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The Franciscan

Anglican Parish of St Francis Parkview

A SEASON OF Easter

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NEW MOTHERS UNION BANNER BLESSED

At the service on 17 March, a new banner for the Mothers Union was blessed by the Ven Michelle Pilet. The banner was carried by the Mothers' Union members in the recent procession for Palm Sunday.



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RECTORS REFLECTION

EASTER

"The Easter egg symbolizes our ability to break out of the hardened, protective shell we've surrounded ourselves with that limits our thoughts and beliefs. As we break open our hearts and minds, we discover a transformation to new, life enhancing thoughts and beliefs." (Siobhan Shaw).

This quote is so interesting because a hardened, protective shell implies a felt need for us to protect ourselves from something harmful or fearful. The problem with this shielding is that so often we can grow callouses over our hearts or shut ourselves off from the possibility of magnificent marvels and won-

ders! Clenching into ourselves for the descriptor one usually associates with a threat or fear which has given rise to a need to shield oneself.

Perhaps the limits of our thoughts are associated with a perception that the majority of our human story at present should be feared and that we need to batten down and form a carapace of protection in order to survive the world's onslaught. But what does this say about our belief in a God who is ever-present and lovingly involved in the messiness and dense hope imprinted on creation because of having being? By permitting the Holy Spirit to break open the

constraints of this narrow, giving-up thinking, we discover the "more" which is so distinctively part of the Easter story, in fact it's part of the Bigness of God's cosmic story. Resurrection always opens us up to possibilities, the fresh, the life-enhancing.



PREPARING FOR PALM SUNDAY



A special thank you to all who came out to make all the palm crosses for the Palm Sunday Service on the 24th of March. They put in some serious work, and it really showed. Their dedication and talent made our service extra special and added a meaningful touch to our worship. Thank you too to the team that so beautifully decorated the church.

REFLECTION

LET THERE BE LIGHT

BY DIANA LAWRENSON

How do we express Easter joy? How do we shape our prayers and realisations afresh? Resurrection has happened. Crucifixion has not had the last word. In my reading this year I came across this prayer by Methodist minister and author, Rodney Aist. He has also written extensively on pilgrimages and their impact. At St Francis Lent 2024 has been one in which we have **Prepared the Way for the Lord**. And now we arrive, knowing afresh that Jesus meets us where we are and says our name just as he did Mary's and urges us, "Do not be afraid."

LET US PRAY

God of light, light before darkness, light before time, our journey to the tomb arrives in the darkness of dawn, in the still silence of chaos, in the shattered realisation that nothing has changed. On our journey to anoint a body, we see the emergent shadows of yet another day.

In a world that often feels more winter than spring, we've seen rays of hope before and have learned not to hope. And, so, we are deaf to your whispered words of sovereign love: 'Let there be light! Let there be life! Let us begin again.'

You surprise our secret journeys with the surprise of resurrection. Your word interrupts the silence. Light emerges and remains, and we didn't see it coming. You surprise

our weekday journeys with everlasting life. You breathe life into our flesh. Love emerges and remains, and we didn't see it coming.

When our mind is on crucifixion, resurrection catches us unprepared. When life has been sealed with despair, you roll the stone away.

You transform the chaos of crucifixion into the cosmos of creation. Easter is the genesis we struggle to imagine. It's the inception of creation, the reception of life. Resurrection, you remind us, is the beginning not the ending.

Christ's resurrection is the beginning of our week, the beginning of our work, the beginning of our lives.

In a world that often feels more crucified than resurrected, Easter is our start – you speak the word of life into our hearts. In a world full of



Artwork, Oil on Canvas entitled **Resurrection**, by Melody Hawtin

darkened shadows, Easter is our illumination – you are the light of the world.

We stand before you in the quarried garden of resurrection haze. We are solemn but giddy, grateful but afraid, uncertain but certain. Is it you, really you? If so, say our names again! Jesus, the unexpected gardener, replies: 'Mary, Mary, don't be afraid!'. You journey with us, risen Christ, from tomb to town, bringing resurrection into our homes, our lives and our relationships. Resurrection happens on our way to work, as we study, as we play, in our streets, markets and neighbourhoods, near and far, around the world, in the brightness of Sunday dawn and in the darkness of Monday morn. Easter is the beginning not the ending. The first of many days to come.

