

Annual Ministry Reports

Produced for the Annual
General Meeting

Sunday March 21, 2021 at 12:30pm in the
War Memorial Hall, Eastwood Anglican

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2020 Office Bearers

Wardens

Mike Lum
Chris Stretton
Trevor Strickland

Parish Councillors

Darrel Causbrook
Yvonne Hall
Matthew Lee
Tyler Qin
Naomi Reichardt
Amanda Haywood
Andy Feng
David Mayes

Nominators

Karen Moore
Mike Lum
Rose Shum
Yvonne Hall
Chris Stretton

Synod Representatives (2017-2019)

Bruce Stanley
Yvonne Hall
Chris Stretton

Auditor

Chris Adams

Senior Minister's Report

For me, like many, this past year will go down as one of the most interesting ever! Challenging? Yes. Painful at times? Yes. Difficult? Yes. But in all that Covid-19 has brought us, none of it has stopped the work of God in Eastwood and beyond.

God bigger than Covid...

In 2015, we set a “2020 vision” – to grow by 8% each year for the next 5 years. God exceeded our human expectations.

In 2020, we set a new vision – to reach all of Eastwood... and a little bit more. And again, God exceeded our human expectations, leading us into Korean ministry, into Ermington, Rydalmere and Melrose Park, and bringing us together with Indonesian brothers and sisters.

We are now a Parish with 9 Sunday services, providing a place of ministry and worship in 5 languages and 2 locations, yet still only the 1 true gospel.

All of our services moved online at Eastwood in 2020. Thanks to our congregations' generosity, equipment was purchased to enable this to happen, and happen well. We didn't want to close our doors, but we had to. But they kept open online thanks to the tenacity of a team of people who made it possible. Our thanks as a whole Church must be given to Tim Haywood for his devotion to all of us under God, to set up our online systems with such professionalism. We have ALL benefitted from his work. Our administration team – Tiff Haywood and Ningjia Wang, made all the adjustments to online service presentations, which was no small task. Working alongside Jason Smith with website updates, this team of our “fantastic four” kept our church open and widened our doors to include many people who were previously outside our reach.

Our children's and youth ministry teams adjusted everything. They made something happen to keep us in contact with our kids. Carefully navigating through the minefield of online ministry, our leaders found new ways of connecting.

Our pastors were all on a steep learning curve, preaching and leading to cameras instead of faces, zooming staff meetings and prayer meetings and bible studies, and navigating a whole new world of ministry.

My thanks to our staff team for 2020: Raymond, Clarence, Robin, Christine, Joe, Jena, Jason, Ningjia, Tiff, Suzanna, Jo, Anna, David (who retired in February) and Al (who moved to Youthworks in February). Thank you for your devotion to our great God in serving every day with hearts for the gospel. I cannot possibly write in this short report many of the stories that have happened during this year. I have constantly been humbled by their hard work and their pastoral care during what will most likely be one of the most challenging years of pastoral ministry I have ever personally experienced. A special welcome to our

newest staff members: Josh, Andy and Kian. We look forward to welcoming Jenni Stoddart to the team in April as our assistant minister to the English services. God has really watched over us as our staff team continues to grow and develop.

Our English speaking services have continued to grow through troubled times. I'm very thankful for the teams that enabled us to keep going online during the past year. Our wardens, Bible readers, pray-ers, leaders, preachers and, of course, our amazing musicians. It was not easy to adjust to online services and speak to a camera! Yet, we were able to keep going. Thank you to everyone for your efforts each week, serving those who you could not see. I assure you that your labours were not in vain. You encouraged the saints every week and helped us to reach even beyond our own congregations to a world who was also watching online. Numbers are slowly returning to normal as restrictions lift, and it is a great joy to have many newcomers now joining us each week.

Pastorally, this is the first year for me without a baptism (although there were 5 on Christmas day in our other congregations!). There was one wedding, and, sadly, 7 funerals. My prayers remain with those who lost loved ones during this past year. The past year of funerals has been more challenging than ever. May God continue to comfort you in your loss. Hospital visits were common, and many of our members faced a terrible year in and out of hospital. With limited visitation, it made sickness and recovery very challenging. My thanks to those who visited the sick, took meals around, made phone calls and emailed. I was always heartened to visit someone who was sick and find out that nearly every time, they had already been visited by several members of our church family.

We zoomed for Parish Council and continued to keep going with the ministry opportunities God was providing. Our Parish Councillors were exceptional in prayer and in seeing the difficult road ahead, but also the many opportunities. They displayed great wisdom and insight, continuing to support the growing ministries of the church by making decisions that enabled ministry to keep going. Thank you, Darrel, Yvonne, Matthew, Tyler, Naomi, Amanda, David and Andy.

Our financial giving needed to move online and many people went out of their way to arrange, for the first time, bank transfers. This was not a small thing. The continued prayer and the continued giving of our congregations enabled the wheels to keep turning each week. The government assistance was of great help, but the regular continued giving of members enabled us not only to keep ministries going, but to expand as needed. Thank you.

Our growth group leaders did a lot of the heavy lifting in terms of pastoral care. They worked diligently to keep contact with group members where possible, and to provide support as well as many online opportunities for Bible study.

Our resident architect David Mayes has remained "out of retirement" with one of the most diverse portfolios of work I've ever seen – from old buildings to new, car parks to playgrounds, renovations to repairs, improvements and landscaping – as we look around

each week, we can see David's beautiful design and heart all around us in the work that has now been largely completed, under the grace of God. And now, the work continues beyond Eastwood to Ermington!

David Smith, our maintenance man, has done much more than gardens! As he continued to manage the grounds, he has now expanded his reach to give assistance at Ermington. Through this tough year, Dave has continued to serve with a glad heart.

