

30 YEARS

Blueprint to Blessings



ST STEPHEN'S

SUNNINGHILL

1996 – 2026

At first glance, the anniversary logo depicts a flourishing tree. Look more closely and each leaf reveals itself to be a hand. Together these hands tell the story of St Stephen's. They represent every person who has worshipped, served, prayed, encouraged, led, and loved within this parish over the past thirty years. Individually they are hands; together they become a living tree. Like the olive tree of Scripture, they speak of peace, faithfulness and enduring hope. Like the Tree of Life, they remind us that true life is found in God, whose love has sustained this community from its beginnings and will continue to nourish generations still to come.



READING THE LOGO

THE HANDS		Every person who has helped shape the life of St Stephen's.
THE TREE		Thirty years of faith growing, branching and bearing fruit.
THE TRUNK		Christ, our foundation and source of life.
THE BRANCHES		The many ministries, vocations and relationships that have grown from one community.
THE SUPPORTING HANDS		God's sustaining love and the servant-hearted care of the parish family.
THE CIRCLE		Thirty years rooted in faith, looking with hope to the future.

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

Putting together this publication has been a collective effort, and I couldn't let it go to print without thanking the people who helped make it possible.

Some shared photographs; others took the time to write stories, answer countless questions, check names and dates, or help fill in the gaps. Some (one) simply offered a well-timed cup of tea when it was most needed!

Every. Contribution. Matters.

My sincere thanks to the following individuals and organisations for your generosity of spirit, your time, and your willingness to help.

Amelia Phillip Fr Andrew Gready **AWF** Bernard Mcleod
Brenda Greenway Caron Petersen **Charity Nziramasanga**
Charmaine Johnston **Christine Jawichre** Derrick Theck **Ellsworth Jonathan**
Finess Chinganya **Gail Prince** Hannah Peters **Ian Morall** Janet Askew **Kay Mtemererwa** Keith Greenway
Kenny Abraham Kevoulee Sardar **Lynnette Murua** Margaret Tremeer **Mark Williams** Mary Naidoo
Mpilo Ntshangase Nicky Humphreys **Ntsikelelo Isaac** Ofentse Kwapeng **Oliver Petersen** Pat Leman **Prescilla Murwira** Promise Hlubi **Sarah Wellham** Sebe Buthelezi **Sesethu Ben-Wazi** Sibongele Nene **Tomasina Tokolo**
Boko Malabo Tiny Moremoholo **Tunde Ojo-Aromokudo** **Rev Angela Odame** Fr Brent Frieslaar **Rev Rakgadi Khobo** **Bishop Sepadi Moruthane** Rev Sharmain James **Rev Canon Trevor Prince** Rev Canon Wayne Saldanha

A very special thanks to my personal reference source parrypedia.com, and AI (*Actual Intelligence*) tool, Georgette Parry! Every so often she would pop me a message: "JUST A THOUGHT...". I appreciate you very much, Georgette. SO much love for you!

Happy anniversary, St Stephen's! I pray God's blessing on us and continued faithful service.

*Much love,
Charlene*



Welcome

It is with immense joy that I welcome you to this special anniversary edition. Thirty years ago, St Stephen's Anglican Church began as a small gathering of a few dedicated families in Sunninghill. Today, we stand amazed at how God has transformed that humble beginning into the vibrant, diverse congregation we cherish today.

As we open the pages of our magazine, we find ourselves marking a truly joyous and significant milestone: the 30th anniversary of our beloved church.

Our goal for this publication is simple: to pause and give thanks. Inside, you will find:

- *A message from Bishop Sepadi*
- *Photos and stories of both current members and those who have once been a part of our church. Together, they represent the beautiful tapestry of our 30-year history.*
- *The next chapter in our spiritual journey.*

Thank you for being an essential part of our story. As you turn the pages, we invite you to reflect on God's unwavering faithfulness, rejoice in our shared memories, and look forward with hope to the next chapters we will write.



A message from the Bishop

Dear People of God in the Parish of Sunninghill St Stephen's

Congratulations to the parish on reaching its 30th anniversary! We're truly grateful to God for three wonderful decades of dedicated ministry to God and God's people. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey, whether through worship, service, or clerical ministry over the past thirty years. Your contributions have truly made this community special.



As you commemorate this significant milestone, we extend our sincere gratitude to God for your unwavering faithfulness. We sincerely appreciate your generous

spirit in sharing blessings with the Diocese and the entire Church of God. Your generosity reflects your concern and compassion for people and for God. Your dedication and service are highly valued by us, the Bishop of Johannesburg, and we are thankful for all that you do for this diocese and for all the people of God.

St. Stephen's Sunninghill is a cherished training parish in the diocese. It's where many priests who now hold senior roles within the diocese and beyond started their journey, serving their curacies. Some were even inspired by a calling to ministry within this warm and welcoming community.

As you celebrate your anniversary as a Parish named after St Stephen, we pray that God may grant you the same spirit as your patron saint, so that you may, in the midst of the world's evil, remain faithful to the end. Let us continue to be an inclusive parish in a world that excludes others. Let the parish remain a spiritual home for many from all corners of the world.

We look forward to many more years in grace, as this parish warmly shares God's love with everyone, especially those in need, right here in Johannesburg.

May God richly and abundantly bestow blessings upon the parish for the next thirty years, enabling it to remain a shining beacon of hope for the hopeless.

I conclude with a citation from Acts of the Apostles.

"And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified."

Acts 20:32

***Bishop of Johannesburg
Bishop Sepadi Moruthane***

St Stephen's

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RECTOR: REV SHARMAIN JAMES



1996 - 2026

Growing in Faith Together

A message from the Rector

Thirty years ago, our congregation began as a vision born out of St Catherine's Bramley. Today, that vision has blossomed into a thriving spiritual home where countless lives have been touched, families raised, and souls nurtured. We pause to celebrate thirty years of God's steadfast love, provision, and faithfulness.

What a profound blessing it is to stand with you as we celebrate our 30th Anniversary. Although I have only been your Rector for almost two years, I have quickly come to see what makes this parish so special. In my short time here, your warmth, your faith, and vibrant community spirit have profoundly touched my heart. I feel incredibly blessed to shepherd this flock during such a historic moment.

*Our parish theme for this landmark year is **Growing in Faith Together**. This theme is more than just a slogan. It is the heartbeat of our community. Just as a forest grows stronger when the roots of individual trees intertwine beneath the soil, our personal faith thrives best when it is deeply connected to the faith of others.*

Over the past thirty years, we have seen this beautiful truth come to life. We grow in faith together when we gather for worship, filling the sanctuary with combined voices of praise. We grow together in our small groups, where we study the Word, share our doubts, and anchor one another in truth. We grow together when we carry each other's burdens in prayer, proving that no one in our church family has to walk through life's valleys alone.

Scripture reminds us that we are one body in Christ, and each member belongs to all the others. When one of us stumbles, the community lifts them up. When one of us rejoices, we all celebrate. It is this daily, intentional walking side by side that deepens our faith and reveals the true character of Christ to the world around us.

As we commemorate this milestone, let us look back with immense gratitude for the heritage passed down to us. Let us also look forward with excitement and renewed hope. The same God who has guided us for the past 30 years will continue to lead us into the future. Let us commit to growing in faith together, deepening our roots, and reaching out to our community with the love of Christ.

As we commemorate this milestone, let us look back with immense gratitude for the heritage passed down to us. Let us also look forward with excitement and renewed hope. The same God who has guided us for the past 30 years will continue to lead us into the future. Let us commit to growing in faith together, deepening our roots, and reaching out to our community with the love of Christ.

May God bless you all, and may He continue to make our parish flourish in the years to come.

Your priest and friend,

Rev. Sharmain James



RAPID FIRE WITH REVEREND SHARMAIN



What is your guilty pleasure after a long Sunday?

When I'm not with my family I like to put on my pyjamas and fuzzy socks and then sink into the couch to catch up on my favourite TV soap or watch true crime documentaries on Netflix.



What is one thing parishioners may be surprised to learn about you?

I have a passion for fast cars and pro wrestling



What song, hymn, or chorus always lifts your spirit?

Here is love, Vast as the Ocean and lately its Celine Dion and CC Winans, You Carried me, Home.



When you imagine St Stephen's in the next 30 years, what do you most hope to see?

For St Stephen's to remain a refuge of grace and a church deeply rooted in the local neighbourhood.



What is one way you believe we can keep "growing in faith together" as a parish family?

One effective way is by implementing small groups that meet regularly outside of Sunday services and where every parishioner can be part of.

It started with a Vision

During the ministry of Reverend Peter Laithwaite at St Catherine's Anglican Church in Bramley, it became increasingly apparent that the rapidly growing Sunninghill area required an Anglican presence of its own. St Catherine's was situated too far south and St Monica's too far north to adequately serve the developing community. Reverend Peter recognised both the need and the opportunity, and challenged St Catherine's congregation to plant a new church in Sunninghill.

At a Special Vestry meeting in January 1993, the parishioners of St Catherine's approved the proposal. Members were invited to pledge financial support and to consider whether they would become part of the founding congregation. Approximately ten families responded and became the core of the new chapelry, soon joined by several others.

On Pentecost Sunday, 30 May 1993, the first service of the new congregation was held in the basement of Sunninghill Hospital. Reverend Andrew Gready, the rector-to-be, and his wife Marion led the service, with worshippers seated on plastic chairs in the hospital basement.

Those early months were marked by enthusiasm, determination and a strong sense of community. Denise McLeod remembers conducting Sunday School classes in the hospital corridors, while patients in wheelchairs, accompanied by nursing staff, occasionally joined the congregation for worship. Banners were placed on fences, leaflets distributed throughout the area and, importantly, tea was always served after the service. Friendships were formed and a new parish identity began to emerge.

As the congregation grew, a more permanent home became necessary. Attention turned to a uniquely shaped triangular property on Nanyuki Road, consisting of a house and double garage. Following initial challenges and a change of ownership, the property was purchased in October 1993 through the efforts of Reverend Peter Laithwaite. Approval was granted for the site to be used as a place of worship for up to 250 people.

Andrew and Marion Gready moved into the house on 18 October 1993. At the blessing of the property, a prophetic message was shared, assuring the congregation of God's presence and suggesting that His plans for St Stephen's extended far beyond anything they could then imagine.

From January 1994, worship services were held in the double garage. The garage was formally blessed as a place of worship by Bishop Duncan Buchanan on 23 January 1994. At that stage, the congregation numbered about thirty people, but growth was rapid. As attendance increased, latecomers often found themselves seated outside on plastic chairs, listening to the service while enjoying the birdsong and sunshine. While charming in summer, it was rather less enjoyable during the colder winter months.

In November 1994, St Stephen's attained chapelry status and by mid-1995 the parish roll had grown to approximately fifty families. New ministries were introduced, including home groups, the Alpha Course and an evening service, reflecting the growing needs and energy of the congregation.



In 2016 Fr Andrew and Marion Gready's visit to St Stephen's formed part of the 20th anniversary celebrations

The need for larger facilities soon became apparent.

On 12 May 1996, plans for a multi-purpose hall, office and ablutions were approved at a special Vestry meeting. Just two weeks later, on Pentecost Sunday, Bishop Duncan Buchanan inaugurated St Stephen's as an independent parish and instituted Andrew Gready as its first rector.

The first service in the new hall took place on 22 December 1996, even though the roof had not yet been completed. The altar stood at the southern end of the building, and parishioners gathered in anticipation of the future that lay ahead.

Many milestones followed. The first baptism took place on 29 December 1996, the first wedding on 25 April 1998 and the first confirmation service on 1 August 2001. Although St Stephen's had assumed responsibility for its own finances from January 1996, St Catherine's continued providing financial support during the parish's formative years.

In December 1999, Andrew and Marion Gready left to take up ministry in England. Their departure marked the end of a significant chapter in the parish's history.

On 19 March 2000, Father Trevor Prince was instituted as St Stephen's second rector.

Under his leadership, the parish continued to flourish.



Over the years he was assisted by several clergy, including Gilmore Fry, Margaret Tremeer, Christine Norton and Fr Tsepo Matubatuba. The parish office was supported by several administrators, among them Georgette Parry, who joined the parish staff in September 2002 and became a much-loved member of the St Stephen's family. Edward Sibisi, the parish's first verger, joined on 1 February 2001 and provided invaluable support to both clergy and parish leadership. The nursery school opened in September 2001, making use of the Sunday School rooms and parish hall.

Its success led to the expansion of the teaching facilities, which Bishop Brian Germond blessed on 2 March 2003. As attendance increased, parishioners responded with remarkable generosity and commitment.

Regular giving strengthened the parish's financial position and enabled plans for a dedicated church building to move forward. Following a feasibility study, architect John Powell was commissioned to design a modern church building. Vestry approval was obtained in March 2004, and construction commenced in November of the same year.

Parishioners contributed generously towards the furnishings and fittings required to complete the project. We are still blessed to have parishioners who give generously of their time, talent and resources.

The new church building was completed and consecrated by Bishop Brian Germond on 31 July 2005. It stands today as a testament to the faith, sacrifice and dedication of clergy and parishioners alike. Under Father Trevor's inspiring leadership, membership grew significantly, and the parish entered a new season of ministry and growth.

