



CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT



Church Warden's Report – 2022

This report is mainly to reflect on the events of the past year but more importantly we would like to focus on the future after the past 2 years of the Covid pandemic. As this is the 110th anniversary of our church building and as mentioned in the December 2022 Compass, we want to do new things and change things by having a paradigm shift. Let us renew our church so there can be growth in our ministries and the deepening of our collective spirituality.

2022 began with South Africa still gripped by the Covid-19 pandemic. However by June 2022 the restrictions were lifted and everyone returned to normal worship without masks. We continued with two services on Sunday mornings at 7:30 and 9:30 am. The live streaming on Facebook of the 9:30 services were discontinued as most of the congregation returned to in person worship. We also reintroduced the teas after the 9:30am service as well as the monthly coffee mornings after the Wednesday services.

We continue 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 difficult year and together with the other clergy, he has worked hard to continue ministry and pastoral care to the parish. 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, Revd. Rod Walsh 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.

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 and ministers to them when required.

Sunday School: Sunday school recommenced in 2022. The number of children remained steady at approximately 20 children. A Children's service was held on 16 October 2022 and all children were encouraged to attend. A combined Nativity play and crib service with the blessing of the Crib and tree was held on 11 December 2022 with children and the parish choir participating in the service. The Sunday school teachers attended a re-induction service on 30 October 2022 at St Michaels and All Angels in Edgemoor. Thank you to all who are prepared to undertake this ministry. Nadine Schell resigned as Superintendent at the end of 2022 but will continue as a teacher. Thank you Nadine for your dedication and enthusiasm for this ministry. The role of Superintendent has been passed to Crystal Cloete. We wish her well in this role.

Confirmation: The Confirmation service was held on Sunday 20 November 2022 at St Oswald's and officiated by Bishop Raphael Hess. A total of 28 persons from the parish were confirmed. This number included 5 from St Francis, 5 from St Luke's, 1 from St Chad's and 17 from St Oswald's. It was the first full confirmation service since the pandemic began and tea afterwards was enjoyed by all attending. We thank all those who prepared the candidates. Thank you too to the bible class teachers for carrying out this ministry.

Youth: Ministry to the youth takes place at St Francis and it is a struggle to get this going again after Covid.

Outreach: The outreach programs are always a priority in our ministries.

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.

Malachi 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 various projects. 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. Fr Selwyn presides at a Eucharist service at Huis Zonnekus once a month.
- Second hand clothing is collected and donated to various charities.
- We are once again asking for donations of food items for distribution as and when required.

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. Thank you too, to Jenny Walsh who plays regularly for the Wednesday morning Eucharist.

Office.

We would also like to thank the Parish Secretary for her dedication and for putting in many hours for this important ministry. Thanks to Nadine for stepping in to assist while Andree was away for 8 weeks during the latter part of the year. Thank you Deirdre for keeping the office going. The "Conversations" newsletter was published and edited by Deirdre. This publication is of a high standard and is issued 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 and gardener here and at St Francis.

Inventory.

This was completed in 2022.

Parish Events.

Fundraising.

During 2022 we tried to do fundraising events differently.

Pancakes were made and sold for Shrove Tuesday.

The parish had a Food Fair on 3 September 2022 and a Bric a Brac and a Book Sale on the 1 October 2022. Both events were enjoyed by all and raised much needed funds for the parish.

St Francis had a Valentine's dance in the church hall, a bazaar and various other fund raisers.

Property

St Oswald's Church & Hall

The church hall was painted in 2022 and the curtains were replaced. Some of the outside doors were sanded and sealed. The kitchen cupboard locks were replaced. A new storage cupboard was built in the foyer of the hall to hold the table tops and trestles as well as a lockable grocery cupboard. 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. There is still work to be done on the hall.

New outdoor notice boards were installed at St Oswald's, St Francis and St Luke's.

The fire-fighting equipment is serviced annually at all places and the organ and piano's tuned regularly.

There was an issue with some wiring in the church, which was repaired.

Due to load shedding the alarm batteries at all places needed to be replaced. This is a costly exercise as we have 6 batteries.

St Francis Chapel.

The wall outside the chapel as well as the blinds inside the chapel were repaired. A garden service has been engaged to keep the garden neat and tidy. The window of the house still needs to be replaced as the glass is cracked.

St Luke's Chapel.

No major maintenance took place.

Maureen's House.

A neighbour sponsored the cleaning and painting of the roof of the house as well as the outside walls of the house and the perimeter walls. We thank him for his generosity.

Rectory.

The rectory is constantly plagued by blocked drains and needs to be attended to regularly. The house and sewerage system are old and tree roots are the main cause of the problems. There were some electrical issues which were attended to

6 Belamoore.

The flat was repainted with a washable paint in the beginning of 2022. The tenant has signed another year's lease.

Organ Project

As you know, in 2019 we acquired a second-hand organ through the generosity of our parishioners. There were 2 concerts to raise money towards the organ project. The first was the musical group El Canto Voce who entertained us and the second was the SACS High School Jazz Band who recreated their performances from the Makhanda festival. Both events were enjoyed by all. A wine raffle was also held to raise funds for this project. There was also a generous donation from a parishioner but we still need a lot more to get this project under way.

General.

To those who pledge regularly, contribute financially and in kind to our various needs and in our various ministries, 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. We however, need to re-look at our giving as the finances of the church are under strain and to achieve new projects and to enhance and care for our properties we need to increase our income. The financial report will touch on this.

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.

One of the objectives of 2023 is to become a GREEN parish. One of the ways is to do more recycling of waste here at church and in our homes. Let us think of other ways to do this. Please do not throw recyclable material such as paper, glass and plastics in the dustbins, we now have dedicated recycling bins in the hall.

We are also looking at ways to celebrate our 110th anniversary which needs to focus on the parish as a whole, the local community and be outward looking. Whatever we plan, can be carried over into 2024 and beyond and hopefully achieve a new and refreshing way of doing things. Let us all get involved in the life of our beloved parish.

Andrée Lombard and Nadine Schell

Dated: March 2023

Isaiah 40:31
King James Version

³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.