

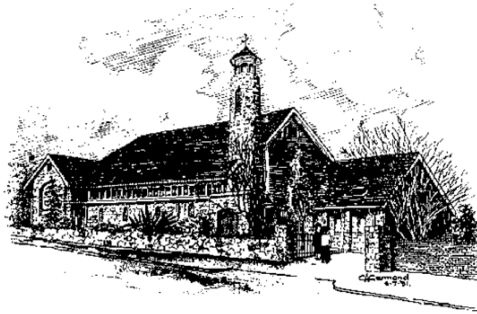


ST MARTIN'S *in-the-Veld* ANGLICAN CHURCH

SANCTUARY - COMMUNITY - OUTREACH

VESTRY REPORTS

2023



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WE CONNECT TO:

GOD IN **SANCTUARY** - EACH OTHER IN **COMMUNITY** - THE WORLD IN **OUTREACH**

WORSHIP

Activity on the worship front is now back in full swing. The worship teams at 9.30 are playing live music again every Sunday, having gone through a period of online and video services, with all restrictions having been lifted since our last vestry report.

The choir has already started up again and there is a call for the congregation to join the choir so that we can expand. Our 7.30 services continue to be supported by Johann who always graces us with the most beautiful sounds and songs (and even gives us a bit extra at the end of the services). The teams continue to be ably supported by Kuda on the administrative front and the Boom Squad on the technical aspects. Recent recruits to the boom squad have really improved the technical side of worship at our services. The teams are grateful to the volunteers from the Boom Squad who offer their assistance on a Sunday. The upgrades to mics and technical equipment over the last few years have also helped us to improve the quality of our worship.

We unfortunately lost Jo Tatalias, who was a constant support to the worship team. We are very grateful for the work Jo did over the years to keep things running on the administrative and spiritual front. Our 9.30 worship leaders for the past year included Simone Spyker, Burton Phillips and Limahl Paxton. Our musicians include Simone on the piano, Abednigo on drums and the Brown family led by Michael and Vanessa. We have also recently had Michael Tatalias join us on the piano which has been a great help. More musicians are always welcome. Our voice section has grown over the year and included Melanie,

The 9.30 worship team is planning a worship workshop in the next few weeks with a view to getting together more often as worship teams, learn new songs and continue to grow the respective teams. A warm thank you to everyone involved in making our worship special and spirit filled!

Burton Philips

CHOIR

2022 could be summed up as “well done, ye few and faithful”. Some choir members have not yet returned after lockdown, while some have moved to another church. Our faithful core did their best, sometimes four or five at the morning service, sometimes not as many, and occasionally a brave soloist holding the fort and flying the choir flag. Thank you to Johan van Staden for his leadership from behind the organ console, and the wonderful voluntaries after our 7.30 services. We restarted Evensong at the end of last year, and will continue on the 2nd Sunday of each month, starting in February. There is talk of supporting St George’s (1st Sunday) and St Thomas’ (4th Sunday) on the other Sundays. We have started a weekly choir practice on Wednesdays at 5PM, led by Esté Meerkotter, a music and choir director at Kingsmead College. This is not only for those who sing in the choir on Sunday, but anyone who would like to expand their music skills and have lots of fun besides! There were 12 people present at our first practice.

Jane Trathen

LAY MINISTERS

2 Chronicles 29:11 – The Message: “Children, don’t drag your feet in this! God has chosen you to take your place before him to serve in conducting and leading worship—this is your life work; make sure you do it and do it well.”

The scripture above challenges us to serve God well in whatever ministry we may find ourselves. God has chosen us to serve him and he has provided us with the talents and strength to follow our calling. The most amazing thing about following Christ’s calling is that it brings us joy.

Parish lay ministers (PLM’s) are called to lead certain services of worship (or parts of the service), to preach and to carry out pastoral and teaching functions. At St Martins, you will see the PLM assisting with services (reading, praying and helping ensure the service runs smoothly). In addition, some PLM’s preach, some lead the service at Deansgate on Sundays, some intercede for others and some take communion to the sick and elderly.

PLM’s need to complete Diocesan training, undergo a background verification check and sign the AGSA – Safe Church declaration / code of conduct.

Our current lay ministers are Steve Briggs, Melanie Gyn-Jones, Michael Glensor, Claudia Jeevenantham, Anne Jones, Louise Ketley, Richard Mokgata, Marcia Socikwa, Lucia Swartz and Joscelyn Whitfield.

We said goodbye to James Martin and Jo-Anne Tatalias this year as they left to continue their ordination journey in other churches. Sadly, Tony Barnes retired at the end of last year after many years of service, and Jean and Baxter Carey are relocating to the coast in retirement. Lucia Swartz will be retiring this year and moving to Cape Town. All five will leave a big gap as they were involved in not only lay ministry, but many other leadership roles within St Martins. Two new trainees are going on the Diocesan PLM course in the year ahead, but we are still looking for more, as this the following suggests:

Note in pew leaflet 22.01.23

We are looking for more lay ministers to lead us through the liturgy and prayers at our services on Sunday mornings. A course of Diocesan training begins in the new year, once a month on a Saturday morning. Layministers also receive training in visiting, sick communion, healing prayer, and preaching. Please do contact Mark if you would like more information (0647523683) [are you sure God is not nudging you in this direction? Mark]!

The layministers meet monthly to discuss matters such as service planning, liturgy, prayer, Deansgate services and any other business. In the year ahead we will be spending part of our meeting looking at training for both our work as lay ministers in the church, and our individual spiritual walk.

This past year has still been a year of change as we returned to in-person meetings and back-to-church services. The lay minister duties picked up in church again and there was less recording for online services. Sadly we have not managed to recover our full

ministry and there are gaps especially with regards to praying for others, taking communion to the sick and visiting those in need. The clergy are still carrying the majority of this ministry.

The year ahead is an encouraging one as we re-evaluate the role of the PLM and the church after the events of the last three years. Most importantly let us embrace the opportunity that we must do something different as we serve our Lord and one another in community.

Melanie Glyn-Jones

SIDESMEN

During the year the restrictions and hence procedures due to the Covid 19 pandemic were changed, such that we are operating nearly back to our previous normal. The three activities where the Sidesmen were involved, and are not yet back to previous normal, are the managing of name-tags for congregants, the collection during the offertory hymn, and facilitating the receiving of communion at the altar rail. During this next year, it is expected to relook at these procedures, including the refreshing of the name tags and the relevant procedures.

