

Annual Ministry Reports In the Eastwood Parish

Sunday March 15, 2026 at 12:30pm in the
War Memorial Hall, Eastwood Anglican



Senior Minister's Report

Eric Cheung



As I review the 2025 ministry reports, it is evident that God is definitely at work across all our congregations. The updates from our Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, English, and Children's and Youth ministries offer beautiful vignettes that evidence how we are actively living out our strategic vision. For there is much to celebrate in God's goodness in the past year. And importantly, reflecting on the year just gone also influences our planning for the future. By seeing where God has grown us, we can begin discerning where He may be leading us next.

We have been prayerfully working according to our strategic vision:

"We seek to make disciples in Jesus' name everywhere in Eastwood and Ermington (and a little more) so that together we may become mature in Him."

A. Our Strategic Vision in Action

Here is a snapshot of our progress toward our shared strategic vision.

1. "To Make Disciples..."

The heartbeat of our vision is for all people turning to Jesus in faith. This past year, we have seen tremendous fruitfulness in evangelism and the welcoming of new believers, which encourages us to expand these efforts in the coming year.

- **Baptisms and New Christians:** The Mandarin congregation celebrated a joyful harvest with 12 adults and 5 children/youth baptised, alongside 3 youth confirmations. Similarly, the Cantonese congregation celebrated the infant baptism of Elijah, a beautiful reminder of God's covenant grace. Furthermore, we saw 14 youth take ownership of their faith at the Combined Confirmation and Baptism service, including one student who committed their life to Jesus at the KYCK conference earlier in the year. Added to this, amongst the English congregations, there were a number of adults who gave their lives to Jesus.
- **Outreach & Courses:** To facilitate this growth, we have implemented specific structures. The English congregation piloted the 'Hope Explored' course to begin vital conversations about life and Jesus. The Mandarin ministry added an extra 'Foundations of Faith' class to their adult Sunday school to help newcomers systematically understand gospel truths. Additionally, the Ping Pong Social Club continues to expand, bringing more players from our wider community closer to our Cantonese congregation.
- **Welcoming New Members:** God is bringing people to us. The Mandarin congregation saw a 14% increase in attendance. The Cantonese congregation has welcomed new visitors and two young families who are settling in. The Korean congregation, while smaller, has embraced a spirit of inclusion, warmly welcoming Helena, a lived example of mutual care within the body of Christ. This growth is also evident in our youth ministry, Amplify. We saw steady growth throughout the year, averaging 35 youth in Term 4 and peaking at 45 students on our biggest night! It has become a warm, welcoming community where youth are actively inviting their friends to find belonging in God's family.

2. “...In Eastwood and Ermington (and a little more)”

Our vision is to be the light of Christ in our local neighbourhood. In 2025, we renewed our presence in our local community, establishing a strong foundation for future engagement.

- **Public Witness:** A major highlight of 2025 was the joint Christmas carolling event outside Eastwood Mall, where the Mandarin and Korean congregations united to proclaim the gospel in a public space. This successful collaboration attracted many passersby and built valuable community connections.
- **School & Community Engagement:** In Ermington, St Mark’s continues to be a ‘light to the world’ through a positive relationship with Ermington West Public School for SRE classes. Furthermore, our collective Children’s ministry is actively teaching SRE in four local schools, including Eastwood and Rydalmere East.
- **Practical Service:** At Ermington, the redevelopment of the toilet block and equipment shed serves as practical infrastructure to support our growing ministry and physical presence in that suburb. Our younger members are also stepping up to serve; many of our youth from Years 7-12 took on various volunteer roles to run our July holiday kids program, VKP, blessing our local families. And on New Year’s Eve, a number from St Phils served at a BBQ to support police officers as they headed out for duties during the festivities.

3. “...Together We Might Become Mature”

We are not just growing numerically, but also in depth. The ‘maturity’ aspect of our vision is being realised through intentional discipleship and structural changes that foster unity. These steps toward maturity are exactly what will sustain our future ministries.

- **Systematic Discipleship**
 - **Children:** The Children’s Ministry is now operating under the clear mission of seeing children ‘Known, Shown, and Grown’. This includes actively training the next generation of leaders through the ‘Toast’ Sunday afternoon group and taking students to the Youthworks LIT Camp to grow their leadership skills.



- Youth & Young Adults (YA): We are heavily investing in the spiritual maturity of our young people. To kick off 2026, 40 students attended the 'Full On Utopia' summer camp to study 1 Thessalonians and learn about living life in light of eternity. Furthermore, the English congregation is prioritising the vital transition from youth to adulthood. For example, leaders like Micah took hands-on roles to support our large Year 12 cohort in their transition, launching new YA growth groups for 2026. This is evidenced by 18-20 YAs meeting at the Rector's house weekly for bible study, prayer, and to share a meal.
- Adults: The Mandarin ministry continues its three-stage Adult Sunday school program (Exploration, Foundation, Deepening) to equip believers at every stage of their faith journey.
- Growth Groups continue to be the engine room of spiritual growth in our church. Each week, many from St Phils and St Marks meet in homes to pray together, study God's word, and encourage one another, both practically and spiritually. We are so thankful to God for the faithful leadership of and attendance to these groups over the years.
- **Unity and Integration**
 - Aligning our Time: A significant strategic move was the Korean congregation changing its service time to 9:30 am. This alignment with the English and Mandarin-speaking congregations allows families to participate more fully in the wider church life, particularly in the children's ministry.
 - Cross-Congregation Partnership: We are observing increased collaboration, highlighted by the St Mark's parish-wide partnership with St Phil's and our joint carolling efforts between St Phil's congregations. This is further evidenced by the growing number of meals that include multiple congregations.
 - Deepening Fellowship: Across all ministries, there is a push for deeper connection. The English congregation moved their supper location to encourage better mixing and conversation, while the Cantonese congregation is seeing steady growth in prayer meetings and Bible study groups. We are also blessed to see our youth maturing into young adults who are keen to serve their younger brothers and sisters, with several new leaders stepping up to serve at Amplify in 2026.



