

DI CESAN DIGEST

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SPURRING ONE ANOTHER ON
TOWARDS LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS



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Diocesan Digest

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SPURRING ONE ANOTHER ON TOWARDS LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS

by the Rt Revd Dr Titus Chung

This Synod meeting is the third one that we have needed to hold online as the world and our nation continue to struggle with containing a pandemic that has disrupted so much of our lives. COVID-19 pressed a reset button that forced us to learn new ways of living life and doing ministry. It made us take stock of what we have been doing as we are reminded that “each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done” (1 Cor 3:13).

Thanksgiving

Despite the challenges brought about by the pandemic, we are thankful for God’s faithfulness and grace upon us as a diocese and as a nation. All of our parishes in Singapore have returned to onsite worship and we thank God that our members, in

general, are faithful in meeting the needs of the Lord’s house.

Since baptism and confirmation services resumed in the second half of 2020, the Archdeaconry of Singapore has had close to 500 baptised and 550 confirmed. Despite needing to cancel all confirmation services in our six deaneries due to travel restrictions, we thank God for the 259 believers who declared their faith through baptism. These are encouraging testimonies that prove we are steadfast and are standing shoulder to shoulder for strength and encouragement despite the restrictions on religious gatherings and the challenges faced, particularly by our brothers and sisters in Christ in our deanery countries. Indeed, without the work of the Holy Spirit, these would not have been possible.

We are also thankful to the Lord for his protection and blessings upon our social services and schools. It is our pleasure to announce that under the

THE GREAT COMMISSION

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

collaboration of the Ministry of Education and St Andrew's Mission Hospital, we were awarded a special school project that will provide students with special needs the opportunity to receive national-curriculum primary to secondary school education. This 10th Anglican school will start operations in January 2022 at an interim site with the first intake of about 75 Primary 1 students and a smaller number of Primary 2 and Primary 3 students crossing over from other schools. We covet your prayers for this school to fulfil its purpose of bringing hope to many who need a helping hand.

It is an understatement to say that 2020 was a challenging year for our staff serving in Singapore Anglican Community Services and St Andrew's Mission Hospital. The risk of infection is real for our medical frontline staff, but they embraced this courageously and sacrificially as they faithfully provide the much-needed service to the needy and ailing in our hospitals and centres. Their unreserved care and excellent service have received many approvals and accolades. For example, 241 staff received the Singapore Health Quality Service Awards 2020. We thank God for them and pray that God's protection is with them always.

Holding Fast

In my previous Synod Address, I mentioned that vision is about the unchanging goal that lasts for generations, and mission is the task of this current generation to achieve the goals articulated in our vision.

The New Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) spell out the unchanging vision of our diocese. We are to be disciples of Jesus, and are commanded to go and make disciples of all nations. All our ministries are (and should be) undergirded with the unconditional love of God and our sacrificial love for God.

It is dangerous to de-couple the two. Spreading the gospel to the world without love can breed intolerance and extremism. Spreading love without the gospel is charity without purpose. A closer look at church history would reveal the pitfall of asserting one at the expense of the other. Either way would fail in fulfilling the call to live a life that reflects the New Commandment and Great Commission.

As a diocese with 27 parishes, 6 deaneries, 9 schools, 22 preschools and a wide range of community services, we need to realise that our true purpose and mission is to bring the love of God

THE NEW COMMANDMENT

“A new commandment
I give to you, that you love
one another: just as I have
loved you, you also are to
love one another.
By this all will know that
you are my disciples, if
you have love for one
another.”

(John 13:34-35)

to the lost world out of our love for God. To do this, we need to be disciples who have the goal of making disciples for Jesus. It involves building a community of faith and cultivating a church that is rooted in discipleship. Growing as a disciple of Jesus is as much a communal matter as it is a personal affair. We cannot produce a healthy believer if the church is not healthy, and vice versa. The key indicator of personal or collective health is not so much about how well-endowed we are with resources, but how faithful we are in living our lives as disciples like St Paul or St Peter, by bringing the gospel to those around us with the unconditional love of God.

On this note, we need to ask ourselves honestly, as a Christian and as a church, “Am I a healthy and growing disciple for Jesus? Is my congregation,

my parish and my diocese healthy and growing in discipleship? Have we invested our time, energy and resources appropriately in the right place and built a solid church?” If we have, press on! If not, let us reset our bearings and get back on the right track. Beyond asking ourselves these questions, everyone here is also responsible for bringing these questions back to your parish. We do this not just out of duty and responsibility but because of what God has called us to fulfil and become.

It was undoubtedly discouraging to hear the 4 May announcement to roll back to Phase 2 COVID-19 restrictions, although this is needful. The sudden announcement yesterday (14 May) to further tighten restrictions is a clear sign that we are not out of the woods and the situation is urgent. As we adapt our church services and activities to the sudden change, let us not get so caught up or overwhelmed that we lose sight of the purpose of why we are doing all this. We need to hold fast to our vision and mission, and continue to work in unity to build the foundation of our faith. We should be creative and engaging in how we do ministry, as we bring the gospel to everyone, from the young to the old - no one should be left out. We must also strengthen our pastoral care so that our members are well-supported and feel connected to the church.

In times of difficulty and challenge, only the Word of God and the Love of Christ can bring us comfort and strength. Nothing, not even the current pandemic, should stop us from building lives and making disciples for Christ. Remember to “preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching” (2 Tim 4:2).

Forging Ahead

Over the last few months, much work has been done among the clergymen and deaconesses to reflect honestly on where we are as a diocese and how we can move forward. One of the recurring issues we have to address is restoring faith and order. We want to see the diocese return to the “bread and butter” of our vision and mission.

Within the Archdeaconry of Singapore, we are looking at how we can better organise ourselves among the 27 parishes to leverage on one another’s strengths, work closer together and achieve better synergy and support. This may take time and several trials, but we believe it will provide a much-needed boost to our parishes in realising our diocesan vision and mission. We are at an early stage, and we hope to keep the Synod informed of the development in good time.

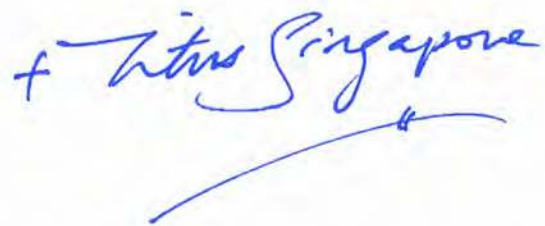
We are thankful that amidst the challenges posed by COVID-19, God raised indigenous leaders within our deaneries to step up and play a more prominent role in leading the work of the deaneries. This is a positive step for our deaneries’ progress in becoming archdeaconries and dioceses. We also see encouraging developments where our parishes are becoming more intentional and focused in supporting our deanery work. The situations in our deaneries are complex and challenging, with the pandemic further compounding their problems. We need to keep our brothers and sisters in constant prayer and ask for God’s provision, grace and mercy to be sufficient for them. We can claim on the promises of God as stated in Isaiah 43:2, “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.”

We thank God for the wonderful work He is doing through our community services. In addition to the excellent medical and counselling support extended to our clients, our chaplaincy ministry is a distinctiveness that sets us apart from other voluntary welfare organisations. Our chaplaincy team and pastoral staff of our anchor churches have done a lot. Many have expressed appreciation for their encouragement and their pastoral care in times of

need. To continue improving our chaplaincy ministry, we need to take stock of what has been done and get ourselves ready for challenging moments both now and in the future. Our pastoral work in SACS and SAMH are expressions of God’s unconditional love and channels for us, as Jesus’ disciples, to be the light and salt for the nation. We pray that God will bring in more volunteers and resources so that our mission to bring God’s love to where it is most needed will be fulfilled via this important chaplaincy ministry.

We have also begun critical work in streamlining the diocesan administrative services to better support our parishes and ministries. We welcome Ms Mabel Tan, who has joined the diocese as the Chief Administrative Officer. Some of the upcoming changes that we can expect in the latter part of the year include digitising the diocesan membership database. These changes will lighten the administrative process in the parishes for baptism, confirmation and transfers. Another area of change will involve diocesan communications. This pandemic has taught us that the modes of communication have evolved. We need to leverage technology and relook our methods to be more effective in reaching out to our parishioners.

Despite current COVID-19 challenges, we enter into exciting times, and God is leading us. Let us press on and “hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:23-25). ✠



Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

(Hebrews 10:23-25)

NEW DIOCESAN BISHOP

for the Province of West Malaysia

The Diocese of Singapore welcomes the Rt Revd Dr D Steven Abbarow as the 5th Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of West Malaysia. Bishop Abbarow was consecrated on 1 February 2021 and installed on 2 March 2021 at services held in St Mary’s Cathedral, Kuala Lumpur that was livestreamed online.

Bishop Abbarow took over the role from Bishop Datuk Ng Moon Hing, who retired on 12 November 2020, after 13 years of faithful ministry.

Bishop Abbarow has a BEcons (University of Malaysia, 1985), a MDiv (Semnari Theologi Malaysia, 1989), a MTheol (South East Asia Graduate School of Theology, 2002), and a DMin (Perkins Divinity School of Southern Methodist University, 2016). He was ordained into the priesthood in 1990, collated as Canon in 2005 and served in various parishes from 1990 to 2012. He was appointed Vice-Principal of Semnari Theologi Malaysia in 2012 and was named principal-elect in 2020.

He is married to Anne (1990) and has two children, Ruel and Naomi. ✚



DEANERIES AND GLOBAL MISSIONS

Updates from THE DEANERY OF LAOS

By Revd Ian Hadfield, Dean of Laos

Local ministry needs and mission strategies in Laos continue to evolve because of COVID-19. The pandemic has led to more online classes in our language school. It has also meant more requests for help to feed and care for children and physically protect them because of the economic fallout of the pandemic on the poor. Our Skills Centre vocational students were sent home during lockdown but they have happily returned to take up practical learning again. The Church of the Holy Spirit has been faithfully providing some online resources for church members in Laos, but worship services have now reverted to in-person services.

At JOMA Café, we have trained and employed four deaf people, or handspeakers. Three leaders were also trained to develop skills with their peers. Beyond employment skills, some in the group have



Deaf person working in JOMA Cafe

enthusiastically made praiseworthy life choices and are getting connected to a growing group.

Deaf person working in JOMA Café

Some challenges we face include the constant need to find new people to replace those who have left or withdrawn from Laos due to health concerns. Others who have expressed the desire to work in Laos have to wait for visas and approval for other administrative procedures. Since the pandemic began, financial

support for Laos has decreased.

My prayer request for Laos is for more financial aid to surface, and more people to come forward. Please also pray for wisdom as I plan strategically and effectively for the future. There will soon be changes in leadership positions. Please join me to pray that God will raise up the right people at the right time. ✚

Updates from THE DEANERY OF CAMBODIA

By Revd Steven Seah, Dean of Cambodia



Food distribution during lockdown

The same day that the Chinese government shut down the city of Wuhan to contain the spread of a new coronavirus, a 60-year old male from Preah Sihanoukville managed to catch a flight out of Wuhan back to Cambodia with three family members. A week later, on 31 January, 2020, he became the first confirmed case in Cambodia.

As COVID-19 spread rapidly around the world and the WHO declared the outbreak a pandemic on 11 March, the situation in Cambodia remained 'controlled', with only seven confirmed cases as of 13 March. When the number of cases jumped to 33, school closures declared for Phnom Penh extended nationwide on 16 March. By 17 March, the closures extended further to include karaoke pubs, cinemas and religious gatherings.

With on-site services no longer allowed, the church in the city had to adapt quickly to switch to online services. Given that live streaming or video recording was something the pastors and the staff had not used before, it was most heartening to see them learn so quickly and work so hard to make the switch as smoothly as they did, with God's grace.

There was reprieve in the countryside where the rural churches could still gather in their smaller numbers. Revd Tit Hieng was able to continue his weekly trips to conduct bible studies in the provinces.

The economy was badly hit in the ensuing period. Many expats went home. Travelling became restricted. Those dependent on tourism lost their



Opportunity to pray for those in need during lockdown

businesses, garment factories closed and hundreds of thousands lost their employment.

In the absence of on-site services, the pandemic-induced economic crisis caused church collections to drop. Mobile banking did not improve the collections much.

The period between October 2020 and February 2021 saw gatherings resume with precautionary measures, tighten because of community transmissions, then loosen up again until a ban on religious gatherings was imposed in Phnom Penh, Kandal and Sihanoukville on 17 March 2021. This has since been extended to all provinces until further notice.

Ministry changes

Like everyone else, Church of Christ Our Peace (CCOP) had to migrate to online services. Unfortunately, not every Cambodian can afford internet access even if the church made Khmer church services available online.

