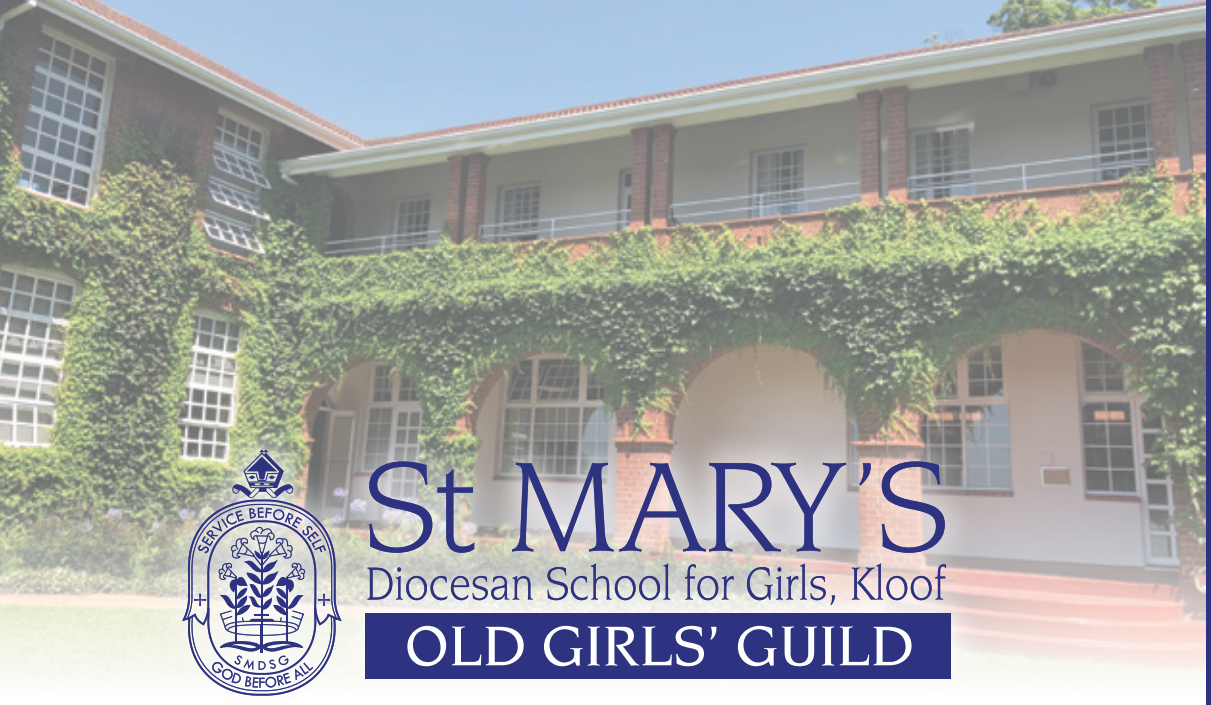


St MARY'S
Diocesan School for Girls, Kloof
OLD GIRLS' GUILD

St MARY'S
Diocesan School for Girls, Kloof
OLD GIRLS' GUILD

2020 NEWSLETTER • Issue 3 •

Reflecting on *2020*

DEAR Fellow Old Girls,

Not surprisingly, the most popular word of 2020 is COVID, according to Google.

This virus has changed the world as we know it and has impacted hugely on the events that were planned for the Old Girls' Guild this year.

I am grateful that we were able to hold the Old Girls' Committee drinks prior to lockdown. I was deeply encouraged to see the growth of the committee and the enthusiasm of our new members.

We were unable to hold all other functions due to the COVID-19 restrictions. I am excited, though that next year we will hold a bumper Old Girls' Reunion - 2020 plus 1! We look forward to honouring the anniversary years of 2020 and 2021 at this special celebration.

Please take note that the date for our 2021 Old Girls' Day has been moved to the last weekend in July. The invite appears later in the newsletter and, to highlight, the date for our combined celebration is 31 July 2021.

As 2020 draws to a close, I am reminded that this year has taught us what really matters. For me this is the health and well being of our loved ones and the sacrifices made by those who have served others during this tumultuous time.

