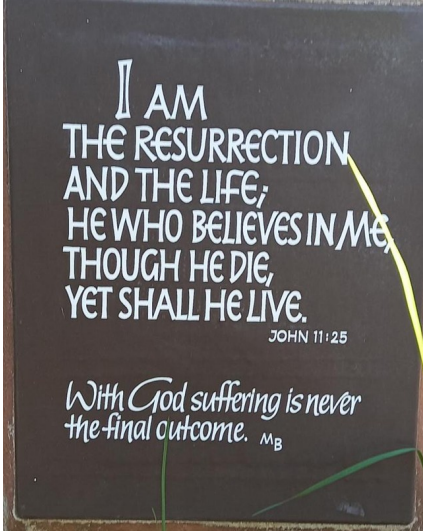




May 2022



The Easter weekend has come and gone and the chill in the air, as well as the falling leaves are a reminder that we are now in Autumn. This is a favourite time of the year for me as early morning walks are bracing and signs around me reminds me of the truth of the words on the plaque at the Chapel.

This year there was no big celebration on Easter Monday as we had a wedding in the Chapel on the Saturday. A thanks giving service was held on the Thursday after Easter to mark Volmoed's 'birthday'.

We continue to give thanks for our many blessings even in the midst of difficult/sad times. As Tony our director reminded us that roses have thorns and aphids.

Our condolences to Karen Black, who was our bookkeeper. She resigned in April to be a support to her family in Canada as her father was ill. He passed away on the 23rd of April. Also to Johannes Stallenberg, one of our gardeners, who lost his mother on the 26th of April.

Happier news is that one of our trustees, Mike Clark, who is involved with NSRI, had the new boat shed, of the NSRI in Hermanus, named after him. Here he is pictured with his wife Christa who has been involved with Volmoed in the past. She ran an indigenous nursery from here and was involved with the Volmoed artists, as part of the Volmoed 5. This led to some art retreats where she helped with the spiritual leadership.



On the subject of Art—we will be hosting a paint with Coffee fundraiser on the 21st of May @ 17h00 in the Kitchen/Dining Room. Bouchard—Finlayson will be doing a wine tasting again. So save the date and time.



The chapel decked out for the Easter weekend wedding. It made a beautiful back drop for the early morning Easter Sunday service, attended by a number of people including Pinot the poodle.



## PRIORY NEWS



In keeping with the Easter theme we have in-

serted a picture of the Brothers' motto —which translates as the Cross is the Medicine of the world.

Brother Daniel has been on leave and is preparing for his travels during his sabbatical, which will include walking the Camino in Spain.

Arrangements are underway for Brother Luc to return to Volmoed for another visit.



## VYLTP NEWS

Six weeks have flown by and Mona Nerea Okello, our VYLTP volunteer, left for Kenya on 1 May. We wish her all the best as she pursues her doctoral studies in Business Development in Vancouver, Canada. We are hugely grateful for her organisational work, helping VYLTP to build capacity and develop our digital infrastructure. She has been a wonderful gift to us and I will miss her company in my home. Mona has spent time with VYLTP alum and Volmoed trustee, Siyabongo Vonco, who will continue the work that Mona has begun.

Our Taizé Youth day, themed 'Christ our Peace', brought 35 young people to Volmoed, some of whom stayed overnight to help prepare, pray and sing together. What a joy! The SA Council of Churches Western Cape youth leadership met here on the same day, and joined us for lunch and two prayer services. We are excited to explore a future partnership to help strengthen both our organisations.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Molly Wood as she goes to the UK, safe travels.
- John & Isobel as they return from their UK trip, which has been postponed due to both of them being ill.
- As Karen resigned we are looking for a new bookkeeper.
- The visitors coming this month Heartlines group 6—8 May
- Individuals coming on retreat
- Safe travels for Brother Roger who is on leave.
- Penny Pelders who needs a similar heart operation to that which John had.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Warm greetings in this Easter season! We celebrate the vulnerable, powerful, Love of Christ in his self-offering on the cross; his nonviolent, loving response to a violent death; his resurrection that overcame hate, violence, evil, desolation and death. A healed-yet-scarred, resurrected Saviour, invites us to practice resurrection.



I am grateful that during Holy Week we launched our weekly Wednesday Volmoed Community 10.30 prayers. All staff and residents gather for fifteen minutes, for a song, short Scripture reading, and prayer.

Our annual Thanksgiving service took place on Easter Thursday, in a beautiful, joyful service attended by staff and our usual weekly folk.

After Easter, I conducted the funeral of Christelle van der Merwe, the first for me here at Volmoed.

With all the Holy Week and Easter preaching, and assisting local churches in Hawston, Zwelihle, and Hermanus, I have been a fully occupied, not-so-retired priest! It has been wonderful. Thankfully I also found time to relax with friends in Pringle Bay and Hermanus, and enjoyed taking Mona to explore the scenic beauty of the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley and the Overstrand.

For your prayers: I am conducting a retreat on 6 – 8 May for the diocese of Cape Town Fellowship of Vocation, for those who are discerning a call to ordained ministry.

On 24 May, Together with Rev Mpho Tutu, I am speaking at a Community of the Cross of Nails International Online Gathering: *Reconciliation, Justice and the Legacy of Archbishop Desmond Tutu*. Free registration here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/310567213897>

May this Easter season bring new life and resurrection into our lives and the places that need it most.

Love Wilma

Many thanks to all who contributed to our Easter Thanksgiving Offering, which enabled a significant Easter gift card for all staff. They have all expressed their sincere thanks. We are happy to report that reached more than our target of R10 000.



Esther