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Returning in
Worship,
Rebounding
with Strength

Contents

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3 Presidential Address at Synod -
May 2022

9 New Key Appointment Holders
- Diocesan Chancellor
- Director of Missions
- Chairman of the Education Board
- Chairman of the Board of Youth Work

14 Parish Spotlight
- Church of the Ascension's 70th Anniversary
- Parish of Christ Church Dedication of
The Revd Canon Samuel Baboo Block
- Church of the Good Shepherd Dedication Service

23 Theological Education Board
- Expanded scope of the ministry of St Peter's Hall

25 Board of Youth Work
- SERVE 2022

29 Church in Singapore
- Journeying with those in need

33 In Memoriam

35 Gazette



Returning in Worship, Rebounding with Strength

by The Right Revd Dr Titus Chung

Shalom my brothers and sisters-in-Christ, I hope you are keeping well.

We extend our warmest welcome to two of our clergy who are back from overseas: Revd Andrew Yap, who was serving in the Anglican Church of Thailand and Revd Dr Jeremy-Joe Tan who returned from UK after completing his studies. We also welcome the following new clergy from our deaneries: Revd Matthew Fitter, Vicar of Christ Church Bangkok, Revd Ian Jennings, Priest-in-Charge of Church of the Holy Spirit in the Deanery of Laos, Revd Dhanadhis Jirathamakul from Christ Church Bangkok and Revd Sakda Kittiwatthanchote from Lat Krabang Anglican Church who were both ordained to the diaconate in April.

In the last couple of months, our diocese saw the loss of two great men in Christ – the late Revd Canon Dr James Wong and our Diocesan Chancellor, Professor Richard Magnus.

The late Canon James, who was promoted to glory on 8th April 2022, served actively in the diocese for 41 years. With a deep passion for church growth, Canon James was instrumental in establishing several of our parishes such as Marine Parade Christian Centre, Chapel of the Resurrection and Chapel of Christ the King.

Canon James will remain as an iconic figure in our diocesan history and may we be found faithful to carry on his legacy to share the gospel to the lost.

Our late Chancellor, Prof Richard Magnus, went home to the Lord on 14th March 2022. He served the diocese for a total of 29 years - 13 as the Registrar and 16 as our Chancellor. Richard was heavily involved in the work of Singapore Anglican Community Services and was instrumental in setting up the HR task force in 2014, which evolved into our current HR Board.

Undeniably, Richard has left behind big shoes to fill, not least of which is the critical role of the Diocesan Chancellor, one which should not be kept vacant for too long, given its importance.

After much prayer, I am pleased to announce

the appointment of Dr Stanley Lai as the next Chancellor of the Diocese of Singapore. This appointment will take place with immediate effect.

Many of us will remember Stanley's late father, Justice Lai Kew Chai, who served as our Diocesan Chancellor for many years. Stanley is also no stranger to us. He currently serves as a member of the Diocesan Standing Committee, and helms our Diocesan HR Board as its Chairman. Stanley is an active member of the Provincial Synod and Provincial Standing Committee. He has also represented the Province of South East Asia on the Anglican Consultative Council. At the parish level, Stanley holds various responsibilities in the PCC of St Andrew's Cathedral. He chaired the Virtual AGM Taskforce in 2020, and was instrumental in guiding our parishes through the new and permissible ways to conduct their AGMs in the midst of the pandemic.

Stanley was the first Singapore-born lawyer to be conferred a PhD in Law from the University of Cambridge in 1999. He was appointed Senior Counsel in 2010 and is an accomplished lawyer. I am confident he will excel in this new appointment. Let us keep Stanley in prayer as he discharges his new and significant responsibilities under God.

Next, I would like to highlight these new Diocesan appointments: Revd Dr Timothy Chong as the Director of Missions, Revd Andrew Yap as the Associate Director of Missions, Bishop Kuan Kim Seng as the Acting Dean of the Deanery of Nepal, Revd Aaron Cheng as Chairman of the Board of Youth Work and Revd David Lee as the incoming Chairman of the Education Board. Let us pray for a smooth leadership transition and that the Lord will continue to build these ministries.

I would like to record a vote of thanks to their predecessors for their faithful service and stellar contributions: Canon Yee Ching Wah, Canon Steven Asirvatham, Revd Christopher Chan and Revd Dr Joshua Sudharman.

It is also my pleasure to announce that Revd Edwin Tan has been appointed the Associate General Secretary of NCCS. The new

appointment is a sign of our commitment and contribution to building a greater understanding and unity among churches in Singapore through the National Council of Churches Singapore (NCCS).

I want to take this opportunity to record my heartfelt appreciation to the following who have retired from active service: Bishop Raphael Samuel, who served as a missionary in Bolivia and Deaconess Chow Wai Keng. In addition, Revd Yopie Buyung, Associate Dean of Indonesia will be retiring in July 2022. We pray that the Lord will guide and continue to refresh them in this new season of their lives.

Holding Fast

In the past six months, we saw growth in our healthcare and community service arm – St Andrew’s Mission Hospital (SAMH) and Singapore Anglican Community Services (SACS). St Andrew’s Mission School, a national curriculum autism school, received its first cohort of Primary One students in January 2022. Under the headship of the Principal, Mrs Wong Bin Eng, we pray that these students may be nurtured to fulfil their potential and be active members of our society.

St Andrew’s Migrant Worker Medical Centre (SAMWMC) held its official opening ceremony on 19th February 2022. With the setup of a permanent and purpose-designed medical facility, we are now better able to support the health and well-being of our migrant brothers.

We rejoice with two of our Anglican schools who will mark significant milestones this year. St Margaret’s School, Singapore’s oldest girls’ school, will celebrate their 180th anniversary whereas St Andrew’s School, another school with rich history will celebrate their 160th Founder’s Day. By God’s grace, may these schools continue to inculcate kingdom values to every student that passes through their gates.

Incidentally, the free-will offering for this year’s Whitsunday on 5th June will be channelled

towards supporting school chaplaincy work. I encourage us to prayerfully consider the amount of support we can extend to this part of our collective Body. While some of our parishes have the privilege of being part of the school chaplaincy work, the rest can share the same call to reach out to the students through your financial giving. Let us remember that we all belong to the same Body.

Forging Ahead

We thank God that after grappling with the pandemic for more than two years, Singapore has made a decisive step to move towards living with COVID-19. With the drastic easing of safe management measures, many of our church activities may now revert to how it was pre-COVID, to a large extent. The lift on border restrictions also means travelling to and from our deaneries is now made easier.

