



CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT



Church Warden's Report – 2025

2024 was an exciting and enriching year for our parish. On August the 4th we ended our year-long 110 year celebration with an Open Weekend and Evening Prayer Service celebrated by The Bishop of Saldanha Bay, Bishop Raphael Hess. This was followed by a party in the hall. There were many events leading up to this finale, which included a Karaoke afternoon, a Youth Weekend where the youth and Sunday School of St Oswald's, St Francis and St Luke's joined together in fun, games and spiritual fellowship, and a magnificent Great Gatsby - themed dance, which brought together our three churches to enjoy an evening of fellowship together.

A Honours Board was installed near the back of the church to remember past Rectors and Priests in charge here at St Oswald's. The board was duly blessed by the Bishop at the closing service of the 110 years celebrations. The board was made by Jack Schell. The final brass headings are currently being produced and have been sponsored by a friend of the late Pat Strydom, in her honour.

Financially, we have had a difficult year as there were many challenges within our parish that needed financing and attention, but with prayer and faith we have managed to press on.

We continue to serve our Lord through ministry and work in his church, knowing that God is always present on our journey. As Wardens, we are privileged to have served in this capacity and thank you for your constant support. The parish is blessed to have faithful and generous parishioners and we thank you all for that generosity.

Clergy:

We thank Fr. Selwyn for his enthusiasm, commitment, hard work, and dedication to the parish during the year. It was a busy year and together with the other clergy, they have worked hard with the ministry and pastoral care in the parish. It has been a privilege working with you, Fr Selwyn and the rest of the clergy team.

Thank you to our assistant and self-supporting priests, Revd. Ernest Ward-Cox, Revd. Tembeka Mpaku-Ntusi, Revd. Thozamile Shweni, Revd. Mxolisi 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.

St Luke's:

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

Malawian Congregation.

Fr Selwyn is encouraging this congregation to participate in the parish more actively and to attend St Luke's on a regular basis. They have worshipped there at times during the year.

Sunday School: We thank Crystal Cloete and all the Sunday school teachers for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. The number of children remained steady at approximately 25 children. A Nativity play with Carols was held on 8 December 2024 with children and the congregation participating in the service. We are pleased that the young children of the parish are joining the Sunday school. A number of successful fundraising events were held by the Sunday School throughout the year.

Confirmation: The Confirmation Service was held on Saturday 23 November 2024 at St Oswald's and officiated by Bishop Raphael Hess. A total of 24 persons from the parish were confirmed. The number of young persons included 2 from St Francis, 4 from St Luke's and 7 from St Oswald's, plus 11 adults from all 3 centres. This was the largest number in a long time. Thank you to all those who prepared the candidates as well as to the Bible Class teachers for your ministry.

Youth: The Youth continues to be held on a regular basis at St Francis and enjoys fellowship and visits with other youth in the diocese.

Altar Servers: A small team of Altar Servers have started to serve at St Oswald's. We need to support them in their ministry and encourage others to join. There is a large team at St Francis and they have attended a few Diocesan Altar server events and services. St Luke's also have a team of altar servers.

The Sandwich Project. We continued to financially support the making of sandwiches for most of 2024. A few of our parishioners also made sandwiches from time to time. At the end of 2024, the organisers of this project decided that sandwiches would no longer be made in the basement of the Paddocks shopping centre. However, food support would continue at Janet's Junction in Joe Slovo in the interim. They have now set up a NPO and are hoping to obtain premises in Platinum Junction to continue with the provision of food as well as educational support for the needy in Joe Slovo. We have undertaken to assist them in 2025. Their Facebook page is "Janet's Junction Community Hub".

Malachi House and St Dominic's Soup Kitchen. We continue to support these projects.

Other Outreach Ministries.

- Squares continue to be knitted for blankets. We urgently need persons to assemble the blankets.
- Bread Tags and bottle tops are collected and given to the Scout movement for funds for various initiatives.