And through it all, we have yet again been well served by three exceptional men – **Chris Stretton, Mike Lum, and Trevor Strickland** – our wardens. Never has the need been greater for godly devoted people to lead and serve God's Church. The workload was more than imagined with job-keeper, budget management, site development and staffing changes. There was no end to the paperwork, the equipment needs, the financial changes, staffing updates, and so much more. They liaised with councils, agents, the Diocese and many more people, constantly keeping on top of the changing world that 2020 gave us. We all are so thankful for your commitment, and for your God given gifts in serving His church. Thank you.

A special thank this year to my family – Heather, Flynn, Jonah and Asher. One day they may share with you the stories behind this Covid year. There was a lot of fun, and a lot of tiredness. Each of us faced challenging changes in our lives and I continue to be thankful to God for a loving family who do so much ministry that is unseen. It was a privilege to serve together this year, sometimes in a largely empty church building, as we shared in music, video and computer production together. I'm thankful that God brought us closer together and closer to him in all this.

A new strategic plan

I've always found it helpful to have a strategic plan to help us all be on the same page when it comes to Church vision. I am in the process of working on this together with our Parish Council and staff team. So much has changed in the past year, it is a good time to stand back and consider the big picture again and ask God "What's next?"

Ryde Mission Area

I continue in my fifth year as Mission Area Leader for Ryde (12 Parishes). My role here is to arrange mission-focussed meetings for the ministry workers in our region, as well as regularly meeting one-on-one with local Rectors, and occasionally other church staff. Not much was able to happen last year all together, but this year is starting to offer opportunities for fellowship again. The Ryde network has been so helpful in managing the past 12 months of ministry.

Professional Standards Committee

This is my 7th year serving on the Professional Standards Committee for the Diocese of Sydney. This committee hears and acts on cases of abuse by clergy and church workers in our Diocese, including sexual abuse, domestic violence and bullying. Last year, we had an

extraordinarily large load, with more meetings than usual. This is an important work our Diocese does, in order to act on abuse cases and protect victims of abuse in the immediate and long term.

Concluding remarks

God has upheld us amazingly in this past year. By his hand we have been able to serve him and each other in new ways. I am sure that many of the details of this year will be forgotten, but we cannot forget this fact – God is sovereign and our whole life is in his hands. He continues to love his church and to care for her, whatever happens.

As Paul wrote to the Church in Colossae:

"For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together." - Colossians 1:16-17

Bruce Stanley
Rector

Assistant Minister (Mandarin 9:30am) Report

2020 was a year of disruption to the Mandarin ministries. Due to Covid-19, families with aged members or children were afraid to come back to church, and the situation has only improved a little bit these days, when the pandemic is much under control. Most of the growth groups have been suspended, only a couple of them were able to continue gathering online. Sunday service was sometimes performed online, while sometimes both online and onsite. Eden Garden was also suspended. Last year there was no anniversary celebration, no Chinese New Year and mid-Autumn celebration, and no weekend away. We were also unable to run the Food Festival, although it was very successful the year before. Pastoral care was also affected. Chats on Wechat or Zoom could not provide the same level of deep interactions as that of face to face communications.

However, the overall picture is not that bleak. Last year we still had 3 adults and 1 child baptised, and the total number of attendance, when adding up both the online and onsite numbers, is about 110 excluding children, much higher than the year before. Newcomers kept coming in, though slower, even at the period when everybody was asked to wear a mask at service time. We kept growing even in Covid-19 time. And we have just passed our 5th anniversary last February with great jubilation as we testified how our Lord's grace and blessings were with us in these five years. All our church members are encouraged to share the joy by watching a video produced by our congregation, which tries to tell a brief history of our congregation with photos and narrations. The video can be found in the subscribing page of Eastwood Anglican in Youtube.

Raymond Leung

Associate Pastor (Mandarin 5pm) Report

对国语下午堂来说，2020年是稳步成长的一年。下午堂的各项事工几乎没有受到疫情影响。当教会恢复实体聚会后，会众全部返回，几乎没有一人停止聚会。在年末时，下午堂的聚会人数稳定上升，一直维持在35人左右。

在2020年，下午堂的各项事工也逐渐进入稳定和成长阶段。首先是敬拜事工，由宁佳代领，Erin和Amy辅助，现在已经非常稳定，会众普遍对敬拜赞美团队有非常高的评价。第二是青年小组。这个小组在今年年初正式成立，由Erin和Louise代领。目前成员有10位左右，其中8位稳定参加周日敬拜。第三，男士小组已经成立一年有余。目前核心成员达到5位。带领人是于牧师和Matthew Lee。

纵观下午堂在2020年的事工，最值得感恩的一点就是每位会众都在基督里有了长进。这正回应了我们教会的遵旨 - “帮助社区中的每个人在基督里成熟”。疫情不会阻拦神的工作。2020年，神正在下午堂做一项重要工作 - 叫做“成熟”。其次就是弟兄姊妹们渐渐对下午堂和活力圣公会形成了归属感。他们真心把下午堂看成属灵的家，把弟兄姊妹当成自己的家人。

到2020年6月，国语下午堂正式成立2周年。我们已经度过了婴儿期，稳步进入蓬勃向上的“青春期”。我们认为，是时候正式成立“堂委”- 将不同年龄，不同文化背景的核心力量凝聚起来，为下午堂在今后的发展立好根基。

国语下午堂也有一些缺陷和遗憾，第一就是因为没有主日学，所以无法照顾家庭的需要。会众的年龄分布在两个端点 – 单身人士和孩子已成年的人。因此，教会缺乏家庭文化，这是一个比较大的遗憾。第二：下午堂一直有服侍中国海外留学生的负担，但在2020年，这项事工因为疫情影响基本停滞。当国门开放，留学生返回后，愿神帮助我们继续开展这项事工。

For the Mandarin Afternoon Service, 2020 was a year of steady growth. Overall, the ministry was barely affected by the pandemic! When the church resumed its physical gatherings, the whole congregation returned and almost no one was lost. At the end of the year, the number of people gathering in the afternoon service increased steadily and remained at around 34 adults.