B. With Gratitude for Our Teams

Whether it is making new disciples, reaching our local neighbourhoods, or growing deeper in maturity, a strategic vision is only words on a page until it is lived out by God's people. The growth, maturity, and community impact we have seen this past year are the beautiful result of countless hours of unseen hard work, prayer, and dedication from our teams. I want to take this opportunity to honour the people who labour so faithfully among us.

It is a privilege to serve alongside our ministry staff. While we have experienced some transitions this past year - farewelling Kian as SPICE relocated closer to the rail and metro lines, Cathy as she took up a new role with Bruce at Castle Hill, Alec in finishing MTS and took a youth minister role, and Sharon as she stepped back to support her husband's health - our team continues to work incredibly hard in service of Christ and this church. Even after only one year, I am deeply encouraged by their pastoral care, competence, and steady commitment to equipping our church family. Their willingness to serve sacrificially, navigating both the joys and challenges of ministry with humility, is a true testament to their love for God's people. I also want to extend my deepest thanks to the families and households of our staff team. They give so much of themselves to our shared life; their patience, support, and unseen contributions make them an invaluable part of our church family.

Beyond our staff, the heartbeat of our church relies on the sacrificial service of so many dedicated individuals. To our Growth Group leaders, Youth and Children's leaders, and the countless volunteers who pour their time and energy into making every ministry run smoothly across the week and on Sundays: thank you. Your faithful dedication to discipling, teaching, and caring for God's people is what allows our church to function as a true spiritual home.

We are deeply grateful to our Parish Council (PC) for their wise guidance and careful management of our church's resources and strategic direction. In particular, we want to acknowledge Yvonne Hall for her dedicated and godly leadership over many years with the PC. Alongside them, our wardens - Lee Beeston, Mike Lum, and Chris Stretton - continue to carry a significant administrative and operational load. They oversee the complex intersection of finances, property, and the many and varied Church needs with unwavering integrity and a clear gospel focus, enabling our ministries to truly thrive.

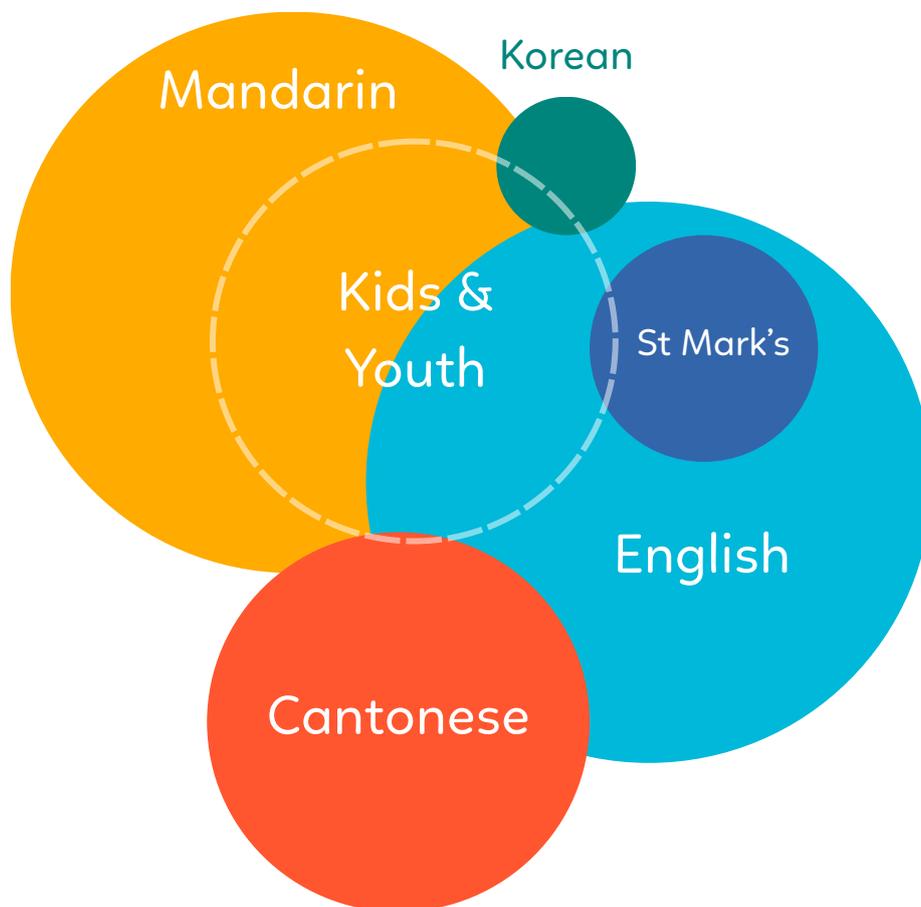
The physical stewardship of our church is essential, and we are fortunate to have a dedicated team that ensures our spaces reflect our commitment to the community. We are grateful for David Mayes' generous expertise (as a retired architect), which has significantly improved our buildings. Additionally, we appreciate the hard work of David Smith, Greg Burke, and the maintenance team. From mowing lawns to essential repairs, they keep our sites functional, safe, and welcoming. Finally, my sincere thanks to Allan Beeston, who expertly manages our property contracts and licenses. His careful stewardship of these agreements and his thoughtful care for our tenants provide both excellent community connection and essential ongoing support for our church.

C. Looking Forward: The Year Ahead

We are stepping into 2026 with incredible momentum. God is using our collective efforts to change lives, expand our reach, and deepen our faith.