In 2018, prior to the pandemic, we had a total of 25 Sidesmen available to give service at the 07.30 and the 09.30 services each Sunday. Of that list, only 3 are still serving. The attrition has been due to several passing away, some moving away, including Mike Tatalias who went with Jo-anne to St Georges, more becoming unavailable due to poor health, some retiring and myself being drawn into serve in the choir. We give our thanks to those who have given service in the past.

We welcome five new members to the team – Bill Campbell, Joy Sepp, Louise Ketley, Thembekile (Thembi) Mpungose and Busi Nduvane.

The duty of Sidesmen is to put up the hymn numbers on the boards, ring the bell, welcome the congregants and visitors on arrival at a service, hand out the pew leaflets and any other information, take the collection, supervise the congregants receiving the Eucharist, collect for the car guards and count the collection. A roster of when a Sidesman is requested to be on duty is drawn up each month, considering when any members are unavailable and any special services in the month.

We need some more volunteers to perform duties as Sidesmen, particularly for the 09.30 service, where Richard Bouma does sterling duty, many times on his own. Volunteers will be welcomed. Please come and join the team, and serve our Lord in this simple, but important ministry.

Paul Hatty

SACRISTY

This year the ladies washing the altar linen have had an easier time than some years with the communion wine being taken with the wafer. However, this does not diminish the contribution made by our excellent team of ladies.

My thanks go to Belinda de Beer, Suzanne Trent, Diana Hagley, Alex Vonrykevorsel, Marjorie Mutangadura, Jenny Gilwald, Jane Mayer, Karmen Fieldgate, Diana Madden, and Gerry Wilson who have agreed to take on the duty for a month each. A special thank you to Diana Madden and Belinda de Beer who did several extra months at the start of last year. Everyone who has done their month has done so willingly and efficiently.

Our love and prayers go to Gerry Wilson and Diana Madden who have struggled with health issues this year and we hope they will soon be feeling stronger.

We send our love and condolences to the Kirchmann family on the passing of Rosemary. Rosemary had been responsible for organising this duty for many years, was always delightful to work with and always willing to fill in if people were unavailable. Her caring manner and lovely smile was always there to lift our spirits. R.I.P Rosemary.

Fiona Weeple

YOUTH MINISTRY

Get Real

With a profound sense of grief in my heart, I report that Get Real has come to a close and with it, any form of youth ministry on Sunday evenings. In my 2022 vestry report, I shared about a new structure we had implemented, attempting to revive the struggling service. There was positive feedback initially but as time went on, that new structure was not enough to keep Get Real going. In response to this, we embarked on a “listening” period, seeking God and listening for his guidance about where the service was headed. The overwhelming sense, as I recorded in a series of journal entries that took account of every Bible verse shared, prayer prayed, picture/ vision seen, and prophetic word spoken, was that God was asking us to trust him in the process, even if that included the “death” of a service. One verse that spoke into the situation was from John 12:24, which says, “Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” As is characteristic of the Christian life, **death** gives way to **life**. So now, in faith and with a fair bit of action, we wait upon the Lord to discern his new direction for our ministry to youth.

Sunday School

I am very excited, however, to report that our Sunday School has seen a continued unfolding of new life. During 2022, we saw consistent attendance of over 10 children each Sunday, with the last two Sundays (at the time of writing) being attended by 18 and 15 children, respectively. More importantly though, there has been a sense of growing energy and expectation; the kids have been enjoying themselves and the parents have expressed gratitude for the important role St Martin’s plays in their children’s spiritual growth. We thank God for answering our prayers for our Sunday School.

During 2022, among other things, Terence and I sought to create a strong feeling of community that is felt by both children and parents. To do this, we implemented a Sunday School Parent’s Lunch, where we invited all parents and children to join us for food, fun,

laughter, and some Sunday School planning. The event was hosted by one of our St Martin's families. I am glad to report, it was a hit! We did it once in 2022 but we hope to repeat it several more times in 2023, in addition to other exciting things we hope to achieve in the year ahead.

Boom Squad

Some more good news is the decision by both Michael and Timothy to reinvest themselves in the boom squad for 2023, this time as 'captains.' I am so grateful to them for their commitment to the audio-visual ministry of St Martin's. They not only served at two services (sometimes three services) nearly every Sunday of 2022, but they were also 'on call' for just about every AV emergency that St Martin's encountered. Furthermore, they were tasked with mentoring and training three new boom squad members, Lethabo, Ethan, and Christopher, all of whom have been most welcome additions to the team. Together, the five of them were a critical component of each Sunday service, contributing to the effective running of the services, both offline and online. This is to say nothing of their involvement in the Open Day (and other events), where they were on their feet for nearly eight hours. To the boom squad, thank you for all your hard work, you guys are awesome!

Vuleka

With the decrease in youth ministry on Sunday evenings, I decided to devote more time and energy to the ministry of Vuleka. The heads of Vuleka and I put together a timetable that saw me doing five (sometimes six) bible lessons per week at the school. It has been a wonderful time, teaching so many little humans about God's love for them. Seeing their enthusiasm for each bible class and how their faces light up during our engaging object lessons has left an indelible mark on me, I look forward to my time with them each week.

Research into the future

I began this report on a low note, but I also said that when one thing ends, a new thing can begin. Over the last year, it has been on my heart to engage in rigorous research into the reasons for the globally decreasing attendance of young people in Church. As the people of God, we want to see more people engaging with Jesus and His Church. We want this, first and foremost, so that they might experience eternal life in Christ but also because the longevity of the Church requires a 'next generation.' However, in order to reach this next generation, we need to know what is important to them and why Church is not one of their top priorities. To do this, myself and several other young people at St Martins are engaging the research with a view to developing actionable strategies to reach our age group. We hope and pray our efforts bear fruits for God's kingdom.

Nicholas Oliveira

SPIRITUAL FORMATION (AKA Spirituality)

We would like to thank Rev Jo-anne Tatalias for the support and foundation laid in the Spiritual formation portfolio over the past few years. The Spiritual formation portfolio was developed and re-focused over the years to provide opportunities for Parishioners to grow and develop specific 'spiritual practices' for the purpose of developing a deeper relationship with God.

During 2022; a quiet morning was organised with Bishop Brian to help create reflection and contemplation in our conversations with God.