In 2020, the ministry of the afternoon service gradually entered into a stage of stability and growth. The first is the Worship Ministry, led by Ning Jia and assisted by Erin and Amy. It is now very stable, and the congregation generally has a very high evaluation of the worship team. The second is the Young Adults' Group, which was formally established at the beginning of this year, led by Erin and Louise. At present, there are about 10 members and 8 of them regularly attend the church. Third, the Men's Fellowship, which has been established for more than a year. At present, there are 5 core members. They are led by Pastor Yu and Matthew Lee.

As I review the ministry of the Mandarin Afternoon Service in 2020, I am most grateful that every congregational member has grown in their maturity in Christ. This is a great response to the mission of our church - "to present every person in our community mature in Christ". Surely, Covid can't stop God's work – He is doing the vital work of "maturity" among us. I am also grateful that most of our members have formed a sense of belonging to St. Phil's and the Afternoon Service. They genuinely regard it as their spiritual home, and all of the brothers and sisters in the church as their family.

In June 2020, the Mandarin Afternoon Service was officially two years old. We have passed our infancy and entered a vigorous "adolescent-hood". We believe that now is the time to formally set up a "church committee" - to pool the faithful core members of different ages and cultural backgrounds, so as to lay a good foundation for future growth.

However, we also have some regrets. First, since there is no children's ministry, the service cannot take care of families. We can only minister to single people and people with adult children. Therefore, the church lacks a family atmosphere and input. Second, we have always had the vision of serving Chinese overseas students, but in 2020, this ministry was basically paused because of COVID. When the country is re-open and the students return, may God help us to continue this work.

Christine Yang

Assistant Minister (Cantonese) Report

In July 2020, I came to serve our Lord in St Philip's with an exciting heart but also feeling sad leaving the brothers and sisters in St Matthews whom I pastored for nearly seven years. I am thankful of the warmest welcome and prayers from everyone in St Phils, which is a blessing to help me start my ministry here.

To help me know my flock, I spent the first two or three months visiting them or chatting to them on the phone. It was a humbling experience when they opened to me and shared their stories with me. With more understanding of my flock, I started re-aligning some ministries to meet their needs.

Firstly, I set up a Committee to assist me in leading the Cantonese congregation. I am thankful that four brothers have raised their hands to join the Committee. I am glad to see that this Committee has been blessed to work as a team to serve the congregation.

Then, with the help of the Committee, I started a weekly Zoom gathering for an online prayer meeting and bible study. They run every Wednesday night alternatively during school terms. I also formed three Growth Groups and encouraged everyone to join. Currently, more than half of the flock are in a group sharing life together.

In terms of outreach, we also resumed a ping pong ministry that runs every Tuesday and Thursday night. I usually attend one night every week. Other than contributing to the offertory, this ministry also provides us with opportunity to meet with non-believers. Rather than just a sports event, we try to build a community for them to make friends. Some of them have also visited our Sunday service.

I am also thankful that Sally from ESL gives me a chance to run a Simple English Bible Study after the ESL. I pray that I can gradually build up relationship with the students and have opportunities to share Gospel with them.

In terms of the overall Chinese ministry, I am glad that all the co-workers have the same serving heart and are willing to work as a team to serve the Chinese community. Last year, we organised a Parenting Course with materials provided by Christine. We have also shared preaching responsibility for the benefit of the congregations. I look forward to more co-operation to further advance the Gospel.

Clarence Huin

Associate Pastor (Korean) Report

Our Korean worship service officially started in April 2020 and continues today. We have started serving Korean speakers in the Eastwood area and spreading the gospel and worshipping together. It started with a small number of people, but there was a lot of enthusiasm and expectation for worship. However, there were many difficulties in worship and evangelism in the aftermath of COVID-19 in 2020. But even in this situation, our passion for worship did not stop. We are continuing to do on-site and non-face-to-face online real-time worship without a break.

In 2021, we are looking forward to the growth and revival of worship. We will actively publicise our worship in the community and focus on evangelism and spreading the gospel. Thank you for your prayers and concern. We ask for your continued prayers and interest.

한국어 예배 보고서 (Korean Worship Report)

우리 한국어 예배는 2020년 4월에 정식으로 시작되어 현재까지 지속적으로 예배 하고 있습니다. 이스트 우드 지역 안에서 한인들을 섬기고 복음전파와 예배사역을 위해 시작했습니다. 적은 인원이 시작했지만 예배의 대한 열정과 기대가 많이 있었습니다. 그러나 2020년 COVID-19의 여파로 예배와 전도에 많은 어려움이 있었습니다. 그러나 이 상황에서도 우리의 예배에 대한 열정은 멈출수 없습니다. 저희는 예배를 쉬지 않고 현장대면 예배와 비대면 온라인 실시간 예배를 동시에 지속적으로 하고 있습니다.

2021년에는 예배의 성장과 부흥을 기대하고 있습니다. 우리는 지역 사회에 적극적으로 우리의 예배를 알리고 전도와 복음 전파에 총력을 쏟을것입니다. 앞으로도 많은 기도와 관심 부탁드립니다. 한국어 예배 담당 목사 홍현석.

Monthly prayer meeting report

Last year I began holding a prayer meeting for the entire church on the first Monday evening of every month. The purpose and direction of the prayer meeting is to be a multicultural prayer meeting, with the purpose of gathering together to praise and pray across language barriers even if our languages and backgrounds are different. However, even though it was difficult in 2020 to hold a prayer meeting face-to-face due to the aftermath of COVID-19, we prayed without ceasing. Sometimes we also ran the worship and prayer meeting online.

Prayer meetings in 2021 will be trialled now in more languages. In March, we tried praise and prayer in Chinese with the Chinese members. We will continue to hold prayer meetings where people can pray together as a prayer meeting, transcending multiculturalism and multilingualism. We ask for your prayer and participation.