What does this ‘new normal’ mean for us as a Diocese? After two years of disruption to our worship services, we need to assess the spiritual condition of our church. Undeniably, our worship to God was affected under the safe distancing rules and we know that our relationship with God is closely intertwined with how we worship Him.

Pastors and leaders, I urge you to be intentional in working towards bringing our members back to the physical church. In order to encourage our parishioners to return to on-site worship, I have decided not to extend the dispensation for online Holy Communion after it expires on 30th June 2022. **While there are merits to using technology when the circumstances did not allow for physical gatherings, it is certainly not the will of our Lord for us to continue worshipping Him within the comfort of our homes and be apart from the rest of the Body when the situation has improved drastically.**

Firstly, God has made us “a little lower than the

angels” and crowned us with “glory and honour” (Hebrews 2:7). The difference between the angels and man would be our bodily presence and capability to connect physically. **In our full expression as human beings, we cannot do without the body as it is the physical touch that makes our humanity count.**

Next, we need to bear in mind that the incarnation of Jesus Christ is central to our faith. In order to save us, the Son of God became man. John 1:14 states, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth”. Jesus’ dwelling amongst us is a bodily one and so is his relationship with us. **As we relate to one another in love, through the work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus’ bodily presence is experienced in our physical and mutual interactions. God, being omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent, would be more than able to do the impossible. Yet, he chose to create Man in the physical form and provided salvation through the Son of God in becoming man. This is the will of God. It is therefore critical that the church gathers physically and work towards obeying the New Commandment and fulfilling the Great Commission. The incarnation of Christ, the Word made flesh, should be modelled after by His bride – the Church.**

We may rejoice that we are at the tail end of the pandemic, but we must not forget that the end times are drawing closer. We should not be surprised that the world we live in will become increasingly unstable. In Matthew 24:7-8, Jesus warned us that as we approach His Second Coming, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines

and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.” As we are all aware, the war in Ukraine has brought about tension in the global political landscape and impacted the economy. We cannot assume that the situation will improve as we come out of the pandemic. The days of challenge and difficulty are not soon-to-be over as we wish, but we have our God who is faithful and trustworthy, and He will strengthen us as we lean on Him.

Jesus said “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city” (Revelation 22:13-14). **The call to heed the New Commandment and fulfil the Great Commission is a pressing matter. As we move nearer to the Final Judgment, let us not keep this gift of salvation to ourselves but rise up earnestly and step out courageously to share with those who do not yet know the Good News. It is a matter of urgency and our calling to work out what are the most important instructions God has given to us.** Every parish should take responsibility under the leadership of your Vicar to unpack what it means to love God and to love our neighbours, and to make disciples of all nations, as we work towards becoming an authentic discipleship-community --- the Church.

Brothers and sisters-in Christ, we give thanks that over the years God has entrusted us with so much through our ministries in the parishes, deaneries, schools and community services. I encourage us to prayerfully discern, as we navigate the times ahead, how you and your parish could continue to be good stewards of the people and ministries under your care. Yet, no parish should feel that they need to carry this burden alone.

Ecclesiastes 4:12 says, “Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”

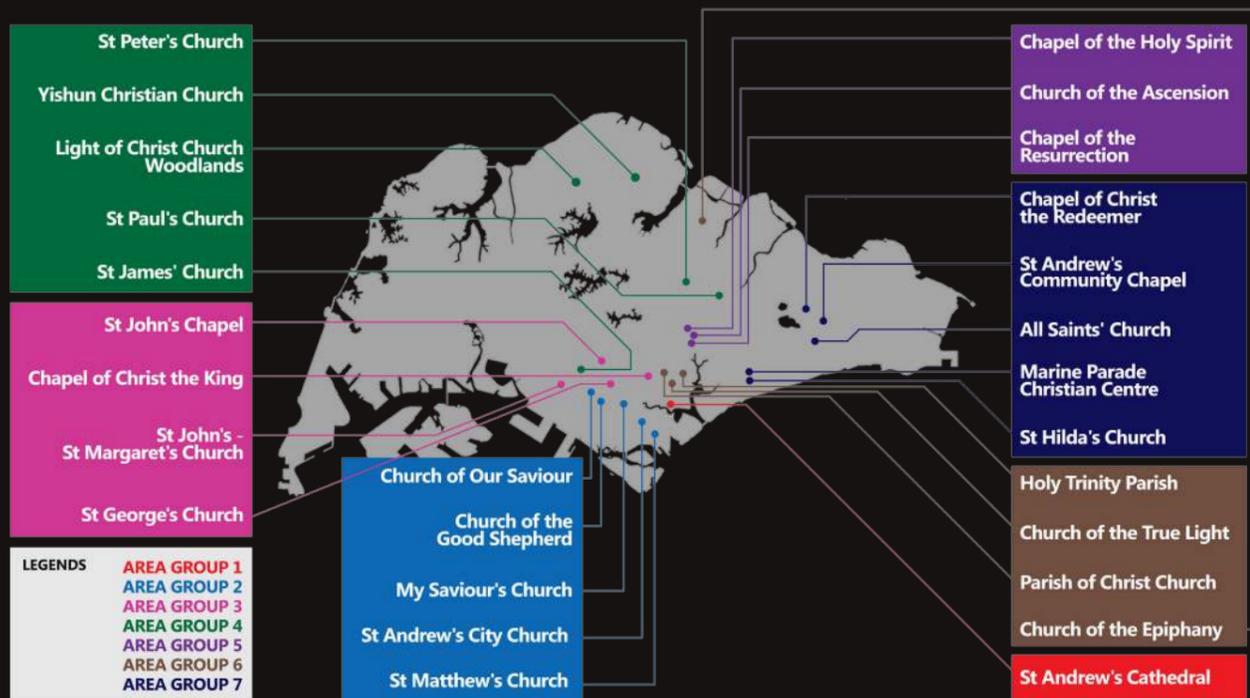
We thank God that the Area Groups are progressing well. I am encouraged that since the formation of our Area Groups, the clergy have been meeting within their own Area Group; we are seeing more clergy visiting other parishes and staff & senior lay leaders from different parishes meeting together.

In the days ahead, we hope that the Area Groups can band together in greater synergy, plan strategically and discuss pastoral concerns. We pray that with the greater interaction and collaboration amongst the parishes within each Area Group, nothing will stop us from bringing out the best in our parishes for the Lord and that

we will enjoy serving together in unity, in fulfilling the most important teachings of our Risen Lord. So let us strive to spiritually strengthen our Body and serve together for the glory of our Lord!
Amen.