The St Martins website has also proved useful in providing specific posts about some helpful Apps and related websites for the growth and development of spiritual practices for our community.

In April 2022; we were able to engage with the Jews for Jesus foundation just before the start of Holy Week. The experience and engagement session helped to provide some much-needed focus on the many strong symbols and images that we have been given in the Last Supper, and what this means in our growth and development as believers.

As we enter 2023, we will continue to focus on the following:

- Growing and developing the practice of daily prayer and Bible study as believers,
- Prayers as a community of believers / as the Church on matters specific to Rosebank, our Diocese, our country etc.
- Knowledge-sharing sessions from thought leaders or other communities in nurturing spiritual practices as believers and as a community
- Quiet mornings for reflection and contemplation on a variety of topics etc.

It has been somewhat difficult during 2022 to gather as community and/or find people interested in joining this portfolio, to help nurture and grow the art of developing our spiritual practices. We would therefore like to call on everyone who is interested in spiritual formation to come along for an exciting journey of growth and development.

Michael Glensor

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care processes. We encourage any parishioner who has a need for prayer or who has a family member who needs prayer, to contact me at the parish office, and depending on your needs I will either:

1. immediately contact and inform the chairperson of the Caring Portfolio, Claudia Jeevanantham;
2. with your permission, refer the person to Melanie Glyn-Jones, who will circulate your need amongst the more than 20 members of the prayer chain who will pray for your need;
3. on Claudia's recommendation, contact a member of the clergy or a layminister to follow up and visit the person needing prayer;
4. bring up the prayer need at our weekly staff meeting.

A big thanks to Estelle Nobin who looked after this portfolio for some years, and Melanie Glyn-Jones who has so wonderfully kept us up to date with the Prayer Chain.

Prayer Chain

A prayer chain is a group of people, who share prayer requests and commit to pray for needs as they arise. It's called a "prayer chain" because the individual members are "linked" by prayer, and requests make their way from one person to another, following the "chain". In a prayer chain, each link represents one person committed to pray for the needs of others. The more "links" in the chain, the more people are praying for the needs or struggles of others. The imagery of a chain also underscores the strength of God's people who are united in prayer.

St Martins has had a prayer chain for many years now and have a number of faithful warriors who pray through the requests sent. At the beginning of last year, I took over this ministry from Hilary Owen, although she is still involved. Requests are emailed to the warriors as and when they arise and confidentiality is assured. We receive about 4 to 5 prayer requests a week and I would like to encourage all to send me prayer requests as nothing is too small for God.

"Any concern too small to be turned into a prayer is too small to be made into a burden."

— Corrie Ten Boom

I would also like to see us able to offer meals and visits to those in need as that seems to be the next step in this ministry. If you would like to be a prayer chain warrior and added to the list, then please contact me.

We have witnessed prayer working and this ministry is such an encouraging one as we see in action God answering prayers in so many different ways.

"The power of prayer is in the One Who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference." – Max Lucado

Melanie Glyn-Jones

SOCIAL OUTREACH MINISTRY GROUPS

As the portfolio head for St Martin's Ministry Groups there hasn't been much I have had to do over the last year as these groups are self-sufficient and get on with what needs to be done. Some extra advertising has been done for them so I am hoping that as you read their feedback you will all be familiar with the awesome things they do. These groups are made up of parishioners and non-parishioners with monthly funding from us where needed in order to sustain the ministry and as agreed. From the family of St Martins to all those involved with these groups Thank You. Matt 9:37 "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few" - please consider joining one of these groups either part time, weekly or just for a once off visit.

Joscelin Whitfield

Craft Circle

Just a year ago, we were still operating under strict Covid protocols that had ruled our lives since 2020 but during the year South Africa emerged from the pandemic. And the Crafty Ladies of St Martin's carried on – still being careful, but fulfilling their ministry to



offer warmth, comfort and colour to people in need. The group meets on the second Saturday of the month in the Parish Hall and every Saturday during Lent in the buildup to the big distribution around Eastertime in early winter.

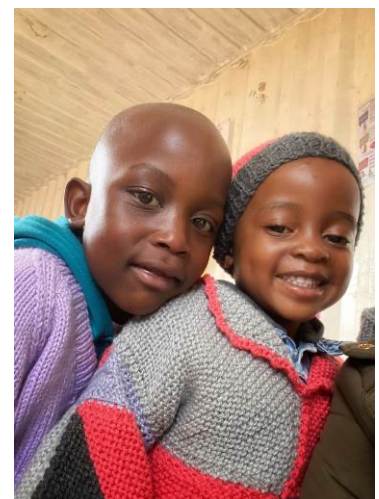
Jersey Sunday was last celebrated in church in 2019, so the group enjoyed decorating the church with samples of the colourful jerseys, quilts, beanies,

blankets, baby clothes, toys, ponchos, bed socks, and scarves. It was a feast of colour and warmth, and an opportunity to show the parishioners what we do and our appreciation of their generous support and prayers for this ministry.



In 2022 we made donations to eleven charities and groups. Alexandra – we sent blankets and bedsocks to the newly-enlarged Alexandra Hospice and Rehabilitation Centre; jerseys for the children at the Boitumelo Day Care Centre; a mixture of clothes and blankets to St Michael's Parish. Tembisa – blankets and jerseys to the Siyagabisa Home of Hope which looks after about 120 children. Johannesburg, the Gerald Fitzpatrick House and Nursing Home for elderly women in Bertrams received blankets and bedsocks; CHOC looks after

children suffering from cancer and houses out-of-town parents while their children undergo treatment, so we sent particularly pretty beanies for the children and some blankets; Tilly Pillay distributes baby clothes for us to both the neonatal wards of provincial hospitals and to the Baby Box Project; Cotlands receives blankets, jerseys and toys for the children in their Early Learning Development programmes; The Love of Christ Children's Home, now in Walkerville, receives quilts, blankets, children's clothes and toys; In Krugersdorp, a group of impoverished people trying to reestablish themselves were sent blankets and any clothes for adults that we received.



So how does all this happen? Everyone works steadily all year round. We have a faithful group who attend meetings regularly, bring and do lovely

handwork, enjoy the quiet companionship, and make a wonderful contribution of their time and talents.

