary School in Masiphumelele to school fully kitted out for their bright futures. The supplies that you have generously helped to fund will equip them until they have reached the end of Grade 3 and the completion of their Early Child Education Phase. These years are the foundation for their future and provide for a basis for cognitive and social development.

Our many thanks once again! We look forward to welcoming you to Ukhanyo and showing you the miracles that you have helped to create!

YOURS FAITHFULLY

James Drummond
 Coordinator: 67 Kids To School
 071 465 7954 | james.drummond2013@gmail.com



67 Kids to School



A MEMORY from Moira le Cordeur

Isn't it odd the way memories suddenly, for no apparent reason, appear in one's brain?

In the 1960s I recall attending a charity fashion show at Newlands House where I was filled with admiration for a trouser suit made of a soft cream wool. The sleeves were tight and ended in cuffs lined in lime green which extended slightly over one's hand. To the belt were attached six long tassels – two cream, two lime green and two mauve.

It sounds like a clown suit but it was actually beautiful. Without having any idea when I would wear such an outfit, I spontaneously acquired it.

A friend of mine worked at The British Consulate and was asked to bring various girls to a dinner at the home of the Canadian Ambassador. This was in honour of some of the young officers of The Fleet Air Arm which was visiting Cape Town. So my new outfit sprang into use.

We were seated at a very long table and were served brimming

plates of tomato soup. With effortless ease I passed the croutons and scooped my cuff right through my soup. Not an ideal start to the meal.

LazyBoy chairs had recently made an appearance and at the end of the evening some of the guests tried out this new chair. I was the last to recline comfortably with my legs extended on the footrest. Someone announced that we were about to depart, so I put down my feet, one on either side of the footrest and pressed the button. I then attempted to stand up but was unable to become entirely vertical because the two cream, two green and two mauve long tassels had been caught between the chair and the footrest. I was suspended in a state of total surprise.

The Fleet Air Arm decided that it was one of the funniest sights that they had seen during their voyage in both hemispheres. They had been invited to a braai at Suikerbossie the following day but insisted that they couldn't possibly attend unless I went too. So I did.

St Andrew's ENGLISH CHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL (1953-59)

"How dear to this heart are the scenes of my childhood, when fond recollections present them to view."

Samuel Woodworth -The Old Oaken Bucket

The Anglican Schools are extremely good teaching and learning institutions. It is built on the values of Christianity. The Anglican ethos is promoted throughout the pupil's learning career at the school. It is an enormous privilege to have these teachings inculcated so early in life and we, the class of 1953-59, were the beneficiaries.

We attended primary school at The First Chapel, cnr Palmboom Road and Newlands Avenue. One of the characteristics of the school was the regular call to worship. The Monday morning assembly was an opportunity for us to benefit from the inspirational word of scripture before the school lessons began. Wednesday morning was a gathering in the church for morning prayer with Canon Hinchcliff, our rector, the officiant when the school relocated in 1956 adjacent to the church.

The historical first chapel was converted into a school, accommodating the Sub A, B and Std 1 classes. The Sub A and B classes were separated by a mobile wooden divider. The old vestry was used as the Std 1 classroom. The toilet facilities were at the second chapel which was diagonally across the first chapel. We had a small playground. It was not fenced, and nobody was allowed to play in Palmboom Road (one of the first rules).

The school was attended by the Anglicans of the village with the exception of the Bahatker brothers, whose father owned the shop on the corner of Governor's Lane with one of "Cha-Cha's" daughters. "Cha-cha" was the shopkeeper whose shop was situated on the corner of Kent and Cardiff Streets.

The school had a savings system, acting as an "agent" for the Post Office. It gave the families who were attached to the school, an opportunity to deposit into a savings account on a Monday morning. My parents paid weekly into the savings and received a good sum of money at the end of the final term.

We were beneficiaries of a government sponsored feeding scheme. A large enamel milk urn was delivered to the school. This milk was rich and creamy. We had to bring our own enamel mugs for the milk. We were also given fruit and brown bread and peanut butter sandwiches.

The health authorities had a caravan which they used as a facility to administer vaccines. The caravan was parked in the lane/playground of the minor school. We were vaccinated against polio and also given a dose of cod liver oil.

