

St. George's Hurstville - Spring 2023

Life Quarterly

**GROWING
UP**

**GROWING
DEEP**

**GROWING
OUT**



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Workshop Series on the Impact of Pornography

for Parents: Fri 15/9 6:30-8:00pm (Seminar Room)

for Everyone: Sun 17/9 2:00-3:30pm (Chapel)

for Youths: Fri 20/10 5:30-7:30pm (Hall)

Speaker: Dr Ballantine-Jones

Our staff and volunteer leaders will be available during the session and afterwards for ongoing support.

VISION FOR GROWTH 2023 - REV. BRIAN TUNG

Our prayer and desire for the St George's family in 2023 is for growth. To grow up (in our relationship with Jesus), to grow deep (in our knowledge and obedience to the Bible) and to grow out (taking our faith beyond the walls of the church).

Unexpected ways of the journey the Lord is taking us.

So far in 2023, St George's Hurstville has grown in ways that we did not plan nor anticipate.



Grown beyond the church site with the 9:30am English congregation meeting at 124 Forest Road, Hurstville.

We have out grown our site. In May this year, the 930 English congregation started meeting at 124 Forest Rd, as have a number of ministries. The premises have been a God-sent. And we are ever grateful for His provision, and for the many brothers and sisters who have helped to make the move possible. The expansion to 124 Forest Rd has enabled greater capacity and opportunity for ministry.

Grown our staff team....Pastor Elvin Hong joining as our mandarin pastor.

We have grown our staff team. Pastor Elvin Hong has joined us as the mandarin pastor and as the pastor leading training and development.

Grown into a bigger family with the merger between AAC and St George's.

We have grown numerically as the brothers and sisters from Australian Asian Church (AAC) joined St George's Hurstville to become one new family.



Grown new ministries. New 4pm mandarin congregation, new opportunities, and new people.

We have grown new ministries with the start of a new 4pm mandarin service. As a result, the opportunity for the Gospel has grown. A new children ministry has started at 4pm to support the various afternoon congregations. This is an answer to prayer. We have been wanting to start a children's ministry at 4pm for quite some time. The biggest hurdle is to volunteers. This remains the challenge. Please join with us to pray to the Lord of the harvest that He will raise up workers for the children ministry at 4pm.

New children ministry at 4pm, praying and asking the Lord to provide.

Our prayer is that God will provide volunteers who love Jesus and the kids, that the ministry will have enough volunteers to become stable and sustainable, and that in time, the ministry will expand to minister to the children of our Nepalese brothers and sisters.

Looking ahead: keep growing and keep growing in the right things.

Recently, I reflected on my own growth. AI identified a number of areas of growth in the 2022 Reveal survey. These have been long term growth areas for me. I gave myself to the Lord. I made changes. I repented often. And I trusted in God's power and mercy. I have been surprised at the changes that the Lord has made in me.

Of all the hurdles to growth, I believe the two most common are:

One - we overestimate our own ability to bring change.

Two - we underestimate God's power to bring change.

As a result, we rely on ourselves to change and to grow. The result is that we are unable to change and become stagnant and discouraged.

God's plan is for His church and His people to grow - primarily to be more like Jesus. We need to trust Him as we continue to labour with our planting and watering.

As we look ahead to the rest of 2023, our prayer and hope is that St George's Hurstville will continue to grow.

GOD WANTS YOU TO SERVE IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

In this article, Russ Matthews argues that children ministry is an expression of brotherly love and a long ministry of hospitality.

Children ministry can:

- Help kids to hear and respond to the Gospel.
- Helps children to learn the Bible.
- Nurture a desire for kids to go to church.
- For the soul of those who serve.
- Provide a context for friendship and cross-generational relationship.

In children ministry we are serving, loving and welcoming: the children, and the people who bring the children.



Some of the examples of people whom Russ has seen served:

- A couple of parents whose marriage is on the brink of divorce, who are returning to church in an effort to keep their family together and reconnect, or connect for the first time, to God and a community of faith.



- A newly single parent without resources, community, support, or time who works two jobs to make ends meet and sees Sunday morning as a sacred window to seek the Lord in stillness and leave in the strength he provides.



- People who appear to have it all together on the outside but inside are terrified they can't rise to the standards they see all around them. Sunday morning feels like theater, a performance long engrained in them. They're terrified their kids will misbehave and embarrass them, but each week they sit under gospel teaching and lean in to hear the freedom that's theirs in Christ, asking the Lord to give them courage and faith to believe it.

