

From Fr Paul Cho:

Because I was licenced by Bishop Anne and installed by Archdeacon Jenny as priest in charge of St Anne's here at West Heath on 22nd August 2019, my report to APCM should have covered the time period between September 2019 and March 2020. However, because our APCM has been postponed from March 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic, my report will also cover the extended time.

The APCM is an opportunity to look back and be amazed at how far we have come this past year. Some of it has been challenging, most of it has been very fulfilling and none of it would be possible without the power of the Holy Spirit and much dedication and hard work by a huge team of people.

I remember what was written on the cover of the service order for my licencing. It said, 'Celebration of a New Ministry.' This was an appropriate title because for most of my time as a priest I worked as chaplain, a theological educator, and as a missionary abroad and it was true for me that the ministry here in St Anne's was beginning of my 'NEW' ministry as an incumbent. However, I now understood the word 'NEW' does not just apply to me but also to St Anne's. St Anne's had suddenly lost their full-time priest and after a longer interregnum, received a part-time priest who is not stipend and who works for Sunday plus 12 hours during the weekdays.

The word NEW implies CHANGE. Keeping this deep in my mind, I have been trying to do my ministry in a more gradual fashion, rather than having a sudden change, with great help from the newly reset ministers' team, Ian Bradley (Lay Reader) and Stuart Kimber (Retired priest with PTO), the Pastoral Care Team (Led by Janet Bradley with Joan Ayre, Elaine Sparey, and Charitas Cho), and Christine Price (a churchwarden).

The ministers' team meet once a month to discuss spiritual matters and to support each other. Ian organises the service rota for our two services (9.15 am for Holy Communion and 10.45 am for All Age service) on Sunday and Holy Communion on Thursday at 10.30 am), and Stuart started actively involving all the Spiritual ministry and contributing his matured experience as a parish priest, as well as being a adviser and a good friend of mine. We have been a great team, and as a result, our regular round of Sunday and weekday worship has been able to continue with numbers holding steady overall. And I would like to take this opportunity to say, "Thank you, Ian and Stuart, for your unceasing support and encouragement."

Joan Ayre is about to complete her initial training to become a Lay Reader at St Anne's. Her licencing will be in January 2021, depending on the status of the current pandemic. It would be a blessing for St Anne's if Joan continued her valuable works and contribution to the ministry at St Anne's as a Licenced Lay Reader, and I look forward to seeing Joan join our ministers' team.

The Pastoral Care of the congregation is a vital part of 'being church.' The growth of the number of the elderly worshippers over the years means we are now a 'small-sized' church, and this requires a more effective approach to pastoral care with our limited manpower. The pastoral care team meets once a month to discuss the challenging matters which requires our immediate and long-term concern. Under the high demands, Janet has led our pastoral care team smoothly, as mentioned in the Warden's Report. And at the beginning of this Pandemic, we launched 'Pastoral Caring Groups' in March 2019 to help those in our congregation who are over 70. This newly set care group has been working incredibly well as mentioned in the Pastoral Team Report. I cannot miss this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude for what our pastoral care team have done, particularly during this pandemic crisis.

Sadly, Mary Young, a former member of the congregation, passed away and her funeral was held in St Anne's, and her love is still with us with the heartfelt legacy she left for St Anne's. Barbara Marshal's memorial service was also held in church to remember her love and devotion to St Anne's. May they Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

I met a churchwarden, Chrissie Price, once a week to discuss all the matters at our hands regarding church fabric and administration. Most administration works for St Anne's has been done by Chrissie voluntarily. I have never forgotten what Chrissie said when I asked whether what she was doing was too heavy to carry as only warden. She said (as I recall), "Through this hard work I found peace, and this is my way to show my love to God's grace." I was impressed and from that moment I never asked the question I asked again. However, I believe that this is the time I should say how grateful I am for her support as a churchwarden. Thank you, Chrissie.

I still remember when I met Georgina Arnold, our Treasurer, in my office to talk about our church finance. To be honest, I did not clearly understand the status of St Anne's finance, which was a bit of a mess, and which Georgina was trying to sort it out from the bottom. Now it is crystal clear to see what is going on in our church finance as you now see in the Financial Report submitted by

Georgina. As I have already said, our finance has been badly affected by Covid 19. Our income from letting our halls was stopped. The only words I can say to Georgina is. "Thanks, Georgina, and please keep working hard."

By Chrissie, Janet, Joan, and many helping hands, our children and youth ministry has maintained its status quo until the pandemic hit the ministry hard. Now all activities have been virtually stopped. However, we do not forget the importance of this ministry for children and youth. Chrissie and I have never stopped talking about it and we will start drawing a plan for the important ministry for the future of St Anne's. I hope that we can put this matter as a prior agenda for our first PCC meeting.

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 myself are collaborating to handle any safeguarding issues raised among our church and community. So far, fortunately, we have not had any serious issues.

Our website has been changed dramatically and our Sunday notice sheet has been totally changed by help from Charitas Cho. These two things are only items which has been CHANGED dramatically, not gradually, but the result has been so effective and fruitful, especially for website. Imagine, if we had not done that, we would have a big problem to upload the online services we do now through our website. That is one of the cleverest and quickest decision we made as PCC. We, as PCC, did well.

In addition to that, there is another thing, I can say, "NEW". We have a NEW floor in the GGH hall and NEW toilets in our church as part of our building project. This project was planned 11 years ago as I know of and now it has been completed. That is why Bishop Anne is coming to bless you for all of your devotion and prayer for the completion of this project. I am so proud of you all.

Now we are approaching another Christmas tide but unfortunately, we cannot enjoy ourselves as we did last year. I enjoyed our Carol Service. We invited all the lost sheep and had some back to flock. That was the first time I saw St Anne's filled with people. Also, that was when I dreamt of the future of St Anne's. In my vision, our church is full of people who are listening to the words of God and singing songs of praise. We are now burdened by this pandemic situation and struggling with this difficult time. However, we will pass through

this, and together, as one body, we will carry on our journey to the vision I saw in my dream into reality.

Let me conclude this report by thanking all members of St Anne's Church for continuing to walk the way of the baptised people of God and for your continued prayers for our progress. *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.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Cho', written in a cursive style.

Fr Paul Cho,

Priest in Charge of St Anne's, West Heath.