Now is not the time to get comfortable. God is already moving in the hearts of our neighbours and the next generation - let's meet them there. With the Lord leading the way, let's step forward with an unwavering focus on our mission: **to make disciples in Jesus' name everywhere in Eastwood and Ermington (and a little more) so that, together, we may become mature in Him.**

A snapshot of our church:



Warden's Report

Lee Beeston, Mike Lum & Chris Stretton

Mike Lum, Chris Stretton, and I have had the privilege of serving as wardens in 2025. We are very thankful to the Lord for the opportunity to serve Him in this way and we thank you for supporting us in all we do.

Wardens meet formally once per month with our Senior Minister, Eric Cheung, once per month with Parish Council and otherwise as needed. We are thankful for Eric's leadership in the past year as he has worked with us, with staff and leaders to achieve further congregational integration and strengthening of children's and youth ministry.

Just to remind you of our role, wardens, with Eric, are responsible for governance. Parish Council, whose members you elect, together with the senior minister and wardens, are the decision-making body that sets policy. The wardens implement decisions and are also responsible for managing financial matters, such as paying ministry and lay staff, paying accounts, managing the budget, and keeping financial records.

Eastwood Parish (St Phil's and St Mark's) are fortunate to have Mike Lum as treasurer and Chris Stretton who work tirelessly to ensure the business responsibilities of the parish is managed well. Please thank and support them.

Staff movements. We were sorry to have Cathy Gravitis conclude her ministry, but we know the Lord will use her invaluable skills in her current parish.

The SPICE congregation, with Kian Holik, moved to St Alban's Anglican Church, Epping, to enable greater accessibility to Indonesian attendees and for Kian to access OMF nearby. Alec Rispin, ministry apprentice, concluded his 12-month appointment. He assisted in researching AI translation and in sourcing first aid needs, such as the Automated External Defibrillator (to be installed when available).

Sharon Badman, office administrator, has resigned and left due to personal circumstances. Wardens can delegate to others to assist in their duties. Teams to keep our sites in beautiful condition are led by David Mayes (upgrading of toilets and construction of a shed at St Marks; planned enclosing of the War Memorial Hall stage and adapting the basement to a usable space) and David Smith (mowing and gardening of both sites). Allan Beeston oversees rental of our spaces to external tenants and to our parishioners. A development application was lodged successfully by Rev Andrew Glover for some tree removal at St Marks.

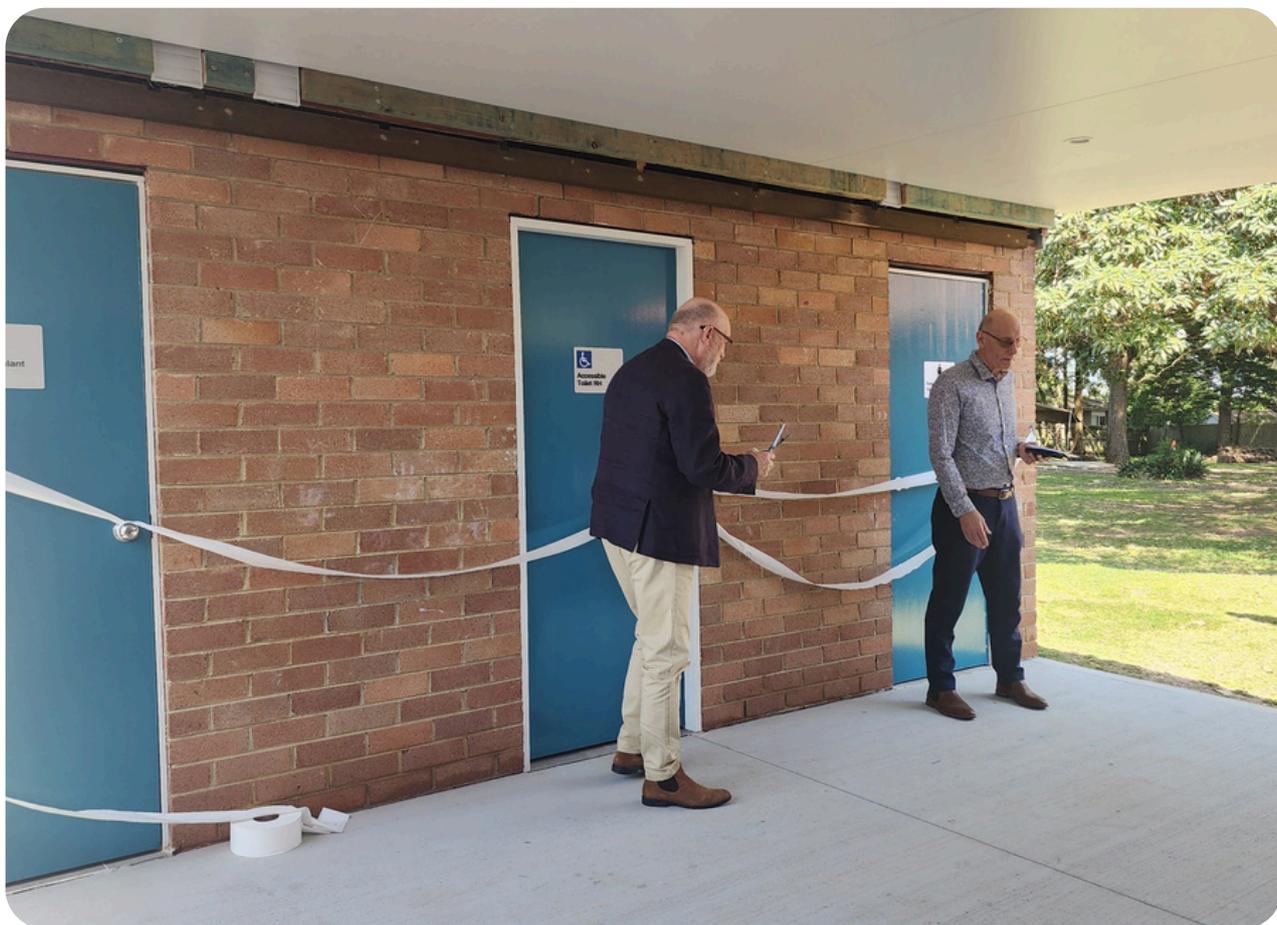
Risk and safety assessment is formally completed annually but the identification of issues arising during the year often comes from parishioners to the wardens who then triage the task or do it themselves. Recording of incidents is processed through Elvanto. Lynda Calder oversees First Aid. Working with Children and Safe Ministry records are kept in the parish by Jason Smith.

