



ORDER OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

NEWSLETTER: 3 OF 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE WARDEN YOUNG CARR

A Message for Our Times: "Make God Great Again"

Written by Warden YW CARR

Greeting & Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ across South Africa,

As we close the year 2025, we give thanks to our Lord for His faithfulness and guidance. We celebrate the victories, acknowledge the challenges, and look forward with hope to the opportunities ahead. "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you."

(Numbers 6:24-25)

Reflection on 2025: Challenges & Opportunities

This year has been marked by both trials and triumphs. We faced challenges with our NPO registration process and mourned the loss of beloved members. Yet, we also celebrated new beginnings with the launch of our new website,

ABOUT OCS

FOUNDED IN 1955, THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE EXISTS TO SERVE THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST BY MEANS OF SUPPLYING MANPOWER FOR ALL TYPES OF EMPLOYMENT IN GOD'S SERVICE

"FOR WE DO NOT PREACH OURSELVES, BUT JESUS CHRIST AS LORD, AND OURSELVES AS YOUR SERVANTS FOR JESUS, SAKE" 2 CORINTHIANS 4:5



unveiling of our new logo, and the establishment of training partnerships. “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.” (James 1:2-3)

Educational Growth & Training

The OCS website now offers a wide range of resources—from free short courses to degrees in theology and ministry. These initiatives equip our members to grow in knowledge and service. “Study to show yourself approved unto God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)

Partnerships & Outreach

We are blessed to have partnered with Gideons International SA to support Bible distribution, and with various chaplaincy organizations to strengthen our outreach. Together, we participated in numerous community and missionary projects, extending the love of Christ to those in need. “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” (Mark 16:15)

Prayer & Fellowship

Our WhatsApp prayer groups have been a source of encouragement, allowing us to pray for one another, celebrate birthdays, and remain connected. We continue to lift up the families of members we lost this year, trusting in God’s comfort. “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42)

Thanksgiving for Rev. Tony

We give heartfelt thanks to God for sparing Rev. Tony after his medical situation. His continued presence among us is a testimony of God’s mercy and grace. “I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.” (Psalm 9:1)

Vision for 2026

Looking ahead, our focus will be on:

- Growing our membership through dedicated campaigns.
- Raising funds to support projects and outreach.
- Recruiting Christian workers to serve the Kingdom.

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” (Matthew 9:37-38)



Closing Blessing & Christmas Message

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, may each of you experience His peace and joy. We wish all members a safe, happy, and Christlike Christmas, and a prosperous New Year filled with faith and hope.

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.” (Luke 2:14)

🙏 From the leadership of the Order of Christian Service, thank you for your dedication, prayers, and service. May God continue to guide us into 2026 with renewed strength and vision.

Blessings

Young Carr

Warden, Order of Christian Service



JOHN 3:16:

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A REPORT FROM HEATHER JOHNSTONE

Location: Ta Tanzania

What I do: Helping to empower the most disadvantaged women and children in Mara through the Rehema Project.

Greetings to you All

Two praiseworthy stories from Rehema

Two young girls, Mariam (9) and Christina (8) always come and visit me at Rehema when their grandmother is attending choir practice at the cathedral (next door). It's very exciting and they chatter away, draw pictures and 'hang out'. Their mother died a few years ago and their father abandoned them leaving their grandmother to fend for them. During one of their visits, our cook, Mode, asked me if Mariam was sick. I told her that I didn't know but didn't think so. Mode later asked the same question to her grandmother, as just by looking at her she suspected the girl either had Sickle Cell Anaemia or HIV Aids. The grandmother confirmed that Mariam did indeed have Sickle Cell Anaemia but confessed that she hadn't taken her for her monthly check up for several months because she had no money for transport to get to the hospital, never mind the treatment or prescribed medicine. The monthly cost is about Tsh 40,000 (£13). We told her we would be more than happy to support her with these costs through our Assistance Programme as it is so important for Mariam and her future. She was so relieved and grateful.

