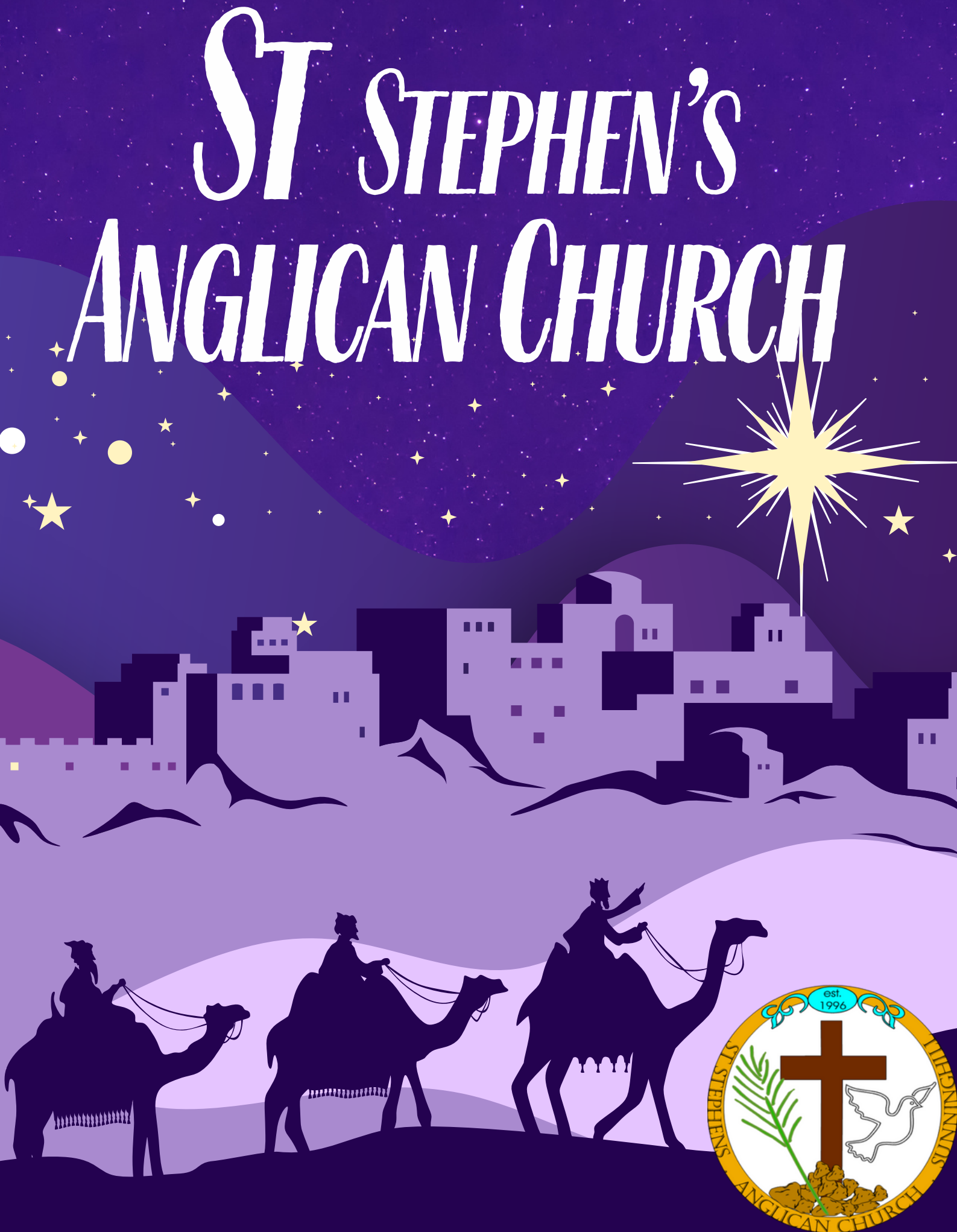


CHRISTMAS ISSUE





Advent

• A Time of Preparation •

As we journey through Advent, today we light the Candle of Faith. Its gentle flame reminds us that faith is not about having all the answers, but about trusting God even when the way ahead is unclear.

In a world filled with uncertainty and noise, faith calls us to listen again—to God's promises, to God's presence among us, and to God's work within our own hearts. Like Mary and Joseph, we are invited to believe that God is at work in ways we may not fully understand, yet can wholeheartedly trust. May this candle strengthen our faith, deepen our hope, and draw us closer to Christ the Light who is coming into the world. As we wait, may we do so with open hearts, steady trust, and renewed courage to walk in God's ways.