St Stephen's became known not only as a growing congregation but also as a place where people were encouraged to discover and develop their gifts for ministry. Throughout its history, the parish has nurtured many vocations, serving as a place of formation for training priests, curates and parishioners who discerned a call to ordained ministry. During Father Trevor's ministry, the parish played a significant role in the formation and training of women called to ordained ministry. Among those who trained and served at St Stephen's were Angela Odame, Bev O'Shaughnessy, Claudia Coustas, Collette Saldanha, Jeanette Peirson, Lucy Austin, Rakgadi Khobo, and Vuyelwa Mosieng. Their ministries enriched parish life and contributed to the wider Church, both in South Africa and abroad.

The parish's commitment to nurturing gifts extended beyond ordained ministry. Christine Norton and her mother, Nan Bunyan, established *Creative Christians*, a fellowship where members shared their talents through sewing, embroidery, knitting and other creative pursuits. Denise McLeod founded *The Centre of Concern*, which provided sewing instruction and practical skills development for women within the wider community.

Throughout its history, St Stephen's has been blessed by faithful clergy, dedicated churchwardens and councillors, committed volunteers and generations of parishioners whose service and generosity have shaped the parish's identity. What began as a small congregation gathering in a hospital basement and later in a garage has grown into a vibrant parish community rooted in worship, fellowship, service and mission.

Following Father Trevor's departure in 2023, the parish entered a period of interregnum and uncertainty. At this important juncture, Father Godfrey Henwood was called out of retirement to shepherd the people of St Stephen's through the transition. His generous heart, gentle wisdom and gracious spirit proved to be exactly the balm the parish needed. Through his pastoral care and steady presence, he helped bring comfort, healing and reassurance during what was, for many, a difficult season. Together with his wife, Wendy, Father Godfrey quickly became woven into the fabric of parish life. Their warmth, humility and genuine love for people endeared them to the congregation, and before long they had quietly crept into the hearts of all who worshipped alongside them.



As St Stephen's continues its journey, we do so with deep gratitude for everybody who played a part in shaping our story: clergy and laity, leaders and volunteers, long-standing parishioners and newcomers alike. What began with a handful of faithful families meeting in a hospital basement has, through God's grace and the dedication of countless individuals, grown into a thriving community of faith.

On the 5th of January, 2025 we welcomed our new Rector Rev. Sharmain James. She was instituted as the Rector by Bishop Steve Moreo at a joyful service on 16 February 2025.

While we give thanks for the rich legacy of the past, we look forward with hope and expectation to all that lies ahead.



Guided by God's faithfulness and inspired by those who have gone before us, we remain committed to worshipping Christ, serving our community and building His Kingdom for generations to come.

As we reflect on the story of St Stephen's, we give thanks for all who have contributed to its journey and look forward with hope and gratitude to the chapters that are still to be written.

Contributors: Sarah Wellham, Sibongile Nene, Keith Greenway

AERIAL VIEW *Then*

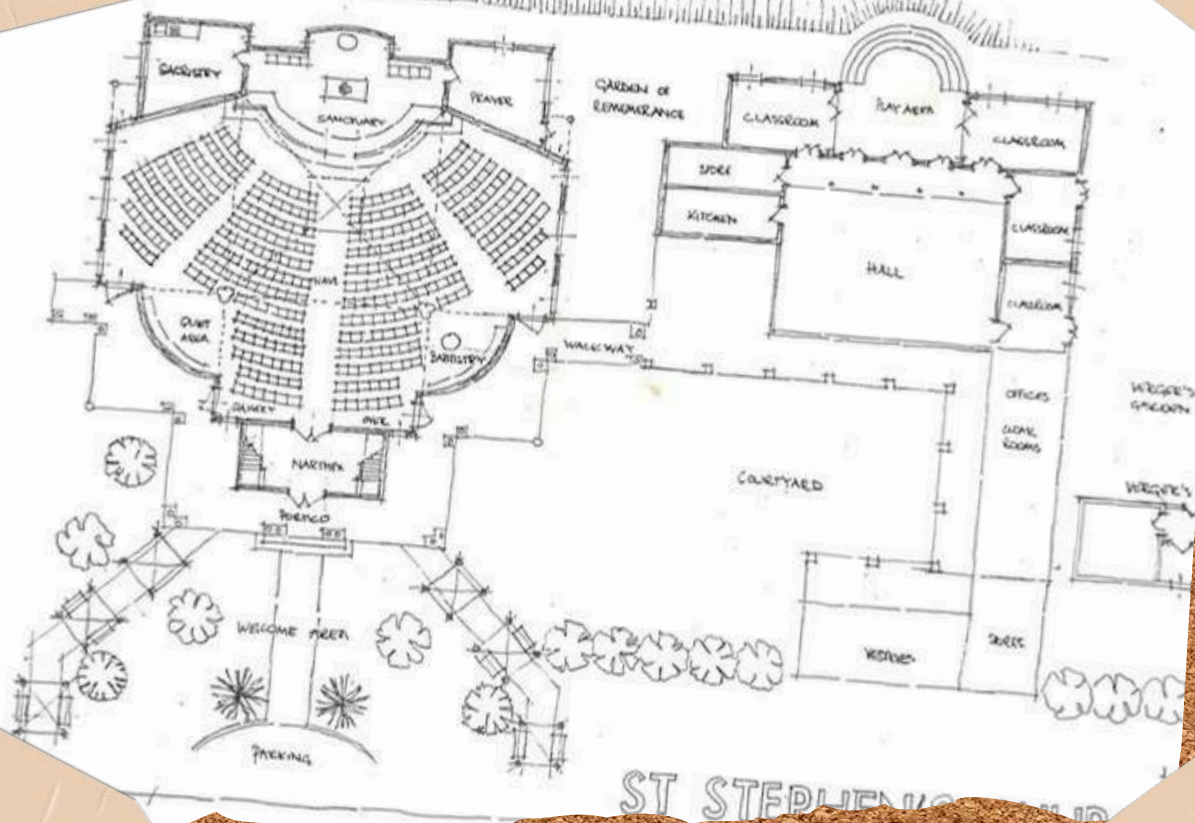


AERIAL VIEW *Now*



FOUNDATIONS LAID IN FAITH

1996 - 2026



Thirty Years of Grace

The Priest Who Helped Build *More Than a Church*

By Sebe Buthelezi

"A church is never just bricks and mortar. It's the people who walk through its doors."

As St Stephen's Anglican Church in Sunninghill celebrates 30 years of ministry, it is impossible to tell the story of this remarkable parish without telling the story of one of the people who helped shape it.

When Father Trevor Prince first drove into St Stephen's in March 2000, he remembers wondering whether he had made the right decision.

"We nearly turned around," he laughs. "There was nothing."

There was no church building. No gardens. No Sunday school classrooms. No sanctuary. Just a modest farmhouse, a newly built hall and a piece of open ground that held far more promise than certainty.

Looking back today, surrounded by a thriving parish that has become home to generations of worshippers, Fr Trevor still marvels at what God has done.

"When you see what stands here now, it's hard to believe how it all started," he reflects.

At the time, South Africa itself was still finding its footing as a young democracy. Fr Trevor's appointment carried significance beyond the parish gates. Historically, Black and Coloured priests were seldom appointed to predominantly white congregations. However, he never saw his appointment as making history, instead he simply saw an opportunity to serve.

"God had called me here," he says. "So I trusted that He knew what He was doing."

Rather than seeing empty land, Fr Trevor saw possibility.

"The first thing we wanted was classrooms for the children," he recalls.

It seemed like a simple beginning.

Rather than seeing
empty land,
Fr Trevor saw
possibility.

Then, as though God quietly placed another piece into the puzzle, an old acquaintance arrived at the parish.

"She was involved in setting up nursery schools," Fr Trevor remembers. "She looked at the classrooms we were building and said, 'If you make a few changes, you could rent these out.'"

That single conversation changed the future of St Stephen's.

The rental income not only covered the parish's bond repayments but also gave the fledgling church the confidence to dream beyond simply surviving.

"That's when we realised we could start thinking about building a church."

It was an ambitious dream. The projected cost of a permanent sanctuary was R3 million, a daunting figure for a young parish.

Fr Trevor admits that many would have questioned whether it was even possible. But faith has a way of seeing beyond numbers.

"People invest in visions they believe in," he says simply.

Congregants were invited to buy a brick. Families gave sacrificially, not because they expected recognition but because they believed they were building a spiritual home for generations they might never meet. The response overwhelmed him.

**They were never
an ATM.
They were family.**

"The honours board became too small", he smiles. *"We had to keep adding names because so many people wanted to be part of it."*

Within months, more than R1 million had been raised. The remaining loan, expected to take twenty years to repay, was settled in less than six years.

Looking back, Fr Trevor doesn't see a fundraising campaign. He sees God's faithfulness.

"It wasn't about money," he reflects. *"It was about people believing in what God was doing here."*

Yet ask him what he is most proud of and he doesn't speak about classrooms or buildings. He speaks about people.

"They were never an ATM," he says quietly. *"They were family."*

Long before churches spoke about visitor integration or hospitality ministries, Fr Trevor made it his mission to personally visit every newcomer who completed a welcome card. He learnt names. He remembered birthdays. He celebrated life's happiest moments and walked alongside parishioners through their deepest grief.

After a Sunday service, Fr Trevor would approach them with one simple question. *"Would you like to help?"*

That philosophy quietly shaped the culture of St Stephen's. Many of today's ministry leaders tell remarkably similar stories. After a Sunday service, Fr Trevor would approach them with one simple question. *"Would you like to help?"*

It sounded ordinary but for many, it became the beginning of a lifelong journey of ministry.

Fr Trevor's vision also stretched far beyond Sunninghill.

"I believe God equips those He calls," Fr Trevor says. *"Sometimes people just need someone else to see those gifts before they can see them themselves."*

Those gifts continue to flourish today, in the readers proclaiming scripture, the pastoral teams comforting the broken, the youth leaders mentoring young people and the countless volunteers who faithfully serve behind the scenes every week.

"We made a decision very early on," he recalls. *"Whatever God blessed us with, ten percent would always go back into His work elsewhere."*

It was a commitment that became part of the parish's DNA. St Stephen's helped build churches in communities including Rabie Ridge, Cosmo City and Khutsong South. It invested in education, enabling children from disadvantaged families to attend schools they otherwise could never have afforded.

"When you change one person's life, you don't just change that person. You change a family. Sometimes you even change generations."

Perhaps nowhere is his legacy more visible than in the congregation itself. Walk into St Stephen's today and you'll find people from different races, cultures, languages and nationalities worshipping together. Fr Trevor insists that wasn't the result of a carefully designed strategy. It was simply the Gospel being lived out.

"Everybody is included," he says. "Everybody is important."

Perhaps nowhere is his legacy more visible than in the congregation itself. Walk into St Stephen's today and you'll find people from different races, cultures, languages and nationalities worshipping together.



Fr Trevor insists that wasn't the result of a carefully designed strategy. It was simply the Gospel being lived out. Those words have become more than a belief. They have become the heartbeat of St Stephen's.

Today, thirty years after the parish first opened its doors, the church buildings stand as silent witnesses to thousands of baptisms, weddings, funerals, confirmations and prayers.

"Buildings are important because they give people a place to gather," he reflects. "But they're never the Church. The Church is the people."

But Father Trevor gently reminds us that bricks were never the point. It is perhaps the simplest way to understand his ministry.

As St Stephen's celebrates thirty years, its story continues under the faithful leadership of Reverend Charmaine James, whose ministry is guiding the parish into a new season while building on the strong foundations laid by those who came before her. She has become part of the unfolding story of a parish that continues to grow in faith, service and community.

Happy 30th Anniversary, St Stephen's.

By God's grace, the foundations are strong, the future is bright and the story is still being written.

Called from Among Us



Rev Angela Odame is the most recently ordained priest to come from St Stephen's. She was ordained by Bishop Steve Moreo in January 2025. She was an integral part of the ministry team during the interregnum from 2023 to 2025 while Fr Godfrey was the interim priest. Since September 2025, Rev Angela has been tending God's vineyard at St Monnica's in Halfway.

Fr. Brent Frieslaar was a member of St Stephen's when he discerned and responded to the calling to ordained ministry. In January 2014 he was ordained into the Priesthood after serving as a deacon and assistant priest at St Michaels in Bryanston, and in February 2016 licensed as the Rector of St Catherine's Bramley. He and his family relocated to Australia in 2023 where he currently serves as the Rector of St Nicolas Anglican Parish Carine-Duncraig, Perth, Australia.



Rev Canon Wayne Saldanha is a child of St Stephen's. Wayne was involved in the church from a young age, and became a Youth leader in the parish. He answered God's call to holy orders and was ordained to the Diaconate in 2011 and to the Priesthood in 2012. In 2022, he moved to the Diocese of Mpumalanga as Rector of St Michael and All Angels in Nelspruit. In early 2025, he was made Youth Chaplain and Canon (Youth). On 12 June 2026, he was honoured to be elected Bishop of the Diocese of Mpumalanga. Let us continue to uphold him, his family, and the Diocese of Mpumalanga in our prayers as this next chapter unfolds.