Clean-up days held each term at each site have been well attended, thank you! However, clean-up days at St Mark's, where there are fewer and primarily older congregation members, need greater support from the parish.

Thank you to all who give time, resources, financially and personally, to the functioning of our church.

The Diocese requires parish staff, wardens and councillors to have completed accredited Safe Ministry Training. All volunteers are also required to undertake this training if working with children. Please speak to Jason regarding these matters
The wardens are concerned.

Giving is currently 83-85% of the budget. Despite increased attendance, offertory income in 2025 was less than 2024, with 2024 being less than 2023. Thank you for your regular contributions and giving through the annual Thanksgiving Service. Please consider your offertories as a response to God's love and grace. We encourage you to prayerfully consider giving more, giving generously and giving regularly to ensure the budget is met, which enables the paying of staff, the maintenance of properties and the empowering of our mission " To make disciples in Jesus' name everywhere in Eastwood and Ermington, and a little more, so they may grow to maturity in Christ"



Ministry Reports

Children's Ministry



Our mission in Children's Ministry is to see our children growing up to follow Jesus more and more everyday. We believe this happens when children are known by others, shown Jesus and grown in faith. One of the exciting things I get to do with Jo, Suzanna and our volunteer teams is spending time sharing how we have seen children be known, shown and grown, and thanking God for that, as we see the children taking steps to follow Jesus more and more every day.

Here are a few of the known, shown and grown highlights we've seen over the past year.

- In our regular week to week of Children's Ministry, we've seen around 25 children coming to SPARK, including a handful of new contacts for this year, as well as around 60 children coming on Sunday mornings (covering the range from Toddlers – Year 8 in High School)
- Toast was relaunched as a Junior Leaders Study time – so we can make sure our Junior Leaders are being known, shown and grown, as they teach the next generation of leaders.
- We took a group of 20 children in Year 3-6 to Square One in November – where they spent great time getting to know one another and our leaders, but also got to hear excellent teaching about how Jesus is rock solid and how to live a rock solid life as a follower of Jesus
- 60 Children came to Vacation Kids Plus in July (our biggest since before Covid!) – where they got to know their fellow crews and their crew leaders and be shown that no matter what happens in life they can trust Jesus. We also implemented a specific Preschool programme, which was great at helping the little ones settle into this big week!
- Taught SRE in 4 local schools – Eastwood Public School, Ermington West Public School, Rydalmere East Public School and Yates Ave Public School. A big thank you to our SRE Teachers for their commitment to seeing the children in their SRE classes be known, shown and grown. I especially want to acknowledge Clare Stretton and Nuriah Lee, who are finishing up as teachers in 2025. Clare has been teaching for 35 years, and Nuriah has been teaching with us for around 3 years. It's been fantastic having them on our team, and they will be missed!

A few big changes for 2026 coming up:

- Relaunching our two mid-week playgroups on Fridays with It's Music Time!
- Moving our Sunday 9:30 children's programmes to start out of the service in their programme, to give more time for children to be known, shown and grown in our programme.

The way to disciple our children and youth is to make sure they are known, shown and grown, so do be praying that we can do that well in our programmes, we can equip parents to do that with their children at home, and our church can be a place where every child, no matter their age, can be known, shown and grown, so that they grow up to follow Jesus more and more every day.

Jason Smith (Children's Minister), Jo Scott (Assistant Children's and Youth Worker) & Suzanna O'Chee (Assistant Children's Worker)

Ministry Reports

Youth Ministry



In 2025 we saw God working powerfully in our youth ministries here at St Phil's.

At Amplify we had steady growth in our numbers across the year, with an average of 35 youth present every week in Term 4, and on one night we even reached a high of 45 students! Praise God that Amplify has grown into a warm and welcoming community where youth continue to invite their friends and find belonging in God's larger family.

This year we were thankful for Alec and Shawn as they joined the Amplify leadership team just for the year, and for Nomi and Jaedan as they wrapped up their time as youth leaders. Micah also joined in a more hands on role as he supported our large year 12 cohort in their transition into young adulthood.

This past year more and more of our youth grew in their faith and stepped into serving opportunities across the church. We held leadership training at our Sunday afternoon group, Toast, and took a small group of youth to LIT Camp run by Youthworks. Many of our youth from yrs7-12 helped out in various roles at our July holiday kids program, VKP. We also saw 14 youth take ownership over their own faith at our Confirmation and Baptism service in October, one of them having committed their life to Jesus at KYCK earlier in the year.

To kick off 2026 we ran Full On Utopia, our annual summer camp in Springwood. This year 40 students learnt about living life before the end from 1 Thessalonians, with Anna and Josh Hoole as our guest speakers for the week. We welcomed several new leaders on camp, with Georgia and Alex C deciding to continue on as Friday night youth leaders in 2026.