Praise/Prayer Point: Thanks be to God for aligning us with this family enabling them to get this much needed treatment for Mariam. Pray for her as she fights this terrible disease.

A name you will have heard of before is Kenneth, who was named after my late father. Kenneth broke his arm in November last year. The treatment he received was very poor and the arm never healed properly. I saw him some months ago and noticed he was protecting his left arm and doing everything with the good arm. His mother told me the bone had never set properly, and he was favouring his right arm as it was painful to use the left one. I told her if he continued to use only the right arm that would create future problems due to muscle wastage etc. The problem could not be ignored, and I thought medical intervention was needed. She consulted a specialist doctor at the Government Hospital and corrective surgery was recommended.



HEATHER AND XANDRA



MARIAM AND CHRISTINA



A REPORT FROM HEATHER JOHNSTONE

Praise/Prayer Point: We give thanks for the generous donations received to cover the cost of Kenneth's surgery and after-care. Praise God that the 2.5-hour operation was a success. Continue to pray for Kenneth's rehabilitation.

More Catering opportunities

Following on from the huge challenge and responsibility of cooking for the former President of Tanzania and his fellow dignitaries, we have been expanding our catering services.

Not that long ago we catered breakfast, lunch and dinner for the group of ordinands for one week and for 320 people including special guests Jono Vink and Tim Swan from Australia at the ordination service on the Sunday.

More recently we catered for 205 people at ACT Mara Pre & Primary School's graduation service. The team did brilliantly and the parents attending the service declared that.

Praise/Prayer Point: Give thanks for the fantastic group of hard-working Rehema women and for this great opportunity to shine.

VIP visitors

Jono Vink's visit

It was a great privilege and joy to have Jono Vink visit. It was the first time we'd seen him since he and the family left their service as missionaries in the Diocese of Mara in June 2016. There was a time for sadness as he remembered his beloved wife, Amy, who passed away earlier in the year. But also, a time for great joy as he celebrated everything they had achieved as co-founders of Rehema. There was a time for prayer and thanksgiving as we celebrated all they had achieved in Mara.

My brother Craig's visit

We were also privileged to have my brother visit with his partner, Tracy. Craig has wanted to visit for some time but didn't simply want to fly in and visit for a week or two. He wanted an authentic overland African adventure.

He and Tracy drove 9,000km from Cape Town in South Africa to Musoma, Mara to visit me and see the Rehema Project firsthand.

A REPORT FROM HEATHER JOHNSTONE

We went to visit the children at the nursery school at Nyambeshi, which was very joyous. All the children were treated to an ice lolly, as Craig has a fridge/freezer in his SUV. As there is no electricity in Nyambeshi, this was a very rare and well received treat indeed.

Whilst in Nyambeshi we also went to visit the granddaughter of Cesi, who is named Xandra after our late mother. We shared a meal of rice and beans and got to know the lovely 'Xandu' who coincidentally seems to have the same gentle temperament as our dear departed mum.

The Rehema women pulled all the stops out and held a special celebration to honour these extremely honoured guests. Craig and Tracy were blown away by the generosity of the women and the fantastic hospitality they received. Theirs really was the Africa trip of a lifetime; they took three months, visited 10 countries and put 22,000 km on the clock, but their highlight was the time spent in Musoma. They are still talking about their amazing visit to Mara.

Praise/Prayer Point: Praise the Lord and give thanks for his protection over Craig and Tracy on their epic safari.

A big thank you to my friends and supporters, for your encouragement, financial and prayerful support, and love throughout the year, 2025.

I wish you peace, goodwill, and happiness at Christmas, and always.

Mungu akuwabariki.