After his ordination in January 2019, Fr Sibonelo Mkhabela stepped into the role of Chaplain at St. Peter's College while also serving the St Stephen's community. In 2020 his focus shifted to diocesan youth ministry networks and parish pastoral duties within the Diocese of Johannesburg. He moved out of the school environment to focus on parish ministries and was eventually appointed as the resident parish priest at The Good Shepherd Anglican Church in Tladi, Soweto in January 2025.



Reverend Kabelo Motlhakane, is the Chaplain and Head of Transformation at St Peter's College in Johannesburg. He transitioned from the corporate sector and was ordained as a priest in the Anglican Church in December 2017. Before joining St Peter's College, he was an assistant priest at St Stephen's in Sunninghill. Men's identity, mental health, and personal growth are at the heart of Kabelo's ministry. As co-host of the Mxnzplain podcast, he's creating a safe space for open conversations about vulnerability, family dynamics, and societal pressures, empowering men to break cycles and redefine their stories.



Zenobia Irwin, LEFT, and Protus Seda, RIGHT, have responded to the call to ordained ministry. As they walk this path as ordinands, we continue supporting them through our love and keeping them covered in prayer.

Ordained ministry is a lifelong vocation that requires careful selection, discernment, and preparation before ordination takes place. As a sacramental rite of the Anglican Church, ordination is the means by which God bestows authority and the grace of the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by bishops. The three distinct orders of bishops, priests, and deacons have long been a defining characteristic of Christ's holy catholic church, structuring our leadership and pastoral care.

Because this calling permanently sets individuals apart for sacred service, it requires deep prayer, spiritual maturity, and community affirmation. If the Holy Spirit is prompting you, or if you are interested in exploring where your own gifts might fit within the ordained ministry, we invite you to take the first step in this rewarding journey.

**SPEAK WITH OUR PARISH PRIEST, REV SHARMAIN JAMES AT SHARMAIN@STSTEPHENSSA.CO OR
CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE TO BEGIN A CONVERSATION ABOUT DISCERNMENT**

With love from . . .

Subject: Re: 30th Anniversary Magazine | St Stephen's Sunninghill

Date: Tue, 23 Jun 2026 12:40:48 +0100

From: Margaret Tremeer

To: anniversarymag30@gmail.com

Dear Charlene,

Thank you for your email, and many congratulations to St Stephen's for the past thirty years of ministry to the people of Sunninghill.

All I remember is that when St Catherine's in Bramley decided to plant a Church in the area, my husband Dr Graham Tremeer told me that they would start off in a garage until the Church building was completed.

I was subsequently asked if I would help out with services until a permanent priest was inducted. Thus my brief ministry ended at the induction of the Revd Mr ... Prince (I was present at his induction, but I forget his Christian name!!)

I am afraid that a lot of my memory is missing since I had a stroke last year, so I can remember nothing much of St Stephen's and her lovely people.

I left South Africa and came back to England in 2004 - Graham having died the year before - and ministered during the time of a friend's Sabbatical in Nigeria before returning to the church where Graham and I married 38 years before. And that's where I enjoyed several years of ministry until I retired. I still miss ministry.

I am afraid I haven't given you anything of value for your magazine, but you have reminded me of St Stephen's - I do remember teaching Religious Knowledge at the school near your church for a short time but again, not the school's name! That was a good memory too.

So, thank you for writing to me and I will pray for you all.

Stay blessed,
Margaret



With love from . . .



Wishing all at St Stephen's every blessing as you celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Parish. We will always have very special memories of our 7 and a half years in Sunninghill - as we grew the church in the hospital, the double garage of the house and the hall. It has been lovely to have been back more recently to see how things are continuing to flourish. We feel very blessed to have been part of such a special community!

We are still in York in the UK - I am vicar of Clifton Parish, and Area Dean (Archdeacon equivalent) of York.

Congratulations to St Stephen's on 30 years of witness and heritage. Your witness has transcended the boundaries of the parish in the lives of the men and women you have formed for ministry and who you are as the people of God.

Rev Rakgadi Khobo, Chaplain, St Mary's Waverley

Marion is nursing in the local hospital. We are now grandparentsto two grandchildren in Australia and one in London. Our boys are working and now have their own lives, which is lovely. We are preparing for retirement in the next few years - and we hope that we might be back in Johannesburg for a visit next year!

With our love, prayers and best wishes as you celebrate this special time together!

Andrew & Marion

Warm Greetings from Perth to all the saints at St Stephen's Sunninghill. Congratulations on this wonderful milestone of 30 years as a Parish. My prayer is that God will continue to pour out abundant blessings on your faith community. Grace, peace and blessings.

Fr Brent Frieslaar, St Nicolas, Carine-Duncraig, Perth, Australia

Congratulations St Stephen's on your 30-year anniversary!

I am filled with warmth every time I think about my time at St Stephen's. I consider St Stephen's home as it is the spiritual space I have spent the most time but also because of the formation I received.

If there was ever any doubt about the ministry you are involved in, then please look at me and say "see what the Lord has done". Scripture tells us not to tire of doing good, and in the end we will see the result of it. God works in what we may see as mundane and incidental. As you celebrate this year, I want to encourage you with Hebrews 10:24-25 "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching".

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26, NIV)

Rev Angela Odame, St Monnica's, Midrand

From a Lounge to a Lasting Home

Janet Askew - Remembering the early years

When Janet reflects on the early days of the church, the first thing that comes to mind isn't a building at all.

"The first services we attended were in Andrew and Marion's lounge," she says. "There was a bit of awkwardness at first, because we'd both been raised in old, traditional churches."

She recalls leaning over to Ann Sindle and whispering,

"Where are all the guys?" — the men were seriously outnumbered that Sunday. "It was just a fluke," she adds, "because it did even out a bit."

“Latecomers sat
outside in the
sun.”

As the church grew, it moved into the rectory garage. It was low-key—and that was part of its appeal. "It was so relaxed," Janet says. "Like a glorified home group." Babies were passed around freely. "For a while I didn't even know that baby Reuben — or was it Simeon? — belonged to Andrew and Marion, because he was always on Trish's lap!"

Those early years were, in Janet's words, welcoming, relaxed, and friendly. Sundays felt unrushed. "Tea and coffee was central," she remembers. "And we really spoke to one another." As numbers grew, the garage was extended, and when it still wasn't enough, people simply adapted. "Latecomers sat outside in the sun. I got sunburnt one morning!"

Because the church was small, people knew each other well. "We knew each other. We knew the kids. Most people got stuck in." There were familiar faces every week — Pat, Jeanette, Angela, Oliver and Natalie, and families like the Parrys, Sindles, Greenways, Ross', Bayleys, Naidoos and Saldanhas — "all the early service crowd," as Janet calls them.

Certain moments remain vivid: a home group-led service themed *Walking in His Footsteps*, with Deshun Deysel speaking; and a children's Christmas nativity where one of the teachers asked why everyone was there. "Brad piped up loudly, 'Cos Mom said we had to!'" Janet recalls.



“‘Cos Mom said so!”

RIGHT: Brad Askew today. Passionate about the environment, conservation, and adventure, he works an Adventure Facilitator at Stanford Lake College.

Janet said the moment she realised the church was truly here to stay was bittersweet. "The family service had got so big that I realised I only knew a handful of people." It marked the end of one season — and the start of something bigger than they'd imagined.

From a lounge to a garage to a growing community, those early days were never really about buildings. They were about people — laughing, grieving, growing, and walking in faith together.

JANET ASKEW RECALLS A MOMENT THEY STILL LAUGH ABOUT...



Pat Leman, in particular, stands out. "Another memory just popped up," Janet says. "Pat's husband was in the police. Her car was hijacked with his urn in it - I think she had just collected his ashes." At home group, Pat shared the story with a completely straight face: "Little do those thieves know who's watching them!" Janet laughs. "Here was this widow, and the rest of us were just dying with laughter. She really was a hoot."

Deshun Deysel Bester is an acclaimed international speaker, entrepreneur, and pioneering mountaineer. As one of the first South African women to join an Everest expedition, she has summited major peaks worldwide and inspired audiences in over 21 countries. Deshun is also an innovator and executive director, known for her leadership in business incubation and for developing performance tools like Emplify®. Her journey blends adventure, innovation, and empowerment, making her a sought-after voice in leadership and personal growth.

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Sarah Wellham's Recollections

Looking back, I can clearly see how God was already at work. When Ray and I returned to Johannesburg from Cape Town in 1979, we joined St Catherine's Anglican Church in Bramley. It was there that we worshipped, raised our young family and became part of a community that would ultimately shape the next chapter of our lives.

During Reverend Peter Laithwaite's ministry, a vision emerged to establish a new Anglican congregation in the growing suburb of Sunninghill. At the same time, I experienced what I can only describe as a clear prompting from God: "Be part of this pioneering work." That conviction led me to join the group that would eventually establish St Stephen's Anglican Church.

Those early years were filled with faith, enthusiasm and a willingness to embrace the unknown. I remember worshipping alongside people who shared a deep commitment to building something new. Among them were Don and Ann Matthews, Anthony and Moira Bayley, Bernard and Denise McLeod, Ron and Maddy Ross, and Ian and Ann Sindle.

Anthony Bayley often shared a remarkable testimony. After surviving a near-drowning incident at Kenton-on-Sea, he felt God tell him that his life had been spared because he was needed to help build God's Kingdom through this church. His story inspired many of us and reflected the sense of purpose that characterised those formative years.

I also had the privilege of serving alongside Reverend Andrew Gready and others on a committee responsible for planning and nurturing the parish's growth. Looking back, I am grateful for the wisdom, dedication and faithfulness of those who helped guide St Stephen's through its early years.

Over time, many clergy enriched the life of the parish. I have especially fond memories of Bishop Duncan Buchanan's encouragement and support, as well as the ministries of Gilmore Fry, Lankiri Thaba, Gary Thompson, Gibbon Bogatsu and Jeanette Peirson, all of whom contributed in different ways to the spiritual growth of the congregation.

*My own journey at St Stephen's included involvement in the **prayer chain, prayer ministry** during Communion services and participation in a year-long Inner Healing course. Through these ministries, I witnessed God's healing grace at work in the lives of many people. Walking alongside others as they sought peace, forgiveness and restoration remains one of the greatest privileges of my time at St Stephen's.*

As I reflect on the past thirty years, I am filled with gratitude. What began as a vision and a step of faith became a thriving parish community that has touched countless lives. It has been a privilege to witness that journey and to have played a small part in the story that God continues to write through St Stephen's.

“ Over time, many clergy enriched the life of the parish. I have especially fond memories of Bishop Duncan Buchanan's encouragement and support, as well as the ministries of Gilmore Fry, Lankiri Thaba, Gary Thompson, Gibbon Bogatsu and Jeanette Peirson, all of whom contributed in different ways to the spiritual growth of the congregation. ”

Sibongile Nene Reflects

Founding member of St Stephen's

As we celebrate thirty years of St Stephen's Anglican Church, my heart is filled with gratitude for the many people whose faith, service and dedication have shaped the parish we know and love today.

One of the greatest strengths of St Stephen's has always been its people. Over the years, generations of parishioners have given generously of their time, talents and resources to build a church community that is welcoming, vibrant and deeply rooted in faith.

I would like to pay special tribute to Denise McLeod, whose artistic gifts have enriched our worship through the beautiful banners and wall hangings that continue to grace our church.

I also remember with appreciation San Platzer, whose vision and care transformed our church grounds into a place of beauty and tranquillity. Through the planting of shrubs, flowers and fruit trees, she created a legacy that continues to be enjoyed by parishioners and visitors alike.



*One of the greatest
strengths of
St Stephen's has
always been its
people.*



Throughout the years, St Stephen's has been blessed with dedicated church councils whose members have quietly and faithfully provided leadership, guidance and support. Their work is often unseen, yet it has been essential to the life and growth of the parish.

The ministry of music has been another tremendous blessing, under the leadership of Brenda Greenway. The music that fills our church each Sunday, often reflecting the rich diversity of our congregation, has added immeasurably to our worship and fellowship.

Our many organisations and ministries, include the Mothers' Union, Anglican Women's Fellowship, YASS, Divas, Link and Sunday School have created opportunities for people of all ages to connect, serve and grow in faith. They have helped make St Stephen's a place where friendships grow, talents are encouraged, and lives are changed.

No reflection on parish life would be complete without recognising Georgette Parry, our long-serving parish administrator. Her dedication, patience, and steadfast commitment carried the church through many seasons. She served with grace and professionalism, becoming an integral part of parish life and a source of support to clergy and congregation alike.

I would also like to acknowledge our vergers, Andreck and Peter. Through their commitment, our church remains a welcoming and well-cared-for place of worship.

For me, St Stephen's has always been more than a church building. It has been a family, a place of belonging, friendship, worship and joy. As we celebrate this milestone anniversary, we give thanks for all who have contributed to our journey and pray that God's blessing will continue to guide St Stephen's in the years ahead.