On the other hand, most expats can access internet resources from around the world. Ps Wu Wenbin from the Chinese congregation was able to find a niche to help overseas Chinese learn the Khmer language, and worked hard to run these classes online. He also ran online baptism and discipleship classes for our new converts and seekers.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that those living in poverty doubled in 2020, not just because of the pandemic but also because of year-end floods. This is very plausible given that so many daily wage earners live from hand to mouth. CCOP joined other churches and NGOs in providing food relief packages, and we are keeping a lookout for the poorest of the poor

and using our limited resources to reach those who cannot do without any help.

Teachers at our learning centres gave lessons in students' homes when the community felt comfortable receiving people. Lately, the teachers in Takhmau have been posting videos of their lessons on YouTube and making them available to their students.

Many people are viewing Revd Tit Hieng's mini-sermons that he posts on Facebook. He will increase his posts now that travel from Phnom Penh to the province is banned.

Missionaries' update

Becky Locuson, a missionary from Anglican Frontier Missions who runs our Spotlight English program, went back to the US in March 2020 when schools

Teachers in Takhmau before the lockdown





Becky Locuson teaching English

were ordered shut. There was little for her to do and it was risky for her to remain. Becky was able to continue her English program and her Khmer language lessons online from the US.

On 10 April 2020, Revd Gregory Whitaker and his family went back to the US for his furlough. He was able to run the English services online from the US throughout his furlough.

On 12 April 2020, I managed to hop on a specially chartered flight back to Singapore after my regular flight got cancelled.

Except for Becky who had a valid visa to return to Cambodia, Revd Whitaker and I had to apply for new visas for ourselves and our dependents. Initial travel requirements and quarantine conditions were confusing. Different embassies and airlines interpreted them differently. Many travellers to Cambodia had to turn back for not meeting all the requirements.

Thankfully, the requirements were clearer by the time the missionaries returned to Cambodia. Revd Whitaker and his family were able to get their visas and return to Phnom Penh in September 2020, just in time to lead onsite services when the government began allowing religious gatherings within certain restrictions. Becky returned in October 2020.

In December, Gwen and I barely made it for our flight back to Cambodia. We were allowed to embark only after calls were made to the Cambodian Immigration to confirm that our business visas were valid and issued before its suspension on 12 December. Looking back, God's hand was upon us to get us out of Cambodia and back.

Encouraging moments

In December 2020, we baptised seven members from Church of Christ Our Peace Chinese, 11 from Church of the Good Shepherd, Phnom Penh and 46 from the church in Pursat. Among the candidates, 16 were children.

It is also encouraging to see our pastoral workers Pov Morn from the Khmer congregation and Wu Wenbin from the Chinese congregation rise up in leadership and responsibility.

Pov was Revd Jesse Blaine's protégé, who was trained to take over as leader of the Khmer

congregation. Pov's leadership transition went very smoothly because he had already gained the congregation's trust through his character and competence.

Wenbin served with Revd Chan Peng Wah at Church of the Good Shepherd, Phnom Penh for about seven years before coming to CCOP Chinese. Wenbin has passion for the Lord and the church, and proved to be a hard-working leader who is respected by the newly formed congregation. By God's grace, Wenbin was able to gather a group of mature and dedicated lay co-workers to serve the congregation alongside him. Do pray that God will bring to completion the work that He began in each of them, until Christ comes again.

From my personal point of view, it is encouraging to see how God is bringing in the workers that the church needs.



Baptism at CCOP



Baptism at CCOP

In December 2020, we baptised seven members from Church of Christ Our Peace Chinese, 11 from Church of the Good Shepherd, Phnom Penh and 46 from the church in Pursat. Among the candidates, 16 were children.

For some time now, the church has desired to start a new worship site in Phnom Penh Thmey. Good core lay leaders came and went even before steps could be taken in 2019 to start this worship service. When new ones were found, the pandemic in 2020 put our plans on hold again. Currently, an ordained Anglican minister from the US has committed to come to Cambodia in 2022 to lead this new worship service and church plant.

Another veteran missionary is feeling led to serve in a new ministry. She has lived in Cambodia for 14 years to set up a school for her NGO. As an educator who is gifted in administration, she could plug a gap in our ministry. Do pray that this dear sister will be led by God to serve with us.

God has also provided Revd Chan with three new Cambodian staff to form a stronger team over the last two years. They are timely additions to carry on the ministry to vulnerable children in Kandaok and Chbar Ampov. It took three attempts, but we believe we have found a suitable worker for the church in Kg Speu after Ps Vibol moved to Svay Rieng to be with his wife and children. There are other potential candidates. It looks like God is answering our prayers to send labourers into His harvest field.



Revd Steven Seah is back and serving in Cambodia

Trust in the Lord

Psalm 31 motivated me to trust in the Lord in the pandemic-stricken world we live in. It is easy to pretend or say that we trust the Lord when times are good and comfortable.

David described the terror posed by his enemies and his utter inability to overcome this terror. It was in those very desperate circumstances that David cried out, "But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God"" (Psalm 31:14).

I asked myself, "Do I trust the Lord to see us, and the church, through this pandemic?" My answer is, "I have to. There is no one else we can trust." ✚

Updates from THE DEANERY OF INDONESIA

On 21 February 2021, the Deanery of Indonesia officially inaugurated GAI Getsemani, under the umbrella of Chapel of the Resurrection, with Bishop Titus Chung's blessings.

GAI Getsemani's congregation is a Bahasa Indonesia-speaking congregation, and is largely made up of seafarers and domestic helpers working in Singapore. It was founded about eighteen years ago by Revd Winston Tan, Revd Ferry Tumelap and Mr Henry Sumolang, and the congregation had been holding their worship services at Church of the True Light.

Today, the Dean of Indonesia, Revd Timothy Chong, is helping this congregation. He said, "We are meeting on Sundays at 2:30 pm in room #02-11 at St Andrew's Centre within St Andrew's Village in Potong Pasir and we welcome anyone who speaks Bahasa Indonesia to join us." ✚



GEREJA ANGLIKAN INDONESIA GETSEMANI

Kebaktian Bahasa Indonesia
di
Chapel of the Resurrection
1, Francis Thomas Drive,
Singapore 359340

Waktu Kebaktian
2.30 pm – 4.30 pm
Hall A #02-11



Updates from THE DEANERY OF NEPAL

New Dean for the Deanery of Nepal

After eight years as Dean of Nepal, Revd Canon Lewis Lew stepped down from this role to be the new Vicar of St Andrew's Cathedral. With effect from 1 January 2021, Revd Canon Steven Asirvatham (Vicar of Parish of Christ Church, Acting Vicar of Church of the Epiphany and Chairman of Singapore Anglican Indian Board) was appointed the new Dean of Nepal.

Canon Steven Asirvatham's personal involvement in Nepal started in 2013 when he went on a trip to Nepal with Bishop Rennis Ponniah to conduct confirmation services. He said, "The Lord put in my heart that it will be good for Christ Church as a parish to plant a church in Nepal as our contribution to deanery work, because Bishop Rennis was encouraging each parish to adopt a deanery. Nepal is closest to India and its culture is relevant to us."

He added, "Parish of Christ Church has been involved in mission work for many, many years under

previous vicars, actively supporting mission both within the diocese and in India particularly. Parish of Christ Church has also done pioneering work and has been involved in church planting - it planted Church of the Epiphany during her 25th anniversary. So I challenged the PCC and with the members support, and we started a church plant in Pokhara during our 75th anniversary. Today the church is called Christ Church Pokhara."

He explained how Christ Church members, Sandrabose and Vasanthi, offered themselves as full-time missionaries to serve in Nepal while on a short-term mission trip there. Bose and Vasanthi have been in Nepal for the last two years assisting in kindergarten work and church work. He said "That's how Parish of Christ Church became involved, and how I, as the vicar, also became involved."

As Dean of Nepal, Canon Steven Asirvatham's vision for the Deanery of Nepal is to see it grow to be a diocese. He said, "This goal was set



Canon Lewis Lew (left) and Canon Steven Asirvatham (right) distributing bibles on one of their trips to Nepal

Joyful cheers at a baptism





Revd Sanjeev Sunawar with his family



Pastor Sonam and his family



from day one when Bishop Moses Tay took Nepal in as part of our deaneries.” He added, “I want to acknowledge Revd Lewis for his contributions and the Nepali leadership team for their hard work that has led to so much growth. I’m just building on all that is already set in motion.”

Out-going dean, Revd Lewis Lew, is personally thankful to the local Nepali clergy leaders who have sacrificed so much and worked very hard to expand, grow and manage over 100 churches. “And they continue to develop how the deanery is running and operating,” said Revd Lew.

Revd Lew is also thankful to see the raising of the Nepali leadership team - 47 theological students have graduated and 23 others are in the midst of studying hard. He is grateful, too, for the participation of Singapore’s parishes and the partnership with various partners from ACNA (Anglican Church in North America) and other mission agencies.

Revd Lew said, “I have been personally very blessed by the friendship with my Nepali brothers. I’ve learnt a lot from their humility, their zealous pursuit for the Lord and their unwavering faith in the midst of persecution to continue to reach out and share the Gospel. They go all out for the Lord in terms of evangelism and their belief in God’s power. I have never experienced so many supernatural healings and miracles except in Nepal.”

His parting words to his Nepali brothers are, “Keep pressing on! Major on discipleship-making and evangelism, and continue faithfully to build the future generation of leaders for Nepal!”

Challenges in a Pandemic Season

Canon Steven Asirvatham said, “When I took over, we were already in the midst of the pandemic. The churches in Nepal couldn’t gather, and were using Zoom or continuing to meet from home. Despite this, the churches in Nepal recorded over 142 baptisms. This is evidence of dynamism in Nepal’s church life.”

He added, “The Nepali pastors came forward to take a pay cut by 50% because they knew times were

difficult (I have since restored 25%). Meanwhile, church work is growing. There are continual needs to set up physical structures and church buildings. The political situation is still very unstable, with another election coming soon. The Hindu fundamentalist government does not recognise the church as an official religion.

“We are also cautious that one day, if the government decides to close the door to foreign support, the church must be able to sustain herself. This is one reason why we started the kindergarten ministry,” Canon Steven Asirvatham said. “While opportunities continue to open up, we need the financial support of Singapore members to meet the financial challenges to sustain as an institution.”

Loss of two church leaders

The Deanery of Nepal had also tragically lost two of their church pastors. Revd Sanjeev Sunawar passed away from a heart-attack while delivering food to the needy during the pandemic. 26-year-old Pastor Sonam from St Petra’s Church in North Kathmandu, near the district of Dhading, had lost control of a motorbike that had a faulty brake that resulted in his death. Their families, the clergy team and the affected congregations are naturally grieving and adjusting to the loss and the diocese has stepped in to assist.

Looking forward

Canon Steven Asirvatham said, “The Church in Nepal rises up during times of disaster to go to the needy, poor and sick. This is how the Nepali people get to experience the love of God. We are seeing a powerful testimony of how people are coming to know Christ in the midst of real problems and needs.”

He added, “We are looking to grow from a deanery into an archdeaconry. The work is exciting. This year we are hoping to plant twelve new churches. There are seven churches in need of a place to gather for

worship as they have grown between 150 to 200.

“These are exciting developments. Growth is taking place. At the same time, we are raising up local workers who are locally trained, and building infrastructures in Nepal such as the Hattiban Project, for example.”

“We thank God for the Diocese of Singapore for providing the funds, but there are other projects as well,” said Canon Steven Asirvatham. “Annually, Nepal experiences earthquakes and floods. The church and partners have responded well but more can be done.” ✚

Testimonies from the ground

Thankful for God’s Promises

by Revd Rinzi Lama

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” Psalms 23:4

I thank God for sustaining me through the valley of death, and I could return home from the hospital after nine days of treatment. I am really thankful for your fervent prayers.

How I was affected by coronavirus

Between 28 January and 2 February, I went to upper Dhading of northern part with my wife Nani



Revd Rinzi Lama teaching a class

Revd Rinzi Lama with his wife Nani Beti (left); Revd Rinzi conducting baptisms (right)



Beti to conduct two days of leadership and baptism program. Our baptism water flows from higher mountains so the water is minus degree. I was in the cold river for about 40 to 50 minutes. After coming home, I unknowingly met a coronavirus-infected man. He had just recovered from the virus but not feeling well.

It was a really difficult time. After a week my body was in pain that increased day by day. I could not eat anything. There were no tests from 12 to 24 February. After that I was hospitalized for nine days. It was hard. I could not meet anybody and felt very alone but the word of God gave me encouragement:

“I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will lead him and restore comfort to him and his mourners.” Isaiah 57:18

Now I can eat. My wife gives encouragement time and again to my son, daughter and their families. My church leaders and members are praying hard for me. I am now resting at home, in a separate room for a while. I am still really weak. I need more days to recover more fully.

