



St George's Anglican Church

**ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING
OF ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
PARKTOWN
TO BE HELD AT 10h45
ON SUNDAY 5th MARCH 2023
IN ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH HALL**

VESTRY REPORT

St. George's Anglican Church

PARKTOWN

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

SUNDAY 5th MARCH 2023 AT 10H45

AGENDA

The business of the meeting shall be:

- 1. Opening Prayer & Welcome**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Appointment of Secretary**
- 4. Appointment of Scrutineers**
- 5. Confirmation of Minutes of the 2022 Vestry Meeting**
- 6. Presentation by Churchwardens of Audited or Verified Annual Accounts**
- 7. Report by Churchwardens on condition of Church property**
- 8. Report by the Rector on the care and needs of the parish**
- 9. Presentation by the Churchwardens of the Budget for ensuing year**
- 10. A decision by Vestry on the number or persons who will serve on Council**
- 11. Election of Churchwardens and Parish Leadership Team for ensuing year and Synod Nominations**
- 12. Appointment of Auditor or Independent Verifier for ensuing year**
- 13. No other business can be discussed. Closure**

CONTENTS

<u>REPORT</u>	<u>Page No</u>
RECTOR'S	4
CHURCHWARDENS	8
BUILDINGS	8
EQUIPMENT	9
FINANCES	10
PERSONNEL	11
SUPPORT FUNCTIONS	12
DEDICATED GIVING	13
CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY	17
MARKETING AND MEDIA	22
LITURGY AND WORSHIP	24
WORSHIP	24
PARISH MINISTERS	26
SACRISTANS	27
SIDESPERSONS	28
MUSIC	29
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY	31
OUTREACH	31
JHB AWAKENING MINDS (JAM)	34
GREENFIELDS SCHOOL	36
PASTORAL CARE	36
PRAYER CHAIN	36
ANGLICAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP	37
MOTHER'S UNION	39

RECTOR'S REPORT TO VESTRY

A year in review

The success and sustainability of Christianity is its ability to adapt and contextualize. This is not mere assimilating to the pressures of society but being a prophetic voice within culture that inspires inclusivity. As an institution, the church seeks to meet people where they are, whether online or in their homes, but doing so that utilizes the means for the growth and cohesion of community. In a world in which systemic injustices make most of us culprits of perpetuating the demise of our planet or exacerbate inequality, we should seek ways of giving back more than what we take. Admittedly we do not always succeed. With a humble attitude, we continue to reform our intentions, ministry practices, and operations. The annual vestry meeting is more than business affairs as it offers an opportunity to assess the motivations and the worldview from which we develop principles of stewardship.

In 2022, when restrictions of the pandemic were relinquished, we had to play catchup. Certain ministries had to be revived, while resources had to be allocated to new areas. When transitioning from one mode to another, the sentimentality that sustain our collective memory has to allow for the formation of future consciousness. When the continuation of institutions is at stake, we have to create new vistas and paradigms for people to attach new hope to, a reality in which they can see and want to be part of. Ultimately, as a moral agent and cultural architect, the church has to inspire a compelling vision of a lifestyle that fulfills the longing for meaning, connection, and joy. Life is not a simple matter, but incorporating spirituality into daily routine will enhance the ability to deal with the other demands with greater reflection. The liturgy, in its repetitive practice, causes incremental changes to occur on a subconscious level.

A significant undertaking of 2022 was the construction of the Garden of Hope. It signifies the liminality of sacred spaces that inspire people to establish spiritual practices and creation care. A project of this scale is only undertaken once in a decade. Stepping into the sunken garden is a ritual practice, if perceptive, makes you aware of entering the collective consciousness of humanity's mortality, yet infused with eternal life.

Designed by renowned landscape architect Patrick Watson, the symbolism and value of the garden will benefit generations to come like the church building itself.

The slow progress of this garden coincided with doubts, joys, and ethical questions. The Lent course of 2022 took these deliberations into account while the project was undergoing, as we discussed the “Economy of Desire,” comparing Christian practices and contrasting contemporary philosophy. All our activities are integrated into a reflective process of decision making. To gain most from this lifestyle, parishioners that incorporate these practices, discussions, and reflections as part of their participation and contribution in the community will experience the benefits in other areas of their life in a holistic, yet often imperceptible manner.

In our collective learning, the church has never lost its position as a preserver and enhancer of knowledge. The Spring lectures of 2022 demonstrated that many critical questions, which society struggles with, remain unanswered, making the prophetic voice of the church equal to other social commentators. Mainstream and popular culture only seem to answer questions that are deemed important for mass consumption. The church, in its practice of reflection, seeks to ask better questions, sometimes uncomfortable, sometimes even dismissed, but enhancing the lives of those open to inspiration.

The church is more than a socio-religious institution that provides moral checks. If the organizational structures collapse, people will still practice faith, because the Christian movement contains a divine power that is independent of administrative structures. When we accuse institutions that we expect better leadership or ethical performance, ironically often measured economically, the church has to trace its origin back to the Spirit operative within it, not just the founding principles. This rediscovery can quickly mobilize people and resources to an awakened vision, allowing the institution to serve the purposes of God.

Amid the changes of the last few years, my role has been to be a unifying facilitator of the vision. A vision of unapologetic spiritual and organizational progress that reflect the improved lives of the people. The process of implementation requires a dogged entrepreneurial drive that often supersedes personal preferences. As a leading stakeholder in culture, the

church must be sensitive in discerning the needs of parishioners while managing the resources on hand.

The appointment of staff in 2022 included three new persons. Boitshepo Menyatso took on the role of Youth Coordinator on a parttime basis, and been excelling. God-Ed (Sunday School) initiated themed Sundays that integrate popular trends with Biblical stories and Christian traditions. Yoli stepped into the new position of Marketing and Media facilitator, overseeing online operations of the parish. In September we were joined by Rev Jo-Anne Tatalias and her husband, Nick, in fulfillment of her curacy. These appointments demonstrate St George's commitment to raising up new leaders. Half of the parish council in 2022 consisted of persons under the age of 40, and half of the council were women. We continue to partner with SOMA (Sharing of Ministries Abroad) by sending young leaders on exposure trips abroad. A single trip of ministering in another country boots the confidence of people exponentially as they experience the shared identity of being Anglican elsewhere.