I would like to commended the staff of St Mary's, headed by Jonathan Manley for the incredible way they have guided the girls of St Mary's through these unchartered waters.

It is this spirit of St Mary's - to be world class and to inspire young woman, irrespective of the situation, that makes me proud to be a St Mary's Old Girl.

I encourage you all not to be defined by what we have lost to the virus, but how we respond to it.

As the festive season fast approaches I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a blessed Christmas.

May the magic of the festive season fill your heart and home with joy and love.

Enjoy the read and please send us your news! We love hearing from you and we look forward to seeing you all in 2021.

Until then, good health and happiness.

Kind regards

Bianca

Bianca Livesey nee Crouse (1995)
Chairlady of the St Mary's Old Girls' Guild

MATRIC WELCOME TO THE GUILD
Page 2

MAKING NEWS
Page 4

INSPIRING OLD GIRLS
Featured throughout

OLD GIRL NEWS
Featured throughout

Please send us your news... We love hearing from our Old Girls from across the years and oceans! Contact Lauren on lrapson@stmarysdsg.co.za and click the below links to join our Old Girl networks.

www.facebook.com/groups/2252310910/
www.instagram.com/stmarysdsgkloof_oldgirls/
www.linkedin.com/in/stmarysdsgoldgirls/

Matric
Welcome to the Old Girls' Guild

On Wednesday, 09 September the Matric girls wrapped up their final Trial Examinations with treats and refreshments from the Old Girls' Guild. The pandemic has not allowed for the usual procedure for this event, however, the girls were treated to powerful and inspiring talks from three of our Saints Old Girls via online videos.

The Matrics were welcomed by The Old Girls' Guild Chairlady, Bianca Livesey (1995) and the common thread shared by this year's speakers was the importance of building networks and nurturing relationships, starting from their years at St Mary's.

Georgie Passalaris (1993), the Impact Measurement & Management Lead at the World Economic Forum (WEF) works for the Platform for Global Public Goods, which drives WEF's activities concerning the environment, natural resources, food security, development finance and sustainable development.

Laura Thomas (2006) is Founder and Managing Partner at Salt & Candy, a 100% women led digital marketing agency which spans across three continents and has leveraged global experience of working with blue-chip clients.

Zamatonga Madondo-Tembe (2006) is a doting mother, social change activist and the Johannesburg Regional Head of Salt & Candy.

Laura and Zamatonga believe that the power of mentorship and establishing powerful women networks is crucial to ensure greater representation of women in the workplace.

We thank Georgie, Laura and Zamatonga for giving their time to record messages, giving our Matrics some real food for thought as they near the end of their school journeys.

Their stories on the following page...

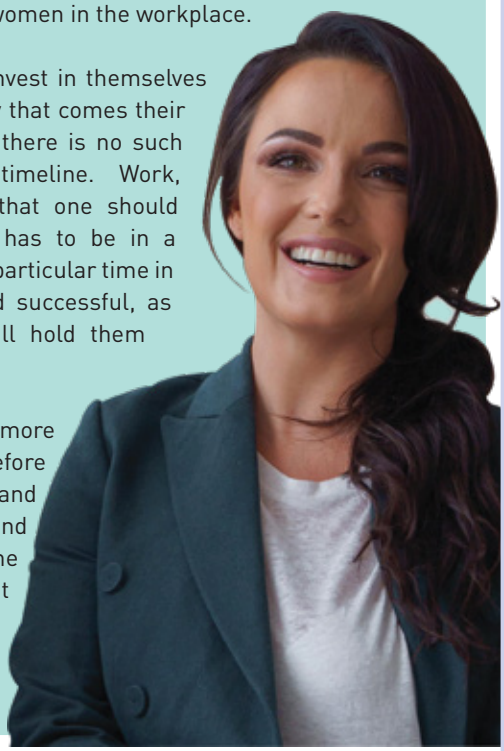
Laura Thomas (2006) is Founder and Managing Partner at Salt & Candy, a digital marketing agency.

