

St. George's Hurstville - Summer 2023

Life Quarterly

**GROWING
UP**

**GROWING
DEEP**

**GROWING
OUT**



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NEWGEN ON BREAK






St George's Kids Summer 2023-2024

24 Dec^ - All Gen services
 31 Dec - All Gen services
 7 Jan - All Gen services

14 Jan - Summer program*
 21 Jan - Summer program*

28 Jan - All Gen services

4 Feb - Term 1 NewGen starts

^There is no 11am Mandarin service but a special combined Christmas Eve Mandarin celebration at 4pm

What's on in Summer?

I'm sure that you'll all appreciate that our NewGen leaders will be taking a much-deserved summer break! We will be running a simple summer program for Preschool, K-6 (2023) children during January 2024.

*Kids will start inside the Church Hall then go to the ministry centre for the summer program. Please sign out your children after service.

HELP needed!

To give our leaders a break, we need parents, carers, grandparents, spiritual aunties, uncles, big sisters, and big brothers to help us man the summer program!

What you need:

- Working with Children's Check (WWCC) number
- Safe Ministry Training (preferred)
- Willingness to talk to and play with the kids

That's it! We provide everything else. Please speak to Carol (0430148246), Rev Brian or June to find out more!

We need YOU!
Can you give ONE Sunday?
9:30, 11am or 4pm





A New Chapter in Cantonese Ministry - REV. BRIAN TUNG

We're thankful to announce that from January 2024, our brother Bain Lam will commence full time as Director of Cantonese Ministry (粵語事工主任).

Bain holds qualifications in theology from CTCA. He's been a faithful member and ministry worker of our church and we recognize that the Lord has gifted him for the role to lead the Cantonese ministry at St George's.



We are thankful that Bain has accepted the invitation.

This is a big step of faith for him and his family. Please remember him in your prayers.

We also want to acknowledge and thank God for Tim and his ministry with us. Tim is settling well into his new role as pastor of pastoral counselling for the whole church. We very much look forward Tim's continual ministry at St George's. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

What the staff at St George's do

In the last two to three years, I have been asked a number of times to publish an organizational chart of St George's. This is to address confusion about the roles of various staff and volunteer leaders at the church. I realize that the problem is complicated and needs more than just an organizational chart.



Different Cultural Preferences

Like wider society, St George's is a melting pot of cultures. Culture is like water to fish (if we know what fish think!). Fish are not conscious of the fact that they live in water. Similarly, we hold our cultural values at a subconscious level. The added complexity is that cultures are constantly mixing and changing. So generalizations about cultures should be tentative. It is important to know that what we prefer, believe to be right, etc., may be influenced by our culture.

Within one church family, we have members from a 'hierarchical' culture and others from an 'egalitarian' culture.

Hierarchical cultures appear highly structured. In these cultures, titles, rank, and status are extremely important to authority. 'Command and control' is often how decisions are made.

Members expect the leader to generate ideas and often see their responsibility in the group as following decisions and instructions from the leader.

Egalitarian cultures, on the other hand, appear more informal and 'flat'. Titles and rank are appeared less important. Members of the culture expect to be consulted in the decision-making process and will often act independently of decisions and instructions from the leader.

At St George's, titles and rank are important in some congregations but irrelevant to others.

What We Are Called vs. What We Do

What we are called (rank and title) may tell others what we do (the office, role, or function) but sometimes they don't.

For example, Dr. (医生) is a title and a role/function. If we consult a Dr. (医生), we expect them to be able to help us with a medical problem. However, this is not always true.



Not all Dr. (医生) will be able to help us with our specific medical problem when we visit a specialist hospital. A gynecologist Dr. (医生) will have medical knowledge but will not be able to help us if our specific medical issue is cardiovascular. For cardiovascular issues, we need the help of a cardiologist Dr. (医生). That is, in some contexts, the title (Dr. (医生)) is different from a function.

Furthermore, not everyone with a role in a hospital would be a Dr. (医生) or require medical qualifications. The head of a hospital is often not a Dr. (医生). It may be helpful for them to have knowledge of the practice of medicine, but the area of competency required for their role or function is medical and business administration.

In our experience, title is the same function at the general medicine level, e.g. at the local family practice. In a more complex and specialized context, e.g. at a hospital, function may not follow title.