Sibongile Nene

St Stephen's Music Ministry

Music has always been at the heart of worship at St Stephen's. Across the years, hymns both cherished and newly discovered have helped to shape the rhythm of our worship and the life of our parish.

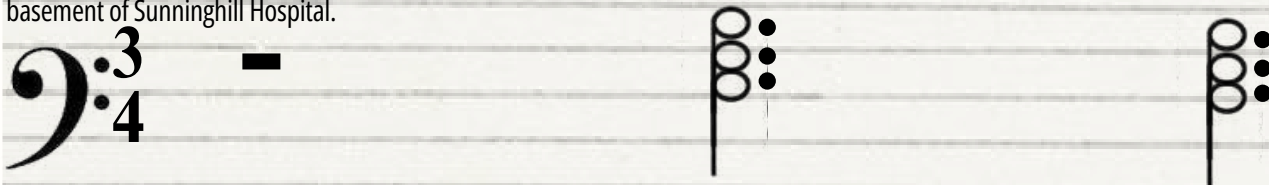
As a culturally diverse and multi-generational congregation, our music reflects the richness of our community. Traditional hymns sit comfortably alongside contemporary songs, while different musical styles and languages find their place in our worship. Together, they create a joyful expression of our shared faith, reminding us that, although we come from different backgrounds and generations, we worship with one voice.

Brenda Greenway

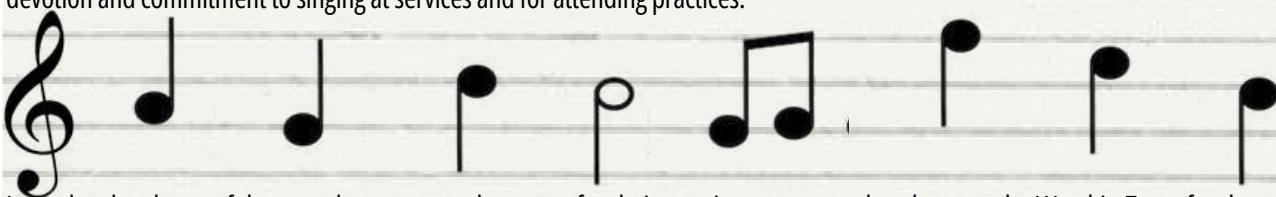
Congratulations St Stephen's on our 30th Anniversary!



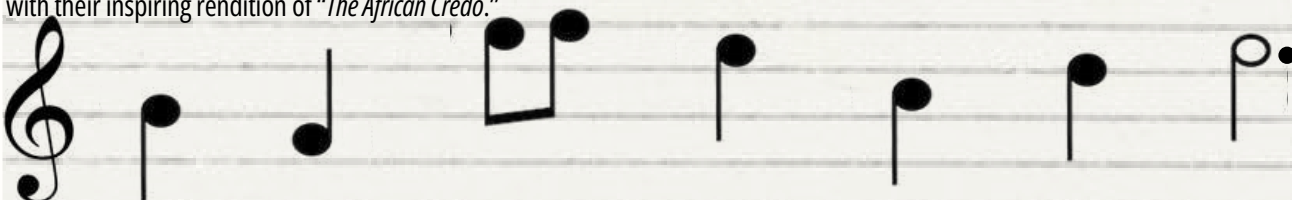
It has been a joy and privilege assisting with music at St Stephen's over the past 30 + years and serving our dear Lord with the Music Ministry. Thanks to St Catherine's Anglican Church, Bramley, who first planted our church in Sunninghill!! St Catherine's was our early church where my husband Keith and I attended, and our two younger children were baptised. Before a property was secured for the church in Sunninghill, I have fond memories joining the early "St Stephen's music group", assisting with music at services held in the basement of Sunninghill Hospital.



Our music leader at the time was Marion Gready, wife of Fr. Andrew Gready, the 1st Rector of St Stephen's. Marion was a great inspiration to me and our small choir at the time. Most Saturday mornings we practiced the songs for Sunday at my home in Gallo manor, seated around my dining room table. It's wonderful how far our church has developed since those early years. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributes so faithfully to our music ministry. To all our choir members, thank you for your devotion and commitment to singing at services and for attending practices.



I am also deeply grateful to our clergy, past and present, for their ongoing support and to those on the Worship Team for thoughtfully choosing songs for our services. My sincere appreciation goes to the Sunday School, G-Squad, YASS, Divine Divas, Mothers' Union, and AWF for their willingness to help lead worship at the 08h30 services, as well as to the Link Men's Group, who left a lasting impression with their inspiring rendition of "The African Credo."



Finally, I would like to thank our musicians—Emmanuel Egbebu, Malcolm MacKinnon, Adrian Cornelius, and Odogwu Eneh—for so generously sharing their gifts and supporting our worship through music. Sadly, between 2020 and 2024, 3 choir members passed away; Anne Young, David Everett and Betty Wilson, respectively. In fond memory of David Everett, the choir still sings the Choristers' Prayer (tune composed by David in 2022), after choir practices and Sunday services.

Honouring a Legacy of Service

An adaptation of the nomination of Brenda Greenway for a Bishop's Medal, written by Rev. Sharmain James, in recognition of Brenda's exceptional service to the St Stephen's Congregation as a member and, subsequently, as the anchor and leader of the Music Group.

“As Christians we are only too familiar with the powerful role music plays in our worship services ; whether it is provided by a choir or an individual offering their musical talent received from the Holy Spirit. The Scriptures show us many examples of the important role music has played in worship throughout the history of the Church.

“It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night, to the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp.

PSALM 92 (NIV)



While the lyre and harp are not familiar instruments in modern worship, instruments such as the piano and organ in the hands of a faithful and dedicated spiritual sister such as Brenda have instilled the worshippers at St Stephen's with the same spirit and emotions so aptly expressed by the Psalmist.

Because of her dedicated and faithful service to the St Stephen's music group over many years, the St Stephen's family deems it fitting to express our gratitude to Brenda by nominating her for a Bishop's Medal.

The history of St Stephen's is a matter of record. While it spans many aspects of church life, including worship, building community, mission, and evangelism, it is relevant, in view of our request, to briefly set out Brenda's role in the music group during its early days.

In the church's early days as a chapelry of St Catherine's, Bramley, Brenda was invited from St Catherine's to join a fledgling music group as a pianist. Brenda and her husband, Keith, joined the infant church. At the time the music group held practices on Saturday mornings at Brenda's home.

Next followed worship services in the rectory garage, with the music group continuing to grow under Brenda's oversight. When the church hall was completed and services were moved there it allowed more space for the music group. At this time the Church acquired a Hammond organ as a further enhancement to the music group. Later, when the Church building was completed a Clavinova was acquired and Brenda once again displayed her musical talent by mastering a very versatile instrument. A few years later St Stephens was the benefactor of the old organ from St Georges, Parktown, and we were once again blessed to have Brenda playing a full-sized organ which brought a new dimension to music worship. Much time was devoted to creating a choir, arranging choir practices and seeking out new musical talent with such instruments as the marimba and drums.

Through Brenda's talent and dedication, this ministry has grown into worship that we believe brings honour and glory to God.

The family of St Stephen's would be honoured if you would allow us the privilege of showing our appreciation to Brenda by awarding her a Bishop's Medal.

”

Yours in Christ

Hall of Faith

Celebrating Faithful Service

Bishop's Medal Award



Derrick Theck



Keith Greenway



Brendra Greenway



Ann Sindle

The Canonry Accord



Trevor Prince



Wayne Saldanha



Funeka Ndungane

Peace and Justice Award



Zenobia Irwin's many years of faithful lay ministry and service to the Church were formally recognised when she was honoured by Archbishop Thabo Makgoba. In November 2025, she received the Peace Award from the Anglican Diocese of Johannesburg, which forms part of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. Zenobia was recognised for her contribution to the development of Safe and Inclusive Church policies, which help ensure that all people within the Church are treated with dignity, care, respect and safety. The Peace Award is the highest honour that can be given to a layperson in the Anglican Church. It celebrates individuals who offer outstanding service and who faithfully carry the needs, challenges and burdens of their communities and the Church.

Dear St Stephen's. . .

A Home for Eighteen Years: Growing Together at St Stephen's

When we first moved to Sunninghill eighteen years ago, we weren't just searching for a new house; we were longing for a place to truly call home. More than anything, we wanted to find a church family where we could feel connected and settle down. Little did we realise that walking through St. Stephen's doors would mark the start of a wonderful journey that has deeply shaped our family in ways we never imagined.

I still cherish the memory of our very first Sunday together. Stepping into a new church can feel overwhelming, but we were quickly embraced by the heartfelt warmth of the welcome. It wasn't just a quick hello; it was a true feeling of being truly seen. In those early days, our family consisted of me, Linda, Jaycee, and Jamian. We were figuring out the joys and challenges of early parenthood and new careers, and St Stephen's quickly became our comforting anchor.

Over the past eighteen years, we've really grown up together, haven't we?

We've watched our church building change and grow, welcomed new vicars and leaders along the way, and kept our church life vibrant through both joyful celebrations and challenging times. But what's truly special is the growth we've seen in each of the people in our community.

It's wonderful to see how the children from Sunday school have blossomed into confident young adults, serving in the different ministries. We've also enjoyed watching new families arrive with that same wide-eyed wonder we once had, and it's been a true privilege to welcome them, just as we were warmly welcomed all those years ago.

St Stephen's has truly been a special part of our journey. It's where Jaycee and Jamian were confirmed, making it a place full of so many meaningful moments. Our family has found comfort within its walls during difficult times, and we've eagerly shared our celebrations and joys there. The caring prayers of this congregation have supported us through illnesses and uncertainties, and their kindness has made our happy moments even brighter.

Why have we been here for eighteen years? It's because St Stephen's truly feels like a place where the love of Christ is alive and warm. You can see it in the friendly conversations over coffee after the service, in the inspiring small group discussions that encourage us all, in the beautiful, timeless liturgy that links us with generations of believers, and in the lively, modern worship that lifts our spirits high.

It's a church that genuinely cares for Sunninghill and joyfully serves the local community with open hearts and hands.

Our children, who used to cling to our legs in the pews, now walk proudly alongside us in faith. They've come to understand here that church isn't just a place we visit on Sundays, but a loving family we are part of every single day.

Looking ahead, we feel truly grateful for the past eighteen years. St Stephen's isn't just a church we go to; it's like a second home where our family has been lovingly nurtured. We sincerely pray that we'll get to stay part of this wonderful community for many more years to come.

HAPPY 30TH CELEBRATION, ST STEPHEN'S!

**Ellsworth JONATHAN
Sunninghill**



FLTR: Jaycee, Ellsworth, Linda, and Jamian

More from the parishioners. . .

From: Mary Naidoo

Sent: Monday, March 1, 2026 10:55 PM

To: Sunninghill St Stephens <ststephens@icon.co.za>

Subject: **30 YEARS**

My family and I have been part of St Stephen's Anglican Church for about 33 years. What an incredible community it has been. Over the years, many priests have come and gone, but Father Trevor together with his wife Gail and their daughter Tarryn and son Earl stayed the longest, about 25 years. They became not only part of St Stephen's family but part of our family too.

There are so many special memories of St Stephen's, and I've chosen just a few to share.

One of the most meaningful moments in our lives was when my husband, who came from a Hindu background, began his journey toward Christianity. In the beginning, I would go to church while he kindly dropped me off and picked me up. Our very first priest, Father Andrew Gready, who was the rector at the time, encouraged me to pray and allow God to work in His time.

My husband was a very private person, and when he eventually decided to convert to Christianity, he did not want to be baptised in church. Father Andrew lovingly decided to bring the church to our home and baptised him in our swimming pool. It was such an epic and sacred service, shared with family and close friends. Later, he was confirmed at St Stephen's, another proud and joyful moment for us.

Another highlight was during a very difficult season when my husband was retrenched. Father Trevor was the first person at our home, praying with us and reassuring us to keep trusting and praying. Eventually, my husband started his own business. He didn't even know how to type up an invoice at the time, and once again, the church family stepped in.

Georgette Parry, our church administrator who has faithfully served St Stephen's for as many years was ready to assist us. She is one of the most efficient, reliable, and caring people I have ever met. There was also a stage where we had no place to park our vehicles and once again St Stephen's was there to assist us.



I am so grateful to be part of this amazing community.

Today, I want to say thank you to the priests, the staff, and most importantly, the congregation. To those who are still with us and to those who have moved on to other churches. And to those who have gone before us to the New Jerusalem, you played a major part in building St Stephen's into what it is today.

God bless you all.

Victor, Mary, Shivani and Divina Naidoo

- • • *St Stephen's was never just a church to us, it was home.*

I'm Kevoulee, and my husband Faeme and I were part of the St Stephen's community during a very special season of our lives in South Africa. We moved from Pietermaritzburg to Johannesburg, where we discovered this wonderful congregation. Even though we now reside in London with our little boy, Daniel, St Stephen's remains in our daily conversations and close to our hearts.



Right from the start, Faeme and I experienced something truly special. As newlyweds, the St Stephen's community embraced us so warmly we felt we always belonged.