**This is the core of our ministry –
to make with care and give with love.**

Late in 2021 we lost Cally Prenzler to Plett but she has kept us supplied with quilts and blankets all through 2022; Jane Sproule most competently spearheaded the big distribution, 2022 being particularly efficient with parcels packed in church straight after Jersey Sunday and sent off in all directions; Belinda de Beer and Louise Africa stepped in to organize the meetings when I was away and later when I fell ill; Christine Kuna brought in a number of toys that she had bought and refurbished – all extra work to enhance the ministry. With only a few requests for assistance through 2022, our storeroom is already filling up for the 2023 distribution.



Outside the regular group, we are most grateful for a wide range of assistance. The annual gift of a large sack of wool from Saprotex is a real lifeline – it provides the solid colour for many blankets and jerseys. The Tuesday Ladies again made a monetary donation and, through the generosity of the parish, we raised over R3600 in our Buy a Ball of Wool campaign. We also received handmade items brought in or sent to the office – notably this year from Marcelle Frank, Barbara Read, Peggy Threlfall and many jerseys from Jo Birdsey. Our huge thanks to all.



Finally, we thank the Rector and clergy, Nataski and Kuda in the office, Phumlani and John, who set up the tables for us and are most helpful carrying boxes and parcels – all your support helps and encourages the group.

This is a group always keen to attract new members – no skill needed. We will teach you to knit, sew or crochet. You will surprise yourself at how much you enjoy the new skill, the friends you make and the pleasure in making a gift for someone who needs it.

Diana Madden

Soup Kitchen

During 2022 the St Martin's-in-the-Veld soup kitchen continued to provide approximately 100 homeless people in our community with a substantial meal every Thursday. Our committed and caring group of volunteers of many years provided the homeless men and

women with a hearty meal of freshly made soup with bread, a main meal of meat, vegetables and salad, and a sweet treat of cake or muffins.

The wonderful volunteers, Freda, Jenny, Pat, Trina and Veronica, ably assisted by our hardworking kitchen staff Elizabeth and Jerome are coping well with the running of the soup kitchen. Excess food is made up into parcels and distributed to the homeless after the meal.

Our main sponsor for many years is Woolworths, who generously donate “waste” food every week and that is the foundation of the services we are able to render to our homeless clients. During 2022 ever reliable Ken picked up the waste from Woolworths assisted by Jeffrey. This food is well supplemented by Stephen Falcke who for many years has donated a large pack of soup meat and vegetables from Thrupps. Tessa has kindly donated sandwiches every week for the homeless people. The donations of food are supplemented every week with mealie meal and other staples that are funded by St Martin’s in the Veld.

A challenge during 2022 has been load shedding. Most Thursdays it has been possible to work around the load shedding schedules but on a couple of occasions it has been necessary to bring a gas cooker in to ensure that a hot meal is provided to the people who attend the soup kitchen.

In these very difficult times, the soup kitchen provides an important service to the less fortunate in our community, and it is also a place where homeless people have an opportunity for social networking and emotional support.

Tom Colley

St Martin’s-in-the-Veld Wellness Centre (aka St Martins-in-the-veld Clinic)

After the cessation of activities as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown, the Clinic re-opened its doors for limited consultations from the end of July 2022. The clinic serves indigent members of the public living and working in the Rosebank area as well as members of the St Martins congregation.

The clinic is run by a qualified medical doctor and nurse and is open every second and last Sunday of the month. Since reopening it has provided medical services to more than twelve patients, dispensing medicines and referring patients to nearby hospitals and clinics where necessary.

Nosiba Skenjana – Moahloli

Sewing Group

The sewing group is in operation every Thursday from 10AM in the Parish Room with Christina Kuna and Thuli Sibanda. They are happy to teach others how to sew and have been teaching a few ladies since last year. Please do contact the parish office if you know anyone who would like to learn how to sew, and Christina and Thuli would be happy to oblige.

Nataski Manyika

Car Wash

We have a community car wash ran by two ladies namely Rosalinah and Melita. They offer exterior or interior cleaning during the Sunday services from 7.30AM-10.30AM. Please support them in their efforts to sustain themselves. **Nataski Manyika**

VULEKA ST MARTIN'S AND JELlicOE – 2022/2023

For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” – **Jeremiah 29:11**

In July 2022 Ms Benita and myself, Ms Karen were blessed with the position of Headmistress at Vuleka St Martins Jellicoe. We feel honoured to lead such an amazing school. With the support from our teams from both venues, the transition to Heads has been a good and smooth ride thus far. We believe that with continued support of such amazing and dedicated people, we can only but take Vuleka Rosebank to higher heights. The support from parents and students is also greatly appreciated.

Pupil enrichment

Our pupil numbers currently stand around 145 and our target is to have the school back to it's full capacity of 200. At the end of 2022, we were sad to say goodbye to a few families who had to withdraw their children due to loss of income or having to move away due to the impacts of Covid.

Christian ethos and Spiritual Development

Our values of Resilient, Respect, Responsibility, Compassion and Honourable are instilled in our children and teachers and are underpinned in everything we do and say at school and outside of school. Teachers continue to remind the children to live these values and become the best product of Vuleka. We had commenced the start of our first term of the new school year(2023) with a Eucharist service. We were honoured to be in the presence of Rev Mark and Pastor Nycholas. We will also commence with whole school assemblies this year as Covid took that away from us for the past two years.

The youth pastor, Nycholas Oliviera delivers and ministers fun and exciting bible studies and stories to our children on a Wednesday (Jellicoe) and Friday (St Martins).

Sport and Cultural Activities

Despite what Covid threw at us in the past two years, with God's grace, last year, we had the opportunity to get back on the sports field. We engaged with other Vuleka schools at Derby Day and Athletics Day. Our children and teachers worked really hard during practise time and this really showed on the field. I am proud to say that Vuleka St Martins Jellicoe won 6 out of 8 games!

We have also commenced with swimming this term at Zoo lake under the expertise of Coach Lebo. Our children really look forward to going to the pool and having fun splashing away. Nothing can replace the sound of laughter and the smiles on their faces.

Academic Development

Teaching and learning continued throughout last year successfully and will continue to do so this year. Teachers were able to complete the entire curriculum in all subjects and grades. Our end of year results was very pleasing and almost all our children had progressed to the next Grade. We also participated in the nationwide benchmark assessment, Conquesta, and we produced excellent results.

Empowered Staff

Vuleka St Martins Jellicoe are blessed with dedicated staff members and we are really thankful for their commitment to and love for the children at our schools. We welcome Ms Mbali Magubane and Mr Bongani Mdluli (Jellicoe) as well as Ms Robyn Steeneveldt, Ms Judith and Ms Rejoyce (St Martins).