My observation is that the above might explain many of the confusions at St George's. We are used to the idea that the title of a staff Rev/Pastor (牧师) is the same as the function. We expect someone called Rev/Pastor (牧师) to do all the things that a Rev/Pastor (牧师) does, which is to attend to all aspects of our spiritual health and the health of the church. This would include preaching, teaching, chairing meetings, working on rosters, pastoral care, visitations, counseling, administration, decision-making, etc. So it's very confusing when someone with the title of Rev/Pastor (牧师) does not have one of these functions e.g. preaching. Or if someone without the title of Rev/Pastor (牧师) has this function.



From Medical Center to Hospital

Many of us experienced St George’s as a medical center, with the Rev/Pastor (牧师) as our primary medical provider. In this context, the Rev/Pastor (牧师) is a general practitioner.

Over time, St George’s has grown in numbers and complexity and has become the equivalent of a medium-sized hospital. For the proper function of St George’s, new and specialized roles and offices must be adopted, e.g. children, youth, administration, teaching, pastoral counseling, etc.



Rev/Pastor (牧师) will need to move from being good generalists to good specialists. And some of the functions of Rev/Pastor (牧师) may be more appropriately staffed by specialists who may not be Rev/Pastor (牧师).

Furthermore, there is often a season of transition, where the leaders of ministries function as generalists and specialists. The context that the Lord has given us may require changes in our thinking and expectations.

What the Staff at St George’s Do in 2024:

Staff	Title	Function	When to consult them
Brian Tung	Rev.	Senior Pastor, Chief of Staff	All matters relating to church, external relations, staff, English ministry.
Elvin Hong	Pastor	Director of Mandarin Ministry and Training	All matters relating to Mandarin ministry and ministry training.
Bain Lam	Pastor	Director of Cantonese Ministry	All matters relating to Cantonese ministries.
Alan Lam	Rev.	Assistant of English Ministry; Director of Youth Ministry and Mission Partnership	All matters relating to English ministries, youth and mission partnership.
Carol Chiu	Pastor	Director of Family and Children Ministry and Mentoring	All matters relating to children and mentoring.
Tim Chan	Rev.	Pastoral Counseling for All Languages	All urgent and acute matters pastoral counseling needs.
Joyce Leung	Pastor	Pastoral Care for Elderly (Cantonese)	All urgent and acute matters pastoral counseling needs.
Sunny Yu	Pastor	Executive Pastor and Ministry Administration	All matters relating to property, finance, compliance, legal.
Sheryl Wu	Mrs	Church Accountant	Consult through Sunny only.

Catherine Chung	Mrs	Volunteer Support	All matters relating to volunteering at church
June Zhang	Mrs	Volunteer Support	All matters relating to volunteering at church

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at brian.tung@stgeorghurstville.org.au

DIRECTOR OF CANTONESE MINISTRY - PASTOR BAIN LAM

Graceful Transformation Guided by God's Blessings

This year is a special one for me. By God's will, I made the decision to step away from my full-time job to dedicate myself to full-time pastoral ministry, taking on the role of director of the Cantonese ministry. It has been a journey filled with God's guidance and blessings.



Several years ago, sensing God's call, I embarked on a theological learning journey through part-time studies. After graduating last year, I served as a volunteer part-time pastor in our Chinese congregation. Starting this transformative journey, I didn't anticipate moving into full-time ministry nor did I have clear expectations. However, through a series of unexpected events and the continuous encouragement of my brothers and sisters, I gradually saw God's calling. In moments of doubt and uncertainty, He always encouraged me with promises. Through consistent prayer, I sought God's will, eagerly awaiting His guidance. In the depths of prayer, I began to understand God's unique arrangement for my life. It's not just a transformation but a profound journey of getting to know God and obeying His call. Along this journey with God, I witnessed His marvellous preparations in every aspect of my life. Through continuous seeking, I saw God's plan surpassing my imagination, quietly unfolding at every step. In this process of transformation, I deeply experienced God's faithfulness. I am thankful for His peace and steadfastness in each transition. I am also grateful for the support of my family and the brothers and sisters during this change; your prayers and encouragement are my greatest motivation.