Well Wishes Message

We hear the Christmas story every year. We know the details, but we rarely stop to feel the weight of what happened. And if we are honest, most of us never slow down long enough to ask the question beneath all the traditions. Why did Jesus come to earth in the first place?

What was so important that He stepped into our world in the most fragile way possible? The Christmas story is of a God who refuses to stay distant from the people He loves. He steps into human history as an infant. The most fragile, dependent, vulnerable way possible. He comes in a way we can understand so we never have to wonder if He understands us. And this is where the name Immanuel becomes so important. Isaiah 7:14 said that the coming Messiah would be called Immanuel, which means God with us. God did not wait for us to climb our way up to Him. He came down to us. He moved into the mess of our world. He stepped into our story so we could finally see His heart.

This is the kind of God Christmas reveals. A God who comes close. He came because He loves His people too much to leave them on their own. The Christmas story is not a distant event. It is the opening scene of a God who moves toward us, a God who enters our pain, a

God who writes Himself into our story.

And my hope is that this Christmas you remember that you are seen by the God who came close.

Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas.

With Love
Rev'd Sharmain James





DECEMBER SERVICES AND TIMES

21 DECEMBER 2025 – 07H00 AND 08H30

24 DECEMBER 2025 – 22H30 Christmas

Carols followed by midnight mass

25 DECEMBER Christmas Day – 09H00

28 DECEMBER 2025 – 08H00.

NB: No Sunday School

Happy Holidays

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

21/12 - Sandra Uchenna

22/12 - Onyko Ntuli

23/12 - Munzhedzi Dzivhani

24/12 - Natasha Subbiah & Bev Woodford

25/12 - Laone Mabaso, Oliver Petersen, Natalie Petersen & Tinky Sihawu

26/12 - Keabetsoa Mofolo

27/12 - Sikhulule Mabece, Chrystal Maliseha, Leanne Stevenson & Vron Williams



28/12 - Mark Chiumya, Peter Fleming, Mpho Madzhie & Mark Matsimbe

29/12 - Jerome Christian, Samantha Gouden & Mary Okechukwu

30/12 - Elliana Christian, Lindi Ngwenya & Mpumelela Ngwenya

31/12 - Lebogang Ranaka

01/01 - Edith Hatendi

02/01 - Kenny Abraham & Siphesihle Gumbi

03/01 - Shakeera Booysen & Tshidi Moilwa



Readings & Duty Roster

21 December 2025

07h00 08h30	Isaiah 7: 10-16	Kathleen Thorpe Bongie Kuwana
07h00 08h30	Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19	Service leader
07h00 08h30	Romans 1:1-7	Pat Leman Finess Chinganya
SERVICE LEADERS	07h00 09h00	Anne Schrenk Samantha and Zenobia
CUP BEARERS	08h30	Andrew Nkwanyana Busi Maboa
ALTAR PARTY	08h30	Crucifer Accolyte Accolyte Mpilo Ntshangase Daphne Tabane Lindi Gumbi
STEWARDS	07h00 08h30	David O ‘Connell Kennedy Chinganya Moss Maponyane Gugu Sibeko
PROJECTOR	07h00 08h30	Georgette Parry TBC
TEA MINISTRY	08h30	Church will provide tea

Readings & Duty Roster

24 December 2025 @ 22h30

Isaiah 62:6-12	Natalie Petersen
Psalm 97: 1-12	Service Leader
Titus 3:4-7	Claudelia Naiker
Luke 2:1-20	Service Leader
SERVICE LEADERS	Mark Williams & Andrew Nkwanyana
CUP BEARERS	Samantha Gounden Valentine Naidoo
ALTAR PARTY	Crucifer Accolyte Accolyte Thurifer Boat bearer Tlotlo Moamogoa Lebogang Ranaka Gugu Sibeko Sello Godfrey Ntoele Rorisang Moamogoa
STEWARDS	Oliver Petersen Collin Naicker
PROJECTOR	Simone Hope

