

St George's Church Chat

August 2026



News

Round-up of Recent News: Our annual vestry meeting was held on the 10th May. There have been a couple of changes to the Council: it was goodbye and thank you to Jessica Prim, and welcome to Glenda Warburton. Harry Healey has stepped down as a Warden, and is replaced by Mike Secker.

Ninety-five Years: St George's celebrated ninety-five years of existence on the 7th June, with Uplands Servers joining us in a special service.

Fundraisers: Our Fair in April was a big success and raised ±R 19200; congratulations Sylvia Healey and team. The next Fair will be a Christmas one, on the 5th December in the afternoon, to be followed by Carols in the church gardens. A movie in aid of our Fill-a-Bag programme brought in R 7700, while Nomsa Malumane and Rowena Spratt sold jumble for an amount of R 2300, so a total of R 10000. A youth chess competition in support of our Sunday School earned R 3000 and was won by our own Nina Damm – well done to everyone.

Diocesan News: The consecration and enthronement of Wayne Saldanha, Bishop Elect for Mpumalanga, will take place at Uplands on the 13th September. See the Rector's letter.

Youth: A plan to have our St George's youth being more involved in services recently kicked off with Oratile Maseko in the role of Server (aka Crucifer).

Gift: We are deeply grateful to Mxolisi Zwane for his recent donation of two TV monitors for the hall.

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

From the Rector's Desk

Dear Friends,

For those who aren't aware, the Anglican Church recognises the threefold apostolic orders of ministry in the form of Bishop, Priest, and Deacon. We also state that we are Episcopally led and Synodically governed. This means that the bishop is the overseer of the ministry and spirituality in the diocese and synod determines the rules and regulations to govern the business of the diocese. We have come to a new and exciting chapter in the life of the Diocese of Mpumalanga. On the 14th of February we said farewell to Bishop Daniel Kgomoiso as he retired from his position as bishop. It was a lovely service of thanksgiving, and a recognition of his service to the diocese.

The retirement of a bishop is followed by a period during which the diocese prepares for the nomination of candidates for the position of bishop. This process takes place under the auspices of the Archbishop of the province – Archbishop Thabo Makgoba. This process was followed and 5 candidates were nominated and accepted by the Archbishop.

Elective assembly was then called which is the body that actually votes for the election of the new bishop. This body is made up of representatives from all of the parishes in the diocese including both laity and clergy. This process took place at St Michael's church in Mbombela. This whole process is very closely scrutinised and regulated to ensure that there is a free and fair election.

As we have announced, Revd Wayne Saldanha was elected as the new bishop of Mpumalanga, which has since been ratified and confirmed by the Archbishop.

The consecration and enthronement of our new bishop will take place at Uplands school on the 13th of September 2026. I am very excited about the future of this diocese with bishop-elect Wayne, and look forward to his guidance and ministry.

Please keep Wayne and his family in your prayers as they enter this exciting and challenging new direction of ministry.

Take care of yourselves!

With love and blessings,

Mark

Jesus Cares

Fill-a-Bag Feed-a-Family

The scale of poverty and food insecurity in South Africa remain an urgent concern. With households under pressure, the poor have tough choices to make every month. The added burden of transport costs to and from the workplace consuming such a high percentage of take-home pay means that salaries do not last a full month.

Wendy Roche reports: We pack 48 food bags every month. The contents of each bag need to be identical, so for those wishing to donate grocery items, please refer to the list published in the pew leaflet from time to time, and attached to the basket placed at the church entrance every Sunday.

For those wishing to make a financial contribution, see our banking details below.

“participate and make a difference”

Banking details for Jesus Cares: **Jesus Cares Ministry, FNB
White River, Acc. 62256790091**

The People's Page

We will miss the Prim family who are relocating to Johannesburg. Wishing them smooth moving and happiness in their new home.

Felicitations to Dylan Cooper who will be getting married to Natalie in late August.

Congratulations to Claire Zhakata on her Honours graduation at Mpumalanga University.

Penny and Warren Boden have enjoyed their annual two months of family time in Kuala Lumpur. They followed this with an unforgettable week in the Mara Triangle.

Coliswa Malumane has managed a couple of visits home from her course in Johannesburg, including at Easter, when several other former St George's youth were also able to attend the service: Michael Vincent, Marina Athanasopoulos, David, Caitlyn, and Jesse Spratt. It's always good to see them and hear how their lives are progressing.

