

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH SUNNINGHILL

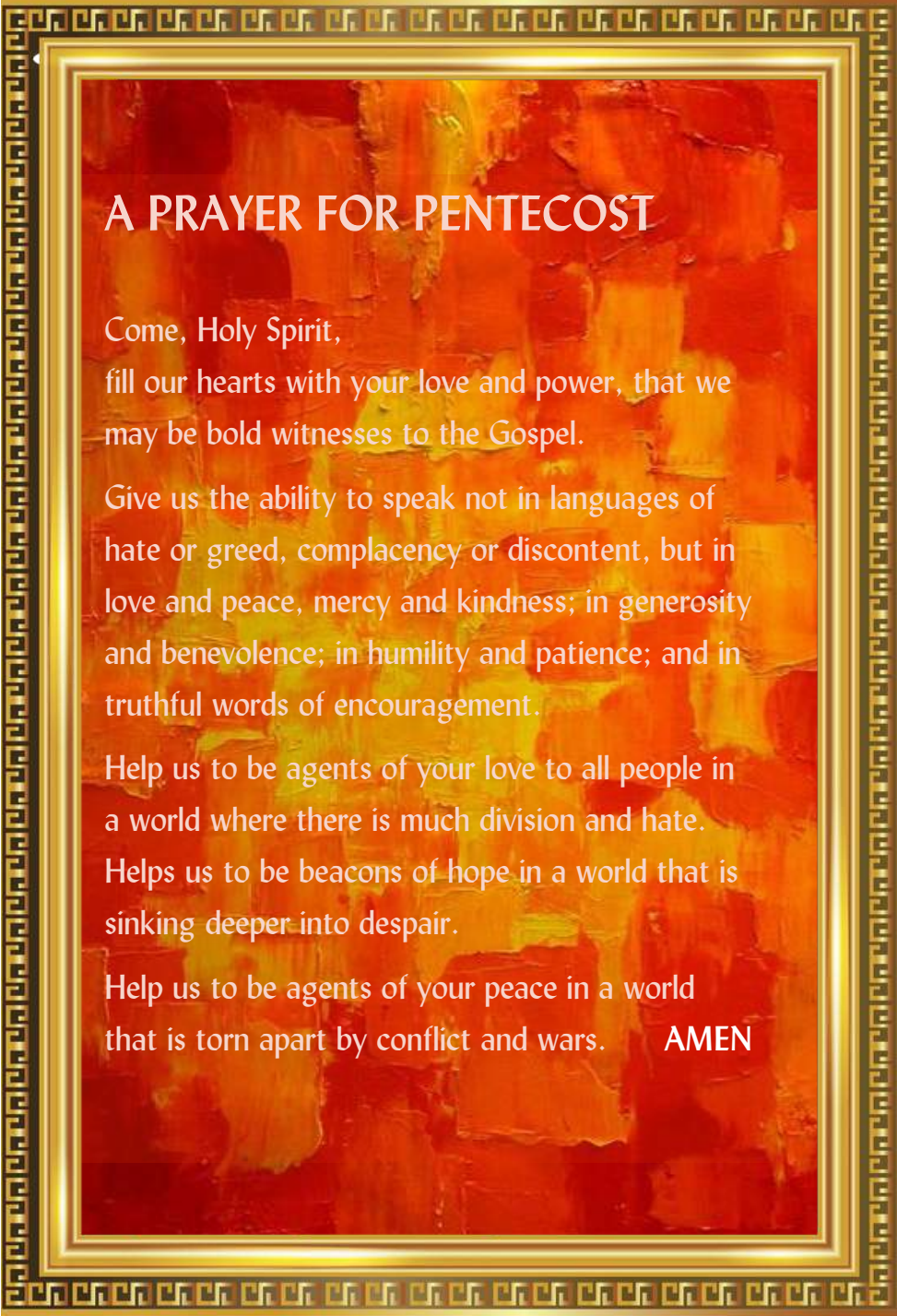
PENTECOST 2025

LET THE SPIRIT
move you!

Pentecost, also known as Whit Sunday, is said to be the “birth of the Church” and the beginning of the Christian Church’s mission to the world. Celebrated 50 days after Easter Sunday, we commemorate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ.

The Acts of the Apostles describes how the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit, empowering them to speak in different languages and preach the gospel.

[Acts 2:1-4]



A PRAYER FOR PENTECOST

Come, Holy Spirit,
fill our hearts with your love and power, that we
may be bold witnesses to the Gospel.

Give us the ability to speak not in languages of
hate or greed, complacency or discontent, but in
love and peace, mercy and kindness; in generosity
and benevolence; in humility and patience; and in
truthful words of encouragement.

Help us to be agents of your love to all people in
a world where there is much division and hate.

Helps us to be beacons of hope in a world that is
sinking deeper into despair.

Help us to be agents of your peace in a world
that is torn apart by conflict and wars. **AMEN**

Rector's Reflections



Birthdays are a wonderful occasion to celebrate. It is filled with joy and reflection as we go back to who we truly are. Birthdays remind us that life is precious. It marks the beginning of a new chapter in our lives, a fresh start, and an opportunity to grow.

When we think of birthdays, we often think of joyous celebrations, complete with cake, presents, and laughter. The Church, too, has a birthday worth celebrating! That special day is none other than Pentecost, a momentous occasion that marks the birth of the Church as we know it. Pentecost also holds special significance for us at St Stephen's. It marks both the birth of the Church and the official opening of our parish 29 years ago, which fittingly took place on Pentecost Sunday.

In the Book of Acts, Chapter 2, we find a detailed account of this historic event. As the apostles gathered in one place, suddenly there came a sound like a rushing wind, and tongues of fire appeared above each of them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and immediately the spirit-empowered apostles went out of their room into the city square and were on fire in proclaiming the good news. They began speaking in different languages, miraculously communicating the message of God to people from various nations who had come to Jerusalem for the feast. This powerful display of God's presence and the disciples' bold proclamation of the Gospel resulted in the conversion of about three thousand individuals that day.

So we see, the birthday of the Church was spent not inside the church but in the streets, going out to the people, speaking their language so that they too may discover the spirit of God actively moving them towards the fullness of life in Jesus.

Today's great Feast of Pentecost is so encouraging. It reminds us that the call of Jesus to his disciples, 'Go make disciples of all nations' went hand in hand with Jesus' promise to send them the Holy Spirit. They were not to bear witness to Jesus without the help of the Spirit. We too have been given the Holy Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation to help us bear witness to Jesus.

We want to dedicate this year's Pentecost celebrations to our online ministry. Not only is the idea of launching our online mission initiative on Pentecost a powerful and fitting choice, but Pentecost with its symbolism of the Holy Spirit empowering believers to share the Gospel aligns perfectly with the goal of extending our church's reach through online platforms.

