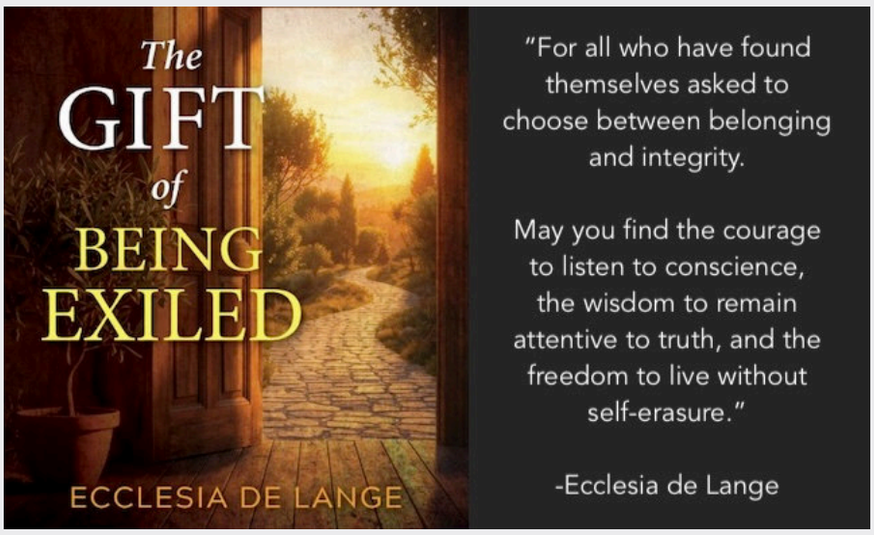
RONDEBOSCH UNITED CHURCH

Creating Circles of Dignity



RUC NEWSLETTER

Cape Town, Sunday 16 August 2026

Sunday Service

with Holy Circus (Sunday School)

9:30am to 10:45am

Interview & Book Launch

with Rev. Ecclesia De Lange

The Gift of Being Exiled is a concise, reflective memoir examining faith, conscience, and the subtle workings of institutional power.
Rev. Ecclesia de Lange served as a minister in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa and was part of its leadership structures before being suspended and ultimately discontinued after announcing her intention to marry her same-sex partner. Her case proceeded through the South African legal system, ultimately reaching the Constitutional Court.
This is not a legal account nor a polemic. Instead, the book reflects on how institutional "process" can function as power; how silence becomes enforced; and what it means to refuse participation in systems that require sacrifice without accountability. While rooted in a church context, the narrative speaks more broadly to questions of belonging, integrity, and the ethical cost of remaining silent within powerful institutions. (From Naledi, Independent SA Publishing House)

Please click below for last week's online sermon.

Eloquent Silence

Please diarise:

Friday 28 August - Cape Town Concert Brass
Sunday 6 September - Plant Bring and Share
Sunday 20 September - Sustainable Brunch
Sunday 4 October - St Francis Sunday
Sunday 11 October - Thrift Stall

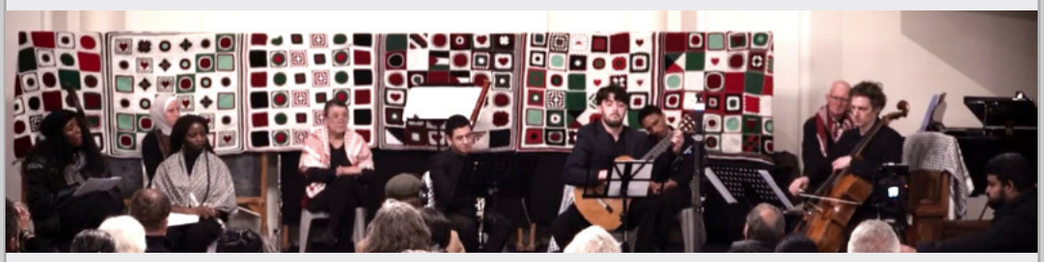
Some Good News - A Call For More Volunteers

For a number of years retired teachers have been teaching grade 6 Maths at Mokone Primary School in Lange. The medium of instruction has been IsiXhosa for most of their school career. However, as the children progress through the grades they are exposed to more and more English.

English is now the language of the exams they have to write.
In June it became very obvious that the children did not understand the questions. It was decided to expand our work and offer assisted English classes to those learners who are struggling. We had our first classes on Friday. It was a great success.