As I enter a new stage of full-time ministry, I carry a heart full of gratitude, recognizing it as God's call and commission. I embrace this mission of service, eagerly anticipating, under God's guidance, witnessing the miraculous work He will accomplish in my life and within the church. I look forward to working together with my brothers and sisters to build a church life rooted in Christ's love, making God's kingdom more evident in our lives.

BAPTISM TESTIMONIES

Celebrating Transformative Journeys of Faith.

In our baptism Sunday on November 12th 2023, we witness not just a ritual but a profound expression of faith, and a commitment to a life transformed by Jesus Christ. In the following pages, you will encounter heartfelt narratives of lives transformed - From the first stirrings of faith to the joyous proclamation of commitment; these stories unveil the intricacies of their faith journeys. May their testimonies stand as a collective witness to the enduring power of faith that guides us through the challenges of life and leads us toward the boundless grace that awaits those who seeks out to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ka-Man

My very first exposure to baptism when I was young growing up in The Netherlands was of newborn babies being Baptist in church by the pastor. I wasn't aware that children and adults could also be baptised at their later stage in life. I found this out personally when my colleague was getting baptised before getting married to my best friend way back decades ago.

Though, I was brought up with the teaching of the church at a young age at primary school and first few years of secondary schooling in The Netherlands, I was not sure what does getting baptized really meant. I always thought of the newborn getting baptized with water over their head, a means of cleansing and being blessed by the church. But I always had that vivid image of baptism of newborns crying out loud when the water scooped up by the pastor landed on their head. Funnily enough, going from a full circle of life, I have yet again been reminded that baptism bares no age restriction when I saw the news of the passing of the former late great Australian Labor leader and Governor General, Bill Hayden. He only got baptized recently in his late life, at the age of 85, which took me by amazement. As it was the first time, I have heard of people being baptized that late in their life as a possibility.

From my childhood, I believed in Christianity and its countless stories, being read every morning in class by my teachers before the start of lessons. It was always my favorite part of school, besides of course, recess, lunchtime & home time. I truly valued & still hold onto those values, the teachings & meanings it preached in the bible. I recall when I would make my nightly prayers to God before my bedtime. I prayed for things in relevance on what I had witnessed on the nightly news and daily newspaper events. And they were not always good



or in positive light. Hence, I would pray to God, for World peace, end to hunger, end to the expansion of the deserts in Saudi Arabia and in place more trees growing to allow us to breath and absorb the growing amount of carbon dioxide. However, I was at pains in grappling with the notion of “why”? Why, despite the presence of God, do we have these underlying issues now? Why did Jesus have to endure the ultimate suffering on the cross despite all the good that He had gracefully and humbly done. Jesus suffered to bring forgiveness, justice to the wrongs done in this world and also to bring in a new heaven and earth where there won't be any evil.

This question of faith has followed me through when I came to Australia. But it was not until I was faced with life changing events that I vested my belief in God. That God has laid His path for me in life to follow Jesus. I have learned to be a better person, understand, appreciate, be compassionate to others, and respect others despite our differences. I am not saying that I am all good now, but still far from it. Everyday there is something new for me to learning and overcome. I am working on this daily and I believe that is what God is trying to instill in me, that the job is ongoing, throughout one's life. Galatians 5:22-26 (NIV) reminds us of our essential and core Christian values - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

Being baptized allows me to be part of this Christian journey - To repent and for all my sins to be forgiven before Jesus and follow Him throughout my life's journey. Amen.

Danny

My name is Danny Sam, and I am here today to declare my faith in Jesus Christ and to be baptized.

For many years, I struggled with doubts and uncertainty about my spirituality. I felt lost and alone, searching for meaning and purpose in my life. I hadn't always believed in God. Growing up, I was not brought up with any religion, just good moral values, and the difference between right and wrong.

During my teens and early adulthood, my focus was on having a good time, doing well at school, getting a good job and career, and making enough money to afford a house, nice car, and other luxuries in life like most people. At that time, I would encounter and succumb to many temptations and sin. After a while when I had achieved these things that I believed to be important in life, I had started to lose meaning and purpose in life and felt that something was missing.

I came to know about Jesus and the Bible through my wife who was already a Christian. In the early years of our marriage, I was still a non-believer but things started to change when our son Aiden was born. My wife and son would go to church and I would accompany them.