Some of you might say that discipleship is impossible without a Christian community because that is one of the reasons the church exists. Churches around the world fulfil Jesus' call to make disciples in different ways and now, with technology, we have new avenues for everyday discipleship. Communities are changing, and connection methods are evolving. While small groups and church groups remain pillars, online spaces are becoming primary meeting places.

Today, digital spaces are not just where people go, they are where life happens for many, and digital spaces can also offer a safe place where people can explore faith in new ways.

This shift opens, otherwise overlooked, ministry opportunities. By engaging digitally, we reach those who are not comfortable with face-to-face spiritual talks. The calling to make disciples isn't bound by walls. Rather, digital platforms provide opportunities to empower individuals and reach those beyond physical walls, making the mission of Jesus accessible to all. Our discipleship calling doesn't change in digital spaces. As a church, we are here to share the gospel, make disciples, and build Christ-centred relationships. Digital mission can help to keep this mission alive. Every online interaction is a chance to show Christ's love.

This is an innovative and bold step, but a new way of being Church. It is, I believe, a sign of the life of the Spirit whom we celebrate at Pentecost. It is a sign of the Spirit continuing to give birth to the Church.

May the Spirit renew us in ways beyond what we can imagine. Happy birthday St Stephen's!



Revd. Sharmain James



Discernment

Looking back, moving forward: The story of St Stephen's

A personal reflection by Keith Greenway on the faith, people, and milestones that shaped our parish journey.

Happy 29th Pentecost birthday to all our parishioners and blessings on all members and their families!!

Pentecost Sunday holds a very special place in the history of St Stephen's and in the hearts and minds of our parishioners.

It is thus an important occasion in our journey from a "plant" start-up to the vibrant, vigorous and prayerful church that is St Stephen's today.

It is appropriate that we celebrate BUT also humbly look back at our early beginnings and give thanks to GOD for the many people who have given of their time, talents, financial resources and inspiring leadership to help build St Stephen's into what it is today. St Stephen's continues to be richly blessed—not only in its financial stability but also in the wide range of ministries, activities, and outreach projects that have grown over the years. It's a testament to the faithful commitment of our community and the grace that guides our shared journey.

At a special vestry meeting in January 1993 the parishioners of St Catherine's (our mother church) approved the idea of planting a new chapelry in the rapidly expanding area of Sunninghill.

This was the brainchild of the then rector of St Cath's, Revd. Peter Laithwaite, who felt that the congregation was very settled and financially secure, and he was looking for a new challenge and had asked one of the churchwardens, Peter Atkinson, to prepare a proposal which was put to the council and parishioners.

Parish members were asked to pledge financially to this project and to consider who among them were prepared to move to form a new congregation and become founder members. Approximately ten families responded positively and became the core of the new chapelry, to be followed shortly after by several further families.

So, on Pentecost Sunday, May 30th, 1993 this small group held the first service of the new chapelry in the basement of Sunninghill Hospital. Andrew Gready, as rector-to-be, together with his wife, took the service with all seated on plastic and deckchairs in the basement!

Denise McLeod remembers holding Sunday school classes in the hospital corridors during the first 9 months and it was not unusual to see patients in wheelchairs, accompanied by nurses, joining the worship.

Banners were placed on the fences to advertise the services, leaflets printed and placed in post boxes, and tea was always served after the services. The warm and meaningful times enjoyed meant a new, more substantial "home" needed to be found.



A strangely triangular plot on Nanyuki Road with a large house and double garage was identified and investigated. After some initial challenges with the offer and a change in ownership, Peter Laithwaite finalised the purchase of the property in October 1993. Approval was then granted for it to be used as a place of worship for up to 250 people.

At the blessing of the house, into which Andrew and Marion Gready moved on 18 October that same year, a prophecy was given. God assured us of his presence and approval and hinted that he had plans for the congregation which far exceeded anything that had been imagined. From January 1994 the congregation met in the double garage of the rectory with approximately 30 members, and as numbers grew to 60, people sat outside in the sunshine listening to the birds.

On 12 May 1996, 3 years after the first service in Sunninghill hospital, plans were approved at a Special Vestry meeting for the present hall, an office, and ablutions.

On Pentecost Sunday, 26 May 1996, the parish of St Stephen's was inaugurated, and Andrew Gready was instituted as the first rector by Bishop Duncan Buchanan.

The first service in the Hall took place on Sunday, 22 December 1996, despite the heat, and before the roof had been completed with the altar at the southern end and chairs facing it.

The first baptism took place on 29 December 1996, the first wedding on 25 April 1998 and the first confirmation on 1 August 2001.

We had been responsible for our own finances since January 1996, although we were still supported for a period by St Catherine's.

Andrew & Marion Gready moved to a parish in England in December 1999. This marked a landmark in our history when our second rector, Fr Trevor Prince, was instituted on 19 March 2000. Over the next few years he had 3 assistants: Gilmore Fry (the Anglican chaplain at Leeuwkop Prison), Margaret Tremeer, and Christine Norton in December 2002. They were assisted by 3 administrators over the years, with our present administrator, Georgette, joining in September 2002. Our first vergers were Edward Sibisi, who joined us on 1 February 2001, and he provided invaluable support to Fr Trevor and the Council.

The nursery school opened in September 2001, using our Sunday school rooms and the hall. It became so busy that plans were drawn up to extend the teaching areas. The extensions were blessed by Bishop Brian Germond on 2 March 2003.

As excitement grew and attendance increased, more parishioners committed to regular tithing. This growth enabled us –following a financial feasibility study–to begin planning for a new, modern church building in 2003/4, designed by architect John Powell. Following Vestry approval in 2004 we commenced with final designs and specs and went out to tender. The building of the first core phase commenced in November 2004, and by Easter 2005 we were able to approach parishioners to assist with the funding of altar rails, cupboards, carpeting, lighting and all the other items needed. The building was completed and consecrated by Bishop Brian on 31 July 2005 and from then on, under Fr Trevor's inspiring leadership, membership grew in leaps and bounds.



As we move forward, following the arrival of our new rector, Revd. Sharmain James, it is imperative that we maintain this momentum and support our dedicated clergy in all the different ministries.

So, I again encourage ALL our parishioners, those who joined recently and those long established, to meditate and engage in deep prayer and to think about and consider your current financial giving and your commitment of time & talents to the work of the parish and in the building of the Kingdom of God.

On behalf of our churchwardens and council, we express our deep appreciation and gratitude for EVERYBODY'S support, loyalty and dedication.