In 2025 we were able to rejoice in the way God continually worked in our youth's hearts, growing them in faithfulness and maturity as the gospel continues to impact their lives. We have been very blessed to see many of our youth becoming young adults who are keen to continue growing and serve their younger brothers and sisters in Christ. We are so grateful for your continued prayers for our leadership team and for the work of the gospel amongst our young people, and we can't wait to see what God does next in 2026.

Jo Scott (Assistant Children's and Youth Worker) and the Youth Leader Team.



Ministry Reports

Cantonese Congregation



As we move into the year 2025, we joyfully celebrate a significant milestone—the 25th anniversary of the Cantonese Service at St. Philip’s. For a quarter of a century, God has faithfully sustained and nurtured our congregation, shaping us into a spiritual family rooted in worship, fellowship, and mission. We give thanks to the Lord for His steadfast love and for every brother and sister who has contributed to this journey.

One of the highlights of this past year was the infant baptism of little Elijah. It was a beautiful reminder of God’s covenant grace and of our shared responsibility as a church family to nurture the next generation in the faith. We rejoice with Elijah’s family and pray that he will grow to know and follow Christ wholeheartedly.

We are also encouraged to see steady growth in our prayer meeting and Bible study groups. More people are gathering weekly to seek God’s presence and study His Word together. As numbers increase, we are praying that God will provide a larger room to accommodate this growth, so that more members can participate comfortably.

We thank God for the new visitors He has brought to us, many of whom have now settled into our congregation. Their presence has strengthened our community and enriched our fellowship.

Since the first day of my ministry at St. Philip’s, I have prayed for God to bring more young families into our Cantonese congregation. God is faithful. Recently, two young families have begun worshipping with us and may be settling down long-term. In light of this development, we are praying for God to provide a simple children’s program to serve current needs, with the potential for future expansion as our congregation grows.

May God continue to guide, strengthen, and use our community for His glory.

Clarence Huin (Assistant Minister - Cantonese)

邁入2025年，我們歡欣慶祝一個重要的里程碑 — 活力聖公會粵語堂成立25週年。四分之一世紀以來，上帝信實地扶持和培養我們的會眾，使我們成為一個紮根於敬拜、團契和宣教的屬靈大家庭。我們感謝主的慈愛，也感謝每一位弟兄姊妹在這段旅程中所做的貢獻。

過去一年中最令人欣喜的事之一是小 Elijah 區俊浩 的嬰兒洗禮。這美好地提醒我們上帝的恩典，以及我們作為教會大家庭共同肩負的責任 — 在信仰中培養下一代。我們與 Elijah 的家人一同歡喜，並祈求他長大後能全心全意地認識和跟隨基督。

我們也很高興看到禱告會和查經小組的人數穩定增長。越來越多的人每週聚集在一起尋求上帝的同在，一同學習祂的話語。隨著人數的增長，我們祈求上帝賜予更大的房間來容納更多會友，使他們能夠舒適地參與教會活動。我們感謝上帝，在過去一年祂帶領了許多新朋友來到我們教會，其中許多人已經融入了我們的大家庭。他們的到來增強了我們教會的凝聚力，豐富了我們的團契生活。

自從我在活力堂開始事奉以來，我一直祈求上帝帶領更多年輕家庭加入我們的粵語堂。上帝是信實的。最近，有兩個年輕家庭開始與我們一同敬拜，他們或許會長期留下來。有鑑於此，我們祈求上帝賜給我們一個簡單的兒童事工，以滿足目前的需要，並隨著教會的增長，為未來的發展做好準備。願上帝繼續引導、堅固並使用我們的教會，榮耀祂的名。阿門。

Ministry Reports

Mandarin Congregations



As we reflect on 2025, we give thanks to God for His continued faithfulness and gracious leading in the Mandarin Ministry. Over the past year, we have witnessed steady growth not only in numbers but also in spiritual maturity, fellowship, and servant-hearted commitment among our congregation. We praise the Lord for the many ways He has strengthened and expanded this ministry.

Sunday Services and Attendance

The Mandarin Ministry has maintained stable attendance throughout the year, with our Sunday services consistently welcoming over 140 people. This steady participation reflects God's sustaining grace and the warm, supportive community that our members continue to cultivate.

We rejoice to see brothers and sisters growing in their faith and commitment to Christ through regular worship and fellowship.

Adult Sunday School

Our Adult Sunday School ministry has continued to grow and expand this year. The three-stage program—Faith Exploration, Faith Foundation, and Faith Deepening—remains the backbone of our teaching structure, providing systematic and practical biblical education for believers at different stages of their spiritual journey.

In response to the increasing number of participants, we added another Faith Foundation class this year to better accommodate new believers and seekers. This additional class has allowed us to provide more personal care, smaller group interaction, and more effective teaching.

In the 5 PM service, the 30-minute small group discussion at the end of each service continues to be a meaningful time for Bible study and fellowship. We are thankful that nearly everyone stays to participate, showing a deep desire to engage with God's Word together. We also run Alpha Course after the service every Sunday night for young couples.

Growth Group Ministry

This year, we intentionally sought to strengthen our discipleship and pastoral care through the establishment of more Growth Groups. By God's grace, two new groups were formed and are now running well. These groups provide members with opportunities for deeper relationships, mutual support, and closer study of Scripture in a more personal setting.

We are encouraged by the positive response and spiritual fruit we have seen. God willing, we hope to continue building more Growth Groups in the coming year so that more brothers and sisters may be connected, cared for, and equipped for service.

Thursday Morning Joy Fellowship: Primarily serving seniors, this group maintains an attendance of around 30 members and provides a warm environment for worship, learning, and companionship.

Looking Ahead to 2026

As we move forward into 2026, we prayerfully set forth the following goals:

- Further develop the Adult Sunday School and Growth Group ministries to provide deeper and more structured discipleship.
- Raise up and equip more leaders to share in teaching, pastoral care, and ministry responsibilities.
- Continue expanding the Mandarin Ministry's outreach, spreading the gospel to Eastwood, Ermington, and beyond.