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A REPORT FROM PHILIP STONEMAN

Dear friends in Christ,

A week ago, my wife and I celebrated our 21st wedding anniversary—a milestone of love, partnership, and God's faithfulness. At the same time, I found myself reflecting on another journey: I have now been serving as a caregiver and chaplain for 24 years. These two anniversaries remind me that both family and ministry are sacred callings, and both require intentional care.

Over these decades, I have seen the beauty of resilience and the heavy toll of trauma. In the last few months, I've responded to a few call-outs, namely 2-3 armed robberies, suicide and natural death, I've provided 7 trauma counselling sessions, led 2 well attended webinars on trauma and self-care, developed training materials, and mentored our volunteers in their own ministry. I am increasingly aware though that self-care is not optional—it is essential. The last 6 months have been a challenge organizationally – a key member left our team and that was a catalyst for rebuilding relationships – a slow and sometime difficult task.

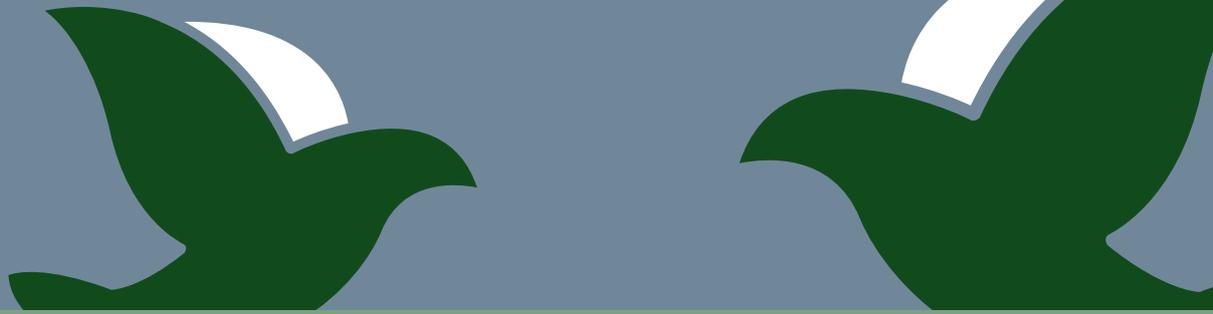
Finally, this next month God has provided an opportunity to do a bit of extra work away from home whilst allowing me time to visit my mom (who is 90 years of age) and sister in the Eastern Cape. My family will be joining me as well – A much needed holiday for rest and renewal.

Spiritually and emotionally, I am learning to (try) embrace rhythms of rest, prayer, and family time... These moments of connection reminded me that caregiving flows best when we serve from a place of renewal, not depletion.

My prayer is that each of us will remember we cannot pour from an empty vessel. May we serve from the overflow of God's grace, finding balance in ministry and family, and strength in Christ's presence.

With gratitude and hope,
Philip Stoneman

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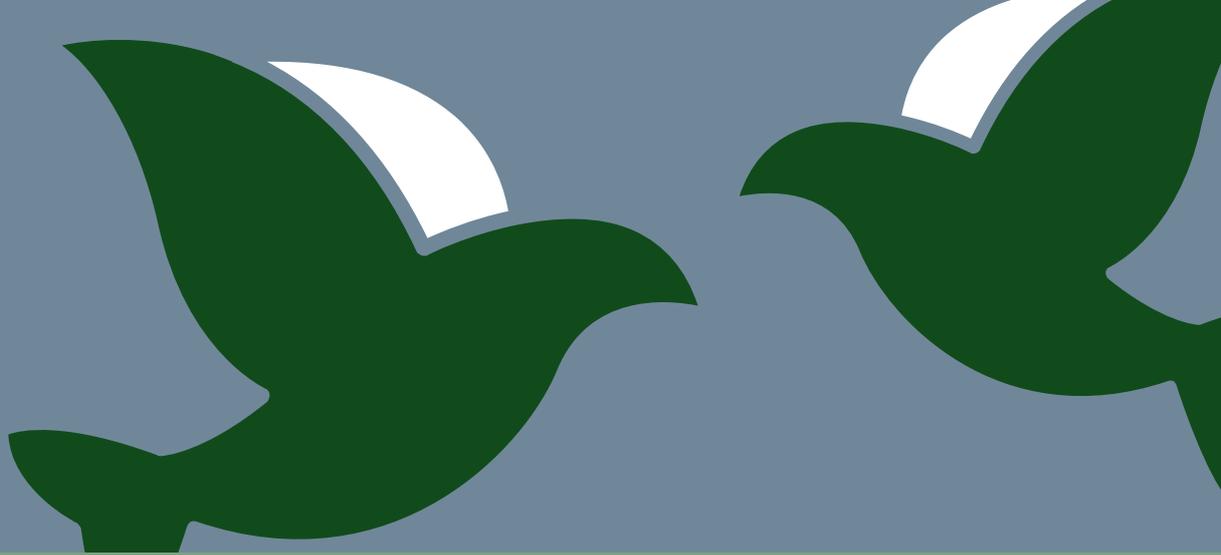
PS – I've attached a picture of my extended family.