Our thanks too to the lay staff in the office, especially our unique and much-loved Georgette; to our vergers Andreck and Peter for all that they do to assist in so many ways; and to Bola and her assistants in the smooth running of the Sunday school and our youth group, backed up by YASS (the Young Adults).

It would be remiss of me if I were not to make a special mention of our clergy & ministry support team and all those who contribute to the various groups and workstreams. Special thanks go to Revd. Angela Odame for her support & assistance to Revd. Sharmain and to all the others who assist with preaching duties, providing different styles and wonderful variety.

So, I encourage you all to celebrate this Pentecost Sunday, our 29th birthday, and to recommit to the work of building the Kingdom of God.

*With thanks
Keith*



A Word from the Churchwardens

As your churchwardens, Oliver Petersen, Caron Petersen (alternate), and I, Kenny Abraham, thank you for entrusting us with the stewardship of St Stephen's for 2025/26. Thank you to our newly elected Parish Council for their dedication and commitment to working together with us to grow the Kingdom of God at St Stephen's. We are committed to ensuring that the values and mission of our church continue to flourish within the community. Together, we look forward to fostering a spirit of collaboration and service as we embark on this new chapter.

We were blessed with the appointment of Reverend Sharmain James who took office on 1st January 2025 as our new Rector. Under her leadership, and with the support of the Ministry Support Team—comprising Reverend Angela, Bolanle, Mark, and Protus—St Stephen's continues to navigate challenges with resilience while maintaining the quality of its worship and nurturing a growing, vibrant community in Sunninghill.

To Georgette, the rock of the parish, and her back-office team, Andreck, Peter, and Prudence, our thanks to you for the daily care and maintenance that go into making St Stephen's a comfortable, clean, and safe space for our congregation. We also want to welcome Ofentse as our newly appointed Administrator, who will work alongside Georgette until she leaves us at the end of 2025.

We are extremely grateful to the congregation for the support and dedication to weekly attendance, and participation in different work streams, which contribute to growing the kingdom of God. To all our new parishioners, we are glad that you have chosen our parish and look forward to growing together in faith.

Thank you for your dedicated giving and weekly collections that ensure our financial obligations are met every month thus far. The parish's finances have remained stable so far, this financial year, even though the commitment to dedicated giving was notably low during last year's Dedicated Giving Commitment month. We thank God and you, our parishioners, for maintaining and improving dedicated giving. Our financial stability allows us to consistently contribute to the Diocese and support several outreach programs, making a tangible impact on the wider community. Thank you to Keith and Ragani for their commitment to ensuring the financial wellness and the efficient running of reporting structures at St Stephen's.

Our gardens continue to offer beauty and a sense of peace to all who visit. We're sincerely grateful to Cathy Nicolson for her thoughtful planning and dedication each week, along with Andreck and Peter, our vergers, for their consistent care in keeping the grounds looking their best.

We would be remiss not to highlight the fellowship over a cup of tea after church, as well as the flowers in the church. These small but meaningful ministries create a warm and welcoming space for all. We warmly encourage more parishioners to get involved, as volunteering in these areas is a wonderful way to build community and get to know one another better.

As we celebrate the 29th birthday of St Stephen's on this Pentecost Sunday, we are thankful for the 29 years of our existence and to St Catherine's and the founding members for seeding this parish. We are looking forward, with much anticipation, to celebrating our 30th birthday in 2026!

May Christ be awoken afresh in each one of us as we look forward to the rest of 2025.

Kenny, Oliver and Caron

The Faces behind the names



Parish Council

Back row Revd. Angela Odame | Kay Mtemererwa | Kenny Abraham (Church Warden) | Revd. Sharmain James |
FLTR: Oliver Petersen (Church Warden) | Vuso Majija

Front row Nceba Isaac | Protus Seda | Keith Greenway | Caron Petersen (Alt. Churchwarden) | Ragini
FLTR: Ramkumar (Treasurer) | David O'Connell | Connie Kganakga | Cuan Prince | Ethan Fredericks | Lincoln
Alcock | Fines Chinganya | Andile Nene | Christine Jawichre

Absent: Theodora Tshitahe | Motlatsi Mobaso

Stewardship and servant leadership are the cornerstones of how the Church Council serves the faith community. They are called to lead with humility and a sense of responsibility, committed to nurturing the spiritual and practical life of the parish. Their work—often behind the scenes—is guided by faith, care for others, and a desire to see the church grow as a place of welcome, worship, and service.

As they carry out their responsibilities, let us remember to keep the Church Council in our prayers—asking God to grant them wisdom, strength, and a spirit of unity as they lead and serve our parish community

Readings & Duty Roster

8 June 2025

07h00 08h30	Genesis 11:1-9	Ragini Ramkumar Host
07h00 08h30	Psalms 104:26-36	Service Leader
07h00 08h30	John 14:8-17	Service Leader Service Leader

SERVICE LEADERS	07h00 08h30	Nick Parry, Pat Leman Protus Seda, Mark Williams
CUP BEARERS	08h30	Tinky Sihawu Keith Greenway
ALTAR PARTY	08h30	Crucifer O'ryne Herman Accolyte Lusanda Tshihate Accolyte Virna Mbangeni Thurifer Gerald Sissing Boat bearer Solami Dlamini
STEWARDS	07h00 08h30	Kristo Redlinghuis Winston Cupido Mashudu Matshavha Dovhani Dzivhani
PROJECTOR	07h00 08h30	Georgette Parry Blessing Mafusire
TEA MINISTRY	07h00 08h30	The Church The Church & Sese Matlapeng

Readings & Duty Roster

15 June 2025

07h00 08h30	Proverbs 8:1-4; 22-31	René Kenosi Youth
07h00 08h30	Psalms 8	Service Leader
07h00 08h30	Romans 5:1-5	Service Leader Service Leader
07h00 08h30	John 16:12-15	Lindi Ngwenya Youth

SERVICE LEADERS	07h00 08h30	Anne Schrenk Sifiso Mashele, Cuan Prince
CUP BEARERS	08h30 08h30	Mary Naidoo Ashleigh Dlamini
ALTAR PARTY	08h30	Crucifer Kamga Francois Accolyte Daphne Thabane Accolyte Virna Mbangeni
STEWARDS	07h00 08h30	David O'Connell Ellsworth Jonathan Virginia Naidoo Ashleigh Dlamini
PROJECTOR	07h00 08h30	Caroline Terence Amelia Phillip
TEA MINISTRY	08h30	Dikeledi & Leago Maselela

As the Spirit descended at Pentecost, God still empowers us today.
Every act of service—however small—is a response to His call and a witness to His presence in us.

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.” – Acts 1:8



Birthdays

08

Arianna Fareed

10

Megan Parry

12

Jutta Store

Oresiametse Moamogoa

Veronica Mkuyamba

09

Tatyana Kotta

Francis Moumokwa

11

Elke Wright

Virginia Naidoo

13

Brent de Wet

Thandi Mabaso

Coming Up!