Ms Marianne Blunden the Educational Psychologist at our school, plays a vital role in offering emotional support to families and staff in need.

I had the honour to represent our school at the Positive Education Conference which took place last year. The conference was hosted by St Peters school. The knowledge that I gained from the conference was shared with staff. Positive Education is all about the growth mindset of staff, children and parents. Staff were workshopped about the importance of practising a growth mindset instead of a fixed mindset.

Parent partnership

Our parents continue to be one of our greatest assets. They are always supportive be it on the sports field or if we call for a meeting and if we have fundraisers, they are always willing to help. We acknowledge that a happy parent is a great marketer and want to thank our parents for referring friends and family to our school. Mrs Tapiwa, who served as our parent rep last year together with a group of other supportive parents took on a task to get the classroom walls at Jellicoe painted. We really appreciate everything they do for us. Ms Tapiwa once again got together with sponsors and other parents to provide lunch and gifts for our teachers in respect of Teacher Appreciation Day.

Financial Sustainability

Our faithful donors, big and small continue to support our school. Many parents were still able to meet their financial obligations to the school and we managed to remain sustainable for the year 2022. Now that we can be back to 'normal', we can once again have parent meetings and show of our amazing and beautiful school on the St Martins in-the-veld premises.

Thank you to the parishioners and the Dunkeld community for the many gifts in kind that we received last year. The donations to the OVC Fund supports a few orphaned or vulnerable children at our school. I would also like to thank the Bokamoso donors and mentors for offering support and bursaries for a few children at our school. Soon we will be able to assist a few more children who will be part of this amazing organisation. Thanks to a company called Tractor, who blessed St Martins on Mandela Day with painting of our Grade 1 and IsiZulu classroom tables. Two of Bokamoso's donors, Lombard CSI and Africa Data Specialists also painted the kitchen at Jellicoe as their Mandela day initiative.

My heartfelt thanks goes out to Canon Mark Spyker, our Rector, and Pastor Nycholas Oliveira, who remains a great source of wisdom, support, spiritual guidance and practical advice for our entire staff. We also want to thank the church for accommodating us with such patience and grace. It has been really wonderful to be part of the St Martins in-the-veld family.

“In their hearts humans plan their course,
but the Lord establishes their steps” - Proverbs 16:9

Karen Naicker, Headmistress Vuleka St Martins

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

2022 was a year of resettling into the life of the church after Covid, re-engaging with many of you during the week due to weekday services being restarted.

It was a joy to chat with you when you walked in to say hi, catch up and leave us a plate of eats which we always appreciate. St Martin's is a community that is a blessing to work for and with as we have so many pleasant interactions with you and members of the community at large.

We spent quite a bit of time on the telephone talking to all of you as well as people in the community about assistance, booking for services, allocating old records, adding names to the sick list, assisting the homeless and struggling, a baby to be baptised, a couple wanting to be married, putting up plaques, or sad times when we talk about a funeral. We also assisted when needed with serving tea, putting up services on the data projector, providing music in files for the music group, and operating the sound-desk for funerals and weddings.

Some of the events and activities that I had the joy in assisting with were two weddings, and we had six children baptised, and made sure all their paperwork was done for them.

The administrative tasks are currently carried out by two full-time staff namely myself and Kudakwashe Zendanemako who has been a great help; she has been working in the office to assist those who walk in: we thank God for her gifts. We also extend our gratitude to Charlotte our bookkeeper who keeps a record of all financial transactions and ensures our books are up to date.

Groundsmen

We have Phumlani, who works from 07:00 – 15:00, Monday to Friday and 07:00 – 12:00 on Saturdays. He was able to continue to keep St Martin's well maintained and kept the building clean.

Gardener

We have a gardener, John, who is here on Monday doing the Rectory and Parish House, and on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday doing the church premises. He got some assistance from Linda, Simone, and Ken to spruce up the garden which is now looking immaculate. We welcome assistance from congregants from time to time, and would appreciate them helping to add some colour to the garden on occasion!

House keeping

We have a house keeper, Leocadia, who is a real asset to the church, with a cheerful disposition, and a strong work ethic. She cleans alternating work between church, chapel, clinic, offices, choir vestry, and rectory. We thank her for her thoroughness and efficiency.

Car guards

We have two car guards that are available to watch the cars for every Sunday service and any other services/events that may require cars to be looked after.

As we head into 2023 we continue to strive for excellence in all we do and as always we are here to assist with any matters. St Martin's is a bustling community and we have the pleasure and honour to serve the various needs that arise from time to time; which is the most enjoyable part, working with you, the clergy, and the people of St. Martin's.

We are always happy to see you, have a chat and share a story. To the volunteers who are always there to lend a helping hand, thanks for all the support over the year.

Nataski Manyika

MAINTENANCE

In an environment of persistently reduced budgets and belt-tightening, the maintenance portfolio has largely focused on essential repairs to the administration buildings, vestry and Parktown north house.

These have included unblocking of drains, repairs to security gates and alarm systems and other small repairs. As the year progressed, a significant financial contribution, gratefully received, allowed essential repairs to the hall adjacent the stage, where damp ingress had occurred due to failed waterproofing and roof drains blocked by leaves. This repair was completed to a good standard and no further problems are expected here. In addition, repairs to the west gable end of the main church were done as well as selected repairs to the roof.

Trees which were posing a danger to the Parktown North property were lopped down and timber removed.

Dragging cables have been neatened up at the chapel, and work has been completed on the facias to all administration buildings which have been damaged due to water runoff from clogged or damaged gutters.

As the loadshedding situation became worse, solar solutions were explored to provide backup power during blackouts. Unfortunately, the steep slate rooves do not lend themselves to PV panel installations, but other options might be possible, including a simple inverter and battery installation.

Thanks to all involved with supporting this portfolio, including Ken Owen, Rev Mark Spyker and Lawrence Trent.

Gregory Skeen

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

Fellow Parishioners, we are delighted to be able to share with you that post the pandemic we are back to being a thriving and an active community at St Martins in the Veld. There is still much work to be done but the shoots of new growth fill us with much hope. Under Mark Spykers perseverance and leadership as Rector of our Parish, the journey to recovery though sometimes slow and disheartening has blossomed to a point where here we are in 2023 with a future that looks bright and optimistic despite the gloomy pending global recession predicted, continuous loadshedding and the uncertain geo-political environment.

