

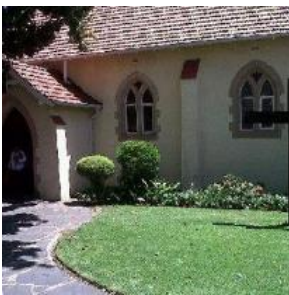


Green Parish Activities around the Johannesburg Diocese

One of the five marks of mission of the Anglican Communion is “*To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew life of the earth*”. This recognises that we are protectors of each other: of the natural world, of the poor and vulnerable

As People of Faith, we are aware of the intricacy and wonder of God’s creation and give thanks to God for the gift of life on this planet, our only home. We recognise that we humans are integrally part of this web of life and that our well-being is dependent on the health and well-being of this planet; and also recognise that God has mandated us to care for and keep this web of life for future generations.

During the past year (2018) a number of Parishes have been proactive in the caring of our Common Home.



St. Augustine’s, Orange Grove

- Continue to be aware of their environmental footprint
- Continue supporting the Eco-brick campaign and the Tops-‘n-Tags” campaign
- Regularly attend JAEI events



St Francis, Parkview

- Eco themes, including hymns, feature regularly in our services, including in particular the Season of Creation.
- The monthly Environmental prayer diary is circulated to all parishioners.
- We are posting appropriate information on our website and Facebook page.
- Articles on environmental topics are included in each of our quarterly parish magazines.
- Some of our monthly Park Views talks have covered topics with environmental themes and implications.
- We have an eco-group committee which meets most months in the year and considers and organises activities to promote our green environment objectives.
- We held a second Eco-Eucharist in Melville Koppies which was again well supported and enjoyed. It will probably become an annual event.

- We held a fun run at the Zoo in September.
- A pet eucharist was held in the church garden in October, and a talk was given by Ban Animal Trading on “Adopt don’t Shop” for animals.
- The committee’s proposal to install photo-voltaic cells to produce electricity during the day was accepted by Council in 2017, but the required funds were not available. A revised and less expensive quotation, together with a fund-raising plan has been submitted to Council in December.
- We have established a number of marked waste bins on the church premises for different materials to better enable recycling.
- The Mpack Ronnie Bin installed just inside the Church property in January 2018 has been supported by parishioners depositing their waste paper and cardboard. To date the proceeds have been low and we believe some paper is being stolen from the bin.
- We launched an initiative to reduce use of Plastic straws by parishioner families
- We launched a project to encourage parishioners to produce Eco-bricks from plastic waste. This was well received but production of Eco-bricks has been slow, but is improving.
- We involve our youth in eco activities where-ever possible, and this included plastic straws and Eco-bricks. We have a new Youth pastor who is working with us.
- We are still investigating use of affordable green cleaning products at the church.
- Apart from the Zoo fun run, we arranged a Saturday morning ECO-walk in the Rietfontein Nature Reserve in September as part of the Season of Creation.



St Gabriel’s, Florida

St Gabriel’s celebrated ad Season of Creation service with a guest speaker who spoke on Creation Care and our involvement in it.



St Michael’s Bryanston

St Michael’s Bryanston continued to promote care for God’s creation. Here are some highlights:

- Pre-Lent quiet morning, with the theme ‘Connecting to God through God’s Creation’, held in outside spaces around the church, concluding with Eco Eucharist (10 Feb)
- St Michael’s sponsored Martha to attend the Creation Care & the Gospel conference in Pietermaritzburg (19-23 Feb)

- Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB) initiative launched to raise awareness and reduce plastic waste and over 250 bags produced by a local women's sewing group were sold at this and other supporting parishes throughout the year
- A talk and photo presentation, by Edna Scott, about her boat excursion to the Antarctic (24 Feb)
- Talk on Crisis of Plastics at Men's Breakfast (20 Apr)
- World Environment Day liturgies for all Thursday and Sunday services (throughout June)
- Annual Parish Hike to Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens (16 June)
- the Junior Church raised awareness on plastic waste and recycling for the Season of Creation (all of September)
- Eco Eucharist in the Garden for the evening service 16 Dec.
- Continued to be waterwise, composting, solar geyser use, indigenous planting, recycling with waste-pickers.



St Michael and All Angels, Weltevreden Park

St Michael and All Angels (St Mike's) had a busy year in the Creation Care department.