Readings & Duty Roster

25 December 2025 @ 09h00

Isaiah 52: 7-10		Michelle Poggenpoel
Psalm 98: 1-10		Service leader
Hebrews 1:1-4		Betty Ntoele
SERVICE LEADERS		Sifiso Mashele Protus Seda
CUP BEARERS		Tiny Moremoholo Mary Naidoo
ALTAR PARTY	Crucifer Accolyte Accolyte	Busi Maboja Kutlwano Mabao Uyanda Ngobese
STEWARDS		Khumbelo Maliseha Nto Rikhotso
PROJECTOR		Blessing Mafusire
TEA MINISTRY		No Tea

Readings & Duty Roster

28 December 2025 @ 08h00

Isaiah 63:7-9		Rene Kenosi
Psalm 148		Service Leader
Hebrews 2:10-18		Malika Murua
Matthew 2:13-23		Service Leader
SERVICE LEADERS		Anne Schrenk
CUP BEARERS		Andrew Nkwanyane Lincoln Alcock
ALTAR PARTY	Crucifer Accolyte Accolyte	Leago Maselela Mihla Sibeko Lebogang Ranaka
STEWARDS		Daniel Enang O'ryne Herman
PROJECTOR		Caroline Terence
TEA MINISTRY		No Tea

*Thank you note from
Georgette Parry*

Thank you to everyone at St Stephen's church for their love, support and understanding over the last 23 years. It has meant a great deal to me. I leave the office in the capable hands of Ofentse and know that she will flourish in our community.

I am not leaving Gauteng yet and look forward to worshiping with you as a parishioner in January.

All my love



AT YOUR SERVICE

Ministry Support Team

Rector	Revd. Sharmain James	083 492 1307
Children & Youth Pastor	Bolanle Enang	074 152 6709
Pastoral Care Coordinator	Mark Williams	082 808 5120
Parish Administrators	Georgette Parry & Ofentse Kwapeng	073 255 5396 074 837 2356

OFFICE HOURS: 07h30 - 14h00

Banking Details

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

Snapscan



For your convenience

Available at the parish office.



**St Stephen's Anglican Church 67 Nanyuki Road |
Sunninghill www.ststephenssa.co.za Telephone: +27**

(0)11 807 7974 | email:

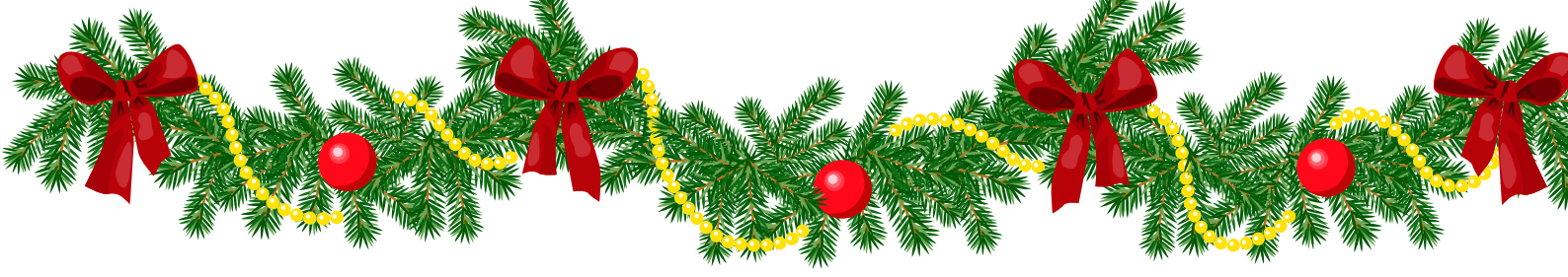
parishadmin@ststephenssa.co.za



St Stephen's Sunninghill



St Stephen's Sunninghill



Dear St Stephen's Family,
Grace and peace to you this Christmas.

As we gather to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are reminded that God chose to come among us not in power or splendour, but in humility, love, and nearness. In the manger we see a God who knows our joys and struggles, who enters our world fully, and who brings light into every place of darkness.

This year, we give thanks for the life of our community for the faithfulness, generosity, and compassion that continue to shape St Stephen's. In worship, fellowship, service, and quiet acts of care, we have seen Christ made known among us.

May the peace of Christ dwell richly in your hearts and homes. May hope be renewed where it has grown weary, joy awakened where it has been dim, and love shared freely with all whom you encounter.

As we move beyond Christmas Day, may we carry the light of Christ into our community and our world, living as people of hope, reconciliation, and grace. Wishing you a blessed and holy Christmas, and every blessing for the year ahead.

With love and prayers,
The Community of St Stephen's Anglican Church

