

2019 Eco-actions of Parishes around the Diocese



Christ the King, Coronationville

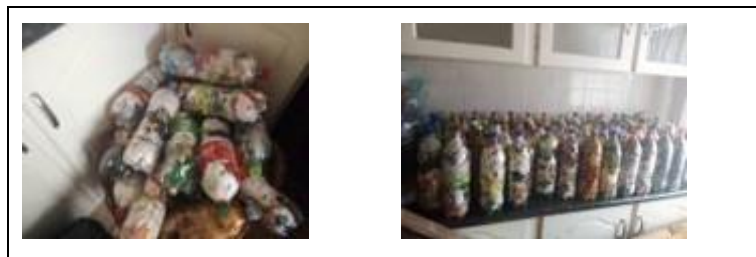
We followed the Season of Creation Lenten programme. It was received with great interest and a deeper awareness about the environmental crisis has been raised.

The “Less Plastic for Lent” 40 days fast, was taken seriously by members of the congregation. At the end of Lenten programme each participant was given a cloth bag to remind them of BYOB – *Bring Your Own Bag* and not to use single plastic bags.

We embarked on making eco-bricks as a project to eventually build benches around the church. A faithful band of members in congregation are making them.

Revd Judy attended the SAFCEI – Southern African Faith Communities’ Environment Institute Policy Conference 5 – 7 November 2019. As participants we mapped and planned the leadership role that faith communities must play in seeking an *environmentally sustainable future* across the Southern African region, continent and beyond. The report is available on SAFCEI website.

“*Seeds of awareness*” around taking care of the environment has been sown. I often hear the comments “*Oh, Revd is not going to approve use of plastic, i.e. balloons for functions!*” We are exploring less paper usage and to have a water wise garden.



Manche Masemola, Eastbank, Lombardy East

Two JOJO tanks have been installed to capture rainwater to use for irrigation of the small garden.



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 publish an environmental quote in the pew leaflet each week
- 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 third Eco-Eucharist in Melville Koppies which was again well supported and enjoyed. It has become an annual event.
- A pet eucharist was held in the church garden in October, and many parishioners brought their pets.
- The project to install photo-voltaic cells to produce electricity during the day was funded by parishioner donations during the year and installed in November. In the period to end of November 50% of our electricity usage was supplied by the system.
- We have established a number of marked waste bins on the church premises for different materials to better enable recycling. We need to review this and have a monitoring system in place to ensure that it is properly used.
- The MPact Ronnie Bin installed just inside the Church property in January 2018 has been supported by parishioners depositing their wastepaper and cardboard. The proceeds have been better in 2019.
- We launched a project to encourage parishioners to produce Eco-bricks from plastic waste. Production of Eco-bricks has been much improved, and we supplied over 100 in the year.
- We involve our youth in eco activities where-ever possible.
- We are still investigating use of more affordable green cleaning products at the church.
- We had a Saturday morning ECO-walk in the Houghton Wilds in September as part of the Season of Creation. All who attended, mostly first timers, loved the outing.

Report on installation of a pv system at the church in 2019

The system

The parish ECO group has since 2014 been investigating the feasibility and cost of installing a PV system at the St Francis premises to save electricity and related costs, and contribute to a cleaner environment. The initiative was led by Peter Middleton. The first proposal to Council was in 2015 and further investigations and alternative quotes were obtained due to advancements in the technology.

In late 2018 a final proposal was submitted to Council for approval. Council accepted this in principle, subject to the required funding being raised. In early 2019 a final proposal was issued to parishioners appealing for funding. Sufficient funds were raised by September 2019 and the system was installed and commenced functioning in early November. The total cost was R136 000.

The panels are installed on the roof of the Sunday School room. See picture 1 below. Picture 2 shows the face of the 2 batteries, which are contained in the black box in picture 3, situated in the office. In picture 3 the big white box is the inverter which converts the solar energy to electricity which is for own use and any solar energy not consumed is stored in the batteries.

Electricity generated by the system is measured and recorded daily on a portal for access by the parish.

