



RECTOR'S REPORT



RECTOR'S ANNUAL PARISH VESTRY REPORT 2024 Sunday 10 March 2024

In the name of the living God, our Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer. Amen

Ephesians 2: 4ff, "But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ."

John 3:16ff, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Today we are together for worship and for our Annual Parish Vestry 2024. We give thanks to God for the Chapelry vestries held at St Luke's, Joe Slovo on Sunday 25th of February and at St Francis, Brooklyn on Sunday 3rd of March.

As we gather today, we are mindful of the richness of God's mercy and love in which we all share in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The season of Lent affords us the opportunity to grow a little deeper in all that is freely given and available to us. We have journeyed together for another year, and what a joy and humble privilege it has been for me, your parish priest. What a blessing it was and still is, to experience and witness the togetherness of all three congregations.

Main focus of 2024

The main focus this past year, was to prepare for our 110th Year Anniversary Celebrations. Through parish council, a committee was established to plan all anniversary events and activities for the year. We had a beautiful service in August and what a joy it was to welcome Archbishop Thabo to be the presider and preacher for the day. The invitation to invite Archbishop Thabo was not only requested by parish council, but also a long overdue Vestry request.

The blessing of the Kind-Heart Benches situated outside the main entrance of the Church entrance was a very moving experience. Because it is stationed on the grounds, application was made for a faculty. It could not be signed off until Vestry gives permission to do so. I ask Vestry's permission today, to do so, so that the forms can be sent to the diocesan office.

The day was indeed a special day for the parish and chapelries. We all played our parts beyond expectations. The spirit of generosity was deeply felt and experienced by all. More events and activities are planned for this year. It is our good hope to bring our 110th Year Celebrations to an end in August this year, and invite Bishop Raphael to be present.

Stewardship & Discipleship Course

All parish and chapelry councilors attended a Stewardship and Discipleship Course which consisted of twelve sessions. The intention is for the parish and chapelries to go on another a Three-Month

Stewardship and Discipleship Journey from May - July this year. This will be done through sermons, teachings and reading material which will be made available for personal reflection. It is my good hope that our 110th Year End Anniversary Service in August will also be a time for re-Dedication of all parishioners.

Rector's Sabbatical

From September – November 2023, I was granted permission to go on Sabbatical Leave. It was indeed a blessed time of rest, creativity and study. Although, for some reason I lost my voice during sabbatical. The sabbatical also afforded me the opportunity to complete all the requirements needed to be a Counsellor, a long, long journey, in the making since 2004. I finally registered as a Specialist Wellness Councilor through the recognized Association of Supportive Counsellors and Holistic Practitioners. To remain a recognized Counsellor, requires of me to complete 18 continued professional development points a year. The counselling skills and knowledge I have learnt thus far is enhancing my pastoral ministry and enables me to come alongside parishioners caringly and confidently.

Ordination to the Deaconate

Christopher Digby, lay minister in the parish will be ordained a Deacon in April this year. I have received notice from Bishop Raphael, that after Christopher's ordination, he will be moving and placed in a parish. We will know in due course which parish Christopher will be going to. Catherine, his wife, Luke and Braydon will also be joining Christopher in the new parish. We will miss them.

Words of Gratitude and Appreciation

To all parishioners, I do express my deep gratitude and appreciation for your love, care and support as I minister amongst you. In saying this, I also express the same from Beverley, Jesse, Joshua and Joel. We are happy to be here. Beverley is still enjoying her teaching career in Kuilsriver, Jesse in his second year of employment, Joshua was successfully granted a scholarship from Stavanger University to do Master's programme in Development and Innovation, and will be leaving us mid-August for Norway. Joel is still studying at University of Technology, Western Cape.

Parishioners, thank you for your ongoing financial stewardship to the parish. Although we are faced with many financial challenges, we are still able to make our monthly contributions to the Diocese with a little bit of extra to support parishes who are not able to.

I express deep appreciation and gratitude for you, Rev Ernest, Rev Tembeka, Rev Tozamile, Rev Mxolisi and all your families. It is indeed a blessing to be part of a ministry team like you. Thank you for your commitment and dedication.

To all the retired clergy, assisting in the parish from time to time, Rev Roderick, Rev Maxwell, Rev Matthew and Rev Keith; God's blessing on you and your families.

To the Churchwardens and councilors, what a joy share in the leadership with you. The gifts of administration, and sharing with me in pastoral oversight, is invaluable. I hope all of you will consider continue sharing in the leadership of the parish.

To the Lay ministers, Readers Guild, Sacristans, Welcome team, Bible / Confirmation class facilitators, Choir, Sunday School teachers and all other ministries present in the chapelries: thank you for your commitment and dedication. I deeply appreciate and value your partnership in ministry.

To the parish staff, Deirdre, the office administrator, your innovation and ensuring the office are in good order. thank you. To Luyanda and Beauty, working behind the scenes, ensuring the inside of our church building and grounds are always tidy, thank you.

Communications

I encourage parishioners, to keep yourselves informed through the weekly and monthly pew leaflet, parish Facebook page, and other forms of communications available to us. Communication is vital to ensure we remain a happy parish family.

Pastoral ministry – office hours, visitations, baptisms, weddings, funerals, etc. still continues with care, love, respect and dignity that it deserves.

Throughout the past year many of our parishioners have lost loved ones. They remain forever in our hearts and prayers.

Later on, we will hear the Churchwardens Report including the Annual Financial Statement. I am happy to say that the Auditor is also very happy and commends in high esteem, the Churchwardens' taking on their responsibility with care.

I commend the Rector's Report to Vestry 2024.

God Bless.

In the name God, Sustainer and Redeemer. Amen

Revd Selwyn Engelbrecht
Rector

Dated: March 2024
