

1876

2026



FOUNDED IN FAITH

**The 150 Year Story of the
LADIES' CHRISTIAN HOME**

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The Ladies' Christian Home Honouring Years of Service and Devotion



Cape Town, 1876

For one hundred and fifty years, the Ladies' Christian Home in Vrede Street, overlooking the Tuin Plein, has quietly and faithfully fulfilled the purpose envisioned by its founders. From its earliest days, it has offered security, comfort and compassionate care to elderly women, providing not only shelter but dignity and a sense of belonging. True to its name, the Home has always been grounded in Christian principles. Those who have served on its committees and supported its work over the generations have done so not for recognition, but as a practical expression of their love for Jesus Christ and their commitment to Christian service.

To appreciate the origins of the Home, it is helpful to step back into Cape Town as it was in 1876.

The General Directory and Guidebook to the Cape of Good Hope of that year paints a vivid picture of the young city. Approaching from the sea, visitors were greeted by “white houses and dark mountain background,” a scene described as both novel and inviting. After landing at the docks or the central jetty, they would proceed along the principal street and enter the fine oak-lined avenue known as the “Government Walk,” the main pedestrian route leading to the more substantial residences of Table Valley.

From there, the guidebook leads the reader upward to Kloof Nek, celebrated as offering the most delightful view in the vicinity of Cape Town. From this lofty vantage point, Table Mountain rose rugged and commanding on the right, while Lion's Head, scorched yet still clad with silvertrees, stood on the left. Below lay a fertile valley rich with fir and oak plantations, vineyards and carefully tended gardens, interspersed with cool, gracious homes. Beyond stretched the city itself, curving gently around Table Bay, and in the far distance, across the water, the Blaauwberg Mountain Range.



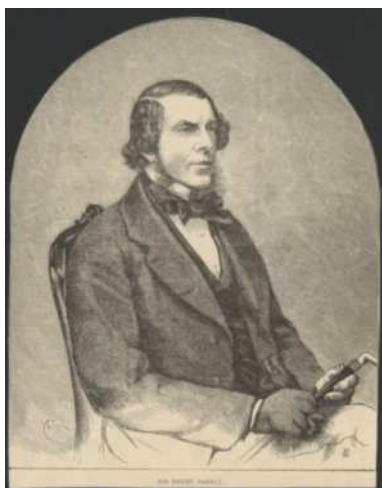
Government Walk



Central Jetty

Photographs from the period bring further detail to life. Houses lining the main streets were mostly double-storeyed, set above the road on high stoeps reached by narrow steps, many of which still testify to that era today. Streets appear unusually wide by modern standards, largely free of traffic. Carts and carriages moved through the town, driven by Malay coachmen wearing their distinctive toering hats, and ox-wagons occasionally arrived with farm produce destined for the markets. The railway extended only as far as Wynberg and Worcester, while horse-drawn trams served Green Point and Sea Point. Hansom cabs were common, and a writer at the time noted with approval that they were “as a rule clean and in good order, well horsed, and provided with civil drivers.”

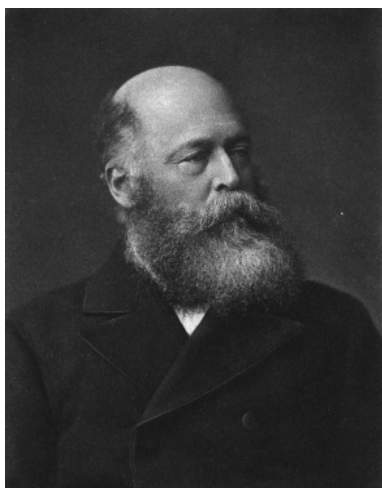
At the time, the Cape Colony was governed by Sir Henry Barkly, with Mr J.C. Molteno, later Sir John Molteno, serving as Prime Minister. The Legislative Council met in the Old Supreme Court Building at the top of Adderley Street, while the Legislative Assembly gathered in the Banqueting Hall of the Goede Hoop Lodge. Only a short walk from these centres of public life, a far quieter yet deeply significant work was about to begin: the establishment of a Christian Home for the aged, infirm and indigent ladies, and for Christian workers, whose influence would extend well beyond its modest beginnings.



Sir H. Barkly (Wikipedia)



Wynberg Station



Mr J.C. Molteno (Wikipedia)



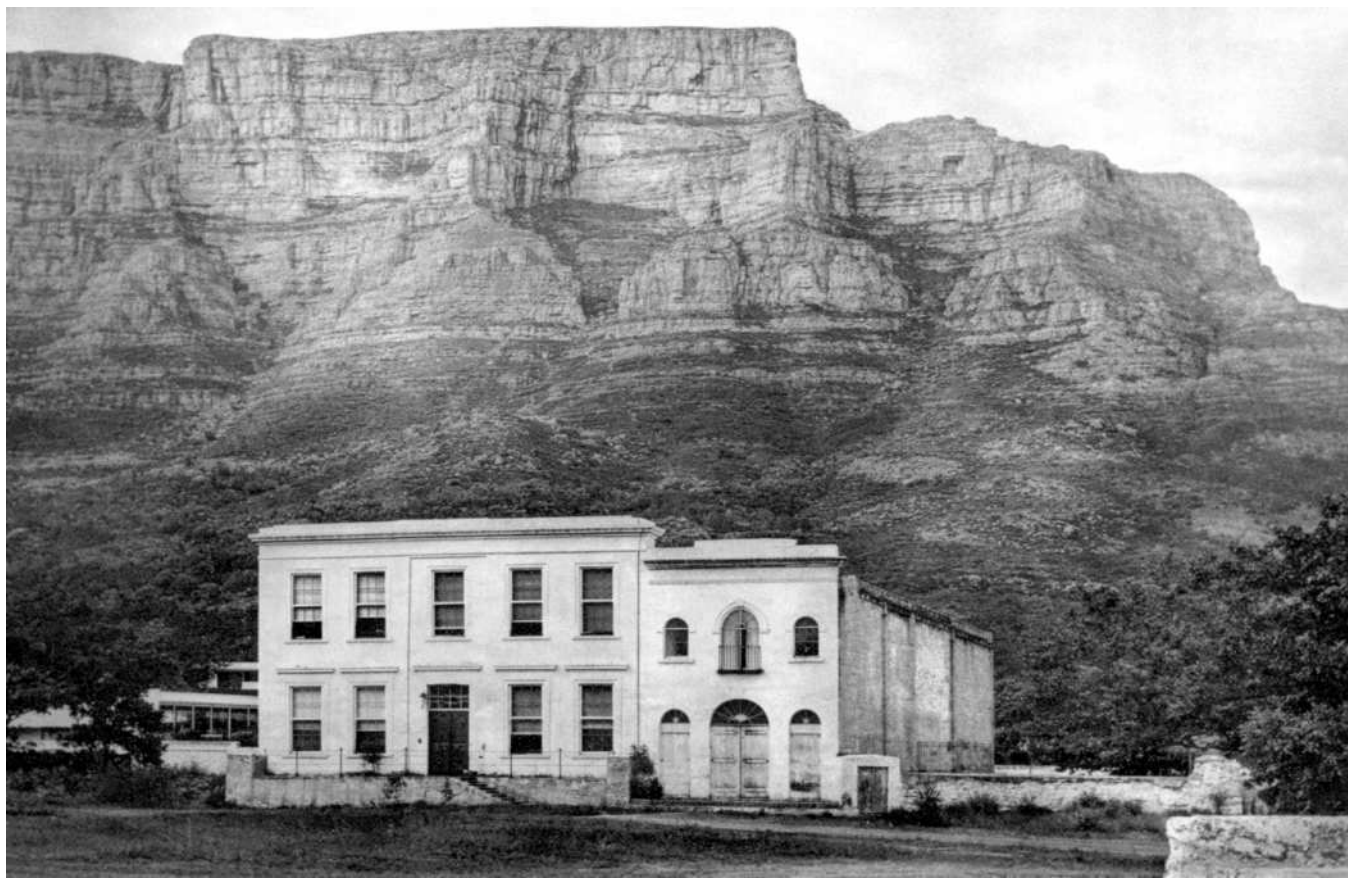
Old Supreme Court Building



Adderley Street



Flower Sellers - Adderley Street



The Home - 1876

The Beginning

The idea that became the Ladies' Christian Home grew out of lived experience rather than abstract planning. Mrs Lion Cachet, wife of a Dutch Reformed Church minister, encountered the need directly during her visits among the poor. Again and again, she saw elderly women living in reduced circumstances, often alone and without support. The reality troubled her deeply.