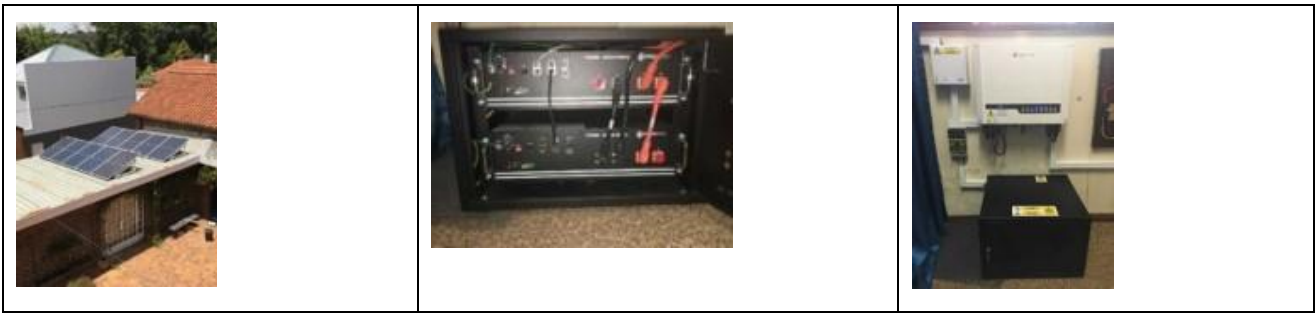
The rewards

The solar system will produce 15 kWh of 'free' electricity per sunny day, which will reduce our usage by about 33% and will save the parish approximately R8 500/year (at a present unit charge of R1.50). With the likely increases in electricity costs over the coming years, the return on the investment will improve further.

More importantly, every kWh saved prevents 0.95 kg of CO₂ from entering the environment where it will accelerate global warming. That means that our real contribution to saving our planet will be over 8 000 kg (8 tons) less CO₂ in our atmosphere: every year!

With continuing load shedding from Eskom a reality, St Francis will not be solely dependant on Eskom and will not experience the disruptions caused by the sudden switching off of electricity. In addition, the security of our parishioners at night will not be compromised as security lights and cameras will continue to work.

By introducing the PV System, St Francis is the first parish in the Diocese to initiate such a project and as such provides a model for other parishes to follow.



St Laurence's, Discovery

Eco-Spiritual Highlights for 2019

St Laurence's Anglican Church has grown in its eco-spiritual ministry in the past year with a commitment to paper, plastic, tin and bottle recycling, with limited composting due to small size of property.

Our garden is only planting indigenous going forward and uses eco-friendly garden products. We had an eco-spiritual pre-Lent quiet morning in the garden including outdoor Eucharist and had eco-themed services and liturgies throughout the months of June and September. In August, the priest-in-charge attended the Eco-Spiritual Clergy.

In September we appealed for potted plants in the church under the cross (instead of cut flowers) and then planted them in the garden in October. This was very popular and has continued. In November we purchased Jojo water harvesting tanks for the church garden and next door church property which soon filled up with rainwater.

We planned a picnic at Kloofendal in December but it was rained out. We have greatly reduced paper use and are relying more on email and WhatsApp and re-use one-sided paper when we really have to print.

One of our members attended the JAEI Greening Your Parish workshop in October and wants to get involved further.



St Michael and All Angels, Weltevreden Park

2019 Eco-Team Report - Some of the Highlights:

Sunrise Service - 3 February

The annual Sunrise Eucharist Service was held at Kloofendal Nature Reserve. Thanks to Revd. Helen Els for presiding, assisted by Revd Margie Visser and Tshenolo Tiholoe. The theme for World Wetland Day (held on the 2nd February) was "Wetlands and Climate Change". To illustrate this, we built a wetland food web from wool and then saw how various activities that we engage in destroys this precious resource that our Creator God has given us.

It was a very enjoyable morning with favorable comments received from everyone. Great fellowship was had over a picnic breakfast and several people joined Andy Branfield for a bird walk.



Less Plastic for Lent

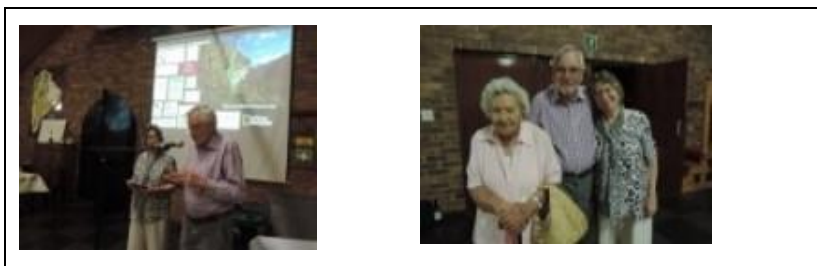
The Provincial “Less Plastic for Lent” initiative was encouraged during Lent.

An Evening with Rodney and Darla – 3 March

Again, it was our privilege to host a talk by Dr Rodney Jackson and Darla Hilliard.

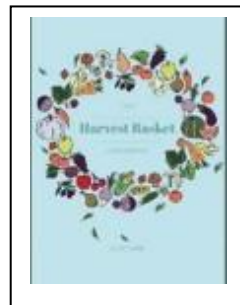
Rodney spoke about the recent work that the Snow Leopard Conservancy in Asia working with communities in the snow leopard range, as well as some of the people that he has met. Darla also spoke about the challenges of equipping and feeding the research team during their long stints away from civilization.

