

The Incumbent's Report:

As we all know, the APCM is an opportunity to look back and be amazed at how far we have come this past year. Since the last APCM on 25th October in 2020, although there have not been many things done due to the Covid situation, there have been many challenging and fulfilling things. However, nothing would have been possible without the help from the Holy Spirit and much dedication and hard work by a team of people.

The significant change during the period between October 2020 to June 2021 is that our Sunday services became available in the church through live-streaming. Until March, the Sunday service was only available online, which was pre-recorded. Also, the PCC made the big decision to have one Sunday service with the Holy Communion at 10 am after this Covid pandemic.

Sadly, the Sunday services in the church have not been the services we knew during this pandemic. There has been no singing, talking, shaking, or hugging, which we enjoyed very much during the service. However, fortunately, we could restart the Holy Communion but only for bread, not sharing wine yet. In the church, keeping distance from our brothers and sisters with face-coverings on is painful. However, we are enduring this well, hoping that everything will return to normal sooner or later. The meaning of the word 'normal' here is Worshipping with fellowship. The baptisms and weddings were all postponed, but the funerals were done with Covid measures. I officiated a couple of funerals at crematoriums.

The PCC meetings have been carried on via zoom, mostly last Thursday at 7 pm. It was difficult to accommodate this new way of meeting, but now we all get used to it. The Standing Committee has been meeting via zoom before the PCC. Attendance and devotion of our PCC members has been excellent, and their efforts to manage all the church business has been made well. I do appreciate their decision to go for another term as PCC members. Special thanks to Elaine, who took all the minutes tirelessly.

The ministers' team have met via zoom when we have issues to discuss. This is always a great opportunity for us to share our thought and insight on our teaching and preaching. For me, this meeting always gives me the encouragements I need. I would like to thank you, my wonderful colleagues, Stuart and Ian. And also, thanks to Joan, who recently joined the team. Special thanks to Stuart for the Lent Course via Zoom. He led us this course through his

in-depth knowledge about the Gospel of Mark and his mature experience as a priest. We all inspired by the course.

The churchwardens and incumbent met from time to time via zoom when issues arose. At the meetings, we have discussed various issues, particularly related to this pandemic situation. Georgina and Janet have worked extremely hard, actually not just working hard but also very effectively. Whatever happened to our church building or church family, their response to them was speedy and proper. Mainly, Georgina has looked after all the property issues, including repairing damages. Janet has handled all the pastoral matters 24 hours and 7 days. I am so proud of having them as our churchwardens, and I would like to give big thanks from my heart.

During Covid, the church halls have been closed, so there was no activity related to the children or any kinds, such as Little Stars and Messy Church, and all uniform gatherings. However, even though there is not much to talk about, it does not mean that we have not done anything for Children's ministry. Since Chrissie was newly appointed as our children and youth worker, we have been discussing how we can promote the ministry towards children and youth when the Covid is no more problem for doing this important ministry. Particularly, Chrissie is preparing this ministry, such as cleaning and reorganising all the children's activities with her team, Joy, Ron, and Sarah. And recently, she invited to the minister's meeting to explain her plan and idea for the ministry ahead of us. Especially, I would like to express my gratitude for Chrissie's ongoing efforts to make crafts for children attending the Sunday service.

While the church was closed, the church was still needed to be maintained, such as cleaning, gardening, and repairing. The church has sustained by the hands of wonderful people. I do not want to miss this opportunity to thank them. Thank you, Joy and Ron, and Chrissie, for cleaning the church every week. Thank you, Elaine and Peter/Elisabeth, for looking after our garden, which is so beautiful now. Thank you, Stephen, for regularly coming to check all the details of the building. You are a handyman of God house.

As I mentioned earlier, our Sunday service had been only online, which was pre-recorded. It means that there were many of us involved to record the services. Thanks to all the ministers who preached sermons and led the services. Thanks to those who read the bibles and led the intercessions. Without their commitments, we could not have such excellent online services on Sunday. Also, special thanks towards our webmaster and IT technician cannot be ignored.

Thank you, Charitas, for your ceaseless efforts on this work. And Charitas asked not to forget to mention Malcolm (Elaine's husband) for his technical support for works related to IT. Thank you, Malcolm.

As we all know, this global pandemic brought great financial strains to the world, and the church was not an exception. One of the significant financial incomes were created by hall renting, but due to the closure of church halls, the income literally became zero. In this particular situation, we all walked very hard to help our church finance in various ways, such as Generous donations, Legacies, and even Fundraising Crafts. Unfortunately, we need to keep doing it until the Covid thing gets better. And how can I not mention our ongoing support to the community by foodbank? Even though we suffer from financial strains, we never stop opening our food bank on Thursday and Saturday and releasing our tiny discretionary funds to those in need.

And what we recently started is the Prayer Meeting via zoom. Initially, it was held on Tuesday afternoon and has now been moved to Monday evening. Gill leads this meeting with her caring heart. In this meeting, we praise God, thank God, and ask God to do or help us to do. This prayer meeting becomes our praying station now. Thanks, Gill, for leading us into prayer for all.

Needless to say, Safeguarding is our prior concern. All the requirements from the diocese regarding Safeguarding have been met, including policies and posters, and so on. As a safeguarding team, Chrissie, Joan, and I collaborate to handle any safeguarding issues raised among our church and community. So far, fortunately, we have not had any serious issues.

The last thing I would like to thank you for is your support to my family and me during the time of quarantine due to our Covid test positive. That was the time I realised that we are brothers and sisters in Christ. Who is my mother and brothers and sisters? Whoever does the will of God is my brothers and sisters and mother. You did show your love as Jesus commanded us. Now you are my brothers and sisters and mother and father.

I do not want to talk about our new noticeboard project again because we already did celebrate its success together. Now we are waiting to see its fruit. When we see the actual new noticeboard in our front garden, we will praise the Lord and thank each other once more.

Now I would like to conclude my report to thank God for his protection from this deadly pandemic and to pray to God again: *May the God of mission who alone*

*brings growth to your church, send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions, help us grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you,
and service to our local community through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*