Having completed her Brand Communications, Marketing and Media degree at Vega in 2009, Laura has set up and led numerous successful businesses over the past decade. Based in Cape Town, the 100% women-led team spans across three continents and has leveraged their global experience of working with blue-chip clients such as SABMiller, Coca-Cola, HBO, Sky and British Airways, as well as kick-starting some of the world's most exciting small businesses.

Together with her colleague, Zama, they believe in the power of mentorship and establishing powerful women networks to ensure greater representation of women in the workplace.

Laura urged the girls to invest in themselves and grab every opportunity that comes their way. She highlighted that there is no such thing as the perfect timeline. Work, marriage, anything, and that one should reject the idea that one has to be in a particular place in life at a particular time in order for it to be deemed successful, as that kind of mentality will hold them back.

She believes creativity is more important now than ever before and that resilience, grit and good work ethic will stand them in good stead as the Class of 2020 venture out into the real world.



Zamatonga Madondo-Tembe (2006) is the Johannesburg Regional Head of Salt & Candy.

Zama studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics at UCT and later a PDBA (Postgraduate Diploma Business Administration) at the Gordon Institute of Business Science. Zamatonga now works alongside Laura Thomas and is proud to include doting mother and social change activist to her many titles.

Zama's goal for her talk was to make the Matrics think... she commended them for getting through this year amidst a pandemic and to continue to embrace change and be receptive to it. She emphasised the importance of nourishing skills such as critical thinking and emotional EQ and to empower and lift up other women.

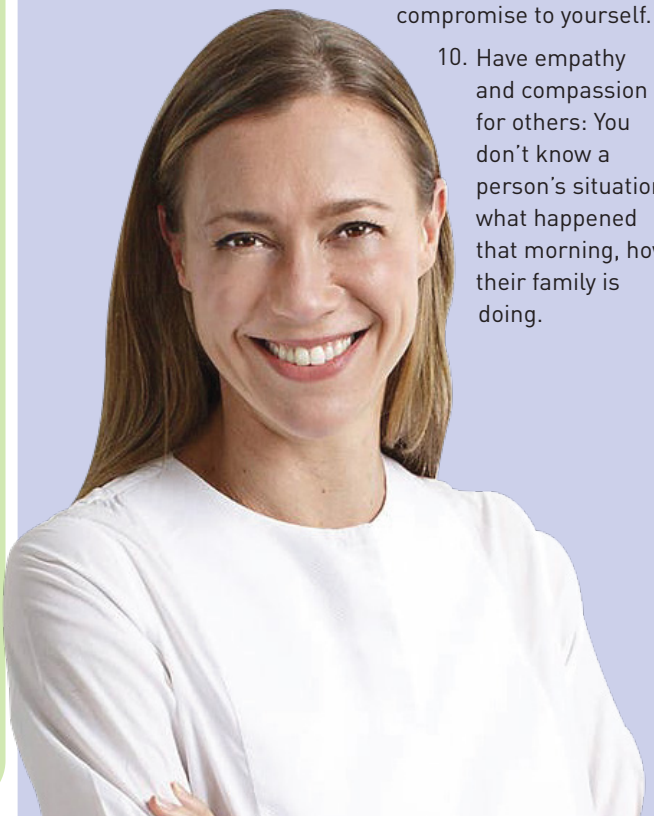
"No conversation is ever wasted" Zama says, stressing the power of building relationships. She encouraged the girls to be authentic while always remembering the responsibility that comes with their digital space in today's day in age and how it will serve their future.

Georgie Passalaris (1993) began her new role as Head of Impact Measurement & Management at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in July this year. Georgie will be working for the Platform for Global Public Goods, which drives WEF's activities concerning the environment, natural resources, food security, development finance and sustainable development.

Studying a BA at UKZN in 1997 and a Master in Tri-Sector Collaboration at the Singapore Management University in 2014, she was based in Singapore as a sustainable development professional for almost a decade, before moving to Geneva to take up her new role.