It was gratifying that we were able to raise R1125 – thanks to everyone who donated and a special thanks to the Golden Girls who chipped in a considerable amount! Darla used this money to buy beaded curios from “Blessed Hands” (a local income generating initiative). These curios were sold in the States at the various conventions Rodney and Darla attended realising considerably more than the \$78 dollars that our R1125 would have been if converted in the usual way!



Meat-out Day 20 March

A Vegetarian Recipe book was produced and sold at the end of March to mark Meat-out Day had two objectives - to raise awareness of our eating habits and the effect it has for the environment and to raise funds for the Owl Box project. (Some copies are still available at R100)



Owl Box Project

The sale of the recipe book provided enough funds for the owl box was installed by Eco-solutions on the 2nd May and attended by the children of the Vuleka School. This was also an opportunity to tell the children about owls and their positive relationship with the eco-system. The owl box was blessed on the 5th June.



Bird information

Information on the birds that frequent St Mike's grounds was launched through the use of colour prints with a brief introduction on each bird. The entrance outside the church was adorned with these wonderful birds. A different set of pictures is posted each week.

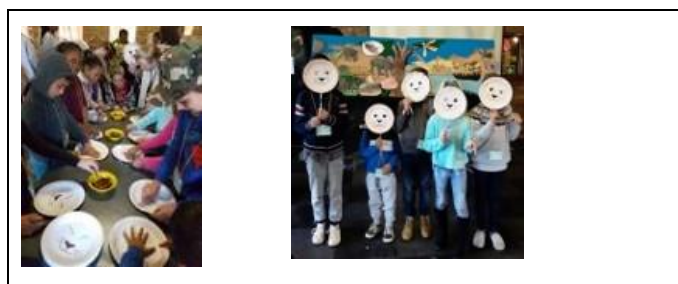
Bird walk –18 May

18 keen St Mikers joined Andy Bransfield for a Bird Walk at Kloofendal. The Group thoroughly enjoyed the morning and were treated to a rare sighting of the resident mountain reedbuck as well.



Holiday Club – 4 July

As the theme for the Holiday Club was "Out of Africa", The Eco-team did a session a fun session on the "Big 5 and Little 5". Lots of fun was had by the children, and hopefully they also were given new insight to some of God's amazing creatures.



St Mike's Eco-team / Vuleka Eco-ambassador Partnership



St Mike's have embarked on an ongoing initiative with the St Mikes Vuleka School to establish an Eco-ambassador programme. Two learners from Gr 6 and G7 will be appointed each year and be entrusted with various eco tasks.

The Objectives of this programme are to :

- Through knowledge and action-focus input, create awareness of environmental pollution and environmental issues and how this affects the community.
- Promote sustainable behaviours both in their school and community environments
- Provide support and assist with information transfer to other children
- Create and promote a green community
- To gain leadership skills.

The Ambassadors were given a work/activity manual to help them in their task. They were also able to spend some time at Kloofendal to experience nature first-hand.



Eco-brick project

The eco-brick project continues to be well supported.

On 20 July, we joined ADVA YSD to build our eco-brick bench. The site was chosen by a group of avid Vuleka soccer players. 275 bricks were used in the project which took some back-breaking effort and messy hands! Thank you to the willing team who helped with the building of the bench. Thank you to PicknPay for the sponsorship of the cement and the anonymous donor of the sand.

Revd Helen blessed the bench on the 15th August in a short ceremony attended by the Vuleka children.



JAEI/Birdlife Morning - 17th August

St Mike's was represented at the JAEI Sharing Morning at *BirdlifeSA* Head Office in Dunkeld. We were able to see first-hand an environmentally friendly building in action and enjoy their lovely gardens.

A wonderfully relaxed morning was had by all.



Spring/Season of Creation Service – 1 September

A special Spring/Season of Creation service was held outdoors on the 1st September. The Service culminated in the planting of the Butterfly Garden, a wonderful time of family involvement. Our grateful thanks to all who sponsored plants as well as Random Harvest Nursery for giving us these 90 plants at cost.



St Mike's Fete – 7 September

The Eco-team were responsible for the waste management at the annual fete. Recycling bins were constructed from apple boxes and worked a treat.

There was significantly less waste produced at this fete than in previous years.



Quiet Morning - 14 September



A small group enjoyed the Quiet morning led by Revd. Kevin Balkwill. Kevin led us through reflections centered on “Striking Roots”

World Food Day - 16 October

World Food Day was again celebrated by St Mikes when parishioners were encouraged to bring non-perishable food to the Services on 13 September. Food parcels were given to 3 child headed families that ACTS had been monitoring and also to identified destitute children in Zandspruit. The parcels were gratefully received – one family had absolutely no food and their parcel was received with tears of joy.