- A recent widower with young children who has been a member of the community and now feels a strange combination of need and dread as Sunday draws near. He comes to sort out a complicated range of emotions before the Lord and do the slow, hard work of learning a new way of relating to his church family.

- A person on a path to recovery from addictions that jeopardize her ability to retain custody of her children. Corporate worship is part of her 12-step process, tethering her to community by putting her in the paths of people who look her in the eyes, know her story, and love her.



- Grandparents who've been given legal custody of their grandchildren as their own children walk through recovery or, tragically, continue in destructive habits. Out of love, these grandparents have accepted the responsibility of care, but they're heartbroken and tired, and they know they need help.



- A non-believing mother who's having God-haunted dreams that wake her up with the conviction that she needs to investigate Christ's claims. She carries some unavoidable stereotypes of what Christians are like, and she's been cautious. But this marks her third week attending, and she's finally ready to check her child into the preschool.

We have our own stories at St George's Hurstville, too numerous and personal to share.

Our world is a broken place. Many will walk through the doors of our church hurting and hopeless. Church can be where they find love, kindness and Jesus.

If you'd like to be part of the children ministry team, contact the director of family ministry carol.chiu@stgeorghurstville.org.au



CHURCH LIFE AFTER THE MERGE - PASTOR ELVIN HONG

On the 23rd July 2023, Australian Asian Church (AAC) merged with St Georges Hurstville Anglican Church. There was an energetic buzz, as people worked out where to go, adjusted to a different environment and began to meet new brothers and sisters. We have a common Lord, unity in the Spirit, and are one body. We have learnt afresh the verse, “We who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.” (Romans 12:5-6a). It is a real joy seeing everyone using their gifts to now serve one another.

The English congregations has joined together at 4pm. AAC members, have enjoyed being in a bigger crowd – the singing has been amazing! And the St Georges members have been energized with the vibrance of some younger members. It has been a real joy to see people coming together and welcoming one another. There are many similarities, which has really helped too – the way services are run, Biblical teaching, even many of the songs we sing are the same. Cate Hong from the English 4pm service says, “ I feel very privileged to be here at St Georges Hurstville – wonderful biblical preaching, new brothers and sisters, so many opportunities to serve our Lord together”.

The Mandarin service from AAC, has joined with some St Georges Hurstville members to start a new 4pm Mandarin service at SGH. People are getting to know one another and beginning to invite friends and family.



The first service of the 4pm Mandarin congregation

Shelley from the Mandarin 4pm service writes, “The merging of the two churches feels very smooth. The moment I walked into St George’s Hurstville I was greeted with smiles and open arms. The congregation members were like long-lost relatives reuniting after years of separation. I also love being in such a historical church dwelling. The building is standing strong and it reminds me of Jesus, the Rock of ages.” We are looking forward to the many years of rich fellowship as one church in the Lord.

MISSION PARTNERSHIPS - REV. ALAN LAM

Our mission is to make disciples of all nations. One way we do this is through partnering with our mission partners. They are able to share the gospel in places we aren't able to (at the moment at least). We are thankful for your partnership especially with Berkeley Life Centre. They recently came to share about how God has been working in and through them. They expressed their gratitude for our partnership through prayer, donations and visitations. These have been a great support and encouragement for them.

Some of us visited Berkeley to knock on people's doors, give out food to the needy and help out in the Op Shop. We had a few gospel conversations. One of the conversations we had was with a family. They visited Berkeley Church a few years ago but have stopped coming ever since their daughter was born. After our conversation, they said thanks for the food and that they'll go to church again. We also had a chat with a lady from a Macedonian background. We got to talk about God and she said that we are doing a good work. We'll be organising a visit to Berkeley again on 23 Sep and 18 Nov.



Donations for Berkeley

Ministering together in Berkeley on 26th August

We also have 3 new mission partners (Australian Asian Church has been supporting them). These include: Mellisa Wang at FOCUS Adelaide involved with student ministry; Philip and Lillian in West Asia involved with bible translation and Hoi-Yan Shea in Japan with OMF involved with church planting. We'll hear more about them later.

As a result, we have 8 mission partners all around the world. Please pray that God will raise up more workers for the harvest in Hurstville and around the world.



Please partner with our mission partners as we seek to make disciples both here and around the world. You can go to our website to sign up to their newsletters (and access past ones) and find out more information about them: <https://stgeorghurstville.org.au/mission-partners>



PASTORAL COUNSELLING - REV. TIM and WENDY CHAN

Starting from September this year, I will shift the focus of ministry from Cantonese pastor to pastoral counselling. This change is based on my past experience with church couples. My wife and I will serve the whole church, including English, Cantonese and Mandarin congregations.