Georgie impressed on the Matrics 10 points which have helped her in life:

1. Be brave. Listen to and trust your instincts and your intuition.
2. Society and social rules are constructed, they're made up. They are different in South Africa or in Chile. There is no right or wrong, just a different set of rules. They don't have to define you, you have to define you.
3. Stuff is stuff. Don't get stuck in a trap thinking it is a mark of your success. Instead, focus on collecting knowledge, experiences, skills and friendships, grow yourself spiritually.
4. Life is not linear and sideways steps can produce amazing new opportunities that you could not have imagined.
5. Relationships, networks are important, so nurture and grow them.
6. The experience matters most, more than the achievement.
7. It is absolutely fine to take a path now and change it later. You will always change it later!
8. You have to be informed, to be empowered. Don't believe everything you hear or read. Don't rely on others to educate you. You are responsible for educating yourself.
9. Live your life with kindness to others but without compromise to yourself.
10. Have empathy and compassion for others: You don't know a person's situation, what happened that morning, how their family is doing.



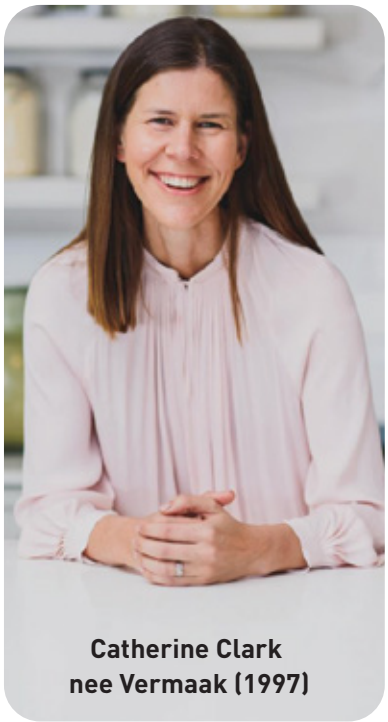
Congratulations to *Hayley Nixon nee Arthur (2001)* for being crowned the 2020 Athlete of the Year at the Momentum GSports Awards ceremony at the end of August.

Hayley, our 2018 National Old Girl Award recipient, has taken the sport of Surfski and canoeing in South Africa to new levels. Experienced biokineticist and sports coach, Hayley has received several coveted awards, including Ocean Racing World Champion in 2017 and the best female participant in 2018 and 2019 to name a few.

"I am absolutely blown away to receive this award, for myself of course, but also for Canoeing South Africa and specifically to have placed the sport of Ocean Racing (surfski) in the limelight," says Hayley. "It has been an amazing experience to be part of the GSport15 #sheownshersuccess journey this year and we can't give enough thanks to Kass Naidoo and her amazing team at gsport4girls! for creating this platform to showcase, celebrate and nurture women's sport in South Africa. Thanks also to Momentum for supporting women and sponsoring this beautiful event which we were part of!"

Excerpts courtesy of News24.com

Santam Women of the Future 2020



Catherine Clark nee Vermaak (1997)

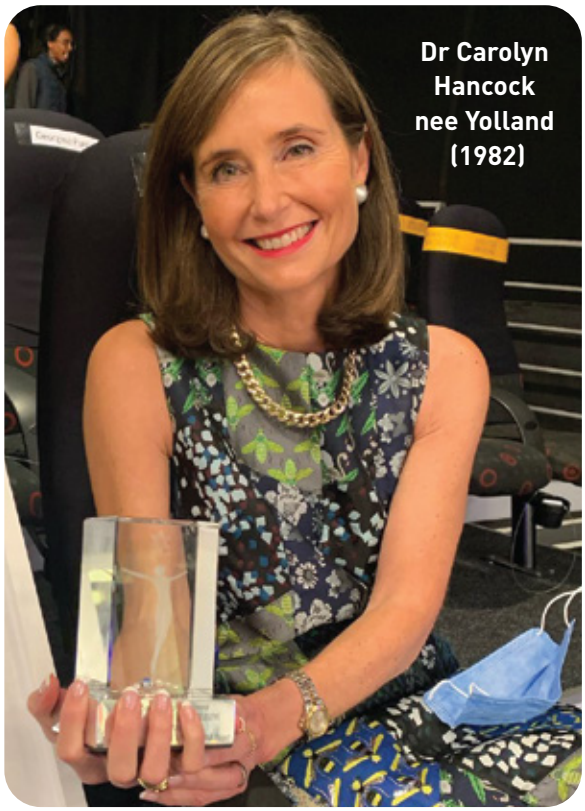
Two of the nine finalists for the Santam "Women of the Future" Awards for 2020 were St Mary's Old Girls!