In March 1876, she attended a Christian Conference and used the opportunity to speak with Major Malan, a committed Christian leader. Her appeal came in the form of a letter, written with clarity and urgency, describing the need for a home like those she had seen overseas. The idea found ready support.

On 11 March 1876, a well-attended meeting was held at the South African Mission Chapel. The proposal was openly discussed, and a resolution was adopted calling for the establishment of a Christian home in the city. It would be managed by

Christian ladies and would receive aged, infirm, and indigent women, providing food, lodging, and care. It would also serve as a centre of Christian work, with residents contributing according to their strength and ability. In time, it was hoped, the Home might grow into a Deaconesses' Home, following models in Holland, London, and elsewhere.

This meeting marks the true beginning of the Home's story. A large committee was appointed, and within days a smaller group was tasked with shaping the plan in detail. An appeal was made to the public for funds to establish what was formally named the Christian Home for Aged, Infirm, and Indigent Ladies, and for Christian Workers.

The response was heartening. Two ladies on the committee each contributed £100, money they had already set aside for just such a purpose.

By the end of July, nearly £700 had been raised. Attention then turned to finding a suitable

building. After careful consideration, the committee decided to purchase rather than rent. On 5 September 1876, Mr Meyer's property, Buckingham House, on the corner of Vrede and Wandel Streets, was bought for £1 000. Renovations and furnishings cost a further £350. At the beginning of February 1877, the Home opened its doors.

The first household was small but purposeful. Miss M'Gill served as the first Superintendent, joined by Miss Broadway, a Christian worker, and four residents: Miss Lofties, Mrs Brown, Mrs Midgeley, and Miss Midgeley, who paid £2 a month so that she could care for her mother. Within days, Miss Hoffmann and Mrs Truter arrived. By October, eight women called the Home their own. Miss M'Gill, at her own request, received no payment for her work.

The First Committee

The official opening took place on 8 February 1877, when a full report of progress was presented. The Executive Committee reflected the ecumenical spirit of the Home. Trustees Mr John E. Maxwell and Mr J.D. Cartwright served alongside Mr S.V. Hofmeyr as Treasurer. Ministers and their wives represented the Dutch Reformed (Rev. Dr. Wm. Robertson), Presbyterian (Rev. J.M. Russell), Wesleyan (Rev. R.F.J. Hornabrooke), and CESA (REACH-SA) (Rev. C. Hole) churches, supported by Miss Asten and two secretaries, Miss M'Gill and Mr J.P.F. Juritz.

Miss M'Gill continued as Honorary Secretary, with only a brief interruption, until 1896. Mr J.D. Cartwright, founder of the prominent firm at the corner of Adderley and Darling Streets, remained a Trustee until his death in 1930, giving sustained leadership and practical wisdom over many years.

Alongside the Executive Committee was a General Committee of forty to fifty members, including leading public figures such as Sir David Tennant, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and the Hon. Dr Henry White, Treasurer-General of the Cape Colony. Among them was Mr E.J. Earp, who later

served as a Trustee for four decades until 1923.

The first Annual Meeting, held on 16 October 1877, reviewed eight months of operation. From the start, reports and financial statements were printed, creating a near-complete record that still tells the story of the Home's growth. Household expenses for the period amounted to £145. Total expenditure, including the purchase of the property, reached £1 592, while income stood at £1 452, leaving the Home £140 in debt.

The report also noted that a stable on the property had been converted into a schoolroom for so-called ragged boys. Religious instruction was given on Sundays and secular teaching on two weekdays, offered voluntarily by five ladies and two gentlemen. The school seems to have closed after a few years, disappearing from reports after 1880.

Expansion

The first move toward expansion came in November 1878 with the purchase of a neighbouring store. Formerly a distillery, it stood uncomfortably close to the Home. Acquiring it removed an unsuitable business and opened the possibility of future growth. After repairs, it was let at £3 a month, later increased to £60 a year.

In 1879, Miss M'Gill resigned as superintendent, and the Committee struggled to find a suitable successor. In the interim, Miss Broadway continued in the role on a temporary basis until 1889.

The early 1880s were difficult years. Economic depression reduced donations and subscriptions, and interest in the Home's work was harder to sustain. Debt mounted, reaching £710 at its height, and it was only in 1891 that the overdraft with the Union Bank was finally cleared.

Reports from this period speak with feeling of the lives of the residents and the quiet suffering that brought them to the Home. The committee appealed openly for support, trusting that generosity would be stirred in the hearts of those able to give.

The Home was intended for elderly ladies, but Christian workers were also welcomed. Miss Hilder, who entered in 1884, devoted many years to prison and street ministry in Cape Town and remained in the Home until her death in 1921.

At times, the Home provided short-term shelter for missionaries passing through the city or for women from the countryside seeking medical care. One particularly sad case involved a fourteen-year-old girl from the Good Hope Seminary, admitted with fever. Though she seemed to recover at first, she died three weeks later. Such moments revealed what one report called the heart history of the Home, as it became an ever more visible place of compassion in a growing city. Many applications, however, still had to be declined.

Despite ongoing financial strain, the committee undertook essential repairs and alterations. A dangerous staircase was removed and replaced with a main staircase in the entrance hall, gaining space and improving safety. Sanitary facilities were upgraded as a matter of urgency. These changes, funded by a loan from Mr W. Marsh, increased capacity from eight to fourteen residents, raising monthly costs from £21 to £31, a figure that caused real concern at the time.

Organisationally, the Home also evolved. In 1885, a Trust Deed established a Committee of Management made up of one minister, one lady, and one layman from each of five denominations: CESA (REACH-SA), Dutch Reformed, Scottish Presbyterian, Independent, and Wesleyan. The Baptist Church joined this group in 1902.

The years following the alterations were still demanding. Debt was reduced slowly, illness was frequent, and winter storms caused part of the store building to collapse. A brighter moment came in 1897 during the celebrations of Queen Victoria's Jubilee. Generous gifts, including a donation from Mrs A. McGregor of Rondebosch and proceeds from Jubilee balcony seats donated by J.D. Cartwright & Co., allowed the committee to reduce the debt by £200.



Jan Christoffel Hofmeyr (Wikipedia)

The Hofmeyr Legacy

By 1898, the Home stood at a crossroads. Years of careful stewardship, sacrifice, and faith had carried it through difficult times, but its future remained fragile. It was then that news arrived of a legacy from the estate of the late Mr J.C. Hofmeyr, estimated at £10,000, a sum that would change the course of the Home's story. The first payment of £4,000 was received almost immediately, and with it came an immense relief: the Home was freed from debt.

Mr Hofmeyr was a well-known and distinctive figure in Cape Town life. A former Mayor in 1878, he was remembered as an eccentric personality, yet also as a man of remarkable generosity, particularly toward the Dutch Reformed Church. The Home was one of several institutions named in his will, each receiving one-tenth of the residue of his estate. Payments from the legacy continued over many years. By 1903, approximately £13,000 had been received, with further amounts paid up until 1937, bringing the total to about £16,500.

With this generosity came an important question: how should the legacy be used? Some suggested that the funds be fully capitalised, ensuring that the Home would never again need to appeal to the public for support. The Committee took a different view. They believed that such a course, while financially secure, would limit the Home's ability to respond to growing needs. As recorded in the 1901 Report, to lock the funds away would risk

turning a living work of service into something fixed and unresponsive. Instead, the Committee chose expansion, moving forward in faith and trusting that this work, begun in obedience, would continue under God's guidance.