We need to expand our classes so that we can offer assistance to more children.
If you know of anyone or feel moved to join us please let us know.

Joy, Pamela and Ross (0722091675)



NOTES FROM EXILE

Dear Robert and RUC team,

I write with tremendous gratitude for the support offered to "Notes from Exile", the fundraising concert on Mandela Day. It was a profoundly moving event, made all the more successful because we had a special venue, assistance from Vulisango, and permission to put up the Quilt for Palestine".

It was a wonderful concert and I am thrilled to share that we raised R34 000, enabling us to send US$1650 to Mahmoud. Attached is a note from him, expressing his gratitude and appreciation for the contribution to his new studio.

One empty chair on stage draped in a keffiyeh represented the poets and musicians whose voices will never be heard because they have been erased by the genocide. Mahmoud has begun sharing snippets from the video on his YouTube channel. For those who couldn't make it, this will share some of the magic of the concert.

Shukrun! Warmest wishes!
Liesl

From Exile to a New Beginning:
Thank You, Cape Town ❤️

Istanbul, Turkey
mahmoud@mahmoudabuwarda.com

6 August 2026

To my dear friends, supporters, and my beautiful Cape Town family,

When I first envisioned the ***Notes from Exile*** concert, it was born out of a deep sense of displacement and a desperate hope to rebuild what was lost. I did not know what to expect, but what I found in Cape Town was a community that embraced me with open arms and open hearts.

I am writing this to you today with a heart full of immense gratitude. Because of you—every single person who bought a ticket, stood in the crowd, shared the campaign, and generously donated—the note of exile has transformed into a symphony of hope and belonging.

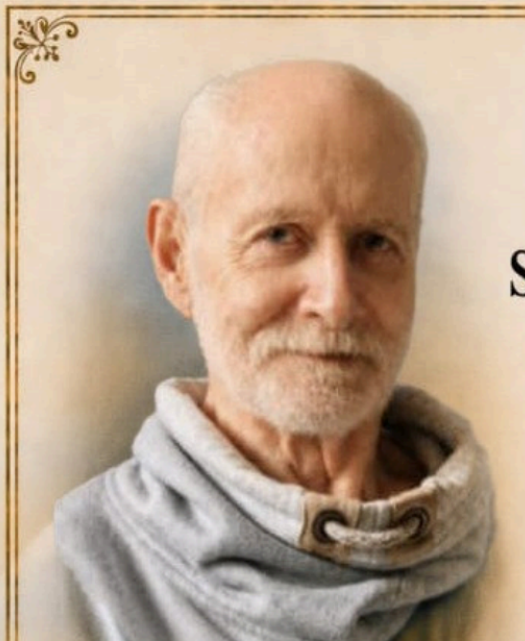
I am thrilled and deeply moved to share with you that the proceeds and donations have safely reached me. More importantly, **the rebuilding of my studio has officially begun.** The walls are going up, the dream is breathing again, and none of this would have been possible without your unwavering support.

You didn't just help me replace equipment or bricks; you restored my voice, my safe haven, and my faith in the power of human connection through music. You proved that even when an artist feels like they are in exile, art can build a bridge right back home. Special thanks to the musicians, artists, poets and directors who performed ***Notes from Exile.***

Every new chord I strike and every new melody I record in this new space will carry a piece of Cape Town's soul in it.
Thank you for believing in me, for standing by me, and for giving me the greatest gift an artist can ask for: the chance to keep creating.

I cannot wait to share the music that comes out of this new studio with all of you.