The Awards Ceremony was held on 16 October and congratulations to *Dr Carolyn Hancock nee Yolland (1982)* for winning the 2020 Santam Social Entrepreneur Award for her work at Angels' Care Centre, Thembelihle School and DNA project. Well-deserved recognition for the incredible work she carries out.

Our second Old Girl, *Catherine Clark nee Vermaak (1997)* from The Harvest Table - was recognised with her nomination in the Santam Women of the Future category.

You can read their interviews on:
https://womenofthefuture.co.za/finalists/

Well done ladies - we are so proud of you!



Dr Carolyn Hancock nee Yolland (1982)

After nearly two years working at Discovery as an intern and Marketing Assistant, *Amahle Mkhize (2013)* was excited to start her next chapter in October as a MSc in International Business Candidate at Hult International Business School. Amahle was awarded the prestigious Women In Business scholarship at Hult where she will be completing two Masters consecutively! The first will be a Master of Science in International Business, followed by specialising in Disruptive Innovation.

"Disruptive Innovation is an emerging discipline in Global Business. It empowers business people and executives to consider more integrated business strategies," says Amahle. As a specialist in innovation, Amahle will look at how to merge business decisions with emerging technology to create the best outcomes for international businesses.

With a goal to pursue entrepreneurship, Amahle will be completing her degrees in various countries, in cities which are known for a particular areas in business, that have been strategically selected by Hult. Starting in Dubai, Amahle will move on to do electives and internships in London. With Disruptive Innovation she will eventually study and consult in the heart of Silicon Valley, USA which is the home of innovation.

We wish you all the best Amahle, enjoy the experiences headed your way!

Congratulations to *Hayley Reichert (2003)* for recently receiving a "Spirit of Ubuntu" Commendation award from the South African Chamber of Commerce in the UK for her efforts "above and beyond the call of duty" in helping the vulnerable and the displaced.

During the worldwide lockdown due to COVID-19, Hayley initiated the Home Away from Home (HAFH) repatriation project, where she downed tools at her day job for five months to volunteer alongside a team of approximately 15 others who assisted more than 20 000 repatriates. They assisted thousands to expatriate through project LISA (Locked in SA) by lobbying the government to allow SA citizens to return to their homes/work abroad. The team supported many individuals facing tragedies. They set up a counselling platform for those requiring mental health services whilst stranded or in quarantine. They also raised funds to assist some of those in desperate situations. Hayley even assisted a number of Old Girls and their partners who were stranded!

Hayley is currently training as a mortgage advisor in the UK with the firm, Interlife Ltd. and has been heavily involved in the South African diaspora internationally for the past decade. She is an ExCo member of the South African Chamber of Commerce in the UK and spent six years on the organising committee of the UK based Nedbank South African Charity Golf Day which has raised over £2 million for SA charities. She is a former Democratic Alliance Abroad Deputy Chairperson, having contributed towards the 2014 overseas General Elections and launched the dual/loss of SA Citizenship campaign which the DA took to the Constitutional High Court in 2018.

This year Hayley was also appointed as UK Head for the South African movement, Move ONE Million, which aims to drive positive change at both grassroots and government level in SA for the betterment of all South Africans, with the core driver being direct elections. As part of the steering committee, Hayley is tasked with developing the overall strategy for the movement and driving activities and foreign engagement in the UK.

Thank you Hayley for truly embodying the spirit of ubuntu!