Father Trevor visiting our home shortly after we arrived set a profound tone for the care, guidance, and authentic community we found there. We found our rhythm there. Sundays might find us silently running the slide projector, doing a reading, preparing in the kitchen for after-church tea, or serving others. It wasn't about the tasks themselves; it was about being part of something. We felt included, needed and known.

The sermons always seemed to address exactly what we were experiencing. Whether it was a message about gratitude or uplifting words during harder moments, we would often leave saying, "that felt like it was meant just for us." The messages spoke to our lives in such a personal way.

And then there was the music. The hymns and worship songs filled both the room and our hearts in an indescribable way. It created a deep sense of closeness and unity that made our time there even more extraordinary.

St Stephen's became part of some of the most meaningful moments in our lives...

My brother was baptised there, and Faeme (*front row, centre*) and I were able to renew our marriage vows there too. These weren't just milestones; they were moments held within a community that truly loved and supported us.



When the time came for us to leave South Africa, we knew we weren't just saying goodbye to a place. Our last day was spent at church, holding onto every moment, and eventually crying into the shoulders of Father Trevor, Mark and Georgette. We knew we were leaving something that meant so much to us.

We haven't quite found that same feeling again. We speak about St Stephen's often. It was something truly special, and something that is not easy to find.

St Stephen's wasn't just where we went to church. It was where we were embraced, where we grew, and where we truly belonged. That is something we will always carry with us.

*With love
Kevoulee and Faeme*

MORE THAN WALKING



The greatest thing I enjoyed when I joined St Stephen's was the hikes. That is when I noticed it was not just walking to burn the calories I found myself enjoying nature and appreciating God's creation.

I also enjoyed the braai and picnics that were happening after walking, the love that was shared among the hiking team who are members of St Stephen's family. I liked taking longer distances reaching mountain peaks and achieving my goal. One more thing I won't forget is choosing to walk 10km and ended walking 14km after losing a trail. It was awesome. I enjoyed it.

Prescilla Murwira



For many years, hiking has been a cherished part of life at St Stephen's, bringing people together while enjoying the outdoors. Since pausing during COVID, the hikes have slowly started up again, with room for this eco-ministry to grow and nurture fellowship, wellbeing, and environmental stewardship. It's an opportunity to renew the prayer walks that once enriched parish life—walking with intention, reflecting on Scripture, and praying for one another, our parish, and the communities around us. Experienced or not, there is a place for you.



WITSIESHOEK



HENNOPS RIVER | ZEBRA CROSSING



Birdsong, Banter, and Belonging

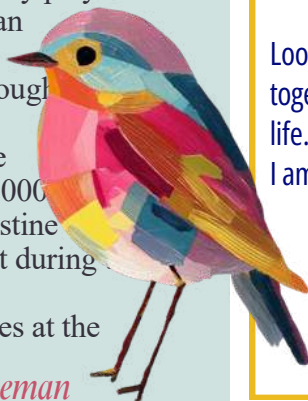
“My husband, Michael, and I joined St Stephen’s church towards the end of 1995 and attended the services held in the garage. In winter it was best to come early and get a seat on the carpet near the front where it was warmer than at the back, even though most times the doors were closed. In summer it was the other way round, and sitting outside was great. There was often a competition to find out how many birds one could see and hear. Andrew and Marion kept chickens and rabbits in the courtyard, which were a great hit with the children. One Sunday during a quiet time in the service a young lad suddenly announced “they are gone!” The chickens and rabbits had been relocated to other homes.

The services in the hall were fairly relaxed and Andrew’s children often came and sat on his lap during the services. Before the services, the sound of people chatting was magnified by the echo in the hall and created quite a din. The music group led us in worship, and members of the congregation were asked to participate in tasks such as saying the prayers.

It was a training ground for many of us. The altar and the lectern were made by Kathy Newton’s father, and we had to vote on what sort of cross we wanted on the front. One Sunday when Claire Gebers was preaching, we made a model of the Tent of Meeting of Moses and the Israelites in the middle of the hall to illustrate the point she was making. Sometimes, when Andrew was not available on a Sunday, the congregation discussed one of the readings in groups in lieu of the sermon and reported back.

I remember one crib service facilitated by Mike and Kathy Newton. They had simple costumes and they dressed the children in them, assigning them a part in an impromptu nativity play. Gilmore Fry, who was the Anglican chaplain at Leeuwkop prison, became an assistant priest and brought his flute along to boost the choir. Margaret Tremeer looked after the parish when Andrew left, and in 2006 Trevor came to be the rector. Christine Norton was also an assistant priest during hall times, and her mother, Nan, participated in most of the activities at the church as well.”

Pat Leman



“FINDING MY FEET, AND FINDING HOME”

“I arrived in Johannesburg from Cape Town, hoping to find an Anglican church close to home. I visited a few churches, but I struggled to feel a sense of belonging. After a while, I took a break from searching.

One day, I came across St Stephen’s livestream. Something about it drew me in, and I knew I needed to be part of a church again—to hear the Word and receive the sacrament. After confirming the service times with the office, I decided to visit on the following Sunday.

I was greeted warmly at the door, and I remember thinking, “This feels like home.” The welcome I received—from the clergy and the congregation—was genuine and comforting. I heard about the Thursday Bible study and decided to join. I’ve always loved Bible study, and it became another place where I started to grow. Joining the AWF was a natural next step. I love being part of the knitting projects and outreach work because it’s such a practical way of showing love. Serving as a sacristan has also been deeply meaningful for me. It keeps me grounded and reminds me to serve with humility.

One of the most special moments for me was being reaffirmed as a member of the AWF at St Stephen’s in June 2025. Along this journey, I’ve met wonderful people. It’s a place where I’ve come to know not just community, but the goodness of God.

Looking back, I can see how everything has come together. It feels like a full-circle moment in my life. I’ve experienced a real shift, not just in where I am, but in whom I am becoming.”

**With much love
Charmaine Johnston**



IAN & LIZ MORRELL: 1999-2023

When we joined Saint Stephen's we worshipped in the hall. The move to the new church took place in 2006. What a change! Many things were new or refurbished, including our very own pipe-organ.

Something about the new church, which we felt immediately, was that God was present right there with us - but not so in many other churches we visited or worshipped in. God was even present in our Garden of Remembrance!

We loved Fr. Trevor's (2000-2023) involvement in just about everything - how he managed to achieve this; OK, he had Geraghty and numerous others to help him, but still...

We were very sorry indeed to leave Saint Stephen's - what a lovely experience!



Liz and Ian Morrell, photographed on their 50th wedding anniversary. The couple swapped their city slick for a more restful life in Witbank, in 2023. The Garden of Remembrance was Ian's pet project. Together with Clayton Marshall and Peter Bambilo, the three tended the garden with great care. He generously shared his knowledge with the two, creating a peaceful place that brought comfort to bereaved families. Even after they moved to Witbank, Ian pops in to give the garden some TLC whenever they are in the area.

A Testimony of Faith, Hope & Gratitude

Hannah Peters

When I first joined St Stephen's Sunninghill in 2011, I felt welcomed almost immediately. Having come from a Methodist background, the liturgy and worship style felt familiar to me, but what moved me most was the warmth of the congregation. The sincere fellowship after each service, shared over tea and coffee, revealed a community that truly cared for and supported one another.

As my marriage journey continued, God blessed me with a beautiful daughter, Onyi. However, after three years of trying to conceive again, the journey became painful and uncertain. I entered a season of prayer, waiting, and trust. In that time, I was reminded that God alone is the true source of hope—just as He answered Hannah, He answered me as well.

During a Communion service in 2014, while Bishop Steve Morero was ministering, I knelt in prayer beside a woman who was holding her child. As he broke the bread and gave one portion to the baby and the other to me, I sensed the Spirit speaking clearly to my heart: "Your prayers have been answered."

In due time I conceived and gave birth to another daughter, and God continued to bless our family. When the Bishop returned the following year, I had the great joy of sharing my testimony with him.

In addition to my personal testimony, St Stephen's has been a great blessing to me in many other areas of life. During a time when I was unable to find employment, I decided to build my skills and step into entrepreneurship through fashion and textiles. The encouragement and support I received from the church community were deeply meaningful.



I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of Him.

1 Samuel 1:27

Their confidence in me strengthened my resolve and inspired me to keep pressing forward.

I am also sincerely thankful for our Sunday School family. Through the years, my children have been spiritually guided and enriched through meaningful, faith-building activities. The care and investment poured into their growth have been a priceless gift.

As I look back, my heart is filled with gratitude for the love, support, and unity that make St Stephen's Sunninghill so special. It is far more than a church—it is a family.

May we continue Growing Together in Faith and Love.

To everyone who has helped shape this community into the caring, vibrant church it is today, I offer my heartfelt thanks.

A Tribute to St Stephen's

Charity Nziramasanga

I am a Zimbabwean national who previously worked with the United Nations World Food Programme at the regional office in Sunninghill, Johannesburg. I relocated to Johannesburg in September 2024 from Cairo, Egypt, where, due to security concerns in the region, I had been unable to attend church services for four years, in compliance with our security advisories. Though churches were available in Cairo, they were very often targets for attacks. Before reassigning to Cairo, I was working in Yemen for 3 years, Iraq for 3 years and Myanmar for 5 years. I could not find a church to worship in, in all those countries.

When I reassigned to Johannesburg, it was my sincere hope and wish to finally find worship in a church setting again. After settling into my new home in Sunninghill, I discovered St. Stephen's Church while driving past Van Der Bijl road. In June 2025, I attended my first service at St Stephen's church, where Pastor Charmaine delivered the sermon and the choir sang with remarkable energy and passion to a church full of congregates. From that day, I felt spiritually at home and deeply connected to the congregation. I have continued to worship regularly at St. Stephen's, learning and growing in faith each day.

As I prepare to return to Zimbabwe, I will carry with me cherished memories of this church—the brevity and structured nature of the services, the administration of the holy communion, the warmth and generosity of the congregation, and above all, the inspiring leadership of Pastor Charmaine. Her inclusive spirit and dedication have left a lasting impression on me. It is my hope and dream to one day invite her to visit our church in Zimbabwe once I have resettled.

Sunday 22 February 2026, was my last day at St. Stephen's.

Farewell St Stephen's - keep up the community's good works.



Tomasina Tokolo Boko Malabo,
Equatorial Guinea

**"He that dwelleth
in the secret
place of the most
High shall abide
under the
shadow of the
Almighty."
Psalms 91:1.**

Dear St. Stephen's,

I am delighted to write this message in appreciation for your love for one another and for God. I love the way messages are preached here - straight to the point, backed up with live examples. I see members contributing voluntarily to the church - physically, financially, spiritually etc. For example, the member who designed the altar cloth for the anniversary, after Sunday service you serve tea and snacks. I see a lot of love flowing around here at St. Stephen's.

My first time in South Africa, Johannesburg, was in February 2024 for a medical procedure. In March 2025 I returned for medical revision. I was just wondering where I could find an Anglican Church to worship. I was on my way to Mall of Africa one day, and as The Lord would have it, the Uber passed by the Church. I was so happy! When I returned to the lodge I told them I had found my Church. The next day I went there to find out about the church programs. I was told, "there is a program - Alpha - in evening." I went back in the evening and met Sister Tinu. She welcomed me with such great warmth, I felt at home and we got talking, and she introduced me to other members. Then we went into the church to start the program, I found myself in Charlene's group. Our discussions in the group were spirit filled and testimonials. What caught my attention the most was the video; it related to the topic and that gave me a better understanding. I took this back home to my Reverend. The moderator Dr. Bola did an excellent job that day as she always does. Charlene introduced me to Mark and after the program they offered to take me back to the lodge. This is what they have been doing; taking me back to the lodge after each service I attended.

Thank you once again for giving me the opportunity to express my love for St. Stephen's.

Happy Anniversary! May Our Lord continue to strengthen us all to work in his vineyard. As we continue to sit in his secret place He will protect us.

Meet The Staff



REV SHARMAIN JAMES

Rector

After a 20-year career in banking and foreign exchange, Rev Sharmain James brings a wealth of life experience to her ministry. She was ordained as a priest in 2008 and spent more than 10 rewarding years as Rector at St. Luke Bosmont. After serving at St Michael's in Bryanston, we welcomed her into our fold on the 5th of January, 2025. Rev Sharmain was instituted as the Rector on February 16th, 2025 by the Bishop Steve Moreo.

Outside of church, she enjoys walking, reading, and family time.



DR BOLANLE ENANG

Youth Pastor

Bola, Bolanle, Mrs Enang, Aunty Bola, Mummy, Ma, Pastor Bola. Dr Enang is the latest addition to the list. Dr Enang graduated with a PhD in Theology in May 2026.

Bolanle's challenging childhood, marked by her parents' separation, inspired her devotion to the church. Because the church supported her family during this tough time, she grew passionate about teaching children and leading youth programmes. Besides her work as the Children & Youth Pastor at St Stephen's, she is also a family coach, counsellor, author, facilitator, and speaker. Her work supports parents, caregivers, educators, and organisations that care about family wellbeing.