"From Surviving to Thriving"

My sister-in-law – an example of resilience: Close on three years ago, She and my nephew were viciously attacked by a family dog, leading to a coma in ICU and the loss of her limb. Both survived and are thriving - by God's grace and strength.





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A REPORT FROM TERESA STUTHRIDGE

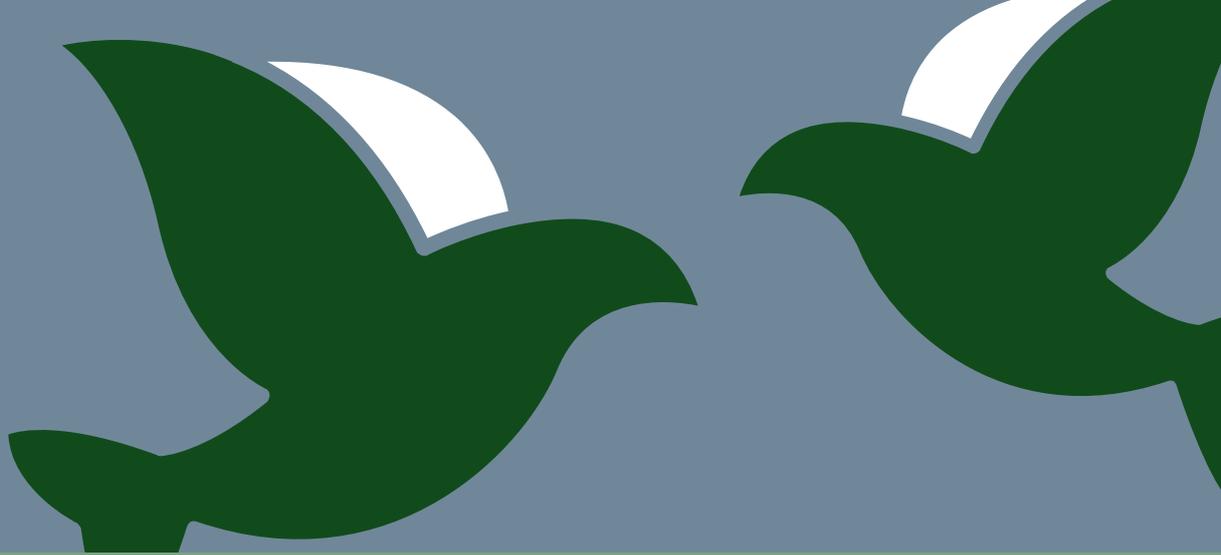
Greetings to all of our OCS friends in the name of our Lord and Saviour!

To say that the last year has been a challenge would be an understatement. There have been so many curve balls thrown at us (my husband and I) that we have decided if we learn to run straight some of the balls might miss ☺

Our church has got to the point where it is unsafe to be inside the sanctuary and we are still waiting for the powers that be to decide about the repairs... so I made an executive decision all by myself and decided to move the sanctuary into the hall and now we can worship in a nice dry place. Pictures included...

