

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

Dear Family of St Thomas

The month of October is our “**Stewardship and Dedication month**”, climaxing in our Thanksgiving Service on 30<sup>th</sup> October. That weekend we will be having some special activities for the whole family on Saturday night so please **SAVE THE DATE**.

This week we begin our series looking at “**The Spirituality of Giving**”. *Why is money so important to God? Why did Jesus deal so harshly with the ‘Rich young ruler’? What should our attitude be towards our possessions?* Come and join us as we explore some of these challenging spiritual questions. Being the start of the school holidays, we will not be having the usual monthly “All Age Service” this Sunday.

**ADVANCED NOTICE:** On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> **October** access to the church will not be possible, as roads surrounding us will be closed for the Cape town marathon. Please note that on that day we will have **ONE SERVICE ONLY, at 12 noon**.

**Newcomers Welcome:** We will have a special tea after our 9.30am (combined service) on 30<sup>th</sup> October, to acknowledge and welcome our new members.

### **Youth Ministry:**

We have been very blessed to have John Paul Roberts as a member of the staff team, with special responsibility for our Young People’s ministry. He has frequently gone the extra mile. We are particularly grateful for his leadership of the **Youth Alpha** together with **Brendon Jones and Alia Latib** over these past 10 weeks. Thank you to all who prayed for the 26 young people (including those from other churches in our Archdeaconry) every week, and those who generously provided meals for them. **The course has now been completed**, and there will be a special **Youth Service** for our Archdeaconry this **Sunday afternoon, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, at 4pm here at St Thomas** - please see JP’s note below. Discussions are underway, exploring the possibility of ongoing contact amongst our Archdeaconry Youth, and some combined sessions as part of our Confirmation classes. Please pray that those who attended Alpha will not fall away, but become a strong core for ongoing youth ministry in our parish and Archdeaconry. (*\*for those not familiar with the word ‘Archdeaconry’ it simply refers to a group of Anglican churches in a particular area*).

**JP on leave:** Please note that JP will be taking a well- deserved rest, and be on leave from **5 – 13 October**.

**Breast Cancer Awareness month:** During the month of October, We pray for those who have died of breast cancer, and give thanks for the survivors – brave women including many in our parish and those know to us. Women – please may I encourage you to ensure you have regular Mammogram check -ups (I went for mine this week). As we know, early detection of breast cancer generally has a very good prognosis. We give thanks to God for ongoing Medical research and advances in treatment that serve to prolong the life of many women.

The **Saturday Women’s Fellowship** will be meeting tomorrow Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 11am in the Koinonia room and we are really looking forward to our guest speaker REGINA ISAACS from The SA Heritage Resources Agency on the subject “Significant Heritage Objects Depicting Periods in the History of South Africa. It is sure to be most interesting and we hope for a lovely turn out. Refreshments will be served before the talk.

Final 2022 ECO-IDEAS from Alex Davidge : 1) When your plastic laundry basket gets old and cracked, how about replacing it with a grass/wicker basket? If you buy from a local craftsman on the side of the road you get to do even more good with just one purchase. 2) Buy wooden clothes pegs in future. 3) And lastly please use biodegradable black bags! There are rolls of 20 bags available from the parish office for R30/roll! A competitive price and saving our planet 😊

**Pledge Envelopes** – please request your new set of envelopes from the parish office if this is your preferred method of tithing.

The **St Francis Outreach Trust Calendars** 2023 edition has arrived! Copies are available from the parish office @R80 each. (Suggested retail price R160!)

Please support the Leliebloem House **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PUDDING SALE** – one pudding size 900g @R130. Every delicious mouthful give a child a happy Christmas! There will be a clipboard in the porch or email the Parish office to order you pudding(s). **We will be placing an order early next week so sign up on Sunday!**

**Plastic lids and bread tags for wheelchairs:** Please bring your contributions to church or to the parish office. Thank you for those received this past week – our box is almost full! Keep them coming.