Tues

10

LINK meets in the coffee shop

GriefShare meets in the coffee shop

18h30

18h30

Tues

11

YASS meets in the coffee shop

18h30

Wed

18

Executive Meeting

18h30

Thurs

19

Corpus Christi service & licensing of Pariah Ministers

19h00

Sat

21

Council Meeting
Stewards' Workshop

08h00

08h00

Sun

22

AWF induction

08h30

Sun

29

Contemplative prayer

17h30

Stay Connected

Weekly Regulars

MONDAY

18h00

Evening prayer

TUESDAY

18h30

GriefShare

Contact Pat at 082 908 8042

WEDNESDAY

18h30

YASS - every alternate week

Contact Andile at 083 591 6468

THURSDAY

10h30

Bible Study in the coffee shop

18h30

Music practice in the church

FRIDAY

18h30

Youth in the Garage

18h30

Divine Divas - every 1st and 3rd week

Contact Fines at 083 200 5054

Monthly Regulars

SATURDAY

09h00

AWF - every 3rd Saturday

Contact Nonkonwaba at 083 591 6468

SUNDAY

11h00

MOTHERS' UNION every 3rd Sunday of the month

Contact Theodora at 0827178741

TUESDAY

18h30

LINK - every 2nd Tuesday of the month

Contact Keith Greenway at 082 577 2700, or

Mark Williams at 082 808 5120

Feel free to contact the parish office should you require any more information about any of the activities that take place at the church.



+27 11 807 7974



ststephens@icon.co.za



St Stephen's Sunninghill
Presents

ANNUAL GOLF DAY

For the benefit of
St Stephen's Education Fund

22 OCTOBER 2025 || KYALAMI COUNTRY CLUB

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
Protus Seda at
Protus.Sedah@gmail.com

WE NEED YOU!!

We are very excited about our upcoming golf day on 22 October at Kyalami Country Club. But we cannot do it without you. Our annual golf day raises funds for the St Stephen's Education Fund.

We rely on your generosity for good quality prizes, golfing goodies (*balls, tees, gloves, etc.*), branded items, or cash (*we'll purchase a prize on your behalf*) to make the day a success. Your contribution will not go unnoticed!

To sponsor a prize or to learn more, contact ststephens@icon.co.za.

Thank you for helping us make a difference!

Revd. Sharmain James

Oliver Petersen & Kenny Abraham

Education *changes* Futures

Education is one of the most

powerful tools we can offer

the next generation - it opens

doors, builds *confidence*

and *breaks the cycle*

of poverty.

Join us in making a
lasting difference!

#StStephensGolfDay

#InvestInFutures

#EducationMatters



Intentional Kingdom Building Portfolio

The kingdom of God is both an ongoing process of growth and a place of active participation, with believers playing a vital role in its expansion.

As part of our ongoing efforts in the Intentional Kingdom Building portfolio, we continue to focus on this year's theme: *Growing in Faith Together* (GIFT). This portfolio brings together a range of ministries, each playing a vital role in helping us live out our shared calling. The various ministries reflect our commitment to building a stronger, more connected faith community—whether through fellowship, service, prayer, or learning—one step, one story, one act of love at a time.

Its core focus includes:

- Enabling *spiritual growth*
- Providing *support and care*
- Promoting *unity*
- Building a strong sense of *community*
- Encouraging meaningful *engagement*

Through a range of ministries—each designed to meet different needs—we aim to nurture a church family that is spiritually grounded, connected, and purpose-driven.



- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Training | • Admittance to Holy Communion |
| • Anglican Women's Fellowship | • Baptism Preparation |
| • Bible Study | • Children, Youth, & Teens |
| • Confirmation | • Divine Divas |
| • Ecumenical Services | • Fellowship activities |
| • Fellowship Breakfasts | • God & Coffee Hour |
| • LINK Men's Group | • Mothers' Union |
| • Precepts | • Retreats & Quiet mornings |
| • Young Adults of St Stephen's [YASS] | |

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF THE MINISTRIES, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE.
YOU WILL BE DIRECTED TO RIGHT PERSON.**

#GIFT

Social Outreach

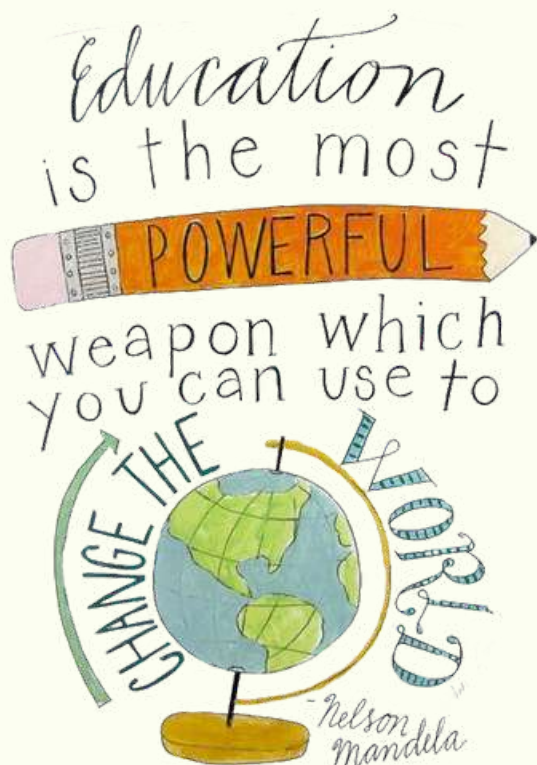
God has invited us to join Him in making something of the world. Love, serve, and give. We, at St Stephen's Anglican Church, have accepted this invitation and pride ourselves in giving back to communities through our social outreach programmes. We are committed to a range of social outreach initiatives that have been running for many years. Some programmes are as a result of relationships built with organisations established to provide a haven for people who are in need of special care, require special assistance, and that are vulnerable and need a safe space to live.

Only a stone's throw from us in Midrand, is [Dolphins Acre](#) – a home for mentally challenged adults. It is run by Louise and currently houses 46 residents. We, as St Stephens, make a monthly financial contribution towards the day-to-day running of the home. In addition, we do an annual food drive for the home. Thanks to the generosity of the St Stephen's community, the November 2024 food drive was a tremendous success, providing enough non-perishable food to sustain the home for two full months. We also host a Christmas party for the residents (known as "Dolphins") every year. It is always an exciting and joy-filled day as we spend time with the Dolphins, eat together, sing carols, enjoy the music, and present them with gifts. One cannot forget the dance moves and the Dolphins' hugs!