Efforts were made to purchase adjoining land, but when these failed, the decision was taken to remodel the existing building, retaining as much of the original structure as possible. The site of the old store was incorporated into the plans. Even practical matters reflected the spirit of the time. Considerable debate took place over whether the new building should be lit by gas or electricity. Electricity was eventually chosen, though gas remained in use for cooking and heating. During construction, the residents were temporarily housed in part of Rogelim, the Old Men's Home in Faure Street, at a moderate rental. The Committee recorded its heartfelt thanks for this assistance.

In the 1901 Report, the name "Ladies' Christian Home" appeared for the first time, used alongside the original, more formal title. At that stage, two Christian workers were living in the Home as boarders, their contributions helping to support the household. The same report recorded the capitalisation of "Cauvin's Gift", a property on the Sea Point Main Road left in 1882 by Mr L.P. Cauvin, M.L.A., to the Green Point Dutch Reformed Church on condition that £60 per year be paid to the Home. On the advice of the Church's Trustees, the Committee accepted £1,200 in full settlement.

This period also marked the appointment of Miss M. Bovell as assistant to the Lady Superintendent, Miss Twycross. Miss Bovell had been closely connected with the Home from its earliest days, and her service, in many roles, would continue until her death in 1951 at the age of ninety-four. Miss Twycross herself served as Lady Superintendent from 1896 to 1914, guiding the Home through years of change and growth.

Around this time, Dr Jane Waterston, a respected figure in Cape Town and a loyal friend of the Home, made a gentle and practical suggestion.

Those who owned carriages and horses, she proposed, might offer residents the pleasure of an occasional outing. The idea was taken up in modest ways. Later reports refer to Mrs D.J. Mills, who regularly sent her phaeton to take the ladies out for drives. This spirit of kindness endured for many years with monthly outings arranged for the Residents by the Rotary and Lions Clubs.

Throughout its history, the Home's income rested on three pillars: contributions from residents towards their own upkeep, donations and subscriptions, and legacies. The Committee consistently aimed to place legacy funds into capital for future development, using only the interest for daily expenses. In practice, however, difficult years often required drawing directly on these funds. This was particularly true during periods of widespread hardship, including the First World War and the years of economic depression.



1900 - The Home as it was after reconstruction

The Hofmeyr Legacy made the rebuilding of the Home possible, and further growth followed. In 1913, a bequest from the estate of Mr Alexander Croll of London enabled additional extensions. Once again, attempts to acquire neighbouring properties failed, and the Committee chose instead to build over the dining room. This increased the Home's capacity to thirty-four residents.

The war years of 1914 to 1918 brought fresh challenges. Rising prices and the many patriotic demands on public generosity placed strain on finances. Yet the Home was spared one great danger. The influenza epidemic of 1918 passed without a single case among the residents, a fact for which the Committee expressed deep gratitude. In 1924, another long-awaited improvement was completed when an electric lift was installed, finally easing the burden of stairs for elderly residents.



The Golden Jubilee of the Home

Two years later, in 1926, the fiftieth Annual Report marked a moment of reflection and quiet pride. Since its founding, 135 women had entered the Home.

The Committee reaffirmed its guiding principle: the cultivation of a family spirit and the commitment to bringing peace, dignity, and comfort to the closing years of life. These women, often left without means through no fault of their own, were given not only shelter but also the comforts and refinements of a true home.

The Committee stated with confidence that the Home had remained faithful to its original purpose throughout its first fifty years.

Wandel Street Development

Once again, expansion followed generosity. In 1927, a legacy of £5,539 from the estate of Miss C.J. de Jongh made it possible to purchase the adjoining property at No. 4 Wandel Street. Plans for the Wandel Street wing were drawn up and carried out in two phases.

The first stage, completed in 1931, added five bedrooms, enlarged and improved the dining room, and relocated the kitchen from the Barnet Street side to the cooler Wandel Street aspect. The second stage followed in 1933, adding twelve more bedrooms. This work was brought forward sooner than planned, as economic depression and unsettled conditions led to a growing number of applications. Shortly thereafter, a sick room was established, later known as the Bovell Ward.



The Home also welcomed distinguished visitors during these years. In 1930, Her Royal Highness Princess Alice visited and toured the entire building. She remarked with pleasure that it was truly a real home, and her warmth left a lasting impression on residents and staff alike. Three years later, Her Excellency the Countess of Clarendon paid a visit, expressing her delight in the homely atmosphere and promising to return and spend more time with the residents.

Vrede Street Expansion

In 1938, a further opportunity arose when the remaining ground along Vrede Street became available. Its immediate purchase gave the Home ownership of the entire frontage from Wandel Street to Barnet Street. Plans were drawn for extensive reconstruction and expansion. Despite the difficulties of wartime conditions, the work went ahead. A new three-storey wing was built along Vrede Street, the troublesome old third storey with its dormer windows was reconstructed, the original stoep and steps were removed, and the enclosed verandahs and balconies that define the building today were created. On 16 July 1942, the enlarged Home was formally dedicated.

With greater space came greater responsibility. Costs rose, supplies were scarce under wartime restrictions, and the burden on the Board was heavy. During this period, three Trustees rendered long and faithful service. Mr A.T. Babbs served on the Board for forty-five years, thirty-six of them as a Trustee, offering invaluable guidance on maintenance and building matters. Mr D. Gordon Mills served for nearly fifty years and was a Trustee from 1929 to 1968. His retirement was marked by a social gathering at the Home and a presentation in appreciation of his dedication. Mr S.A. Harvey became a Trustee in 1924 and served until his death in 1949, including eighteen years as Chairman. His deep personal commitment is remembered in the Harvey Memorial Hall and in the garden he lovingly laid out, described in the 1943 Report as a notable addition to the Home.



This era also saw the formal establishment of the Domestic and Household Committee, originally known as the Ladies' Branch, around 1923. Under its own Convener, it undertook much of the detailed and sensitive work of the Home.

Over the years, its Presidents (Chairladies) included: Mrs C.F. Cleghorn (1923 - 1925)

Mrs D. Robertson (1925 - 1935)

Mrs W.P. Steenkamp Snr. (1935 - 1958)

Mrs H.J. Corben (1958 - 1978)

Mrs G. Blackshaw (1978 - 1981)

Mrs S. Hofmeyr (1981 - 1990)

Between 1990 and 1992 various Committee members took turns to chair the meetings until the Committee was dissolved by the Board in 1992. Informal ladies meetings were still held but no decision making was done and no minutes were taken.



Mr A.T. Babbs



Mr S.A. Harvey

Harvey Memorial Hall - the original Dining Room
(Photo: F.O. Quinn 1976)



The Fire of 1949

On the afternoon of 29 December 1949, the Home was shaken by the most dramatic event in its history. At about half past two, a fire broke out on the roof and spread with terrifying speed. Within a short time, flames engulfed the entire roof, and the familiar building was filled with smoke, confusion, and fear.

What followed were moments of courage and resolve. Staff members and volunteers worked urgently to bring residents to safety, moving swiftly through smoke-filled corridors. The Matron, Miss Anne van Schalkwyk, showed remarkable bravery, personally carrying two of the oldest residents down two flights of stairs, one at a time. Almost the entire staff of the nearby Government garage rushed to assist, helping with rescue efforts and salvaging what could be saved. By the mercy of God, no lives were lost, though the top storey was completely destroyed and the lower floors suffered severe water damage.

Help came from many quarters that very night. Most residents were taken in by friends and relatives. Those who were ill or infirm were accommodated at the Salvation Army Maternity Home, while others found shelter at the Jewish Home for the Aged and with the Dean of Cape Town and Mrs Gibbs. The following day, the invalids were transferred to Avondrust in Rondebosch. Early in February, residents began returning to the Home, first settling into the Wandel Street wing. By the first of June, the Home was once again fully occupied.

Public response in the aftermath of the fire was immediate and generous. The Cape Times opened a Distress Fund to replace the personal belongings of residents that had been destroyed or lost. Contributions poured in, and when the fund closed on 7 January, a total of £3,577 had been raised.