Why do we need it?

The COVID-19 pandemic isolates people, and people's mental health deteriorates. Couples living together day and night, and under financial pressure, some people's marriage relationship have improved, while others have experienced more conflicts that are unresolved.



If marital issues are ignored, daily work and life will be affected. Children at home are the ones who can feel the emotions of their parents the most, and the impact will last even longer. For each family member to grow up healthily, a good relationship between husband and wife is important.

How are we to proceed?

Biblical counselling is based on the Bible. Marriage is God's creation ordinance. The blessings in it benefit all people. Whether you believe in the Lord or not, we will help couples with the principles in the Bible. Experience has proved that the truths of the Bible are practical and useful to which many couples agree on. Examples include the original intention of marriage, the marital relationship and family environment, etc.

We do not teach, we listen. Similarly, many problems between couples stem from misunderstandings. In pastoral counselling, couples will practice to communicate better, reduce misunderstandings, let them discover problems themselves, and encourage them to negotiate and deal with issues together. We accompany them and guide their relationship towards harmony.



When dealing with conflict, the solution is not to advocate for one's own rights, whoever has more power wins, it's not like that. Instead, repent of one's sins and resolve them on an equal footing.

What is the goal?

The counselling process in the experience is divided into 3 stages:

- identifying the root problem,
- proposing workable change, then
- getting the marriage back on track and maintaining it.

Pastoral counselling is to be their companion when the marriage is going through difficulties, and it also encourages them to find support in their Discipleship groups. Only a healthy family can effectively serve the kingdom of God.



Of course, if someone needs professional counselling or psychologist; we will encourage them to seek further advices.

Serving the needs of the church family is a huge challenge. I and Wendy feel that we need the strength from the Lord. Please pray for us.

WARDENS AND CHURCH EXECUTIVE REPORT

- Pastor Sunny Yu

We wish to extend our appreciation for the incredible ways you all have come together to enriched our church through your unwavering financial support and dedicated volunteer efforts, and the provisions to improve our facilities through our building fund.

Property updates

A. Chapel roof repairs:

Dealing with persistent leaks in our chapel roof has prompted us to take swift action. We understand the importance of maintaining a dry and secure space for corporate worship and fellowship. To address this issue, we have enlisted the expertise of professional roof specialists. Their thorough assessment revealed that deteriorated roof flashings are the root cause of these leaks.

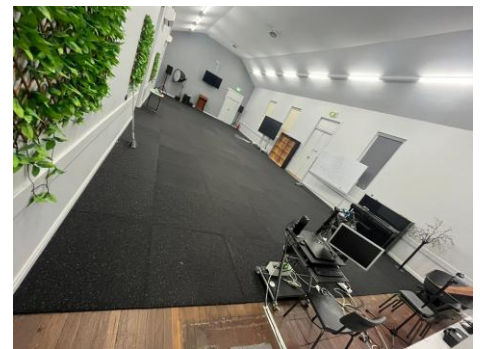


With a commitment to ensuring the structural integrity of our chapel, we have initiated the process of replacing these worn flashings. This proactive approach reflects our dedication to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all who gather under our roof. We are confident that this repair will not only resolve the leaks but also contribute to the overall longevity of our cherished chapel.

As we navigate this phase of restoration, we are grateful for your contributions to our building fund. We were able to raise the \$12,000 required for the project with your support. Together, we look forward to a refreshed and secure chapel that will continue to serve as a place of worship, reflection, and community for years to come.

B. Sound improvements in hall:

We are excited to embark on a sound improvement project within our hall. Recognizing the significance of clear and balanced sound, we have chosen to install gym mats to help address the issue of echoing sound as the first phase of works. These mats will contribute to reducing excessive reverberation. This initiative underscores our commitment to fostering an atmosphere where every word, note, and moment shared within our hall can be heard and appreciated with utmost clarity.



C. Archaeology study:

In part of the preparation for our church redevelopment, an archaeological study was being prepared by a team of experts. They recently conducted an in-depth survey on an area of profound historical significance at our church site. Utilizing advanced scanning equipment and cutting-edge technology, they will help us survey the space that once served as a cemetery. As we await the findings and interpretations that will enrich our collective knowledge and planning ahead, we express our gratitude to these archaeologists for their assistance.