Another programme close to our hearts is [Ratang Bana](#). Life can be hard when carers are often the ones causing harm. [Ratang Bana](#) cares for over 500 vulnerable children in Alexandra – children living with HIV, child-headed households, children without food, households without food, and children displaced from their homes. Ratang Bana is a centre that assists with looking after such homes by providing a daily meal to these children and, in extreme cases, providing a place of safety for those who are homeless or vulnerable to abuse in their own homes. St Stephen's provides monthly financial support to Ratang Bana. As with Dolphins Acre, we also collect Christmas gifts for the children and donate non-perishable food items as needed. Additionally, we host a special meal for the children once every quarter.





Who can forget the people who helped build our spiritual foundations? The **WELFARE COMMITTEE** is part of the Anglican Diocese of Johannesburg and looks after the needs of the retired clergy and window. You would agree, that we are who we are now because of the guidance of our spiritual teachers when we were young. What a wonderful way to appreciate them now by contributing towards their wellbeing. We make a monthly contribution, and at the end of the year, we put together approximately 120 grocery hampers for the retired clergy, which are given to them at the tea the bishop holds for them.

At St Stephen's church we have embraced this, as we believe nobody can take away your knowledge. For this reason we support learners who find it hard to pay school fees until such time that they are able to get support from the government. Through the **EDUCATION FUND**, we currently assist 14 primary and high school learners with school fees. It is a great joy to see this programme grow, as we all know that educating someone is like giving them a passport to the future because it improves their lives and leaves the community better. Please continue praying for this programme to grow so that we can help many more and build our future leaders.

THE UMPHAKHATI BASKET

is our way of supporting those in need within our community. We collect the listed grocery items and pack them into food hampers for distribution to individuals and families who could use a helping hand. Any additional items are shared with the organisations we partner with, extending the impact of your generosity even further

umphakathi noun (plural: imiphakathi)

1. community—a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.
2. public/society – the general population or members of a community as a whole.
3. the people – often used to refer to ordinary citizens or the collective body of a group.

Interested in joining the Social Outreach team? Contact Fines Chinganya at 083 200 5054. Alternatively, email the church office at ststephens@icon.co.za
The Social Outreach team serving on the parish council are Fines Chinganya, Kay Mtemerewa, Keith Greenway, Lincoln Alcock, Nceba Isaac, Mark Williams, and Theodora Tshitahle

Psycho-social Support

At St Stephen's, the Pastoral Social Support (PSS) Ministry continues to play a vital role in promoting the emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being of our church community. In the year ahead, the ministry will focus on deepening its impact through thoughtful programming, community collaboration, and relevant conversations.

Building on last year's initiatives—such as conversations around grief and redefining masculinity—the PSS team will continue to create safe spaces for healing, reflection, and growth. Plans for 2025 include:

Grief support

Continuing to walk alongside those experiencing loss, the ministry will offer resources and moments for shared reflection to help individuals navigate their grief journeys with faith and compassion.

Redefining masculinity & youth engagement

In partnership with other ministries, including YASS, the PSS Ministry hopes to further conversations on gender-based violence and support the emotional development of boys and young men. There are plans to introduce these topics during a Sunday service to spark broader awareness and conversation, particularly among men in the congregation.

Financial wellbeing

Recognising the link between financial and emotional health, the ministry also intends to explore topics related to financial wellness—with the goal of equipping our church family with tools to better manage financial stress and build stability.

ANGLICARE COUNCELLORS

ANGELA ODAME
084 987 4622

BOLANLE ENANG
074 152 6709

FINESS CHINGANYA
083 200 5054

MIRIAM MATSHAVHA
073 509 9041

NATALIE PETERSEN
082 826 2319

PAT LEMAN
082 908 8042

SARAH WELHAM
082 904 4549



Healing

The Quiet Work of Grace

Serving in the shadow of the cross

Good sacristans, at their best, are not noticed. A good sermon is obvious, but how the bread made it to the ciborium need not necessarily be. It is simply expected to be there.

A Sacristan's Prayer

O Lord, you have called me to serve
you in the Sanctuary of your
Church.

Inspire me so to order all things
That our worship may reflect your
holiness.

Bless all those who minister at this
altar;

All who receive here the holy
Sacrament

That we may grow in grace
And become partakers of eternal
life,
Through Jesus Christ your Son, our
Lord.

(Canon Thomas J.D Robertson)

Sacristans discreetly give of
themselves, and their efforts help
to make it possible for the church
to bring the Eucharist to people.

If you enjoy serving behind the
scenes, then you might want to
consider joining this team at St
Stephen's.

You will likely find Sacristans in every parish. These are a grouping of women (and sometimes men, too) who do the quiet work of preparing for and clearing up after each Mass. Here at St Stephen's, our Sacristan Team bears the individual and corporate responsibility to care for altar linens, set up the credence table and altar, prepare wine and hosts for communion before services, and clean up after Mass.

The work of the Sacristans brings the community together by ensuring that God's people can receive the Blessed Sacrament in communion with one another, thereby drawing themselves closer to Christ. Being a Sacristan expands one's knowledge of how intentional the church is about each decision concerning the Liturgy. It allows one to enter the reality of what is happening at the altar during Mass: the ultimate representation of Christ crucified.



To find out more contact
Pat Leman at
082 908 8042

#GIFT

Prayer changes things

The Parish Prayer Chain is a quiet yet powerful ministry.

Faithful prayer brings comfort, strength, and real change — in hearts, in circumstances, and in our community.

When we lift one another in prayer, we are standing in the gap, believing that God hears and responds.

Our dedicated prayer warriors are also available to pray with you on Sundays during communion.

Griefshare Support

Grieving in community reminds us that even in our darkest moments, we can find strength in shared faith, gentle presence, and listening hearts. While we can't take someone's pain away, we can walk beside them with kindness and patience. Every grief journey is personal—what matters most is simply being there.

Precepts Ministry

The Precepts Ministry at St Stephen's Church continues to be a vibrant and committed Bible study group, with members gathering regularly for in-depth exploration of Scripture. Hosted in a warm, home setting, the group values both spiritual growth and the fellowship that comes with meeting in person. While the in-person connection is deeply appreciated, the ministry remains flexible and open to hybrid formats to ensure that all who wish to participate can do so comfortably. This welcoming and insightful group offers a meaningful way to grow in faith and community.