MARK WILLIAMS

Pastoral Care Coordinator

Mark has been a parishioner at St Stephen's since 2018. At present he serves as the Pastoral Care Coordinator, and as a Parish minister regularly conducting services at the local retirement villages, assisting with home communions for those housebound, and providing support to parishioners facing illness, grief, or crisis and assisting with funeral services and sometimes conducting memorial services. Aside from ensuring that new members are welcomed into the the parish community, he also coordinates pastoral visits with the Rector to ensure that parishioners receive regular visits.

Mark is also a Marketing Consultant with an MBL degree and is completing a BTh degree.

Meet

The Administration Support Team



ANDRECK PHIRI

Verger

Andreck is married to Dorothy, and they have four children. Since he joined St Stephen's in 2011 he has seen many changes and experienced the loss of people who were special to him. He loves gospel music and would love to sing a solo in church one day.

He looks forward to living with his wife and children in their own house and having a catering business. He would also like to learn a few trades.



PRUDENCE MBANJWA

Housekeeper

Thandeka, who we know as Prudence, joined the team in 2012. She hails from KZN and has two adult sons.

She dreams of one day being able to farm fulltime, with the aim of supplying fresh produce to small stalls, hospitals and Spar.



PETER BAMBILO

Verger

Peter joined St Stephen's in 2018. Peter has an entrepreneurial spirit and takes on extra work on his off days. He continues the work of tending the rose garden. Peter aspires to build houses for rental purposes, have his own farm, and drive a Lamborghini one day.



OFENTSE KWAPENG

Parish Administrator

Ofentse, our Parish Administrator joined St Stephen's in May 2025 to allow some overlap with Georgette Parry who was preparing to step down. Ofentse is the youngest of three siblings and aunt to four lively nephews and two nieces. Her favourite role! She cherishes her friendship circle whose courage and kindness inspire her to trust God and serve others with joy.

Ofentse is an active participant in the life of the Diocese of Johannesburg. She appreciates the value of practical service, and finds joy in sharing God's love in tangible ways. She is a Parish Minister at Cathedral of St Mary the Virgin and as well as Deputy President of the Anglican Youth of Southern Africa (AYSA), and serves on the Archbishop's Commission of Technology and Ethics.

As a climate advocate, she holds the Green Anglicans initiative very close to her heart.

Meet The Parish Council



BACK ROW, FLTR: Andile Nene | Oliver Petersen | Kenny Abraham
FRONT ROW, FLTR: Protus Seda | Lincoln Alcock | Sebe Buthelezi | Rev. Sharmain James | David O'Connell | Caron Petersen | Cuan Prince | Ragini Ramkumar | Finess Chinganya | Connie Kganakga

The Executive



REV SHARMAIN JAMES
Rector



CARON PETERSEN
Church Warden



KENNY ABRAHAM
Chruch Warden



OLIVER PETERSEN
Alternate Church Warden

Intentional Kingdom Building

The Intentional Kingdom Building workstream encompasses a diverse array of ministries. They include the AWF, Mothers' Union, Divine Divas, LINK, YASS, Children, Youth and Teens group, Psychosocial ministry team, and Social Outreach team. Each ministry addresses a different aspect of our community and caters to the unique needs of our congregants. Together, these ministries cultivate a vibrant and intentional community of believers, equipping them to live out their faith actively and purposefully.

SOCIAL OUTREACH

The Social Outreach portfolio remains one of the most important ministries at St Stephen's Church. They play a key role in identifying organisations to get behind and impact positively. Through the congregation's dedicated giving and other contributions, we can meet our commitments to chosen projects as well as lend a hand to unexpected social needs that arise.

AD HOC PROJECTS

The most recent demonstration of how the ministries pull together was feeding people at the Malawian Consulate. Donations of bread, peanut butter and essentials streamed in as soon as the call went out to the congregation, and whoever was available pooled their resources at short notice.

In honour of Mandela Day, the Social Outreach team and other ministries in the church donated their time to clean the area and serve a warm meal to people at Malawian Embassy, where the situation remained dire as Malawian citizens awaited transport to their home country.



CURRENT OUTREACH PROJECTS

[Dolphins Acre](#) is a home for mentally challenged adults. They receive a monthly financial contribution towards the day-to-day running of the home. Every three months, members of the various organisations in the church get together to prepare and cook a meal for them, served at their home. The congregation also generously contributes to food drives and Christmas gifts for the residents. Leading up to Christmas, the residents are treated to a Christmas party with carols and gifts.



[Ratang Bana](#) in Alexandra supports more than 500 vulnerable children, including those living with HIV and AIDS. Ratang Bana provides daily meals and, in urgent cases, a safe place for children who are homeless or at risk of abuse. St Stephen's supports the Centre through monthly contributions, food donations, Christmas gifts. St Stephen's has been supporting the home for about six years now. In 2024 a decision was reached to get more involved with their feeding scheme. Since then, a team of volunteers from different organisations in the church prepare and serve the children a meal at Ratang Bana in Alexandra, every quarter. Beyond financial support, the Social Outreach team provided more support to the learners who were in Matric last year. YASS came on board making sure that the two girls in Matric looked extra special for their Matric dance.

DIOCESAN RETIREMENT & WELFARE COMMITTEE

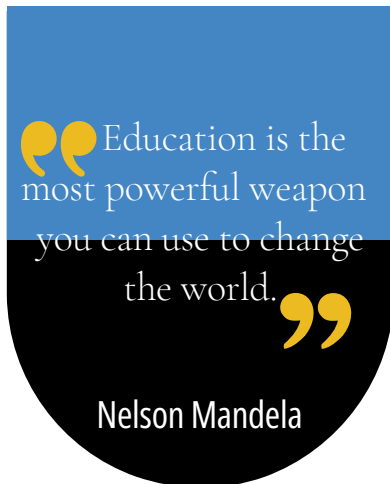
The Diocesan Retirement and Welfare Committee, part of the Anglican Diocese of Johannesburg, cares for retired clergy and clergy widows who have helped shape the spiritual foundations of many people and congregations across the Diocese. St Stephen's supports this ministry through monthly financial contributions, as well as year-end grocery hampers and Christmas gifts presented at the Bishop's Tea. This is a meaningful way of showing appreciation for their years of service and contributing to their wellbeing.

EDUCATION FUND

St Stephen's identified that it could add value to young people's lives by investing in their education. The Education Fund was established in 2018 from Parishioner's contributions, enhanced by several targeted fundraising events such as Christmas in July and the annual golf day. The fund is invested separately and "ring-fenced", and a portion of the annual tithing budget is invested into the fund. Thanks to the fund, 57 learners have received over R2 million in educational support over the last 5 years

Making a difference through education

Nicky Humphreys



The St Stephen's Education Fund was founded in response to Archbishop Thabo Makgoba's appeal for parishes to focus on education as a means of uplifting South African communities. And so the process began of identifying students who would benefit from a good, holistic, values-based education in a Christian school that would equip them to make a meaningful contribution to society. The Education Fund was established in 2018 from Parishioner's contributions, enhanced by several targeted fundraising events such as Christmas in July and the annual golf day. The Fund is separately invested and "ring-fenced" and a portion of the annual tithing budget is invested into the fund. The bursaries cover school fees and other school-related needs for students on a year-to-year basis, up to the end of high school. The first bursaries were awarded for the 2018 school year.

The first group of students has matriculated and you may be wondering what they are doing now – has their bursary made a difference?

Murendeni Luvhengo was in Grade 4 in 2018, a keen netball player who played for the school right up to Matric. Murendeni matriculated from McAuley House in 2025 with a bachelor's pass. She is currently a first-year student at the University of Fort Hare, where she is studying Industrial Psychology. She is involved in the Student Christian Organisation, where she is secretary of Social and Academic Affairs and treasurer of Student Governance.

Siyabonga Mbokane first received a bursary in 2018 when he was in Grade 5. He matriculated in 2024 from St Mathew's Private High School in Rockville, Soweto, where he achieved a bachelor's pass. Siyabonga did an internship for a year at Mashana Clothing Company, where he was mentored by our parish minister, Sifiso Mashele. He is now studying Software Development at Boston City Campus, which is his life's dream.

Jadyn March matriculated in 2022, having received a bursary for the last 2 years of her schooling. She earned a bachelor's pass, following up with an internship at Eskom. Jadyn is now studying for a B.Com in Statistics at the University of Pretoria, where she is in her 2nd year.

Kotulo Nxasana is an academic high flyer who earned 6 distinctions in her matric. She received a bursary for her high school years at McAuley House and is now in her third year at Rhodes University where she continues to excel. She is studying for an LLB. Kotulo has been very involved in university life and has held the following positions:

- 2024 to date: Allan Gray Ambassador / Fellow
- 2025: Academic counsellor for SRC
- 2025: Secretary General of SRC
- 2026: Tutor for Law faculty
- 2026: Assistant prosecutor for the University

These young people, and the other students on the bursary scheme, are very grateful for the opportunities they have been afforded through your generosity.

Let us continue, as a parish, to do our part for positive change.

A Word from the beneficiaries...

Ever since receiving bursary funding back in 2019 in Grade 8, and now being in my third year of an LLB at Rhodes University, there's been so much change in me. In my identity, the relationships I've formed, my growth, my connection to God and my spirituality, and most obviously, my approach to academics. I recognise that where I am today is because of that funding in 2019. It enabled me to continue school, to finish well, and to get results that opened the door to where I am now the Allen Gray Orbis Foundation bursary that covers my tuition and gives me an allowance. Today I am excelling because of that early belief and faith, coupled with the hard work I put in to achieve my goal: restoring justice within Africa.

I continue to be grateful to the opportunities I have been presented with.

Thank you and Thank you again to St Stephens for the bursary it awarded me. May the church continue to be blessed in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ.

Kotulo Nxasana



Ntsikelelo Isaac

Ever since I got financial support from the education fund, the biggest thing that changed in my everyday school life was peace of mind when it came to my tuition fees because I knew that the church through the education fund would sort everything out. This helped me focus on what was important: my academic excellence and showing up with the best attitude for every academic activity like it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It also helped me develop discipline, gratitude and resilience because I understood the value of the opportunity I was blessed with

Thanksgiving & Gratitude

As we mark our patronal festival this August, we take time to reflect on the life and impact of St Thanksgiving compels us to reflect on our blessings and shifts our focus away from ourselves and places it first at Jesus' feet. Surrendering everything to God allows us to recognise our blessings and privilege.

We are invited during this season of thanksgiving to draw closer to Jesus and allow Him to transform us so that we reflect His heart and mind in the world.

Let us ask ourselves, *"What shall I render to Jehovah, for He has done so many things for me?"*





St Stephen's
Sunninghill
PRESENTS

30TH ANNIVERSARY
**CHARITY
GOLF
DAY**

WEDNESDAY
7 OCTOBER 2026
KYALAMI COUNTRY CLUB

In aid of St Stephen's
Education Fund

R6 000 PER FOURBALL
(Excluding cart hire)

REMINDER

Prizegiving & Dinner
Hole sponsorship opportunities



CONTACT INFORMATION
+27 11 807 7974
administrator@ststephenssa.co.za

Growing Together

Serving Together & Giving Thanks

As we enter August, traditionally our month of thanksgiving, we look upon our buildings and renewed spaces with deep gratitude for how far God has brought us. The construction and upgrades around the church property have been made possible through the generous hearts and faithful giving of our parishioners, as well as the selfless offering of their time and talents. By honouring our commitment we create opportunities to receive new families, strengthen our ministries, and extend our outreach into the wider community. In this spirit of thanksgiving, we are invited to pause and renew our covenant of faith by recommitting ourselves to dedicated giving and active service. Our continued stewardship remains the fuel that keeps St Stephen's growing.



The roof of the admin building was replaced, and solar panels and a new awning were installed.



After 25 years, the sanctuary received a facelift.



Following careful planning and approval from municipal departments, this beautiful cross was officially erected in 2023. The milestone was celebrated with an intimate gathering, where Fr Godfrey blessed the cross to dedicate it to the community.

WOMEN, MEN & YOUNG ADULTS' MINISTRIES

The men's and women's ministries nurture faith and friendship, and lives are enriched through fellowship, service, and outreach. They generously give their time and talents through parish ministries, fundraising initiatives, prayer ministry, hospitality, social outreach, and pastoral care. Together they strengthen the life of the parish through practical service, generous fellowship, and a shared commitment to caring for others.

The parish's women's ministry is expressed through three vibrant groups. The Anglican Women's Fellowship (AWF), The Mothers' Union (MU) and the Divine Divas. Designed to unite women in prayer, service, and love, these ministries are a support system that provides a space for spiritual growth, fellowship, and tangible community outreach.

Similarly, LINK is expressed through fellowship and service. Members generously give their time and talents through parish ministries, fundraising initiatives, prayer ministry, hospitality, mentoring, and community outreach.

Post COVID-19 YASS (Young Adults of St Stephen's) was established for young adults (21-35) to gather, pray, read scripture, and share personal insights. They officially launched in March 2022 and have grown from strength to strength. The Young Adults of St Stephen's (YASS) is actively involved in St Stephen's church, participating in and supporting the activities of other ministries.