Online communications enable for friendships and partnerships to be ongoing. Retirees or past parishioners that moved abroad watch our streamed services. Therefore, St George's will be launching a mobile app in 2023. The application that can be downloaded onto most mobile devices, will be a portal that brings you into church, as if you are sitting in the pews, where you can receive notifications of upcoming events, listen to music and sermons, get readings and prayers, and connect with other parishioners. We are partnering with Anglicare, an organization of pastoral counsellors that will offer counselling/therapy at no cost, through the app.

This merely resembles that the church is already a hybrid, extremely mobile community. People are no longer becoming members of a parish because of geographical locality, but for buying into the identity of the specific community. St George's online church will not be a mirror image of the offline church, but a virtual community with its own identity and 'content' dedicated for them. St George's is essentially planting another church, online.

We are already working in a hybrid way in the parish office and through volunteerism. There are always people coming and going at St George's, each fulfilling a specific ministry, doing the sacristy, arranging flowers,

dropping of food for redistribution, etc. Likewise, most of our staff work parttime. This new mode of operations has led us to review our assets. St George's has multiple offices that are underutilized. By converting existing office space, we want to make approximately 80 square meters available for community service and/or commercial letting. Also, within the review, we are assessing the ROI of parish properties, and making use of sustainable energy sources, such as solar power that will reimburse itself over time. The conversion to refit and better use our assets is dependent on capital, which we need to generate from within the parish. As we have seen at the parish birthday in 2022, the strength of St George's is in its vibrant diversity and the eagerness of parishioners to take pride and ownership of their church, giving of their time, skills, and money.

During 2022 we saw the parish bounce back after the pandemic. Finances picked up, more programs were on offer, and there was greater attendance during services. St George's is an attractive force in Johannesburg and beyond. Building on this legacy, we want to further enhance the distinctive ministries of St George's, including the music, looking at producing an album with our choir, presenting sacred music of a high standard, as is fitting praise to God.

The weeks that lead up to our annual vestry meeting is an opportunity for every parishioner to consider their role in the church, and how their spiritual life can contribute to meaningful service to the community. People who volunteer and give to the church testify of the positive effects it has on their spiritual and emotional wellbeing. Living in community has its challenges, but it makes us more emotionally intelligent, happy, and physically healthier. We are appreciative of parishioners' involvement, without which the parish could not function, but we find it more rewarding to see people grow spiritually. Whatever we do, it is to "equip the saints" (Ephesians 4:12) so that they can experience the grace of God fulfil their divine potential in their callings in Christ. We would like to see every parishioner engaged in leading or supporting a ministry that can become springboards of reaching out to people.

Report summary:

1. The parish experienced social and financial revitalization in 2022

2. Constructing the Garden of Hope has had positive effects on the community and is a landmark in the parish, even diocese
3. The Lent course and Spring lectures offered robust discussions on spirituality and contemporary culture
4. New staff appointments in parttime capacities that reflect hybrid working
5. St George's is committed to raising up young leaders, reflected in the council
6. Review of assets in 2023
7. Launching of mobile app in 2023
8. Encourage Christian lifestyle and community integration of all parishioners

REV EBEN GROBBELAAR

Vestry 2022

2022 CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

1. BUILDINGS

Church, Rectory and offices

- We believe that overall state of the St. George's infrastructure comprising the church, the hall and office block as well as the residences is in a good condition.
- The ageing infrastructure remains the biggest driver of repairs and maintenance costs.
- The construction of the Covid-19 Garden of Hope is now final and the blessing of the Garden took place on the 12th June 2022. This memorial was made possible by the generosity of two families at St. George's.

2. FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT

- Church – The sound and electronic equipment installed earlier for digital online church services has proven to be a valuable addition for those congregants who are not able to be physically present at church but are able to connect online.

Maintenance

- We continue to be the beneficiaries of the time and expertise of Sydney Place who attend to the maintenance and tuning of the organ, and for which we are very grateful.
- However, the organ will require specific interventions by the manufacturer, Rieger, from time to time. Consequently, funds have been set aside in the organ maintenance fund for this purpose. The Council considers the current level of this fund to be adequate.
- The Church roof started leaking in December and will need fixing.

Protection of assets

- The church and the rectory are fully alarmed and have an armed response serviced by 24/7, The rectory and garden are further protected by an electric fence connected to armed response.

- The church has taken further protection measures by increasing security with additional CCTV coverage to enhance protection of the church property.
- A motor has been installed on Sherborne road gate and is remote controlled.
- All assets are adequately insured through the Diocesan insurance policy and values are updated annually.
- The church asset register is now finalised and up to date.

3. FINANCES

Verifier: The Diocese has appointed Amo Matebese as the verifier for St George's

Annual Financial Statements

The verified accounts for 2022 have been posted on the church door, and the salient features are

- ***Income:***

Total income was R 2.8 million, same as in the prior year, however there was slight

decrease in the DG income, which decrease was offset by increased collections after the re-opening of churches.

- ***Expenses:***

The total expenses for the year amount to R 2.73 million being slightly more than in the prior year expenses of R2.52 million.

- ***Net position:***

We finished the year with a surplus of R 69 432; however, it was an improvement on the prior year deficit of R188 143. The improvement is primarily a direct result of the focused cost management during the past year.

- ***Cash position:***

Available cash is R 1.6 million including special funds and is considered adequate for the running of the parish in the short to medium-term. However, the long-term sustainability of the parish is dependent on maintaining and increasing DG income in the coming years.

4. PERSONNEL

Clergy

- Rev Jo-Anne Tatalias was installed by the bishop in December 2022 and appointed Assistant Priest at St. George's.
- We continue to give thanks for the role Fr. Gerard, Nigel and Jo-Anne and Boitshepo continue to play as part of the ministry team and we remain indebted to them for all that they do.
- Sadly, Fr Anthony Arbuthnot left the St George's community towards the end of 2022 and we would like to thank him for his invaluable contribution and ministry.

Administrative staff

- Nomawethu, as parish secretary, remains the backbone of the parish administration.
- Yoli join the team as the IT specialist
- We also have a new bookkeeper Mphoko who has joined the team in March 2022.
- Kevin, under the watchful eye of Claire and John, manages the garden which is integral to the beauty and tranquillity of our property.
- Rodney joined the team as the verger after serving for a few years as a member of our security team.
- Anna has continued with the upkeep and cleaning of the hall, the facilities and the offices.

The excellence and dedication of the staff makes St Georges truly special, and we are grateful to them all.

5. SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

- A significant number of parishioners are quietly and diligently responsible for a whole host of activities that support the ministry at St Georges and also make it the community it is.
- We recognise all these individuals who give their time and talent to provide these vital functions:- the music and the choir, supporting preachers, parish ministers, servers, sacristans, bell

ringers, sides men, God-Ed and youth workers, flower arrangers, caterers and tea pourers, greeters, car guards, the Mothers Union and Anglican Women's Fellowship members.

- We also give thanks to the many parishioners who are involved in a variety of outreach and social upliftment programmes helping to make a difference in the lives of those less privileged than ourselves.

MICHELLE BAIRD

ZUKO KHOZA

CHURCHWARDENS

DEDICATED GIVING

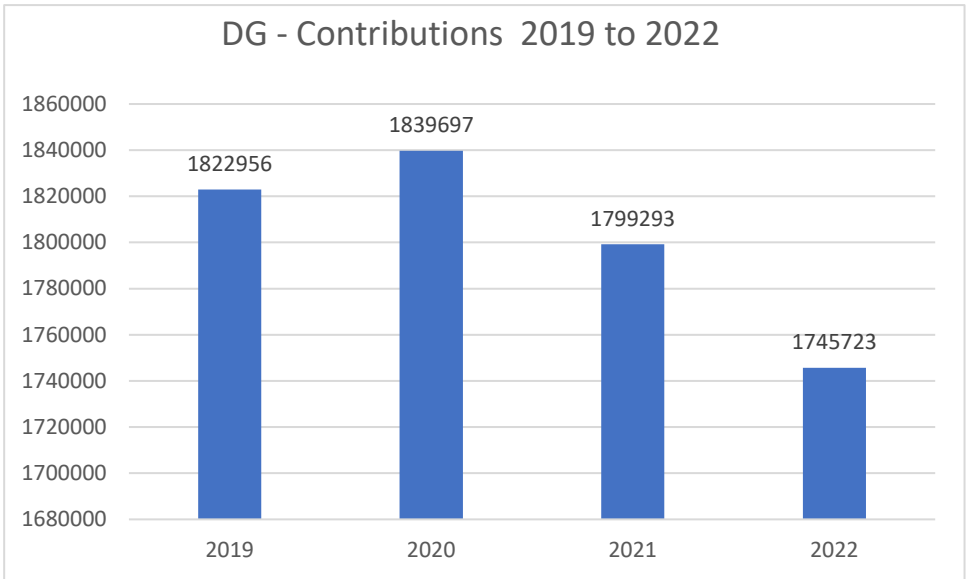
As members of this community, at St George's, we are blessed to have such dedicated and faithful donors.

Below are graphs reflecting the contributions and donor numbers from 2019 onwards.



As can be seen in the above graphs, contributions and donors have consistently decline year-on-year. New parishioners and new donors have been much appreciated, but it has not totally offset this. It is most noticeable in the volumes of donors who gives to the church annually, or a few times a year, which have increased in numbers , but decreased in monetary value for 2022.

The numbers of monthly givers have been stable over 2019-2021, but for 2022 – the decrease- have either become annual or sporadic givers, due to circumstances. The church’s overall DG receipts have declined over this period, and done so more slowly than the decrease in the donor base, it has mainly been thanks to increased contributions from our remaining givers, but in the longer term these increases are unsustainable.



As it reflects in the report, the church’s DG receipts are also quite dependent on a relatively small number of generous people, included in the annual and sporadic givers. This is an existing issue rather than a short-term trend. The distribution of donor contributions has been largely stable, although skewed, over the past four years (averaging at R1.8m per year). These receipts are crucial to the financial stability of St George’s, greatly appreciated, and will hopefully persist.

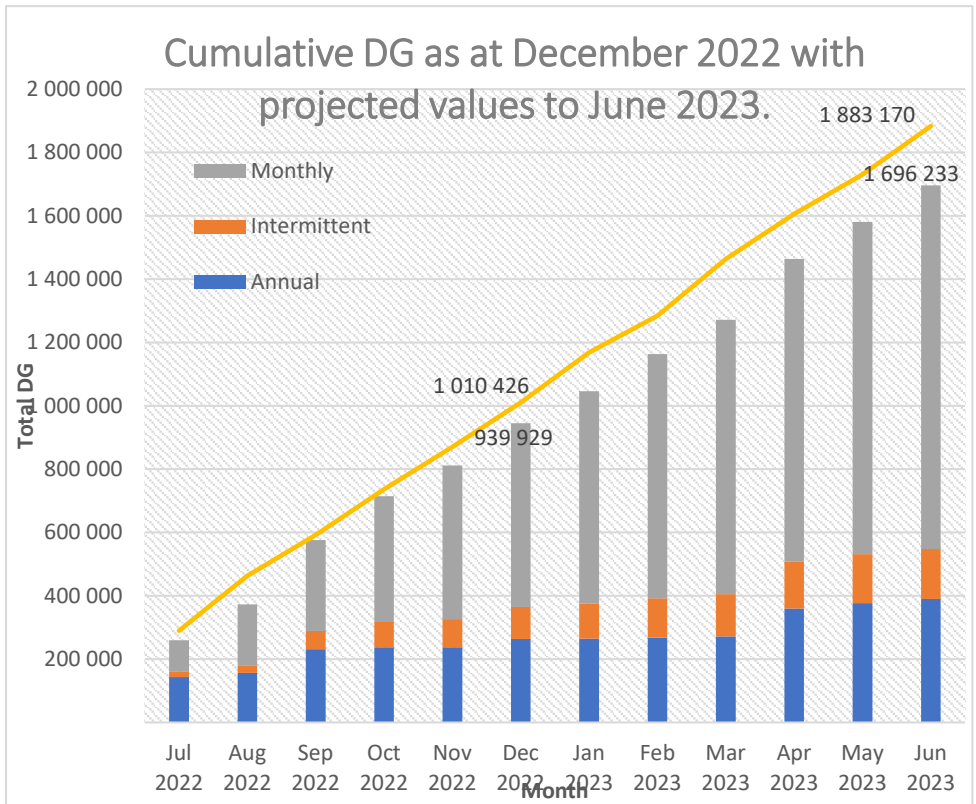
The 2022/2023 DG year

The end of 2022 marked the half-way point for the 2022/2023 DG year, which started in July. Receipts from annual and sporadic donors were higher than 2021(half year), whilst monthly donors decreased. July month marks the beginning of Dedicated Giving, where the parishioners do their giving: either increase/decrease, new givers, new parishioners joins, hoping to fulfil their commitment to the Church.