The Fire - Damage to the front of the building (Photo: Cape Times)



Rotary Club Tea Party 1954

Years of Grace and Growth in Barnet Street

Life at the Home gradually regained its familiar rhythm. On 4 December 1952, Miss G. Hoare celebrated her hundredth birthday, having lived at the Home for thirty-six years. She passed away about six months later. She was the first resident to have reached a full century.

On 11 December 1954, the members of the Cape Town Rotary Club hosted a tea party for the residents. The residents enjoyed a warm afternoon of tea, conversation and smiles.

Growth and renewal continued. In 1961, the Barnet Street wing was built, adding eight new bedrooms and bringing the Home's total capacity to seventy residents. From its modest beginnings in a quaint, old-fashioned house set among gardens and orchards on the edge of a growing city, the Ladies' Christian Home continued to fulfil its calling.

The spirit that guided the Home throughout its nearly 100 years is captured in the words of the 1971 Report: "Since the founding of this Home 95 years ago, surely goodness and mercy have followed us and we raise a note of thanksgiving to Him Who has been about our path continually and Who has put into the hearts of His people to extend true sympathy and practical help. The history of the Home has fully proved how necessary and providential was the step taken so many years ago when the Home was first opened, and our long waiting list today makes us realise that the care of our Senior Citizens is becoming an increasing responsibility."



A Centenary and a Turning Point



The Centenary celebrations of March 1976 marked far more than the passing of a hundred years. They became a moment of reflection and resolve. Among the many events, it was the Thanksgiving Church Service that stood out most clearly in memory. The Board of Trustees regarded it as one of the finest moments in the Home's long history, a gathering filled with gratitude for the past and quiet anticipation for what lay ahead.

Once the celebrations had passed, attention turned firmly to the future. It was evident that the Home could not stand still. The needs of residents and staff were changing, and the facilities had to keep pace. Plans were set in motion to improve staff accommodation, modernise the kitchen and dining areas, upgrade and possibly enlarge the sick bay, and increase overall accommodation. These discussions laid the groundwork for a period of steady renewal.

In 1979, a practical but significant improvement was made with the replacement of the boiler system for heating water. It was a sign of things to come. The larger programme of alterations began in February 1980, ushering in a time of construction, adjustment and growth.

That same year marked the end of a remarkable chapter of service. Mrs H. Blackshaw retired after twenty-two years on the Ladies Committee, fifteen of them as Honorary Secretary. Her quiet dedication had shaped the Home in countless ways. She was succeeded by Mrs Elizabeth Raby, also a member of the Ladies Committee, who took up the role with energy and commitment.

In February 1981 the new wing was officially opened, bringing much-needed space and improved facilities. Later that year, in July, heating was installed in the Main Dining Room, greatly improving comfort for residents during the colder months.

The Birth of the Frail Care Wing

On 5 December 1983, a Special Board Meeting was convened to consider a bold new idea. The vacant land above the Home offered possibilities, and a proposal was put forward for a flatlet project designed for retired couples and single elderly people living on reduced incomes. The vision included individual tea stations, a communal dining room and lounge, one daily meal, and even a dedicated sick bay. The idea was unanimously approved in principle, but the financial reality proved insurmountable. The cost was simply too great.

Yet from that decision came clarity. The growing need within the Main Home was not for independent flatlets, but for dedicated frail care. With this in mind, the Board resolved to redirect its efforts toward planning and constructing a Frail Care Wing.

Work on the new Wing commenced in April 1987 and continued through to 1989. The project relied heavily on the expertise and guidance of Rev Murray Hofmeyr and Mr A.H. Fraser Buchanan, whose knowledge and commitment proved invaluable.

During this period, the Board also made a forward-looking decision in 1988 to establish a Provident Fund for kitchen staff and carers, recognising the importance of caring for those who devoted their lives to caring for others.

By July 1989, eighteen residents were happily settled into the new Frail Care Wing. That same year, Mrs D. Trott retired as Bursar after ten years of service, and in January 1990, Lindsay Long was appointed Administrator. She remained in this position until her appointment as Assistant General Manager in May 2005.

The official opening of the Frail Care Wing took place on 14 February 1990. It was dedicated to Mr A. H. Fraser Buchanan in recognition of his inspiration and support. Following his resignation in 1991, the Board appointed him an Honorary Board Member, a gesture reflecting deep gratitude.



Opening of The Buchanan Wing in the Garden



Elizabeth Raby & a guest



Mr Ken Andrews MP & Rev. Murray Hofmeyr



IMAGE SHOWING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LADIES' CHRISTIAN HOME OVER THE YEARS.

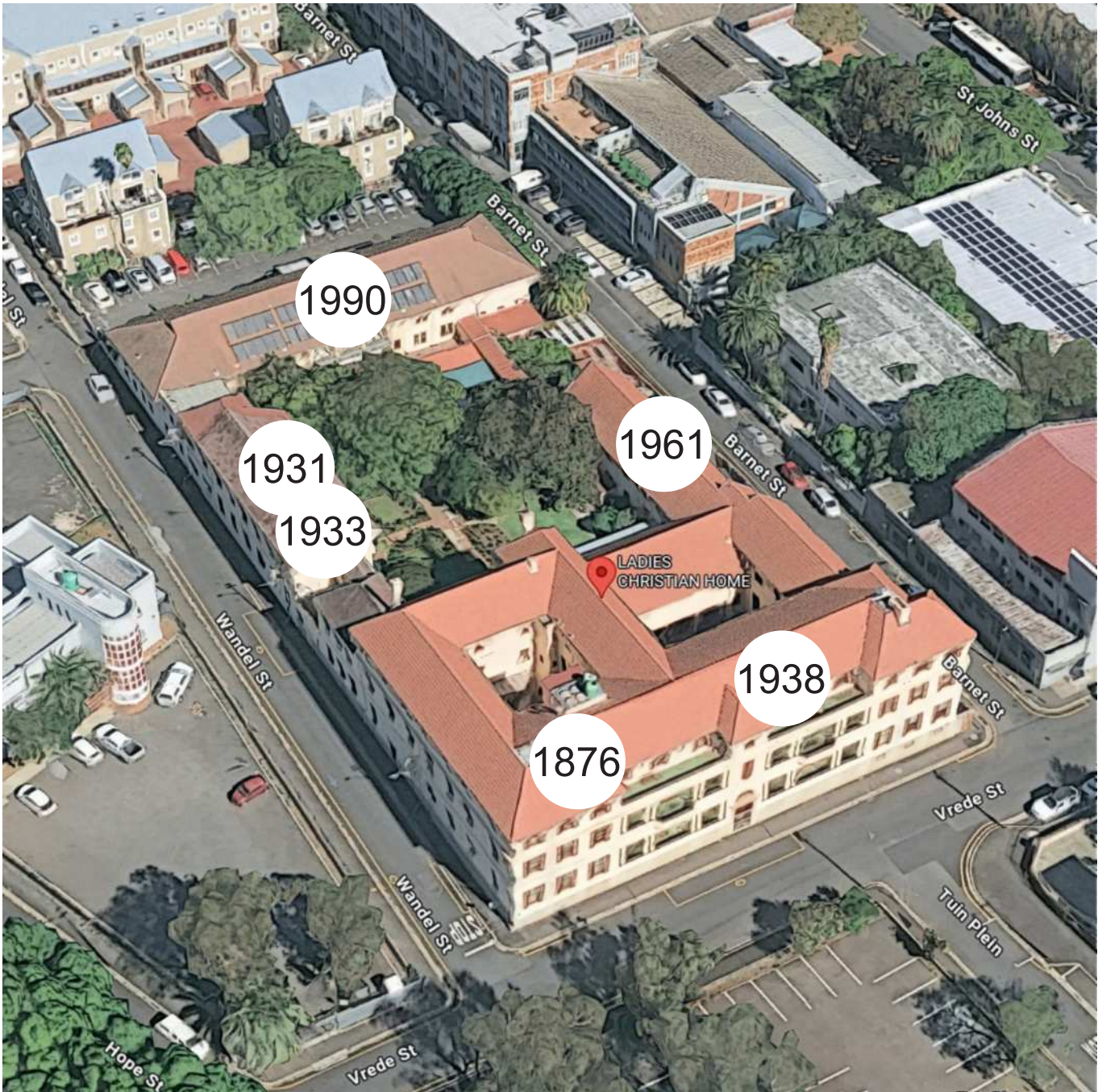
1876
Buckingham
House

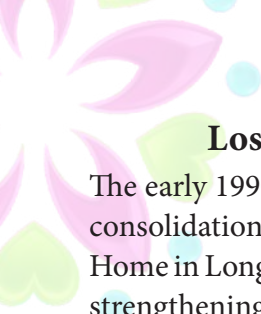
1931/33
Wandel Street
Development

1938
Vrede Street
Expansion

1961
Barnet Street
Wing

1990
Frail Care Unit
The Buchanan Wing





Loss and New Leadership

The early 1990s were marked by both change and consolidation. In 1990, a property owned by the Home in Longmarket Street was sold for R850 000, strengthening financial reserves. In November of that year, extensions to the Main Dining Room commenced.

