



August 2021

We end our Pilgrim Walk by returning to the Chapel, having come full circle. Now is the time to reflect on your walk and make some decisions. What to do with any new revelation while you take with you the age-old truths of 'God will be with me', 'God loves me'.

We shall not cease from exploration.

And the end of all our exploring

Will be to arrive where we started

And know the place for the first time. ...

From: TS Eliot: The Four Quartets; Little Gidding



Dear Friends of Volmoed,

FEEDBACK FROM OUR RECENT BOARD MEETING

A very big thank you to you all who have supported us during the past months of the Covid pandemic. Somehow, by the grace of God and the prayers of people like yourselves, Volmoed has managed to continue its ministry of healing and reconciliation. Indeed, at our recent Board of Trustees Meeting we were encouraged by the many signs of growth and life that are evident within the Volmoed Community. But we are also mindful that many people, including many of our Volmoed friends, have also been, and are still going through, tough times, so we want to assure you of our prayers at this time. We hope that it will soon become possible to restart our Thursday morning Eucharist services so that we can see you "face to face". So please make sure you are vaccinated. We miss you!

Since the beginning of the pandemic we have had to reduce the working days of our staff due to lack of income from paying guests. We have tried to help those affected in various ways to deal with this loss of income, and to help them meet medical expenses. But we also hope that by Spring we will be able to return to employing our staff on a full-time basis once more, especially as Volmoed is now beginning to receive an increasing number of visitors and bookings and we need all hands on deck. In addition we now have to replace the roof on Old Farm House!

Fundraising is always a difficult subject to talk about, especially in difficult times when living expenses are sky-rocketing for all of us, and there is an increasing demand being made on those who are better off than others. Volmoed is mindful of this and so we hesitate to burden you further with fund raising appeals. But I thought that you would prefer to know of our needs rather than for us to keep you out of the picture. Volmoed is totally reliant on guests and the donations of friends like yourselves. So thank you again for your support.

With best wishes,
John de Gruchy
Chair of the Board



PRIORY NEWS



Please continue to keep Scott in your prayers as he is still struggling to get his visa sorted out. We have completed our 8 day winter retreat. It was a time of great blessing.

PRAYER ITEMS

- It has been a sad month for Volmoed as we mourn the deaths of Joslin (who is Maggie and Ann's sister), she was part of the Volmoed staff for a while.
- Jane's brother, Mike, also passed away. He was very much part of Volmoed. He designed and established Gay's Garden. Our cows are also a constant reminder of his generosity.
- Peterus, one of our grounds staff lost his Grandmother this month. His daughter Zoe is going for a check up. Please pray for a clean bill of health.
- Keep the rest of our staff in your prayers as we have a number of them in quarantine due to exposure to Covid.
- Keep Dmitri Zanozin in your prayers as he recovers from a liver transplant. Dmitri was a volunteer on Volmoed in 1991. He and his family visited us in 2019. He had been diagnosed with liver cancer by then. So it was joyful news to hear of the transplant



The second group of couples from the marriage enrichment course, who were due to arrive the first weekend in July, reduced their numbers and provided take away meals to each couple, so the 'show' went on.

On the marriage theme, another small family wedding was held in Oak Cottage. Pictures were taken in the Chapel Garden. We wish the couple all of the best for the future.

Chaplain's Corner



Warm greetings after a chilly month of delays and postponements due to the rainy storms, gusty winds, and the realities of Covid-19 and lockdown. I am grateful for those few glorious sunny blue sky days in between, that warm our bodies and give us hope. The house building progress has been delayed and yet I still hope it will be finished in time to move in by the end of August. Cross your fingers and toes, and join me in hope and prayer for this to happen.

The two retreats that I was to lead this month were both postponed due to Covid-19 and lockdown, so we must now find new dates. Life in South Africa is overwhelming in its challenges, but I am ever grateful that I returned to this beloved country of beauty, struggle and heartbreak. I am grateful for the many gifts of life and love. Volmoed faces many challenges and I continue to trust that God holds Volmoed in His tender, compassionate heart of inexhaustible love, that He will provide for all that is needed and give us strength. Grace is always present, for that I give thanks.

Love,
Wilma



VACCINATION DAY

Some pictures from the vaccination clinic which was held at Volmoed on the 30th of July. We were privileged to be able to host this event and have our staff vaccinated.



With this sunrise I was reminded of Ps 19:1 & 2

'The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day

unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge'.

Esther