I am really thankful for your fervent and precious prayers. May God love you abundantly.

In Him for Christ,
Rinzi ✚

Updates from THE DEANERY OF THAILAND

by Revd Canon Yee Ching Wah, Dean of Thailand

Our local ministry needs and mission strategies have continued to evolve because of COVID-19.

The first wave of the pandemic left every pastoral staff with a steep learning curve on two fronts:

1. Understanding the virus when information was uncertain during the initial months. It was challenging to implement safe distancing measures when the general awareness of the deadly virus was still low.
2. Learning and transitioning to the digital platform for worship services, providing pastoral care; and helping other members familiarize themselves with the use of technology.

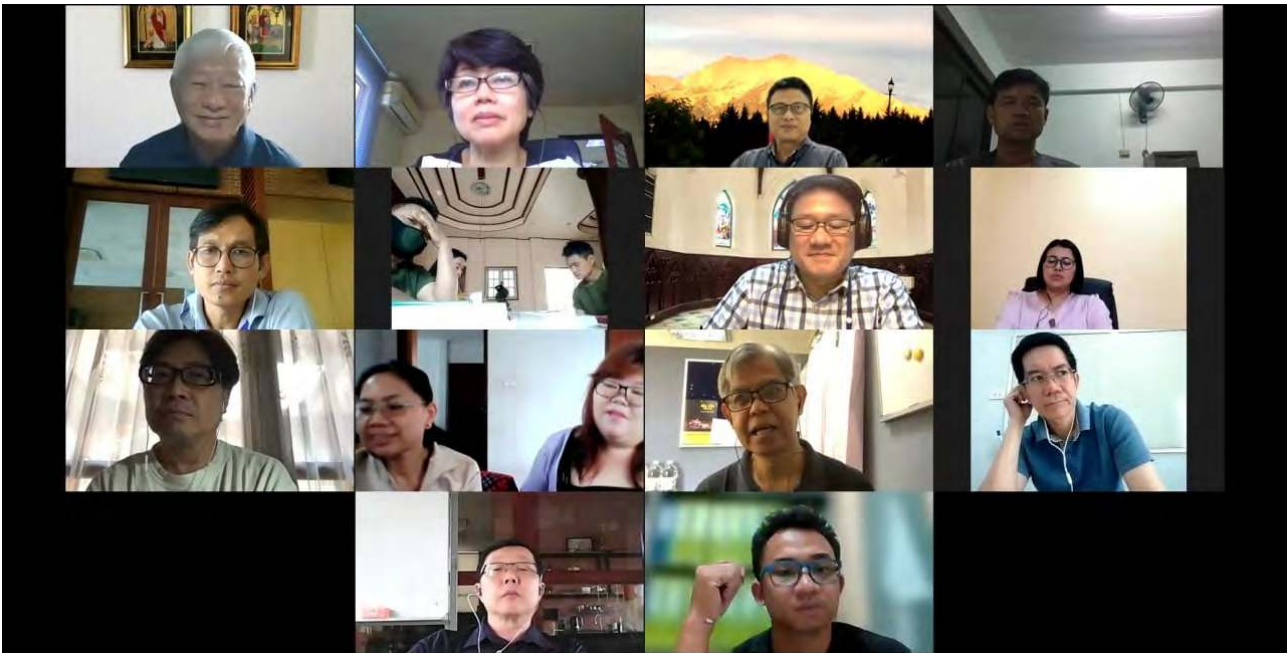
It was very noticeable that pastoral staff who had built relationships with members got busier. They sought creative ways to stay connected with members. Pastoral staff who did not have deep relationship found it hard to start connecting when the lockdown happened.

Inspiration and Motivation

The Anglican Church in Thailand (ACT) was able to set up a COVID-19 Fund with donations from ACROSS

COVID-19 relief distribution





Weekly zoom meeting with ACT staff

and local sources. We laid out guidelines and set up a task force to administer the fund, track information released by the government and direct congregations in their response to government guidelines.

We were also able to adapt to the use of technology, which helped to keep our community close.

Zoom meetings kicked in immediately. I was able to meet weekly with ACT Staff from all of over Thailand.

We broadcasted our services via Facebook Live, via YouTube with pre-recorded videos, and via Zoom for live worship. We also initiated weekly bible studies and monthly prayer meetings for all ACT members via Zoom. Our staff got to meet each other more often.

We were very encouraged by our pastoral staff whose love for the people pushed them to adopt creative ministry approaches and our school principals and teachers who were so devoted to learning and adapting to home-based learning. The Safe Management Measures implemented by our school were quoted as examples that other schools followed.

Challenges and Sacrifices

It was a big challenge to provide pastoral care to our staff and missionaries without the ability to do field visits.

Many felt the isolation of being separated from their families because of travel restrictions. They also felt anxious about staying safe while on the field or transmitting the virus to family members at home.

It is very difficult to sense the situation on the ground without being present with the people in the field. It was not ideal to rely on second-hand reports.

Our Long-Term Strategic Planning meeting

scheduled for March 2020 had to be postponed. Our attempt to do this via Zoom was not effective. Ordination Training and the bishop’s visits for ordination and confirmation services were all affected. We also had to push back our timeline for leadership transition and put on hold indefinitely our infrastructure development projects.

A very faithful Thai church member who was residing in Malaysia to care for her grandchildren passed away suddenly. Her sudden death was a shock to all who knew her. We were very sad that travel restrictions meant that none of us from Thailand or Singapore could travel to be with the family during their bereavement to be with them physically to comfort them. It was difficult to gauge their emotional state and communicate sensitively over the phone.

Our personal challenges include Zoom fatigue. While it was exciting to use new possibilities to connect more frequently, the initial novelty of online programs began to wane after six months. The question of what is the health of the church post-COVID-19 is still unknown.

Prayer Requests

- For pastors, pastoral staff and missionaries in all the congregations to be filled with the Spirit as they lead, teach, care and reach out.
- For our discipleship efforts to bear fruits, such as developing strong churches and raising dedicated pastors and church planters for the future.
- For our search for a new Vicar of Christ Church Bangkok.
- For unity in the Spirit and in missions between congregations and between staff team. 🙏

A Personal Diary of Missionary Life in Thailand in the Midst of a Pandemic

By Diana Yap

*Andrew & Diana Yap are missionaries from Singapore serving with the Anglican Church in Thailand.
Their 8-year-old daughter, Mikayla, was born in Bangkok.*

February 2020 – News and concern grew about the new virus in Thailand.

March 2020 – The country went into lockdown. Schools, shops and workplaces closed and a curfew was put in place. Except for essential services providers, we all had to work-from-home. International border-restrictions followed. There was panic buying. Our churches went online, services were pre-recorded weekly by a small team. Meetings were held over Zoom. Cell group meetings, bible studies, prayer meetings all migrated online.

March to June 2020 – All local and international schools were shut and we adapted to online learning. Public places, parks and playgrounds closed. Many mummies of young children told me they resorted to locking themselves in the toilet for some moments of peace and to hear themselves think!

July – Bangkok slowly emerged from lockdown as infection numbers were brought under control. Our Anglican Church in Thailand (ACT) network of churches coordinated opening up to allow on-site services with safe distancing measures in place.

August to December 2020 – We adjusted to help our members deal with the impact of the lockdown. Church staff team discussions focused on how to help families and individuals in crises. Many members lost their jobs; others moved back to their home provinces, where living was more affordable, to seek new employment. The economic effects from border restrictions on foreign travelers coming into Thailand are increasingly felt even today. We meet people whose livelihoods have been hit hard on a daily basis. Many are in extremely difficult situations that short-term measures cannot resolve. Reports of suicide rates are increasing nationwide.

Helping with these relentless issues was physically exhausting and mentally stressful. As a missionary family serving in a foreign land during a pandemic, we had to also deal with our own fears of getting infected. We grappled with who we can trust to look after our child should anything happen to us, and the many hoops and red-tape to jump through to travel home. We prayed earnestly for the well-being of our elderly parents back home in Singapore who miss us dearly and us, them.



During normal times, we typically make short trips home about two to three times a year. It may be hard for some to understand why we have been unable to fly back to Singapore to visit for more than a year now. But there is a long list of hoops to jump through for non-citizens and religious-visa holders like us.

We have had to cling on with all our might to the Lord, and press in to find our peace and answers in Him when our world and the world around are in disarray. We have been paying more attention to emotionally-healthy spirituality and giving importance to self-care in practical ways. The rubber has never hit the road harder than it has in the past year for us. And we are realising anew with each trial, that God and His grace is truly ever-present for us, even at times when we feel overwhelmed, isolated or at our worst.

January 2021 – News broke on the night of our church's Christmas celebrations of a new cluster of 800 infected. The country promptly went into lockdown again from 1 January this year. Imagine our deep disappointment, after planning and trying for the past months to rebuild disciples and church life after the hit from the first lockdown. The lockdown involved schools getting shut again and another round of online-learning with our kid. This time round, nerves seem more frayed than in the previous year.

March and April 2021 – Schools and churches re-opened. Time to re-build again.

We read and hear about vaccinations taking place in Singapore. Meanwhile, the vaccination process has been very slow here. Information or timely forecasts are not forthcoming. As missionaries, we have learnt to be okay with the saying, “you will know when you know”, to hold on and to find our balance in

the tension of daily life.

What the pandemic has taught us

We have learnt about lamenting in prayer. Seeing so much hurt, brokenness and needs around us teaches us to feel with the Father’s heart for a world that is lost and broken by sin and suffering. Seeing the world through His eyes can be painful, but it helps us to also see that the only hope for us is life in Christ. As weak and broken vessels ourselves, we can only cry out in prayer, and live as His image-bearers by abiding in Christ to reflect His light to a truly needy world. ✚

Strengthening Bonds Amidst the Pandemic in Siriaunda School - St Andrew’s Anglican School in Chiang Mai, Thailand

By Gerry and Yahui, missionaries to Thailand from St John’s Chapel

We thank God for a dedicated team of school director, management team, teachers and support staff who served dedicatedly and sacrificially as our Christian witness to our students and families in the face of the pandemic.

Siriaunda School served hard together to provide a safe environment for our children at the kindergarten. We thank God that the kindergarten was highlighted by the Thai government officials as a model to the other schools in Chiangmai in terms of school readiness for COVID-19 safety measures.

Teachers adapted and responded enthusiastically to be trained in order to teach our children more effectively online. They also served sacrificially and gave up their holidays and breaks so that in-school teachings to the children could be delivered in the least disrupted and safest manner.

We thank God that our children responded and adapted well to the new norms in school. Despite a difficult year, the K3 graduating students passed their entrance tests of their selected primary schools with good results; with one even being accepted to a level higher than her peers.

School Director, Waat Wanthanawong and Thai Curriculum Head Teacher, Teacher Mint with Chiang Mai Provincial Ministry of Education officers during their COVID-19 school readiness inspection.



Siriaunda School teachers having a training session with Gerry Gan, in preparation for our Home-Based Learning programme

Siriaunda School K3 Graduation Ceremony of Class 2021: Students and their family members with School Director Ward and school teachers.





Luke and his favourite Bible Story



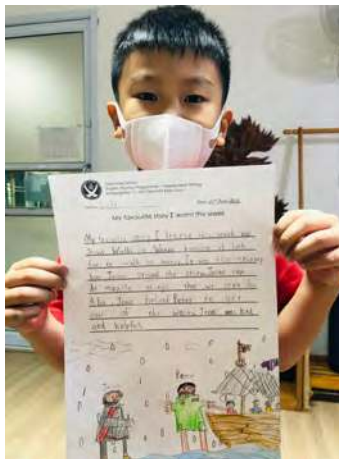
Dramatization of Jesus calming the storm by our K3 students.

**“The Amazing Life of Jesus”
Week
(22 – 26 April 2021)**

“Do you mean Jesus’ Father is in heaven? What is heaven like? Can I go to heaven too?” quipped Luke as we talked about how Jesus prayed to His Father in heaven and that we, too, could pray to God our Father and to talk to Him about our joys and concerns.

Six-year-old Luke is from our K3 class.

The K3 students have been with us at the Kindergarten since they were two or three-years old and we thank God that it has been most encouraging



seeing the growth in them. We had a week in April this year when we explored the various miracles of Jesus and it was wonderful to see their responses and questions about Jesus. Please continue to pray with us that these seeds of faith may take root and bear fruits of salvation.

Parents have shown deep appreciation to the school to provide quality education. One parent volunteered to do a video for the school to share about how greatly her child has benefited and how thankful she was towards the school. We are thankful for such encouragement.

