

Somerset West
Western Cape
South Africa
14th April 2022 /11th May

Dear Cathedral Family and Friends

We are still within the 50 Glorious Days of Easter, so I may say, 'Happy Easter! Alleluya. Christ is risen!' As I was not able to send Christmas greetings nor to see or message all the dear friends I left behind in Grahamstown/Makhanda when, on 17 January, I flew to the Western Cape, I am writing this brief Easter message to convey my love which has been struggling to be set free and sent abroad, and to put you in the picture.

Yes, for those of you who do not know it, I have moved and am now settling into a lovely Assisted Living unit in a retirement village in Somerset West. Catherine lives in Stellenbosch, just a 15 minute drive away. The last year has been somewhat tumultuous, with decisions to make; trips to and fro choosing a place to settle; selling my cottage at Somerset Place where I had lived for 18 years, 10 of them with Des; on 1 December breaking my hip which required a partial replacement in hospital in PE and rehab back in SP while daughters Catherine and Beatrice dealt with the final packing up, decision making and organising of movers. Then 2 months with Cath with good physio and a part time carer before taking possession of my new abode within Schonenberg Retirement Village. Robin came from the UK for 3 weeks to help with the move and, working alongside Cath, making 6 'rooms' within one ROOM into a workable, comfortable and attractive HOME.

I have joined All Saints, a lovely, friendly church where I have been warmly welcomed. At Pentecost it will become a cathedral – my third: St Mary and All Saints in Harare; St Michael and St George in Ght and now All Saints in Somerset West. What riches! Among the congregation are Issy and Gavin Staude, whom many will remember from their days as staunch members of St Michael and St George. They left in 2012. I have joined a weekly bible study to which they invited me.

At different times during the last few months I have enjoyed the company of 19 close relatives – not all resident here but visitors from near and far! If only I could import friends from other times and places in the tapestry of my life, this would be a kind of utopia. Mountains and valleys, vineyards, beaches and the wonderfully varied colours and moods of the sea suggest one is living in a painter's masterpiece. Please contact me if you are ever in these parts. I haven't experienced a typical wet, cold, snowy, windy winter yet. Perhaps that will give me a different view of 'the Cape'.

PS We're still within the 50 glorious days of Easter, but more delays and it's now 11 May! The 19 close relatives has become 20, with a lightning visit from Beatrice and husband David who became No 20. It was great seeing them and showing off the progress at AL 13, Healthcare, Schonenberg Retirement Village. We had happy times together celebrating Catherine's birthday, doing a bit of sightseeing and adding a few nice touches to my abode, with Beatrice exercising her flair for decor.

I miss the cathedral family and all the wonderful people it brought into my life, and to whom I owe so much, but I know that moving here was the right decision and I thank our loving God for guidance and for helping me to land safely and happily along a different section of the road of my life.

Much love to you all and may all your days be richly blessed,
Jeanette Eve