The Rt Revd Dr Titus Chung
The Bishop of Singapore



Area Groups of The Diocese of Singapore

“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 10:24-25

New Key Appointment Holders

In the last few months, The Diocese of Singapore has had new leaders appointed to support the work and ministry of the Diocese. Let us hear what they have to say!



Diocesan Chancellor

Dr Stanley Lai was appointed by Bishop Dr Titus Chung as the Chancellor for The Diocese of Singapore on 21st May 2022. Dr Stanley succeeds the late Professor Richard Magnus as the Diocesan Chancellor.

Please share with us a little about yourself:

"I am a baptised and confirmed Anglican. I currently worship in St Andrew's Cathedral, together with my family. I am married to Candace, and we have 3 children - Ashley (13), James (9) and Joshua (6).

I am a practising lawyer in Singapore and Senior Counsel (I was appointed in 2010). I also hold a doctorate in law from the University of Cambridge. I work as a partner in the law firm of Allen & Gledhill LLP and I have been in legal practice for over 25 years.

In terms of service in church, I currently serve in the PCC of St Andrew's Cathedral. I am also a member of the Diocesan Standing Committee, and I currently chair the HR Board of the Diocese. I also serve in the Provincial Synod and Provincial Standing Committee.

I was blessed to be born into a Christian family. My dear mother, Dorothy, is my spiritual mentor and a great source of strength. There is a generational tradition of service in my family. My maternal grandfather and great-grandfather served as Canons of our Diocese. My father, the late Justice Lai Kew Chai, also served as the Chancellor of the Diocese for many years."

What is the function and role of the Diocesan Chancellor?

"First and foremost, the Diocesan Chancellor is legal adviser to the Bishop of The Diocese of Singapore. He serves at the pleasure of the Diocesan Bishop, and is an ex-officio lay member of Synod. He is part of the Standing Committee and the Executive Committee. He is likely to be

consulted on all matters of ecclesiastical and secular law in the governance of the Diocese, its parishes and associated entities. If there is any dispute as to the meaning of any provision in the Diocesan Constitution, the Chancellor's opinion shall prevail.

The Chancellor also serves as a member of the Cathedral Chapter (which is charged with the ordering of St Andrew's Cathedral as the mother-church of the Diocese). The Chancellor presides over the Court of the Synod of the Diocese, which may be constituted to address matters of discipline. The Chancellor also has ceremonial duties – for example, he plays a formal role in the ordination, collation and consecration services of the Diocese."

What are your personal thoughts on taking on this role?

"It is with humility that I accept the responsibilities that come with the office. Laws regulate the secular and church space in our country. Within the multi-religious construct of our country, there is a constant need to be vigilant as to order, discipline and unity within the Body of Christ.

The Chancellor's office operates within the principle that our Diocese is Episcopally-led and Synodically-governed. In the various roles that I have held in our Diocese, I have always tried to be helpful as a problem solver. I fully expect that problem solving will continue into this new role.

I ask for your prayers for empowerment, wisdom and discernment as I carry out my duties. Please pray that at all times, I am equipped to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly before Him (Micah 6:8)".

**Dr Stanley Lai, SC
Chancellor**

Director of Missions



Revd Dr Timothy Chong was appointed as the Director of Missions on 1st April 2022, succeeding Revd Canon Yee Ching Wah. Revd Timothy has been the Dean of Indonesia since 2011. Currently, he is an Honorary Priest based in Chapel of the Resurrection. He was formerly the Vicar of St Peter's Church and Yishun Christian Church(Anglican). Revd Timothy is married to Magdalena and they have three grown up children, Isaac (29), Jessica (27) and Matthias (24).

What does the Director of Missions do?

"As the Director of Missions, I oversee the development, planning, and implementation of missional strategies of the Diocese. I support and provide resources for the Deans and the Deaneries especially in these areas: infrastructure development, leadership development and the vocational calling of the deaneries' pastors.

The Director of Missions is also a resource person for the parishes. He introduces available resources to help parishes in the planning and professional development of their personnel for their mission work. The Director of Missions also develops relationships with mission partners and facilitate their missionaries in coming to serve in our Deaneries."

What are your personal thoughts on taking on this role?

"The missionary work of The Diocese of Singapore is massive, both locally and in our mission deaneries. Our total population in the six deaneries is nearly 500 million people where Christianity is a minority. There is much to be done. This missionary endeavour requires our total commitment and passion like Hudson Taylor who said so powerfully, "If I had 1,000 lives, I'd give them all for China." In this spirit, I will give my best for this mission work of the Diocese."

Revd Dr Timothy Chong
Director of Missions

Chairman, Education Board



Revd David Lee was appointed as the Chairman of the Education Board on 1st June 2022, succeeding Revd Dr Joshua Sudharman. Revd David is currently the Vicar of Chapel of the Resurrection, Chaplain to St Andrew's Junior College and President of Good News Community Services. He is also the Area Group Leader for St Andrew's Village where three of our parishes and the St Andrew's Schools are located. He is married to Veronica and have two daughters, Alethea (18) and Clara (16).

What are your personal thoughts on taking on this role?

"I am deeply aware of the great responsibility that the Education Board (EB) carries. Barely one month in the office, I must say that I have more questions than answers about my new role. Nevertheless, there are three areas I would like to look into.

Firstly, what distinguishes Anglican schools from other schools? All schools run by the Ministry of Education are good schools. But what sets us apart? Staying true to this identity and self-understanding is important for our Anglican schools to work towards our common vision and mission.

Secondly, how can we support the chaplaincy in our schools? The chaplaincy plays a critical

role in the spiritual formation of our students and staff. To this end, how can the EB facilitate collaboration across our chaplaincy?

Lastly, how can we pay it forward? Just as we have been blessed by the early missionaries who brought education to our shore, it is time for us to serve others. Entrusted with 6 deanery countries, our Diocese has the opportunity to advise and support them in the establishment of schools and preschools.

Indeed, the Lord has blessed the works of our hands. From a single school for girls established 180 years ago, The Diocese of Singapore now operates 11 schools (including 2 special needs schools) and 21 pre-school services. May we remain faithful to this mission in education as the Lord leads us forward from strength to strength."

Revd David Lee
Chairman of the Education Board

Chairman, Board of Youth Work



Revd Aaron Cheng was appointed as the Chairman of the Board of Youth Work on 1st May 2022, succeeding Revd Christopher Chan.