월별 기도회 (Monthly prayer meeting report)

저는 전체 교회 대상으로 매월 첫째주 월요일 저녁에 기도회를 섬기고 있습니다. 기도회의 목적과 방향은 다문화 기도회로 언어와 배경이 달라도 언어의 장벽을 뛰어 넘어 함께 모여 찬양하고 기도하는 목적을 가진 기도회입니다. 기도회 또한 COVID-19 여파로 현장에서 모이기 힘든 2020년이었지만 그럼에도 쉬지 않고 기도했습니다. 때론 온라인으로 기도회를 시도하기도 했습니다. 2021년 기도회는 좀더 다국어로 시도 하고 있습니다.

3월달 에는 중국 지체들과 중국어로 찬양하고 기도하는 것을 시도 하였습니다. 이것을 시작으로점도 다문화 다민족 다국어를 뛰어넘어 기도회로 함께 기도할수있는 기도모임을 꾸준히 만들어 갈것입니다. 많은 기도와 참여 부탁드립니다. 홍현석 목사.

Joe Hong

Associate Pastor (Indonesian) Report

SPICE - St Phil's Indonesian Congregation Eastwood (a.f.k. MITC - Macquarie Indonesian Trinity Church, part of Trinity Chapel Macquarie) existed since 2018 to gather, evangelise, encourage, train, network and send Indonesians to different corners of the world (especially Indonesia) to be mature followers of Christ (Colossians 1:28).

Our vision: With God's help and prayer, we may reach 30 regulars in our service by 2023, 80% of whom joining bible study groups and trained in ministry.

Our values:

- The Gospel - evangelism and reshaping of life
- Global Vision - sending people abroad
- Bible teaching - exegetical and systematic Bible teaching
- Prayer - life saturated by prayer
- Teachability/Character building - discipleship and training

Here at SPICE we gather those who are yet to believe through our socials (dinner, sports, cultural events) and those who are already believers through SPICE service. We then plug them both into growth groups (group of 3-4 people) and train them in our leadership training courses and in larger conferences (e.g. AFES National Training Event). It is our hope that they can be ready to be sent out in his time.

It is our hope by joining St Phil's parish that our Gospel partnership may flourish, to bring many more Indonesians matured in Christ.

Kian Holik

Assistant Minister Ermington (English) Report

On January 1st, 2021, Eastwood Anglican entered into a new partnership with Ermington Anglican to form one church together on different sites. St Mark's Ermington was founded in 1881 and is located at 471 Kissing Point Road, Ermington.

Having met online and in person at 9.30am during 2020, we began a new Sunday Anglican prayer book service at 8:30am in the chapel from mid-January.

We are currently praying for and planning to start a new, morning family service. We shall let you know when it is up and running! Robin Kinstead is our minister at Ermington. He is assisted by our two student ministers, Anna and Josh Hoole.

We are excited to be a part of a church fellowship and planting initiative like this - one that is seeing the Lord bringing together a range of people from both sites to form His church planting team. Maybe He is prompting you to be involved too?

Our hope and prayer at St Mark's Ermington is to grow in faith, to glorify God, and to share the wonderful news of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ with men, women, and children across Ermington, Melrose Park, Rydalmere, and a little bit more... a gathering of people who will reflect the diversity of the area, under one Lord.

We are currently organising a special Easter Fest family fun day on Saturday 3rd April. We hope to have international food, a bouncy castle, games, music, craft, and a short welcome message to members of the community who visit. Visitors from St Phil's, St Mark's, and the local community are welcome to attend!

Robin Kinstead

Children and Youth Pastor's Report

What a year for the Children's and Youth Ministry of St Phil's! Thanks to God that even in a year like last year, as Covid shut everything down, we were still able to have so many opportunities with so many different children and youth to introduce them to Jesus, to grow them in their faith and to partner with our church families in raising them to be faithful disciples.

I'd love to particularly bring thanks to God for the excellent faithful and steadfast team of leaders we have for our children's and Youth programmes. It seemed like every few months one or more of our programmes was lurching in one direction or another due to covid

restrictions increasing and/or decreasing, and through it all our team of leaders faithfully and patiently continued carrying out their task of discipling the children and youth of our church and beyond so those children and youth could grow in their faith. At times our groups looked very different to what was normal, and at times we got pretty close back to normal, but through it all our leaders remained focussed on what was important - their faith in God, and sharing that faith with the next generation of believers.

Thanks to Jo and Suzanna, our new children's ministry workers, who both had what was possibly the roughest first year on the job - Jo starting midway through 2020, and Suzanna at the start of last year. They both have such a great passion for sharing Jesus with children, and such a big heart for the children of our church and beyond, and I look forward to being able to continue to work with them as we come out of the Covid restrictions we found ourselves in, and in particular, seeing what things God will do through them in the years to come at St Phil's.

Thanks to Anna, and for our ongoing partnership in the Youth Ministry of St Phil's. Anna has a great head and heart for ministry, and working with her on our Friday Night Youth (now called Amplify Youth) as well as Full On has been such a blessing. I am excited to continue leading these ministries with her over this year, as she starts her studies at Moore college. I am sure God will continue to great things through her here, and wherever God calls her and Josh in the future.

There's so many leaders involved in our ministries, and I am grateful to God for each and everyone of them. I'd like to particularly thank Andrew and Steve, for their ongoing leadership of the PKs group on Sunday mornings. Andrew will be finishing up with PKs this year, as he joins the Ermington team for their 10am congregation plant. Andrew has been faithfully serving and sharing Jesus with children of this church for many years, and we will miss having him on the team greatly, but know that God can use him well at this new church plant!

Special thanks to my family as well - Abigail, Hazel, and Olive. Abigail has been such a great support and guide for me in my ministry through a turbulent year, and I am thankful to God for all she does to lift me up in my ministry, and all she does for our family at home.

There's lots of things to cover (it really felt like 5 years crammed into one!), so I'll briefly go over what children's and youth ministry looked like last year.