All glory to God whom alone, deserves all glory and honour. ✚

JANNY’S TESTIMONY

The second COVID-19 lockdown in Thailand brought me to my lowest point. A week earlier, I had used 19,500 baht out of the 30,000 baht that I had to rent a small shop at Tawanna Plaza thinking it would bring good business. When the Government announced the second lock-down, I felt the most discouraged in all my life. There were days when I could not sell anything and did not have money to travel home. However, I had a confidence that God would help me, which is unusual for me.

After enduring for three months, I got to learn about selling food online. The owner of the shop next to mine was kind and taught me everything I needed to know about online business. After my rental contract ended in February, I had a brief rest for my body to recover. The night before starting my online business, I prayed to God that I would believe everything that He wanted me to be and leave all my cares with Him. I told Him that I would sell from home and a 300 baht a day profit would be enough for me if I could feel less tired. I told Him I have always trusted that He has always been with me.

I woke up the next morning praying some more. Many orders started coming in, so many that I could not believe it. Every sales order was a blessing of God. That day’s profit came up to 8,000 baht!

I thank God every day for His blessings. I read my Bible and pray every night. And I wake up feeling close and assured in Him. I want to encourage every of my brothers and sisters to trust in His love. Jesus loves us and has forgiven us. I thank my God and I love Him with all my heart. ✚



Updates from THE DEANERY OF VIETNAM



From left - New Dean of Vietnam Revd Jonathan Wong; Revd Jacob Vu Hong Thai, Bishop Rennis Ponniah; Revd Nguyen Hong Chi; and out-going dean, Revd John Lin at the consecration service of new property in Hanoi in December 2019.

New Dean for the Deanery of Vietnam

With effect from 1 January 2021, Revd Jonathan Wong, the Priest of the English Congregation at Church of the Good Shepherd (COGS), stepped in as the new Dean of Vietnam.

Revd Wong said that his role in the Deanery of Vietnam grew very gradually. “My involvement in Vietnam started with my position as priest of the English Congregation of COGS, because historically the priest of COGS sat on the deanery council,” said Revd Wong.

“Revd Soon Soo Kee, a previous clergyman with COGS, was the second Dean of Vietnam,” he explained. “Before planting any churches, the team started an English Summer Camp to teach English as a way to connect with people.”

Before sitting on the deanery council, Revd Wong was introduced to the work in Vietnam when he started making trips to support and participate in confirmation services in Ho Chi Min City and Hanoi. “There was a year when the previous dean, Revd John Lin, had to miss the confirmation because he was on medical leave after a surgery and I represented him and went in his place. This led to my involvement growing slowly, until this new role was formalized after Bishop Titus took over the reins as Diocesan Bishop in 2020.”

Out-going dean, Revd John Lin, had taken over the reins from Revd Soon Soo Kee in 2013 and was Dean of Vietnam for eight years. He got involved with the work in Vietnam in 2009 when, under St Andrew’s Cathedral, he hosted ABBA Centre’s English Summer Camp.

Revd Lin said, “I saw how Revd Soon patiently tilled the ground for many years. At times there was no clear fruit, but two clergymen were raised in Revd Jacob Vu Hong Thai and Revd Nguyen Hong Chi and they have been faithfully carrying out the work on the ground first in Hanoi, then in Ho Chi Minh City.”

“The new dean has church planting in his genes,” said Revd Lin of Revd Wong. “This will augur well for the future and offer much more potential growth. He has good ideas in mind that, when put into action, will be a blessing for Vietnam.”

About the Vietnam clergymen, Revd Lin said, “I thank God for their faithfulness and perseverance in the ministry. They have experienced differing difficulties in their church planting and pastoral journey, but I appreciate their faithfulness to God’s mission and faithful proclamation of the Gospel and shepherding God’s people. They did not give up!”

He added, “My prayer for Vietnam is for God to raise more godly leadership within the next five to ten years.” ✚

Updates from Hanoi and Ha Long

As reported by Revd Vu Hong Thai, Vicar of Church of the True Light (Hanoi)

Church of the True Light (Ha Long) was seeded by a group of young adults and young families who returned to the city from Hanoi after they finished their university studies. They are meeting regularly and are also able to join the Hanoi church services online. This has been helpful for Revd Vu instead of travelling there twice a month.

Church of the True Light (Hanoi) has continued its work and ministry despite the difficulties that arose due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Overall, Vietnam has managed the situation well, with relatively low numbers of infections and deaths from the virus. This has allowed the church to continue to provide services and small groups as normal through the past year, apart from a brief period of lockdown in March and April 2020.

One new outreach opportunity was started last year through the establishment of Spotlight English Club. It currently attracts about 30 young people who come to learn conversational English. The hope is to form relationships through regular club activities and foster interest in and interactions with the church community, so that they may more readily respond to invitations to attend church services and small groups in the future.

ABBA International Academy, which is co-located with the church, has grown from strength to strength in the past year despite a difficult period at the start of the outbreak when disrupted in-person classes affected enrollment and fee collection. It now has to deal with the happy problem of finding additional space and facilities, so that they can enroll the many students that are now on the waiting list.



CCTL members Christmas caroling at Hoàn Kiem Lake in Hanoi



There were 11 baptisms in 2020

Communion service



Church retreat over the Easter weekend





Updates from Ho Chi Minh City

by Revd Nguyen Hong Chi, Vicar of Church of Christ Our Hope

I thank God that the number of people attending church services did not diminish over the past year. Complete lockdown in Vietnam only lasted from March to April 2020. For the rest of the time, we were still able to reach out to people during partial lockdowns, and we got to baptise five new members.

We had the opportunity to provide some charity to the poor living around our church. This has helped these neighbours feel more open to us and helped us connect with them.

Our visitation programme, however, has been suspended, even during the recent Lunar New Year. But we are still trying to do it sometimes.

We have been using Zoom to connect with one another since our first lockdown. It has helped members to remain connected by reading the liturgy together and joining in group prayers and in small break-out group sessions during our services. So, we are very thankful to God for this.

One lady shared her thanks to God for the opportunity to join our Bible Study over Zoom and for her spiritual growth since the pandemic. She had not been able to join our evening Bible classes in the past because she lives a distance from the church and does not drive at night.

We have been helping some of our members who fell into difficulties because of the pandemic. Others, though, have shared that despite losing their jobs, better opportunities have come their way over the past year. By and large, we can see the hand of God on our lives and are drawn nearer to Him. ✚





Church of the True Light members Christmas caroling at Hoàn Kiem Lake in Hanoi

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

by Revd Jonathan Wong, Dean of Vietnam

Vietnam has been quite successful in handling the pandemic. Ho Chi Minh City went into lockdown in March and April 2020. Hanoi was closed off, but the church could still meet for services. Vietnam is fairly developed and has access to the internet. The nation has a young population who are more tech-savvy and it was not a great hurdle to switch to digital media. The clergy and I are meeting over zoom every month for updates and support.

Our short-term challenge is attracting, developing and discipling young church members, and raising the next generation of leaders at the local church level.

We hope to mobilize Singapore parishes to partner and provide leadership training in how to conduct cell groups. We hope to see cell groups increasingly led by lay leaders instead of the clergy. We also hope to concretize earlier plans for young leaders to receive theological and leadership training in Singapore when COVID-related travel restrictions are lifted.

There are also plans to start an Anglican Training Institute in Ho Chi Minh City. We will need to raise funds to purchase a property and recruit faculty members to conduct the training.

Our long-term goals include financial independence, an indigenous leadership structure, and churches that multiply themselves for years to come.

For Anglicans in Singapore, I appeal for us to pay it forward. Let us partner

with the Church in Vietnam to be a catalyst to speed up this process. We can assist in providing resources to build their infrastructure as they work towards self-reliance to maintain what is built.

Please pray that the Lord will help us to identify, train and develop a new crop of leaders for the work in Vietnam. Our cry is for the Lord to send forth more labourers for the plentiful harvest! ✚

Church of Christ Our Hope baptism candidates in March 2021



18 AMAZING YEARS with ACROSS

By Revd Michael Teh, Out-Going Chairman of ACROSS

After 15 years as Chairman of ACROSS (from 2005 to 2020) I finally hand over my responsibilities to a new team.

My 18 years with ACROSS has been such a fulfilling and exciting journey. We have helped at least 30,000 persons and reaped at least 6,000 reported salvations for Jesus Christ.

God has blessed ACROSS with hundreds of volunteers, mainly Anglicans, who have responded to the call to “love our neighbour as ourselves” and offered specific help and resources to various communities ravaged by a wide array of natural disasters. God knows each one of these volunteers and I want to thank each one of them for their compassion, care and commitment.

ACROSS’ modus operandi has always been to work with a partner on the ground – be they an Anglican church, a Christian organisation, or NGO. The many strong relationships established will allow the new ACROSS team to continue this work that God has started and built up.

My core team is working hard to publish a book on God’s wondrous mercies and miracles, which, prayerfully, we can distribute in time to celebrate ACROSS’ 20th Anniversary in 2022.

Meanwhile, I wish the new ACROSS Committee a blessed journey ahead as Christ’s ambassadors to a needy world, especially in times of crises.

In Christ,
Michael ✚



The Anglican Crisis Relief, Outreach and Support (ACROSS) helps to mobilize and coordinate support from our parishes to people affected by natural crises and disasters, by providing healthcare, education, administration, counseling and other community services.



From Left-Right : Peter Soon (ACROSS-Logistics), Deepak (Nepali Partner), Dennis Ang (ACROSS-Strategy), Revd Michael Teh (ACROSS-Chairman), Geraldine Lim (Nurse-volunteer), Chew Boon Ann (ACROSS-Admin), Dr Melvin Goh (ACROSS-Medical), Timothy Goh (medical-volunteer), Dr Wong Weng Yew (ACROSS-Medical), Teng Leng (Pharmacist-volunteer)
Not in picture : Hidehito Ie (ACROSS-Logistics)



SERVE 2021

By Cherlie Cheong, DYB Staff Coordinator

We will always look back at SERVE 2021 with fond memories and thanksgiving. Despite the restrictions we faced due to COVID-19, there is still much to give thanks for!

The Diocesan Youth Board staff team is thankful for God's favour when we approached the various speakers to teach at SERVE 2021. Youth pastors and a few clergymen also readily agreed to help as mentors during the retreat. We're also very grateful for the 19 SERVERs who constantly sought to outdo each another to honour and serve one another. As staff and mentors of the programme, we saw the hand of God and felt so blessed!

Truth be told, the staff team did not know what to expect when planning for SERVE 2021. We were hopeful that the programme could be conducted physically yet at the same time, the team knew that we could not run the programme like previous years because of COVID-19 safety measures.

By faith, the team planned for a nine-week programme that included interactive lessons in the morning and various other activities in the afternoon such as group discussions and one-to-one time with mentors.

Although fellowship amongst this cohort had to be restricted due to existing safety measures, we endeavoured to preserve this crucial part of the SERVE programme by including activity days and a retreat.

Noelle Leong (19) from Church of the Good Shepherd said, 'My experience at SERVE was fulfilling and heart-warming. Not only did I get to explore my faith more deeply, I got to bond with my peers and contribute to build an accepting community where we could feel comfortable to be vulnerable in.'

"I got to also process some of my doubts about God and His plans for me, and voice out my deepest insecurities about my faith in the Lord.

"During group time, I got to hear from my peers regarding their struggles with their faith and their opinions on each lesson. I got to explore alternative viewpoints from the speakers and my teammates that encouraged and enlightened me on things that I need to change about myself and my walk with God.

"I feel really grateful that I got to know such a warm and accepting bunch of people whom I am comfortable to act freely and crazily with."



The SERVERs took their time of learning very seriously and with this attitude and hunger to know more about God, we witnessed transformation in some of them within this short span of time.

Pavithra Deanna (17) from Parish of Christ Church said, "My experience in SERVE 2021 was life-changing. A previous SERVER encouraged me to sign up for SERVE and I did because I wanted a closer relationship with God and make new friends. SERVE granted me both.

"It offered me opportunities to confront the misconceptions I had of God and to know his true character. I also learned the importance of a Christian community that I could trust and fall back on.

"Through SERVE, I managed to fully let go of the wrongs that had been done to me and forgive people who have hurt me. Before SERVE, I didn't even know that I was still holding grudges against them. During the SERVE retreat, I came to terms with my past experiences and submitted them all to God. I felt refreshed and free of the burden.

"I'm also attending church every week now, unlike before, and am determined to help out in the teens' ministry. SERVE helped me straighten my path and come back to God. The reading assignment taught me what it means to be a true Christian."

Noelle added, "I no longer see the separation between church and my daily life. I've incorporated conversing with the Lord into my life. I am also now more comfortable to talk about my faith to other Christians and my non-Christian friends."

