



Opened on Founders' Day, 2003

The Labyrinth was constructed and opened at the request of the Round Square (RS) Committee who, in that year hosted the RS International Conference. It follows the Santa Rosa design, 20m in diameter. The original construction with gravel pathways separated by dietes grandiflora planted by GC students was eventually replaced with brick paving. RS conference delegates planted the dietes on the perimeter.

With its ancient origins, why does the labyrinth continue to capture the imagination today? Simply, it is not attached to any one faith or tradition: each person who follows its path may draw from it what he or she needs. It is a place of meditation: contemplative or energising, stimulating and inspiring the mind.



A labyrinth is a single path that has no junctions or choices, no dead ends. It is not a puzzle to be confused with a hedged maze. One way in and the same way out. Its left and right turns restore a sense of balance and help release anxiety, fear and stress.

The labyrinth is used symbolically by the girls' schools in the right of passage from primary to high school. The labyrinth ceremony takes place at the start of each year. It celebrates the new journey as each grade 8 girl enters the Girls' College. Supported by their Matric mentors, the girls form a C-shaped open circle, symbolising that new members are always welcome. The grade 8s are presented with the first of the charms they will receive in their time at the Girls' College, reminding them of the closing lines from our College Song: "...that here our ship once anchored, and here its course was set".

To view the Labyrinth ceremony, **click here:** [https://youtu.be/\\_mmm3xlnbJM](https://youtu.be/_mmm3xlnbJM)

Sources:

Dickson, Pauline (2019) *A Gardener's legacy*. Sandton: St Stithians College

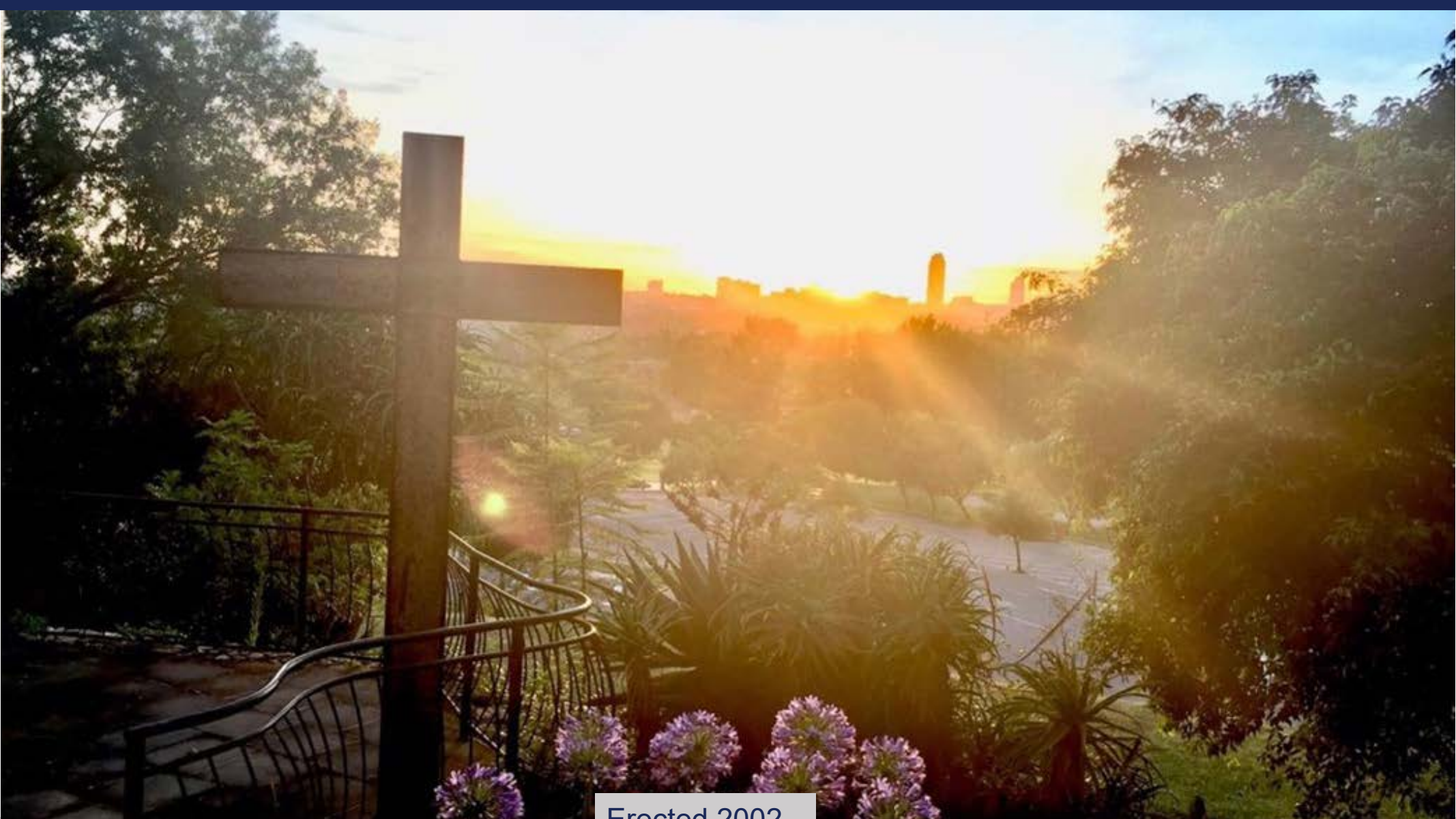
Our thanks go to St Stithians College Archivist, Dr Mary Reynolds for researching and collating this information.

