



16 August 2019

**Letter S 25 /19**

Dear Parishioners,

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August, one of our longstanding parishioners, Jen Pennink, was buried out of St Stephen's, Pinelands. I was privileged to be able to give a tribute at the funeral on behalf of all of us at St Oswald's.

A few years ago, during a Sunday morning Eucharist we all said farewell to Jen at both the 07h30 and 09h00 Service. I recall, when saying farewell to Jen on that Sunday morning, it was not easy. Jen was one of St Oswald's long-standing parishioners loved by everyone both young and old alike.

Due to health reasons, Jen had decided that the time had come for her to move into a brand-new retirement centre in Pinelands. Whilst we all at St Oswald's expressed our sadness at the time, we acknowledged the wisdom of her move.

Jen joined the parish church of St Oswald's in 1990 when she moved to Cape Town to take up a position as Superintendent of Schools.

She was also a lay minister in her previous parish, so it was not long before she was licenced as a lay minister at St Oswald's, and faithfully served in this role for about 30 years.

Not only did Jen carried out lay minister's duties at the 07h30 service on Sundays, she was also one of the regular lay ministers who assisted at the midweek services. Another of Jen's responsibilities as a lay minister was to look after the folk at Cheshire Homes, taking them communion each month and being a friend to them. I remember joining Jen regularly at Cheshire Home, watching how she went about her duty with compassion and love.

For a number of years, Jen was also very involved with the Renew Africa Course, running and guiding it within the parish of St Oswald. In fact, she also became involved with Renew at a diocesan level. At the time the parish was extremely grateful to her for the enthusiasm with which she went about her duties.

Jen has also been active in other spheres of our parish life as well. She has been a regular member of a Bible study group, she has been involved with the preparation of our confirmation candidates and, was also a Sunday School teacher for a number of years.

One unusual thing that she did, was to teach the congregation how to pronounce the words of our national Anthem when it first came out.

Not many people knew that Jen also spoke fluent Xhosa; I was told that she and the principal of a local school ran Xhosa classes at the Milnerton Library.

As time went on, Jen experienced some quite serious health problems and one of the things that impressed all who knew her was that, notwithstanding these problems, she never considered stopping her work in the parish, and it was not long before she was back in the saddle again.

We at St Oswald's can honestly say that her move to Pinelands, and becoming a member of St Stephens Pinelands, was indeed a big loss to the parish of St Oswald. We all looked forward to seeing Jen on her regular visits to the parish after moving to Pinelands, especially on the first Wednesday of every month.

On hearing of Jen's deteriorating health, we continued to pray for her. The news of her passing was a shock to many in the parish and she will indeed be missed.

To the family of Jen, on behalf of the St Oswald's family – May God enfold you with love and may you experience God's peace at this time. You will all remain in our prayers. From all of us at St Oswald's, may the soul of our dear sister Jen rest in peace and rise in Glory.

This is all for now.

With love,

***Selwyn***