Concluding remarks

We are really proud to be alumni of the school. We were privileged to be the beneficiaries of such an excellent education based on Christian values. In spite of the inequalities of the school educational system, we loved our school and overcame all the odds. We did not have any recreational facilities, none. Not even a library or a sports field, yet together with our teachers, we made the most of what life offered us. We enjoyed our annual end-of-year outing by train to Kalk Bay beach.

The annual concert was the highlight of our school calendar. These were usually held at the St Saviour's Church Hall in Claremont. It was great fun to walk to the Church hall for rehearsals. The proceedings would inevitably start with the show tune of the 1951 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, *The King and I* – Getting to Know You. Each class rendered an item in either a play or song. We had individual items too, such as the tap dancing of Richard "Gabby" Jones of Cardiff Street. The Std 5 class staged a play (I forgot the title and I played one of the leading parts! At least we remember that most of the A class pupils performed. The song "Who killed Cock Robin" was beautifully sung by our pupils of the Std 3 class. Each character was sung by a soloist.

A note that saddened us when some of our teachers left in search of greener pastures, as a result of the Group Areas Act. The sword of Damocles was hanging over the head of our village, resulting in the exodus of many of our people before the full implementation of the forced removals.

We had a tradition in our school. We sang the child's mealtime blessing before every interval:

"Thank you for the world so sweet
Thank you for the food we eat
Thank you for the birds that sing
Thank you, Lord for everything."

Another tradition was the assembly hymn before and after each term – I write the first verses only:

Before Term - (Sir G J Elray 1816-93)
Lord behold us with your blessing
Once again assembled here
Onward be our footsteps pressing
In Thy love and faith and fear
Still protect us (twice)
By Thy presence ever near.

End of Term - (E J Hopkins 1818-1901)
Lord dismiss us with Thy blessing
Thanks for mercies past received
Pardon all, their faults confessing
Time that's lost may all retrieve
May Thy children (twice)
Ne'er again Thy spirit grieve.

We close by borrowing from George Elliot (1819-1880) – English Novelist.

"The past becomes dreamy because its symbols have all vanished and the present too is dreamy because it is linked with no memories" -Silas Marner.

Richard + Lauretta Buttress

An extract from our unpublished childhood memories. Copyright reserved.



Happiness is....singing in a choir

Whether your voice can reach the top or bottom notes,
or prefers to stay in the middle,
the Symphony Choir of Cape Town would be delighted to
welcome you to our ranks and contribute to your happiness.

Our vision is to be a choir which reflects the diversity of Cape Town,
so we are eager to welcome singers of any race, gender or age -
especially younger people and those who sing tenor and bass.
So why not give it a try? Just go to our website: www.scct.co.za,
click on the 'Sing with Us' tab and 'Application to Join', fill in the
form and we'll contact you.

Children's Church enjoying the sunshine after their activities.



PARISH DIARY

MARCH

Tues 21	Human Rights Day – Public Holiday	Church office closed
Wed 23	Lent Course Week 4	09:30
	Lent Course Week 4	19:30
Sun 26	Licensing of Parish Council – St Saviour's	17:00
Tues 29	Lent Course Week 5	19:30
Wed 30	Lent Course Week 5	09:30

School Holidays 1 April – 11 April

APRIL

Sun 2	Palm Sunday	08:30
Tues 4	Lent Course Week 6	19:30
Wed 5	Lent Course Week 6	09:30
Thursday 6	Maundy Thursday	19:00
Friday 7	Good Friday	10:00 & 12:00
Sunday 9	Easter Sunday	06:30 & 09:00
Monday 10	Easter Monday Public Holiday	Church office closed
Wed 19	Parish Council Meeting	19:30
Sat 22	Mini - Market	09:00–12:00
Sat 29	Wedding	15:30
Thurs 27	Freedom Day – Public Holiday	Church Office closed

MAY

Mon 1	Public Holiday (1 May Worker's Day)	Church Office closed
Sat 6	Love Packs	09:45 -11:00
Mon 8	Lay Minister's Meeting	19:30
Sat 27	Quiet Morning led by +Geoff Quinlan	09:30 -12:00/12:30

JUNE

Mon 12	Lay Minister's Meeting	19:30
Fri 16	Youth Day – Public Holiday	Church office closed
Sat 24	Quiet Morning led by Rosemary Wallace	09:30-12:00/12:30

School Holidays 22 June to 17 July

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