Children's Ministry in 2020

- 2020 Shutdown - All children's ministries moved to online only content. Each week on Sunday we had an online kids spot in the 9:30am livestream, as well as online activity packs, with family devotions uploaded after the service. SPARK (our kids club), moved online as well, with weekly videos during term, plus online activities for home.
- 2020 Gradual Return - It was such a blessing to return to the site, especially after all the

building work in the shutdown (fences and a playground!) As we gradually returned to onsite activities, our children's ministries gradually got back into the swing of things. In June as services began again, we ran a covid safe children's programme on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, for the two family services. As things still looked uncertain, VKP was postponed to Spring, and SPARK began again in the War Memorial Hall in August. SRE at Eastwood Public School also restarted in August. We also moved back to both services on Sunday, and it was so good to be able to have children from our English and Mandarin services learning together again.

- 2020 Conclusion - In the Spring School Holidays we ran our Spring Kids Plus programme - and while not quite as big as VKP, it was still so exciting to be able to run this sort of programme again, and especially as the children were able to begin singing for the first time since the shutdown! It was a particular joy at this event to have many of the youth serving as crew leaders and station helpers - our holiday kids programmes are such a great snapshot of the whole family of God serving together. As 2020 concluded and 2021 began we were now able to have children in the morning services again, and we also launched a new 11am Sunday school programme coordinated by Jo Lum for our Korean and Cantonese services.

Youth Ministry in 2020

- 2020 Shutdown - All our Youth Ministries moved to online only. Using Zoom we ran our Friday night and Sunday afternoon programmes online, doing community, games, a bible talk and discussion from our homes. While not quite as fulfilling as the real thing, it was great to be able to have this space for our youth to connect with each other through the shut down, and to continue the discipleship and pastoral relationships our leaders had with the youth during this time.
- 2020 Gradual Return - Our Friday Night Youth and Sunday Youth programmes started back in person from June with some Covid Safe guidelines. After so much time in the online only space, it was so good to be back in person! A highlight of this time was our KYCK livestream day - due to Covid restrictions the conference was not able to run, however it was so good to be able to spend it in community with the youth at church, to do games, eat food, and be together as we heard God's word.
- 2020 Conclusion/2021 Begins - Thanks be to God that we were still able to do Full On at the start of this year! It looked a bit uncertain at times, but we were still able to proceed with the camp at Blue Gum Lodge. Full On is such a highlight of my year, to have such a good time in community around God's word with the youth and youth leaders of our church. Laura Smith was our speaker, who faithfully opened up John's gospel and the I am statements to the youth. Thanks to our team for this ministry, who had to work so hard to be prepared for this camp, and worked so hard over the 6 days of camp to love the youth, and share Jesus with them.

2021 and beyond

My vision for our children's and youth ministries this coming year is to work with the leaders to develop them in their skills and capacity for ministry, to make strategic plans for reaching out to the children and youth of Eastwood with the gospel, and to develop new strategies

for partnering with parents in raising their children and youth be followers of Jesus. I'd love you to be praying for me in this, that God would continue to do great things in the hearts and minds of the children and youth of this church and beyond.

Jason Smith

Wardens Report - Eastwood

2020 – A year that will remain in our minds for a long time to come. COVID19, face masks, social distancing and checking in, and it is not over yet.

Throughout all of this we have seen how God has continued to bless us in so many ways. God has provided his Church with the resources, people and leadership to bring his message of hope to us via the internet with online services whilst we were not able to meet in Church and then, when restrictions eased, as we met in Church with reduced numbers. The Wardens are thankful for all those involved in setting up the online services and maintaining this throughout the year. The Wardens thank the volunteers for singing, bible reading and prayers during this COVID year.

We have been blessed with a strong gospel-driven ministry team, ably led by Bruce Stanley, our Senior Minister. Bruce has worked tirelessly to keep Church alive during this difficult year with the amazing support of Heather, Flynn, Jonah and Asher. They were much involved with the online services and other Church activities. It was a very busy, time consuming year for them and we give many thanks for their ongoing commitment to God's Church here in Eastwood.

David Yue retired in February and we are thankful for both his and Paulina's ministry to us, and the Cantonese congregation in particular, for 20 years. We give thanks for the ministry of Peter Chung overseeing and caring for the ministry to the Cantonese congregation until the new Assistant Minister was employed.

In July, we welcomed Clarence Huin as the Assistant Minister to the Cantonese congregation, with his wife Doris. During this COVID year, Clarence, has with God's blessing shown a wonderful caring, loving ministry to this congregation and we thank him for this and his enthusiastic involvement in all of our Church life.

In February, Al James, Assistant Minister to the English congregations, resigned to take up a position with Youthworks to train Youth Leaders in the Western Region. We pray that this work will be fruitful in developing strong leaders for the future growth of God's Churches.

Our Mandarin speaking congregations, during this COVID year, have remained committed and continue to grow in numbers and maturity. The 9:30am Service is pastored by

Raymond Leung and ably assisted by Christine Yang. The 5:00pm Service is pastored by Bruce and Christine. These services have become an integral part of our Church life and growth and we give thanks to Raymond, his wife Jessie, and for Christine as they faithfully continue to minister to us.

Our Korean speaking Service which began this year had a difficult beginning due to COVID 19. The service is pastored by Joe Hong and Jena Um, theologically trained members of our 9:30am English service. We are very thankful for their commitment, faithfulness and willingness to minister under God in this way on a voluntary basis. We pray that 2021 will be fruitful in bringing many into God's Kingdom under their leadership.

Jason Smith has, in this COVID 19 year, continued his dedicated work with our Children and Youth. Whilst Church was online, Jason and his support team managed to involve the Children with activities and God's word. Once Church resumed we saw the Children & Youth programs quickly return to pre-COVID numbers. We thank Jason, Suzanna Johanna and their team for their commitment throughout the year.

Jason has also been invaluable as the Technology Support person for the Parish, this role being a small component of his full-time employment.