I love my work/ministry but sometimes people forget that we have a life which comes with what we do in a public arena... my husband's work has been seriously delayed because someone at OR Tambo. Customs decided to hold our shipment for the best part of two months ... the shipment has now been released but now we have to get everything delivered and installed and signed off before we can even think of invoicing ... and they say this too shall pass ☺





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A REPORT FROM TERESA STUTHRIDGE

Anyway we (the congregation and my family) are looking forward to a nice quiet and peaceful Christmas season. I have a new family that has joined us recently (never attended church previously) and the lady has been helping me with mopping up water and moving etc... and when I said thank you ... she said well this isn't just any church... this is OUR church. I thought that was very special. Our God is good...

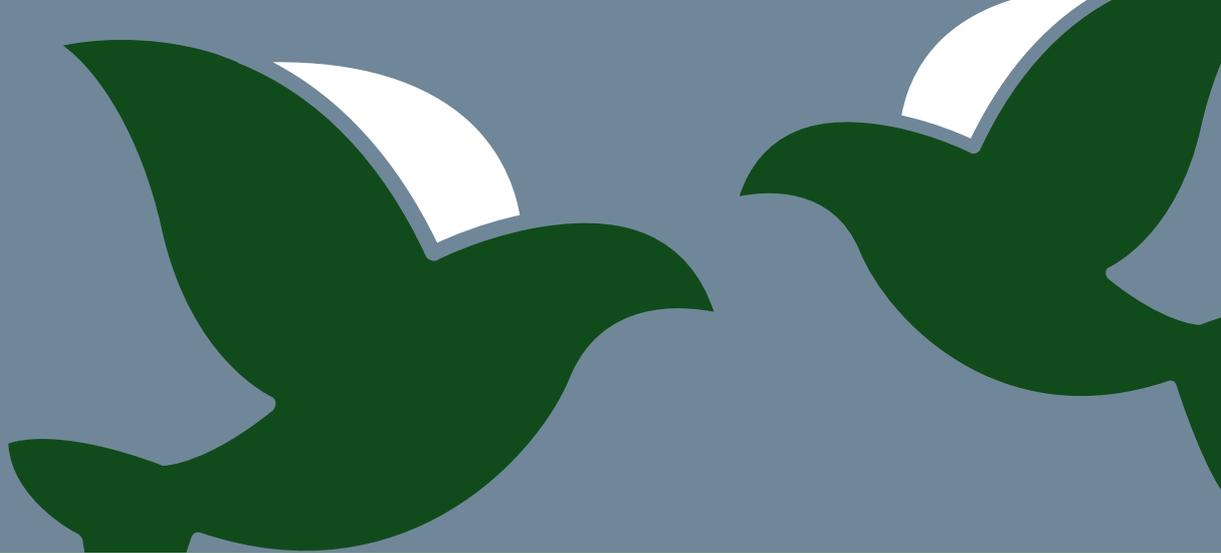
I spoke to Donald Cloete's son Jeff today and he says that Donald is doing very well so I think all the prayer that we have been giving to the Lord certainly has been answered.

Thank you to all of those who keep all the field workers in prayer and encourage us... a special thank you to those who check in with us to see how we are doing!! And especially to our Lord for blessing us everyday.

God bless
 Ps. Teresa Stuthridge



ROMANS 5:8:
"BUT GOD
DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN
LOVE FOR US
IN THIS:
WHILE WE
WERE STILL
SINNERS,
CHRIST DIED
FOR US."



A MESSAGE FROM LIZ HARRISON

I greet you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This year has been an exciting but also challenging year as the needs in communities keep growing. Our focus this year has been reaching out to Safety Houses for abandoned and vulnerable babies and we have assisted two organisations.