When the worst has happened, resurrection is spoken: 'Let there be light; let there be life.' The light of Christ shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it. Christ, kindle your light within us so that we, too, may be your resurrection light in the world.

We offer this prayer in the illuminating power of the Creator, the Redeemer and the Holy Spirit. Happy Easter, Holy Easter – Christ is alive!

Amen.

From **Let there be Light** by Rodney Aist, Wild Goose Publications.

IN LOVING MEMORY: GILLY RICE

GILLIAN MARGARET RICE (13 AUGUST 1933 – 22 FEBRUARY 2024)

Gilly will be missed by so many at St Francis. She captured the spirit of our community with her kindness and care as well as her ready sense of humour, her insistence that good conversation should always be accompanied by tea and that animals, both domestic and wild, have so much to teach us about God and the interconnection of creation. Gilly started the tradition of serving tea after the services at St Francis many years ago and continued to pour and provide tea until very recently. All were included and catered for and greeted with a smile that shared that belonging mattered.

In spite of a life that had its share of sorrow, including the loss of her youngest daughter Margie to cancer, Gilly lived knowing love mattered above all else and could only be sustained and shaped by God. The reading she chose for her funeral leaves us with these words, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:5-7)

Eternally generous Gilly's funeral on 29 February was an occasional in which in the midst of sadness, there was also the joy the yellow daisies she loved and the words of so many of her friends and family whose lives will forever be guided by her resilience, dedication and love of life in all its seasons. We continue to keep her daughter Diana and son Richard in our prayers.



IN LOVING MEMORY: ANITA SPEEDY



23 SEPT 1934 – 4 MAR 2024

Many of us at St Francis knew and loved Anita Speedy. We can picture her sitting in her pew with John, coming to the altar rail for Communion, waiting quietly in the chapel to pray with someone in need of prayer, attending Lent groups and other discussions and helping to serve and prepare tea and eats. In fact, Anita was present and willing to help, to listen, to talk and laugh for many years and on many occasions. She and John were part of the very fabric of St Francis.

Anita was a diverse and capable woman. Intelligent and insightful, she was a university graduate with a keen understanding of science and mathematics. She was also creative and artistic and became a fine craftswoman and painter.

In spite of her ability to succeed in almost anything that caught her interest, Anita placed huge value on being a wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She loved to travel and organised exciting holidays for her family; she was always interested in the activities of her children and grand-children and she supported and encouraged them by helping them find information and taking them on stimulating outings. Her and John's home was a warm and welcoming one where her family loved to gather and where many happy memories were made.

We, Anita's friends at St Francis will miss her, but we shall also be grateful that we knew her and worshipped with her. We hold her husband John, and her children Joanne and Clare and their families in our love and prayers.

ANTHONY TOBIAS JOHN (SPIKE) HOLLIDAY

30 APRIL 1940–27 FEB 2024

We give thanks for the life of Spike who for many years served as parish treasurer. He was known to be a keen golfer and belonged to the Parkview Golf Club for 60 years. Much loved and missed by his family, he is survived by his three daughters and grandchildren.



A NOTE ON RECYCLING AT ST FRANCIS

BY JAMES MARTIN



The big green paper recycling bin from M-pact that symbolized our community's eco-friendly spirit has been taken away from the driveway. We are ever grateful to Janet Magner for her

wonderful work in setting up this initiative. We are aware that its removal has caused some distress amongst the frequent users, however there are many avenues for recycling most materials, so we remain encouraged that the community will continue its good work.

Initially, we intended on relocating the paper bin to a less obtrusive space adjacent to the entrance ramp, but it could not then be accessed by the recycling vehicle used to periodically remove the paper. Notably, lightbulbs and batteries, which have significant environmental impacts despite their small physical footprint, are now being addressed. We've reached out to the recycling company affiliated with Woolworths to extend this service to St. Francis as part of their social outreach, thereby alleviating the cost burden on the community.

A SERVICE FOR THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

On 1 March, the World Day of Prayer was held at the church with the Liturgy of the service having been prepared by the Christian women of Palestine. After the service, everyone shared in a lovely 'bring and share' breakfast.