If it's important to you, it's important to us. Send your news to
JayneBauling@gmail.com



Oratile Maseko in her role as Server



Nina Damm, winner of the youth chess tournament



Talia Jennings was baptised in March

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Uplands Servers and their families helped us celebrate our 95th birthday



Gwynn Mason and Viv Lawrence treated our women's fellowship group to a talk on flower arranging



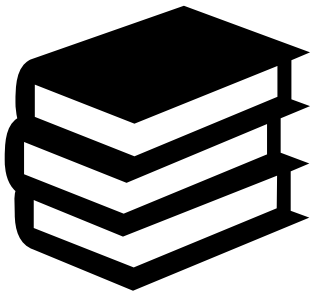
Entertainment at our April Fair



Book News

The Promise of Heaven by David Jeremiah, published October 2025 by Thomas Nelson.

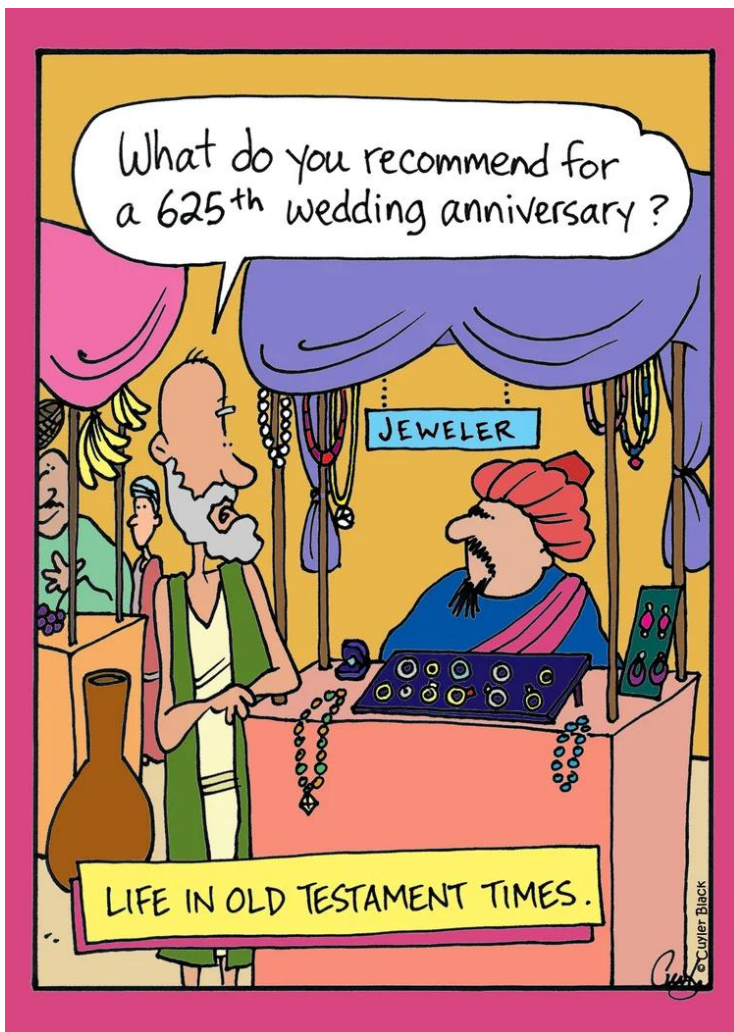
When we think of heaven, do we even know what to hope for? Dr Jeremiah offers 31 chapters to help us see with fresh eyes.



Claire Zhakata and proud dad Noel at Claire's Honours graduation at Mpumalanga University



Smile



*For direct deposits,
the parish's banking
details are:*

Account Name: The
Parish of White River

First National Bank

White River

Branch code:
270552

Account no:
54285306725

Current Account



August birthdays: Karabo Selepe (3rd), David Cooper & Mike Secker (6th), Penny Green (7th), Gayle Brown (12th), Cindy Walker (13th), Ethne Cameron (15th), Lindsay Rogerson (16th), Tamsyn-Ann Marrison (17th), Isabelle Kay (18th), Ashwin Poodhun (23rd), Anne Swart & Shanka von Brandis (25th), Susan Howland (26th), Trish Galliers & Vukani Maseko (28th), Kim Kay (29th), Rob Kay & Elveena Mathew (30th)

**Services**

Sunday Eucharist

8.30am

Tuesday

9.30am (MP or Eucharist)

First Friday of the month

10.00am Macadamia Village

Who's Who

Parish Rector Mark Spratt

Cell: 082 648 2497

Assistant Priest Cynthia Rakale

Deacons Ashwin Poodhun

Matthew Jennings

Churchwardens Penny Cooper, Mike Secker

Parish Secretary Renate Bowers

Cell: 083 600 1131

Council

Renate Bowers, David Cooper, Peter Maseko, Ashwin Poodhun, Sue

Royle, Mike Secker, Lavinah Thwala, Glenda Warburton

Treasurer: Pam Williams

Ministry Team

Mark Spratt

Cynthia Rakale

Ashwin Poodhun

Mary Sinclair

Melanie Poodhun

David Cooper

Parish Phone

Cell: 079 343 5626

Church Verger

Nomsa Malumane

072 440 6701