

Pastoral Assistant's Letter



I cannot believe that it has been over five months since a state of disaster was declared by our president and the country placed on lockdown. For so many this has been five months of immense struggle emotionally, spiritually, physically, financially. Having never been faced with anything quite like this particular situation, having never been challenged by such a threat, at least not within our life-time, our country as well as the entire global population was forced into making changes that challenged the very fibre of our existence, changes that at times hurt, changes that forced us into moments of complete isolation and loneliness. They were changes that I believe many struggled to accept and of course adapt to, and yet, we continue to see changes happening all around us.

And I believe that at no point is this more evident and more encouraging than with the season of Spring. It is always such a wondrous moment within creation, to witness new birth, to witness how what looks to be the end, somehow spring back to life. When the grips of Winter has achieved what it sets out to achieve according its plan and purpose **as the Lord commands**, Spring is ushered in and in almost an instant, it begins to work on achieving its plan and purpose **as the Lord commands**. For we can never underestimate or overlook the hand of the Lord within His creation. This same understanding is what I hope we can all hold onto within the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yes, these changes have been a massive disruption in our lives, yes they have had devastating consequences for countless people throughout the world, yes they have resulted in untold hurt, pain, grief and mourning, but as the Psalmist reminds us in **30:5**, "*Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning.*" This is not simply an empty statement, and while it may take many months or even years before things return to 'normal', we hold onto this hope and this promise that indeed, joy will return to us. It is a hope founded upon the risen Christ, as Paul says in **Romans 6:5**, "*For if we have been united with him in a death like his...*" Peter refers to this as us sharing in His sufferings, "...we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his." We will be

united with Him in His glory as Peter tells us, we will be united with Him in His righteousness. He is our hope for a brighter tomorrow, our joy in the morning.

Lincon Hardouin



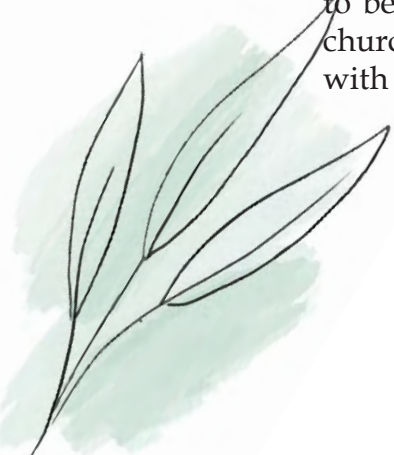


Session Clerk's Letter

When we published our May newsletter the date of resumption of church gatherings seemed so far away. But God is good and, although the end of measures implemented to contain the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic is still a long way off, we are able to gather in our church building again, albeit with some limitations and adjustments to our usual practices. It will be so good to see you in our lovely church building again!

It has become clear that at Trinity as elsewhere, the new "normal" will differ from what we were used to pre-Covid. The wide reach of our pre-recorded sermons makes it necessary to consider continuing the practice. This we would in any event have done for some time, as we know that many of the members of our congregation are in higher risk categories with regard to the effects of the Covid-19 virus and may still be hesitant to gather in the church building. The lockdown regulations do not yet allow us to participate in communal singing during church services and some other things will also, for some time, need to be done slightly differently. But now we also have a wonderful opportunity to consider other ways of worship! And it certainly does not mean that there will not be any music or songs during our services. We are blessed with enthusiastic and talented musicians in our music ministry team and we look forward to what they will devise using a combination of their skills and available technologies.

I know that all of you would want to join me in thanking Gordon Hay and Lincon Hardouin for their inspirational pre-recorded sermons. They will continue to pre-record sermons after we resume gathering at church. Gordon's lockdown messages continue to uplift us every day and Lincon's midweek devotionals have been a particular blessing. I am so glad that he intends to also continue recording the devotionals as we move into the next phase of "normal". Behind the scenes there have been many people who have assisted in keeping our Trinity family connected. There are too many to mention each one by name, but our special thanks to everyone who made telephone calls to, and shopped for, members of the congregation, to Charlene Mentz for keeping in contact with our Sunday School children and their parents, Matthew and Alex who are assisting with the technology so that we can still listen to God's Word and stay in touch with our church family, leaders of fellowship, contemplative, other prayer and Bible study groups, Sue Hay who in her coordinating role continues to be our backbone at Trinity and to Pietro who so ably managed the church office from home and who has been sending out communications with no regard to her actual office hours.