Sinenjabulo (Sine) Zungu (2005) graduated from the University of Cape Town with her Honours in Marketing. Her career started in marketing and sales. In 2017 she became the CEO of Qhubeka Forensic Services, after starting as the Marketing Manager in 2016 . The company was established in 2005 and has a national footprint that focuses on Forensic audit, Fraud risk management, Legal support and Data analytics.

In 2019, Sine was appointed as a non-exec Director onto the Pacinamix Board, a Marketing and strategy consulting firm. In July this year, she completed her International MBA at IE Business School in Madrid, Spain. This was a year programme in which she was awarded a partial Women in Leadership scholarship.

Raised by strong women, Sine sees herself playing a significant role in the upliftment and empowerment of women in the work-place as well as in the greater South African community.

"I cannot wait for a world where women in boardrooms and leadership positions are seen as equally capable as their male counterparts," says Sine. "That is the world I see myself in. A world I want to live in."

"I am a firm believer in serving and leading by example," she says. "Great communication, exhibiting compassion and kindness towards your staff and people around you goes a long way because, when difficult decisions have to be made, it makes it that much easier to deal with and gain support. I do not believe in micromanagement. I believe in motivating and empowering your employees to perform beyond your expectations and rewarding them accordingly."

Michelle Haarhoff nee Royal (2004) has set up a non-profit organisation called Doodle CANcer, Doodle Life following her husband, Kosie's diagnosis of advanced colon cancer in 2018. During his intensive treatment program and weeks of feeling awful together they decided they needed to make a difference and find a way to bring positivity and hope to others who were in the same position.

It started by creating simple representational CANcer and everyday life "doodles" to encourage others and create a positive mindset for those affected. It has quickly grown into an NPO that has helped to support individuals through their cancer journeys by helping to lighten the load; making the process easier and inspiring positivity together.

"We serve as an intermediary between affected families and those who would like to open their hearts and support them. We help raise funds that go towards blessing those battling cancer by delivering groceries, meals, gift vouchers or simply assisting where we can to make daily life along the cancer journey a little easier." says Michelle. "We have seen the impact of how one small act of kindness can spark hope in the lives of others facing huge challenges every day."

Cancer is a life-changing experience, affecting not only those courageous souls bravely battling the disease, but their families, friends and communities as well.

Thank you for this amazing and thoughtful initiative, Michelle.

To learn more or to get involved, please visit their Facebook page @DoodleCancerDoodleLife or www.doodlecancer.co.za

October 11 marked International Day of the Girl Child. *Ruth Purcell (2016)* along with a team of Australian National University (ANU) science students, has been taking part in "Do It In A Dress", a unique campaign which calls on everyone to put on a school dress to raise funds and awareness for girls' education.

Worldwide, more than 130 million girls are out of school and two-thirds of the world's illiterate adults are women. Increasing the proportion of educated women has shown to encourage economic growth through increased incomes. Having millions more educated women means having a stronger workforce, with the potential to add up to $12 trillion USD to the global economy. Furthermore, educated girls are healthier citizens who raise healthier families.

Ruth has recently graduated with First Class Honours in Biochemistry & Biomedical Science as part of her Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours) - Science degree (PhB) and will be starting a PhD in immunology soon. Together with her team, they aim to raise $15 000 - enough to send 50 girls in Uganda and Sierra Leone to school for a year.

Ruth even got hold of a St Mary's dress in Australia as pictured in her research lab!

To learn more or support visit:
https://www.onegirl.org.au/fundraisers/ruthpurcell

Well done Ruth!

Louise Cheung nee Thomas (2004) and Leon were married on 16 March 2019 at Camp Orchards. This year, during lockdown, they welcomed their son, Harrison on Easter Monday - 13 April - in London. Pictured with Louise on her wedding day are several special friends and classmates from 2004. From left to right, *Meg Hamann nee Moxham, Anna Dranias nee Stylianou, Sarah Colle nee Harris, Louise, Nikki Drummond,* Amy and *Catherine Holmes nee Brazier*.

Alexandra Lombard (2006) married Thomas Hine on 14 March 2020 on a winery in Stellenbosch. Tom grew up in Scotland and the couple met in Singapore, where they are both working. Alex and Tom felt extremely grateful and lucky that they managed to have their wedding just before the world went into lockdown, and had a wonderful day celebrating with friends and family from all over the globe.