We had the honour of having Joseph Chean, National Director of Youth With A Mission, to conduct this year's SERVE retreat. The focus on The Father Heart of God deeply impacted many youths. Joshua Yip (23) from Light of Christ Church Woodlands said that the sessions taught him to forgive and show love to the people around him. ✚



Do you know any youths who may be keen to join SERVE next year? Hear what a few youths have to say about their experience:

"I recommend joining SERVE for the opportunity to explore your doubts about your faith in God as it touches on a wide variety of topics that have high relevance to not just your faith, but your daily life as well. It allows you to discuss and gain new perspectives on topics that may appear contentious in a safe space to openly discuss any views you have. Other than knowledge, SERVE is also a great opportunity for youths to make kingdom friends, connect with Anglican youths across different parishes, and form lasting friendships that can support you through your walk even after the programme" - Noelle (19)

Joshua added "if you're able to commit, go for it! This is such a wonderful community of people where you can grow together. If I can have fun even during this COVID-19 pandemic, imagine how much more fun it would be once this pandemic is over!" - Joshua (23)





STAFF AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN A PANDEMIC

How to enhance well-being and morale of staff and students during trying times

by Christ Church Secondary School

Christ Church Secondary School has had a very successful year of strengthening staff and student engagement despite Covid-19 measures in 2020. Undergirded by the school's vision to nurture purposeful leaders, thoughtful contributors and active learners, the school has always had these expectations of their students that they should:

- Appreciate themselves and take ownership of their personal growth
- Understand the need of others and contribute purposefully, and
- Demonstrate good work ethics, think critically, creatively and work collaboratively with others.

Strategic Goals in 2020, during the Covid-19 Pandemic

The focus of the school's staff for 2020 comprised four key areas:

- Designing purposeful and progressive cohort experiences
- Creating choices within cohort experiences to challenge students
- Making every school activity a CCE (Character and Citizenship Education) lesson; and
- Strengthening monitoring and formative feedback to positively impact student learning

When Covid-19 hit after Chinese New Year, we had to respond quickly and adhere closely to safe management measures because student and staff safety was our school's key priority. We aborted mass activities. When Singapore's borders closed and Leave of Absence (LOA) rules were implemented on 23 March, these affected many students and staff

who had travelled to Johor Bahru during the holiday period. Lessons had to be conducted online for local students stuck at home and in Malaysia. Many teachers had to learn to teach online using various video conferencing platforms.

Innovations and Improvisations

However, with challenges came opportunities for innovation and our staff were quick to respond to do things differently and help each other find solutions for the many issues we faced. We experimented with planning SLS (Student Learning Space) lessons and conducting virtual lessons by pair-teaching with colleagues. We overhauled our timetable from the usual four-day curriculum back to a five-day curriculum. Teachers learned to carry out meaningful learning activities within a two-hour screen time daily limit.

When the Covid-19 situation got more serious, we had to cancel all co-curricular activities and mass gatherings. When students could no longer gather for the usual morning assembly in the school's parade





square, the school started providing live feeds of the assembly proceedings. Morning assembly evolved into a daily broadcast with a dedicated production crew that minimised technical hitches.

To entice our students to tune in punctually for morning assembly, our key personnel performed skits and introduced fun activities to engage them. Even our administrative staff chipped in with cooking demonstrations to engage students meaningfully during home-based learning.

When school resumed in April, our morning assembly routine continued as pre-recorded presentation segments, and we gave our students opportunities to participate in live presentations.

Our students got to form new habits and change their lifestyles when we introduced safe distancing and new personal hygiene routines.

Character and Citizenship Education programmes took the form of talk shows that we broadcasted live.

The Chairman of the School Management Committee, Mr Andrew Tay, pre-recorded his speech during Honours Day and was physically present during Graduation Day to encourage the Secondary Four students.

The Principal and key personnel went class by class to give out certificates and awards to honour the graduating students.

Click here for a sneak-peek into how life changed for the students as the academic year wore on in 2020:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1w3oxsvHBtge3tQ88tNy0ttqsiPNP1jD5/view>



For the teachers, nothing expressed their esprit de corps more strongly than their strong score of 93 out of a scale of 100 on the Staff Engagement Survey administered by the Ministry of Education in 2020.

New Goals for 2021

The school is asking ourselves three key questions:

- Why do we do what we do?
- How can we create more coherence in what we do?
- How can we empower and energise our students in what we do?

School Principal, Mr David Lau, said, "As a mission school, Christ Church Secondary intends to further explore and inculcate the school values of courage, compassion and curiosity to fulfil our vision for our graduates to lead purposeful lives." 🚩



This diagram encapsulates what our school hopes our students will possess: the drive to excel and the desire to be thoughtful contributors and active learners.

Many thanks to Mr David Lau, Principal, Christ Church Secondary School for sharing the Christ Church experience.

Our family of Anglican Schools



Anglican High School



St. Margaret's Primary School
St. Margaret's Secondary School



St. Andrew's Junior School
St. Andrew's Secondary School
St. Andrew's Junior College



St. Hilda's Primary School
St. Hilda's Secondary School



Christ Church Secondary School

The students of our Anglican Schools did well in the 2020 national examinations. The Education Board members of the Diocese would like to give thanks to God and also express their deepest gratitude and appreciation to the staff and school leaders for their efforts and care for the students.

CHANGE OF SCHOOL PRINCIPALS



Mr Lee Han Hwa

The Diocese warmly welcomes Mr Lee Han Hwa as the new Principal of St Andrew's Secondary School. He took over the reins from Mrs Marion Tan on 15 December 2020 to be the 17th Principal of St Andrew's Secondary School. As a Saint himself, Han Hwa feels humbled and honoured to be leading the school.

We also welcome Mr Tham Kine Thong as the new Principal of St Andrew's Junior College (SAJC). He took over the role from Mr Mark Lo from 15 December 2020. Kine Thong was a former student of St Andrew's Junior School, St Andrew's Secondary School and SAJC, and started his teaching career in SAJC.

It was through St Andrew's schools that both Kine Thong and his brother got to know the Lord and grew in their faith. He is humbled by the opportunity to be part of the SAJC family once again. He hopes to continue leading the college to offer holistic education based on Christian principles and values, and be a blessing to the students and the school team.

The Diocese wishes to express our heartfelt appreciation and thanks to Mrs Marion Tan, who was the Principal of St Andrew's Secondary School from 15 December 2017 to 14 December 2020, for her dedication, leadership and invaluable contributions. We wish her and her family God's blessings as she embarks on an exciting new chapter in her work.

Our Diocese is also heartily appreciates and thanks Mr Mark Lo, who was the Principal of St Andrew's Junior College from 15 December 2015 to 14 December 2020. He had served with dedication and displayed outstanding leadership and sterling work. We wish him God's blessings as he takes on new challenges. ✚



Mr Tham Kine Thong



Mrs Marion Tan



Mr Mark Lo

THE SETTING UP OF ANGLICAN PRESCHOOL SERVICES

By Dr Esther Tan, Diocesan Secretary for Preschools

The idea of setting up a common entity within the Diocese of Singapore to integrate all Anglican preschools was mooted as far back as 2016. By then, St James’ Church had already registered a company known as St James’ Preschool Services (Anglican) Ltd (SJPS), so it was decided that instead of re-inventing the wheel, a more practical approach would be to morph SJPS to Anglican Preschool Services (APS) with a name change to cast the net wider and embrace all preschools within the Diocese. To this end, a task force was set up to work on integrating all Anglican preschools under the banner of a common entity to be called Anglican Preschool Services (APS).

This project gained momentum in 2019 when ECDA (Early Childhood Development Agency), the government-backed agency that oversees the development of preschool education in Singapore, invited childcare centres to apply for government subsidies through the C-POP (Partner Operator) Scheme. As one of the criteria for eligibility was a single entity with more than 300 childcare places, all the five Anglican Childcare Centres agreed to band together to apply for C-POP under the banner of SJPS while the application for name change to APS was being processed.

While the main objective of APS was to enhance the quality of early childhood education based on Christian values, the benefits of integration are many. By banding all our preschools together, we can build a strong group identity. By pooling our human and financial resources among our preschools, we encourage mutual support, exchange of ideas as well as sharing of experiences and expertise. Besides the advantage of economies of scale through sharing of resources, banding our preschools together can also create pathways for professional development as well as career advancement for our preschool educators within and across preschools.

The application for C-POP was submitted on 1 January 2020. The results were announced in November and we were happy to learn that all the ten childcare centres included in the application were granted C-POP status. The ten centres include all five childcare centres from within the Diocese, four from The Salvation Army and one from Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church which had joined SJPS prior to the announcement of C-POP and were included in the application. All five non-Anglican childcare centres have transferred their licence to APS and are now fully owned by APS.

NAME OF PRESCHOOL	CHURCH
Little Seeds Preschool (Ascension)	Church of the Ascension
Little Seeds Preschool (Kiddy Ark)	All Saints’ Church (English congregation)
Little Seeds Preschool (Praiseland)	Yishun Christian Church (Anglican)
Little Seeds Preschool (Sonshine)	Chapel of the Resurrection
Little Seeds Preschool (St Andrew’s)	St Andrew’s Cathedral
Little Seeds Preschool (TSA-Tampines)	The Salvation Army
Little Seeds Preschool (TSA-Ang Mo Kio)	The Salvation Army
Little Seeds Preschool (TSA-Bukit Batok East)	The Salvation Army
Little Seeds Preschool (TSA-Bukit Panjang)	The Salvation Army
Little Seeds Preschool (Capstone)	Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church

Our successful bid for C-POP status meant that from January 2021, all ten childcare centres started to receive grants from the government to help keep school fees low. The government will also provide subsidies to facilitate the recruitment and retention of good quality staff.

We received the good news in January 2021 that MOE had approved the change of name from St James Preschool Services (SJPS) to Anglican Preschool Services (APS). The new name was registered with ACRA and ECDA was duly informed. Thus with effect from 23 January 2021, APS officially came into existence. The HQ of APS is located within the Diocesan Centre Building at Francis Thomas Drive. A new APS Board was set up with a wider representation from parishes within the Diocese and Mr Andrew Tay was appointed the new Chief Executive Officer.

We praise and thank God for two positive outcomes in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic – the smooth morphing of SJPS to APS and our successful application to C-POP. The next step is to integrate the kindergartens under the banner of APS and our family of Anglican preschools will be fully integrated.

Accolades for our Early Childhood Educators

We have close to 500 staff in our preschools and all have worked very hard. Many went beyond their call of duty to ensure that their young charges grow and learn in a safe environment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their efforts did not go unnoticed and we congratulate the following who have received awards and accolades from the authorities in 2020. Congratulations to all our award winners. They have done us proud and we thank God for their dedication and commitment.

Update on Principals' Movement

We are sad to bid farewell to two preschool principals who have left our service.

Ms Michele Koh from St Paul's Church Kindergarten had served as principal for 11 years. During her tenure the preschool obtained SPARK status in 2018 and set up the 1st Explorers' Company, a preschool uniform group by Boy's Brigade and Girl's Brigade.

Mrs Jacqueline Jason was at the helm of Christ Church Kindergarten for six years before moving to St Hilda's Kindergarten for another four years. The focus of her leadership was to create a positive school culture where staff, students and parents feel valued and experience the mighty love of our Lord.

We thank both Ms Koh and Mrs Jason for their faithful service in the past years and wish them God's guidance and blessings in their future endeavours.







Conclusion

The journey to set up Anglican Preschool Services through integration of the preschools was not always

smooth sailing, but whenever we encountered challenges and obstacles, God was always there to show the way and provide a solution. APS is a reality now and all the childcare centres have been integrated under its banner. We thank God for His goodness and faithfulness and pray for His continuous guidance as we embark on the next and final phase of our project – the integration of all the Anglican kindergartens. ✚

By banding all our preschools together, we can build a strong group identity.

By pooling our human and financial resources among our preschools, we encourage mutual support, exchange of ideas as well as sharing of experiences and expertise.