Please share with us a little about yourself:

"I currently serve at Church of the True Light where I started as a Youth Pastoral Staff in 2014. I am married to Jennifer and we have two lovely girls, Allison (13) and Jeanette (11). I greatly appreciate their love, partnership, and support for me on this journey."

What was your experience in youth ministry like?

"When we speak of youths, these words and phrases come to mind – 'fun', 'energetic', 'boisterous', 'messy' and 'searching for identity'. Yet these few years of growth are an important phase between childhood and adulthood where many will have the opportunity to hear the gospel and enter the kingdom of God. Sadly, it is also the period where a number will risk falling away from the church if they are not deeply rooted in the Word of God. This is especially so if they miss the chance to connect deeply with God and the church community. Some may claim that the church is lifeless, or irrelevant with other aspects of their lives including work, relationships, and family.

The phrase 'Love them to life' has been deep in my heart since I entered full-time ministry as a youth pastor. People will not care until they know how much they are loved. Loving them to life includes taking a long-range view of their growth, being present when they are going through rough patches in life and, taking a leaf from our Lord Jesus, feeding them! They are surely a hungry bunch, and we pray that they will also hunger for the presence of our Lord."

What is your heart for the youths in the Diocese?

"Youths are the future leaders and foundation of the church. The church has been around because each generation, albeit sometimes a handful, choose to sow into the lives of others, resulting in the church continuing from generation to generation. This is no small feat. It requires one to deny himself and be sacrificial on a daily basis. For instance, older youths need to take time before worship service to practise and train younger youths for the music ministry, youths involved in the children ministry will need to prepare for lessons for Sunday School. While being trained to be disciples, they also nurture the younger ones and train others to be disciples in parallel to their own journey. All these take time, hard work and heart work.

The heart of the Diocesan Youth Board is to offer support for the youth ministries across the Diocese and nurture the next generation to have a real relationship with God and be good and faithful servants. Hopefully, these youths will eventually be men and women who will be the salt and light anywhere God places them in the marketplace. From this pool of people, I hope there will also be labourers called for full-time ministry to be shepherds for the next generation—the pastoral staff and clergy of tomorrow and beyond. This ensures that our faith will be passed on to our children, children's children and generations after them.

May the Lord be with us as we carry forward the mandate of the Diocesan Youth Board, from generation to generation."

Revd Aaron Cheng
Chairman of the Board of Youth Work

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose."

Romans 8:28

A Celebration of God's Faithfulness to Church of the Ascension



by Revd Ian Chew, Vicar of Church of the Ascension



"...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

This has always been the call and promise of God to the Church of the Ascension (COA) as we celebrated our 70th anniversary on Ascension Sunday 29th May 2022.

How was this accomplished in the past? **From our beginning, we have been reaching out to staff and students not only of St Andrew's School but to St Andrew's House as well.**

In the 1950s to 1960s, as the seasonal monsoon rains brought floods to the neighbouring Potong Pasir estate, villagers would escape with their belongings to the church as it was situated on higher ground. There they would find not only shelter but

food and clothing donated by the church members.

"I remember once when the flooding was severe, we rowed our sampan to rescue the villagers trapped by the floodwaters. One particular man was sitting on the roof of his house holding on to a large pig. Instead of accepting our offer for help, he pleaded with us to save his pig! Of course, I refused as the pig would cause us all to sink!" recalled Mrs Mary Yee (90), who served as a teacher in St Andrew's School.

Today, the environment of Potong Pasir may have been largely transformed from its humble beginnings, but the call of God remains the same. We are to be the light of Christ to the schools and community around us. This is made all the more urgent with the rapid development of new condominiums and

the new Bidadari housing estate consisting of 10,000 flats. God has brought the harvest field right to our doorsteps! **We are also standing in the midst of momentous change in our methods of ministry with the setting up of Area Groups within the Diocese.** This move was recently launched by Bishop Titus to help us strategise and combine resources within the parishes to be more effective in outreach.

As part of our celebrations for our 70th anniversary, Bishop Titus emphasised the importance of working together. "A new season is dawning. We are at the threshold of change," he declared.

On the Ascension Sunday Service, we had the Anglican Chamber Ensemble led the church in a special celebration of songs of praise and thanksgiving to God. There was also a lunch spread for more than 400 members and guests who were present, which was a rare treat after the restrictions caused by the pandemic were lifted. It was a good time for friends new and old to enjoy a time of fellowship over a meal!

In actual fact, this year is more than a 70th anniversary celebration. Back in 1946, Revd Canon RKS Adams, who was then principal of St Andrew's School, started a mid-week Holy Communion Service for the staff and students after World War II. It was only six years later that Canon Adams suggested the chapel service change its name to Church of the Ascension, as it moved from meeting on the second floor of the school to the newly constructed third floor. COA was officially birthed as a parish on 25th May 1952.

Yet that was not all. Ten years later on 31st May 1962, which was also Ascension Sunday, the building that houses COA now was also officially dedicated as Church of the Ascension. Ascension Sunday 2022 thus celebrates not only the founding

of the church but also God's gracious provision of a heritage building for our congregation's worship space.

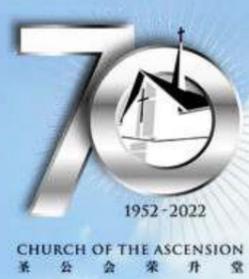
Together with the anniversary service, the Committee has also organised numerous activities to gather the church community in thanksgiving. Some of the activities included a Gratitude Challenge comprising a 7km walk or 70km cycle in commemoration of the 70 years of COA's founding, a planned prayer walk in the Potong Pasir estate as well as an anniversary dinner. These activities are not only meaningful but apt in building a sense of community after the pandemic.

We look forward with hope and anticipation in the fulfilment of God's call and promise to us through His Holy Spirit in the season ahead!

70 years of COA's founding, a planned prayer walk in the Potong Pasir estate as well as an anniversary dinner. These activities are not only meaningful but apt in building a sense of community after the pandemic.

We look forward with hope and anticipation in the fulfilment of God's call and promise to us through His Holy Spirit in the season ahead!

Revd Ian Chew
Vicar of Church of the Ascension



Parish of Christ Church: Dedication of The Revd Canon Samuel Baboo Block

The Revd Canon Samuel Baboo Block was dedicated on 11th June 2022 by The Rt Revd Titus Chung. The building used to house Christ Church Secondary School from 1953 to 1985 and Christ Church Kindergarten from 1989 to 2015. Levels one to three have been named after the gospels while the worship hall on Level four is named 'St Luke's Worship Hall' reflecting Christ Church's commitment to share the gospel of Christ. This newly dedicated block will be used for the growth of existing ministries as well as to serve the community at large.