July 1991 brought sadness with the passing of Rev. Murray Hofmeyr after a short illness. He and his wife Stella had been associated with the Home for over thirty years. Stella's father, the late Mr D. G. Mills had also been closely linked to its story. Their legacy remained deeply woven into the fabric of the Home.

In August 1991, the City Council purchased a portion of the vacant land next to the Home, known as Dunkley Square, for R290 000.

Later that year, the Board unanimously agreed to appoint a full-time Manager to relieve the Matron of maintenance and personnel responsibilities. Mrs Elizabeth Raby was appointed to this role.

In February 1992, Mr Wolfgang Málzer joined the Board of Trustees. Bringing expertise in management and catering, he transformed the way the Home functioned, reorganising departments and introducing systems that modernised daily operations. Mrs Elizabeth Raby would later say she was deeply grateful for the knowledge he shared during her time running the Home.

That same year, the Home purchased its first vehicle, a VW Citi Golf, in July 1992, enabling residents to be transported to hospitals and clinics with greater ease.

The remainder of the vacant land was sold in 1994 for R800 000, and duplexes were later built on this land, bordering what is now the Home's car park. In January 1994, a new heat pump system was installed, bringing a noticeable reduction in electricity costs.

By the mid-1990s, the Home had entered a phase that required close attention and honest assessment. In 1995, Wolf Málzer undertook a thorough audit of every department. His review was meticulous and practical, guided by a determination to ensure that the Home remained both safe and sustainable.

The audit revealed that the roof was in poor condition. After quotes were obtained, it became clear that the cost of re-tiling would be substantial: R141 000 for the older section and R23 000 for the newer portion. Though costly, the work was unavoidable and underscored the constant responsibility of maintaining an ageing building.

The telephone system was also showing its age. A proposal from Siemens offered a modern upgrade at a monthly cost of R300, signalling the slow but necessary move toward more contemporary systems. In the kitchen, a new gas stove was purchased, and in a gesture reflecting the Home's enduring spirit of generosity, the old stove was donated to a soup kitchen in Mitchell's Plain.

Recognising the importance of keeping residents engaged and active, the Home employed an occupational therapist for two days a week, a commitment that continued for the next five years. This brought new structure and stimulation into daily life. At the same time, Wolf Málzer identified the need for reliable transport. A Combi would allow residents to attend outings, hospital appointments and clinics with greater ease, restoring a sense of independence and connection to the wider world.

Administrative demands were also increasing. Lindsay Long, carrying a growing workload, was still working on a manual typewriter. Seeing the strain this placed on her, Wolf insisted that the Home move forward. A computer was purchased at a cost of R8 000, a quiet but pivotal step into a new administrative era.



THE HOME IN PICTURES



Library 1976 (Photo: O.K. Dose)





(Photo: O.K. Dose 1976)



Care Renewed: Faith, Facilities and a Changing Community

Care at the Home continued to deepen and expand during the mid to late 1990s, reaching beyond physical needs to embrace spiritual support, practical improvements and a growing awareness of changing resident requirements.



In 1995, Rev. Doug Street took on the responsibility of leading the spiritual ministry of the Home. While Tuesday devotional services had long been part of daily life, Bible studies had not previously been offered. Under his guidance, spiritual life was strengthened, providing residents with comfort, reflection and fellowship at a time when these elements were increasingly valued.

That same year, generosity once again played a defining role in the Home's story. In June 1995, the M R Kingswell Trust donated R25 000 toward the purchase of a Combi. Mr Mulliner of Syfret Godlonton-Fuller Moore, a trustee of the Trust, was instrumental in facilitating this gift, reinforcing the long-standing tradition of goodwill that had sustained the Home for generations.



Renewal was also visible beyond the building itself. Flower beds were dug up, rubble cleared and roses planted under the careful supervision of Eric Marsden, a respected rosarian from the Rose Society. The revitalised garden offered residents beauty, tranquillity and a renewed sense of care in their everyday surroundings.

In 1996, the Home celebrated its 120th anniversary. Across generations, it remained a place of dignity, care, and belonging for all who pass through its doors.

Practical improvements continued in July 1996 with the purchase and installation of a Speed Queen washing machine at a cost of R35 500, strengthening the Home's ability to manage its daily operations. Around the same period, the Home received three significant bequests: R19 623 from the H. Glover Estate, R10 000 from the H. M. M. Schmidt Estate, and an exceptional R340 000 from Mrs A. Noall, a late resident whose generosity left a lasting legacy.

In July 1998, Wolf Málzer resigned from the Board of Trustees, marking the close of an influential chapter in the Home's governance. In the years that followed, Lindsay Long took on additional responsibilities to support Elizabeth Raby, the General Manager, continuing the work they had shaped together.

Infrastructure upgrades became a priority later in 1998. Between September and November, thirty-three wash hand basins were installed in residents' rooms by Jassiem Plumbers at a cost of R31 350. Plumbing throughout the Home was repaired and upgraded, resolving long-standing issues. More complex challenges emerged along Wandel Street, where underground streams caused water ingress and structural damage. Structural engineers and a geotechnician were appointed, and the problem was resolved at a cost of R141 862, ensuring the building's long-term stability.

Alongside these physical improvements, the nature of care itself was changing. From 1995 onward, a noticeable shift occurred in the profile of new residents. Whereas admissions had once largely consisted of relatively fit ladies seeking the reassurance of future care, most new arrivals were now already frail. The Board approached this transition cautiously. Though initially reluctant, they agreed to admit more frail residents, while drawing a firm line at those who were bedridden. This decision reflected a careful balance between compassion and the Home's capacity to provide appropriate care.

In 2001, further steps were taken to enhance safety and comfort. The Nurse Call System was replaced by Meycom at a cost of R108 599, ensuring faster response times and greater peace of mind for residents and staff alike. That same year, the Board of Trustees began researching the use of solar panels for hot water, planting the seed for future initiatives that would align resident care with sustainability.

Together, these years marked a period of quiet but meaningful renewal, strengthening the Home's foundations while adapting thoughtfully to the evolving needs of those it served.



120 Years of Caring for Those Who Call This Home (1996)

Board Members



Back Row: Mr C Wiese, Mr W Malzer, Rev. S Hudson Reed, Mr H Farrow, Rev. P Gird, Rev. J Wessels
Front Row: Mrs J Hiscock, Mrs H. Edwards, Dr C Prest, Mrs E Raby

Maintaining and Sustaining

The years that followed required careful stewardship. In November 2002, the exterior of the Home was painted by Paintmaster at a cost of R159 000, and fire detectors were installed in the Frail Care Wing.

Finances were never entirely secure, yet the Home pressed on. Essential equipment had to be replaced or purchased, and over two decades funds were raised through market days, quiz afternoons, braais, and generous donations from trusts administered by leading banks.

In 2006, the Home celebrated its 130th anniversary with a tea for residents. Dr C. Prest, then Chairman, addressed the gathering and shared the history of the Home, reminding all present of the long road already travelled.