Below chart records cumulative DG receipts through to December 2022, showing these effects, and projects those for the first half of 2023. Generally, DG over 2022/2023 has been consistent with the pattern described above, with stable to slightly decreasing monthly contributions of

a shrinking donor base, supplemented by irregular large contributions from annual and sporadic givers.

Based on this, receipts for this DG year, through to June 2023, are expected to underperform the prior-year trendline by about R100k. Eliminating this deficit would set St George’s on a firm foundation for its 2023 budget of R1.75M. A combination of both , monthly donors to close this gap, would entail an increase in DG of about 15%, either through an increase in the number of donors, or in the value of existing contributions.



St George's needs, in the longer term, however, a more diversified contributor base that would do much to make the church's finances more sound, healthy and stable. To reduce our reliance on sporadic/intermittent donations, very much appreciated and welcome as these have been. Without these donations we would have been at considerable financial risk, notwithstanding the generosity of our monthly givers, already stretched by the decline in donor numbers.

Our need to grow contributions, in no way, decrease our gratitude for the contributions St George's already has. My heartfelt thanks to all our parishioners who've donated through DG over the past year: every contribution, frequent or infrequent, helps to maintain our church, which could in no way continue without them.

We come with different gifts and strengths. Every life is different, and not every person can give, some can and do give more.

TERESSA GEORGE

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

(GodEd and ministry to Roedean School)

GodEd has 10 teachers who volunteer to teach on average of once a month when we are open. We work with an average of 16 children regularly, who attend church. The number of children and teachers has increased between May 2022 and January 2023. We make use of the curriculum provided to us by the Johannesburg Diocese of Children's Ministry (DCM) to teach our lessons to the children. Since May 2022, we introduced 'Themed 5th Sundays' to GodEd to break the monotony of how we conduct our lessons. In terms of impact of the ministry, with time, children have seemed to continue being engaged in lessons which has resulted in them coming to GodEd more frequently and has caused some to want to be more involved in the church such as wanting to become altar servers.

The ministry to Roedean between May and November 2022 consisted of weekly chapel services to the junior school, Eucharist services and confirmation classes to the senior school as well as involvement in the school's special services (Christmas, etc.) Rev. Eben, Rev. Jo, and I (Boitshepo) were all involved in the many ways in which we ministered to the school. As of January 2023, the junior school has adjusted their schedule to have chapel fortnightly as opposed to weekly. Eucharist services, confirmation class and special services continue to proceed as last year. The impact of ministering to Roedean has resulted in the students being quite eager to be involved with being a sacristan (8 matrics) and eagerly participating and engaging in the messages and demonstrations in chapel.

GodEd:

- Attendance: average 16
- Weekly offerings: no offerings
- Courses: admission to communion (2 children in 2022)
- Age groups: 3 – 15 years old
- Volunteers: 10 teachers

Roedean:

- Attendance: Entire junior or senior school including teachers
- Weekly offerings: no offerings
- Courses: Confirmation Classes
- Age groups: about 6 – 19 years old

Within GodEd, I notice attendance fluctuations. During winter (colder months) the number of children decreases significantly to the point where there can be only 1 child on a Sunday. In contrast to the summer, attendance can be as high as 22 children. There is also fluctuation during school holidays. We follow the 3-term school calendar and attendance tends to be less when the children who attend 4 term schools are on school holiday.

There are no fluctuations at Roedean.

At the beginning of becoming Youth Co-ordinator, I set out goals

like increasing the number of teachers and children in GodEd and I have since achieved that with a few other goals as well. I believe that it is also successful because I find that children are continuing to be interactive in the lessons which indicates to me that they want to be at GodEd.

Ministry at Roedean is slightly less successful than GodEd. Although there are those children who are eager to learn about God, trying to capture the attention of a fair number of children is challenging, especially since the younger children have a limited attention span. This sometimes results in the message being received poorly by the children.

Challenges:

- Teachers not being able to make it on a Sunday, specifically in the case where I will teach about 15 children alone.
- The idea of potentially pushing my religious views or opinions onto the children.
- I struggle to fully understand whether the children find the course material and my messages engaging.
- Keeping the children's attention.

Areas of Growth:

- Expand my basic theological knowledge.
- In certain times, try not to prioritise fun over engagement.
- Ask and incorporate ideas from the children and teachers in the lessons and year plan.

Goals:

- Get more of the older children to be involved more in the church such as being altar servers or being involved in the Good Friday or Christmas services. – January to December – Ask the children then receive training/ prepare.
- Maintaining 3 teachers each Sunday. – January to December – Recruit more teachers through an in-person approach.
- Encouraging more students to attend confirmation classes (even to simply broaden their views on Christianity/ Anglicanism/ religion) – March to September – Asking

potential confirmands in the class to recruit their friends and classmates.

Projects/Events:

- Themed 5th Sundays to continue. – January, July, and October – Continue to plan as we have planned the last few.
- Organising something where the children can give back to the community. – May to September – Perhaps organise a food drive for homeless people during the winter.
- Picnic after church for children and families. (Suggested by one of the teachers) – January to December – Plan a time for children and families to socialise (perhaps a ‘bring and share’) after the church service.
- A teambuilding outing for the older children to Bounce, Acrobranching, etc.
– August to November – Exclusive to older children, where the church could potentially cover entrance and transport cost.

(All the above ‘Projects/Events’ are not all definite.)

People:

Currently, we have 10 teachers. This is a suitable number so far but, I aim to have a total of about 12 teachers on hand in the case where if one teacher cannot make it on Sunday, we are still able to maintain 3 age groups (classes).

Budget:

These requirements are the same as in the submitted budget report. The only additions would potentially be the cost of printing the curriculum and ‘gifts’ for Mothering Sunday (if we are giving gifts this year.)

I am interested in helping children grow their faith and spirituality. This fits well with this ministry because I have often heard and seen that children tend to struggle to own their faith due to reasons where Christianity is a practice forced upon them, mainly by family, and results in children abandoning the church entirely. With this, I aim to teach and show children that their outlook on religion and Christianity does not always have to be

shaped and influenced by someone else and that it is rather about learning to shape their own intimate relationship with God.