Watch the dedication service of The Revd Canon Samuel Baboo Block at christchurch.org.sg/redevelopment.



Parish of Christ Church
To God be the Glory!
REVD CANON SAMUEL BABOO BLOCK
was dedicated by
The Rt Revd Dr Titus Chung
The Bishop of Singapore
on 11 June 2022

Church of the Good Shepherd Dedication Service

Church of the Good Shepherd's redevelopment project at 2 Dundee Road was a daunting process. After Synod gave approval for the \$25 million project in 2007, the plan was revised in 2010 to break down the project into phases and the first phase began later that year. Earnest praying, planning, giving, and fundraising by church members and leaders in the subsequent years culminated in the groundbreaking ceremony for Phase 2A in November 2018. Although the global pandemic temporarily disrupted construction, the parish finally obtained its new building's TOP in March 2021.

The Dedication Service on 25th June 2022 was a long-awaited and joyful celebration of God's faithfulness and the culmination of its community's trust and obedience to their Lord, the Good Shepherd.




圣公会善牧堂
 CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

To the Glory Of God	荣耀归于上帝
This building was dedicated by	新加坡教区主教
The Rt Revd Dr Titus Chung	章剑文博士
Bishop of Singapore	献上此建筑
on	
25 June 2022	2022年6月25日

An expanded scope of the ministry of St Peter's Hall - Home of training for the Diocese

by Revd Dr Joshua Sudharman, Warden of St Peter's Hall

THE MISSION OF St Peter's Hall

Moulding the future of the Anglican Church in Singapore and the region by

- equipping and forming current and future leaders of the Diocese of Singapore;
- upholding our Anglican identity; and
- fostering community among our trainees.

The key purpose of St Peter's Hall (SPH) is to mould the future of the Anglican Church, locally and regionally. Our Mission captures what we do, for whom, and why we do it. We believe the Anglican Church has a future under God. We are committed to helping our parishes and related Diocesan entities fulfil their mission in the future by raising servant leaders of character and calibre who will navigate the complexities of ministry for their respective areas of ministry.

History of St Peter's Hall

SPH was started by the Diocese of Singapore in 1954, and the founding Warden was a Norwegian missionary, The Revd Canon Dr Sverre Holth. Having been a missionary in China, he spoke fluent Mandarin, and was the founding pastor of St Andrew's Cathedral Mandarin Congregation, also in 1954.

He was a man of courage who had tried to protect local Chinese villagers from invading Japanese soldiers in 1940, and was taken out into the snow, with his three children watching from the window, shot in the back by the soldiers and left to die. But he survived, the bullet never having been removed!

SPH was from the beginning mandated to prepare people for ordination and lifelong ministry in the Anglican church.

It was always associated with Trinity College (later renamed Trinity Theological College or TTC) of which the Anglican Church was one of the founding members. SPH was initially located in Woodville (now called St Andrew's Village). Later in 1960, for the sake of shortening the commute to TTC, SPH was moved to Mount Sophia to be adjacent to TTC. This was SPH's

home for the next four decades. When TTC vacated Mount Sophia to move to Upper Bukit Timah, SPH did likewise. SPH now occupies the space within one wing (Block D) of the TTC hostel. As one of a handful of residential Halls in TTC, it continues to retain certain distinctives, being the only Hall in TTC with its own small Chapel, office, library and training room.

Expanded Scope of St Peter's Hall

Demographically, the scope of SPH's ministry has expanded tremendously. **We no longer limit our focus to just those who are enrolled in TTC, but our "beneficiaries" encompass the entire Diocese!**

Apart from conducting training at Diocesan level for selected groups, SPH will also seek to provide resources and guidance for how parishes do their own internal training. In other words, SPH's function in relation to the parishes parallels that of the Ministry of Education's role in relation to our national schools.

Structure of St Peter's Hall

To be targeted in our training, six Schools have been set up under the banner of SPH: School of Anglicanism (SOA), School of Pastoral Ministry (SPM), School of Leadership (SOL), School of Church Growth (SCG), School of Biblical Studies (SBS) and School of Theological Studies (STS).

The Diocese can be broadly divided into those who are "in-service", i.e. in a salaried role, as well as lay members. Each of the 6 Schools will offer training at 6 levels, corresponding to different levels of leadership:

Levels	SOA	SPM	SOL	SCG	SBS	STS
100	Level 100: New and growing lay members					
200	Level 200: Mid-level lay leaders (e.g. Cell leaders, Ministry leaders)					
300	Level 300: Senior lay leaders (e.g. Lay readers, PCC members etc)					
400	Level 400: Parish staff (Admin and Pastoral)					
500	Level 500: Clergy and Deaconesses					
600	Level 600: Vicars and Senior Clergy					

Levels 100-300: Lay members and leaders

Levels 400-600: In-service staff and leaders

What would this mean for the Diocese?

As mentioned above, SPH is now the 'training hub' of the Diocese. The SPH website (sph.org.sg) will be an important companion to the Diocesan website in informing parishioners of how we can serve through our Schools and events, as well as sharing our prayer needs and financial needs.

SPH can also function as a 'training exchange' in the Diocese, so that parishes can share their training resources with one another, and minimise duplication. This will allow all members of the Diocese access to the rich diversity of gifts and resources God has spread across the parishes.

COVID-19 has accelerated the adoption of technology in the Diocese. These technologies (such as Zoom meetings) are there to supplement, not supplant, what we've traditionally held dear (such as in-person gatherings, meals together etc.). The use of high-quality video recordings of courses opens up many possibilities for scaling up the reach and impact of those courses, e.g. the recently concluded Anglicanism course conducted in TTC was fully video recorded, and this enabled certain sessions of it to be used in the Lay Reader course that followed soon after. Translation of these same videos will open up the possibility of the same course being conducted at our deaneries soon.

All these major changes in SPH signal a shift in the priority placed on training in the Diocese. Bishop Titus remarked at a meeting of the In-Service Committee that each episcopacy in recent decades in our Diocese has been marked by certain emphases, and his tenure may well reflect a renewed emphasis on training and equipping. **In the days ahead, SPH hopes to discern and detect where the training gaps are in the Diocese and fill them. This will not happen overnight but may take years to come to fruition, only if the Lord is at the centre of all that we do, for "unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain who build it". (Psalm 127:1)**

SERVE 2022

by Mr Ivan Ong, Diocesan Central Administration staff for the Diocesan Youth Board

SERVE 2022 was filled with fond memories and thanksgiving. Despite the restrictions faced due to COVID-19, we are grateful to God for seeing us through the two-month programme.