With all my love and deepest appreciation,
Mahmoud Abuwarda

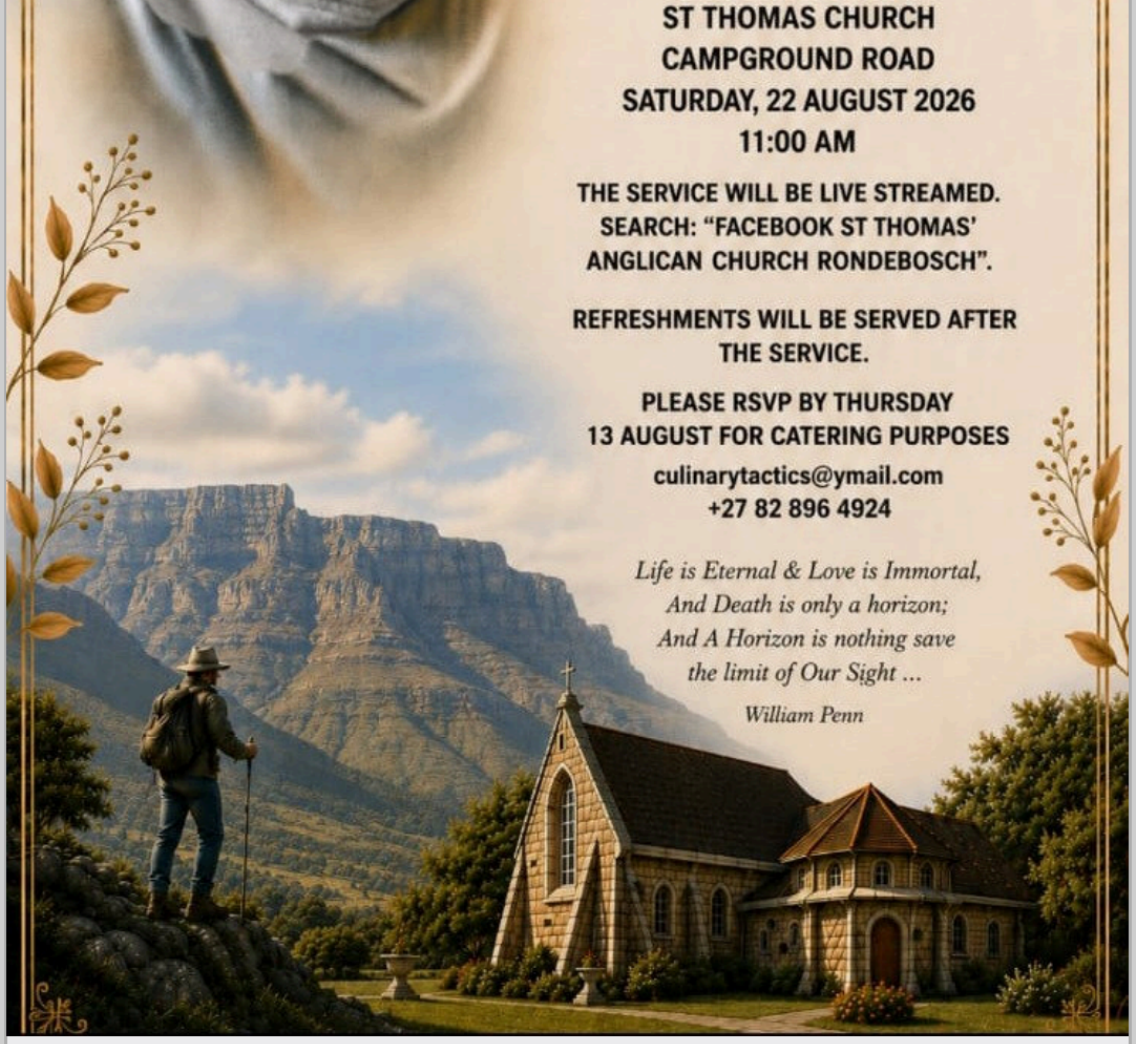


In Loving
Memory

Steuart "Sam" Stopford McLennan

26 May 1943 – 04 July 2026

MEMORIAL SERVICE



Plant Bring and Share

"Bring if you have, take if you want"

- After church on **Sunday, 6 September**
- Waterwise, indigenous plants
- Medicinal plants
- Flowering plants
- Vegetable plants
- Spekboom
- Herbs
- Seeds

Source: Facebook.com/fynboslife/

To join the whatsapp group to coordinate, speak to Nicky

PERFORMING A VARIETY OF LIGHT CLASSICAL AND POPULAR TUNES

CAPE TOWN CONCERT BRASS

FRIDAY 28 AUGUST AT 7PM

RONDEBOSCH UNITED CHURCH
18 BELMONT ROAD, RONDEBOSCH

TICKETS R150 ADULTS / R50 STUDENTS
TICKET SALES AT THE DOOR

Ticket sales also at the door after Sunday services in August.

