



The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem

FOUNDED AS A HOSPITALLER ORDER IN 370AD AND AS A MILITARY ORDER IN 1098

Western Cape Commandery,
Grand Bailiwick of South Africa

NEWSLETTER

25th September 2016

Fellow Lazarites.

Since our last newsletter, the following items will be of interest to you.

Our friends up north in **the Grand Priory of Zimbabwe** are still involved in doing good work within the leper community and raising funds through their monthly book sale. As with us, they have already recently published their own newsletter. Anyone wishing to receive this in future should e-mail me.

Our **VIGIL** and **INVESTITURE** turned out well and moved successfully smoothly. A Warm welcome to Assistant Chaplain, **Terry Wilke** and new Associates **Shaun** and **Rouxlé Moffitt** and **Stefan Schmid**. The Act of Rededication that appeared for the first time in our Vigil Service is to be retained, by common consent.

Your committee has decided that - time and candidates allowing - we will stage a second Vigil and Investiture Service before our AGM in March next year.

SARS CERTIFICATION. It is likely that we are well on the road to finally having our SARS-generated tax exemption certificate in place. This will assist individuals and corporates who help us, to gain tax relief on donations. **Selwyn Veley** has this in hand. Our traditional **END OF YEAR SERVICE** and **LUNCH** is being organised by a team headed by **Mike Allen** and we'll likely change venues for lunch this year.

NEW DELEGATION We have the exciting news that Hannah is initiating a new Delegation in the Stellenbosch campus and that they are busy with charitable work already. In an area West of Johannesburg there are indications that a second Delegation will form, under the guidance and mentorship - at this stage - of Western Cape Commandery.

JAMES is building a larger data base and his mandate is to source access to many clergy, congregations and youth group across all Cristian denominations in the Western Cape. Over time, they will learn who we are and the work we do. We believe that in this way, we will get far greater acceptance in and support from the broader Christian community.

CAROLINE'S 'TEA FOR PEACE' PILGRIMAGE

Caroline is now back in town and I'm sure that we'll soon get a really good debrief on the challenges and opportunities she encountered on this journey.



MANDELA DAY.

A great project cobbled together by **Billy and Oleen**, was a visit to Sarah Fox Children's Hospital with piles of buckets, mobs detergents and the like, to take on the job of scrubbing and cleaning the laundry, wards and windows at **Sarah Fox Children's Hospital** for the terminally ill and those in need of palliative care.

Seems that they - along with **Johan, Mike and Heather, Mac, Sandra, Philip, Chris, Caroline and William** - had a whale of a time

Missing from the photograph are **Philip** and **Sandra**, who also provided lunch for the team and staff at the hospital.

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SPRING VISIT TO CHRISTINE REVELL

A group of us thoroughly enjoyed our spring visit to **Christine Revell** Children's Home. Young Jamie was in his element and handed out piles of his and his friend's donated toys to the kids there.

It was good to hear **Pieter Postema** and Director, **Alicia Rhoda**, run through some of the challenges and opportunities that daily face the management team at the home.



INACTIVE LIST

Those members who are no longer visibly active and no longer pay their small oblations, have now been placed on an Inactive List

ROBBEN ISLAND VISIT

Jen is running with a project to arrange for members to visit the Leper's Chapel on Robben Island where we have a historical connection. The plan is to hold a simple commemorative service, in our mantles. This will be in October or November.

INTERNATIONAL DONATION

We have received a substantial donation from the Grand Priory of Finland, made directly to Christine Revel Children's Home. This will contribute significantly to the erection of a badly needed secure palisade-style perimeter fence with an electrified top element.

FUND RAISING REPORT BACK

The money raised by our successful Burns Dinner partnership in February is to be spent in two ways.

The first - in line with our hospitaller mandate - is a sizeable purchase of healthcare products (hopefully in partnership with a major pharmaceuticals chain to make our Rands stretch further) for each of our two child care beneficiary organisations.

The second is to cover the likely cost of labour on several of the upgrade projects we are currently involved in at Sarah Fox.

CURRENT PROJECTS

SARAH FOX



MILK ROOM. Shaun has taken on the key project of managing a significant upgrade of this facility, which failed a recent Dept. of Health inspection. He has project management experience of this sort of thing, and through his dad, has some valuable contacts that will likely come in as partners on this project. Our aim is to get this largely completed before year end.