May the Lord continue to guide us and use this ministry for His glory.

Christine Yang (Assistant Minister - Mandarin)

2025年国语事工报告

回顾2025年，我们满怀感恩，感谢上帝在国语事工中持续的信实与恩手带领。过去一年里，我们不仅在人数上稳步增长，更在属灵生命、团契关系，以及弟兄姐妹甘心服侍的心志上不断成熟。我们为神在事工中的扩展与建立献上赞美与感谢。

• 主日崇拜与出席情况

国语事工在这一年继续保持稳定的出席率，每周主日崇拜平均有140多人参加。这充分体现了上帝持续的保守与供应，也见证了弟兄姐妹同心建立一个温暖、彼此扶持、充满主爱的属灵群体。我们欣喜地看到弟兄姐妹透过稳定的敬拜与团契，在信仰上不断成长，更加委身跟随基督。

• 成人主日学

今年，成人主日学事工持续成长并进一步扩展。三阶段课程——「信仰探索」、「信仰根基」和「信仰进深」——仍然是我们系统化教学的核心架构，为不同属灵阶段的信徒提供扎实而实用的圣经装备。

因着参与人数的增加，我们今年特别新增了一个「信仰根基班」，以更好地接待慕道友和初信者。这一新增班级使我们能够提供更细致的关怀、更小规模的互动，以及更有效的教学。

在下午5点崇拜中，聚会结束后的30分钟小组讨论，继续成为宝贵的查经与团契时间。几乎所有会众都会留下参与，展现出大家渴慕更深入学习神话语的心。此外，我们每周日晚崇拜后也开设Alpha Course，特别为年轻夫妇提供一个轻松开放的平台，一同认识基督信仰并建立关系。

• 成长小组 (Growth Group) 事工

今年，我们有意地加强门徒训练与牧养关怀，积极推动更多成长小组的建立。感谢主的恩典，今年新成立了两个成长小组，并且运作良好。

这些小组为弟兄姐妹提供了更深入的关系连结、彼此扶持的机会，以及在更亲密环境中学习圣经、共同成长的平台。

我们为所看到的积极回应和属灵果效深感鼓舞。若主许可，我们盼望在未来一年继续发展更多成长小组，使更多弟兄姐妹得到关怀、连结与装备，一同参与服侍。

周四喜乐团契：主要服侍年长者，目前约有30位成员，提供温馨的敬拜、学习与团契环境。

展望2026年

进入2026年，我们在祷告中立下以下目标：

1. 进一步发展成人主日学及成长小组事工，提供更深入且系统化的门徒训练。
2. 培养并装备更多领袖，参与教学、牧养与各项事工服侍。
3. 持续拓展国语事工的福音外展，将福音传扬至 Eastwood、Ermington 及更远的社区。

愿主继续带领我们，使用国语事工成就祂的旨意，荣耀祂的名。

杨芹

国语堂牧师

Ministry Reports

Mandarin Congregations cont.



By God's faithfulness and grace, the Mandarin ministry continued its steady growth under the Lord's guidance throughout 2025, experiencing abundant blessings in membership, ministry expansion, and spiritual maturity.

Average attendance at Mandarin congregation gatherings continued to grow steadily, average attendance increasing by about 14% compared to the previous year. The increase in children's attendance was particularly notable, reflecting the strong appeal of our children's ministry to families and showing God's work in drawing more young families to our church. We are grateful that new friends continue to join us in Sunday services and are gradually integrating into the church community.

In 2025, the Mandarin congregation joyfully welcomed 12 adults and 5 children/youth who were baptised in Christ's name. Additionally, 3 youth received confirmation, publicly affirming their faith and commitment, which greatly encouraged the entire congregation.

To support growing attendance and new believers, we added an extra "Foundations of Faith" class in adult Sunday school. This helps newcomers systematically understand gospel truths and root themselves in God's Word. Our three-stage Adult Sunday school program also continued equipping brothers and sisters at various levels. In 2025, two new family groups have been launched. Meanwhile, various fellowships and small groups are helping brothers and sisters grow together through Bible studies, prayer, and mutual support.

A key highlight was the joint Christmas caroling event with the Korean congregation outside Eastwood Mall. United in purpose, we proclaimed the gospel through song in a public space, attracting many passersby and building community connections. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and we look forward to continuing to bring the gospel to broader communities through similar efforts in the new year.

While thanking God for His blessings, we recognise ongoing challenges. We must disciple our growing number of new believers—helping them move from knowing the faith to living it out, and deepening their intimate relationship with God. Family ministry also needs attention, with more systematic teaching and pastoral care for marriages and parenting.

In the coming year, we aim to develop family-focused ministries and collaborate closely with the church's children's and youth ministry teams to help families live out the gospel in daily life and build Christ-centered households.

Looking ahead to the new year, our prayer is: May the Lord continue to guide the Mandarin ministries toward healthy growth and steady development. May He equip us in truth and love, raise up more faithful servants, and unite us to advance the gospel for Christ's glory.

All glory and praise be to the Triune God!