DIVINE INTERVENTION

BY JAMES MARTIN

Divine Intervention is an ecumenical initiative to cover the Police Services in prayer and protection. The St Francis clergy, with other local churches, offer a brief homily and prayer at SAPS Parkview at their Thursday morning parade. Typically this is a brief reading, perhaps the Bible or other relevant spiritual works, with expansion and prayer and benediction. This is expected to be faith inclusive, although invariably the parade commences with a glorious song or two of Christian worship. Attendance is typically 20 to 30

members, always with the Station Commander and Senior Officers present.

On Saturday 13 February 2024 a district operation focused on Parkview and Linden as part of Operation Shanela where about 10 police stations from the District attended as well as DHA, JMPD, K9, Flying Squad and local security companies. This was launched with a Parade at Zoo Lake at 3pm, where Reverend James was asked to lead a formal prayer. About 150 officers attended the Parade; subsequently 250 officers were

involved in the weekend operation.

Additionally, on Friday 23 February 2024 we were invited to attend a district accountability meeting with the same General Mache where each of the twelve stations presented on their status and performance including the Station Commander, community Police Fora, District Managers - and Divine Intervention, for which James explained the weekly Thursday morning parade at Parkview and the participation in greater communal events.

SHROVE TUESDAY: PANCAKES AND WORSHIP

On February 13th, we commemorated Shrove Tuesday, which is traditionally observed with the making of pancakes before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who joined us on this occasion, flipped pancakes, and participated in the fellowship of the evening.



REMEMBERING FRANK CLARK

BY JAMES MARTIN

Some in the St Francis Community might have known Frank Clarke, the Rector from 1963 to 1972, and I would like to record their memories in a second part to this story.

Earlier this year, I was at the Church of St. John the Baptist in Limpopo, about 10 km away from Vaalwater, which I occasionally visit and sometimes celebrate Communion.

They have a Pastor but no permanent Priest, so I visit with permission from +Luke of the Diocese of St. Mark the Evangelist (Limpopo). A retired doctor, who is very much the local historian, asked if I knew Rev. Clarke, and mentioned that he was interred in their graveyard. I didn't.

Frank Gordon Clarke was born

in Essex in 1902 as the second youngest of nine children. He attended Cambridge and graduated with a Master of Arts, and then studied theology at St. Augustine's College, Canterbury.

Rev. Clarke arrived in South Africa as a missionary priest in 1933 to teach at Grace Dieu Native Training College in (then) Pietersburg. Grace Dieu was established to train teachers for the many Anglican mission schools throughout the Province.

He then became Rector of All Saints Anglican Church in Pietersburg. Sometime in 1934, he attended 'my church,' St. John the Baptist, to celebrate Communion and there met Elizabeth Davidson, whom he

married on 8 February 1936 at St. John's. She died in 1954 and is interred at the church. Recognizing her influence and faith, there is a stained glass window at St. John in her honor and a kneeler worked by her daughter.

Rev. Clarke served with the Eighth Army as chaplain in North Africa. Following the War, he was Rector of St. Jude's Church in Oudtshoorn, subsequently St. Dunstan's in Benoni, and then our St. Francis of Assisi. At age seventy, he returned to the Waterberg with his second wife, Laura, and worshipped at St. John the Baptist.

In 1973, he died of a heart attack on a farm in (then) Rhodesia where he was to officiate at the wedding of his wife's nephew. His funeral service was held at our St. Francis Church, and his ashes were interred at St. John the Baptist, not far from those of his first wife, Elizabeth.



MEET THE NEW PARISH COUNCIL



Catherine Bell
Church Warden



Darryl McMullen
Church Warden



James Ridley
Church Warden



Dale Nolan
Councilor



Gavin Jacobs
Councilor



Janette Webster
Councilor



Mat Lawrenson
Councilor



Mymie Vos
Councilor



Mike Honnet
Councilor



Peter Davies
Councilor



Michelle Pilet
Clergy



Cynthia Botha
Clergy



Diana Lawrenson
Clergy



James Martin
Clergy



Fabian Oliver
Youth Pastor

A BLESSED BEGINNING: BAPTISMAL MOMENTS



On Sunday, 4 February, the church was packed with friends and family as we prepared for the baptisms of Alessia Gallo, Nour Sabran, Kai Miller, Orategile Moleme and Lindokuhle Moleme.