During that time is when I learnt more about Jesus and the Bible. As I began studying the Bible and attending church, I felt a profound sense of peace, hope, and purpose. I knew that in my heart and mind that God was with me and that God loves me. I realized that I've been saved by Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross and that my sins were forgiven. I realized that I was not alone, and that God had been guiding me all along.

Through my faith in Jesus Christ, I have experienced a transformation in my life. I have a renewed sense of meaning, purpose and direction. Things that previously would have worried me a lot are no longer significant as I have faith in God. I am grateful for the grace and love that God has shown me, and I want to share this message with others.

As I enter this new phase of my spiritual journey, I know that there will be challenges and struggles ahead, but I have faith that God will guide me and give me strength. I am excited to be baptized and to publicly declare my faith in Jesus Christ. I hope that my testimony will inspire and encourage others on their own faith journeys.

Swinson

The life I lived before being a Christian was one filled with worldly desires and loneliness. I'd always put myself above God and would treat him like a dispenser. I would always ask and beg for the things I wanted, but when I never got what I asked for I was angry at God and pushed him away. I was living for the world and not for God.

I was born in a non-religious house hold so I wasn't introduced to God until primary school scripture. I was young, naïve and curious, but not curious enough about God. I never went to church until year 10 when I was invited to youth group, and about the end of year 12 was when I went to church weekly. It was only about a year ago that I was curious and started to read the bible and to try understanding.

The more I read and the more I had in-depth talks with my friends about the passages the more I realized how honest, loving and merciful Jesus really is. It was when my Christian friend was explaining how Jesus died on the cross to save me, just so I can be accepted by God, that really struck me in my heart and brought tears to my eyes. It was then that it clicked for me that I didn't have to try and do things to appease God so he could accept me but rather for putting faith into Jesus that I am saved.

After becoming Christian I've been more content and happier in general. I want spread the word and the bible. I want other people to be saved just as I have.



Owen

Hi, many of you may not know me but my name is Owen. Today I'm here to talk about my journey to Christ. When I was younger between the ages of 2-9, I went to church on Sundays rarely and without taking it seriously and living a life of pride, jealousy, anger and was ignorant to God. I didn't read the bible, tell others about the goodness of God and didn't even pray. But my story starts in High school as I went to a Christian school where I met friends that helped me know Christ better. It was around term 1 this year when I started to want to know God and when I started chasing him and not my sins. I started to really appreciate his love and mercy, I started praying consistently everyday and reading the bible without an obligation. Now I live a much happier life knowing that I have God by my side and guiding me through all that I do. From here I decided that I wanted to be baptized and to completely give my life to God. A bible verse I've used multiple times on my journey to Christ is, Philippians 4:13 NIV "I can do all this through him who gives me strength."



Marco

Hi. My name is Marco. I'm currently working full time as a digital designer. Growing up, my grandparents took me to this church when I was smaller. During those times I didn't really see the point and meaning of God and going to church. I was bored. I saw the bible as a book full of stories, nothing more. During the early years of high school, I was unconcerned of my actions and was a self-centered individual. However, I was invited to a youth group, where I really started to understand the purpose of life. It helped me with developing a deeper understanding of sin, the bible and the importance of Jesus dying on the cross for our wrongdoing. Through him, my wrongdoings can be forgiven. He had provided me the motivation to attend church and surround myself with other Christians, providing support and an example of how I should be living my life righteously. When I make my prayers, there are moments where I felt like I've gotten a direct response, almost like I was having a conversation with God. Through my prayers, I am motivated to become a better individual with Jesus as example. Through my day-to-day life, I still do experience struggles with sin, temptation, and anger. I try to see this as a positive as (James 1:2-3) says "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." Although I cannot remember much of a life before God, I'd like to think I am slowly becoming a better Christian through him. I look forward to doing this together with you.

Joshua

Hi everybody, today I will be testifying about my faith. Before Christ, my life revolved around myself and I didn't really care about how other people felt. My life before Christ was self-centered and selfish. I have heard about the gospel since I was a young kid but it never really fully resonated with me. My perspective changed last year, when I heard about apocalyptic literature in revelations. This made me a bit scared and wary of what happened after death. This pushed me to find out more about Jesus resurrection, as I had heard before of how Jesus died and rose again. Now after trusting in Christ, I live a happier life, knowing that God is in control. My life is still far from perfect but I know that my sins are forgiven through Jesus. A bible verse that I connect with is Romans 3:10-22



As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away; they have together become worthless there is no one who does good, not even one." "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips. " "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." "Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know." "There is no fear of God before their eyes." Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

This verse connects with me as it reminds me that no one is perfect and that all can receive God's perfect grace.