Financial Summary

Revenue	Received from 1/1 to 31/8	Budget for 1/1 – 31/8	Difference
<u>General Offertory</u>			
English (midweek)	\$ 13,400.99	\$ 13,333.33	0%
English (9:30am)	\$ 82,445.58	\$ 86,666.67	-4.9%
English (4pm)	\$ 87,451.69	\$ 96,666.67	-9.5%
Cantonese	\$ 212,554.43	\$ 225,333.33	-5.7%
Mandarin	\$ 111,951.10	\$ 131,333.33	-14.8%
Total General Offertory	\$ 507,803.79	\$ 553,333.33	-8.2%
Other Income (Building/Mission/Grant)	\$ 94,275.75	\$ 63,333.33	48.9%
Total Actual/Budget Income for the period	\$ 602,079.54	\$ 616,666.66	-2.4%

Expense	Spent from 1/1 to 31/8	Budget for 1/1 – 31/8
Ministry Staff Stipends	\$ 348,190.58	\$ 394,666.66
Mission and Aid Giving	\$ 47,350.00	\$ 53,000.00
Parish Administration	\$ 24,620.60	\$ 25,000.00
Property and Building Maintenance	\$ 50,201.69	\$ 60,000.00
Resources for Ministry including giving to Diocese through Parish Cost Recovery	\$ 85,104.40	\$ 84,000.00
Total Operational Expense	\$ 555,467.27	\$ 616,666.66
Net position for the period	\$ 46,612.27	\$ 0

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to every church member who has shown immense generosity by contributing to our building fund towards the many different improvement and maintenance projects at our church site. Your unwavering support is propelling us toward our goal of creating a lasting place of worship and community.

As we progress on this important endeavor, we also want to transparently share that we are currently behind on our general offering target for the year. We understand that everyone's circumstances differ, but we kindly encourage you to consider giving faithfully towards our general offerings as well. Your consistent support in this aspect is crucial for the day-to-day operations and ministry that impact lives within and beyond our congregation. The surplus currently seen only came as a saving from the timing of our new Mandarin pastor joining us in July, otherwise, we may not be able to achieve neutral budget for this year or next year.

Together, as a united church family, we can continue to spread God's love and fulfill His mission. Thank you for your dedication and ongoing commitment to our shared journey of faith and gospel partnership.

REGULAR PROGRAMS AT CHURCH AND CONTACTS

Sunday	9:30am-10:30am	Cantonese Service – Chapel
	9:30am-10:30am	English Service – 1C/124 Forest Road
	9:30am-10:30am	New Generation Ministry – Hall
	11:00am-12:00pm	Mandarin Service – Chapel
	11:00am-12:00pm	New Generation Ministry – Hall
	4:00pm-5:00pm	Mandarin Service – Chapel
	4:00pm-5:00pm	English Service – Hall
Tuesday	10:00am-1:00pm	Staff meeting – Seminar Room
Wednesday	10:00am-12:00pm	English Classes – Ministry Support Centre and Hall
	1:30pm – 2:30pm	Anglican Prayer Book Service – Chapel
Friday	4:00pm – 5:30pm	Youth Afternoon Club – Hall
	5:30pm – 7:30pm	Youth Group (for high-schoolers) – Hall
Saturday	3:00pm – 4:00pm	Cantonese Service – Chapel

	Person	Phone	Email
General Enquiries	Church office	02 9580 1482	enquiry@stgeorghurstville.org.au
Rector	Rev. Brian Tung	0411 380 233	brian.tung@stgeorghurstville.org.au
Mandarin Ministry	Pastor Elvin Hong	0425 280 278	elvin.hong@stgeorghurstville.org.au
Pastoral Counselling	Rev. Tim Chan	0421 472 773	tim.chan@stgeorghurstville.org.au
English Ministry Youth and Mission	Rev. Alan Lam	0403 191 552	alan.lam@stgeorghurstville.org.au
Pastoral Care (Cantonese)	Pastor Joyce Leung	0414 602 315	joyce.leung@stgeorghurstville.org.au
Children & Family Director	Pastor Carol Chiu	0430 148 246	carol.chiu@stgeorghurstville.org.au
Church Executive Pastor & Safe Ministry Representative	Pastor Sunny Yu	0416 170 037	sunny.yu@stgeorghurstville.org.au
Discipleship Groups Ministry	Pastor Bain Lam	0421 383 050	Bain.lam@stgeorghurstville.org.au
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