NAME OF STAFF	NAME OF AWARD	NATURE OF AWARD
<p>Rachel Huang Shi Yun</p> 	<p>Finalist for Promising Early Childhood Teacher Award by ECDA</p>	<p>In recognition for exemplary accomplishments & contributions committed to delivering high quality Early Childhood care & education</p>
<p>Zhang Xuanhong</p> 	<p>Outstanding Preschool Mother Tongue Language Teacher Award by MOE</p>	<p>This award recognizes preschool MTL teachers for their passion in making MTL learning interesting and for their unique ability to inspire a love for the MTL in preschoolers.</p>
<p>Elaine Chong</p> 	<p>Leading Foundation Teacher Award by NIE</p>	<p>This award recognizes passionate and dedicated teachers who have made significant contributions to the care and teaching of children in preschools and special needs education.</p>
<p>Eudora Tan Ee Teng</p> 	<p>Outstanding Early Childhood Teacher Award by ECDA</p>	<p>This award recognizes preschool teachers for their exemplary accomplishments and contributions, and commitment to delivering high quality early childhood care and education.</p>
<p>Nume Rose Villeguez Castro (Hunny)</p> 	<p>Finalist for Promising Early Childhood Educarer Award by ECDA</p>	<p>This award recognises promising early childhood educarers who have deep commitment and dedication to providing quality care and learning experiences for the children and families they work with.</p>
<p>Dianne Swee-Seet</p> 	<p>Skillsfuture Fellowship awarded by Skillsfuture</p>	<p>Presented by the President of the Republic of Singapore to honour individuals as masters of skills and mentors of future talent.</p>

A NEW BEGINNING: A New (National Curriculum) Autism School in the West

By the St Andrew's Autism Centre Corporate Communications Team

After more than a decade of serving the autism community in Singapore, St Andrew's Autism Centre (SAAC) is expanding its services to operate a new special education (SPED) school for children and youths on the autism spectrum who are able to access the national curriculum. This appointment by the Ministry of Education (MOE), under the auspices of St Andrew's Mission Hospital and the Diocese, is an affirmation of SAAC's good track record and a recognition of our centre's commitment to journey alongside families with members on the autism spectrum, embracing the challenges of living with autism and transforming lives through improving the quality of life of more than 440 students, clients and residents.

We will deliver Curriculum for Life for all students in this new school. Apart from accessing the national (mainstream) curriculum, our students will also be prepared for life long after graduation, through an explicit curriculum that imparts life skills and enhances work-readiness. In addition, our new school will provide training in communication skills, social emotional learning and an understanding of the cognitive dimensions of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) to help students overcome the inherent difficulties associated with their autism.

With a belief that people with autism can live a full life, the school will also maximise opportunities for students to participate in sports, arts and other interest areas. To build an inclusive environment, the school will work with mainstream primary and secondary schools to provide opportunities for students with autism to interact with their neuro-typical peers, in order to foster friendships and strengthen the sense of community.

The SAAC New School Project team has been working hard to develop the curriculum

and its admissions criteria and processes. They have also been busy reaching out to parents of prospective students and planning infrastructural refurbishments for the school's interim campus in Bukit Batok. Despite needing to juggle such project planning on top of their usual duties and workload, the Project team members have been enthused and energised by the opportunity to shape the culture and programmes of this new school.

The school will launch in 2022 with 75 places for the Primary One cohort, and have the capacity for 500 primary and 350 post-primary students at steady state. Its permanent site in Clementi is slated to be ready in 2027.

To engage parents of prospective students, SAAC organised two eOpen House sessions in March and May 2021 to introduce the school's curriculum, programmes and admissions processes, as well as showcase the SAAC experience that one can expect. Both eOpen House sessions were well-attended not just by parents but also by psychologists and social workers from EIPIC centres and preschools seeking more information to share with parents of children in their schools and centres. 🧩



Interested parents and EIPIC centre psychologists and social workers were provided a virtual tour of the school during the first eOpen House that took place on the morning of Saturday, 13 March 2021.



A peek at the grounds of the new autism school at Bukit Batok, which is currently still housing Yusof Ishak Secondary School.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO SHOW LOVE

by the SAMH-SACS Corporate Communications Team

Photos courtesy of The Courage Fund

We are very grateful to Elder Lee Chong Kai who has been volunteering for many years with the St Andrew's Nursing Home (SANH) (Buangkok) Chaplaincy Ministry. We also appreciate Mdm Cynthia Wong Mee Tin and Mdm Claudia Lee Wang Ling, who volunteer at St Andrew's Community Hospital (SACH).

They were presented the Healthcare Humanity Award 2020 (Volunteers Category) at the virtual award ceremony on 8 December 2020 for their time and effort in going the extra mile to care for the sick and infirmed.



Elder Lee Chong Kai is the Chairman of the SANH Management Committee, a St Andrew's Mission Hospital Board Member and a volunteer with the SANH (Buangkok) Chaplaincy Ministry.

Mdm Cynthia Wong, Executive Director of SANH (Buangkok), attested to Elder Lee's exemplary kindness and love towards the residents and staff. She said, "Elder Lee is a man of great humility who values bonding with residents and staff on a personal level to make a difference in their lives. To him, no life is too insignificant to reach out and touch."

Elder Lee praised God for enabling him to convey His love to the residents at SANH (Buangkok). He said, "The welcoming and selfless examples of staff and volunteers provide great encouragement to me."



Mdm Cynthia Wong Mee Tin started out assisting at SACH's outpatient therapy services and has continued volunteering at the hospital for the past 22 years. She regularly visits the palliative care ward, and helps out with back-end administrative work as well. Mdm Wong said, "The patients' smiles give me joy and inspire me to continue doing this. I really enjoy serving the patients alongside the hospital team."

Ms Namrata Sadarangani, Assistant Director of SACH Community Therapy Services, recalled Mdm Wong buying food for the patients, escorting them to their transport vehicle and even helping them put on their shoes. She said, "Cynthia is a lady of compassion and humility. She has great empathy for our patients and is dedicated in serving them. She has been such a blessing to us."



Mdm Claudia Lee Wang Ling shared, "I am honoured to have served at SACH's palliative ward and inpatient therapy services for the past seven years. It has been humbling and inspiring learning so much from both the patients and the care team."

Dr Angel Lee, Medical Director of SACH observed that many people relate to Claudia because of her unassuming ways. "I often see her sitting by our patients and sharing a moment with those who are lonely. When she notices patients who are restless, she talks to them and provides a listening ear to calm them down. She offers kind words to lift the spirits of patients who are disheartened by their illness. She lights up our ward in her own quiet way." ✚

HEALTHCARE HEROES

By the SAMH-SACS Corporate Communications Team

Organised by SingHealth Duke-NUS Academic Medical Centre since 2011, the Singapore Health Quality Service Award (SHQSA) is a nationwide award that recognises and celebrates the exemplary efforts of healthcare professionals to improve patient experience.

Individual Awards

198 healthcare professionals from St Andrew’s Mission Hospital (SAMH) and Singapore Anglican Community Services (SACS) received the Hero Award at the Virtual Award Ceremony on 29 March 2021.

Dr Shaun Gerald Nathan, a Resident Physician of St Andrew’s Community Hospital (SACH) and Ms Chai Chew Moey, a Senior Nurse Manager at St Andrew’s Nursing Home (SANH) (Henderson) received the Super Hero Award.



At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, **Dr Shaun Gerald Nathan** was selected from the SACH palliative care team to assist with Changi General Hospital (CGH) EagleCare, a programme that provides end-of-life care for CGH’s partnering nursing homes, for which Dr Shaun helped to set up protocols, provided direct and telehealth cover, and participated in swab operations.

Dr Shaun also supported St Andrew’s Nursing Homes (SANHs) with clinical reviews of their residents, and started a system to ensure that end-of-life needs of residents were looked at during the pandemic.

On many occasions, he went beyond the call of duty and visited nursing homes after office hours to provide medication to help residents manage their medical conditions. Dr Shaun’s initiative and responsibility left a lasting impact on EagleCare and our nursing homes.

“This award is not so much a recognition of my work, but a recognition of the need to continue serving the community that I do this work for. I could not have done this without the mentorship from my bosses, the support from my colleagues, the encouragement from my patients and their families, the patience of my family and friends, and the inspiration of my faith.”

- Dr. Shaun Gerald Nathan, Resident Physician, SACH



Ms Chai Chew Moey is a remarkable nurse with a big heart who leads and serves with much love and compassion.

While many feared contracting COVID-19, Ms Chai stepped forward to train as the lead nurse to conduct COVID-19 swab tests at SANH (Henderson). She also volunteered to be the first person swabbed. These exemplary acts set the direction for other nurses to follow.

During Circuit Breaker, when visitors and volunteers were not allowed to enter the nursing home, Ms Chai showed concern for her residents’ well-being by bringing her two dogs to keep them company. These sessions helped turn many sullen faces into joyful smiles. Ms Chai also brought ingredients to cook a few of the residents’ favourite dishes. Such gestures warmed her residents’ hearts during the dull and difficult period of isolation.

“I am honoured to receive the Super Hero award. To me, I am just doing small, simple acts of love. It takes only a little effort to bring joy and love to our elderly. My hope is that people will be encouraged and inspired to also contribute to the happiness of the elderly in their own special way.”

- Ms Chai Chew Moey, Senior Nurse Manager, SANH (Henderson) 🇸🇬

TEAM AWARDS

Best Team (Special Mention) Award: COVID-19 Warriors



In a bid to reduce staff exposure to COVID-19, care team members from CGH, SACH and the SAMH-SACS Information Technology Team deployed robots for care delivery in the hospital’s COVID-19 wards. These telepresence robots not only reduced staff’s exposure time to COVID-19 positive patients, they also enhanced staff’s engagement with the patients by reducing the use of personal protective equipment and the time taken to complete tasks.

“Kudos to all the dedicated staff who demonstrated teamwork and enthusiasm in deploying the robots for interactive patient management! We are encouraged to continue evolving and incorporating modern technology into our healthcare practice.”
 - Dr. Ti Lian Lian, Senior Resident Physician, SACH

Best Team (Merit) Award: Team Simei Campus



In response to the escalating number of people afflicted with COVID-19 in April 2020, SACH and CGH collaborated to convert SACH’s two sub-acute care wards in the Integrated Building to additional COVID-19 wards for the Simei Campus.

Additionally, SACH’s outpatient clinic was activated to become a Public Health Preparedness Clinic (PHPC), and a Swab-and-Stay-Home (SASH) Clinic. This enabled the CGH Accident and Emergency Department to concentrate on emergency cases. By collaborating, Team Simei Campus (ie. CGH and SACH) was able to maximise its resources to effectively contribute to our nation’s battle against COVID-19.

“We are honoured to receive this award. This would not be possible without the dedication of the SACH team members, as well as the CGH team who fought the COVID-19 pandemic with us. We will continue working together to meet the needs of our patients. Glory be to God!”
 - Dr. Prabakaran Sinnathurai, Principal Resident Physician, SACH ✚

SHINING YOUR LIGHT: Benefitting St Andrew's Autism Centre as Anglican High School Turns 65

by the SAAC Corporate Communications Team

“In the same way, let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”
Matthew 5:16

In recent years, Anglican High School (AHS) has collaborated closely with St Andrew's Autism Center (SAAC) on joint youth development and education initiatives, as learning and community partners.

For Anglican High School's 65th Anniversary this year, true to its vision that encompasses leadership, creativity and creating value for others, the school's alumni decided that it would be meaningful to continue their support for SAAC with their Shine Our Light fundraising and autism awareness campaign.

Mr Wee Soon Keong, Chairman of AHS Alumni Association, said, “The alumni community would like to celebrate this milestone by shining our light to help augment the quality of life of children, youth and adults on the autism spectrum being served at SAAC.”

Fundraising efforts began in January with various organised activities, including the creation

AHS alumni putting the finishing touches to their mask montage on 13 March 2021, as part of their efforts to raise awareness for autism and their attempt to fulfil their school's tradition of breaking a record every five years.



of the biggest reusable mask montage, using masks designed by teachers, students, alumni and members of All Saints Church. The montage made it to the Singapore Book of Records.

To further raise awareness of autism in April, the school commissioned a heart-warming and reflective video featuring members of the SAAC community: Baizura, a Senior Associate Teacher; Foo Yong Hann, a 17-year-old student with St Andrew's Autism School, and Stephen, father of an adult client at SAAC's Day Activity Centre (Siglap). The eight-minute long video was live streamed over social media on 1 April 2021, as part of its launch which included an hour-long interactive discussion about autism hosted by AHS alumni. The video has since reached a wide community online.

The AHS 65th Anniversary Shine Our Light for SAAC campaign will end on 31 July 2021. There are more activities planned over the next few months. For more on the campaign, and to keep abreast of other developments at SAAC, we encourage you to head over to SAAC's social media platforms. Do like and follow us on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

We are grateful to the AHS Alumni and AHS community for their support. We are truly blessed by their generosity.





All in a day's work to do good and shed light on autism. Kudos to team AHS Alumni and SAAC.



A behind-the-scenes peek of the video production

To support the efforts of the AHS alumni and give to SAAC, head over to our Giving.sg page: <https://www.giving.sg/campaigns/ahs-shineourlightforsaac>

To support SAAC events and campaigns listed on our website, visit: <https://www.saac.org.sg/events-campaigns/>

SAAC Facebook: sg.SAAC
SAAC Instagram: saacsg

You may catch the heart-warming video by AHS and SAAC here:



Be a part of the Shine Our Light campaign for SAAC. Check out AHS Alumni Facebook page regularly for the campaign updates <https://www.facebook.com/anglicanhighalumni/>



Follow us on our social media platforms to keep up with our short stories and sharing here: <https://www.facebook.com/sg.SAAC>



A behind-the-scenes look at the filming of Aloysius' story.