Tiffany

Growing up in a Christian household, the name of Jesus Christ was never an unfamiliar term. I attended fellowship groups since I was a child, but merely usually out of obligations and I never put much thought to this. I did not have that passion that some people at church had.



It was not until I participated in the More to Life Course at St George Anglican Church and having in-depth discussion around Christianity that brought me closer to God, especially when I needed help for my anxiety.

I've always had an inkling sense of doubt – often thinking whether God is real. I'm a visual person and I like to see evidence, as opposed as 'blind faith'. The first session of the course around evidence of Jesus and the number of bible copies available was quite eye-opening. I'm thankful to be surrounded by many God-loving people, especially my parents, my partner and his parents, allowing me to have a safe space to ask all types of questions to clear my doubts. I began to have the urge to seek out God more often.

At the final session of the Baptism course, I remembered Pastor Brian asking us, 'why do we use water as a form of baptism'. We are all sinful by nature, and this is not something we can battle on our own, and I'm so thankful for God for sending Jesus to cleanse our sin (just like water washing us) by dying on the cross, and love us despite all our flaws. I know my journey in faith is a work in progress, there will be times of doubt, and there will be times of confidence. But I know that at the end, Jesus is my safe haven from anxiety and that He is there to walk the journey with me.

Alvin

I have come to know Christ from a young age and had faith since, I will consider a commitment since but my faith has reached many difficult stages of being immature and giving into temptations. I have decided to be baptised as a symbolic sign of God's love towards me, my commitment to Christ and surrendering my future to his decisions, I have never really had the ability to let go of myself to accept God's decisions for me, instead growing in self hatred over unexpected outcomes I have encountered.



What was life like before knowing Jesus: When I was not taking my faith as seriously I would often feel like I had my life in control, and whenever issues emerged I would question God. I refused to accept his plans to set out for me which ultimately led to a continuous paradoxical loophole of losing and regaining faith. I will selfishly turn to Christ when things go South but never be truly grateful to the gifts from God.

How did you come to trust Jesus: I have come to trust Jesus from learning about the crucifixion at a young age, exploring crucifixion more in depth in terms of the roles of God, the Holy Spirit and Jesus with their contribution to this gift for us. My faith was further developed in my Christian Journey by spending a lot of time dealing with my issues with God in prayers, his words, in times of isolation when I felt as if no one else was here for me. However as Journey continued, trusting God more and beginning to mature in faith I have

noticed how much God takes care of me from the 'little gifts' we often do not notice such as fellowship, good food, friendships, but most importantly these 'little gifts' helped me appreciate the gift of eternal life from Jesus the most as we did nothing to deserve it. He was crucified so that I could be forgiven.

What's life now with Jesus: I still feel lost but I am guided with a lamp in front of me through trust in Christ, understanding that my current life and worldly achievements are transient. However that does not mean that I give up, laze around and wait selfishly for the day God comes. My currently goal is to shape myself as an Christian who is able to represent the fruits of the spirit, love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, to make efforts to be more like Jesus, with those characteristics I hope to demonstrate a tiny fraction of God's love to others.

Gary

Greetings! My name is Gary. I migrated to Australia in 2001 from Quangzhou. Previously I was always an atheist. I knew nothing about religion and faith.

Because the old folks in my family worshipped the Buddhist gods, I had a little bit more contact with Buddhism. Occasionally I would visit the temple, burnt incense and worshipped. But with Christianity, I had no idea of whatsoever. The first time I came across the Gospel of Jesus was more than 10 years ago. I remember sister Janet invited us to Rev. Enoch Lam's evangelical conference at Sydney Olympic Park. During that time I came to church on and off for a while. I also attended the baptism of brother Tom. However I did not persevere. But the seed of the Gospel of Jesus had been buried in my soil....



