



# CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT



## **Church Warden's Report – 2022**

2021 began in the middle of the second wave of the pandemic. We continued with services and increased to two services on Sunday mornings at 7:30 and 9:30 am. The 9:30am service was live streamed on our parish Facebook page and the number of members on our Facebook page has also grown considerably. Unfortunately during June we had to close the church doors again due to the third wave of the pandemic but this was only for a few weeks. Slowly the numbers are picking up on Sunday mornings and we continue to request the congregation to book with the parish office for services. We continue to clean between each service, keep registers and take temperatures etc. We did manage to have two outdoor services viz, Ash Wednesday and Christmas eve so that more persons could attend. We long for the day when we can be fully back with our regular services, teas and fellowship etc. However, we press on in the knowledge that we serve our Lord through the ministry and work at this parish. We feel privileged to have served in this capacity and thank you for your constant support. We are blessed to have faithful and generous parishioners in the parish and we thank you all for that generosity.

### **Clergy:**

We take this opportunity to thank Fr. Selwyn for his enthusiasm, commitment, hard work, and dedication to the parish during the year. It has been a hard year and together with the other clergy, new ways of ministering and pastoral care have had to be implemented. Social media skills have been acquired. It has been a privilege working with you, Fr Selwyn. We also thank our assistant and self-supporting priests, Revd. Tembeka Mpaku-Ntusi, Revd. Ernest Ward-Cox, Revd. Thozamile Shweni, Revd. Mxolisi Mpambane, Revd. Yolisa Mpambane and all other self-supporting clergy in the parish.

### **St Francis:**

We thank Revd. Thozamile Shweni for his active role in the chapel as well as the chapel wardens and council for their leadership. The parish was saddened at the passing of Wesley Cupido, a chapel warden, head server and friend. Our condolences and prayers continue for his family.

### **St Luke's:**

St Luke's chapel continues through this time and a big thank you to the Chapel Wardens, council and Revd. Mxolisi Mpambane for your ministry.

### **Malawian Congregation.**

Fr Selwyn has stayed in touch throughout the year.

**Sunday School:** There was no Sunday school during 2021 and we have re-opened this needed ministry in 2022. A Children's service was held on 26 September 2021 and all children were encouraged to attend. A crib service with the blessing of the Crib and tree was

held on 19 December with children participating in the service. We hope to continue with this service in 2022. Thank you to all who are prepared to undertake this ministry.

**Confirmation:** The Confirmation service was held on Sunday 24 October 2021 at Good Shepherd Kensington, officiated by Bishop Raphael Hess. A total of 15 persons from the parish were confirmed. This number included 4 from St Francis, 4 from St Luke's and 7 from St Oswald's. It was a service with a difference with only family and friends present. The service also included confirmands from St Laurence, Du Noon and Holy Trinity, Bothasig. We thank all those who prepared the candidates. Thank you too to the bible class teachers for carrying out this ministry.

**Youth:** A youth event for the Table View and Maitland archdeaconries was held in October 2021 at St Francis.

**Outreach:** The outreach programs are always a priority in our ministries but with Covid affecting us all the social outreach programs have been significantly impacted.

The Sandwich Sisters. We donate monthly to this project which continues to supply sandwiches to people in our local community and Joe Slovo. All are welcome to assist in this project as sandwiches continue to be made at home or on a Saturday morning at the Paddocks shopping centre. Do pop in if you have an hour or 2 to spare on a Saturday. It can be once a month or make sandwiches at home and deliver before 12:00 on a Saturday.

Malachai House and St Dominic's Soup Kitchen. We continued to support these projects.

Other Ministries.

- Squares continue to be knitted with love and assembled into blankets. We need donations of wool.
- Bread Tags and bottle tops together with other recycling items are collected and sent to raise funds for the soup kitchen at the Wolverivier settlement. We need people to become involved in our recycling projects.
- We are also involved with Cheshire Homes and Huis Zonnekus and some of our parishioners assist where needed. There was very little involvement in 2021.
- St Francis runs a soup kitchen and has been actively involved with a NGO in the area during lockdown who feed about 100 persons on a Friday from the house. All ingredients for the food are donated.

We thank all those who support, organise and involve themselves in these and other vital ministries.

**St Oswald's Organist.**

Thank you, Cedric for your enthusiasm and for enhancing our worship here at St Oswald's during the year.

**Office.**

We would also like to thank the Parish Secretary for her dedication and for putting in many hours for this important ministry even during lockdown. The "Conversations" publication has been published and edited by Deirdre. This newsletter is of a high standard and is published quarterly. Please read it on our website. We need contributions from parishioners to make this a parish focus. Thank you, Deirdre for your efforts in this regard as well as maintaining a very up to date website amongst all your other work.

### **Staff.**

Thank you to the cleaning ladies here and at St Francis. During the year, we employed a new gardener, Luyanda, who assists with the upkeep of the properties.

### **Inventory.**

This was completed in 2021.

### **Parish Events.**

A Kareoke to raise funds in memory of the late Wesley Cupido who was a chapel warden at St Francis was held off site.

### **Fundraising.**

A mini food fair was held in October 2021. This was very successful and fun was had by all that attended.

### **Property**

#### **St Oswald's Church & Hall**

Very little maintenance was undertaken in 2021. We intend renovating the hall in 2022 which is long overdue. The wall were painted in January this year and we still need to replace the curtains and paint the windows and sand and seal the doors and woodwork. We ask that all persons using the hall leave it in the condition they found it in so it can always be neat and tidy.

#### **St Francis Chapel.**

There are some maintenance issues which need to be attended to in 2022. A major garden clean-up was carried out late in 2021. It is hoped that the garden maintenance will continue so that it will not get out of hand again.

#### **Maureen's House.**

The back room was painted and the door repaired. Filing cabinets were moved in and resprayed. It is intended to store our old papers there which are currently under the stage. We now have a gardening service to maintain the lawns at the Church, Maureen's House and St Luke's on a regular basis as this is a big job. The garden refuse is also removed. The garden is looking good.

#### **Rectory.**

The rectory is constantly plagued by blocked drains and this needs to be attended to regularly.

#### **6 Belamoore.**

The previous tenant moved out at the beginning of 2021. The flat was in a bad state so it needed to be cleaned, repainted, the floors re-sanded and sealed and repairs needed to be undertaken. The deposit was not refunded to the outgoing tenant. The new tenant moved into the flat in June 2021.

#### **General.**

To those who pledge regularly, contribute financially and in kind to our various needs, please accept our sincere thanks. We have received some large donations from parishioners, for

which we are most grateful. But whatever your contribution is, however large or small, we are most grateful.

Once again, thank you to all members of the parish for your generous love, help and understanding. We urge all to continue to pray, serve and contribute to the support of the Lord`s work. We are truly blessed to have such generous and caring people in our parish.

The role of church wardens is to ensure that the administration of the parish is of a high standard. They need to continue to support the Rector in his ministry as well as ensuring the wellbeing of the rector and his family. They always need to continue to ensure that their ministry be for the glory of God and the wellbeing of the parish.

In 2022 we would like to see more recycling being undertaken in our quest to be a green parish. Please do not throw recyclable material such a paper, glass and plastics in the dustbins, just ask where to put it.

### **Organ Project**

As you know, in 2019 we acquired a second-hand organ through the generosity of our parishioners. The idea is to place it in the church as soon as we have sufficient funds to do so. This is a very big project and a special vestry was held in May 2019 to agree this. We are endeavouring to raise funds through special events during the year, if Covid restrictions allow.

**Andree Lombard and Nadine Schell**

Dated: March 2022

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