All of the above ministries would not have been able to function as well as they do without the behind the scenes support of our part time secretarial staff. In this COVID19 year we were blessed with being eligible for the job keeper subsidy for six months which enabled us to maintain all our ministry team and office staff. Ningjia Wang continued in her role with the Mandarin administrative work, translating to Chinese script the many papers necessary in a multi-language parish. Tiffany Haywood worked as administrative assistant for the English congregations and supported Bruce in many areas relevant to the Church Office.

The Wardens would like to thank our Parish Councillors for the considered and effective way they reached each decision made during this COVID19 year. A number of meetings were on ZOOM and also socially distanced in the War Memorial Hall. We give thanks for their careful control of spending throughout the year and the open and respectful discussion at Parish Council with the aim of furthering Gospel ministry in the Parish and beyond. We ask for continued prayer and support for the new Wardens and Parish Council. Please pray that they will be wise and diligent in making decisions on all matters brought before them.

Discussions also took place in Parish Council towards the end of the year concerning amalgamation with Ermington Parish. These were positive, leading to the amalgamation being approved by the Regional Council in December, with amalgamation becoming effective on January 1st, 2021. A spin-off from these Ermington discussions was the possibility of the Indonesian Church meeting at Robert Menzies College becoming an on-site congregation of St Phil's. This discussion also bore fruit, with that Church moving to St Phil's on January 1st, 2021 also.

We can report that we have ended the year achieving 97% of our revised offertory budget due to COVID19. Expenses were also contained giving us a surplus for the year. We are also thankful for God's provision through His people of generous giving to the Church and Missions throughout the year and for the government support we have received. The Wardens thank Chris Adams, our Auditor, for his work in reviewing the annual accounts.

What a blessing to receive our Construction Certificate in January, allowing us to proceed with stage one of our new Building Development project from funds already raised from donations. During the year we have fenced the site, put in a new playground, refurbished the old hall (now the Children's Ministry Centre), paved the area between the Church and the War Memorial Hall, installed Air Conditioners in the WMH and started work on the Car Park with a boom gate and designated parking spots. The Wardens would like to thank David Mayes for all the work he has done from the beginning and oversight of all the completed works. Please pray and consider your giving towards the next major stage of our development program which will enhance our ministry opportunities to the wider community.

The Full On Camp was held as usual in January, with covid safe events held later in the year - Refresh Women's Conference in September, Vacation Kids Plus in October and our Carols Service in December. The Wardens would like to thank all those involved in the organisation and leading of these and other events as they contributed towards making every event so successful. Such events give us a wonderful opportunity to make Christ known to the wider community as well as build up our regular church members.

Our Church is blessed to have many people serving faithfully and prayerfully, and often behind the scenes. This has been particularly evident during this year, with services on-line and also when back in church, with the COVID regulations to abide by. Throughout the year grounds and property maintenance, growth groups, serving on rosters and more have continued. Our Church would not function as the body of Christ without people exercising their gifts in such ways, and the Wardens thank you all sincerely for your part in supporting God's work in Eastwood, Ermington and a little bit more in the ways you do.

May our Lord continue to fill each of you with joy and willing perseverance as you walk with Him in 2021.

Mike Lum, Chris Stretton, Trevor Strickland
Wardens

Wardens Report – Ermington

We finished 2019 not quite sure what our faithful Lord had in store for us. He of course had the runs on the board, throughout Scripture in the Bible, in our own individual lives as our Lord and Saviour, and corporately as the body of Christ in this place. However we wobbled at the knees a bit, with an appropriate prayer being, Lord we believe, help our unbelief.

Towards the end of 2020 we had a farewell dinner for our Minister of 18 years Rev. Steven Farrar to retirement. The Italian Restaurant venue played host to our sadness and joys, and with a thankful heart to our Lord we gratefully reflected on Steve's ministry amongst us. A ministry that had born much fruit as he had remained in the Lord and the Lord in Steve. The closing page of Steve's final AGM report to us in 2019 quoted from Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile". Thank you Steven for your faithful ministry amongst us.

So where to from here. We finished 2019 with \$83 in the bank. Over the years we had grown older and fewer in number and were surrounded by the vast mission fields of Ermington, Rydalmere and Melrose Park. Our Regional Bishop Chris Edwards was convinced in the Lord that we needed some help. After prayerful consideration a possible merger with St Phillips at Eastwood seemed a good way forward.

The Wardens met with the Bishop and then the Rev. Bruce Stanley, Rector of St. Phillip's Eastwood later attended the meeting. The ultimate outcome after careful and prayerful consideration was a decision later in the year by both St Mark's and St Phillip's Parish Councils to approve a motion agreeing to the merger. On the 8th of December 2020 the Northern Region Council unanimously agreed to a resolution for the amalgamation of the parishes of Eastwood and Ermington effective 1 January 2021.

From the initial meeting onwards we have received a sentiment of goodwill and enthusiasm and generosity of spirit, from Bruce Stanley as Eastwood's Rector now ours also, Eastwood's Wardens, Parish Council and the wider congregation of Eastwood towards us and the joint mission we now face together with Lord's help, for which we are most grateful in the Lord. Thank you Bruce and all very much. Bruce from the outset has stressed the need for continuing prayer for our future direction and resourcing mindful of Psalm 127:1 "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain".

Some early answers to prayer have been the provision from January of Rev. Robin Kinstead as our minister at Ermington on a part-time basis 2 days a week. It is hoped and planned that this will become a 5 day a week position as the year progresses. Please pray for Robin and his family as the Lord makes clear his will concerning the Indonesian Mission with CMS.

From late January 2021 we have also been blessed with the part-time ministry of student ministers Josh and Anna Hoole. We are grateful to Bruce and the Eastwood parish for this

generous and most helpful provision. As Josh and Anna minister to us please remember to pray and minister to them as they face the pressures of a busy year ahead of study and ministry.