Lane Sun (Assistant Minister - Mandarin)

年国语堂事工年度报告

感谢神的信实与恩典，2025 年国语堂在主的带领下持续稳健成长，在人数、事工拓展以及属灵建造上都经历了神丰富的祝福。

在主日崇拜方面，国语堂聚会人数继续保持稳定增长，全年平均出席人数较上一年度增长约 14%，其中儿童人数的增加尤为明显。这不仅反映了教会儿童事工对家庭的吸引力，也显明神正在将更多年轻家庭带到我们当中。我们感恩在主日崇拜中，持续有新朋友加入，逐步稳定融入教会。

2025 年国语堂共有 12 位成人、5 位儿童及青少年接受洗礼，归入基督的名下；并有 3 位青少年接受坚信礼，在众人面前确认其对信仰的回应与委身。这带给全体会众极大的鼓励。

随着聚会人数的增长以及初信弟兄姐妹的增多，成人主日学的「信仰根基班」根据需要增设了一班，帮助初信者系统地认识福音真理，在神的话语上扎根。同时，三个阶段的主日学继续在不同层面装备弟兄姐妹。国语堂新成立了两个家庭小组，同时各团契和小组透过主题学习、查经、祷告与彼此扶持，帮助弟兄姐妹在团契中一同成长。

在外展事工方面，2025 年一大亮点是国语堂与韩文堂联合前往 Eastwood 步行街举行圣诞颂歌报佳音活动。两堂同心合一地服事，在公共空间中用诗歌宣扬福音，吸引了许多路人驻足欣赏，并与社区建立了美好的联结。活动后的反馈十分正面，我们也期待在新的一年里能继续借着类似的方式，将福音带到更广阔的社区中。

在感恩神祝福的同时，我们也清楚看见前方的挑战。一方面，是如何帮助大量初信弟兄姐妹在神的话语中扎根成长，从“认识信仰”到“活出信仰”，并与神建立活泼、亲密的关系。另一方面，是家庭事工的需要。无论在婚姻、家庭或亲子关系上，都需要更系统、更有针对性的教导与牧养。期望在新的一年里，透过发展家庭事工，并与教会儿童及青少年事工团队紧密合作，帮助家庭在生活中活出福音，建立以基督为中心的家庭。

展望新的一年，我们的祷告是：求主继续带领国语堂的事工健康成长、稳步发展，在真理与爱中装备信徒，兴起更多忠心事奉主的同工，同心合意兴旺福音，见证基督的荣耀。

愿一切荣耀、颂赞都归给三一真神！

孙雷雷

国语堂牧者



Ministry Reports

Korean Congregation



This report outlines the activities and developments of the Korean Worship Community over the past year.

Over the reporting period, the Korean Worship Community has continued its ministry as a small but committed congregation, gathering weekly to worship God and to grow through His Word.

From late 2025, the worship service time was changed to 9:30 a.m. on Sundays, marking a new season for the community. Aligning the service time with the English and Mandarin congregations has enabled families to participate more fully in the life of the church, particularly through children attending the children's ministry. This change has presented both challenges and opportunities and has encouraged greater integration with the wider church community.

The revised service time has also prompted more intentional engagement with the local Korean community. While growth has been steady rather than rapid, this season is understood as a period of preparation, with trust that God is at work beyond what is immediately visible.

During this period, the community has also welcomed Helena (Shin Soo-ju), who attends worship with her carer. Helena was born with a congenital intellectual disability. Although communication can be challenging, she participates in worship and small group fellowship. Her presence has strengthened the community's understanding of inclusion, shared worship, and mutual care as the body of Christ.

Looking ahead, the Korean Worship Community continues to prioritise the spiritual growth of those currently gathered, the stable establishment of the ministry following the service time change, and the cultivation of a welcoming and caring worship environment for all. The community remains grateful for the prayers and encouragement of the wider church as it moves forward together.

Joe Hong (Associate Pastor - Korean)

한국어 예배 보고서

한 해 동안 한국어 예배 공동체 가운데 부어주신 하나님의 은혜와 인도하심에 감사드립니다. 저희는 여전히 소수의 인원이 모이는 작은 공동체이지만, 주일마다 말씀과 예배 가운데 하나님께 나아가며 공동체를 세워가고 있습니다.

2025년 장년 4분기부터 한국어 예배는 주일 오전 9시 30분으로 예배 시간을 변경하여 드리고 있습니다. 이 변화는 우리 공동체에 새로운 기회와 도전을 동시에 가져왔습니다. 영어예배와 만다린 예배 공동체와 같은 시간대에 예배를 드리게 되면서, 자녀들이 아동부에 함께 참여할 수 있는 환경이 마련되었고, 이는 가정과 공동체가 함께 신앙 안에서 연결되는 중요한 계기가 되었습니다. 또한 변경된 예배 시간을 계기로 교회 전체 공동체와의 연대가 더욱 자연스러워졌으며, 지역한인 커뮤니티를 향해 한국어 예배를 알리기 위한 다양한 시도들을 이어가고 있습니다. 아직은 작은 걸음이지만, 이 과정을 통해 하나님께서 우리 공동체를 어떻게 사용하실지 기대하며 순종의 길을 걷고 있습니다.

몇 달 전부터는 새로운 지체가 한국어 예배 공동체에 함께하고 있습니다. 신수주(Helena) 자매는 선천적인 두뇌 장애를 가지고 태어났으며, 현재는 케어러와 함께 예배에 참석하고 있습니다. 의사소통에 어려움이 있지만, 우리는 한 마음으로 함께 예배드리고 예배 후 소그룹 모임을 통해 교제하며 공동체를 이루고 있습니다. 이 만남을 통해 우리 공동체는 연약함 가운데서도 역사하시는 하나님의 은혜와, 함께 예배하는 공동체의 의미를 다시 배우고 있습니다.

이러한 여정 속에서 한국어 예배 공동체는 지금 함께 모인 지체들이 하나님 안에서 더욱 깊이 뿌리 내리며 영적으로 성숙해 가기를 기도하고 있습니다. 또한 변경된 예배 시간을 통해 공동체가 안정적으로 세워지고, 하나님께서 예비하신 성장을 경험하게 되기를 소망합니다. 더불어 함께 예배하는 Helena 자매를 위해 하나님의 평안과 보호하심이 늘 함께하며, 공동체가 사랑과 지혜로 동행할 수 있기를 기도합니다.

