



IN TOUCH JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2025

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Warmest greetings in the love of Jesus as we welcome the change of seasons. This month we welcome new members, Kobus and Levina Lombard, into our St Francis family, and we look forward to sharing with them in worship and fellowship. We also welcome Richard and Sue Harrison back to Sedgefield and SFUC and it is good to have Marie Theron and Ingrid de Villiers back in our Sunday services. We praise God for answered prayers.

A number of our folk have travelled recently and we welcome home, Louie Looock (Holland); Gerald and Ann Hindle (UK); Peter and Gail Forman (Singapore); Sue Fawcett (UK); Nicci Sanders (USA); and any others we may have missed.

We pray for a full and speedy recovery for those who have undergone medical treatment and surgery. These include, Hilary Fisher; Beattie Meneses; Marie-Louise Pudney; Mel Frost and Jill Seabra.

Our sympathies and prayers go out to Aubrey Lombard on the loss of his brother and his cousin. Elspeth Cramb will be relocating to Cayman Islands in the near future, and Sylvia Rundle has arrived safely in Jacksonville to be with her daughter, where she may possibly stay permanently. We trust God to continue to protect and guide these ladies.

We congratulate Beattie on the engagement of her daughter, Bernita, and pray for God's blessings for her future.

Soon after we open the book of Job, we see that Job lost his children. His wealth was taken from him. His health deteriorated. His wife, probably drowning in her own grief, urged him to give up. And his friends, who seemed to have the gift of discouragement, only added to his pain. Job sat among the ashes, scraping himself because of his painful sores, trying to make sense of the silence. None of this made sense from where Job was seated.

We would have understood if Job had given up. And yet, in the quiet and the pain something stirs in his heart ---a gentle, stubborn trust that refused to be silenced. Right near the end of the book, Job whispers words of trust, seeing God's power and purposes more clearly than ever.

"I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. (Job 42 : 2)

What challenges me most is **when** Job said this. He spoke these words while his world was still in pieces. No children restored. No wealth replenished. No health regained. Not yet. But something had shifted. Just a few verses later he admits, "My ears had heard of you, but now my eyes have seen you." (Job 42 : 5)

Is that the turning point? Job did not suddenly find comfort because his circumstances changed. He found comfort because he saw God more clearly. That new sight brought understanding and the courage to trust God's purposes, even in the unknown.

That is what faith really looks like. Not waiting for the breakthrough before we worship. Not needing all the answers before we surrender. But choosing to rest in the certainty that God's purposes stand firm even when everything else feels uncertain. Job discovered what we need to remember. Nothing – no loss, no heartache, no confusion, no human opinion – can stop the purposes of God. His plans are not fragile. His promises are not uncertain. What He begins, He completes.

So friends, if life feels uncertain, let us borrow Job's words. Whisper them into our doubts. Speak them over our worries, even when, or if, nothing changes around us. **"I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted."**

May God help us to trust Him fully today and to see His goodness all around us. May He open our eyes to see Him more clearly, and to let His presence fill our hearts with peace, hope and joy.

Blessings,

George Pavey

Chairman: Board of Management

JOY GROUP NEWS CHRISTMAS IN JULY : FORGET ME NOTS

There was an atmosphere of Christmas cheer and joy at Masithandane on Wednesday, 16 July 2025. The Joy Group partnered with Masithandane for the annual Christmas in July function for the Smutsville senior citizens, or, better known as the Forget me Nots. Music and entertainment was provided by Bev Fowler on the Keyboard and Pam Victor on the guitar. The Forget me Nots put on their dancing shoes and sang and danced with the greatest enthusiasm, excitement and joy. They raised their hands in praise and thanksgiving, and we were reminded of the words of Jesus when He said: It is more blessed to give than to receive. Chicken a la King, and a delicious pud – Toffee Pudding with ice cream and custard. (provided by the Joy Group Ladies). Each pensioner received a lovely scarf to remember this happy day.



Embrace with tender affection the whole of humanity, especially the poorest, the weakest, the least important.

Pope Francis



Big Cheer for the Martha's in the kitchen who, while the Mary's were worshipping, they put the food on the table. Thank you! Baie Dankie! Ndiyabulela kakhulu.

VISIT OF REV GRAEME MERCER

Rev. Graeme Mercer, SFUC'S prospective new Minister, conducted our services on Sunday 4th July and both he and his wife, Cathy, joined the congregation for tea and fellowship after the service.



Left to Right: Rev. Graeme Mercer, Pam Victor, Andre Victor, Hanniki Main, Cllr. Lavael Davis, Alicia Davis (Church Secretary)

SUE AND BORIS FAWCETT CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY IN STYLE ON THE ISLE OF MAN

Sue Writes:

As Boris is a motorbike enthusiast, we decided, as part of our 50th wedding anniversary celebration, to go to the Isle of Man for the TT Races in June this year. The races were established in 1907 and other than 2 World Wars and Covid have proceeded uninterrupted. It is a very popular 2-week event, the Island's population almost doubling with visitors in that time. The atmosphere is festive, the Island picturesque. We stayed with Gilly Fraser, sister of Ginny Viner, in Port St Mary in the South West part of the Island. One lap of the TT course is 60km in length on narrow country roads through villages and towns, beginning and ending in Douglas. The riders attain extraordinary speeds on these narrow, stonewall enclosed roads, the fastest lap just under 17mins, at an average speed of 216km/hr, the fastest speed recorded 360km/hr. We stayed 9 days on the Island, spent 5 days touring south Devon and visited Historic Portsmouth Docks to view the Mary Rose, Henry VIII's flagship which sank in the Solent in 1545 and HMS Victory, Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar 1808. The cherry on the top was staying for 2 weeks with our son and family who live in the south of England near Chichester.



Where on earth is your Edge? Sue and Boris, still smiling after 50 years. Congratulations from us all.



Strawberry dresses to match made by Granny Sue with love.

SFUC's INTREPID TRAVELLERS

GREETINGS FROM JACKSONVILLE, USA

Sylvia Rundle relocated to Jacksonville, USA, in August - a brave new world and exciting new beginning. Sylvia sent us this photo of four generations, Granny Sylvia, her daughter and granddaughters. And just look at those pumpkins in the foreground - Sure winners if Jacksonville had an agricultural show! Frank would be so proud...of his wife and daughters.



AND THEN THERE IS YORKSHIRE, God's own country – in the words of the poem by William Blake (which came to be known as the English New Jerusalem):

**And did those Feet in ancient times walk
upon England's mountains green, and was
the Holy Lamb of God, on England's pleasant
pastures seen.**

Anne Hindle writes:

Gerald and I spent a couple of weeks in the UK in May. We went over for family – to celebrate my Mom's 93rd birthday, and to spend time with our youngest son and family. We stayed in a holiday cottage on a historical non-working farm in Pateley Bridge, Nidderdale in Yorkshire. We also visited the ancient Fountains Abbey ruins. We are originally from the Yorkshire Dales.



THE HAPPY HINDLE FAMILY



**Fountains Abbey founded in 1132 by 13
Benedictine Monks from St Mary's in York.**

**"Idleness is the enemy of the soul. For this
reason, the brethren should be occupied at
certain times in manual labour, and at other
times in sacred reading."**

St Benedict