- 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.

Office.

We would 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 arranging and managing various events such as the open week end, concerts etc. in addition to maintaining a very up to date website amongst all your other work.

St Oswald's Organist.

Thank you, Cedric Williams for your enthusiasm and for enhancing our worship here at St Oswald's. We also thank Jenny Walsh for playing the organ on a Wednesday morning and standing in for Cedric, while he was on leave in December.

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 2024.

Parish Events

Fundraising.

During 2024 we continued with our fundraising events:

- We hosted the Tygerberg Choir for a concert in aid of the organ project.
- Pancakes were made and sold from the garden of the Parish Office for Shrove Tuesday.
- The church was let out for a film shoot for a local television production.
- A Valentine's Dance was held on Saturday 10 February 2024 in the parish garden.
- The Great Gatsby Dance mentioned previously, was a huge fund raiser for the parish.
- We held a Mini Bazaar on Saturday 5 October 2024.
- St Francis had a Bazaar on 02 November 2024 which was very profitable and well supported. St Francis also held other fundraisers during the year.

Other Events

- The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital St John of Jerusalem held their Investiture Service in June 2024 at St Oswald's for the first time. Three of our parishioners were honoured to be made members of the order, Viz, Fr Selwyn Engelbrecht, Deirdre Marshall and Andree Lombard. A great honour for them and the parish.

- Coffee mornings are held once a month after the Wednesday Eucharist.

Property and Maintenance

St Oswald's Church & Hall

- The security of the church was upgraded with security gates.
- The alarm system was upgraded and a new Security company, Crime Watch, was appointed to all parish properties.
- A roof leak in the parish hall was repaired.
- A gate was installed between the Garden of Remembrance and the back garden.
- The Borehole pump and irrigation system was repaired.
- A new fridge was purchased for the hall.
- Varnishing of the church doors has commenced.
- Plumbing repairs due to a stolen pipe outside the hall was attended to.

St Francis Chapel.

- Plumbing repairs were carried out.
- The backyard of the house was concreted.

St Luke's Chapel

- Damaged fascia boards were replaced.
- Plumbing leaks were attended to.

Maureen's House

- Shelves were installed in some cupboards.

Rectory

- The electrical board at the rectory was rewired.
- The alarm system was upgraded.
- A security gates was fitted.
- New garage doors were installed after the burglary.

Belamoor Flat

- The tenant has re-signed the lease for another year.
- The stove in the flat was replaced.
- Plumbing repairs were carried out due to wear and tear.
- Electrical repairs were carried out due to storm damage on the roof.

We would like to thank Alan Lindgren and Sidney Sprinkle, our dedicated maintenance team, for their continuous hard work and dedication in keeping our properties well maintained and thereby saving us much in maintenance costs.

We continue with our recycling project and ask that all parishioners take recycling seriously at the church and in their own homes.

In 2025 we would like to see the continuation of our Green Parish Initiative.

General.

We are greatly thankful to all persons 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 appreciative.

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. Please become involved, there is much we can do to grow our church and spread God's work.

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. They need to continue to ensure that the duty and ministry of the warden's is for the glory of God and the well-being of the parish.

Organ Project

As you know, in 2019 we acquired a second-hand organ through the generosity of our parishioners. We continue to raise funds towards this project, and much more is still required. Sadly, this focus is taking much longer than anticipated as other urgent matters arise which require our attention.

Other Projects

In 2024 we set out with a number of projects, some have been completed but there are still some outstanding. Viz. Installing an inverter, cleaning of the roof of church and hall, and painting at the rectory.

New projects include: renovating the toilets in the hall, renovating the kitchen in the hall, improvement of the security around the church to prevent vagrants sleeping on the property.

At St Francis we need to repair the security system and replace the broken doors and windows in the house.

Let us know your ideas and how you can assist.

Andree Lombard and Nadine Schell

Dated: March 2025