In April 2007, another heat pump was purchased, and security cameras were installed later that year. In 2008, hoists were acquired to assist carers in lifting frail residents, easing physical strain and improving safety. Up until 2009, the Home housed an average of ninety residents.

In September 2009, Rev. Brian Wood became Chairman of the Board, a role he held until November 2018. He remained a Board member until February 2022, offering wisdom and guidance throughout a period of transition.



A Fresh Vision with Modern Care

In 2010, after decades of service, Mrs Elizabeth Raby retired as General Manager. Her daughter, Lindsay Long, was appointed to the role. Under her guidance the Home continued modernising.

Forty solar panels were installed to assist with heating the Home's hot water system, further reducing electricity costs. Recognising the need for greater mental and physical stimulation, a structured psycho-social programme was introduced. Exercise classes, crafts, games, movie mornings and outings became part of daily life, enriching the experience of residents.



Between 2014 and 2016, extensive work was undertaken. Large sections of the roof were replaced, bathrooms were modernised with showers replacing baths, and two bathrooms were converted into commode rooms due to demand. A comprehensive fire alarm system, smoke detectors and an audio evacuation system were installed. Hospital beds, overbed tables and bedside cabinets were purchased, and the lift was upgraded to a digital system.

In 2015, the Home purchased a Toyota Quantum, followed by a Nissan NP200 bakkie in 2016. These vehicles were essential to the day-to-day running of the Home, making transporting of residents to medical appointments and outings safe and comfortable. The bakkie supported the practical needs of the Home, allowing for deliveries, collections, and general operational tasks that keep everything running smoothly.

In 2017, a simple but inspired idea took shape. Lindsay Long recognised the need for a space where families could share small moments with their loved ones without the difficulty of taking frail or wheelchair bound residents offsite. From this vision, Café la Rose was born. Beginning as a modest gazebo offering tea, coffee and cake, it quickly became a cherished feature of the Home.

In December 2018, Rev. Anthony Potter became Chairman of the Board of Trustees, a position he still holds today.



The Year Everything Changed (Covid 19)

2020 proved to be the Home's 'Annus Horribilis' as the Corona Virus (Covid 19) hit South Africa. On 20 March, in accordance with protocol as laid down by the government, the Home closed its doors to families, visitors and new admissions. Daily prayers were offered for relief, and trust was placed in God's timing.

Only residents requiring emergency medical treatment were permitted to leave and return, and it was through such a return that the first case entered the Home. Strict protocols were immediately implemented. Staff meetings were held, policies drafted, signage installed, PPE purchased and communication maintained with families. The guidance of local doctors, particularly Dr L. Geffen and Dr H. Woermann, became a lifeline. Their expertise helped the team navigate the unknown with steady hands.

The First Floor Frail Care Unit underwent a complete redesign. Rooms were reworked to serve as isolation and quarantine areas. Residents in the Main Home who contracted the virus were cared for in their own rooms, which meant that nursing became more demanding and emotionally taxing than ever. Senior nurses and carers showed remarkable courage. Day after day they stepped into uncertainty, caring for residents with calm determination despite the fear that hung heavily over each shift.

The cost of PPE, medical equipment and infection-control supplies rose sharply, placing the Home under financial strain, but there was no alternative. Daily life reshaped itself around invisible boundaries. Residents were kept in "bubbles" according to their floors, unable to mix with friends they had known for years.



Families, separated from their loved ones, longed for contact. After the harshness of the initial lockdown, the Home found ways to reconnect them safely. Residents stood on the Vrede Street balcony, waving down to children and grandchildren at street level. Later a small booth was built at the main entrance, with clear plastic between residents and visitors, but close enough for words, smiles and the reassurance of presence.

Staff adapted to new rhythms as well. Nursing teams worked seven days on and seven days off, with many choosing to sleep on the premises to reduce exposure on public transport. A section of the main flat was converted to accommodate them, turning it into a temporary home within a home. The kitchen too carried a heavy load. Under the steady leadership of Moreen Osch, staff washed every dish in a jik solution before it went into the dishwasher and delivered meals to each floor, replacing the social ritual of gathering in the dining room with a system that required precision and endurance.

Throughout this period, communication became a bridge to families who could only watch from afar. Regular updates were sent out, explaining each development and reassuring them that their loved ones were safe and cared for. The Board continued its work in new formats, meeting off-site or online by Zoom as the need required. For two years these virtual gatherings were the norm, another small reminder of how deeply the pandemic reshaped ordinary life.



LADIES CHRISTIAN HOME
Established 1876
- 20 VREDE STREET, GARDENS, CAPE TOWN, 8001 - P O BOX 5218, CAPE TOWN, 8000 - SOUTH AFRICA -
- PHONE: 021-4653117 - FAX: 021-4651443 - Email: info@lch.co.za - www.lch.co.za
REGISTRATION: NPO No. 003-287 & FBO No. 53007841

2 April, 2020.

Well, South Africa has hit week 1 of 'Lockdown', but here at the Home, our ladies have already been kept within its confines for nearly 3 weeks with no visitors since 17 March. Needless to say they are all suffering from 'cabin fever' and itching to get out. You can well imagine – ladies love to shop and when they don't have distractions, they tend to meddle. At the moment our ladies are well and healthy.

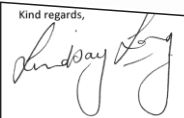
Staff are monitored on entry into the Home – they sanitise, gloves and masks are discarded at the front entrance, clothes have to be changed and sent to our Laundry and fresh uniforms put on, temperatures taken. We have also offered as many staff as possible accommodation to limit the risk of contamination, so we are doing our utmost to be as pro-active as possible. Railings, light switches and lift buttons are being disinfected constantly as are all patient files.

Keeping our ladies busy has also been a challenge, but we have been blessed to have wonderful devotions sent to us by Emmanuel Church Durbanville as well as Video link Church Services on a Tuesday. Our Chairman, Rev. Tony Potter has also done video link devotions for our ladies to watch. We have encouraged our ladies to enjoy their Garden when the weather is good and on Sundays, Linda in our Coffee Shop has organized a lovely Tea for them at a cost of R25. If you wish your mum to join in the Teas, please just drop me a mail and I will include them. Vanessa Warden and I have shopped for Tuck shop and a few individual ladies, but it is not possible to do so for all, so where families can, they must bring needed items to their mum.

I encourage you to send mails to your loved one (large print please) as many of them battle with their eyesight.

I am very thankful that our Staff have been committed and not just stayed away at this time as they are all vital cogs in the wheel.

I pray for God's guidance and direction at this time as we look after our ladies.

Kind regards,




Recovery and Renewal

By 2021 restrictions eased. Sunday teas returned. Music drifted through the dining room again. Though fragile, the sense of community began knitting itself back together.

Covid-19 left deep emotional and financial scars. Dementia residents struggled to understand the separation, and many families could no longer meet monthly fees. At one point, the Treasurer warned the Home might only survive five more years. Refusing to accept this fate, Lindsay Long and her team worked tirelessly to rebuild occupancy and stability.

In August 2021, Tereza van der Merwe was appointed as Bookkeeper. She introduced accounting systems that strengthened the financial control of the Home towards a positive direction.

Loadshedding added new challenges in 2022, leading to the purchase of an inverter to support security systems and keep essential administration running.

From 2023 onward, renewal accelerated. A new industrial washing machine was purchased in July 2023 costing R250 000. This was followed by donated dryers from 476 Charitable Trust amounting to R262 258 in total.

In 2024 and 2025, the Home undertook major infrastructure projects, including improved outdoor paving to make communal spaces more accessible, and extensive repairs to storm-damaged gutters and fascia boards, completed in March 2025 at a cost of R782 000. Further work followed in June with the waterproofing of balconies and roof areas, as well as the replacement of barge board and roof capping above the Special Care Unit, at a cost of R33 166.

Essential upgrades were completed across the Home, including new air conditioning in the Hall, replacement of fire hose reels, additional security cameras in Wandel Street, and recarpeting of five staircases and the Hall, at a total cost of just over R204 000.