I had been running our own small business. I and my wife Ceci are working together in our company. I am responsible for the external affairs of the company as well as business development. My wife looks after administrative and financial matters. As a result at work it was easy for us to have different ideas and conflicts. Living together with my parents created extra in-law relationship tension. On top of that, there were many other issues over children's education, work, day to day life, hobbies and interests. We quarreled at work. We quarreled at home. For a long time the relationship between me and my wife was much tensed. We even contemplated divorce during several fierce fighting. At that time I was feeling really down. I didn't do well with my work and did not feel love and closeness when I came home. Then I suddenly thought of my good friends Tom and Tim and their journey of becoming Christians. That had inspired me. I spurred my wife by suggesting may be we go to

church to listen to the principles they preach and see whether there is any chance that our tensed relationship could improve. Our sons naturally went with us to attend Youth Sunday School. As our whole family went to church together to learn more about the Gospel, we all had gained a lot. From 2019 we consistently attended church with no interruption. In June 2020 my wife was baptised and formally became a Christian. Over these few years, I saw the changes in her. In the past she was hot tempered and fought a lot with other family members. This of course was because I and my boys were not listening to her. Now she has changed. Her attitude towards the family has become more patient with more calm understanding. I give thanks to God for changing us through His great love. Whether it was in our husband and wife relationship, in the mother in law and daughter in-law relationship and relationship with our sons, the changes were remarkable. Last year even my mother joined us to come to church to learn about God's words. I give thanks that today she is baptised together with me. I give thanks to God for the work He had done on our family.

Reflecting on my journey over the years in following the Lord, I remember one amazing event. One day at Hurstville I lost my wallet together with \$800 cash, my driver's license and my credit cards. Although it wasn't a lot of money, reporting the loss of the cards and replacing them was a very tedious process. That night I prayed saying to God that if He was the almighty, help me to find my wallet and I will believe Him. Eventually after 3 days an Indian/Pakistani lady turned up at my house holding my wallet to return it to me. Not one single cent of the cash and everything else in it was missing. I give thanks to God. His grace is so rich and abundant. From then on we actively attend Sunday worship. My wife and I both participate in serving. Week in and week out we learn God's Word hoping to spread your love to a lot more people. God, You sent Your only Son into this world, died on the cross and paid the price of sin. He took up all our sins so for those who believe in Him, will not parish but have everlasting life!

In the past I was a rather self confident person. I believed that if I tried I would always succeed. I was arrogant and competitive. My wife called me a full blown macho man. Since I knew God, I came to the realization that I am a sinner, before God I have nothing that I can be proud of. For everything, I cannot rely only on myself. I have to rely on God and look up to Him. Jesus Christ has taught me that I am a sinner; I have fallen short in a lot of things. I do not deserve to have eternal life. But I believe that you had conquered my death through your resurrection. You have prepared the eternal life of heaven and gifted it to me. Jesus Christ, I am willing to repent, to follow you and trust you to be my savior. I beg you to forgive my sins, to come into my heart and be the Lord in my life. In the Lord's name Amen.

Mandy

Originally I was a Buddhist but I could not change my pessimistic attitude and feeling of despair. As a result I didn't



live a happy life. I just wanted quickly finish my life journey. My long term low mood had made my physical health worse and worse. That led to a sudden surge in my blood pressure. I couldn't control my body. I lost my balance and ended up in hospital for emergency treatment. Fortunately it was a minor stroke. When my life was no longer at risk, I had physiotherapy and rehabilitation and stayed in hospital for a month.

During the first two days in hospital, out of the blue a Christian minister came to pay a visit. Thinking back now, this is a set up by God. Although the minister knew that I was a Buddhist, he still used a kind, loving and humble attitude to explain the meanings of the Gospel. He treated me like a member of the family and I felt warmth in my heart. Is only now I have learnt and experienced how wonderful God's love is for us. At a time of great suffering He gave me utmost strength to deal with my illness.

I remembered that day was my birthday. In the evening after work, my son, daughter in law and their kids brought me a bunch of beautiful flowers to wish me a happy birthday. I was very happy and shared with them what I went through in that morning. Then I found out that the minister was from the same church as my son and daughter in law. Our loving Father in Heaven knew about my suffering. On the day of my birthday He gave me a great gift that had changed my life.

After I came out of hospital, I made an effort to go to church every week, to worship and listen to the Gospel. I learnt that only Jesus Christ can pardon my sins and give me eternal life. His love is eternal and selfless.

