



MARCH 2022

Dear Prayer Partners,

Already we are seeing the change in the season as it gets light later and you can feel a nip in the early morning air. The sunny days still leave us with more than enough time to accomplish the many jobs in and around Volmoed.

The felling and planting of trees are still high priority. Due to various obstacles we still haven't completed the job of felling the trees in front of the office block yet. We are thankful for various leads that we have had which should hopefully speed up the process. On your next visit to Volmoed you will see a new tree planted next to Oak in memory of Elva Bakker. We have also added some more trees in the field opposite Oak and Die Nessie.



Johannes has been very busy replanting the flower bed in front of the office as the Clivias no longer have shade to flourish. Basil, now 2 months old, is growing fast. He still remains rather gangly, keeping us entertained as we watch him while the cows wander around.



We have a gentleman who has hives on the property and he has collected some of the first honey.



## ARE YOU PLANNING A VISIT TO VOLMOED?

Be aware that your journey might take a little longer than expected due to the road works in the valley.

Brother Daniel was away for a week in Benoni, for the BECOSA (Benedictine Communities of South Africa) meetings, which went off



## PRIORITY NEWS



very well.)

Brother Scott stepped in to help when a young man unexpectedly arrived at Volmoed in need of a listening ear and some guidance.

We will be saying goodbye to Brother Luc as he comes to the end of his stay with us.

Goodbyes are not forever.  
Goodbyes are not the end.  
They simply mean  
I'll miss you  
until we meet again.

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## Chaplains Corner

Warm greetings! Since the last newsletter, VYLTP (Volmoed Youth Leadership Training Program) held the first in-person gathering of the leadership team since 2019. What a joy!



We were ably facilitated by Br Scott and Br Luc, in planning the way forward. There is much to celebrate, many questions to consider and much to discern, especially with some new possibilities on the horizon. We welcome your prayers for this process.



We look forward to the arrival of our first VYLTP volunteer, Mona Nerea Okello, arriving from Kenya next week. A VYLTP alumna from 2019, she will spend two months at Volmoed, developing our database, social media outreach and infrastructure. As well as strengthening our connections with VYLTP alumni and our support base. Before leaving for Vancouver, Canada, for PhD Studies. Mona will stay in my home, and we will live in community. I am busy rearranging the space to make it a two person home.

I have preached at St Peter's Hermanus and All Saints Zwelihle, and will be helping them with services once a month. I also preached at the Student Welcome Service of St Paul's/UCT Chaplaincy, my former church when I was the Anglican chaplain at UCT. What a joy!

The season of Lent is upon us, with the backdrop of war in Ukraine and its tragic human cost and worldwide impact. We are asked to pray, and for those who can, to fast on Ash Wednesday, 2 March. At the Thursday morning services, John de Gruchy and I will be reflecting on 'Job, Jeremiah and Suffering'. May our Lenten journeys lead us to lives of deeper prayer and love in action.

Love

*Wilma*

## MARCH VISITORS

1st—3rd Ministers' retreat  
3rd—10th John & Philippa Woolley  
14th—16th Rev Julian Laughton  
22nd-25th Denise Sanders  
25th -27th Lauff/Steyn wedding  
A long stay in Grace  
Individuals staying over.

## From our guests:

### Very relaxing.

Location absolutely perfect setting in the Hemel and Aarde valley. Tranquil and peaceful. Accommodation exceeded our expectations, just a pity we could not spend longer.

Blessed beyond belief

Thank you to you and everyone here who continues to make this such a special place. Will be back:)

## CHOICES\*

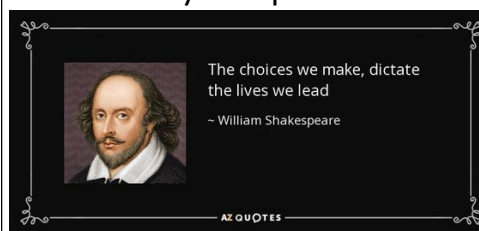
Life is shaped by the choices we make: -

*'Life is a road towards a goal,  
That forks repeatedly,  
Offering us options,  
Which way to go?  
Which fork to take?  
Life is making choices'* Isobel de Gruchy

Years ago I was chaplain to a local AA group at our church. I will never forget the first meeting I attended. The person I had brought with me was in a bad state. But he got no mercy from the other AA members. "Don't make us promises that you will never drink again!" they told him. "Just tell us that you will not drink again today, and that when you wake up tomorrow you will make the same promise. If you stop drink today, and renew that pledge each day, we can help you." How true!

Every day is a day of decision as we face challenges to our faith, our hope and our love.

\* Taken from John de Gruchy's meditation — Consider your options



Esther