Mrs Elizabeth Raby (1923 - 2025)

In June 2025, Mrs Elizabeth Mona Raby, who dedicated 30 years of service to the Home, beginning as a volunteer and later serving as General Manager and Trustee, passed away at the remarkable age of 102 years.

Her tireless work, strong sense of responsibility, and unwavering dedication were matched by a deep personal commitment to the wellbeing, comfort, and dignity of every resident, whose needs were always at the centre of her decision making. She was widely respected for her steady leadership, practical wisdom, and genuine compassion, qualities that left a lasting impression on colleagues, residents, and friends of the Home alike.

After her retirement, she entered the Home as a Resident in 2020, bringing with her a lifetime of experience and a continued interest in the life of the community she had helped to build. She spent her final years surrounded by familiar faces and in a place that reflected her values of care and service. In January 2026, the enclosed balcony of the Bovell Wing was named in her honour, a lasting and fitting tribute to a woman whose commitment and care shaped the Home across decades.

By July 2025 Café le Rose received a full revamp, carried out by the Home's own maintenance team. It stood not just as a refresh of a popular space, but as a symbol of the Home's resilience.



BALCONY ENCLOSURE OF THE BOVELL WING

Elizabeth Mona Raby



THE CUNNINGHAM LEGACY

The Home extends its sincere thanks to Alison Louw and John Edwards for their estate planning advice provided to the Cunninghams in researching a suitable Religious Charitable Organisation to bequeath their respective Estates. Alison Louw devoted countless hours to safeguarding their financial affairs, care, safety, and overall wellbeing, ensuring their needs were met with unwavering attention and compassion until their demise. The Home remains deeply grateful for a gift that will be felt for generations to come.

Extracts from their Obituary Programs:

Brenda Elisabeth Cunningham (1923 to 2009)

Brenda was a loyal and supportive friend, cherished for her love of conversation, laughter, and warm sense of humour. In retirement, she directed her energy toward philanthropic work, generously supporting projects that served others. A devoted member of the Bible Study group, her faith sustained her throughout her life, especially during her final years of declining health.

David Graham Cunningham (1925 to 2013)

David studied Chemistry and Botany at the University of Cape Town, completing his Bachelor's, Honours, and Master's degrees in Science. He retired in 1990 as a research chemist in charge of the Quality Control Laboratory at the Cape Technikon. He had a deep love of sport, particularly croquet, earning his Springbok colours. He later served as Charter President of the Waterfront Croquet Club. A committed supporter of the written word, David also chaired the Writers' Club and published *The Miracle Men*, a reflective study of six notable figures in world history.



150 Years Strong

As the Home entered its 150th year, it did so with renewed confidence. After years of worry about sustainability, there was finally room to breathe. Projects that once seemed impossible were now being completed one by one. The Home stood stronger than it had in decades.



What carried it through was not just planning, or buildings, or budgets. It was the spirit of those who lived there, worked there, volunteered there and cared in ways both visible and quiet. It was the faith that guided decisions, the generosity that bridged difficult moments and the hundreds of small acts of kindness that shaped daily life.

The Home's story is long, but its heart remains simple: to offer care, dignity and belonging.

As the next chapter unfolds, that purpose continues to light the way.

With gratitude and humility, thanks were given to God, whose faithfulness had carried the Home through one hundred and fifty remarkable years.



John Edwards - Alison Louw - Lindsay Long - Rev. Anthony Potter
Irene Werner - Sharon Cupido

BOARD MEMBERS 2026

REV. ANTHONY POTTER
(Chairman)

JOHN EDWARDS
(Treasurer)

ALISON LOUW
(Trustee)

LINDSAY LONG
(General Manager)

SHARON CUPIDO
(Methodist Representative)

IRENE WERNER
(Presbyterian Representative)



Heads of Departments

Marce Le Roux - Lindsay Long - Lucy Sardinha
Tereza van der Merwe - Moreen Osch



Senior Nursing Staff

Lizelle Appies (EN) - Noma Ngcobo (EN) - Pretty Ngcobo (EN)
Sr. Monicah Sithole (PN) - Toni Chiya (ENA)



(Some of the) General Staff



Cnr Wandel and Vrede Streets



Resident Bedroom



Entrance

REFLECTIONS FROM: CHAIRMAN

"The Ladies Christian Home has served women in the City Bowl for one hundred and fifty years. Originally established as a residence for single women working in the city and those without local support, the Home has evolved to focus on the care of elderly women over the past two decades. Throughout its history—including two World Wars, the Spanish Flu, and the recent Covid-19 pandemic—the Home has remained operational, thanks to ongoing support and provision of donors and benefactors. It is with grateful thanks to God and his gracious provision that we have managed to keep the doors open to enable continued care for the Ladies in the Home.

The staff have continued the practice of making this residence into a home for the ladies. A great testament to the Home's caring environment is that past board members and staff have returned to the home as residents to become part of the residential family here.

The Board Members past and present have given sacrificial service to the Governance of the Home and we stand on the shoulders of generations passed who have left us this legacy to hold and secure for future women who would be cared for at the Ladies Christian Home."

REV. ANTHONY POTTER

GENERAL MANAGER

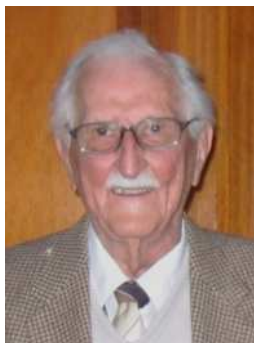
"What a joy it is to celebrate and be part of this amazing milestone. Over the past 36 years, I have seen Ladies Christian Home continue the ministry for which it was founded, whilst providing compassionate care to the elderly. It has grown in so many different areas, being modernised and adapted to cater for different physical and mental conditions of its Residents as well as providing an array of psycho-social activities.

The love and care that our staff show to our residents permeates throughout the Home making it a happy home. I count it a privilege to work with the elderly and be part of this establishment and I give God all the glory for sustaining it for the past 150 years. May it continue to grow and prosper and serve those who are most vulnerable."

LINDSAY LONG

CHAIRMANSHIP 1876 - 2026

M R E J E A R P	1876 - 1923
M R J C A R T W R I G H T	1924 - 1930
M R S A H A R V E Y	1931 - 1949
M R A T B A B B S	1949 - 1953
M R O T T O D O S Ē	1953 - 1969
M R H O W E L L E D W A R D S	1979 - 1995
D R C O L I N P R E S T	1996 - 2009
R E V. B R I A N W O O D	2009 - 2018
R E V. A N T H O N Y P O T T E R	2018 - present



Mr Howell Edwards
(1979 - 1995)



Rev. Brian Wood
(2009 - 2018)



Rev. Anthony Potter
(2018 - present)

BENEFACTORS AND DONORS 1976 - 2026

Over the years, the Home has received many donations from Trusts and Estates.

BRENDA AND DAVID CUNNINGHAM
J E D E V I L L I E R S V A N D E R M E R W E T R U S T
F G P A Y T R U S T
J O A N S T L E G E R L I N D E N B E R G T R U S T
B R I A N R O B I N S O N T R U S T
N G T T R U S T
D A V I D S Y L V E S T E R
T E D D Y D A V I E S
W H & S M V I S S E R T R U S T
H D U C K W O R T H
P H I L I P S T O C K E N
F R E D E R I C K F I S H T R U S T
R O S S E R C H A R I T Y T R U S T
C H A R L E S H A R D I N G C H A R I T A B L E T R U S T
P V A L E N T I N E
H F R I E N D

A R T H U R & G L A D Y S B U R R I L T R U S T
S C H W A R T Z T R U S T
T O N N E S E N T R U S T
M O L D E N H A U E R T R U S T
F M H A W E S T R U S T
S I N E A D K E N N E D Y (S P O N S O R E D S E C U R I T Y
F E N C I N G & C A M E R A S)
E S T A T E L A T E A G N E S F L E M M I N G
P E R S O N A L T R U S T
476 C H A R I T A B L E T R U S T (2 L A U N D R Y
D R Y E R S)
S E A P O I N T C O N G R E G A T I O N A L C H U R C H
M I K E & H E L G A V A N N I E K E R K
D R M A S A N G U
J E K E N N E D Y
G L A V I T A



Who We Are and How You Can Help

1. The Need We Serve

As people grow older, many reach a point where living independently is no longer possible. They may need assistance with daily living, access to medical care, or simply a safe and supportive place to call home. This is especially true for elderly women who are single or widowed, or whose families are unable to provide the care they need.