Callie Azzie nee Miller (2010) and husband, Adam were married on 12 October 2019 at Hartford House in the KZN Midlands. Callie's Maid of Honour and fellow classmate from 2010 was *Candice Vahl nee Cornwall*.

Keren Kerr nee Kinsey (2013) was married to Bruce in August this year at Camp Orchards. Pictured with the couple is Keren's mom, *Jo Kinsey (St Mary's Head of High School* and *Honorary Old Girl)*. The very special day was quite a collaborative effort from various Old Girls! *Wendy Laatz (Honorary Old Girl)* made their cake. *Katie Brazier (2012)* was one of Keren's bridesmaids. *Sarah Colle nee Harris (2004)* was the caterer/chef. *Kelly Brazier (2012)* designed the wedding stationery. *Brit Chaplin (2012)* designed and made the wedding dress. *Chanelle Sheppard nee Wright (2008)* made the bridesmaids dresses and the masks (COVID wedding vibe). *Caitlin Barnes nee de Kock (2006)* and her husband Brian officiated the ceremony.

202NE

2020 & 2021 OLD GIRLS' DAY - SATURDAY 31 JULY

St Mary's DSG, Kloof
09:30 to 14:00
Chapel Service at 09:30
Lunch (no cost)

St MARY'S
Diocesan School for Girls, Kloof
OLD GIRLS' GUILD

Photographs throughout morning
and memorabilia on sale
Tours at 08:00 & 14:00

Please RSVP by 23/07 on lrapson@stmarysdsg.co.za or 031 764 9803

OBITUARIES

Sally Brazier (Head of Chapel 1976)

28/03/1959 - 15/10/2020

Sal's passing has been all too sudden, quick and unexpected – an understatement if there ever was one... a special twin, loving sister, auntie, sister-in law, godmother, cousin and friend, advisor, mentor...and a whole lot more to many. After her early school years at Kloof Primary, Sally attended St Mary's and was appointed Head of Chapel in her matric year. After a secretarial course, Sal headed off to UCT – BA with Psychology Majors before returning to KZN to do her Masters at PMB Varsity. She set up her private practice in Cape Town, where she has been practicing ever since.

Sal had class and style. She was an independent thinker with a quiet, gentle demeanour. She loved a good laugh and was especially generous with her big smile that would reach up to touch her brightly coloured and unusually shaped funky spectacles. She was loving and kind to the core, an intellectual who was eternally a peacemaker. Sal had an adventurous spirit - loved exploring new places and travelling new ground.

Sal was real. Human. She didn't deny the reality of life – the hardships, heartbreaks and broken dreams. She had her own. She loved to share, to laugh and spend time with people and family. She also took relationships very seriously, respecting what was shared with her, listening without judgement, digesting and giving thought and then offering so much more in response, wisdom and empathy.

I have undue respect for the way in which Sal sought to discover her own self, her own truth – to grapple with what spoke to her and what didn't, to break from convention for conventions sake, to look prejudice in the eye and accept difference.

Here's to Sal... To a gracious woman; and a life beautifully lived, You will be missed by us all, loved forever; and always remembered.

- Edited words of Guy Brazier, twin brother to Sally

Sal was central to the Class of '76 and as we lost and gained girls to and from other schools, she was our constant. There wasn't one who didn't adore, admire and respect her in every sense. She was the drawcard at every reunion – her love of a party, the mischievous twinkle in her eye, her deep love, care and concern for us all shone through in every part of her being. She was truly one of life's precious diamonds and she leaves an unimaginable and enormous void in our circle. RIP our beloved friend.

- The Class of 1976

Sally **(right) and sister,** *Judy Brazier (1979)* **ready for school**

St MARY'S
Diocesan School for Girls, Kloof
OLD GIRLS' GUILD

Calling for Old Girl Award Nominations

Please put forward your nominations for Old Girls you feel deserve recognition for their achievements.
Please contact Lauren on lrapson@stmarysdsg.co.za