Sunrise Service – 4 February

On 4 February the annual Sunrise Service was held at Kloofendal Nature Reserve with 32 people attending. Revd. Helen Els presided with Tshenolo Tlholoe as Deacon. Mo Tshule provided the worship accompaniment. It was a very enjoyable morning with favorable comments received from everyone. Although the weather was threatening to pour with rain, it held off until we had finished. Great fellowship was had over a picnic breakfast and several people joined Andy Branfield for a bird walk. It was a delight to see the two Verreux's eagles circling overhead.



Art Extravaganza

The Art Extravaganza was run from March to end of May. Although the response was disappointing, the children who did enter had a lot of fun. Revd. Dave Osburn, Loraine Viljoen (Nursery School teacher) and Gill Lansom (Artist) undertook the judging. The winners were Ntombi Twala (Gr 2), Naledi (Vuleka Gr 5), and Michael Carter (Gr00) who received bird feeders as prizes.



Although the Extravaganza was not well supported, there was a wonderful spin off in that an a very successful Art Competition with all the Vuleka Schools in partnership with JAEI. was held during August/September (Season of Creation) and is now set to become an annual event.



Bee Wise & Small gardens – 17 March

The talk on the role of bees in our gardens as well as establishing gardens in small areas (such as complexes) and was very well attended and enjoyed by all. Our thanks go to Graham Paige for an informative and interesting talk.



Earth Hour

Parishioners were encouraged to take part in Earth Hour. A number of posters were placed in prominent positions and announced at all Services prior to the event.

Bird Walk – 5 May

To celebrate National Bird Week – a birding walk was held in Kloofendal lead by Andy Branfield.

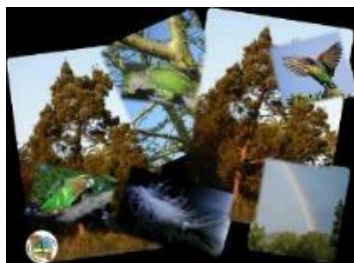
World Environment Day – 3 June



A lively and interesting liturgy was used for World Environment Day, with a skit and two short animated videos on plastic pollution in the sermon slot. A demonstration on making an Eco-brick was presented. There were also various displays highlighting plastic pollution. Feedback from the congregation was very positive and the response to the Eco-brick project has been enthusiastic.

Both the *Eco-brick* and *Bring Your Own Bag Projects* were launched.

Season of Creation – 9 September



Season of Creation was celebrated combined with Spring Day. Deacon Margie Visser led the congregation in a meditation about a friendship and interdependence between a tree and a parrot. The congregation were given a leaf from a Sneezewood tree to remind them of the connectedness with nature.

Recycling day – 15 September

Parishioners were encouraged to join their local clean-ups organised by the City of Johannesburg.

A paper drive was also held on 28 October by Nombina Moikangoa (a finalist in the Mrs South Africa Pageant). *MPact* were in attendance and press coverage was had. Proceeds from the MPact waste paper bin will go towards the purchase of an owl box for the pair of owls that frequent the grounds.

Eco & Social Film Evening – 21 September

The Eco-team and the Social Group partnered to screen the documentary “A Plastic Ocean”. This was a very powerful and thought-provoking movie. Thanks to Luis and Cynthia Saphir who donated the meal for the evening, resulting in the Eco-team been given a donation of R2000 from the Social Group. This money will be used as the seed funding for the Eco-ambassador programme with St Mike’s Vuleka School from 2019.

World Food Day – 14 October

To celebrate World Food Day, Parishioners donated non-perishable food at all Services and the food was distributed to the needy through the ACTS Group.



Morning Eucharist – 21 October



A small group gathered for a morning Eucharist at Random Harvest Indigenous Nursery. A very special morning under the trees with a chorus of bird song. Revd Sue Waldron presided.

“The Footprint”



A quarterly Green News-letter – “The Footprint” – was launched in April and has been very well received. In this newsletter, various environmental aspects are addressed and information made available. Thanks to our Editor, Di Murray for her input.

Eco-bricks

There has been tremendous support and engagement with the Eco-brick project. To date more than 300 bricks have been handed over to ADVA Youth Skill Development for the building of benches, food gardens and rubbish bins.

“Tops ‘n Tags”

The Eco-team have partnered with the ACTS Outreach Group in the “Tops ‘n Tags” for wheel chairs initiative.

Waste Management

- The Waste Management project continues
- The Waste Management brochure (given to all who run activities/functions at the Church) was updated.
- The signage for the kitchen bins was also redone and updated.