Gentle ways to care for those who are grieving

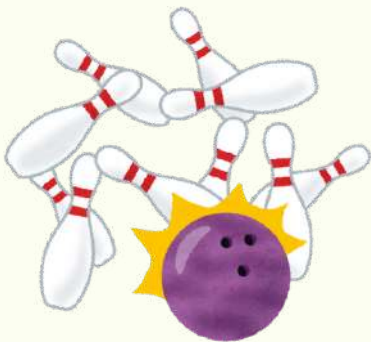
- ♥ **Acknowledge the loss with honesty and warmth.**
·A simple, "I'm so sorry for your loss" can go a long way.
- ♥ **Be present.**
Listen without trying to fix. Sometimes silence is the best comfort.
- ♥ **Offer specific help.**
"I'll bring dinner on Wednesday—what would you like?" is more helpful than open offers.
- ♥ **Give space.**
Some may need solitude. Let them know you're there, no pressure.
- ♥ **Stay in touch.**
·Grief continues beyond the funeral. A message weeks later says, "You're not forgotten."
- ♥ **Remember meaningful dates.**
·Reach out on birthdays or anniversaries: "Thinking of you and remembering Sam today."
- ♥ **Encourage gentle care.**
Support rest and nourishment—perhaps with a simple, easy meal.



LINK is a vital part of our church community, providing a space for men to grow in faith together, support one another, and positively impact our church and our communities.

The influence of the men's Fellowship Group extends beyond the church walls. Strong, faith-based relationships help to equip members to serve their families and communities. Their commitment to living out their faith in practical ways is inspiring and contributes to the overall spiritual health and vitality of the church.

LINK meets once a month for fellowship and prayer. Over a meal, and conversation about what's happening in the world and in their lives. Through a shared faith and love for Christ, the men support one another through life's challenges and celebrate successes. Prayer and Bible study are integral to their growth, both spiritually and in their relationships.



Life isn't always easy, and having a group of Christian brothers to lean on makes a world of difference. We also regularly team up with the youth and young adults. Our bowling nights are a fun way to connect across generations.

LINK also gets involved with organising the annual St Stephen's Golf Day, which raises funds for the Education Fund. Thanks to this fundraising event, 14 learners are currently receiving bursaries—something we're incredibly grateful to be part of. This year's golf day takes place on Wednesday 22 October at the Kyalami Country Club. We look forward to seeing you there



At the recent St Stephen's Career Day, a few members stepped in, helping young people explore their options for the future.

LINK is a meaningful part of our church life—supporting men in their walk with God, strengthening friendships, and helping make a difference both inside and outside the church.

We'd love to have you join us.

We meet every second Tuesday of the month at 18h30. Whether you come for the prayer, the food, or the conversation, we will make room at the table for you!

#GIFT

Divine Divas

a sisterhood rooted in *love & faith*

In a world where life can often feel overwhelming and fast-paced, a group of remarkable women have found a sanctuary in faith, fellowship, and mutual support. Known as the Divine Divas, this spiritually grounded group of ladies gathers every first and third week of the month to grow closer to God and one another.

The group was born from a shared desire to deepen their understanding of the Bible and build a community where encouragement, laughter, and spiritual growth are at the heart of every meeting. Each session is filled with prayer, meaningful discussions, and heartfelt reflections on Scripture as we journey together through the highs and lows of life with Christ at the centre.

More than just a Bible study group, the Divine Divas embody a true sisterhood. They uplift each other with words of wisdom and biblical teachings, and most importantly through acts of kindness and open hearts. Every gathering serves as a reminder that no one walks alone — with faith and fellowship, there is always strength and hope.

As they continue to meet, learn, and grow, the Divine Divas stand as a powerful example of what happens when women come together with purpose, love, and a passion for God's Word. Their lights shine bright, inspiring others to seek connection, truth, and transformation through faith. This group is not limited to its members only; anyone is welcome and can join in at any time. We look forward to growing in faith together.



To find out more, contact
Fines Chinganya at
083 200 5054

**Be the woman
who...**

Prays
like Hannah

Leads
like Deborah

Obeys
like Esther

Waits
like Rahab

Works
like Ruth

Influences
like Miriam

Endures
like Miriam

Devotes
like Martha

Loves
like Priscilla

#GIFT

Growing in Faith together

Alpha 2025

MY ALPHA EXPERIENCE

I have to ask myself why I did not consider Alpha earlier; perhaps it was a lack of understanding of what the course actually was or a reluctance to admit that I had questions. If you are feeling the same way, trust me, don't let it stop you from doing Alpha. I really did not know what to expect, but from the first session, I have been absolutely amazed at how much the course had to offer me.

Being a converted Christian now for many years, I thought "surely there is nothing new that I am going to get from this." However, that was not the case, and I have learned so much and found meaning in things I took for granted on a daily basis. I feel closer to God and clearer about my faith now. The Holy Spirit Day was truly special and something you don't want to miss if you do the course.

I certainly did not fully understand the role the Holy Spirit played in my life; now I am yearning for more and look forward to my journey in faith as I walk this path with Jesus.

I think that Alpha has something to offer everyone whether you are new to Christianity or have been a Christian all your life.

It's difficult to put into words the whole experience, but I trust the above is useful to you.

Collin Naicker



The Alpha series at St Stephen's is always a highlight on our calendar—and this year was no exception. Around thirty curious minds kicked off the series on 10 March, and a few more joined later. Most stayed the course, and what a journey it was!

Each session began with a simple shared meal. On the first evening, participants tentatively got to know one another—offering morsels of personal stories over food and in conversation. It doesn't take long to realise that Alpha leaves room to be open and vulnerable.

That's the thing about Alpha: it's intentionally accessible. It gives people permission to ask difficult, awkward, and even controversial questions about faith—without fear of judgement.

On 10 May, we had our Alpha Day at Hope Ridge Church in Rivonia. The focus was the Holy Spirit.

What a day! The presence of the Holy Spirit was deeply felt as we spent time in prayer—both for ourselves and one another. We left with full hearts, spiritually nourished and uplifted.

If you haven't yet experienced Alpha, I hope you'll feel prompted to give it a try next time.

—CW

Please keep our confirmation candidates who started the Youth Alpha series, in prayer. They are:

Harold Zvinvashe	Tatum Booysen
Keanu Ngcosini	Tema Mavimbela
Kutloano Masetle	Thijs Njenga
Mpilo Ntshangase	Thomas Langson
Sesethu Ben-Mazwi	Zama Ben-Mazwi
Takatso Hlubi	



#GIFT

Children & Youth

The Children and Youth Ministries at St Stephen's Church are vibrant spaces where young people grow in faith, friendship, and fun. From the joyful admittance of children to Holy Communion to family-friendly gatherings like the Good Friday service and Easter egg hunt, these ministries offer meaningful opportunities for spiritual formation and connection. Throughout the year, activities such as movie nights, craft sessions like Easter basket-making, and Friday and Sunday youth meetings provide engaging ways for children and teens to explore their faith. Highlights include a lively movie night, a powerful screening of *The Passion of the Christ*, and the much-anticipated youth camp at Scripture Union's Stoney Ridge—a weekend filled with worship, reflection, and community. With the guidance of dedicated volunteers and leaders, the Children and Youth Ministries continue to grow and welcome new faces into a warm, supportive environment where every young person can feel seen, valued, and encouraged.



