



APRIL 2025

Dear Prayer Partners

Though a little premature, as there are still a few weeks of Lent to get through, we would like to wish you a Happy and Blessed Easter.

In our last prayer letter we said goodbye to Anna after 18 years of service. Now we would like to welcome Veroza as part of our housekeeping team.

Our March calendar was a full one as we welcomed back some of our regular groups— The Tutu Foundation, presenting their Leadership for Humanity course. They transformed our meeting room into a colourful lounging area with beanbags.

Our next group were the choristers from Songroots, with participants coming from Canada and USA. Here they meet up with Bongani and some local choristers. They have an intense week of practice to form a choir as most of them have never sung together before. While I am writing this I am listening to the recording of the choir. If you are interested in hearing them, here is the link.

[https://youtube.com/live/\\_RrEnTqXhE8?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/_RrEnTqXhE8?feature=share)



Our next group were the participants in the Soul of Leadership. For more information on both this and Leadership for Humanity, see Wilma's Chaplains Corner.

We ended the month with Every Nation Youth Leaders who had their conference here. As it was from Wednesday to Saturday we were able to enjoy their morning worship session before they started their program.



Needless to say all these groups have kept our ladies busy. In the mean time the men continue to keep the gardens looking good as well as doing smaller projects to improve things on Volmoed. One of these projects is the revamping of the path from the residents road to the Chapel.

Looking at the picture I am reminded of Jacob's ladder so in my minds eye I can see the Volmoed angels using it as well. This prompted me to read the account in Gen 28:10 onward. As I read verse 15 I prayed for you and over Volmoed, God's words to Jacob —"I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

**Esther**



The above picture was painted by Alyson Guy and hangs in Oak Cottage at present.

Depending on your geographic location Easter is either in Spring or Autumn. For us it is Autumn and when I saw the painting while in Oak the autumn colours fitted in with the time of the year.

#### TO ALL VOLMOED FRIENDS

##### The Future of St Benedict's Priory @ Volmoed

Over the past few years Volmoed has been blessed by the presence of the monks of the Order of the Holy Cross at St Benedict's Priory. When they first came to live at Volmoed we always understood that this was part of their search for a location where they could eventually establish their own monastery. Since coming to Volmoed the Priory has become very much a part of the life of Volmoed, but it has also grown in number and increasingly felt the need for more accommodation as well as to become more independent and self-sustainable. This has not become possible at Volmoed even though we have explored various options. So, after much prayerful reflection, the Order has finally decided that the time has come to relocate as soon as they have found a suitable property. Until then, they will continue to be part of our life together at Volmoed. We will be sad to say farewell when the time comes but, in the meantime, we assure them of our prayerful support as they discern the way forward.

John de Gruchy

Chair of the Board of Trustees.

#### **APRIL VISITORS**

Our April visitors are mainly individuals.

Over the Easter Weekend the members of the of DF Malan High School Brass Band will be staying on Volmoed.