The Board of Youth Work is thankful for God's favour for smooth administration in our arrangement for the session speakers to teach at SERVE 2022. We are especially grateful for the support from our youth pastors who readily agreed and availed themselves to serve as mentors. By faith, the team planned for an eight-week programme with enriching lessons being conducted in the morning and various activities such as group discussion, reading and one-to-one mentoring time in the afternoons.

It was definitely a joy to see the 14 SERVErs constantly seeking to outdo one another in honouring and serving one another.

Although the fellowship amongst the cohort had to be restricted due to the prevailing safe-distancing measures, they did their best to ensure it was not compromised. There were activity days when the entire cohort, with their mentors, hiked at MacRitchie Reservoir, as well as a 3-day retreat to encourage bonding.

Matthew from St James' Church shared, "The past 2 months of attending SERVE has been nothing short of rewarding. I have gleaned new insights and took much home. Learning more about the Bible and its truths have helped me to rekindle the passion I had lost during the preparation of my A-level examinations. Furthermore, being surrounded by a community with such a deep hunger to learn more about Him and study His word was truly inspirational. These are the two aspects that have made my SERVE experience truly unforgettable – the sharing and the people."

The SERVErs took their time of learning very seriously. With an attitude and hunger to know more about God, we witnessed the transformation in some of them within this short span of time. Javier from Chapel of the Resurrection said "SERVE helped me to draw closer to God than I ever did before. Now, I read the bible consistently and will practise

quiet time with God and pray. My faith in God deepened as I progressed through SERVE and I have learnt to place more trust in Him."

One of SERVE highlights was community living. Emma from Church of the Ascension shared **"Psalm 84 talks about how wonderful it is being in the house of God is. As I spent time in the presence of God and of my fellow believers for two months during SERVE, my spiritual life was enriched and I felt very fulfilled during this time, because of the friends that I have made and the sessions from which I have learnt much.**

I am so blessed to have met all the friends that I have made during this time. Although I was intimidated by the lack of familiar faces at the start of the programme, I began to love their kindness and openness as we got to know one another better. Their fun and charming personalities made SERVE very enjoyable. Furthermore, during the group discussions and devotions, their diverse perspectives and experiences allowed me to widen my horizons and gain new insight into the various issues in society, and was encouraged and inspired by their passion for God."

This year, we have three post-NS youths with us, and one of the 'Big Brothers' of the cohort, Justin from Chapel of Christ the Redeemer added, "One of the greatest takeaways for me is the community that I found here. I've had the opportunity to share my experiences with some of the other SERVErs. Their testimonies have encouraged me greatly. I am grateful for the hearty laughter and small talk during our free time. I am thankful for the deep conversations and the bible studies we did together. I have found a community outside of church, I am

welcomed into a larger community of believers. Though we come from different backgrounds, we all hold the same faith. I thank God for the opportunity to meet, fellowship, and learn from these SERVERs for the past couple of months."

Aside from the community life, SERVERs shared that the daily sessions were enriching and helped them to understand their Christian faith and identity as Anglicans. Choon Yong from Chapel of Christ the Redeemer said "I learnt this very key concept in our Anglican teaching – *via media*. When we are faced with doctrines that seem to be contradictory to each other, we are able to acknowledge that God's ways are higher than ours and take a 'middle way', by acknowledging the validity of both doctrines, but not swinging too far on either side."

He continued, "I also learnt the significance and centrality of Holy Communion that we partake during Service. To know that Christ is present is a cause of great fear to me and thus, I should receive Holy Communion with absolute reverence. I better appreciate and see how beautiful the liturgy is, and that there is indeed a reason behind everything that we do in it. The words that we recite every week has so much meaning, and if our hearts resonate with the words, it is a God-exalting worship. Through this lesson, I've learnt to take Holy Communion with much more reverence during Service."

It is evident that the youths were impacted by the programme and the community. Let us continue to keep our youths in prayer as they apply what they have learnt and live out their faith!



Journeying With Those Who Are In Need – When Marriage Is Breaking Down

by Revd Edwin Tan, Associate General Secretary of NCCS

“Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.” Ecclesiastes 4:9–12

On 28th February 2022, the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) invited the Religious Organisations (ROs) for a briefing. The focus of the briefing was to invite the ROs to consider supporting couples that are considering or pursuing divorce.

This was in response to a consultation paper issued by MSF in May 2021. In May 2021, MSF issued a consultation paper: “How To Better Support Children And Divorcees, And Reduce Acrimony In Divorce.” One of the suggestions in the paper was to introduce the amicable divorce option. The amicable divorce option can be applied to cases where couples mutually consent to the divorce and agree that their marriage has irretrievably broken down. And they would not have to cite any of the five facts which would hurt each other further.

The five facts are fault-based facts including adultery, unreasonable behaviour, desertion and fact of separation – separation of three years with the spouse’s consent and separation of four years without consent.

On 3rd June 2021, the National Council of Churches Singapore (NCCS) wrote a response to MSF stating the concerns about the proposal to introduce the amicable divorce option.

This is an abstract of the response from NCCS: “While it is not the intention of MSF to make divorce easy by proposing the amicable divorce option, NCCS is of the view that it inadvertently will. By removing the requirement for couples who opt to take this route to prove one of the five facts, the legal process will be made smoother and less conflictual. This may present itself as an attractive option for couples who wish to have a quick divorce. The current safeguards may not be sufficient to reduce the ease of divorce that this option facilitates. All marriages — even happy ones

— will undergo difficult times. When divorce is made easier, it will naturally be regarded as a practical way of dealing with marital problems. Some couples may see the amicable divorce option as providing an easy exit that will allow them to run away from their problems without having to assign blame. Thus, instead of trying to find solutions to their problems as a couple that have pledged their lifelong commitment to one another, the husband and wife may decide to simply end their marriage. The amicable divorce option may provide such couples with a less painful way of walking away from their marital commitment.