**Mondays are Sandwich days!** Bring your loaves of sandwiches before 10 am to the parish office to be collected and distributed by LADLES FOR LOVE.

Attached is the **October prayer diary** prepared by a new prayer diary writer and a more experienced writer, many thanks to them both for an inspiring and helpful prayer tool to use each day. Printed copies will also be available in church on Sunday.

### **| INSPIRE Kids |**

#### **Good morning INSPIRE Kids and Parents!**

We are so excited to see all the young ones on Sunday again. There will not be an All-Age service as it is school holidays. However, we will meet in the Koinonia room for Junior Church. We are starting off a new series for the next seven weeks, "Important People in the Bible". Though all people in the bible are important as they give context and help build the narrative we will be looking at specific individuals and how God worked through their lives. This Sunday will be led by myself. This Sunday we will be looking at the Story of Samuel (1 Samuel Chapter 3).

In the new term we will also be having a Parents and children fun day. This will be a time for all of us to connect teachers, parents/guardians and children. Building a community and relationship between families. More information to follow in the coming weeks.

### **| INSPIRE Teens & Young Adults |**

#### **Youth Alpha**

It is with great sadness that we have come to the end of the Youth Alpha course however we are filled with great joy and happiness of what has taken place over the last 10 weeks. Like I was told last night it feels like we are only in week 3. HAHA. Time has flown by but I am so grateful to the following: Firstly to God, who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us. (Ephesians 3:20). We are so blessed to have a loving

Creator who desires so deeply to connect with us. We are grateful for God in engaging with the young people and meeting them at their point of need. Secondly, to Rev Claire who without her thumbs up and go ahead this programme would have not made it off the ground. To the parish council who supported the initiative and prayed for us for these last 2 months. Thirdly to the amazing team of Brendon Jones and Alia Latib who embraced the facilitation space and walked this journey with the young people from various backgrounds and contexts and showed love and grace to our young people and adopted them as their own brothers and sisters. Fourthly, to the amazing cooks who so unselfishly catered for us week after week. I cannot express enough our thanks and the group really enjoyed the meals offered in love. And lastly, to the family of St. Thomas for the constant prayers and messages of encouragement. I would like to say thank you for the prayers offered in proxy for these young people. As these sessions come to a close, it is ever more evident that the young people need our prayers, as the world continues to consume them and puts strain on their spiritual, mental, and emotional well-being. May God protect and watch over them. Praise be to God who never leaves us nor forsakes us.

### **| Archdeaconry Youth Service |**

Calling all youth and young adults!! On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October at 4pm we will be celebrating a Rondebosch Archdeaconry service here at St Thomas'. This service will be a praise and worship session with a time of discussion as we look and plan together, "How to take youth and young adults ministry forward in our Archdeaconry." We have seen relationships being built across the various parishes during this Youth Alpha and the need for a space where young people can have honest conversations about faith and explore life together. The aim of this service is to expand on how we can continue to foster and grow ministry across our various parishes. Giving young people a voice that has been missing for far too long.

### **| Young Adults Fellowship |**

#### **To the young adults family of St Thomas's.**

It is with exciting news that I share that on the 4<sup>th</sup> November we will be having our first social gathering at Shaun & Denise Woodman's residence. This would be a great time as young people to just fellowship and get to know one another, as well as connect again with those who have been part of the parish for sometime but have not seen each other in a while. We encourage all families that if you know anyone who is a young adult in your family (ages 19 – 35) please do not hesitate to send the invitation on. If possible you could send me their number and we will extend the invitation. \*Important\* This is not a bible study meeting. This is a time of fostering friendship and engagement. So come along bring a friend and let's connect. More details to follow later.

Yours in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ

Claire (Rector) and JP (Youth Administrator)

RECTOR

Revd Dr C Nye Hunter

[rector@str.org.za](mailto:rector@str.org.za)