Journey to My Dreams: Celebrating Autism

By the SAAC Corporate Communications Team

We all have dreams. Persons on the autism spectrum have dreams too. But for them, realising their dreams often takes more than time and effort because of the difficulties of living with autism. It also depends on opportunities that come their way. Each journey towards realising a dream starts with taking the first small step, and then having the courage and perseverance to overcome challenges that follow.

Co-organised by St Andrew's Autism Centre (SAAC) and other Autism Network Singapore partners, this year's World Autism Awareness (Singapore) campaign celebrates the journey that each person with autism takes to realise his or her dreams and aspirations, regardless of how humble or grand the dreams are and where each autistic person is on the spectrum. This campaign seeks to engage the community to recognise that every autistic person is special, and that their quality of life matters.

Launched on World Autism Awareness Day on 2 April, the two-month social media campaign

showcases six autistic individuals in five short videos. These videos take us briefly into their worlds appreciating each step in their journey and understanding what their dreams mean to them.

Aloysius from the Day Activity Centre (Siglap) is the SAAC beneficiary featured. He is a young man who loves fairy tales and expresses how he experiences and what he enjoys about each of these stories into drawings. He dreams of being a fairy tale illustrator one day.

Two years ago, a volunteer art teacher at Aloysius' day activity centre spotted his talent. Under her guidance and the help of the DAC coaches, a French publisher got to know about Aloysius through the volunteer art teacher, and approved him as the illustrator of the Chinese version of the famous children's story *The Little Prince*. Watch Aloysius' story and the other four stories at: <https://sgautism.org/>

Catch all the episodes of how five individuals on the autism spectrum journeyed towards their dreams on the Autism Network Singapore website! 🇸🇬

SUPPORT OUR WORK WITH YOUR GIVING

By the SAMH-SACS Corporation Communications Team

“Love is patient, love is kind... It always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love Never Fails.”
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a -

Anchored in the unfailing and unconditional love of God, St Andrew’s Mission Hospital (SAMH) and Singapore Anglican Community Services (SACS) have stepped out in great faith over the years to serve in areas where needs are the greatest.

Through our four pillars of services - Senior Services, Psychiatric Services, Autism Services, as well as Family and Children Services - SAMH and SACS tries to bring love, light and hope into the lives of our beneficiaries.

As we continue to service those in need, we invite you to be a part of our mission to care. Give your gift of love today.



Residents like David Ong keep active through rehabilitative and social activities at St Andrew’s Nursing Home (Taman Jurong).



Through an employment specialist at Anglican Care Centre (Hougang), Sukantha Khanthong is gainfully employed and looks forward to moving into her new flat in the future.




St Andrew’s Autism School’s customised curriculum emphasises social-emotional learning, communication, functional literacy and numeracy, and daily living and vocational skills. These learning domains are complemented by the expressive arts, adaptive physical education, and Co-curricular Activities (CCAs), which helps to enhance holistic development of students, such as Sharlyne. As a student at St Andrew’s Autism School, Sharlyne Lee is receiving education in a functional and customised curriculum that develops her holistically.



Rose regained her self-confidence and independence through the programmes at Anglican Family Centre. ♣

Scan the QR code to learn how you can join us to make a difference in the lives of beneficiaries such as David Ong, a resident at St Andrew’s Nursing Home (Taman Jurong); Sukantha Khanthong, a client at Anglican Care Centre (Hougang); Sharlyne Lee, a student from St Andrew’s Autism School; and Rose, a resident at Anglican Family Centre.



SATURDAY NIGHT OUT

An online event by the Singapore Anglican Indian Board's Youth Wing

By Revd Thomas Isaac

Since its inauguration in 2018, the Singapore Anglican Indian Board's Youth Wing has organised several youth events to inspire their youths to connect with God.

More than 60 youths joined the latest online Zoom event *Saturday Night Out* held on 30 January 2021. The speaker was Brother Robert Roy, a prominent itinerant speaker from Bangalore, India and a worship leader who has released several best-selling worship albums.

Joining Brother Robert to co-lead in worship was Dr Ben Samuel, a dentist by training who has impacted the worship scene among the Tamil-speaking Christian diaspora.

One youth said, "I loved the worship session. Even though there were technical issues, I could feel the presence of the Lord."

Brother Robert challenged our youths to seek the Kingdom of God. He compared the lives of the infamous heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson with Samson from the bible. He described the journey from success to failure of both men. He contrasted the bad choices and pride of Tyson with the repentant heart of Samson that brought him back to God.

"Calling demands consecration!" said Brother Robert as he focused on the life of Samson from Judges 13-15. Samson had many achievements but he lost his focus. He lost the Lord while laying on a lady's lap. Brother Robert challenged the youths to consider whose lap they are laying on. Mike Tyson was a born again Christian who lost his way. Samson also fell into sin and lost his calling. But Samson repented and prayed to the Lord, and God forgive him and granted his request.



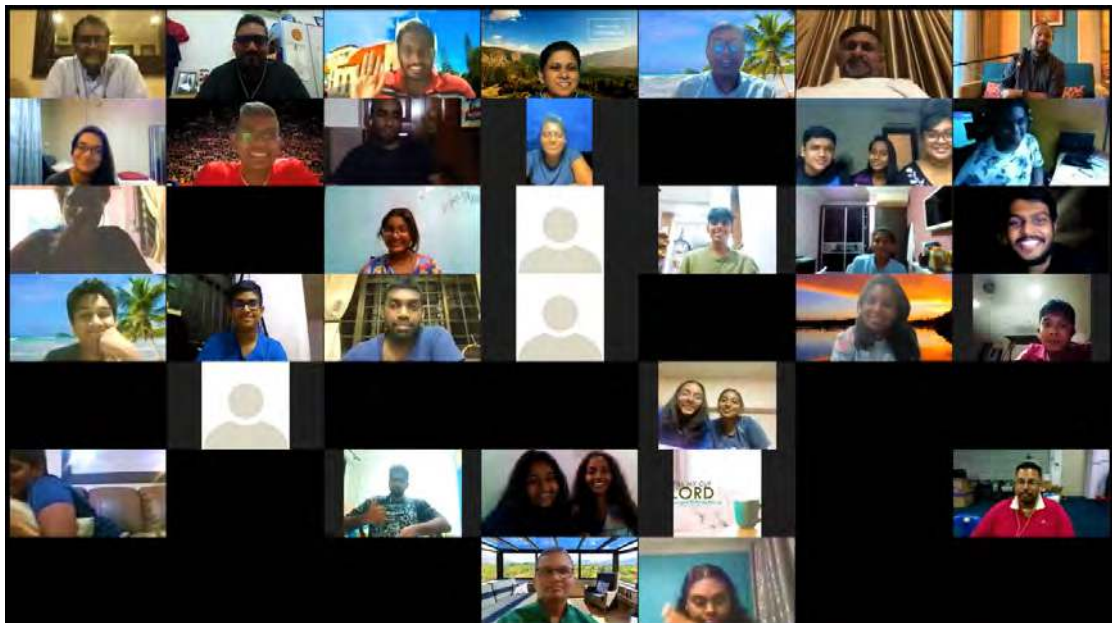
Dr Ben Samuel and Brother Robert Roy

Brother Robert challenged the youths to live a consecrated life. Many responded to his altar call and received prayers from pastors manning break-out rooms.

One youth reflected, "I learnt that you can be rich or famous or popular but if your life is not right, it makes no difference. Sin is enough to bring you down." Many others felt that they could relate and were challenged to live for God.

When asked, many of the youths felt that it was refreshing to gather and worship God as a big Anglican family. One of them added, "But I cannot wait to gather in-person and fellowship with everyone!"

The SAIB youth wing has held similar events which were well received. Plans are under way for an on-site teaching and worship night during Youth Month in July 2021. ✚





The 50th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service of the Board of Chinese-Speaking Work

By Ms Wu Yingxi, Administrative Officer of the Board of Chinese-Speaking Work

When the Diocese of West Malaysia branched off from the Diocese of Singapore on 7 April 1970, the existing Chinese ministry at that time diverged as well. Our diocese's Board of Chinese-Speaking Work (BOCSW) marked its establishment when it held its first general meeting in Church of the True Light on 14 April 1970.

Fifty years on, both clergy and lay BOCSW committee members re-gathered in Church of the True Light to celebrate the board's 50th anniversary. This thanksgiving service was conducted on-site on a smaller scale, with simultaneous livestreaming.

Held on 28 November 2020, the service included the screening of "*Walking the path of grace, pressing on toward the goal*", a history video that traced the establishment of the diocese's 22 Chinese congregations and the development of various Chinese ministries. Board Chairman Revd Ivan Ee Huat Peng encouraged everyone to be grateful for the retired clergymen who have worked hard to serve in the Chinese ministry, and to learn from their spirit of life-long devotion to God.

Bishop Titus Chung used John 15:1-4 as reference to talk about the difficulties our predecessors must have faced in establishing the Chinese ministry. More important than the visible fruit of ministry is the invisible spiritual fruit left by our predecessors through their dedication and unity in serving God.

Bishop Titus said that this pandemic has helped us to slow down and reflect on the core calling of our faith: to fulfil the Great Commission (Matthew 28) and the Great Commandment (Matthew 22). It also

means being the Lord's disciples. Being a disciple is not just a matter of gaining head knowledge by going to classes. Rather, it is a way of life of following Jesus Christ without complaint.

He said that our Chinese ministry needs to return to the core calling of our faith and to uphold the same spirit shown by our predecessors. Bishop Titus expressed his hopes that we can all walk this path of grace together.

In line with the theme *Passing on the Mission, Shaping our Spiritual Culture*, Revd Ivan Ee shared his hope that BOCSW can create a spiritual culture among Chinese congregations who thirst for God's Word and can bravely respond to God's call. He emphasized the lack of clergymen in the Chinese ministry and encouraged attendees to respond to the call to serve God. He also gave the challenge to raise \$500,000 for the Theological Fund to support theological students.

Revd Huang Aoyou announced plans for exploring the strategy of the Chinese ministry. After the clergy's *One Day Exploration* on 7 January 2021, they will listen to feedback from lay leadership committee members on 30 January and from parish workers on 18 February before integrating these into a preliminary plan.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the BOCSW, each church produced a corporate video to facilitate better understanding between each congregation and inspire everyone to move forward together. We give thanks for God's leading. Please pray with us for His direction and preservation for the future. ✚

PASSING ON THE MISSION SHAPING THE CULTURE

Message given at the 50th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service
of the Board of Chinese-Speaking Work

by Board Chairman Revd Dr Ian Ee Huat Peng

“For does not my house stand so with God?” (2 Samuel 23:5)

What a different year 2020 has been! The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our economy, culture, and daily living like no other event in history. To celebrate our 50th anniversary, I exhort all members of the Diocesan Board of Chinese-Speaking Work to give thanks and cast our eyes to the future.

As David recollected his last moments, he was filled with thanksgiving to God for the way God led His people with righteousness. David said this important statement, “For does not my house stand so with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. For will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire?” (2 Samuel 23:5)

I wish to use these same words to convey the Chinese Board’s mission and convey what is necessary for us to transform our culture.

As we reflect on the Chinese Board’s 50-year journey, we can see that despite our missteps and short-comings, and beyond our commitment and hard work, God has been faithful and gracious to guide and bless us. Indeed, this is the display of God’s mighty power in our midst! With a thankful heart, I want to encourage our fellow ministry workers and brothers and sisters-in-Christ to continue to pray for God’s guidance and grace for the coming decades, and commit ourselves in the following two ways:

1. To shape our spiritual culture to one that desires the word of God and responds to God’s calling: Mandarin-speaking spiritual rallies

I often looked forward as a teenager to the annual



Revd Ivan Ee

Singapore-Malaysia Youth Camp. Through this yearly camp and its activities, fellowships, games, small group gatherings and discussions, God worked amazing things within our youth body. A majority of our current Chinese Board clergymen took part in these annual camps all those years back.

In 2021, I hope to bring back one or two of such camps and gatherings, with hopes that we can continue to witness God’s transforming work in us. The Chinese Board is willing to provide opportunities with such a platform to encourage believers to shape a spiritual culture that reflects a desire for the word of God.

Annually, the first Sunday of August is set aside for various Chinese Board clergymen to exchange pulpits and preach in each other’s parishes. Besides this Sunday, I hope to be able to organize two or three Friday or Saturday night spiritual rallies in August 2021, with hopes to nurture and challenge our brothers and sisters-in-Christ, especially the younger ones, to respond to God’s call to full-time ministry.