The Communion services brought by our Interim Moderator Wayne van Heerden, Alan Cameron and Maniraj Sukdaven meant so much to us in this difficult time of isolation. And the members of Session, the Executive Committee and the Trinity Trust have continued to diligently serve in those capacities. Thank you too for the many contributions to our special Lockdown outreach program, OpenUp, and for the contributions to and making of activity cushions which we are in the process of distributing. The Corona virus will still be with us for some time. I am encouraged by your many acts of kindness and know that you will continue to *“let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven”* (**Matthew 5:16**). Please wear your masks as you do this!

No one knows when this lockdown period will end. We do know that the consequences of the pandemic will last for months and even years. But Wayne van Heerden reminded us in last week’s Communion service that God has perfect timing and that our paths are shaped in His perfect plan. To each one of you who these past months bravely learnt new ways of communication, became “ZOOMers”, figured out online shopping, had to make do with fewer visits from friends and family – bravo! May we all continue to be able to say with Paul *“I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ... I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation ... I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.”* (**Philippians 4: 11-13**).

Be blessed

Michele Havenga





Lockdown Ministry News

ACTIVITY CUSHIONS

Our B Women for God ministry of making activity cushions for people struggling with Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease has continued during this time. Thank you ladies for the beautiful cushions that you have created.

They have all been very gratefully received and much appreciated. Your kindness and hard work have blessed and comforted the people who have received them as well as those who care for them.



OPEN-UP INITIATIVE THAT YOU SUPPORTED SO WELL!

Just in case you missed this letter of thanks from Linda Nell, Director: Child Welfare Tshwane.

“I sincerely want to thank you for the generous clothing donation Child Welfare and Bramley Children’s Home received from members of your congregation.

The distribution was so well organised and the quality of the clothes were outstanding. A big thank you to Gordon for arranging the pick-up points. We took pride in the distribution thereof to our beneficiaries.

Will you please thank the kind donors on our behalf? It made a difference in many children and their parents’ or care takers’ lives. The families we work with are really struggling to make ends meet.

May you and all the donors be blessed abundantly.

Kindest Regards

Linda Nell

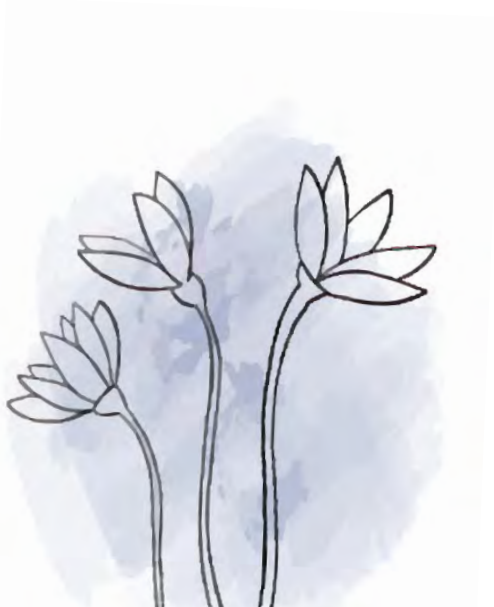
DIRECTOR

Child Welfare, Tshwane



TRINITY and KNITTED JERSEYS

for children just seem to belong together! When winter comes, jerseys grow out of Trinity. You have blessed the children at Lesedi Creche in Makapanstad with warmth!





CHARISMA

The Charisma Drop-In Centre children are back at the Centre! We have complied with the requirements of the Department of Social Development and have bought masks for the children. We were able to sustain the Staff during the Lockdown and also provided food parcels and blankets for the children.



GARDENS AT HEARTFELT, MAKAPANSTAD

Seeds sown at the A-Men breakfast in February have led to a time of harvest for those who were trained by Maq, who was the speaker at that event.



Charity Sikazwe continues to head up the **Food and Nutrition Foundation** in Zambia. It has been our privilege to be able to support her in this ministry from time to time.

Their mission is to bring about social economic justice at all levels through provision of Nutrition, Education, Skills Development and Advocacy.

The Foundation has run a Feeding Programme during the Pandemic.

It has brought so much pleasure to the team and community as most parents in the community are single parents who work as house helps. It's been very difficult for them to provide food for their children as they have been told to stop going to work and stay home due to COVID 19.

Government's help on feeding programmes has been negligible and we intend to engage with Government to get support.





Trinity Opens up!

20 September 2020 will long be remembered at Trinity.

It was our first Sunday of worship in the church in six months.

Our national lockdown which began on 27th March kept us physically apart, but you will see from this photo of the screen that we are able to meet for worship in the church again!

We needed to comply with all the prescribed protocols, but it was a very memorable and special time together.