Freezer repair. It was fairly easy to persuade the original manufacturers of the two decades-old freezer to have it checked out and to arrange its upgrade and repair. The unit hasn't worked in ages and was merely being used as a storage facility. Enter the team from COLDTECH who assessed the problems and quickly replaced the costly compressor, re-gassed the unit and exchanged the thermometer. This was all done at no cost to the Hospital or our Commandery.

Another bit of good news is that our new Associate, **Rouxlé**, has used her connections to good effect by getting the street lights outside the hospital repaired all the way to the station (so that night staff can travel with greater safety), has had the City's Problem Building Team take a greater interest in the vagrant squat next door, has helped the Hospital reduce its electricity bill by over R17K a month and will keep a watchful eye on any other similar problems that may in future occur for the hospital.

She will be helping Christine Revell in the same way, where necessary.

MOTHER'S ROOM. Heather and Cherry have already made a substantial change in the appearance of the room, with the electrical work already completed, the room repainted (Mike landed a donation of the paint) and new linen and other soft furnishing to go in shortly, along with an air conditioner donated by Micheil Armstrong and a flat screen TV donated by Tam's dad, Selwyn. This room will be completed once we've installed the lockable cupboards (due to go in with the upgrade of the Milk Room) and we've found a partner to erect good burglar proofing outside.

WOOL PROJECT We've received another batch of knitted baby comforters (Cherry's project) and crocheted beanies and blankets (Stefan's Nutty Knitters connection) and these have all gone to their intended recipients, including some impoverished elderly folk in Lotus River, thanks to timely help from Heather.

TARTAN TEDDIES We've had another order from Wynberg Boys, but there are around 60 of these 'great gift for Christmas' teddies that need to be sold. If you have any leads or ideas where we can sell these, please connect with Lititia on littpo@gmail.com

BURNS DINNER 2017

Heather has agreed to head the Commandery's team on this vitally important partnership project and will dive right into it as soon as she's back in town from Spain in a couple of weeks.

FACEBOOK PAGE

Love it or hate it, Facebook is a reality. It's a platform where we can show and talk about what we're about and what we're doing. Very few of our members are posting stuff, which is a pity. Feel free to post on our Grand Bailiwick's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/stlazarus.sa> We will shortly be revisiting our Webpage to update this too.

I also earnestly suggest that you visit the Order's International Website <http://www.st-lazarus.net> and send me anything you feel should be on our own Grand Bailiwick's Web page.

FRIENDS

It has long been a concept within our Order that a number of people with whom we mix socially are interested in what we do, but are unwilling to commit through the Vigil and Investiture Service to obligate to the same Christian value system under which we work.

These 'Friends' are a valuable asset and can make a substantial input if we get them involved. Such work is also recognised for what it is and various certificates and medals can be awarded in similar fashion.

AROUND THE WORLD

We have recently received notification of a number of national Investitures which will be taking place around Europe during our summer. If you're headed that way, there is no reason why you should not attend if you so wish.

Grand Bailiwick of Austria	26 November 2016	https://www.st-lazarus.net/en/events-news/events/276-austria-national-investiture
Delegation of Denmark	28-29 October 2016	https://www.st-lazarus.net/en/events-news/events/253-denmark-investiture-and-gala-dinner
Grand Bailiwick of the Netherlands	1 October 2016	https://www.st-lazarus.net/en/events-news/events/289-netherlands-national-investiture
Priory of the Maltese Islands	12 November 2016	https://www.st-lazarus.net/en/events-news/events/288-malta-national-investiture
Grand Priory of England & Wales	28-29 October 2016	https://www.st-lazarus.net/en/events-news/events/290-england-wales-national-investiture

Full details of each event have been published on the international website and may be accessed by following the links above.

You can be assured of a very warm welcome if you are able to attend any of these events.

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If you have any issue or idea that you'd like to be tabled for your committee's meetings please let **Anthony Lister** or me know.

IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA for one of our projects or perhaps to run one of your own or even know of a person or organisation who would be willing to partner with us on one of our projects, please make connect with me so that we can talk this through.

Will

WILL CARTER
Commander: Western Cape Commandery