2. To shape the spiritual culture towards equipping future shepherds: Mandarin ministry theological funds

Are you aware that in the coming decade (2021 - 2030), 18 of the current 25 Chinese Board clergymen will reach retirement age, leaving our diocese with only seven Chinese Board clergymen in 2031? Additionally, between 2031 to 2035, five out of the remaining seven Chinese

Board clergymen will reach retirement age.

From what we can observe, we foresee maybe 12 brothers who may be called to ordained ministry who are currently serving full-time or are in seminary. Any early retirement of our current Chinese Board clergymen due to unforeseen circumstances will mean an acute clergymen-shortage problem.

Where does responsibility lie for the nurturing and guidance of Mandarin-speaking shepherds and priests? The responsibility lies with every parish and congregation. I can think of numerous reasons for this dilemma: it could be due to a spiritual culture that lacks the desire for God's word; the lack of responders' gatherings and support groups; the lack of spiritual support and prayer; the lack of financial support, or the lack of personal courage that causes us to delay responding to God and saying, "Here I am Lord, send me!"

Currently, the Chinese Board has about \$220,000 in its Theological Fund, an accumulation from surpluses of past ministries, offerings collected during Chinese Board Sunday, and the donation of proceeds from Revd Lim Kok Heng's publication. May I call upon everybody's help, to raise an additional \$500,000 towards the Chinese Board Theological Fund, which will help the Chinese Board support younger brothers and sisters who respond to God's call to full-time ministry. For the Mandarin-speaking ministry to nurture our successors, it has to be a concerted effort by everyone. This is a matter that concerns our spiritual family.

We have set this target of \$500,000 based on practicality. With the current \$220,000 in hand, a total of \$720,000 can nurture only seven to twelve theological students in the coming decade.

Adding these 12 ordainable students may contribute 19 to 24 candidates for the priesthood, which merely meets our Mandarin-speaking clergymen's turnover rate in the coming decade. This is our need in practical terms: we must prioritize the nurturing of our successors.

Brothers and sisters, at a glance, \$500,000 is not a small amount. Between our 22 Mandarin parishes, each parish will need to contribute \$20,000 to meet this target, and this may be difficult for smaller parishes. However, with over 5,000 believers in our Mandarin-speaking parishes, this breaks down to every believer giving an offering of \$100 to achieve our target. With that said, however, the real importance is not how much we give, but how we respond - with thanksgiving as we receive God's grace - and our willingness to say to God, "Here I am Lord, send me and use me! Whatever I have, I offer it up to You in response to Your great love and grace!"

Brothers and sisters, may I encourage you to respond to this call and give towards this cause in the coming weeks and as you return to your parishes to participate in physical or online worship. Please indicate "Chinese Board Theological Fund" for your offering. For Anglican brothers and sisters living abroad, please join us in prayer. To participate in this effort, we welcome you to contact our Diocese Chinese Board staff.

Brothers and sisters, as the going gets tough, it is more crucial that we remain united and give our all for God. Let us not merely give lip service, but express our thanksgiving with action. Time and tide wait for no man, and another 50 years will pass us by again. But in the coming 50 years, how much prayer, offerings and cost are we willing to sacrifice and shoulder for the ministry of the gospel? Amen. ✚

28 November 2020



INSTITUTION AND INDUCTION OF VICARS



CHURCH OF THE TRUE LIGHT

Revd Barry Leong was inducted as Vicar of Church of the True Light on 24 January 2021. Prior to this appointment Revd Barry was vicar of St John's Chapel (2004 to 2016) and Marine Parade Christian Church (2013 to 2020). He holds a Bachelor of Divinity from Trinity Theological College (1994), and a Master of Arts from University of Hull (UK) (1998). He was ordained in 2002, priested in 2004 and collated as Canon in March 2021. Revd Barry is concurrently interim chairman of ACROSS and Chaplain to Anglican Care Centre (Farrer Park).



MARINE PARADE CHRISTIAN CENTRE

Revd Canon Terry Wong was inducted on 21 February 2021 as Vicar of Marine Parade Christian Centre. Canon Wong received his theological training at Trinity Theological college (Master of Divinity, 1993). He was ordained as Deacon in 1992, and as Priest in 1993. Prior to his current appointment, Canon Wong was Vicar of St Andrew's Cathedral (2016-2020), Vicar of St James' Church (2001-2015), and a priest at St John's-St Margaret's Church (1994-2001) and at St Andrew's Cathedral (1992-1994). He was collated as Canon in 2007.



ST HILDA'S CHURCH

Revd Martin P Jungnickel was inducted as Vicar of St Hilda's Church on 7 March 2021. Revd Martin holds a Master of Divinity from Trinity Theological College (2012), was ordained as a deacon in 2013 and priested in 2014. He previously served as a deacon at St George's Church, as a priest at St John's - St Margaret's Church and as Associate Vicar at St Hilda's Church. As Vicar of St Hilda's Church, Revd Martin is also the Supervisor of St Hilda's Kindergarten and the Chairman of St Hilda's Community Services Centre.

INTRODUCING OUR NEWLY ORDAINED CLERGY



REVD AARON CHENG TIANG PING

Date of Ordination: 9 May 2021
Theological Training: Trinity Theological College, Master of Divinity (2019).
Previous Working Experience: IT Project Manager
Previous Ministry Experience: Parish Worker at Church of the True Light
Current Posting: Deacon at Church of the True Light
Married to: Jennifer Tan Hwee Koon
Children: Allison (12) and Jeanette (10)
Favourite verse or quote: But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)



REVD CHOO CHENG LEONG

Date of Ordination: 9 May 2021
Theological Training: Trinity Theological College, Bachelor of Divinity (2018)
Previous Working Experience: Marine Fire Specialist
Previous Ministry Experience: Parish Worker at All Saints' Church
Current Posting: Deacon at All Saints' Church
Married to: Chua Ee Cheng
Children: Choo Weibin (23), Choo Wei Kai (21) and Choo Wei En (10)
Favourite verse or quote: "... since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:16



REVD CHRISTOPHER HO CHEE BENG

Date of Ordination: 9 May 2021
Theological Training: WorldView Center for Intercultural Studies (2004)
Previous Working Experience: Staff worker @ Fellowship of Evangelical Students
Previous Ministry Experience: Parish Worker at Church of our Saviour Chinese
Current Posting: Deacon at Church of Our Saviour Chinese
Married to: Catherine Gan May Fong
Children: Chloe Ho Si En (17), Charlotte Ho Si Qi (13), Caleb Ho Si Kai (9)
Favourite verse or quote: "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (Phil 1:21)



REVD BRANDON LOY CHUN TENG

Date of Ordination: 9 May 2021
Theological Training: Trinity Theological College, Bachelor of Divinity (2015)
Previous Working Experience: Lab Manager, Medicinal Chemistry Programme, NUS
Previous Ministry Experience: Parish Worker at St Andrew's Cathedral Mandarin Congregation
Current Posting: Deacon at St Andrew's Cathedral Mandarin Congregation
Married to: Lim Eleen
Children: Loy Shao Yi Elijah (8), Loy Shao En Elisha (5)
Favourite verse or quote: "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." Matthew 6:33-34.

COLLATION OF CANONS 2021

We warmly congratulate the following clergy who were collated as canons on 21 March 2021 at St Andrew's Cathedral:

Revd Chua Siang Guan (St James' Church)

Revd Huang Ao-you (Church of the Good Shepherd)

Revd Barry Leong (Church of the True Light)

Revd Lewis Lew (St Andrew's Cathedral)

Revd Daniel Wee (Church of Our Saviour's)

ORDINATION 2021

We also warmly welcome and congratulate the following who were ordained to the diaconate on 9 May 2021 at St Andrew's Cathedral:

Mr Cheng Tiang Ping Aaron (Church of the True Light)

Mr Choo Cheng Leong (All Saints' Church)

Mr Ho Chee Beng Christopher (Church of Our Saviour)

Mr Loy Chun Teng Brandon (St Andrew's Cathedral)

GAZETTE

1. **Revd Zane Elliott** resigned from All Saints' Church, Jakarta, as of 31 October 2020.
2. **Revd Lewis Lew** stepped down from his role as Associate Director of Mission on 31 December 2020.
3. **Revd Michael Teh** stepped down from his role as Chairman of ACROSS on 31 December 2020.
4. **Revd Barry Leong** was appointed Interim Chairman of ACROSS with effect from 1 January 2021.
5. **Revd Andrew Smith** ceased being the Vicar of Christ Church, Bangkok with effect from 24 January 2021.
6. **Canon Rinji Kwashi** (Diocese of Jos, Nigeria) completed his term with the Diocese of Singapore on 31 January 2021, and returned with his family to Nigeria on 11 February.
7. **Bishop Rennis Ponniah** was appointed Honorary Fellow of St Peter's Hall with effect from 1 February 2021.
8. **Revd Paul Xavier** was appointed Home Base Coordinator of the Deanery of Nepal with effect from 1 February 2021.
9. **Revd Tan Chor Kee** was appointed Acting Vicar of Christ Church, Bangkok with effect from 20 February 2021. Revd Tan is a clergy from the Diocese of Sabah who has been serving in Thailand for seven years as Priest in Rangsit Anglican Church.
10. **Revd Foo Chee Meng** retired on 23 March 2021.
11. **Revd William Chee** (Vicar of Yishun Christian Church) was posted as Priest to St Andrew's Cathedral with effect from 1 April 2021.
12. **Revd Daniel Teo** (Priest, St John's - St Margaret's Church) was appointed Vicar of Yishun Christian Church with effect from 1 April 2021.
13. **Revd Timothy Ewing-Chow** retired on 30 April 2021.
14. **Revd Bertram Cheong** (Priest, St Andrew's Cathedral) was appointed Vicar of Chapel of Christ the King with effect from 1 May 2021.
15. **Revd Luke Ting** (Priest, St James' Church) was posted as Priest to the Chinese Congregation of St Andrew's Community Chapel with effect from 1 May 2021.
16. **Revd Yap Chee Han** (Priest, St Andrew's Community Chapel) was posted as Priest to the Chinese Congregation of St James' Church with effect from 1 May 2021.
17. **Revd Joshua Sudharman** (Vicar of St John's - St Margaret's Church) was appointed Warden of St Peter's Hall and Warden of Diocesan Training with effect from 1 July 2021.
18. **Revd Alvin Toh** (Curate, St John's - St Margaret's Church) was appointed Vicar of St John's St Margaret's Church with effect from 1 July 2021.

PARISH WORKER/PARISH ASSISTANT LICENCES

Parish Worker / Parish Assistant licences were issued on 3 May 2021 to:

1. **Ms Loh Yi Jin Clara**, Parish Worker at Marine Parade Christian Centre
2. **Mr Ang Puay Khoon**, Parish Assistant at Church of the True Light
3. **Mr Tan Yang Yi Sean**, Parish Worker at Holy Trinity Parish
4. **Mr Ang Ming Jun Alex**, Parish Assistant at Light of Christ Church Woodlands
5. **Mr Tan Chin Tong Benny**, Parish Assistant at Light of Christ Church Woodlands
6. **Mr Jason Karthikasen A Simon**, Parish Worker at St Paul's Church (Tamil)
7. **Ms Zhang Ting Ting**, Parish Worker at Church of Christ the Redeemer (Chinese)
8. **Ms Hong Keat Cheng Louisa**, Parish Worker at Holy Trinity Parish

DIOCESAN OFFICE STAFF LISTING

Chief Administrative Officer Mabel Tan

GENERAL OFFICE

Administrative Officer Hannah Ng
 Clerical Officer Lai Kwok Wai

EDUCATION/ANGLICAN SCHOOLS, PRESCHOOLS

Executive Administrator Yong Ping Ping

CHINESE-SPEAKING WORK

Executive Administrator Pamela Cheong
 Administrative Officer Wu Yingxi

MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

Diocesan Missions Coordinator Glenise Lim
 Administrative Officer Josephine Tham
 Administrative Officer Grace Tan

YOUTH WORK

DYB Staff Coordinator Cherlie Choong
 DYB Staff Coordinator Ivan Ong

BISHOP'S OFFICE

Bishop's Executive Assistant Heng Fu Wen
 Senior Administrator Stephanie Ng

ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT

Records Management Officer Kong Yuen Ling

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Administrative Officer Karen Wong

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Accountant Novenjati Koh
 Assistant Accountant Caroline Arulkumar
 Administrative Officer Hannah Chin
 Administrative Officer Ruth Athen-Christopher

HR DEPARTMENT

Senior HR Executive Karen Ow
 Administrative Officer Divina Lee

PROPERTY/FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

Property Officer Kevin Sibug