



CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT



Church Warden's Report – 2024

2023 was a special and enriching year for our parish. On August the 20th, we commenced celebrating 110 years of the existence of an Anglican church in Milnerton. The Archbishop of Cape Town, The Most Reverend Thabo Makgoba, celebrated a glorious combined mass for the Parish, which included St Oswald's and our chapelries of St Francis and St Luke's, as well as past parishioners and invited guests. Two Kind Heart benches (donated by parishioners), were blessed and are now situated outside the main entrance of the church. A beautiful 110th Anniversary window, replacing a broken window was donated by a parishioner and was blessed and is in place near the main door of the church. The day ended with fellowship and refreshments in the hall. Many other projects, which will continue to celebrate the church's anniversary, are in the planning stages, and will conclude in August 2024 with an open day.

We continue our ministry in the knowledge that we serve our Lord through the work in 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, his commitment, hard work, and dedication to the parish during the year. Fr Selwyn took a 3 month sabbatical from September to November 2023 to rejuvenate spiritually and intellectually to be able to continue his ministry. It was a difficult year and together with the other clergy, they have worked hard to continue ministry and pastoral care in the parish. It has been a privilege working with you, Fr Selwyn.

We also thank our assistant and self-supporting priests in the parish, Revd. Ernest Ward-Cox, Revd. Thozamile Shweni, Revd. Tembeka Mpako-Ntusi, Revd. Mxolisi Mpambane, Revd. Yolisa Mpambane, as well as those who assisted during Fr Selwyn's sabbatical.

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 has also continued actively through this time, and we would like to say a big thank you to the Chapel Wardens, council and Revd. Mxolisi Mpambane for their ministry.

Malawian Congregation.

Fr Selwyn has stayed in touch throughout the year and performs baptisms and services from time to time.

Sunday school: Sunday school recommenced in 2023. Crystal Cloete took over as the superintendent of the Sunday School and we thank her for her dedication. The number of children remained steady at approximately 20 children. A Nativity play with a twist was held in conjunction with a parish picnic on the lawn at Maureen's House on 9 December 2023, with children and the congregation participating in the service. The Sunday school teachers attended teacher's training at Scripture Union in February 2023. Thank you to all involved in this ministry.

Confirmation: The Confirmation service was held on Sunday 8 October 2023 at St Oswald's and officiated by Bishop Raphael Hess. A total of 9 persons from the parish were confirmed. This number included 3 from St Francis and 6 from St Oswald's. We thank all those who prepared the candidates. Thank you too, to the bible class teachers for carrying out this ministry.

Youth: The youth meetings take place at St Francis.

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

Janet's Junction (previously Sandwich Sisters). We donate monthly to this project which continues to supply sandwiches to people at Joe Slovo. They cook 2 meals a week and provide sandwiches two Saturdays a month. They are always in need of assistance through donations of ingredients. Two hundred persons are currently being fed.

Malachi House and St Dominic's Soup Kitchen. We continue 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 through the guides and other organisations.
- 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.

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 training our choir here at St Oswald's. The choir participated in a choir festival in Hopefield last year.

Office.

We would also like to thank the Parish Secretary for her dedication and for putting in many hours for this important ministry. Thank you, Deirdre for your efforts in this regard as well as maintaining a very up to date website amongst all your other work as well as organising the 110th Anniversary service in August.

Staff.

Thank you to the cleaning ladies here and at St Francis and to our gardener who assists with the upkeep of the properties.

Inventory.

This was completed in 2023.

Parish Events.

The events for 2023/2024 are focussed around our 110th anniversary celebrations.

Fundraising.

During 2023 we continued with our fundraising events.

A special 110th Anniversary envelope was issued for parishioners to donate R110 towards the celebration of this important milestone.

The planned garage sale had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

Pancakes were made and sold for Shrove Tuesday here and at St Francis.

The parish held a Morning Market on 2 September 2023. The event was enjoyed by all.

A Karaoke evening was held and special 110th Anniversary calendars were sold.

St Francis had a Bazaar on 4 November 2023, which was well supported

St Francis also held a Karaoke evening, a Fish and Chips evening and a Boerewors event.

Property

All firefighting equipment is serviced at all places annually.

St Oswald's Church & Hall

We have had to sign a new contract for the monthly cutting of the lawns here, at Maureen House and St Luke's. The previous contractor was unable to continue.

The bi-annual tuning of the organ was carried out.

Light bulbs were replaced as necessary – we are gradually switching over to LEDs.

We switched service providers for the armed response alarm system, from S.I.S. to Crime Watch SA, early in 2024.

Minor maintenance was carried out by our parishioners. Thank you to those who assisted. No other essential maintenance was carried out. There are a list of projects pending for 2024.

St Francis Chapel.

The window in the house was replaced as the glass was cracked. The grounds are being maintained.

We switched service providers for the armed response alarm system, from ADT to Crime Watch SA early in 2024.

St Luke's Chapel.

The lock of the security door needed to be replaced.

Maureen's House.

The driveway gate had to be repaired as it had problems closing.

Rectory.

No maintenance was carried out. There was a burglary in February at the rectory and we need to increase the security there. Mentioned below.

6 Belamoor.

The tenant has renewed her lease for a further year. The stove in the flat was replaced in 2024.

General.

A sincere thank you to all who pledge and contribute financially or in kind, for our various needs. Thank you too to those parishioners who have made large donations to our finances and for which we are most grateful. All contributions, however large or small, are most gratefully received.

Once again, thank you to all members of the parish for your generous love, help and understanding. 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 well-being of the rector and his family.

In 2024 we would like to see the continuation of our green parish initiative. Please do not throw recyclable material such as paper, glass and plastics in the dustbins, just ask where to put it. Please educate yourself and others on what can be recycled. We need to protect the environment and the future of our planet.

Events 2024

In 2024 we have a number of events planned for our 110 year celebrations:

The Planting of 110 trees in the parish and the community. We have had some trees donated and 4 large trees have been planted at St Francis. The remainder of those we have will be planted soon at St Luke's. The Sunday School was involved in a spekboom planting project.

Valentine lawn dance held 10 February.

Tygerberg City Choir concert on 24 March.

Youth weekend – 3-5 May

110 Anniversary Dance - 28 June

Open weekend ending on 4 August including a flower festival.

Maintenance Projects 2024

A number of projects for 2024 need to be tackled urgently.

Security – this needs to be enhanced at the rectory and the church facilities.

The alarm system at the rectory is in need of replacing.

The garage doors at the rectory need to be replaced.

The woodwork at the church and hall needs urgent attention.

The sunroom at the rectory needs refurbishment. This was last attended to 9 years ago.

The electric wiring at the rectory also needs to be assessed.

A new fridge is needed in the hall kitchen.

The borehole pump needs attention.

An inverter is needed at the church and the rectory.

Cupboards are needed at the office.

Organ Project

As you know, in 2019 we acquired a second-hand organ through the generosity of our parishioners. We are attempting to raise more funds to make the installation a reality.