The babies were welcomed into the family of God through the liturgy of the Baptism service and here, (seen with their parents and God parents) with the pouring of water over their heads and the sign of the cross. We continue to pray for these children and their journey in a life following Christ, may God's life, light, guidance and grace be ever present to them and their families!

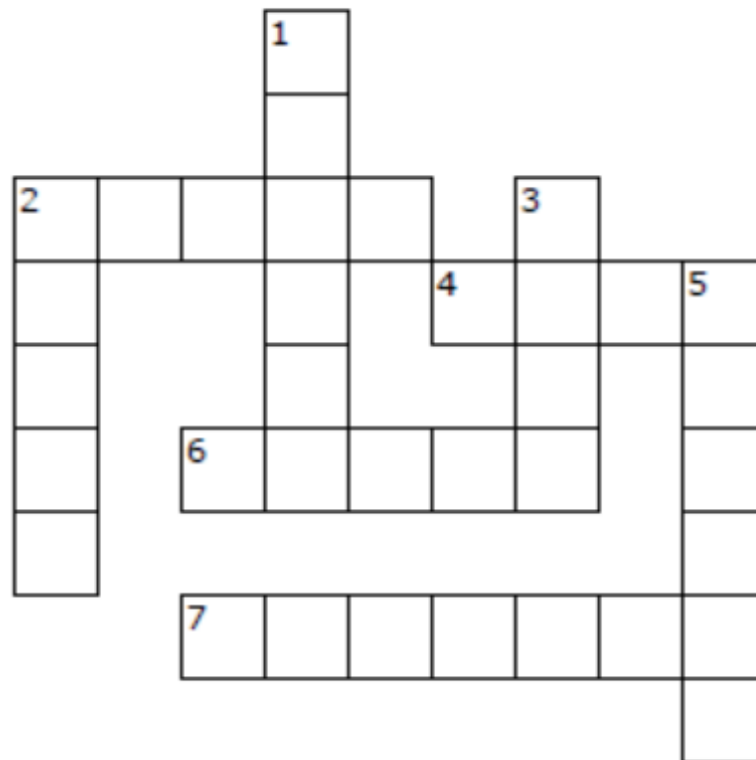


YOUTH STAY AWAKE

On the 8th of March the youth participated in a Lenten Stay Awake held at the Nolan family home. The youth really enjoyed the evening getting to know each other better and bonding around the fire.



EASTER CROSSWORD



ACROSS

2. A loose outer garment without sleeves worn instead of a coat
4. A pathway for vehicles, persons, and animals
6. To speak with a very loud voice
7. A community which is smaller than a town, usually in the countryside

DOWN

1. The part of a tree that grows out from the main trunk and has leaves
2. A large group of people who have gathered together
3. A young male horse (or donkey)
5. An animal like a small horse with long ears

WORD LIST: Crowd, donkey, cloak, village, Shout, colt, road, branch

COLOURING PAGE



FINANCES

APPROVED BUDGET FOR 2024

| Income | 31/12/2023 | 2024 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Parish affairs | | |
| DG, Tithes, Dues, etc. | 1,641,260 | 1,800,000 |
| Plate & other Collections | 199,119 | 216,000 |
| Donations, thanksgiving and bequests | 115,910 | 102,000 |
| General fundraising | 32,096 | 54,000 |
| Major Fundraising Event(s) details | | |
| Special Efforts | 0 | 0 |
| Other income | 35,280 | 36,000 |
| Other income | 0 | 0 |
| Donations / Income for specific projects | 102,614 | 97,500 |
| Property & Commercial activities | | |
| Commercial income | 407,983 | 462,600 |
| Property Expenses Recovered (Electricity, etc.) | 0 | 0 |
| Financing income | | |
| Interest Received (STD BK) | 0 | 0 |
| Interest Received (External - Banks/Investments) | 0 | 0 |
| Proceeds of sale of fixed assets | | |
| TOTAL GROSS INCOME | 2,534,261 | 2,768,100 |
| Expenditure | | |
| 1. Spiritual formation | | |
| Clergy stipends paid through Diocese | 637,464 | 652,346 |
| Additional Clergy costs paid by parish (Easter/Bonus) | 81,287 | 109,200 |
| Visiting clergy - honoraria and expenses | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 19,174 | 10,200 |
| | 737,925 | 771,746 |
| 2. Vibrant Christian Community | | |
| Sanctuary expenses | 26,050 | 26,400 |
| Worship /Church expenses (Including welcoming) | 8,908 | 6,000 |
| Pastoral care | 0 | 0 |
| Catering | 25,662 | 24,000 |
| | 60,620 | 56,400 |
| 3. Social outreach | | |
| Educational support | 0 | 0 |
| Feeding schemes/Food parcels | 43,431 | 42,000 |
| Other | 0 | 0 |
| | 43,431 | 42,000 |
| 4. Visionary servant leadership | | |
| Training - church leadership | 0 | 0 |
| Seminars and conferences | 3,869 | 4,000 |
| | 3,869 | 4,000 |
| 5. Prophetic relevance | | |
| Youth Expenses | 8,607 | 8,400 |
| Children's ministry | 0 | 0 |
| Mission | 0 | 0 |
| Communication | 20,970 | 17,000 |
| | 29,577 | 25,400 |