My Lord, I will praise you whole heartedly. Your love has changed my life. In this year or so, there is big improvement in my health. In the recent blood test, all that were abnormal have become normal. I give thanks that I have the love from my Heavenly Father. I came out of my negative feelings which have helped so much to improve my health. Although what is remaining in my life may be short, I still will follow the example of Jesus Christ, to love and care for others, to serve to my best ability, becoming a Christian in name and in deeds.

Daniel

My contact with Jesus Christ started from primary school years when I was about nine years old. I have joined the Saturday fellowship at the school. My parents have no religious belief. I was growing up in a nurturing church and taken care by a pastor who guided me patiently.



After started working, I don't know when I started to forget about Christ and the church. Until my children came to Australia to study and settled down here, I also decided to migrate to Australia. The process was not as easy as I thought. In the hindsight, it must be the guidance of the Lord that solves all the problems.

After settling down in Australia, I was travelling with my sister-in-law Emily and her family. We discussed about Jesus Christ and some bible stories. After listening to their testimony, I suddenly understood that the Lord never give up on me. Although there are still some areas I don't quite understand, after detailed explanation I decided to return to the church and follow Jesus Christ's call to study the bible again.

When the evangelism team shared the gospel with me, I understand that I am a sinner and I could not resolve the sin by myself.

Only through the precious blood of the Lord's crucifixion, I could be saved. Because Of that I confirm my faith to receive the salvation.

Afterwards, I attended the bible class for the new believers. Under Brother Angus, he explained with clarity in the areas in the bible I don't understand. He also told me that I have to talk to our Lord in a quiet place every morning, midday and evening. By doing that meditation and prayers will become part of my life and become a habit to get close to the Lord.

Gradually, I become less grumpy and emotional. I feel that the Lord is with me and He guides me in everything that I do. In the church I will be taken care of by other brothers and sisters. I am very thankful.

Jenny

Good day to pastors and fellow church members. Today, I am delighted to be here and share my journey of faith with all of you. Reflecting on the first half of my life, it went quite smooth without significant highs or lows. Before I believed in God, I felt that I had a rather stubborn personality and was self-centered. I was strongly opinionated and refuse to listen to others. At times, I was confident intellectually and lack humility. I still remember my first visit to this church. That day, I was feeling stressed as things were not going well with work.



So, I took a stroll to ease my emotions and that was when something miraculous happened. It was God who guided me into this church for the first time. Although I didn't understand much about the sermon during the worship, the atmosphere made me felt very comfortable and I felt there was a dramatic changed to me. I no longer felt as burdened or grudged as before.

After receiving faith, I have got to know many brothers and sisters within the church. In addition, through the attendance of evangelism and cultivation classes, I realized that we are all sinners and us alone cannot cleanse our sins. It is through Jesus Christ, who was crucified for our sins, that we find redemption through His precious blood. Therefore, I aspired to get closer to God and honor and serve the Lord. I have learnt to interact with,

care for and encourage my brothers and sisters in Christ with humility during the cultivation classes. As I accepted Jesus Christ, I have learnt to live according to His will, and continually walk in the path of humility. I felt as if I have been reborn following the learning, worship, and fellowship. I experienced immense inner peace during this year since I got to know God. I learnt the art of letting go. I will continue to walk alongside the Lord in the days to come and continue to strive for a fulfilling life, continual spiritual growth, and diligence in reading the scripture. I will love my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and have the Lord residing within my heart.

WARDENS AND CHURCH EXECUTIVE REPORT

- Pastor Sunny Yu

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the remarkable unity and generosity demonstrated by each and every one of you. Your contributions, both financially and through volunteering, have a significant impact on what we do here at St. George's Hurstville. We are able to fund and maintain our church property through various projects and planning for future repair and maintenance projects as well.

Property updates

A. **124 Forest Road ceiling repairs:**

Over the past few months, our gathering space at 124 Forest Road has faced challenges due to fluctuating weather conditions. Specifically, we encountered issues with leaks, resulting in the deterioration of part of the Styrofoam ceiling in late August. We promptly notified the strata to address and rectify this issue. As adverse weather conditions persist in the past week, we remain vigilant and continue to monitor the situation closely.