Let my purpose each day be to Honour You  
 I seek to Praise You through faithful service,  
 I seek to Honour You through dedicated worship



## OUTDOOR CHAPEL

"Be Still and know"



Erected 2002

Dominating the north side of the Campus, is the Outdoor Chapel, which commemorates Rev Mike Roberts, the College Chaplain who passed away from cancer in August, 1997 whilst in service to the College. His Assistant Chaplain, Rev Judgeman Rasmeni described Rev Roberts as "a dear partner in service, a good colleague and a faithful minister in Christ". David Wylde, the BC headmaster at the time, said of him: "He was a man, take him all in all. We shall not look upon his like again."

The words "Be Still and Know" were the last words spoken to David Wylde by Rev Roberts before he died.

Together with the nearby labyrinth, the outdoor chapel combines with the original Chapel to provide opportunity for spiritual contemplation and growth. Leading to this Chapel is the Iris Way, named after Rev Robert's mother, who enjoyed the walk and view. To the right of the pathway is a bench erected in her memory and from which the view across the Campus may be enjoyed.

The Outdoor Chapel was built on part of the rocky cluster from which emerged the original big spring that fed the whole estate with underground water. The spring ran all year round, even in drought conditions. A misunderstanding led to the Chapel slab covering the spring and the water has since had to find alternate ways of surfacing.

The rock cluster is an important part of the granite, agate and rose quartz ridge that extends from the Magaliesberg through Johannesburg to Wemmer Pan in the south. Through the efforts of the Environmental Committee, and in particular, Pauline Dickson (Parent and environmentalist) and Ugen Sunder (BC Life Sciences teacher), the full outcrop and its surrounding natural grassland have been declared a Protected heritage site.

Sources:

Dickson, Pauline (2019) *A Gardener's legacy*. Sandton: St Stithians College

Stythian 1997 p27 Rev Judgeman Rasmeni (Asst. Chaplain) re Rev Mike Roberts

Stythian 1997. Tribute by David Wylde. (full tribute appended below)

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Let my purpose each day be to  
 Honour You  
 I seek to Praise You through  
 faithful service,  
 I seek to Honour You through  
 dedicated worship

Let my purpose each day be to  
 Honour Others.  
 Let me seek to respect and value  
 each person that I meet  
 And see You reflected in my  
 neighbours.