#GIFT



First Holy Communion

The First Holy Communion ministry at St Stephen's Church offers a meaningful six-week journey that nurtures the spiritual growth of young candidates in a warm and welcoming environment.

To ensure each child receives focused attention and can fully engage in the experience, the group is thoughtfully divided into smaller discussion groups, allowing for more personal guidance and deeper reflection. This approach, combined with the care and commitment of our dedicated instructors, has created a rich space for learning and faith development. As the ministry continues to grow, future candidates can look forward to an even more memorable and enriching experience. St Stephen's warmly welcomes families seeking a supportive community where children can grow in faith and understanding.

Young Adults of St Stephen's

The Young Adults Ministry at St Stephen's Church is a thriving and welcoming community that continues to grow in energy and impact. Meeting every second Wednesday in a relaxed coffee shop setting, the group offers a space for meaningful connection, personal growth, and spiritual encouragement. With a balanced mix of fun social gatherings, volunteer work, and outreach initiatives, the ministry actively partners with other groups within the church to serve both the congregation and the broader community. Whether you're looking to build friendships, explore your faith, or make a difference, the Young Adults Ministry provides a vibrant space to belong and grow.

Y . A . S . S

#GIFT



Welcome to **ST STEPHENS ANGLICAN CHURCH** SUNNINGHILL

Digitisation is crucial for St Stephen's as it enables the church to navigate complex challenges and differentiate itself from other parishes. By leveraging digital technologies, St Stephen's aims to enhance the services it offers to the community and provide parishioners with an experience to continue to grow in faith together. St Stephen's is embarking on an ambitious digital journey to develop a parishioner-friendly online platform—one that not only keeps the church connected and relevant in a changing world but also extends its reach to those who are homebound, travel often, or live far from the local community. It offers convenience and ease of access and engages all generations.

The DiGi team has been hard at work with the St Stephen's website and other digital platforms/services. The new website offers a new look and feel and, most importantly can be accessed at a click of a button. The platform will serve as a central hub for accessing weekly pew leaflets, staying up to date with church news and events, and catching up on recent sermons—all in one convenient place. The website also provides access to key information about church life and offers a simple way for new members to join by completing the online Joining Form. It also makes it easy to support the church and its mission—visitors can pledge their donations directly through a convenient online giving form.

Exciting new initiatives in the Digitisation Ministry were launched in early June, marking an important step in expanding St Stephen's online presence. These ministries aim to build deeper fellowship, extend our worship community beyond physical walls, and support our shared spiritual journey. All resources and updates will be easily accessible through the St Stephen's website, with more information to follow as this ministry continues to grow.

Stay connected with all that's happening at St Stephen's by visiting our website at www.ststephenssa.co.za, where you'll find the latest news, events, and resources. You can also follow us on [Facebook](#) for community updates and subscribe to our [YouTube](#) channel, where our services are streamed live and available to watch anytime.

Please feel free to speak to the team should you require any further information or assistance.

If you're interested in joining the team, reach out to Protus Seda at protus.sedah@gmail.com

Alternatively, our Administrators,

Georgette Parry & Ofense Kwapeng at ststephens@icon.co.za who will direct you to the right person.



Mothers' Union



The Mothers' Union (MU) at St Stephen's Anglican Church is a vibrant and welcoming community of women united in faith, fellowship, and service. Rooted in Christian values, the MU supports families, nurtures spiritual growth, and works to make a meaningful impact in both the church and the wider community.

ROOTED IN FAITH, LED BY SERVICE

The MU's mission is to encourage strong family life, uphold the dignity of marriage, support those facing challenges, and strengthen the spiritual life of its members. In 2024, the MU welcomed five new members—Gugu Masondo, Judith Seda, Yondela Ntuli, Andiswa Maponyane, and Hazel Gandhi—bringing fresh energy and commitment to the ministry.

Leadership also transitioned in 2025, with a new executive committee now guiding the MU. This team continues to uphold the values of service, prayer, and compassion that define the MU.



FLTR: Gugu Masondo, Judith Seda, Andiswa Maponyane, Yondela Ntuli, and Hazel Gandhi



FLTR: Tsholo Prince (Parish Leader), Victoria Mukome, Tiny Moremoholo (Secretariat), Phillipah Zvinvashe (Treasurer), Miriam Matshavha, Asnath Nkwanyana (Deputy Secretariat), Connie Kganakga, and Theo Tshitahle (Deputy Parish Leader)

A YEAR OF PURPOSEFUL ACTION

The MU remains active across parish, regional, and diocesan levels, engaging in spiritual and social activities throughout the year. In January, members participated in Clergy Day, a time to honour the spiritual leadership within the church. Held in collaboration with St Monnica's Anglican Church, the day paid special tribute to Revd. Angela Odame and Fr. Godfrey Henwood, recognising their dedication and pastoral care.

March brought the observance of Lady Day, marking the Annunciation and celebrating the calling of women in ministry. This year's theme, "Mothers' Union Changing Lives," reflected the movement's ongoing impact on families and communities.

INVESTING IN GROWTH AND EMPOWERMENT

The MU is committed to growing its membership and equipping women to serve with confidence. New members are welcomed and supported through training and formation. MU members also participate in diocesan workshops, including those addressing gender-based violence (GBV), and work with other women's groups in the parish—such as the AWF and Divine Divas—to raise awareness around issues like the development of the boy child. Record-keeping is maintained in partnership with diocesan and regional HRD teams, ensuring alignment with the broader MU mission and vision. This focus on internal development ensures that every member is prepared to lead, serve, and grow spiritually.



OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY

Outreach is a core expression of the MU's purpose. Members work closely with the parish's Social Outreach team, supporting local initiatives such as visits and meals at Dolphin Acres and Ratang Bana. The MU also contributes to diocesan and regional outreach efforts, including care for vulnerable families and homes.

Looking ahead, the MU plans to launch a care package drive to support inmates at Leeuwkop Prison and continue its financial support for a baby at Ratang Bana through the provision of formula and food. These efforts are made possible by the generous contributions of MU members, with careful stewardship from the Finance Team.

GROWING IN PRAYER

Spiritual life is nurtured through regular participation in the parish's prayer ministry, including the bi-weekly P.U.S.H. [Pray Until Something Happens] sessions. These virtual gatherings offer a space for women to pray, share, and support each other in a spirit of faith and openness.