B. Wooden floor in Chapel Vestry:

The wooden floor in the chapel vestry area had collapsed, posing a potential danger. Prioritizing the safety of our church community, we took careful measures to mitigate the risk by cordoning off the affected area for an extended period. During this time, we sought professional assistance and obtained quotes for the necessary repairs. We are delighted to announce that the restoration works have been successfully completed, and the vestry area, along with the attached room, is now available again.



C. Upcoming repair and maintenance project:

The wooden deck and ramp leading to the hall entrance are showing signs of aging. Some of the vertical wood planks on the fencing were broken and out of place. The ramp may also require works in the near future. We kindly request everyone to exercise caution and take care of the property as we plan for necessary maintenance and improvements.



Financial Summary

Revenue	Received 1/1 to 30/11	Budget Target 1/1 – 30/11	Difference
<u>General Offertory</u>			
English (midweek)	\$ 18,626	\$ 18,333	1.6%
English (9:30am)	\$ 122,948	\$ 119,165	3.1%
English (4pm)	\$ 121,868	\$ 132,915	-8.3%
Cantonese	\$ 285,220	\$ 309,832	-7.9%
Mandarin	\$ 154,105	\$ 180,582	-14.6%
Total General Offertory	\$ 702,767	\$ 760,827	-7.6%
Other Income (Building/Mission/Grant)	\$ 114,018	\$ 73,341	55.4%
Total Actual/Budget Income for the period	\$ 816,785	\$ 834,168	-2.0%

Expense	Expenditure 1/1 to 30/11	Budget for 1/1 – 30/11
Ministry Staff Stipends	\$ 491,465	\$ 542,666
Mission and Aid Giving	\$ 59,430	\$ 72,875
Parish Administration	\$ 31,175	\$ 34,375
Property and Building Maintenance	\$ 80,749	\$ 82,500
Resources for Ministry including giving to Diocese through Parish Cost Recovery	\$ 122,512	\$ 115,500
Total Operational Expense	\$ 785,331	\$ 834,168
Net position for the period	\$ 31,454	\$ 0

We express our sincere appreciation to every member of our church community who has demonstrated incredible generosity through contributions to our building fund – past and present – in supporting various improvement and maintenance projects at our church site.

While making progress on these vital initiatives, we want to be clear with our current budget. We acknowledge with gratitude that the contributions to our building fund have surpassed our initial expectations. **However, it's important to note that we currently lag behind our general offering target by 7.6%. When combining both aspects, we find ourselves 2% behind our overall financial goal.** We kindly urge you to consider contributing faithfully to our general offertory as your consistent support in this area is vital for the day-to-day operations and ministries that impact lives both within and beyond our congregation.

It's important to note that the current surplus is a result of prudent financial management. With the Director of Cantonese Ministry joining us in full time capacity from 2024, achieving a neutral budget would be challenging if we are unable to meet our budget targets this year.

As we continue to share God's love and fulfill His mission in Hurstville, we pray for your unwavering dedication and ongoing commitment to our gospel partnership. May people around us - family and friends, colleagues and neighbors - get to know and believe in Jesus.

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
	4:00pm-5:00pm	New Generation Ministry – Playgroup Room
Tuesday	10:00am-1:00pm	Staff meeting – Seminar Room
Wednesday	10:00am-12:00pm	English Classes – (during school term) 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
Cantonese Ministry and Discipleship Groups	Pastor Bain Lam	0421 383 050	bain.lam@stgeorghurstville.org.au
English Ministry Youth and Mission	Rev. Alan Lam	0403 191 552	alan.lam@stgeorghurstville.org.au
Children & Family Director	Pastor Carol Chiu	0430 148 246	carol.chiu@stgeorghurstville.org.au
Pastoral Counseling	Rev. Tim Chan	0421 472 773	tim.chan@stgeorghurstville.org.au
Pastoral Care (Cantonese)	Pastor Joyce Leung	0414 602 315	joyce.leung@stgeorghurstville.org.au
Church Executive Pastor & Safe Ministry Representative	Pastor Sunny Yu	0416 170 037	sunny.yu@stgeorghurstville.org.au
Wardens	Mary Law Darren Chan Raymond Kwok	0405 288 232 0414 714 328 0411 333 321	wardens@stgeorghurstville.org.au
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