Studies have shown that making divorce easier has two dire consequences. The first is that it has resulted in substantial declines in marriage rates. After the first no-fault divorce laws were adopted in California in 1969, there was a persistent decline in marriage rates, accompanied by more single parenthood and cohabitation. The second consequence of making divorce easier is that it has caused divorce rates to skyrocket. In 1960, there were about 25,000 divorces in the state of California. By 1970 — one year after no-fault divorce was introduced — the number of divorce had jumped to 120,000. According to the MSF consultation paper, there is an upward trend of divorces in Singapore (para 2). Thus, NCCS is concerned that despite the safeguards that will be put in place, the proposed amicable divorce option will exacerbate this worrying trend.” A copy of the NCCS response can be found under Official Statements on their website.

On top of the response, on 19th October 2021, NCCS hosted a Zoom meeting with Minister Desmond Lee (National Development and Minister in-charge of Social Services Integration) and Minister of State, Sun Xueling (Education and Social and Family Development) where the ministers dialogued

with pastors and church leaders with matters related to the Consultation Paper. The concerns that the pastors and church leaders had about the amicable divorce option were shared openly.

On 1st November 2021, MSF announced a proposal in Parliament to amend the Women's Charter. **The newly proposed amendments to the Women's Charter allowed couples in Singapore to divorce amicably without pinning blame on one party. The changes would introduce a sixth fact for divorce termed "divorce by mutual agreement of the irretrievable breakdown of the marriage" (DMA), which enables couples to take joint responsibility for the breakdown of their marriage.**

Under the sixth fact, couples who are seeking divorce will need to have a written agreement that includes: (a) reasons for the marital breakdown, (b) steps they have taken to reconcile, and (c) the considerations they have made for their children and financial affairs in their submissions to the court. These requirements are in some ways, road blocks to make a couple consider carefully before making the final decision. One example of taking steps to reconcile include attending marital counselling or seeking the help of friends or family members to settle disputes. **The court may then order the parties to attend further mediation, counselling, or programmes such as those for parenting. The court can also reject the couple's agreement if there is a possibility of reconciliation.**

On 10th January 2022, the amendments to the Women's Charter were passed in Parliament.

How does the church come in to journey with couples that are considering or pursuing divorce? When the divorcing couple is attending a court-mandated or voluntary counselling session,

the counsellor from Strengthening Families Programme @ Family Service Centre will ask the couple if they would like to speak to a Christian counsellor or Christian Resource Person (e.g. Pastor or Elder) if they mention that they are Christians. If the couple is willing, the counsellor will make the referral.

As such, MSF is asking the churches to provide a list of trained Christian Counsellors and Christian Resource Persons (e.g. Pastor or Elder) whom they can refer the divorcing couple to for extra help. MSF mentioned that this is perhaps the first of its kind where help from ROs is offered by a secular government to divorcing couples. This is indeed encouraging and an important opportunity presented to the church - to lend help where it is needed.

If you are a trained counsellor, you can be a blessing to these couples. Your Priest-in-charge and Vicars are aware of this invitation from MSF. If the Lord impresses upon your heart to help in this way, I encourage you to speak to your Priest-in-charge or Vicar on your desire to participate. If you would like to find out more, please contact me at edwintanwk@anglican.org.sg.



In Memoriam

*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
2 Timothy 4:7*

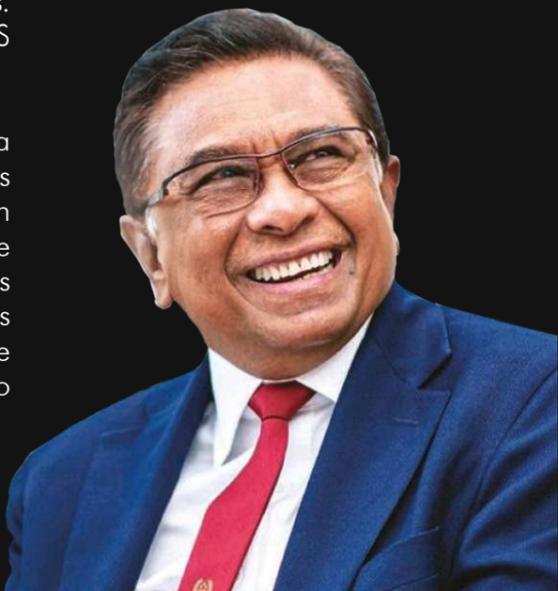
Professor Richard Magnus (1944 – 2022)

We are deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Professor Richard Magnus on 14th March 2022.

Professor Richard was not only a key figure in the public square but a key leader of the Diocese. Since 1993, he served our Diocese faithfully as the Registrar for a total of 13 years after which, as the Chancellor for 16 years, until his passing. In each capacity, he worked closely with the Diocesan Bishop.

In 2014, Professor Richard set up the HR taskforce which eventually evolved to the current Diocesan HR Board. In addition, he also served on the Board of Singapore Anglican Community Services (SACS) for 19 years, of which, he was the Vice President for 6 years. His contribution has shaped SACS into what it is today.

The late Professor Richard was a man who devoted his life in God's Word and work. On certain occasions, he would share the Word of God in some parishes and initiated prayer meetings amongst the House of Laity. We were blessed by his contribution to our Body. May he rest in peace.



Revd Canon Dr James Wong (1939 – 2022)

On 8th April 2022, the Diocese lost an iconic figure in our history – Revd Canon Dr James Wong.

Members of the Diocese would immediately associate the late Canon James as the one who planted several of our parishes. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Canon James' vision for church growth led him to set up several church plants in Singapore during the charismatic movement in the 1970s.

Many of these church plants have matured to be parishes, including Marine Parade Christian Centre,

Chapel of the Resurrection, Chapel of Christ the King, Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Light of Christ Church Woodlands and St Andrew's City Church.

Canon James was ordained as a Deacon in 1966, priested in 1967 and was collated as an Honorary Canon of St Andrew's Cathedral in 1976. He was an active clergy until he retired in 2004. At various points of his service, he was a Youth Advisor to the diocese, Chaplain of St Andrew's Junior College, Diocesan Secretary of Schools and the Missionary Dean of Indonesia.

We still hear testimonies today about how Canon James challenged various groups of people to move out of their

comfort zone to preach the gospel and serve the Lord. Canon James will be fondly remembered by the leaders and members of The Diocese of Singapore. His legacy, contributions and memories loom large in our consciousness.



Revd Canon Ong Ming King (1943 – 2022)

Revd Canon Ong Ming King returned home to the Lord on 7th June 2022.