Let's start with the exciting bit first. Together with my daughter we went to Hannah's place of safety, taking a car load of much needed baby supplies for vulnerable and abandoned babies. We approached the OCS executive who blessed the outreach project with a financial gift.

On a second occasion there was a desperate plea for diapers. OCS once again assisted us. We are currently making up Safety packs and have distributed 48 packs to social workers in two months. These packs are given to Safety Parents who take in babies and children and often have nothing. The challenging bit, is that the need is big and often we give out 6-12 packs at a time which are distributed on the same day. Sadly, that means all those babies were removed from their parents

To each and every OCS home member, thank you for your prayers and financial support. You have part of an exciting outreach, that is a tangible representation of God's love.

Thank you for making a difference. You are appreciated.

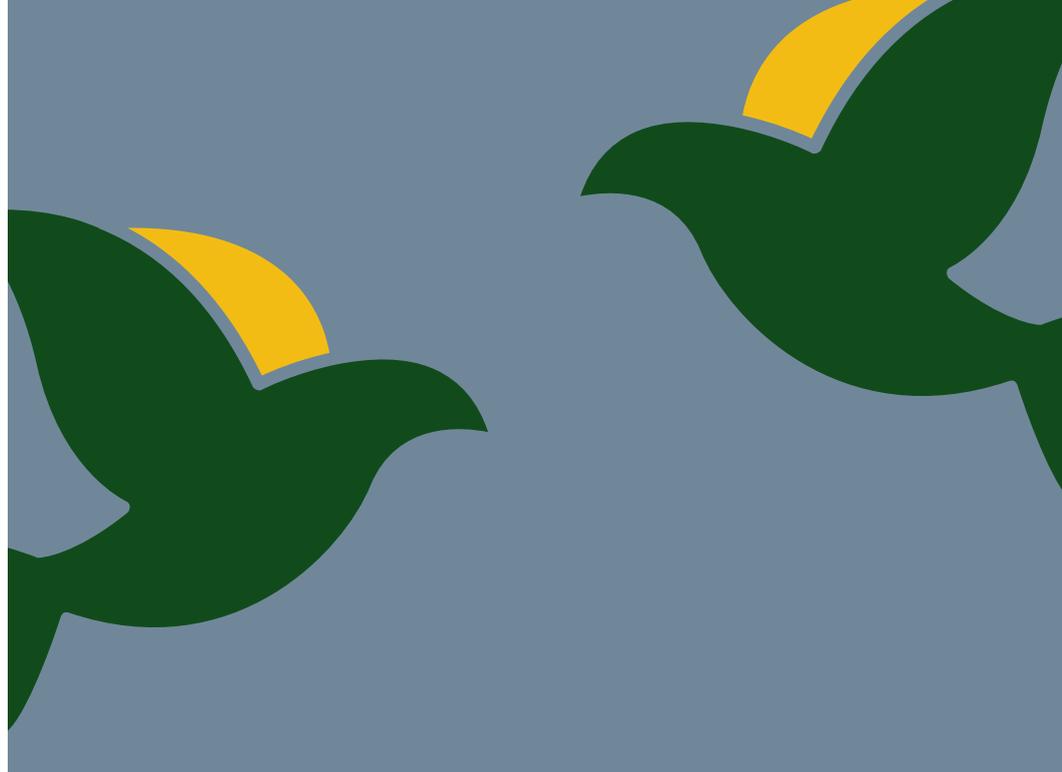
We are excited to see what 2026 holds for this project.

Many blessings for this Advent Season.