BOIT SHEPO MENYATSO

EVER PRESENCE PORTFOLIO

The group has grown substantially in numbers and in spiritual growth. The youth from St. Christophers form part of the Ever Presence group.

Ever Presence is well attended on Sundays after the 9:00 a.m. service. The St. Christopher's youth have become more regular members of the church.

The ministry has been successful in getting the youth more involved in the church. They have progressed onto leadership roles within the church i.e. as servers. They have been very eager and willing to volunteer wherever assistance is required i.e. in 'The Open Garden', with 'Mother's Union' and the church birthday.

Some of the members are keen to get more involved in some of the church's ministries such as Parish ministry.

The group are keen to either go on a retreat or teambuilding weekend. This will depend on funds, cost of venue and transport.

A goal would be to continue to grow the group and have them more involved and visible in the church as well as prep and lead some of the sessions. For Ever Presence to continue to be a safe space to

learn from each other and support one another in their spiritual journey and faith.

ZUKO KHOZA

MARKETING AND MEDIA

The portfolio is responsible for all communication and public relations of the church, the live streaming of the various Services and the Online presence of the parish including but not limited to:

- Social Media
- Parish Website
- Parish Podcast
- Search Engine Optimisation

We develop and execute promotional campaigns for parish events and fund raisers.

The portfolio has, since the covid outbreak been a very important to getting the word of God out to our parishioners. Some of which still prefer to enjoy the service from home. Our live streaming has allowed for the expansion of our message to those abroad who would otherwise not be able to attend a service.

We have also managed to retain parishioners who have for one reason or the other moved to areas that are much too far for the early morning commute to the parish. These parishioners regularly benefit from the service being streamed live on YouTube.

Additionally, we've found that since the live stream is kept on our YouTube channel as a video once the stream has ended, many then watch the service during the week.

In addition to the Live stream the portfolio also manages the following

- Parish Facebook Page – where you can find information on upcoming events and what to look out for on our other platforms
- Instagram page – where beautiful pictures and reels(videos) relating to the parish
- Parish Newsletter – an information rich email that also includes the Pew Leaflet for the upcoming Sunday
- Parish Website – where you will find periodically updated information about the different ministries a lot of other information relating to the parish.

Analysis and evaluation:

With all things technology related there are always fluctuations. With the live Streaming we get more traffic on event days such as easter and Christmas. This, we believe is due to the appetite for spiritual upliftment being high during those seasons.

I believe that the ministry is doing well, and its success can be attributed to the continuous improvement approach that we practice when it comes to the quality of content put out by the portfolio along with the insights we receive from various members of the parish as well as those from outside the parish.

Our website and YouTube channels are visited frequently not only by those within the borders of South Africa but also by people in countries such as, Australia, China, Singapore, United States and Canada to name a few.

Challenges, recommendations, and potential areas for growth:

Some of the challenges that we face are access to the latest in computer software's, this is due to the high cost of purchase which means we need to make do, with what the parish can afford working hand in hand with donations which we receive that are directed to the portfolio.

We also have a shortage of individuals who work in this portfolio, and we require volunteers who can assist where necessary such as live streaming, content creation and the taking of pictures.

This year we have the following planned:

- The launch of a St. George's Church App which is in development. This app forms part of the online/digital ministry that we at the parish would like to provide to you as the parishioners. This app will not only be of value to us as parishioners but also to those outside, allowing us to spread the word even outside the walls of the beautifully designed Sir Herbert Baker Building.
- An integration between in person and online church, marrying the two to maximise value. This will kick off with our Lent course which will be in part facilitated online.
- The Open Garden Fundraiser later in the year, more information will be shared as it comes to light.

Resources needed (budget and people):

- We are asking for 3 volunteers who can do Live Streaming on a Sunday morning. Training will be provided.
- We also require those with a flair for Digital Marketing to assist us in an advisory capacity so that we can implement the best ideas for the growth of the parish.

Yoli, heading the Media and Marketing portfolio, has a BCom Degree in Marketing and has recently completed a course on Digital marketing for the benefit of the role he plays in the church. He also has a strong passion for marketing and content creation which gives the parish an advantage in the growing needs the presence of online ministry.

YOLISA TSHETSHE

WORSHIP

1. The worship portfolio involves all those who contribute and participate actively in all the worship services offered by St George's. They include the clergy, parish ministers, servers, sidesmen, the music director and the choir, the bell ringers, the youth and children's ministry, and the streaming service.

2. For the first time in some years, the worship committee was reinstated shortly after the parish council planning session was held in 2022. The meetings held have been very constructive and well-attended by representatives for each of the sub-portfolios involved. In particular, sincere thanks are extended to Marnus Greyling for his comprehensive input provided to all of us on assisting in making services flow more smoothly, especially now that live-streaming has become a permanent feature of our worship.

The first session led by Marnus was a training session for parish ministers, which also involved the servers. A comprehensive handbook for parish ministers has been compiled by Father Eben, which will greatly assist all our parish ministers in carrying out their duties.

A detailed planning session was also carried out with the whole worship committee prior to Marnus's departure for the United States. All the services up to Christmas were planned in detail. This has helped enormously in ensuring that all those on duty know exactly what is happening throughout each service and leads to much greater cooperation between all the sub-portfolios.

The worship committee has already held the first meeting for 2023 on 14 January, at which all the services until Corpus Christi have been planned.

3. Analysis and evaluation:

The two sub-portfolios that are most in need of new recruits are the sidesmen (particularly for the 7 am services on Sundays) and servers for the 9 am Sunday services. Plans are in place for recruiting new members to both sub-portfolios, which we hope will lead to fruitful results during the course of 2023.

On the positive side, there are exciting plans in place for extending and improving our choral music. Once there is a new music director in place, these will be shared in more detail with all parishioners.

There are also plans to incorporate the youth and children's ministries more actively in our services.

4. As worship directly impacts on every parishioner, the hope is that all of these efforts by all those involved will be felt by all who attend our services. The worship portfolio certainly welcomes all feedback and suggestions from parishioners, which can then be shared at worship committee meetings to ensure that our services continue to be meaningful and continue to improve.
5. On behalf of the servers in particular, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all my fellow committee members and to Father Eben for all of his support and encouragement. We have a very dedicated and committed team, and I am sure the entire congregation will see this for themselves over the coming months.