RUC Creation Care Thrift Stall
Sunday 11 October 2026

The Creation Care team is calling for donations of gently used second hand items for our thrift stall. If you have any, please bring to church with you on Sundays and drop in the donation box available from next week. Please ensure items are washed, in good condition. Accessories also welcome but no undergarments please. Thank you! Please speak to Amy Irlam for more information.

isiXhosa Singing for Joy with Monwabisi

Please join us every first and third Wednesday of the month
from 7pm to 8pm in our church sanctuary.

We start in August.

Fees are R200 per month, or R120 per session. Please message Monwabisi if you would like to be added to the WhatsApp group: 071 250 0586

Sermon Discussion Group

Please join us if you enjoy being in conversation with others about Sunday's sermon.

Everyone brings their own questions, interests, and stories to the discussion.
And together we hope to make meaningful connections to our daily lives.

Every second Tuesday of the month at someone's home.
-Facilitated by Beryl Botman

Every third Sunday of the month after the service in the upstairs room of our church hall.
-Facilitated by Barbara Centurier-Harris.

If you wish to join, please contact Beryl at beryl.botman60@gmail.com

Yoga Classes at RUC

Mondays at 6:30pm in the Church Hall.

Please contact Erika, if you would like to join: lencses.e@gmail.com

HEAR HOLD LOVE ENFOLD

Alastair Rodger, Lyne McLennan, Wendy Cheek, Jennifer Roeleveld, Christine Snyders, Margaret Reid, Douglas Bax, and Chris Rodseth.

Rondebosch Police Station, SmilingOne, Outliers, U-Turn, "Grow Great" Campaign, Masazane Soup Kitchen, and Thembi's Soup Kitchen.

TABLE OF REMEMBRANCE IN AUGUST

1st Ronel and Kristian Falls; 16th Gavin Lloyd; 20th Chris Loedolff and Pat Collis; 30th Ronald Low.

HAPPY RETURNS IN AUGUST

Kindly let us know if your birthday is not listed.

2nd Clive Warner; 3rd Donaville Nduwimana; 4th Vivan Nel and Sharon George; 6th Jean van Willingh; 7th Lucky Levitt; 8th Daniel Adams and Moira Irlam; 9th Kume Muloiwa; 10th Timothy Gaunt and Cynthia Ndayizeye; 13th Lydia van Niekerk; 16th Paul Duff and Lawrence Williams; 17th Geraldine McPherson and George Kane-Smith; 20th Victoria Baranyizigiye and Carolyn Rodger; 21st Erin Chase; 24th Lizzy Malaka, and Faustin Ndayizeye; 26th Carolyn Butler; Farouk McPherson; 27th Melanie Murugen; 28th Howard Pearce; 29th Nicholas Baigrie.

ANNIVERSARIES IN AUGUST

Please email us, if you would like to add a special anniversary.

10th Heidi Segal and Darroch Faught; 24th Judy and Julian Cooke (1963).

LGBT+ NETWORK AT RUC: IN@RUC

Please go to our website for more information:
https://www.rondeboschunited.org/lgbt-network-at-ruc

WEEKLY DISCUSSION GROUPS ON ZOOM

For more information please go to our website:
https://www.rondeboschunited.org/weekly-bible-studies

MONTHLY LIESBEEK RIVER CLEAN-UPS

For more information please go to our website:
https://www.rondeboschunited.org/liesbeek-river-clean-up

RUC CONTACT DETAILS

Facility Manager: Vulisango Mtshikwana vmtshikwana@gmail.com or 078 290 4305
Church Minister, Website, and Newsletter: Robert Steiner rpsteiner@icloud.com or 082 485 9874
Music Director and Organist: Willem Luitingh 082 840 0644
Church Emails and Hall Rentals: Kate Laburn Peart kate@rondeboschunited.org

Pledge Scheme Secretary and Databank Administration: Marie Iversen iversenmarie@yahoo.com
Property Steward: Jacques Matthee jacques.matthee51@gmail.com
Treasurer: Roy Kempster royk@unibase.co.za
Church Council Secretary: Heidi Segal heidisegal7@gmail.com
Child Safeguarding Officer: Michelle Kempster michelle@kempster.co.za

Snap here to pay

SnapScan

BANKING DETAILS

Rondebosch United Church
First National Bank
Branch Rondebosch
Branch No: 201 509
Account No: 501 715 56 119
Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ

Auf Social Media teilen

Check out our site