Of course our change mode focus had as it's back drop, like the rest of the world in 2020, the Covid19 virus impact. Our usual Sunday 9.30am gatherings were discontinued for a while earlier in the year and thanks to Seini and Vicki for distributing sermon outlines and bulletins to the flock. It was during this time that Rev. Stephen Fifer was our locum while Steve Farrar took his first parcel of Long Service Leave. So thanks to Steve Fifer for his ministry even though it was not face to face. Steve Farrar took his second parcel of Long Service Leave later in the year and Rev. John Gaunt was our Locum. By this time we had returned to our physical Sunday gatherings adhering to the government's Covid safety requirements. Thanks to John for his leadership in this difficult environment. Thanks also John for filling a crucial gap in the first 2 weeks of 2021.

Amazingly we finished the year with approximately \$36,000 in the bank. Firstly thank you to everyone for faithfully maintaining your giving as best you could over this difficult Covid period. We also benefited from the Federal Government Job-keeper and Cash flow Boost Programs for which are also grateful. The third part to this surplus result was the amounts received during Steve's Long Service Leave period at a fulltime stipend rate where as our Locums were only employed and paid for a 2 day week. Our thanks to Stephen and John for this. Ultimately all thanks must go to our wonderful Lord who has again provided all that we needed albeit a little over the top this year.

These surplus funds were timely and needed as we look to our future. As most are aware our ride on mower packed it in towards the end of 2020. This necessitated the immediate purchase of a new one at a cost of around \$6,000. This meant that we had \$30,000 to transfer to Eastwood upon amalgamation which was effective 1st January 2021. A high priority will be the complete renovation of the rectory. The cost will likely be in the \$120,000 to \$130,000 which will give us a fully renovated rectory with 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms whereas it currently has 3 bedrooms and 1 bathroom. Please prayerfully consider an amount the Lord wants you to cheerfully contribute to these essential works. We must have a proper functioning rectory for a full time minister.

As you will also be aware our existing 9:30am service was moved to an 8:30am timeslot in January 2021. The venue was also moved from the hall (now to be referred to as the church please) to the old sandstone church (now to be referred to as the chapel please). This is to make way for a new 10:00am family service that we are hoping to start mid-year 2021. Please pray for this service and it's planning group. We are hopeful it will have a semi noisy band and lots of ankle biters (delightful young toddlers with young parents that we will seek to reassure and welcome). The 8:30am will be a traditional service. Please prayerfully consider contributing to the cost of a fence to keep the children safe.

Both these services will be important as we seek to reach our diverse surrounding population. We are hoping both services will grow. All age groups and their salvation are important to the Lord and to us his servants and adopted children. Please soak this ministry in prayer. Please plan to use your spiritual gifts of which we all have at least one. This is for the building up of the body of Christ and the extension of the Kingdom of God through the gospel of Christ Jesus. Please don't hang up your ministry boots as you get older, the Lord's got work for you to do, think of Moses.

It is important that there does not exist an "us and them" mentality between these two services and also between the Eastwood and Ermington sites. It is important that we have unity of spirit and unity of purpose in Christ as we seek to make disciples of all nations. Please welcome in the new people that will hopefully come. Please also disciple the new born Christians that will hopefully be reborn. Please take every opportunity to encourage one another in the Lord in love and for the extension of the Kingdom of Heaven. We will be having a combined working bee in March at Ermington with an aim of making the site more visible and spruce, please come if you can.

The AGM will be held at 12.30pm on Sunday 21 March 2021. Nominations are now available for the various positions. Please prayerfully consider who to nominate and pray for the nominees. With the amalgamation from the beginning of 2021 we are now one parish with 2 sites – Eastwood and Ermington. One body in Christ, different and many parts.

The AGM will elect one set of wardens and one parish council. They will be responsible for both sites and will prayerfully consider the best use of resources under the Lord's direction. Bruce and his ministry team will be praying for and ministering to the congregations and areas of Eastwood, Ermington, Rydalmere and Melrose Park. They will also have a specific assigned focus with Robin, Josh and Anna focusing on the Ermington end but there will be overlap.

Fear not for the Lord is with us. The Lord loves each one of us and love drives out fear. It is important that we venture out with a new family service, and that we venture out with the gospel into the sea of lost souls of the surrounding areas and rescue all those whose name is written in the book of life. Don't let Satan talk us out of it as a bridge too far. This is possible only through the life-saving work of the Lord Jesus, the Christ, on the cross, that all who believe in him will not perish but have eternal life. As we remain in him and he in us we will bear much fruit, apart from him we can do nothing.

Please pray for our CMS link missionaries K+Kand S.C. God willing each will be visiting us on furlough in May 2021. Please pray also for S.K. now with AFES. Previously P+S were our CMS link missionaries over many years. Please pray for Bruce and Robin and all the ministry team at the Eastwood and Ermington sites. Thanks to everyone for your efforts in the Lord again this year. Please consider joining a Bible Study (Growth Group) this year.

Thank you Lord that your grace is sufficient for us and that your strength is made perfect in weakness.

Lesley Triggs, Seini Hafoka, Chris Chandler
Wardens

Synod Report

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Synod session for 2020 was not able to be held. The Archbishop's election was also postponed, and Glenn Davies' tenure was extended to see us beyond Covid.

This year, 2021, there will be two sessions – on especial session for the election of the new Archbishop, and one session for ordinary Synod.

Rev Bruce Stanley, Mr Chris Stretton, Mrs Yvonne Hall

Property Development Report

Following my report last year which described the boring and tiresome process of gaining planning and construction approvals, 2021 has at last brought some progress towards our goals.

The past amazing year for our church saw many positives in the development of projects which had been in the long planning approval process culminating in the issue of a Construction Certificate in March 2020. This finally gave us the green light to start construction which began shortly afterwards.