We welcome all the new faces to St Martins and hope that they will find their spiritual home with us. We miss the many former parishioners who have relocated to other parts of the city and country, and they should know that they are fondly remembered.

Worship and services: We are back to running Sunday services at 7.30am and 9.30am in person and the attendance numbers have slowly ticked up each week. For a period, we also offered live-streaming of the 9.30am and 7.30am Sunday services, but now post each of the Sunday sermons online the following day. The mid-week Tuesday and Wednesday morning eucharist services have resumed. There is also an early morning 7.30am Saturday service. Unfortunately, Sunday 'Get Real' service has been discontinued and Evensong is now only one Sunday a month. Please refer to the weekly pew leaflet or our website for further information.

Finances – St Martins has a healthy financial income statement and balance sheet, and we thank Lawrence Trent (treasurer) and Charlotte Gulle (bookkeeper) for keeping us accountable and for providing good governance over our finances. We thank you, for your generous contributions through dedicated gift giving and church service offerings. In addition, we express our gratitude to the families who bequeathed and donated funds to St Martins. Lawrence will in his financial report provide more details.

Maintenance and Upgrades – the following upgrades were undertaken

- Purchasing of a new camera and equipment for live - streaming services

- Continued tuning and adjustments to the organ - we are forever indebted to Sidney Place for his continued oversight
- Replacement of the Notice Board on the corner of Cradock and Eastwood streets
- Painting and a refresh of the Parish room
- Repairs to the damp walls and waterproofing of the hall

St Martin's buildings and infrastructure which includes the church grounds, Vuleka school, the rectory and parish houses require constant repairs, upkeep and maintenance. We review expenditure on repairs and maintenance monthly and are keen to ensure that our plant is well maintained. Greg will elaborate further in his report.

Spirituality – Several interesting and soul-searching events took place this year that propelled our spiritual growth.

- A Strategic Planning Day was held on Saturday 29 January. There were a few enthusiastic attendees who spent the morning brainstorming and ideating using the framework of **God in Sanctuary – Each Other in Community – The world in Outreach**. This resulted in a plan of activities and events to grow community, that included combined services that were held on Pentecost Sunday (5 June), Farewell Service to Joanne and James (28 August) and St Martins Family Day (13 November). Delicious, mouth-watering refreshments were served after each service. We also held our first Open Day (15 October) which was a great success and raised approximately R25k. Back to Church Sunday was held on 23 October and it was very encouraging to welcome so many visitors to church on the day. A clergy/council dinner was held at the rectory (15 June) - thank you Mark and Simone for your hospitality.
- During Lent 2022 the theme for Sunday services and homegroups was based on the book by Rich Villados: **'The Deeply Formed Life'** – 5 transformative values to root us in the way of Jesus. This was a very special experience.
- In place of Get Real services a Sunday series on **'A New Church for a New World'**, a course by John van der Laar was presented, and this was open to all Parishes in the Archdeaconry; this will also be used to inform the 2023 Strategic Planning Day.
- For Lent 2023 we will run a course based on the book by Trevor Hudson: **'Seeking God: Finding another kind of life with St Ignatius and Dallas Willard'**.
- Furthering his spiritual growth and development Mark attended a 4 -day Retreat at Good Shepherd; Paul Siaki attended the Lambeth conference of Bishops and Primate and Nycholas Oliveira (Youth Minister) embarked on his master's degree which saw him spend the month of December in Belgium with his supervisor. Thank you for your generous gift to Nycholas that assisted with his travel expenses.

Farewells – We bid farewell to Jo-anne Tatalias and James Martin who were both ordained to the Priesthood in December. Both have been assigned to new parishes. We miss their presence and contributions to St Martins knowing that they are doing God's work and growing his kingdom.

We welcomed new Council Members Joscelin Whitfield and Richard Bouma.

Lucia Swartz will retire as church warden having completed a maximum 5-year continuous term of office at this year's vestry meeting.

We would like to thank the many people involved in keeping St Martins operational – the Clergy, Staff, XCO, Council, Lay Ministers, Worship group, Choir members, Servers, Sides people, Sunday school teachers, Evangelism leaders, Members of the craft circle, OVC, soup kitchen, sewing group, pastoral care, St Martin's clinic, boom squad and prayer warriors.

We would also like to take this opportunity to invite you and your family to offer your talents and gifts to the church. There are many ways in which this can be done and we always looking additional helpers.

May God richly bless you and your families.

Lucia Swartz, Michael Glensor, Richard Bouma

RECTOR'S REPORT

As we enter a period of fasting and penitence, on this first Sunday in Lent, it is appropriate that the three temptations of Jesus invite us to examine our own motivations for ministry and question just how attentive to God we are. My NIV Study Bible notes have this to say about Matt 4:1–11: “The significance of Jesus' temptations, especially because they occurred at the outset of his public ministry, seems best understood in terms of the kind of Messiah he was to be:

- He would *not* accomplish his mission by using his supernatural power for his own needs (first temptation),
- by using his power to win a large following by miracles or magic (second temptation)
- or by compromising with Satan in idolatrous worship (third temptation).

Although Jesus was the Son of God, he defeated Satan by using a weapon that everyone has at their disposal: “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”.

This points us back to Israel's wilderness experiences in Dt 6–8, from which Jesus quotes in his three responses to the devil's temptations (see vv. 4,7,10). There Moses recalls how the Lord led the Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years “to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands” (Deut 8:2).

Here at the beginning of his ministry Jesus is subjected to a similar test and shows himself to be the true Israelite who lives “on every word that comes from the mouth of God”. We also, have come through a deeply testing time, not unlike the wilderness the Israelites travelled through, and Jesus was led into by the Holy Spirit, to be tempted and tested.

But we were not alone in this: when Jesus overcame temptations by clinging to God and God's word, he provided a powerful example for all believers in their own times of testing. And because Jesus is tempted as Israel was and as believers continue to be, he

is able to be our “merciful and faithful high priest”, and thus “able to help those who are being tempted”.

May we also, as individuals, and as a parish, not be tempted to make ourselves the focus of our ministry, nor seek the adulation of crowds, nor follow any of the many modern day idols available; but rather follow our merciful and faithful high priest in Jesus, and cling to God and His Word in all we do!