RONALD UNTERSLAK

PARISH MINISTERS

On behalf of the Parish Ministers and myself. I would like to thank Revd Eben, Revd Anthony, Revd Nigel and Revd Jo-anne on entrusting us to serve as Parish Ministers. Thank you for your guidance and spiritual support as we serve our Lord and the community of St George's Parish.

I would like to thank my predecessor Paul Wareham for his time and dedication to our community. You are a true spiritual leader and I wish you well in your retirement.

Paul handed me the baton in April 2022. I have enjoyed serving the community and our Parish. Thank you all for the warm welcome and entrusting me with the sub-section of the church being the Parish Ministers. It has been a blessing to work with such a dedicated team of Parish Ministers that is Paul, Zuko, Pumla, Gwen, Christine, Naufal, John and James. I thank you for allowing me to lead and organize such supportive and heartwarming team.

A grateful thanks to Naufal for holding the fort every Sunday at 7h00am while the rest of us sleep in. Naufal you are truly an inspiration always helping and never complaining. We would like to pass on our congratulations to Paul Edey on completing his Parish Ministers training course.

In July 2022 we all attended a refresher course in the Lady Chapel led by Revd Eben. We were all licensed by Revd Eben in the same month, which is a requirement of the Anglican Diocese. This allows us to assist in certain parts of all Anglican services

We encourage more congregants within our community to join our team of volunteers and become future leaders, readers and pastoral caregivers. Serving our Lord and our community gives meaning and purpose to our lives. Our Lord teaches us to love, care and pray for others as he does for us daily.

May the Lord bless you all and keep you safe

DEE CANARIS

SACRISTANS

The Sacristans are a group of volunteers that prepare the Candles, Silver, Linen and Altar.

There are 6 active ladies on the list of volunteers, thanks to all the ladies that helped during the past year.

For this duty to survive we need volunteers of all ages so that secession is assured as ladies reach retirement age.

This portfolio falls under the Worship portfolio

2023 Budget for candles: R5 500.00

....2023 Budget for laundry ironing: R2 500.00

There is always a need for more parishioners to volunteer for this Portfolio.

NOMAWETHU DINGISWAYO

SIDESPERSIONS

DUTIES:

Put up the hymn numbers before services

Welcome congregants at the door as they arrive for services

Count the number of congregants

 Take the collection during Offertory hymn

 Assist in making Communion proceed smoothly

 Count and record the collection after each service

2022 was marred by the shocking loss of two of our 7 o'clockers, Trevor Taylor and John Kane-Berman. They leave a gaping hole in our little band and are sorely missed. RIP. (I imagine them now ushering new arrivals through the Pearly Gates!)

On a brighter note, all Covid restrictions were gradually dropped during the year, so that collection could once more be taken with the bags handed round; pew leaflets handed out; Communion taken as before. And finally, it was once again our pleasant - and important - duty to properly welcome (maskless) people to the services.

Attendance at the various services also showed the declining effect of Covid, and averaged for the year, was as follows:

(Last year's figures in brackets)

7 a.m.	13	(13)
9 a.m.	76	(40)
Evensong	57	(39)

Easter 6 a.m.	26	(28)	Christmas 7 a.m.	25	(30)
Easter 9 a.m.	132	(81)	Christmas 9 a.m.	146	(115)

Offerings per service, averaged for the year, were as follows:

7 a.m.	R 2556
9 a.m.	R 2707
Evensong	R 2640

Changes required: new recruits needed for the 7am services

This portfolio requires no budget

NICK PRINCE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC – 2022

This past year was the first ‘normal’ year in many ways, after the difficulties and restrictions of the covid-19 pandemic. Although we still dealt with a lot of the aftermath relating to this, services and musical events seemed to be back on a fixed and more consistent schedule. It was wonderful for us as a choir to get back into singing regularly again, and to having Evensong every month. We continued to uphold the high standard of liturgical music, that has come to be synonymous with the ministry of St George’s.

Our monthly Evensong organ recitals also resumed, and it was a joy to welcome back organists who have graced our church with their tremendous musical talent, and also to welcome new performers. The Rieger organ remains the focal point of the music at the church – a crowning jewel in the ministry of the parish. Sidney Place, the curator, is an invaluable asset in the care of the instrument, and we thank him for his devotion.

The **Choir of St George's** was able to return to singing for our regular Sunday morning services. The liturgy itself returned to normality as we were able to get back into having all the necessary hymns, sections of the mass and choral anthems. The **Chamber Choir of St George's** went back to fulfilling its role of singing for our Book of Common Prayer Fifth Sunday services, as well as special services throughout the year such as **Ash Wednesday** and **Maundy Thursday**. We were able to present a number of special Compline/Taizé services, which were welcomed and appreciated by the congregation. The choir went from strength to strength, getting back onto its feet to a high standard of singing. We welcomed back some members who had been absent for most of the covid-pandemic, and were able to get some new singers in. We thank all our choir members for their continuing support of the important music tradition at St George's.

Attendance at services has fluctuated, but seen a steady increase which is very positive. We were able to celebrate Lent and Easter in proper fashion. **Holy Week** services were put on as normal, and **Easter Day** was a wonderful and appropriate celebration. In June we had the **Blessing of the Garden of Hope** – the choir was augmented by professional singers who contributed to the wonderful celebration of this landmark occasion. In October we held a special service for the **Parish Birthday**, which included a concert given by the choirs of St George's, as well as a concert given by the Roedean Glee Club. November saw the festival of All Souls commemorated with our annual Requiem Mass, as well as our annual **Advent Carols** service preparing us for Christmas. The latter was my last service as Director of Music and Organist at St George's Parktown. It was with a very heavy heart that I resigned from my position. The music ministry at St George's will always have my full support, and I am confident that it will continue to grow and develop under the direction of the new Director of Music, Hannes Ebersohn.

A major development which happened in the second half of 2022, is the financial support pledged for an enhanced music programme provided for

by some of our parishioners. A proposal and recommendations were presented by myself, with input from Richard Cock, which was accepted by our gracious giver. This project will enable the church to appoint a number of professional singers, to form a core group alongside our current devoted choir members. This is an extremely positive development and can only serve to enrich the already established choral music foundation of St George's. It will allow for the formation of a children's choir, and the ability to invite professional instrumentalists to assist in our worship. We are tremendously grateful for the opportunity to increase our musical footprint given to St George's Parktown by this generous support, and we thank all parties involved. Some part of this project was already underway from October onwards and continued to bear fruit throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons.