MU members also accompany clergy on home and hospital visits, offering prayers and presence to the sick and bereaved. They actively participate in prayer services before and after funerals, and extend this care to fellow members in times of illness or hardship.

A COMMUNITY FOR EVERY WOMAN

The Mothers' Union is more than a ministry—it's a sisterhood grounded in faith, service, and support. Whether through prayer, outreach, or quiet acts of care, MU members seek to live out their faith in practical ways that uplift others.

If you're looking for a space to grow spiritually, serve with purpose, and be part of a loving community, the Mothers' Union at St Stephen's welcomes you. There is always room for more hearts and hands, united in love and guided by faith.

For information about joining or any other information about the organisation, speak to Tsholo Prince at 083 721 8594 or Theodora Tshitahle at 082 717 8741.



Anglican Women's Fellowship



ABOUT

The Anglican Women's Fellowship (AWF) in Southern Africa was born out of a need for inclusivity. At the time, the Mothers' Union didn't allow single women, single mothers, or divorced women to join. After visiting Canada, Archbishop Robert Selby Taylor saw the potential for a new, more inclusive group. In March 1963, 38 women from 16 dioceses—some from the MU—met in Johannesburg to explore the idea. They agreed to form a new provincial women's organisation: the Anglican Women's Fellowship, which was later approved by the Episcopal Provincial Synod.

MISSION



Prayer and Worship



Fellowship and Study



Mission and Witness



Service and Stewardship

The AWF Sunninghill was established in 2015, with the first official pinning of new members held in 2016. We're delighted to be welcoming new members on 22 June 2025 during the 08h30 service!

We believe in walking together—never doing alone what we can do better together!

FOCUS AREAS

The Mothers Union at St Stephen's focuses on two key areas:



Personal and spiritual growth –

supporting each member's journey of transformation and development.



Outreach – serving others within the church and the broader community; and standing united against poverty, ignorance, disease, and violence.

THE AWF PRAYER

God our Father, you have called us to worship
and serve you in your church.

We ask you to bless the members of the
Anglican Women's Fellowship.

Unite us in love, by the power of your Holy
Spirit and

strengthen us to serve you in the world.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

One of our major projects in 2025 is sewing classes, which will take place on Saturdays. Refiloe Matsau will facilitate these.

Should you be interested in joining us, please contact
Nokonwaba Shwala on 083 591 6468.

#GIFT

New Kid on the Block

Ofentse Kwapeng

An autobiography

MY ARMS OPEN TO LIFE'S ADVENTURE

My story begins with family—the warm threads that bind us together. As the youngest daughter of Nthabiseng Joyce Kwapeng and Itumeleng Livingston Kwapeng, I've been blessed with a loving brother, Neo and sister, Lesego. But my favourite role is being Aunt Ofentse to four rambunctious nephews, Gosiamé, Amogelang, Agisang, and Goatile, and two sweet nieces, Mpho and Kutlwano. I love spoiling them with treats and laughter, weaving our family closer with every story and smile.

My friends are the vibrant patches that add sparkle to my life. They're the late-night conversations, shared playlists, and reminders to live boldly. Their courage and kindness inspire me to trust God and serve others with joy.



In my work with the Diocese of Johannesburg and also being a parish minister in the Cathedral of St Mary the Virgin, I've learned the value of practical service. Whether organising events or offering a helping hand, I find joy in sharing God's love in tangible ways. This passion extends to my role as Deputy President of the Anglican Youth of Southern Africa (AYSA), where I strive to create spaces for young people to grow in faith and purpose in our Province.

As a climate advocate, I hold the Green Anglicans initiative very close to my heart; my faith takes root in caring for creation. Promoting sustainability and standing for justice are ways I respond to God's call.



I also serve on the Archbishop's Commission of Technology and Ethics. My love for Technology, knowledge and skills in IT allows me to explore how technology can serve the Church while keeping our values intact.

Now, I'm excited to join the St Stephen's community, embracing a new chapter with open arms. Hello, family of St Stephen's! I'm Ofentse Kwapeng, eager to walk this adventure together, side by side, with faith and service guiding us.



#GIFT

AT YOUR SERVICE

Ministry Support Team

Rector	Revd. Sharmain James	083 492 1307
Priest	Revd. Angela Odame	084 987 4622
Children & Youth Pastor	Bolanle Enang	074 152 6709
Pastoral Care Coordinator	Mark Williams	082 808 5120
Parish Administrator	Georgette Parry	073 255 5396

OFFICE HOURS: 07h30 - 13h30

Banking Details

Account name	St Stephen's Anglican Church
Account number	422060380
Bank	Standard Bank, Rivonia
Branch code	001255

For your convenience

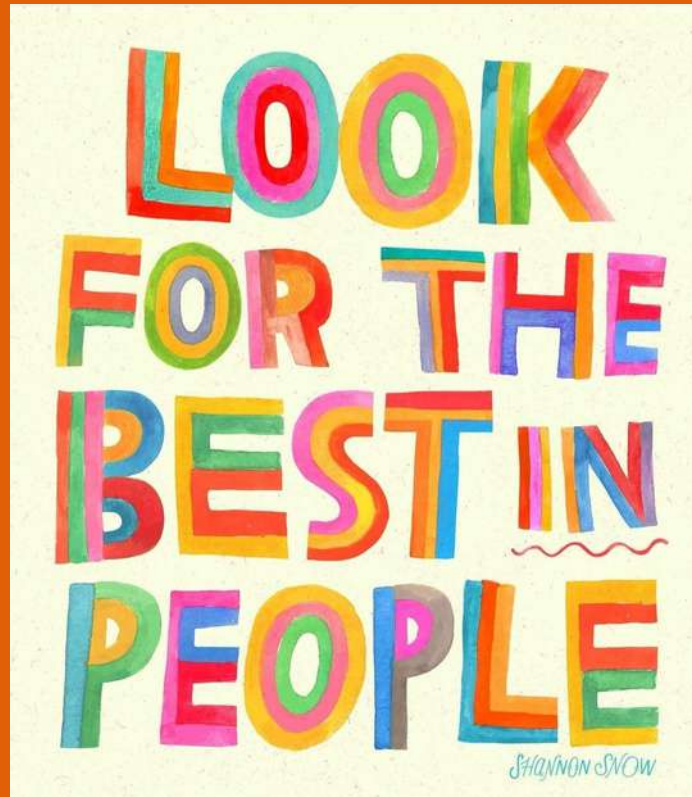


Snapscan





DIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG



St Stephen's Anglican Church 67 Nanyuki Road | Sunninghill

www.ststephenssa.co.za

Telephone: +27 (0)11 807 7974 | email: ststephens@icon.co.za



[St Stephen's Sunninghill](#)



[St Stephen's Sunninghill](#)