Jesus himself summarised the law, the Word of God, in two commandments: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' [38] This is the first and greatest commandment. [39] And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' [40] All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments," He said. (Matthew 22:37-40).

That 1st Commandment, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind' sounds a lot like the 1st statement of our vision as a church:

1. “We Connect with God in Sanctuary”.

At our recent annual Strategic Planning Day we came up with several goals to be addressed in this area:

1.1. One of the successes of our time in lockdown, was the way in which putting the services on Powerpoint has enabled us to experiment with liturgy.

Liturgy remains an important part of Anglicanism, and we would like to stay with Powerpoint and use other updated technology to enrich our services.

1.2. Another success of our time in lockdown has been the revival of the Prayer Circle (aka the ‘Prayer Warriors’) under the leadership of Melanie Glyn-Jones.

We would like to continue to be a parish where parishioner’s needs are brought in prayer to the throne of Grace, and we can see prayers answered.

1.3. A core value of our parish over the years has been the practice of Contemplative Prayer, which has continued to enrich us under the leadership of Jo-anne Tatalias and +Brian.

This was further developed in last year’s Lenten Theme: “The Deeply Formed Life”, and will continue to be explored in this years Lenten them: “Seeking God: Finding Another Kind of Life with St. Ignatius and Dallas Willard”.

Under new leadership in Michael Glensor we would like to see Contemplative Prayer reintroduced in quiet mornings once a quarter.

1.4. One of the key observations made by John Van Der Laar in his cutting-edge course on Church After Covid (“A New Church for a New World”) is the fact that “Some churches grow wide, other grow deep. But you can’t do both at the same time!” James Ernest, the vice-president and editor-in-chief at Eerdmans says that “What we’re seeing is massive discipleship failure caused by massive catechesis failure”. Clearly we need a new discipleship where we become intentional about finding ways to grow a people who are immersed in the mission and message of Jesus.

Our Lenten courses are a part of this process, and in the past we have successfully used Alpha as a means to this, but we would like to develop it further in teachings series and specific courses on discipleship, taught by Paul Siaki and others.

1.5. Finally, we would like to plan one or more retreats for 2023, where groups of people in the parish are able to draw aside for a weekend outside of the parish to grow in depth.

The 2nd Commandment of Jesus, 'Love your neighbour as yourself' sounds a lot like the 2nd statement of our vision as a church:

2. "We Connect with One Another in Community".

Here too we recently came up with several goals to be addressed.

2.1. A feature of our past life as a church community has been it's gathering together in combined services, where we get to be with one another from different services and share our life together.

This has happened at big festivals, like Pentecost, and church celebrations, like St Martin's Family Day, and on occasions like the Passover Supper where we get to "Celebrate the Feasts" together, at least once a quarter.

2.2. We would like to reintroduce a previous feature of all our services which is the use of Name Tags to help identify one another at services.

2.3. Allied to this we would like to re-establish a Welcome Team at each service, update the current Welcomer's Brochure, which was recently redesigned, and stage events where we welcome newcomers and introduce them to different aspects of our life together.

2.4. Sharing food is always a good way to build community, whether over a Bring 'n Share meal after an event or service, or inviting one another into our homes.

2.5. As people return to Church services, and we draw new people into communion with us, we need to ensure our Pastoral Care is good. This has been revitalised over the last couple of years with Estelle Nobin running our Caring Portfolio, recently taken over by Claudia Jeevenantham, and ably assisted by Melanie Glyn-Jones with the Prayer Circle.

This is complemented by calls from parishioners to the parish office where needs are brought by Nataski to the weekly staff meeting. Please do help us to make Pastoral Care a priority by communicating needs to us.

2.6. One great success of last year was the Open Day, where many gathered over a variety of events in the Church grounds to entertain, educate, bless, and raise funds (nearly R30 000). We would like to build on this success by scheduling further open days and other community events.

2.7 Pre-Covid, Mark and the Ketley's ran several Marriage Preparation Courses on video, over a meal and/or refreshments. We would like to continue to do this by blessing

families within our parish boundaries and beyond, with Marriage Preparation, Baptism, Confirmation, Parenting, and Marriage courses.

2.8 As we move out of the individualism of lockdown and separation from one another, we would like to encourage a system of volunteering again, to populate the many important tasks/ministries which are essential to our communal life: eg. Sides-persons, Choir, Parish Lay ministers, Readers etc.

2.9 To assist in this we would like to update our lists of processes which need to be followed for the smooth running of the parish.

The last commandment of Jesus to the disciples before he ascended to heaven, according to Matthew, was what I like to call the 3rd Commandment of Jesus, 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you', which I think sounds a lot like the 3rd statement of our vision as a church:

3. We Connect with the World in Outreach.

3.1 Continue to build a Choir Practice every Wednesday which will attract people from outside our parish boundaries.

3.2 Join up with a multi-denominational minister's fraternal in our geographic area with the specific aim of sharing ministries and resources to meet the needs of our area.

3.3 Share the expertise that we have at St Martins with others less experienced in business and education to assist in upskilling (mentoring, coaching, teaching).

3.4 Share our resources with other Parishes in the Archdeaconry.

3.5 Within the Marketing portfolio explore opportunities for St Martin's-in-the-Veld to magnify its footprint in the surrounding area, and make the vast growing communities in Rosebank and our surrounding suburbs aware of how we would like to assist people with our resources, such as Sunday School, Services, Family-Life Courses, etc. We should use whatever means possible to expand this footprint such as community radio, magazines, newspapers, social media, and our website.

3.6 A key element of this goal will be to Update all signage on the main roads around St Martin's and within the St Martins Campus.

3.7 Finally, we wish to return our Evangelism to its position of strength in the past using tools such as Alpha, Mission Shaped Ministry, and The Jesus Shaped Life.

OTHER URGENT GOALS IDENTIFIED

- An alternative system of power now urgently needs to be installed in this current climate of loadshedding.
- Bathrooms need to be now urgently revamped
- Digital screens and additional speakers need to be installed.

Council and XCO should urgently allocate funds for these, and appeal to the parish to assist with donations.

VALUES/PRINCIPLES FOLLOWED TO ESTABLISH GOALS

1. We sought in all things to be a blessing to the Community.
2. We seek Excellence at the heart of all we do.
3. We seek depth rather than breadth in all we do (eg covering less teaching themes but repeating them comprehensively).
4. Volunteers are a key feature of all we do.
5. Marketing is a critical and central theme that runs through all three pillars.
6. XCO and Council to work on plans and actions to execute.