A number of professional music events were again presented throughout the year. These offer income to the church and help to reaffirm the role of St George's as a venue for cultural events in Johannesburg, bringing new people to experience our heritage building. St George's firmly remains a cultural centre for music in Johannesburg – both sacred and secular. My wish is that the parish will continue to support the Director of Music, the Rector, and the Choirs as they provide a high standard of Anglican worship and build on what has already been achieved.

MARNUS GREYLING

Former Director of Music and Organist (2018-2022)

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: (Outreach)

Social Outreach is about giving back to people / organisations with special needs. It could be donating money/ providing in kind donations or giving time to assist those in need in whatever way possible. The main aim of the Social Outreach portfolio is to provide support to the members of the community and other

selected groups outside of the parish and bring dignity to those who are less fortunate.

The Social outreach portfolio of St Georges adopted 2 organizations to support in 2022:

- St Christopher's Home for Boys and girls
- Uitkoms Home for abused / abandoned girls

Both homes are in the vicinity of the church and were visited by the church to determine their urgent needs. The choice of the two (2) organisations is also supported by St Georges Mother's Union (MU) and Anglican Women's Fellowship (AWF) and the St Georges Youth. The most urgent needs specified by both groups is support for toiletries (dignity packs).

The dignity packs consist of the following: (Deodorants- roll on and spray; body lotion, Vaseline, tooth paste and toothbrush, face towels, sanitary pads).

St Christopher's Home has the following:

- 11 girls - (12-25)
- 9 boys – (8 -24)

St George's church was able to offer packs three times to the young people. (17July, 9 October, 15 January) We had initially planned to present the packs in December as a Christmas gifts but realised that most children were already on holiday. The January pack also included stationery as this has been identified as a need for school going children.

Uitkoms Home for abandoned girls

This home has 28 girls, from teenagers to youth AWF and MU have supported the home several times before 2020 and re-established the relationship again in 2022. The home was visited twice in 2022 on 19 June and 14 August. Then on the we took for the girls who need dignity packs as stated above.

We have also donated clothes for the young people, children and shoes. Providing information on learnerships and internships for the youth.

Records of ministry, e.g. attendance, weekly offerings, courses, age groups, volunteers, etc.

- Attendance is project based (no. of visits- 4)
- Communicate via WhatsApp and St Georges email via the Parish Office
- Dependent on donations from Parishioners, MU and AWF
- Parish office has been responsible for marketing, collecting donations and storage for collected goods and clothing

Analysis and evaluation:

1.1 Do you observe fluctuations in the ministry, and if, why?

The initial plan was to provide donations to each NGO on alternate months, financial situation not conducive and packages were only done once enough funding or donations were received.

1.2 Is the ministry successful (yes/no, why)?

Yes, it is successful as it provides dignity to a group of young people who have real need for support

1.3 What are the challenges, your recommendations, and potential areas for growth?

- Economic conditions not conducive to “giving”- COVID 19 Pandemic has resulted in many losing jobs, as such people no longer generous with their resources
- Fundraising initiatives are critical but these must be strategically planned so that they do not burden those who still continue to support

Goals/projects/events and planning:

- Donation of Dignity packs to continue – 4 times a year(2 for each NGO)
- Provide training opportunities for the youth (getting professionals to provide coaching and mentoring)
- Fund raising initiatives (Open Garden, High Tea and Picnic –

still open to negotiation). This is also dependent on getting volunteers to support the initiatives.

- Provide more support to our young people at St Christophers, preferably close any gap that can be identified to ensure that the young people can succeed at school/ university without having to worry about basic needs.

Budget/resources are required :

Currently assisted by the congregation, Parish office, AWF and MU more donations would be appreciated from those who can afford would appreciate other members of the congregation to join in, especially for fund raising initiatives.

How does your interest fit into this ministry/portfolio?

I am very passionate about issues of empowerment and supporting those who cannot provide for themselves. I also feel that more could be done to support the needy rather than giving handouts, however time becomes a challenge as most of the work is done afterhours.

NOBUNTU MPENDULO

JAM (JOHANNESBURG AWAKENING MINDS)

Renowned actress Dorothy-Ann Gould has been teaching and working with a group of previously homeless people from Hillbrow for the last 10 years, mainly doing Shakespeare, world poets, as well as some of their own writing. The purpose of the group is to uplift and teach skills in order that the members can re-join mainstream society, as well as providing a sanctuary. Although it fluctuates, no one is currently homeless. Performing gives the members a voice, and a sense of pride, and helps to keep them drug and alcohol free. The money they make, although not a lot, helps them support their families, and some members of the group have now started small entrepreneurial ventures which we support, wherever we can.

During 2022, JAM members continued to attend classes, with Lwazi growing into a better and better teacher, with the help of Dorothy. Members fluctuated between 10 and 18 people, as new men joined and others found

jobs or moved back home. The wonderful Angel Network continued to provide tea, sandwiches, fruit and soup on rehearsal days, and Noah's Art gave them all money at Christmas.

Our association with Arts and Homelessness International continued this past year including working together with a music group in Sierra Leone. JAM continued to be their flagship company in Southern Africa, with Louis, as their international face of homelessness, appearing on all their written material. In March, the group finished their work with How Now Brown Cow and the Tsikinya-Chaka Centre at Wits University, which was a great success, and the production of A Midsummer Night's Dream can be seen on YouTube. JAM also performed at St John's College, St Mary's School, Beaulieu College, St Theresa's convent, as well as at other schools, associations and restaurants.

The group continued their affiliation with Pizza e Vino in Melville with several performances, finishing with a successful Christmas concert at the beginning of December. One of our original members, Michael, was chosen to go to Milwaukie, in America, to perform a piece from Kafka at The William Kentridge Arts Festival. There were many firsts for him on this trip, but he said the highlights were the flight, and the standing ovations he received from a sold-out theatre. Dorothy and Lwazi were invited to Riebeek-Kasteel in the Western Cape where they conducted ten days of workshops with groups from local communities, culminating in a production of Macbeth in an Amphitheatre, as the sun went down. They, together with the rest of JAM, have been asked to return in the coming year.