Below is the budget approved for 2024 at the recent vestry meeting held on the 10th of March 2024.

| | 2023 | 2024 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| 6. Sustainable structures | | |
| Diocesan expenses | | |
| Diocesan contribution (10%) | 203,040 | 222,000 |
| Vacant parish (= clergy stipend) | 0 | 0 |
| Payroll levy | 22,891 | 24,050 |
| Retirees Medical Aid Contribution | 0 | 0 |
| MyChurch | 0 | 0 |
| Insurance | 45,112 | 45,600 |
| Administration expenses | 101,325 | 104,700 |
| Audit/accounting fees | 39,911 | 43,800 |
| Bank charges | 8,660 | 8,700 |
| Computer costs/support | 0 | 4,800 |
| Depreciation and capital expenditure | 12,679 | 6,000 |
| Fundraising expenses | 8,489 | 7,500 |
| Interest | 0 | 0 |
| Internet/Data costs | 45,006 | 45,600 |
| Investments written off | 0 | 0 |
| Municipal charges (Lights & Water, etc. - NOT Rates) | 193,786 | 210,000 |
| Municipal Rates Not payable on church property) | 0 | 0 |
| New Equipment | 0 | 0 |
| Office administration | 0 | 38,400 |
| Photocopier lease | 0 | 0 |
| Rent paid (Give details in Notes) | 0 | 0 |
| Repairs and maintenance excluding property | 10,750 | 9,000 |
| Repairs and maintenance to property | 67,701 | 220,000 |
| Security | 19,544 | 21,000 |
| Staff Costs (UIF, Pens Contribution etc.) | 0 | 0 |
| Staff Salaries (Laity) | 803,505 | 907,117 |
| Telephone | 37,040 | 40,800 |
| Travel | 72 | 0 |
| Costs of producing Commercial Income | 11,195 | 16,500 |
| Book value of fixed assets sold | 0 | 0 |
| Other (details to be provided in notes) | 0 | 0 |
| | 1,630,705 | 1,975,567 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 2,506,126 | 2,875,112 |
| Surplus / (Deficit) before tax | 28,135 | -107,012 |
| Taxation on commercial activity | | |
| Tax - current year | 59,974 | 30,140 |
| Prior year (Over-) / Under-provision | | 43,465 |
| Total taxation | 59,974 | 73,605 |
| Surplus / (Deficit) after tax | -31,839 | -180,617 |
| Transfers to (from) Funds | 0 | 0 |
| Net Surplus | -31,839 | -180,617 |



PALM SUNDAY SERVICE

We celebrated Palm Sunday on the 24th of March 2024, with a march through the streets of Parkview. The traditional procession is symbolic of the journey of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. Following the march, everyone returned to the church where they participated in a dramatic Passion Reading.



SEEN *and* HEARD

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOE



On March 17th, we celebrated Joe's 91st birthday, a milestone for our longtime parish member. We joyously sang happy birthday during the service to honour him.

WELCOME TO BABY ELAZAH



Our Youth Pastor Fabian and his wife Lazanne welcomed their second baby girl, Elazah, on March 24th. We pray for a swift recovery for both mom and baby and eagerly anticipate their return to church.