ST STEPHEN'S YOUTH MINISTRY

Our Children's Church is vibrant!! It's a place where children are nurtured in faith and encouraged to grow in God's love. Children from the age of one through to 15 years grow from *Sparkles* (1–3 years) to *Pebbles* (4–6 years) to *Stones* (Grades 1–3), then *Boulders* (Grades 4–6) and *Teens*. The Children & Youth ministry is led by Bolanle Enang, who is supported by a dedicated team of enthusiastic and caring volunteers. Her *joie de vivre* is inspiring and enables *growing together in faith*.

The Youth group, G-Squad (God's Squad), meets in The Garage on Friday evenings. Both the Sunday morning gatherings and Friday night meetings continue to attract increasing numbers, creating a welcoming space where young people can belong, deepen their faith, and build lasting friendships.

As young people grow in their faith, they are also becoming more involved in the life of the parish through active participation in a range of ministries.



Growing Together Serving Together



Growing Together Serving Together

Juliana was pinned in May 2026



Servant Leadership



Mandela Day Blanket Drive

Mothers' Union



Ministries in the church coming together to prepare a meal



"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others".

Philippians 2:3-4



Growing Together Serving Together



Growing in faith together goes far beyond our own church doors!

The Ministry team often meets with leaders from other denominations for a meal and prayer - united in a common goal to expand God's Kingdom, bless our local community, and share His love across our beautiful neighbourhood.

We are looking forward to our next ecumenical service! There is truly no better sound than believers coming together to praise the Lord with one voice.



**HOLIDAY CLUB
2026**



Growing in faith and fellowship! Join the Bible study group every Thursday at 10h30 in the coffee shop. New faces are always welcome, so come as you are

*"Anyone who wants to
be first must be the very
last, and the servant of
all"*

Mark 9:35

Growing Together

Serving Together



Our parish has a long history of service to others. Derrick Theck shared this image with me. Many moons ago, St Stephen's offered their service to Habitat for Humanity when they built houses in Orange Farm.

DID YOU KNOW?

Among his very many talents, Derrick Theck is an avid amateur nature and travel photographer. He is well-known for his contributions to South African publications like Weg! (Go!) magazine, where he has shared his stunning outdoor landscape photography and travel stories

The Digitisation Team

Other behind-the-scenes ministries include hospitality and kitchen duties; maintenance; gardening; and media and technology – managing soundboards, running live streams, and overseeing website and social media updates.

Digitisation is crucial because it enables the church to extend its reach beyond the local community. By leveraging digital technologies, St Stephens aims to enhance the services to the community and provide parishioners with an experience to continue to grow in faith together. St Stephen's is continuously developing a parishioner-friendly online platform that keeps the church connected and relevant in a changing world. The DiGi team welcomes new ideas and talent to join them as they continuously evolve the various media platforms to keep the community updated.

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE TEAM?

CONTACT

Protus Seda at protus.sedah@gmail.com

Ofentse Kwapeng at administrator@ststephenssa.co.za.

Live Streaming

Since the first service was live-streamed in 2020, we have come a long way. The learning curves were steep but we persevered. It was a ministry that was especially appealing to the young adults in the church. In the past five years many have stepped up to the plate. For some it came naturally, while for others it presented an opportunity to learn a new skill. All while ensuring the Sunday services reached as many as possible, growing the Kingdom of God.

New Saints Online | A Ministry Without Borders

New Saints Online was conceived in the early post-COVID days. Research showed a need for God's word to penetrate the globe in a new way. While research showed that traditional pews were becoming emptier, advanced technology opened a new avenue for sharing the Gospel, enabling its message to reach people across the globe, right into the palm of their hands. After much deliberation and 'think tank' thinking, a small group developed New Saints Online (Church) in 2022. After testing and creating the MVP, in 2023 they faced challenges within the diocese; the idea of an 'online church' seemed a hard concept to grasp.

However, after much deliberation, prayer and petition, NSO was given the go-ahead in 2025, and relaunched as New Saints Online in May 2025, (Pentecost Sunday). NSO launched as a global outreach mission dedicated to spreading the word of God to the unchurched, home-bound, relocating, and seeking-but-not-ready-to-join-a-traditional-church-community type of persons and the in-between. Simple worship, profound messages, spiritual support and prayer for all who find the mission.

Today, New Saints Online has enjoyed a remarkable first year. Recordings take place in *The Garage* on the first Saturday of the month. Together, preachers, hosts and the technical team fellowship, converse and laugh, united in faith and growing in community. Through this online ministry, the Gospel proclaimed from Sunninghill has reached viewers across the world, including China, the United States, the Netherlands, South Africa, the UK, Kenya, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Vietnam, Turkey, the UAE, Canada, France, and Russia, to name a few.

The YouTube ministry continues to grow steadily, attracting both regular followers and first-time viewers who are drawn to faith conversations and Scripture presented in accessible, conversational language within a safe and welcoming environment. What began as a local mission is becoming a global one.

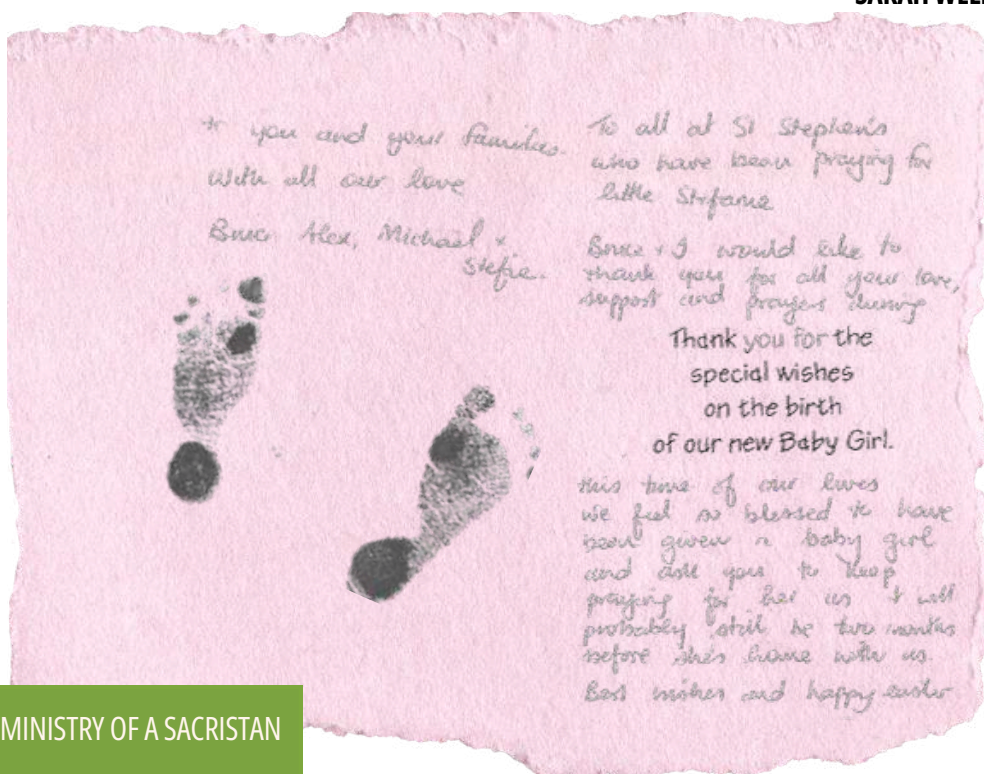




Back in 1999, I was leading a prayer group of about 11 members of the St Stephen's congregation. We had been praying for Bruce and Alex about their pregnancy. Little Stephanie Alexandra was born in March 1999, very premature, and we continued to pray for her until she was able to catch up. She must be nearly 27 years old now!



SARAH WELLHAM



THE QUIET MINISTRY OF A SACRISTAN

In almost every parish, dedicated people quietly prepare for Mass. At St Stephen's, the Sacristan team includes Annie John, Busi Maboja, Charmaine Johnston, Eva Moloto, Masego Kukama, Pat Leman, Samantha Gounden and Shoeshoe Mopeli. Together, they care for the altar linens, prepare the credence table and altar, set out the wine and hosts for communion, and help clean up after Mass.

Their ministry helps the parish community worship together by ensuring that the Blessed Sacrament is prepared with care and reverence.

Serving as a Sacristan is a meaningful act of stewardship. It is a way of serving God and the church by taking responsibility for the gifts entrusted to us, both seen and unseen.

Sacristans offer their time quietly, yet their work makes a real difference in bringing the Eucharist to the people. If you enjoy serving behind the scenes, this may be the ministry for you.

CONTACT PAT LEMAN AT 082 908 8042
TO FIND OUT MORE

The Parish Prayer Ministry's dedicated members, who pray over pastoral needs, congregational requests, and community concerns has brought comfort, strength, encouragement, and real change in hearts, in circumstances, and in our community. Often working quietly and without fanfare, it reminds us that no one walks alone.

Today, the Parish Prayer Ministry continues with the same spirit of care. When we lift one another in prayer, we stand in the gap for one another in faith, trusting that God hears and responds.

Members of the Prayer Team are also available to pray with you during communion on Sundays, and confidential prayer requests are always welcome

ALTAR SERVERS MINISTRY

The altar servers' ministry is a valued tradition that enriches parish life and offers both adults and children a meaningful way to serve God and the church community. It also helps servers learn more about the Mass, the Eucharist, and their faith.

Often, the altar party at St Stephen's is multi-generational, with parents and children serving together in the sanctuary. Through this ministry, servers grow in confidence, learn about teamwork and responsibility, and find a deeper sense of belonging while taking an active part in parish life.

We would love to see this ministry continue to grow even more.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS MINISTRY
CONTACT GODFREY NTOELE AT 081 473 6037

About Georgette | Legend



NO REFLECTION ON PARISH LIFE WOULD BE COMPLETE WITHOUT RECOGNISING GEORGETTE PARRY, OUR FIRST LONG-SERVING PARISH ADMINISTRATOR. HER DEDICATION, PATIENCE AND STEADFAST COMMITMENT CARRIED THE CHURCH THROUGH MANY SEASONS. SHE SERVED WITH GRACE AND PROFESSIONALISM, BECOMING AN INTEGRAL PART OF PARISH LIFE AND A SOURCE OF SUPPORT TO CLERGY AND CONGREGATION ALIKE.
- SIBONGILE NENE -

Georgette and her family immigrated to South Africa from Zimbabwe. She worked for Nedbank where she met her husband, Nicholas. In 1994 they were married at St Michael's Bryanston and had Liam in 1999 and Megan in 2003.

Georgette is a committed recycler, and is known to want to bring plastic, paper, and cardboard back from holiday for recycling! She added that she was often teased about this by Fr Trevor who loved to say, "Be careful; if you stand still for too long she will recycle you as well"!

A few of her favourite things are being outdoors, going on walks, and spending time in the bush. Georgette also loves animals, especially dogs; although, several geckos and field mice could testify to being rescued by Georgette. One memorable rescue involved a field mouse that was still treading water in the ladies' toilet in the admin block. When she carried the mouse outside in a dish towel, Fr Trevor asked where she was taking it, and she replied that it was going outside "to live another day".

Her favourite part of working at St Stephen's was the people. She enjoyed the "pop-in" visits for a cup of tea and the phone calls that would say "*I am just calling to see how you are doing*". The social events like Passover dinners, golf days and Christmas in July were also events that she loves.

Although she had not grown up in the Anglican Church, she has become fully immersed in it and loves its traditions and thoroughly enjoys the special services. A little anecdote was a phone call she received one morning asking if St Stephen's provides curry-flavoured Holy Communion wafers!!!? She was a bit confused and said that wafers don't come in flavours. After much debate about inclusivity, etc., the caller burst out laughing, only for her to realise that she had just been pranked.

A few highlights of her life have been a 3-day canoeing safari down the Zambezi River, where she slept on the riverbanks, and joining Liam on a Warriors challenge skydiving in 2018. She describes skydiving as one of the scariest and most amazing experiences she has ever had.

THE PARRY FAMILY

"God has been very visible in my family's lives and I give thanks every day for a husband who provides with love, a son who perseveres with strength, and a daughter who flourishes with grace."



For 23 years, Georgette was a familiar and reassuring presence in the parish office. When she decided to step down to enjoy a slower pace of life, she left behind a remarkable legacy of faithful service. Her belief of St Stephen's is that *"it's a congregation, not a building. It's a family of believers, knitted together by love."* The many friends that she has made will remain friends.

Asked what the future holds, she replied: "The paperwork for Eswatini is taking longer than we thought but this process has been soaked in prayer and will happen in God's time." Looking to the future, she said she saw herself volunteering at an organisation that helps animals, maybe helping at a library. Her dream is to go gorilla watching, take a trip to Machu Picchu but maybe more realistically, do a South African version of an El Camino walk. *"There are a few options, and the scenery would be amazing."*

"St Stephen's will always hold a special place in my heart. May we continue to support one another and celebrate the special uniqueness of this parish. It has been a blessing to serve at St Stephen's and to be part of the life of the parish. I hope to continue doing little things towards building the kingdom of God."

Georgette has collected many memories over the years. There are two that spring to mind immediately...

"One morning I received a phone call from Ian Morrell asking me if I had seen Lincoln. My response to this question was, "Yes, I saw Lincoln yesterday at the 08h30 service" (referring to Lincoln Alcock).