We would like to thank Dorothy for her teaching, and all the energy and love she puts into the group, she truly is their Mama, as she is called. Lilian Isaacs has also continued to be a stalwart in her tireless problem solving and support. We would like to thank Charisse and Sharon for all they do for us, they will always be part of the JAM family. We also thank all our wonderful sponsors and the staff at the Windybrow and are very grateful to the parishioners of St George's who support us by attending our concerts. If there is anyone who would like one or two members of JAM, or the whole group, to perform at any event, we can tailor a performance and would be very happy to do so.

GREENFIELDS SCHOOL, THOKOZA

Judy Tren, a former parishioner at St Georges who now lives in England, raises money, through her current church, for a primary school in a very poor area in Thokoza on the East Rand. As part of the government feeding scheme in schools the children all receive a meal at lunchtime. The school asked if we could provide more variety. This has proved extremely popular with all the children enjoying the alternatives, and some parents, who are able, are also becoming involved in the scheme.

The classrooms at the school are very run down and as the school has been selected by the department as a prototype for using smart boards, with each pupil being given a pc, we have been asked to assist with renovating and making classrooms more secure, before this can happen.

We are, at present, talking to the school and gathering quotes, prior to deciding how many classrooms we could help with. Judy and her fellow parishioners also knit winter jerseys for the Grade R and Grade 1 children each year. The problem has been getting them back to SA and our sincere thanks goes to the kind parishioners from St George's who have been bringing bags back when they visit the UK.

We still need more help for this year if anyone is visiting. If there was any cost involved, it would be covered. The project is run in South Africa by volunteers from St George's and with the kind help of Noma, in the office. It has now been going for over 30 years.

DALE HOWELL

PASTORAL CARE

ST. GEORGE'S PRAYER CHAIN

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY – PRAYER CHAIN

Our small prayer group serve as intercessory prayers and operate independently to the Pew leaflet prayers although we can overlap. We pray for anyone in specific need of prayer – illness, surgery, accidents etc. Prayer request information is confidential.

We communicate the prayer requests via WhatsApp. Progress updates are passed on when received. Both St. Georges parishioners and non-parishioners are supported in prayer. The Pew Leaflet gives the necessary contact details about our prayer chain.

The prayer chain is a small group to 6 members. Namely Dawn De Jong, Marguerite Langton, Gilly Pirow, Jenny Viljoen, Mary Campbell and Julie Crookes.

No funding and resources are needed to render our prayer service.

People continue to make use of our prayer support services.

JULIE CROOKES

ANGLICAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP (AWF) VESTRY REPORT 2022

How the Anglican Women's Forum Parish started:

The AWF is a committed women fellowship in our parish. It comprises of mostly ladies whose main aim is prayer, worship, mission and witness, fellowship, study, service and stewardship. They are a very vibrant and diligent group of women committed to their calling. We are involved in many projects namely providing food for the needy, and unemployed members around the community. Furthermore, we work hard to take care of children from child & youth care centres, children's homes and early childhood development centres.

The ministry meets once a month – the third Sunday of the month. We cater for women over the age of 18 years, with an aim of creating an area

that develops and consolidate all women's work. We also create a fellowship of prayer and service among women.

Analysis and evaluation:

Yes we do observe fluctuations in the ministry – as members don't identify with the ministry due to personal reasons

This ministry is successful - even though we lost a few members during Covid for those

Challenges, recommendations, and potential areas for growth:

- Challenges are based on lack of participation through Church related activities.
- The plan is to encourage and motivate members to actively participate in events and activities
- Increase the commitment in membership and grow our organisation
- Using promotional activities to market and encourage younger ladies to join

Projects/Events:

Social Responsibility Activities:

- Uitkoms Home for Girls – Child and Youth Care Centre in Observatory – High Tea event to be arranged on Mandela Day. Continues support of providing clothing and groceries.
- St. Christophers – children's home in Observatory – Planning a day out – at Joburg Zoo. Continued assistance for providing clothes and dignity packs.

Budget:

- R5 000 – Uitkoms
- R5 000 – St. Christopher's

The interests of the AWF are aligned into this ministry our aims centre around service and stewardship.

LEBOGANG SHOLE



MOTHERS' UNION

ST GEORGE'S PARKTOWN – A BRANCH RENEWED

BACKGROUND

In 1876 Mary Sumner, a clergyman's wife living in nearby Old Alresford, became concerned about how local mothers related their Christian faith to family life. Wanting to encourage them she founded a small group called the Mothers' Union. She lived to see it become a worldwide organisation, now with millions of members. She is buried outside Winchester Cathedral.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mothers' Union is a Christian organisation which promotes the wellbeing of families worldwide.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Mothers Union is to be especially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves marriage and Christian family life. Its aim is advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life by:

1. Developing prayer and spiritual growth in families.
2. Studying and reflecting on family life and marriage and its place in society.
3. Encouraging members to take practical actions to improve conditions for and nationally families in the communities in which they live.

ST GEORGES PARKTOWN, JOHANNESBURG

We aim to meet once a month as a fellowship group in St George's. The MU mothers also attend meetings and prayers sessions, social and community upliftment engagements at Mothers Union regional and diocesan level

Analysis and evaluation:

- Do you observe fluctuations in the ministry, and if, why?
- We are not seeing fluctuations in numbers but we are seeing fluctuation in attendance of branch, regional and diocesan engagements

Is the ministry successful (yes/no, why)?

Yes, it is successful.

We are proud and happy to announce our probationer mme Agatha was robed on the 27th of November 2022, we welcome mme Agatha to St George's Mothers Union and wish her God's blessings on her journey.

Our membership is open to all, and it is our wish to welcome many more ladies or gentlemen, who are interested in journeying with us as we sow seeds of hope amongst those who need our support.

Challenges:

Attendance and limited participation of branch, regional and diocesan engagements

Recommendation:

Motivate and encourage mothers to attend MU events,
Home visits to mother's union homes, to show support.

Goals/projects/events/planning:

One of the priority areas of focus for the Mothers' Union is the work carried out within our community, to help uplift our people and to give them hope.

- Uitkoms Home for the Girls – Mandela Day, visit to the home by MU members
- St Christopher's – Donation of cloths and groceries

What resources are required (budget and people)?

Like AWF's requirements (we work together with AWF for most of social outreach projects)

R 5 000 – Uitkoms

How does your interest fit into this ministry/portfolio?

The interests of the MU's are aligned with the ministry and teachings of the Anglican church. As MU members we are first and foremost members of St George's.

MICHELLE BAIRD

PARISH LEADER – MOTHERS' UNION

NOTES