JAEI

- St Mikes continues to be represented by Noeleen Mullett on the JAEI (Johannesburg Anglican Environmental Initiative) Committee.
- Representatives from St Mike's attended JAEI AGM in March and Sharing Morning in August

General

- Eco-theology, environmental hymns and prayers as well as encouragement for a less consumeristic lifestyle are an integral part of Services and highlighted continually.
- The monthly JAEI Enviro-Prayer Diary is circulated to Parishioners and prayers from the diary are also included in the weekly pew bulletin,
- The Eco-notice boards are updated regularly.
- The Eco-team meets on a regular basis.
- Various activities are planned for 2019
- An Eco-Ambassador Programme is due to launch in early 2019 and we will be partnering with St Mike's Vukela School.



St Paul's, Parkhurst

At St Paul's, the Creation and the Cosmic Christ are an integral part of our Worship and liturgical calendar. August and September in 2018 were celebrated as the season of Compassion and were focused on the psalm for each Sunday.

St Paul's stewards its property and runs its fellowship events with simplicity and is acutely aware of being frugal with resource use and waste (single use plastic is shunned). We use pot plants in the church instead of weekly fresh flowers and grow star jasmine to cover the cement airbricks on the church porch. A labyrinth was constructed during the 50th anniversary year of 2017, that fronts onto the street and so is available to the wider community. We're intentional about planting indigenous succulents around the labyrinth. All the lights (which use energy saver light bulbs) in our church and where possible in the other buildings. In our church kitchen, we have 3 different bins for waste & re-cycling.

Awareness of how much dangerous plastic pollution our society generates was taken up by the congregation, increasing their awareness, enthusiastically joining the eco-brick campaign. St Paul's welcomed the JAEI eco-sharing morning in August 2018.



St Stephens, Sunninghill



St Stephens continue to be very conscious of their environmental foot print. All Sundays of Season of Creation were observed – with guest speakers each week preaching on a different topic

St Thomas, Linden



The Eco Ministry at St Thomas' is now in its 5th year and had its origins in the observance at St Thomas' of the Season of Creation in September – October 2015. The eco ministry which is linked to the Johannesburg Anglican Environmental Initiative (JAEI) aims to:

- a. Deepen our understanding of God as creator
- b. Explore our calling to be faithful stewards of the environment
- c. Increase awareness of the interconnectedness of God, nature and ourselves.

The ministry recognises that the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor are one and so aligns itself with St Thomas' ministry for the homeless. Since 2015 the ministry has been led by a small team consisting of Liz von Mollendorf, Kerrigan McCarthy, Simon Oosthuizen, Shayla Pillay, Anne Wright, Rev Alice Mugglestone and Fr Moses Thabethe.

This past year, 2018, was a quiet year for the eco ministry and our activities focussed on:

- The Sunday observation of the Season of Creation through special liturgies, sermons, prayers, flowers and music.
- The mailing to all parishioners of the monthly Eco Prayer diary which is prepared by JAEI.
- A “quiet walk” at Delta Park in March.
- The observation of World Environment day in June with a special liturgy, music and flower arrangements highlighting plastic pollution.
- At the World Environment day service, parishioners were introduced to a practical project, the making of eco bricks, which aims both at curbing plastic pollution and also providing communities with low cost building materials. The project was taken up with much enthusiasm by parishioners and is ongoing. The particular focus of our eco brick building has been a creche at Ethembelethu, Muldersdriift which needed the development of vegetable & flower beds, a perimeter wall and an additional room for babies. The eco brick project led in turn to the creche receiving blankets & warm clothes for the children, art supplies, and groceries & a training course for the manager of the creche.



Activities planned for 2019 will include:

- While we will continue to observe the September Season of Creation, we will try to integrate events and activities into the rest of the church year. This to help us to understand eco ministry not as a “special event” but as part of our daily spirituality.
- The expansion of the team to include 2 or 3 more parishioners. There’ll be a call for interested parishioners in January.
- Two events which were put on hold last year due to busyness of the parish calendar will now take place. These are: Contemplative Photography (developing the idea of the quiet walk) and a birding walk at Klipriviersberg nature reserve, Mondeor.
- An outdoor Mass – probably at Delta Park.
- The continuation of the eco brick project and support of the creche.
- And perhaps, the screening of a film, an interesting talk, a family walk.