Liz Harrison

For A Tim Such As This

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WHATSAPP

If you have not joined the OCS WhatsApp group, I encourage you to do so by follow this link to join the WhatsApp group:



Click the Icon to join

THE BANKING DETAILS OF THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Account Name: THE ORDER OF
CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Bank: First National Bank; Account
No: 51460055557; Universal Branch
Code: 250655

Reference - You name (so that we
can personally thank you)

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF THE ORDER

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BLESSINGS,
WARDEN YOUNG CARR
ORDER OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Birthday Norman Madlala	2 Bernadine Adams	3 Annamarie Alexander
4 Ruth Armstrong	5 Birthday Dominique Murchie	6 Pat Atkinson	7 Elias Baloyi	8 Birthday Erica Bethke	9 Elsie Banwell	10 Birthday Mavis Carter
11 Birthday Katy du Bazane	12 Birthday Margaret Fourie	13 Rodney Baumeister	14 Methodist Church Bedfordvie w	15 Birthday Evans Ngobeni	16 Joy Bennett	17 Harvey Berriman
18 Mrs Berriman	19 Birthday Andisiwe Nyamela	20 Tim Black	21 Siyabonga Bodlo	22 Birthday Clive Sparks	23 Birthday Harry Ledwaba; Elize Knoetze	24 MCE Bonkambule
25 Birthday Janneth Mahunda	26 Birthday Matthew Carr	27 Birthday Young Carr	28 Gail Botha	29 Shaun Botha	30 Coral Bowler	31 Methodist Church Brits

FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Birthday Selby Vorster	2 Birthday Shaun Carr	3 Janet Brodrick	4 Jacqueline Bruce	5 Methodist Church Bryanston	6 Nosipho Cele	7 Methodist Church Central
8 Birthday Beryl Wesson	9 Evelyn Charles	10 Daryl Cloete	11 Donald Cloete	12 Jeffrey Cloete	13 Birthday Melikhaya Mqulwana	14 Johannes Cloete
15 Jonathan Cook	16 Mary Cotterell	17 Birthday Geoffey Jooste; Joann Julius	18 Hulbert Craw Cour	19 Dick Cullingworth	20 Raye Cullingworth	21 Hewat Dale-Kuys
22 Barbara Davies	23 Birthday Mariana Evans	24 Pierre de Bruyn	25 Helaine Deacon	26 Sandy Dickie	27 Sue Dickie	28 Aquilla Dlamba

BIRTHDAYS

MARCH 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Tobeka Hafiyeke	2 Hendrick Hanse	3 Birthday Tony Bethke	4 Christa Holgate	5 Trevor Harrison	6 Aline Edmonds	7 Nico Erasmus
8 Hilary Evans	9 Ken Evans	10 Anita Fitchet	11 Ivan Fitchet	12 Elize Fortuin	13 Eddie Francis	14 Christian Futshane
15 Birthday Stella Clarke; Philip Fourie	16 Karin Garrett	17 Carmen Gertze	18 Birthday Oswin Kretzmann	19 John Gertze	20 Birthday James Adams	21 Birthday Sally Yatt
22 Birthday Sabelo Matsweli	23 J Goosen	24 Pam Grassow	25 June Gray	26 Melanie Gray	27 Archie Green	28 Bill Griffin
29 Mervyn Griffiths	30 Birthday Heather Johnstone	31 Herman Groenewald				

APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Birthday Louise Carr	2 Mrs Dlamini	3 Eric Dorey	4 Birthday Martin Erasmus
5 Mrs Hanse	6 Elizabeth Harrison	7 Johann Ebershon	8 Birthday Hilary Coventry; Tom Noot	9 Ralph Hayton	10 Daillin Hector	11 Nompikiso Hesewu
12 James High	13 Joy High	14 Trevor Hingle	15 Birthday Maxine Cloete	16 Gerda Hoare	17 Jonathan Hobson	18 Tertius Dormehl
19 Stephen Holgate	20 Estelle Hudson	21 Birthday Cheryl Fulton	22 Norman Hudson	23 Anja Human-Hendricks	24 Jenny Ingpen	25 Bryan Jacobs
26 David Jacobs	27 EA Jacobs	28 Mary Jacobs	29 Birthday Joseph Maluleke	30 Tony James		