The Year's Achievements

The work completed during the past year included:-

- Structural stabilisation of the old parish hall (Now Children's Ministry Centre)
- Refurbishment of the hall interior with dividing partition & restoration of the original verandah, new lighting and electricals.
- Construction of an external timber deck and returfing the adjacent ground
- Construction of the new carpark entry from Clanalpine St, relocate the rectory boundary fence and complete landscaping to the area.
- Construction of perimeter child safety fencing to the site perimeter
- Construction of the new children's playground area and play equipment.
- Construction of new paving to the main court yard with new seat surrounding the Plane tree

We were thankful for good access for construction with minimal disturbance to church activities due to the limited use permitted for church activity because of Covid restrictions.

We were also thankful for the many young energetic volunteer helpers who contributed their labour throughout the year with a lot of site tidying and miscellaneous jobs like relocation and removal of equipment on several occasions saving the church a lot of expense.

The Church Grounds

As everyone is well aware, building works create a lot of mess and disruption. Under the careful and dedicated guidance and direction of our resident Garden Guru, Dave Smith (The Field Marshall). Despite Dave's medical issues, which curtailed his activity over an extended period, he was able to rally the soldiers at multiple working Bees during the year to bring the site back to its best.

The work included ordering and planting for the new landscaped area, building new gardens around the site and laying new turf near the old hall. The rain came just in time to see vibrant spring growth and the delightful result is apparent to us all. We thank God for Dave's amazing work and commitment to maintain our church grounds in top shape.

What's next?

Planning for the completion of our Stage 1 St Philips development has not ceased and we have now prepared tender & construction details for the new toilet block and disabled access ramp adjacent to the Children's Ministry Centre. Tenders are in and the work can commence when the builder is available to start and financing confirmed. The only other work for Stage 1 completion is the sealing of the carpark and construction of the underground rain water detention tank which is required when the carpark is sealed.

Assistant Minister's Residence

8a Clanwilliam St Minor Works

As the tenancy of 8a Clanwilliam St will end in March and our new Assistant Minister, Jenny Stoddart and her family move in we propose to renew a dilapidated boundary fence and construct a new external deck to improve the property. Planning for this work has commenced. This project will be funded from rent money retained from the previous lease.

St Marks Ermington

Following our amalgamation with St Marks Ermington, a few urgent projects are required to this site including:

- Complete Refurbishment of the existing on site rectory including a new bedroom, new bathrooms and toilets required to bring it up an acceptable standard for a minister's family.
- Construction of child safety perimeter fencing to part of the site.

These works are currently at planning stage and a working bee with combined church volunteers is scheduled for Saturday the 13th March to clean up the site and do minor

maintenance work.

This will be a great opportunity to confirm our commitment to St Marks and meet and connect with some new people.

As we recover from the pandemic and try to imagine the future for our thriving church we can look back at what was achieved under such restricted circumstances and thank God for his provision and ask for guidance with our future development as we continue to serve him in the privileged position he has placed us in our community.

David Mayes

English as a Second Language (ESL) Report

As with many activities at church we saw a great deal of disruption during 2020 because of Covid 19 and did not meet for part of Term 1 and all of Term 2. This actually gave our teachers a refreshing break and meant we returned with enthusiasm in Term 3 with very few students and a changed format to take in Covid requirements. Our faithful team continued to serve and we had enjoyable distanced classes with the small numbers. St Philip's ESL was one of only a few church classes to return in the diocese last year. This was really only possible because we have so many separate spaces to meet and our teachers were willing to turn up.

We have seen the arrival of more students already this term and it is exciting to see them bringing their friends. We have five different classes meeting on site each week and a team of 11.

Please pray for our continued ministry and most especially for our Bible Classes. Clarence Huin has begun teaching a Bible class with our lower level students and his bilingual abilities have already meant that one student who has been attending class for some time is hearing the gospel in her own language for the first time. Yvonne Hall continues to teach a more advanced level Bible class. Pray that students will attend these classes and understand God's love for them through Jesus.

Apart from Covid our challenges and prayer requests are like previous years:

- We would like to start crèche and morning tea teams but need volunteers
- Prayer that as we meet, we will be able to hear and understand each other, especially with distancing!
- That we will endeavour to talk less and encourage our students to talk more!
- That students will stay on after class for the Bible class.

Sally Reichardt

Friendship Service Report

The Reverend Cannon Funnel and a group of our parishioners in 1970, decided to start a Friendship Service to be held mid-week, mainly for those members of our congregation who could not come to any of our Sunday services and also for other people within the community.

The first Friendship Service was held on Wednesday, June 3, 1970. Transport to and from the service was provided by members of the Friendship Service Committee for those who required it.

For 51 years the Friendship Service continued providing companionship, love and the Word of God to us all, however, due to the advancing years of many of our committee members and with no younger members of the Church able to take their places, it has been decided to finalise the Friendship Service.

Our last meeting was to be held in June 2020, but due to the arrival of Covid-19, our last Friendship Service, which was held in March 2020, has now become the final meeting.

Throughout its history, our team of hardworking helpers for the Friendship Service have done a tremendous job in providing morning tea throughout the year and a feast for the Christmas service.

I take this opportunity to thank and congratulate Gaye and Don McNeill and also their predecessors, Joan and Norm Clare, who together served well over twenty years as the coordinators for the Friendship Service. I also take this opportunity to thank our current team of Shirley Calder, June Daniels, Jan Ferris, Ros Mitchell, Sylvia Pocknall, Sue Sumner, Eva and Trevor Tattersall and our excellent organist Heather Finch, as well as all the other members of our congregation who provided their time over the last 51 years.

Last, but not least, we have all been very privileged to have been guided by Reverend Cannon Funnel, Reverend Stan Skillicorn, Reverend Mark Fairhurst, Reverend Christopher Burgess and Reverend Bruce Stanley and also our assistant Ministers when they have been needed.

I have been privileged to have been a part of such a wonderful team of dedicated people covering the 51 years of faithful service and joyful fellowship which has characterised our monthly gatherings at St. Philips'.

Each of our Rectors has been an integral part, as they have brought the Gospel message and the opportunity to share in Holy Communion for so many of our older folk, and much joy to each of us in the enduring friendships we have made.

Peter Forbes
Friendship Service Co-ordinator