

JANUARY

We are Church

A progressive, inclusive Christian faith community for all of God's people to be safe, seen and celebrated.

January 2024

Hi everyone,

Dates for your calendar

Here are some dates for your calendar.

- 11 February 2024
- 25 February 2024
- 10 March 2024
- 31 March 2024 - EASTER SUNDAY

Please note this is the 5th Sunday and not the 4th! I thought instead of us meeting on the 4th Sunday we could rather meet at Easter.

January 2024

We closed off our year with the most fabulous Christmas Carol Service on 10 December 2023. Trish and NJ managed to put pull together 15 singers and musicians. Thank you to you all for participating.

What was thrilling for me was that so many people got involved in the preparation and logistics.

We had Xenobia and Bernice doing the decorations, Tanya doing the tree, Save, Fabian, Henry, Bert and Nigel reading the scriptures, not only in English but in their mother tongues too.

We had a kid's drama put together by the ever-dramatic, Lois, as well as eats from Dana, Charlotte, Nicola and Lara.



What was particularly meaningful was to hear testimonies from Lukie, Kevin, Xenobia and Laurel sharing about how they had experienced 2023 and what Emmanuel had meant to them.

There was a real sense of celebration and of thankfulness for our community and the goodness of



God in sending his son Jesus to be amongst us.

There were 85 people at our service that day. God is growing WAC friends.



We also said goodbye to Laurel and Laura in December. They are moving to Scotland where Laurel will be working as a carer. We will miss them but we know God has great things in store for them.

We gathered again on 14 January after not seeing one another for around 6 weeks. Jane reminded us of why we exist as We are Church and used a quote from Brian McLaren to summarise what it is we stand for:

'Conventional faith communities produce adherents to beliefs, many of whom are indistinguishable from religious customers who make transactions with religious professionals to receive an array of religious goods and services. But progressive, inclusive communities produce spiritual activists, whose faith expresses itself in socially transforming love, politically liberating love and ecologically restoring love.'

Jane preached from John 1:43-51. Here is the link to the sermon if you missed it:
<https://youtu.be/9ZIMmxDD6Ok>

On 28 January Nicola preached from Mark 1:21-28. Wow, this sermon was POWERFUL and is a must listen. Please do that if you were unable to attend. Here is the link:
<https://youtu.be/DJWne0qwt dw>

Finance Update

Bellavista School do not 'charge' us rental for using the hall twice a month. We simply pay Max, the caretaker of the property, a nominal amount for opening and closing for us each week. So we felt that giving a financial gratuity to Bellavista once a year would be an appropriate gesture. We did this in January 2024.

- Our Investment account continues to grow.
- We continue to give a set amount per month to 'Be True 2 Me' and 'Neighbours'.
- We give R500 to the teens to distribute to causes they deem important. In January they gave this money to the Adullum Art Project.

Banking details

If you would like to make a contribution to We are Church, here are the details:

FNB Current Account

Account Name: We Are Church

Account Number: 6302 7817 569

General Notices

Here are some of the ways you can serve at We are Church:

- Preach
- Sing
- Read the scriptures
- Lead communion
- Help with setup
- Teach kids or teens
- Bring eats
- Lead prayers

If you would like to get involved by serving in any of these ways, please get in touch
(jane@codrington.biz)

Some helpful resources

If you would like to have a ready-made playlist of **worship** songs available to you, here is something that you may enjoy.

<https://music.apple.com/gb/playlist/we-are-church-worship/pl.u-vxy6k04C1oKo9b>

This is the link to the "We are Church" **YouTube Channel**. This is where the recordings of our talks are kept. Please go there and subscribe. Once we have 100 subscribers we will be able to name it "We are Church".

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzk3t1lg1v-ADNAd3_rQ-zA

Some of you may want to follow the readings that I often refer to. Here is the **Lectionary** link:

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/daily.php?year=B>