

# RESTORATION OF ST THOMAS CHURCH COMPLEX

## STANFORD, WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

## PROGRESS REPORT – 15 MAY 2023

### 2022:

The St Thomas church elders, and specifically Mr Henry Gibson, approached the Stanford Conservation Association (SCA) with the request to please assist in raising funds for the rethatching of both church buildings. This was because the SCA assisted the church in 2008 and raised funds to the amount of approximately R130 000 to dress the thatch on the church roof, as well as renovate the interior of the church. With the last of the funds the SCA also had the reed organ restored.

### January 2023:

Members of the SCA met with Messrs Gibson and Hannes Appel to discuss their needs. The result is a Prospectus (attached) for a major restoration of the St Thomas Church complex – a project that will cost about R2.2 million.

### February – March 2023:

The SCA started to raised funds for the most urgent phase of the restoration project: The rethatching of both the St Thomas Church and the adjacent Oulap School, as well as the removal of the two tall palm trees that are growing too close to the church and are damaging the thatch (leaves falling on the roof and dislodging the thatch) and the foundations (lifting the buttresses that stabilise the walls).
By end March sufficient funds were raised by the SCA to contract Europa Thatchers from Elim to commence with the rethatching of the Oulap School.



## April 2023:

Work commenced on 11 April 2023. Rain has hampered the progress – and another major complication was that all buttresses had to be replaced. Progress has therefore been extremely slow.
BY end April the SCA had raised more than R300 000, and commissioned Europa Thatchers to proceed with rethatching the church roof once the roof of the Oulap School is completed.







## May 2023:

The rethatching of the Oulap School will be completed by 19 May 2023 and work on the church roof will commence the following week.
On 10 May the 2 palms trees next to the church were cut down and removed.





**NOTES:**

- All funds have been raised by the Stanford Conservation Association, which acts as project manager for the restoration project.
- Up to this point all the money has been donated by the broader Stanford community – residents and ex-residents.
- There is no cost to the Diocese of False Bay – the owner of the property.