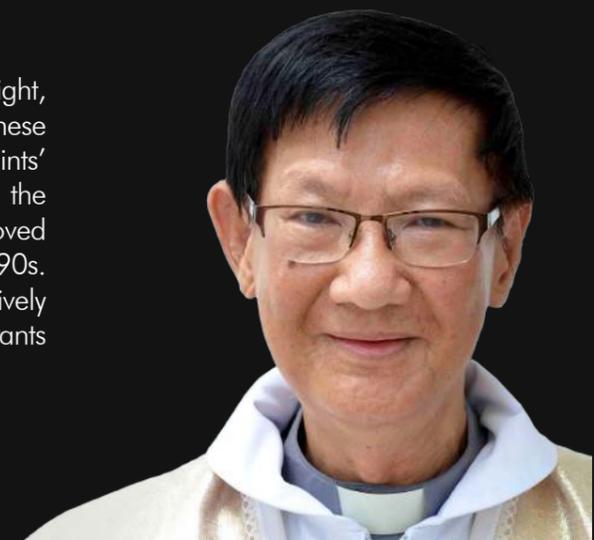
The late Canon Ong was ordained as a deacon in 1972, priested in 1973 and collated as an Honorary Canon of St Andrew's Cathedral in 2001.

During his years of service, Canon Ong served in Church of the True Light, St James' Church, All Saints' Church and St Andrew's Cathedral (Mandarin). He played an instrumental role in pioneering

the work in St James' Church's Mandarin congregation, being her first Priest-in-charge. He was also key to establishing a few other Mandarin congregations in Pasir Ris Christian Centre (part of St Andrew's Community Chapel today), St Andrew's City Church and Jurong Anglican Church Mandarin.

A man with great foresight, Canon Ong set up the Chinese Immigrants' ministry in All Saints' Church to reach out to the Chinese nationals who moved to Singapore in the late 1990s. Till today, this ministry is actively witnessing to the new immigrants in Singapore.

Canon Ong's ministry has left an imprint in the hearts of his co-workers, leaders and members. His pastoral heart, passion and leadership will be traits that many will hope to emulate.



Ordination

We warmly welcome the following who were ordained to the Diaconate on 23rd April 2022 at Christ Church Bangkok.

- Revd Dhanadhis Jirathamakul (Christ Church Bangkok)
- Revd Sakda Kittiwatthanchote (Lat Krabang Anglican Church)

Appointments and Movements

- Revd Titus Soo had retired on 15th July 2021. We thank him for his service and pray for the Lord to lead him in the season ahead
- Ds Chow Wai Keng had retired on 31st December 2021. We thank her for her years of service and we pray for the God's continued blessings on her
- Bishop Raphael Samuel who served in Bolivia as a missionary for the last 30 years retired on 16th January 2022. May the Lord lead and refresh him in the new season ahead
- Revd Ian Chew was appointed as Chaplain of St Andrew's Junior School on 1st January 2022
- Revd William Chee was appointed as Associate Warden of St Peter's Hall on 1st March 2022
- Revd Christopher Chan was appointed as Associate Vicar of St Andrew's Cathedral on 1st March 2022
- Revd Matthew Fitter was appointed as Vicar of Christ Church Bangkok on 21st March 2022 for a period of three years
- Revd Ian Dierden was appointed as National Director of Anglican Relief and Development Agency on 1st April 2022
- Canon Steven Asirvatham was appointed as Honorary Chaplain of St Andrew's Migrant Worker Medical Centre on 1st April 2022
- Revd Dr Timothy Chong was appointed as Director of Missions on 1st April 2022
- Revd Andrew Yap was appointed as Associate Director of Missions on 1st April 2022 and was posted to St Andrew's Cathedral as Priest on 1st July 2022
- Bishop Kuan Kim Seng was appointed as Acting Dean of Nepal on 1st May 2022 for a period of three years
- Revd Prem Tamang was appointed as Associate Dean of Nepal on 1st May 2022
- Revd Aaron Cheng was appointed as Chairman of Board of Youth Work on 1st May 2022
- Revd David Lee was appointed as Chairman of the Education Board on 1st June 2022
- Canon Barry Leong was appointed as Acting Vicar of St John's Chapel on 1st June 2022
- Revd Tang Wai Lung was appointed as Priest of St John's Chapel on 1st June 2022
- Revd John Lin was appointed as Priest of St James' Church on 1st June 2022
- Revd King Chiew Kwang was appointed as Priest of Church of the True Light on 1st June 2022
- Revd Dr Jeremy-Joe Tan was appointed as Associate Warden of St Peter's Hall on 1st July 2022
- Revd Philip Sinden was appointed as the in-situ Locum of All Saint's Anglican Church (Jakarta) for the period 30th July till 31st December 2022

Parish Worker/Parish Assistant Licensing

- Mr Chua Yee Hui Kelvin from Chapel of the Resurrection was issued the Parish Worker licence on 15th March 2022
 - Mr Moses Ajay s/o Patras from Parish of Christ Church was issued the Parish Worker licence on 15th March 2022
 - Mr Joseph Soh Hua Wui from All Saints' Church (English) was issued the Parish Assistant licence on 15th March 2022
 - Mr Choo Yu Wei Joey from Church of the True Light was issued the Parish Assistant licence on 15th March 2022
 - Mr Chan Beng Wah Matthew from Church of the True Light was issued the Parish Assistant licence on 15th March 2022
 - Mr Hou Yuan from Church of the True Light was issued the Parish Worker licence on 15th March 2022
 - Ms Ang Gek Leng Shirley from Chapel of Christ the Redeemer was issued the Parish Worker licence on 15th March 2022
 - Mr Ng Wei-Ern, Christopher from My Saviours' Church (English) was issued the Parish Worker licence on 15th March 2022
 - Ms Angeline Teo Su Lin from My Saviours' Church (English) was issued the Parish Worker licence on 15th March 2022
 - Mr Daniel Wo Lay from St James' Church was issued the Parish Worker licence on 15th March 2022
 - Mr Cai Yu from Holy Trinity Parish was issued the Parish Assistant licence on 15th March 2022
 - Ms Peh Wan Qian Esther from Yishun Christian Church Anglican was issued the Parish Worker licence on 15th March 2022
 - Ms Kelly Marcella Ching from Chapel of the Holy Spirit was issued the Parish Worker licence on 15th March 2022
 - Mr Tan Keok Heng George from St John's – St Margaret's Church was issued the Parish Worker licence on 31st March 2022
 - Mr Sooriyakumar s/o Vaiyapuri from Chapel of the Holy Spirit was issued the Parish Assistant licence on 31st March 2022
 - Mr Leroy Charles Motimer from St Paul's Church was issued the Parish Assistant licence on 30th May 2022
-