“The Footprint” Quarterly newsletter.

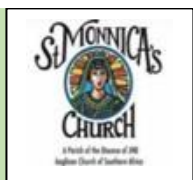
The “*Footprint*” continues to be a popular source of environmental information amongst Parishioners.

JAEI

St Mikes continues to be represented by Noeleen Mullett on the JAEI (Johannesburg Anglican Eco-spiritual Initiative) Committee.

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.
- Our thanks must go to the Clergy, Executive and Council who support and uphold environmental concerns both in Eco-theology and in the management of the Church and to our Eco-team who are thoroughly committed to their ministry.



St Monnica's, Halfway House

Background and general information:

- The St Monnica's Environmental Ministry comprises three members
- The facilitators are Mpho Rangaka, Puleng Tsatsi and Fridah Moatshe
- The programmes for 2019 was as follows:
- Paper recycling –throughout the Year,

- International Earth Hour – March 2019,
- Development of a food garden dubbed “The Garden of Life ”
- World Environmental Day- 5 June 2019,
- Season of Creation: Tree Planting Sep 2019\

Strategic Ministry Objective: To grow a sustainable Cristian Parish by empowering and creating awareness on eco-Spiritual topics discussed at JAEI.

Highlights & Successes

Successfully launched the	Activity	Success
Promote Avoidance, Reduction, Reuse and Recycling of waste.	Paper recycling and promotion of Eco Bricks to promote the recycling of single-use plastics Involve the Sunday School Ministry in decorating a Christmas tree made of recycled pieces of material and plastics	Successfully maintained paper recycling and introduction of Eco Bricks. Successful learnings on the use, reuse and recycling of material to develop something good out of it.
Develop food garden to promote food securities in the Parish family households	Introduce vegetable garden on the church grounds with the Youth Ministry	Piloted in 2019 to be fully executed in 2020.
Commitment to Create awareness on Climate Change impacts on the environment	Celebrate Earth Hour - a candle- light and fellowship service from 8:30 to 9:30pm A fellowship walk around the church premises under lamps and lanterns	The service has been celebrated for three Years in a row. Successful fellowship with the members of the parish
To commit to a Ministry of care and healing of the Earth	Demonstrate the ease of harvesting and planting seeds to the Sunday School and Youth Ministries. Provided children with (Pawpaw and pumpkin) seeds to plat at their respective homes.	Successfully demonstration and issuing of seeds to the children

Challenges & Proposed Solutions

Challenges	Proposed Solutions
Water restriction	Temporary use of Jojo Tanks and accessing groundwater through a borehole
Commitment of children and youth beyond the Sunday service	Facilitators to nominate youth leaders to run the projects

Participation of Parishioners in the Environmental Management Ministry	Advertise and request for volunteers to serve in the Ministry
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Planned Activities

List of the next Annual / quarter activities and dates

Dates	Activity	Objectives	Requirements
Feb-20	Recycling Drive (All year through)	Encourage paper recycling and reduce single use plastic shopping bags which are disposed by landfill.	Design and sell shopping bags unique to St. Monnica's to raise funds
Mar-20	International Earth Hour Day	To encourage the St Monnica community to switch off non-essential lights for one hour, 8:30pm to 9:30pm as part of our commitment to protect the planet against climate change	Special Service by candlelight (Candle decoration). Unplugged service. Bring and share. Source solar lights, torches and T-shirts to the congregants to raise funds.
Jun-20	World Environment Day (5/6)	Raise awareness on environmental stewardship	Special Environmental Service (Liturgy/hymns/Songs). Launch of Eco-Congregation (Banner & T-shirt). Join 702 Walk under the Eco Banner
Sep-20	Season of Creation: ECO Breakfast - Invite a Speaker	Encourage the planting of indigenous trees and succulents	Purchase and plant trees, flowers and create gardens. Encourage the use of pot plants for services during this period and plant these on the church premises at the end of the season. Encourage Ministries to bring pot plants.



St Paul's, Parkhurst

- Filling 2l plastic bottles with unrecyclables – Fiona Maskell is wonderful in delivering the scores of bottles received each week from the dedicated “fillers”
- Recycling plastic, paper and bottles and taking them to collection points
- Planting an indigenous remembrance and pavement garden
- Encouraging parishioners to donate plants rather than cut flowers for special occasions
- Rainwater harvesting
- Composting garden and kitchen waste

We trust that our example is encouraging another 150 families to cherish our environment.



St Thomas, Linden

- We continue to make eco bricks
- We celebrated Season of Creation
- The monthly Enviro prayer diary is circulated to parishioners
- We attended the parish greening workshop
- We continue to do recycling in our kitchen
- Our eco ministry noticeboard is updated regularly
- We held a Cosmos Walk in Delta Park



www.jaei.org.za