The Ladies Christian Home was established in 1876 in response to this very need. Nearly 150 years later, that need remains just as real.

2. Our History

150 years ago, a group of concerned Christians from various denominations came together in Cape Town with a shared vision: to create a safe and caring home for elderly women. Their goal was to provide secure, comfortable accommodation with compassionate care.

An appeal was made to the public for funding what was then called The Christian Home for Aged, Infirm and Indigent Ladies and for Christian Workers. Within months, almost £700 was raised. With these funds, a merchant's home known as Buckingham House was purchased for £100, and a further £350 was spent on alterations and furnishings. The Home opened its doors in February 1877, welcoming its first residents. By October of that year, eight women were living there.

An executive committee was formed, including clergy from inner-city churches and prominent business leaders. Over the years, the Home expanded. In 1878, an adjoining store was purchased, and in 1938, land in Vrede Street, Gardens, became available. A new building was constructed on this site, which is where the Ladies Christian Home stands today.

3. Our Mission and Values

The Ladies Christian Home exists to care for elderly and infirm women with dignity, respect, and compassion. Our aim is to protect their rights, promote their well-being, and ensure they live free from fear, neglect, or harm.

While we recognise the importance of material and practical needs, our work is rooted in a Christian ethos of love, service, and compassion. This is expressed through care that supports the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of every resident.

Our commitment extends not only to residents, but also to the staff who care for them. We believe that residents are best served by staff whose own dignity, rights, and well-being are valued and protected.

Although the Home has strong Christian foundations, it is not limited to residents of a particular faith. Women of all faiths are welcome, and all religious activities within the Home are voluntary.

4. Our Staff

The Home is supported by a dedicated team of permanent staff members, and also employs a number of nursing agency staff.

As of January 2026, our staff complement is as follows:

• Catering Staff:	12
• Cleaning Staff:	10
• Laundry Staff:	2
• Maintenance Staff:	3
• Nursing Staff (Day and Night):	51
• Receptionist:	1
• Nursing Operations Manager:	1
• Coffee Shop Staff:	2
• Bookkeeper:	1
• General Manager:	1

5. Our Residents

The Ladies Christian Home accommodates up to 122 residents across various levels of care:

• Frail Care:	41
• Dementia Care:	25
• Special Care Unit:	13
• Ground Floor:	18 (Physically frail, mentally fine)
• Second Floor	25 (Degrees of physical frailty, mentally fine)

6. Management and Administration

The Home is managed by an experienced and committed leadership team:

• General Manager:	Lindsay Long
• Nursing Operations Manager:	Lucy Sardinha
• Accounting Manager:	Tereza van der Merwe
• Catering:	Moreen Osch
• Laundry:	Portia Joubert
• Cleaning:	Lynette Marco

7. Board Members

The Home is overseen by a voluntary Board of Trustees who ensure that it operates effectively and remains true to its founding values and high standards of care.

• Chairman:	Rev. Anthony Potter (REACH SA Representative)
• General Manager/Trustee:	Mrs Lindsay Long
• Treasurer/Trustee:	Mr Clive John Edwards (JE Financial Services (Pty) Ltd)
• Trustee:	Mrs Alison Louw (Alison Louw & Associates)
• Trustee:	Ms Sharon Cupido (Methodist Church Representative)
• Trustee:	Mrs Irene Werner (Presbyterian Representative)

8. Care, Nursing, and Daily Life

The Home provides full board and lodging in a calm, well-maintained environment. Residents receive three nutritious meals daily and personalised care.

8.1 Nursing and Healthcare

Each resident receives care appropriate to their individual needs. Nursing care is provided around the clock by a skilled team that includes registered nurses, enrolled nurses, nursing assistants, and carers.

Day shift: Registered or Enrolled Nurses, Enrolled Nursing Assistants, and 15 carers on duty.

Night shift: 1 Enrolled Nurse and 7 carers on duty.

Care plans are created for every resident, medication is administered by nursing staff, and monthly health assessments are conducted at our Wellness Clinic.

The Home holds a Mental Health Licence from the Department of Health for Alzheimer's and Dementia care, which is reviewed annually.

8.2 Frail Care

Our Frail Care unit is fully equipped to support residents who require a higher level of medical and personal assistance.

8.3 Social Activities and Services

Residents are encouraged to remain socially active and engaged. Activities and services include:

- Music mornings, movies, knitting and crochet groups, crafts, puzzle making, Scrabble,
- Games, Library, Hairdresser and foot care services and Exercise classes.

The Home also features a tranquil rose garden, a coffee shop for residents and families to enjoy, and a tuck shop for residents.

8.4 Spiritual Support

Spiritual care is available for those who wish to participate:

- Weekly church services on Tuesdays, led by pastors from various denominations.
- Bible studies on Mondays and once a month on a Tuesday.
- Individual spiritual support when requested by resident.

9. Why the Ladies Christian Home Matters

The Ladies Christian Home was founded out of a deep concern for the wellbeing of elderly women in Cape Town. That concern remains just as relevant today and the present Board wishes to continue to uphold the care and concern of the Founding Members. There is a serious shortage of affordable, quality accommodation for elderly women at a reasonable cost, and the Home continues to meet this vital community need, nearly 150 years after its establishment.

9.1 Our Immediate Funding Needs

The Home urgently requires financial support in the following areas:

- Resident Fee Subsidies: Many residents cannot afford the full cost of care. With state pensions not keeping pace with rising care costs, the Home subsidises many residents to ensure they are cared for for the rest of their lives. Sustainability is essential to honour this commitment.
- Frail Care Refurbishment (approximately R1.5 million): Expansion of the dining room and lounge areas on the ground and first floors, which are currently overcrowded.
- Nurses' Station Expansion: To include a doctor's examination area and tea room (quotation still to be obtained).

9.2 How You Can Help

There are several ways to support the Ladies Christian Home:

- General Donations: Undesignated gifts towards daily operating expenses are always appreciated.
- Sponsor a Resident: Monthly debit orders can help subsidise the care of residents who cannot afford full fees.
- Capital Projects: (See Item 9 above.) Contributions towards building upgrades or equipment replacement are welcome. Recognition may be considered for major gifts.
- Gifts in Kind: Toiletries, incontinence products, PPE, and medical or ward equipment are always needed.
- Bequests: Donors may wish to include the Home in their will to help sustain its future.

9.3 Accountability

The Home is fully accountable for all donations received. Funds are used strictly for their intended purpose, and donors are informed of how contributions are utilised.

Annual financial statements are audited by RSM (SA) (Pty) Ltd, Chartered Accountants (SA), and are available on request.

9.4 Tax Status and Banking Details

The Ladies Christian Home is registered with the SA Revenue Services as a Public Benefit Organisation:

PBO No. 930007461 and donors are exempt from Donations Tax.

We are also registered with SARS for 18A tax-deductible donations.

Section 18A Donations:

Ladies Christian Home

Standard Bank

Thibault Square

Branch Code: 051001

Account Number: 074029266

Reference: (Donor's Full Name)

Non-Section 18A Donations:

Ladies Christian Home

Standard Bank

Thibault Square

Branch Code: 02-09-09

Account Number: 070885176

Reference: (Donor's Full Name)

We hope this information helps you understand who we are and the care we provide.

If you would like more information or wish to support the Home, please contact us at any time.

Contact Details:

Mrs Lindsay Long - General Manager

Telephone: 021 465 3117

Website: www.lch.co.za

Email: info@lch.co.za

Facebook: Ladies Christian Home