Ian asks, "Well, where is Lincoln?" I say to Ian, "I presume at work."

Dead silence from Ian...

He says, "How can Lincoln be at work? He is supposed to be in the Garden of Remembrance.

Now I was baffled!

I asked Ian which Lincoln he was referring to. Ian says, "The rose bush Lincoln. He has been removed."

I take a few moments to process what Ian is saying. I then say that I will call him back. I take a walk to the Garden of Remembrance, and lo and behold, there is a hole in the Garden of Remembrance where the rose bush "Lincoln" used to be. Someone had dug him out and taken him home!

"We were worshipping in the hall and had a visiting priest to do the mass on this particular Sunday.

We start coming forward for holy communion, and the Sunday school children coming forward. Little Tumi Ntoele goes forward with her hand outstretched for the wafer (as was our custom and still is our custom for children to receive the wafer).

Little Tumi is blessed, and the priest moves on. No problem., Little Tumi rejoins the line again. The visiting priest comes across Little Tumi again and probably says another blessing and moves on. Little Tumi is now not impressed. Little Tumi had come for her holy communion wafer. She rejoins the line...

Her dad, Godfrey had to politely pick her up and take her outside while she protested that she had not received communion yet!

Help us celebrate our 30th Anniversary Dinner & Dance. This special occasion is an opportunity to reconnect with old friends, make new memories, and give thanks for the journey that has brought us to this milestone. With fine food, from Horn & Phillips, live entertainment by Mr Keyz & the Sensations, and a touch of timeless 90s elegance, it promises to be a memorable evening shared in the company of our parish family and friends.



A chance to walk off with a luxury holiday

St Stephen's Sunninghill

Save the Date!!

30th Anniversary Dinner & Dance

Inspired by the timeless sophistication of
90s formal style

A 3-course meal and live entertainment

*Stand a chance to win a getaway
worth R25 000*

St Peter's College, Sunninghill

Saturday 3 October 2026

Tickets: R400 per person

No persons under 18 years of age



A Learning & Teaching Community

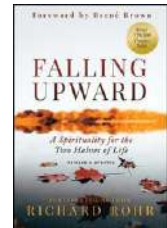
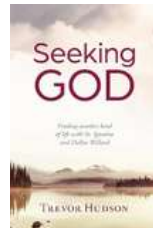
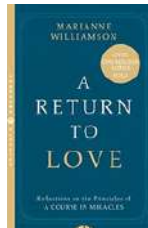
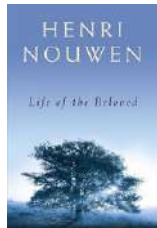
St Stephen's is a learning community, always open to discovering something new. Alongside Sunday sermons, the Ministry team finds different ways to engage the congregation and encourage conversation and wrestle with the Word. Through talks, discussions, evening prayer, and shared experiences, the church helps people stay interested, involved, and open to different ways of thinking.



The church has a well-stocked library. The wide selection of books provides trustworthy resources that deepen faith and helps members to continually seek wisdom. Many of the books are donated while others are carefully selected and purchased. While it serves as a source of information, tending the library is a ministry opportunity suited to people who are organised, patient, and who prefer quiet, behind-the-scenes service.

God & Coffee

One of the beautiful things about God & Coffee is that it introduces one to books one would not necessarily consider reading otherwise. The most recent of these is *Where Am I* written by Elize-Marie Müller. Typically, the group would meet in the coffee shop on a Monday evening at 7pm. The relaxed setting allows for an exchange of views and discussions over a cup of coffee. It's a powerful, non-threatening way to learn about God. You can find some of the titles in the church library.



Engaging Conversation

St Stephen's offers several opportunities for meaningful conversation, learning, and fellowship throughout the year. During Lent, the church hosts teaching sessions that help people reflect and prepare spiritually. The annual 11-week Alpha course is also well attended. In the lead-up to Christmas, the summer teachings provide way to stay connected to and focused on the reason for the season. They are usually structured so that one can join at any time during the series. Regardless of the teaching series, lessons are usually preceded by a light meal together. Breaking bread together is a great way to meet people and get to know others better. Besides workshops and quiet mornings, some of the teaching series we've hosted are '*Opening Our Lives to God's Holy Disturbances*', '*Reaching Forgiveness*', '*God on the Move*', '*Streams of Living Water*', and '*Becoming Like Jesus - Cultivating the Fruits of the Spirit*'.

Workshops

We believe that growing in faith and life is a lifelong journey. We encourage learning together because it helps us grow as disciples, serve our neighbours, and strengthen our parish family. Included in the growing list of enriching workshops and quiet mornings over the past five years are, among others, managing finance, career guidance, a readers' workshop, making rosaries, wreath-making. In response to, and following discussions about the scourge of gender-based violence, the Psychosocial workstream coordinated a *Train-the-Trainer* workshop in August 2025 to build internal capacity across parish ministries. It was followed up with a workshop in February 2026 entitled '*Positive Masculinity*'. Another memorable gathering was hosted by Made with Love where the focus topics were love, loss, life, and momhood.

Growing Together

Learning Together

IN THE SPIRIT OF TEACHING & LEARNING

Supplied by Georgette Parry

After Ian Morrall's departure, Cathy Nicholson took over caring for the garden. A few years ago, Cathy Nicholson arranged for Andreck and Peter to attend a rose-care course to help them better nurture the roses in the Garden of Remembrance.

The course proved very helpful, teaching them how to care for the roses, including pruning and general maintenance. Cathy went to great effort to build their skills and support the upkeep of the garden.

Cathy also volunteered to assist with the church gardens after San Platzer left. Working quietly behind the scenes, she has arranged lawn dressing, compost, organic pest sprays, and many other essentials. She keeps the flowerpots at the front of the church fresh and welcoming with regular new plantings, helping the church entrance look bright and cared for. Cathy generously shares her knowledge of plants and is always willing to get involved.



PHAKADE (PK) MQADI, MPIOLO NTSHANGASE, BOLANLE ENANG & SESETHU BEN-WAZI.

"...it (the Youth Leadership Conference) broadened my understanding of effective leadership and equipped me with knowledge and skills I had not previously acquired. In addition, it gave me the opportunity to build meaningful friendships and grow both personally and spiritually". - Mpilo



MAKING PALM CROSSES | BIBLE STUDY



DIVINE DIVAS RETREAT



ALPHA DAY

Growing Together

Learning Together

G-SQUAD | YOUTH CAMP



PARENTS, CHILDREN & TEENS WORKSHOP



POSITIVE MASCULINITY | PSYCHOSOCIAL MINISTRY

YASS | ROSARY-MAKING WORKSHOP



Rites of passage

Rites of passage mark important moments of growth, commitment, and transition in the life of the Church. These include Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Marriage, Ordination, and Death. Each offers an opportunity to recognise God's work in our lives and in the wider community.

Baptism



First Holy Communion



First Holy Communion is a significant milestone in a child's faith journey, marking the first time a baptised child receives the Eucharist and is welcomed more fully into the sacramental life of the Church. At St Stephen's, the First Holy Communion ministry provides candidates with an enriching preparation experience, guided by dedicated catechists who teach with care, patience and encouragement. Through lessons, reflection and prayer, the children are prepared to receive this sacred sacrament with reverence, joy and gratitude.

Confirmation

From the age of 16, young Anglicans are encouraged to reflect on their personal relationship with God and their journey of Christian living through Confirmation. At St Stephen's, committed facilitators walk alongside them, supported by the Youth Alpha Series. This series offers a relaxed, pressure-free space where young people can explore life's big questions, engage in open discussion, and take ownership of their faith. Special thanks go to Bolanle Enang, Cuan Prince, Mark Williams, Protus Seda, Samantha Gounden and Zenobia Irwin for their dedication to nurturing the youth of St Stephen's.



The Saints Who Walked Among Us

Remembering Those Who Have Gone Before Us

"I thank my God every time I remember you."

Mark Williams

Philippians 1:3

In every parish, we are reminded that we are carried by the faithfulness of those who have gone before us. Over the past five years, St Stephen's has bid farewell to many devoted members. Their voices may no longer welcome us on a Sunday morning, and their familiar presence is missed, but their witness lives on in our worship, fellowship, and shared life. As a Parish Minister, I have been deeply privileged to accompany many of these beloved friends through the final chapters of their earthly journey. Each funeral service reminded me that ministry is found not only in preaching and teaching, but also in walking with God's people through every season of life.

Denise McLeod



Denise McLeod who passed away on 30 May 2026, was a mainstay at St. Stephen's. She and her family were of the original founding members of the church. You will find traces of Denise's selfless service and ministry of creativity and handiwork all over the church - the altar frontals, parish ministers' robes, in her teaching others, and more. It was a privilege alongside, Pat Leman and Rev Sharmain, to minister to her when she became ill.

Roberta Burns



Hospitality was at the heart of who Roberta was. She had a gift for making people feel welcome, valued, and at home, always ensuring that those who led services at Waterfall were cared for with warmth and kindness. Roberta lived her faith through quiet acts of love and service. She cherished her children and grandchildren, spoke of them with great joy, and remained deeply concerned for others, even in her later years. Her 90th birthday celebration reflected the love and respect she inspired in so many. We miss her faithful presence, gentle smile, and caring spirit. Roberta left a legacy of faithful discipleship that continues to enrich St Stephen's parish.

Nirmalla Naidoo



It was a special privilege to minister to Nirmalla during her illness, alongside Fr Godfrey and Rev Angela Odame. She passed peacefully shortly after receiving communion with her family and receiving the last rites. Her family was at her side when she passed, and the family were greatly comforted by the prayers received.

Michael Morgan



Michael Morgan was a quiet, humble, and dignified gentleman whose deep faith brought calm and reassurance to those around him. Though he never sought recognition, he embodied servant leadership and quietly strengthened the parish community through his wisdom, kindness, faithfulness, and steady presence. His passing in 2024 left a profound absence, yet his example continues to inspire all who knew him.

Ashley Dlamini



Ashley Dlamini's passing in 2025 left a profound silence in the life of St Stephen's parish, where she served faithfully as a fellow parish minister and confirmation class facilitator. Gentle, dependable, compassionate, and deeply trustworthy, Ashley gave much of herself quietly and without seeking recognition; visiting parishioners, serving as a sacristan, offering practical help, and encouraging others with a humble spirit that reflected Christ. Her death was deeply felt, as we lost not only a fellow minister, but also a faithful friend, wise companion, and devoted servant whose quiet faithfulness enriched the parish community.

Jean Wright



Few people touched my life as deeply as Jean Wright, whose battle with cancer during the COVID-19 pandemic transformed my pastoral care into a treasured friendship marked by prayer, conversation, laughter, and quiet companionship. Jean faced her illness with courage, grace, humour, and unwavering faith, remaining deeply concerned for others and the parish even amid her own struggles. She became a cherished friend to my family and me, and when she passed away in 2024 at the age of 89, we mourned her deeply while giving thanks for her generous life and the lasting legacy she left in my ministry.



Until her passing in November 2024 at the age of 99 years, Penny Hadfield was the eldest parishioner at St Stephen's. Her husband, Jack passed away only 11 months earlier, at 97 years old.

We remember, with fondness, the souls of others who have passed in the past five years, who helped shape the story of St Stephen's. Perhaps the greatest tribute to them would be to continue what they loved—to worship faithfully, serve generously, welcome warmly, and grow together in Christ as we look forward to the next 30 years of parish life.

2021

Wendall Williams
Nicolas Dorfling
Carol Busby
Lucy Rontgen
John Beckley

2022

Kenneth Lamour
Malcolm
McNicholas
Marjorie Nadauld
Howard Gordon
Manfred Oswin
Byrnece Cook
Stephen Sen
Git Sen

2023

Charlotte v. d Berg
Verity Lookwhy
George Skeen
Margaret Zirker
Kiernan Forbes
Tshidido Maboja
Luthando Njkelana
Siyolisen Nhase
Jonathan Matshavha
James Rambauli
Margaret de
Leiburne

2024

Betty Wilson
Nirmala Naidoo
Colleen van Zyl
Thandeka Mazibuko
David Everett
Errol Arnolds
Thelma Swartz
Nomathamsanga Mpotulo
Zenzo Kuwana
Tebogo Mosupi
Jevan Langton
Wilna Jefferey
Nancy Johnson
Jack Hadfield
Themba Mazibuko

2025

David Proctor-Urwin
Hennie Dyzell
Roy Sissing
Elaine Anderson
Carol Hood
Roger Keene
Hazel Motsisi
Susan Vincent
Maureen Roberts
Beverley O'
Shaugnessy
Patricia Oliver
John Carr

2026

Tony Walls
Peter Nelson
Warwick Barnes
Peter Fleming
Anne Matthews
Denise McLeod

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Comfort

Warmth



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Growing Together



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CHILDREN & YOUTH PASTOR	Bolanle Enang	074 152 6709
PASTORAL CARE COORDINATOR	Mark Williams	082 808 5120
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR	Ofentse Kwapeng	082 420 2104

SUNDAY SERVICES

07h00 and 08h30, with Sunday School

Banking Details

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

For your convenience



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