

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2021

Dear People of St Thomas

I am writing this the day before “Heritage Day” – a day in our country where we recognise and celebrate the cultural wealth of our nation. We acknowledge and affirm the many cultures that make up the population of South Africa. In our “Visioning Day” held recently, one of the things that became clear was a corporate desire to see our congregation grow in diversity and become a genuinely inclusive community in every respect (age, language, nationality, race, culture, gender, sexual identity, marital status, educational and economic background and the list goes on). Going forward I hope we will gradually be able to introduce a variety of languages and music styles in our worship that are representative of God’s people who are part of our church family (we are blessed to have people from several countries outside of South Africa). One small step has been to invite people to pray the Lord’s prayer in their mother tongue. This Sunday, **I invite you to come dressed for Heritage Day in whatever way you choose!**

This Sunday also marks the end of our “Season of Creation” month, concluding with “St Francis Day” (the patron saint of animals). What a creative and challenging series we have shared together both on Sundays and in our “Elephants in the Koinonia Room” mid-week series. Do join us for our special “**Creation Taize Service on Sunday night at 6pm**– a service of quiet reflection, meditation and music by candlelight. (If you have never attended a Taize service before – here is your chance to come!). At our recent Visioning Day another focus area that emerged was a strong desire that we as a parish take seriously our responsibility to Care for and be wise stewards of God’s creation – prayer and action need to go hand in hand. Let us all play our part, no matter how small it may seem, to turn the tide of climate change and prevent the further destruction of our Mother Earth. Together we can make a difference.

CARE FOR CREATION				
CHURCH SERVICES & ELEPHANTS IN THE KOINONIA ROOM SERIES DETAILS				
Date	Venue & Time	Celebrant/Host	Presenter/ Preacher	Subject
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	Church 7h45 & 9h30	Rev Claire	Rev Claire	PRAY & ACT for our Common Home
	18h00	Rev Claire	Various People	Care for Creation TAIZE SERVICE
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup>	Koinonia 19h30	Lucia Earl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Angela Rackstraw: Local Biodiversity</li><li>Tim Westwood: The Restoring Eden Project</li><li>Caroline Knoetze: Seabirds and SANCCOB</li></ul>	

**St Thomas Entrepreneurs’ Mini Market** will take place this Saturday from 9.30 -12.30 pm in the garden. Come and enjoy a special morning of food, fun and fellowship and support our entrepreneurs. Please spread the word and invite a friend!

**BAPTISMS:** During Covid, we have not been able to have any Baptism services. However, I do believe that under level two, with all covid protocols in place, the time has come to plan for a Baptism service in either late November or early December. **Baptism applications are now open** – if you would like to bring your child for Baptism, please email the office (**closing date 11 October**) and we will send you a Baptism application form together with our Baptism policy. I will then meet with all parents and discuss days and times for Baptism preparation classes.

**MID-WEEK EUCHARISTS:** The Rector conducts Monthly Communion services at Woodside (3<sup>rd</sup> Tues) and Grosvenor Square (2<sup>nd</sup> Tues) on a Tuesday morning. I am exploring the possibility of introducing a **monthly Eucharist at St Thomas’ on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 9.30am**. If there is enough interest in this, I would be happy to begin in October. **Please contact Caro at the office asap but latest Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September** if you would find this helpful and be keen to attend, so that an informed decision can be made.

**REFRESHMENTS AFTER 9H30 SERVICE:** As we emerge from the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave and vaccinated we are looking forward to sharing a cup of tea/coffee and something to eat after our 9h30 services, beginning next Sunday, outdoors on the Koinonia porch. This creates the space to have a chat with fellow parishioners and get to know one another better. Please do come along! It would be great if we could have 30 volunteers to serve refreshments and provide the food (home baked or bought very welcome). So far we have 17 volunteers (THANK YOU!!) so please sign up on the clip

board in the porch or notify the parish office. (30 people will mean you do the duty 2/3 times a year) Every cup of tea served is a cup of love and we have a happy times serving in pairs so we would welcome new people to the team!

**SATURDAY WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:** Join Liz Webster for a skilful CAKE ICING demonstration and learn helpful tips next Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 11 am in the Koinonia Room. A lovely event to bring a friend along to!

**THIS SUNDAY IS RECYCLING SUNDAY:** We hope EVERY MEMBER of our St Thomas Family is an avid recycler by now! Please bring your clean, bagged or boxed recycling to church on Sunday and leave it at the parish hall. JustJunk will collect it on Monday and recycles almost everything including all household and garden furniture and electrical items.

Attached is a Diocesan Fikelela Newsletter which includes a lovely note acknowledging our monthly St Thomas's contribution towards food vouchers for poor families.

**PLEDGE ENVELOPES:** For those who like to use pledge envelopes please contact the parish office for a new set. (We will be doing Stewardship and Dedication next month).

For those joining us online this Sunday this is the **Facebook** link  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/345127422184986/>

Once again we have St Francis Home Calendars for 2022 on sale from the parish office @R80 each (R160 in the shops!) There is a clip board at the church entrance if you would like to reserve calendars.

God bless and keep warm and safe!

Rev Dr Claire Nye Hunter  
Rector  
[rector@str.org.za](mailto:rector@str.org.za)

Bank details: STANDARD BANK, Rondebosch, Parish of St Thomas, 071475931