Essentially my report was written for me by Lucia Swartz, as it was she who summarized the goals we set at our strategic planning day and laid them out so well: I merely expanded on them a little! And how exciting they are, I must say, giving us much to do in the year ahead! However, I do have one last task to perform, and that is to bid farewell to Lucia as she has now retired from her work as head of Human Resources for SAB, and will be leaving for Cape Town once she has sold up and packed up her home, which means, sadly, that she will also be stepping down as Warden of St Martin's-in-the-Veld.

I have to say, Lucia, that it has been a great privilege having you as our Warden, and for the last few years, having you as Chairperson of both Council and XCO. Yours has been the voice of wisdom, calm and measured, on a wide variety of subjects over the last few years, and it has been your business-like approach to meetings that have kept us on track and on time in Council and XCO. Not only as a Councillor and Warden, but also as layminister and parishioner, you could be relied on to be always present, always participating, which is enormously encouraging on those rare days when everyone else seems to have absconded!

You have always been fully present, which is a wonderful thing in today's transitory world!
Thank You!

Mark Spyker

DRAFT PARISH BUDGET 2023

| | 2023 BUDGET | 2022 ACTUAL | 2022 BUDGET |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <u>INCOME</u> | 3 839 862 | 3 842 072 | 3 827 927 |
| Parishioner Contributions | 3 319 662 | 3 177 550 | 3 450 127 |
| * Church Collections | 225 000 | 151 569 | 256 675 |
| * Pledged Gifts | 3 094 662 | 3 025 981 | 3 193 452 |
| Special Income | 305 400 | 306 897 | 190 000 |
| Other Income | 214 800 | 357 624 | 187 800 |
| <u>EXPENSES</u> | 3 839 374 | 3 559 942 | 3 827 355 |
| Diocesan Assessment | 380 004 | 405 004 | 380 004 |
| Cost of Employment | 2 155 200 | 2 039 250 | 2 201 371 |
| Parish Programs | 159 760 | 50 857 | 163 860 |
| Operating Expenses | 1 043 310 | 1 010 060 | 966 720 |
| Outreach Ministry | 101 100 | 54 771 | 115 400 |
| NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) | 488 | 282 130 | 572 |

VESTRY

MINUTES SUNDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2022

The Rector declared Vestry open.

1. Proposal of secretary: Jane Trathen, proposed by Nick Tatalias and seconded by Lucia Swartz.
2. Attendance register was taken from the necessary Covid-19 list of attendees at the service. Apologies: Marcelle Franck, Blondie Makgata, Suzanne Trent, Joscelin Whitfield, Priscilla and John Gosling.
3. Previous minutes: reports were produced as usual and sent to the Diocese. The Parish continued with the Parish Councillors appointed in the previous year. Acceptance of Vestry minutes: proposed by Ingrid Greef and seconded by Anne Jones.

4. Acceptance of Vestry reports: proposed by Beccy Stones and seconded by Steve Briggs. All in favour, with the addition of the Rector's report which was available this morning.

5. Wardens' Report: presented by Nick Tatalias.

Nick tendered his resignation as Warden after completing 6 years.

Acceptance of the Wardens' report: proposed by Maddie Farrant and seconded by Richard Mokgata. All present in favour.

6. Rector's report: Mark Spyker presented his report.

Acceptance of the Rector's Report: proposed by Ken Owen and seconded by Jane Sproule. All in favour.

7. Treasurer's Report: Lawrence Trent presented the accounts for 2021, and the budget for 2022.

Lawrence commented that the parish has been in survival mode, and we need to move out of this. We must grow God's kingdom here and now in Rosebank.

Diocesan financial position: the Diocese is in huge distress and can no longer meet obligations. Please pray for a speedy and sustainable solution.

The Annual Financial Statements for 2021 have been audited and the results are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| INCOME | R3 446 682 |
| EXPENDITURE | R3 444 759 |
| ACTUAL NET SURPLUS | R1 923 |

The Parish Budget for 2022 reflects the following:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| INCOME | R3 827 932 |
| EXPENDITURE | R3 827 357 |
| BUDGETED NET SURPLUS | R575 |

Comments and questions:

- Insurance of fixed assets and replacement costs: we are mindful of that.
- Revaluing of property: it belongs to the Diocese.
- Bishop Bavin school: possibility of another education group taking over the property. Change in the canons of the church will be required.
- The business rescue practitioner working with the Diocese is the treasurer at St George's.
- Wilgespruit Centre: has there been any mention of this – not certain of this, Mark will try and find out.

Lawrence asked for a proposal for acceptance of the 2021 audited financial statements as presented. Proposed by Steve Briggs, seconded by Roger Ketley. All in favour.

Budget 2022:

Acceptance of the 2022 budget was proposed by Beccy Stones and seconded by Ken Owen. All in favour.

Appointment of auditors: Lawrence recommended that this should go out to tender during the course of the year. Agreed.

Lawrence thanked the Wardens and Rector, the Parish Council, people who count collections, and Joscelin Whitfield and Christmas in July for all their support. He particularly thank Charlotte Gulle for her impeccable work with the accounts.

Lawrence tendered his resignation as Treasurer. Mark noted this was not accepted, Lawrence was confirmed as Treasurer.

8. Size of Parish Council: 8 portfolios, Treasurer, one Warden and two alternates. Proposed by Anne Jones and seconded by Greg Skeen. All in favour.

9. Election of Wardens and Councillors:
Lucia Swartz, Michael Glensor, Richard Bouma, Joscelin Whitfield, Jo-anne Tatalias, James Martin, Nycholas Olivier, Greg Skeen, and Burton Phillips. Suggested that Irene Mamalisi should help James. Proposed by Fiona Weeple and seconded by Moira Barnes that be elected as listed. All in favour.

10. Election of Synod Representatives: proposed by Tony Barnes and seconded by Jane Trathen that Council should elect the representatives. Agreed.

11. The Rector declared Vestry closed.

[Note: the content of the 2022 Vestry Reports, the Churchwardens' and Rector's reports, the 2021 financial audit, and 2022 budget were all either distributed to the parish, or publicly displayed, on or before Vestry, and so have not been reproduced here. Copies of any of these documents can be obtained from the parish office]

Jane Trathen