앞으로도 한국어 예배 공동체는 하나님의 때와 계획을 신뢰하며, 예수그리스도의 복음을 사모하는 이들을 향한 하나님의 통로로 사용되기를 기대합니다. 계속해서 한국어 예배 공동체를 위한 중보기도를 부탁드립니다.



Ministry Reports

English Congregations at St Phil's



Throughout 2025, the English congregations at St Phil's have had many changes. Eric began in March, Jo officially took over youth, Cathy moved on to ministry at St Paul's, and a number of ministries have begun to shift emphasis towards prioritising discipleship in a focused way.

Earlier in the year, we held a Hope Explored course as a pilot for running regular evangelistic courses going forward. The Hope Explored course proved to be valuable for beginning conversations about what is important in life, and how Jesus can answer many of the deepest needs and questions we all have. There were a few elements of the course identified as needing minor modifications, and at the same time a number of other courses are now being considered as possible alternatives, but this first attempt has given a significant amount of direction and clarity as we work towards more regular evangelism at Church and in our local area.

At Night Church we moved supper from the CMC to the back of the church. This has had a marked impact on the sense of community after the service, decreasing the disconnect between the service and continued fellowship, and allowing for more natural conversation to continue without needing to move. This has also benefited weekly follow-up and pastoral conversations since the congregation is no longer spread across two buildings with those who want supper and those who want to stay and chat.

Toward the second half of 2025, we began to focus more on pastoring the graduating year 12s as they moved from youth to young adulthood at the end of the year. In preparation for this, two new YA growth groups began to be planned and implemented for 2026. I also attended Amplify on Friday nights over 2025 to get to know the grads a little better so they might have a greater sense of continuity as they transition to the growth groups for 2026. It is still early days, but we believe this will be invaluable in continuing to disciple the young adults at St Phil's, so they might have a healthy and supportive community of their own, and that they might grow in love and faith together into the future.

Throughout 2025, there have been a number of adults and youth who have decided to give their lives to Jesus. We praise God for having the privilege of watching Him who alone works in hearts by His Spirit and through His word to change lives.

On behalf of the English congregations at St Phil's, thank you for all your prayers and support in the Lord Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Micah Beel (Assistant Minister)

Ministry Reports

Congregations at St Mark's



2025 / 2026 has, as always, been a year of continued change, challenge, adaptation and things to be thankful for! Thank you for your support and prayers!

St. Mark's continues to consolidate and has seen a small growth in attendance and signs of potential growth along with a greater sense of members' involvement in ministry. I also sense that awareness of our presence in our community is increasing.

We are profoundly thankful for decades of faithful service by our congregations, for some new members who have joined us and for the parish-wide partnership with St. Phil's in ministry.

This year has seen significant initiatives, including the redevelopment of the toilet block and new equipment shed, a growing children's programme ('Kid's Vibes') including ministry to people with disabilities, a new one-day Kid's Christmas Party event (similar to VKP) and Christmas letter box drop.

As we seek to be a 'light to the world' in Ermington we've also continued 'T3' each month, Christmas carols and a very positive relationship with Ermington West Public School for our SRE classes.

Thanks also to the wonderful team of builders who constructed the new toilets and equipment shed as well as the ongoing mowing and grounds care team – well done everyone.

Early this year we also farewelled Sharon & Chris Badman as they moved on to a new adventure. Thank you, Sharon, for your wonderful, generous, cheery and efficient ministry as our office administrator and both of you for practical, musical and spiritual ministries at St. Mark's

Finally, please pray for

- New families and retention of current families
- Effective outreach and letterbox dropping especially for Easter
- Faithful, enthusiastic and joyful partnership in ministry
- Outward focus and connection with community

Thank you!

Grace and Peace,

Andrew Glover (Senior Assistant Minister)

Synod Report

Representatives - Eric Cheung, Jenny Pullen, Chris Stretton

The third session of the 52nd Synod met in the Wesley Theatre on 15, 16, 17, 22 and 23 September 2025. The Synod made 59 resolutions, passed four ordinances, and filled 44 positions on boards, councils and committees.

Synod's key decisions

A key focus of the Synod this year was attendance, mission, and youth in the Diocese.

Resolution 13/25: -

1. Gave thanks to God for the recent "partial post-covid recovery" in church attendance.
2. Invited all parts of the Diocesan fellowship to join in a special five-year focus to prayerfully seek to grow our attendance in churches by five percent for each of the next five years through conversion of the lost through faith in Jesus,
3. Encouraged all parishes to shape their allocation of resources during the special five-year focus with clear regard to the insight that 24.1% of the population are children and young people and 78% of Sydney Anglicans became Christians before the age of 18, and 31% of the population were born overseas, calling us to equip ministry with children, youth, and their families in culturally responsive and cross-cultural ways.

Further to the Synod's consideration at its session in 2024 of the use of Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) and the like in the Diocese, the Synod apologised to those who have been subject to certain confidentiality agreements in the past, which we do not now consider acceptable. By resolution 15/25, the Synod also affirmed its encouragement to all churches and organisations in our Diocese to pursue a future in which confidentiality agreements are used only in principled and godly ways, for the good of all and for the honour of Christ. Parishes are encouraged to consider adopting a policy or pledge in relation to the use of NDAs.

By resolution 39/25, the Synod acknowledged a report from Anglicare Sydney on the Newmarch House 2020 Covid-19 outbreak and the CEO's apology for the tragic loss of life and the distress experienced by residents, their families, and friends.

Mission Hour

Bishop Malcolm Richards led Mission Hour. The presentation included a focus on ministry partnerships with the Anglican Church of Chile, the Diocese of Lango in

Uganda, the Diocese of Victoria Nyanza in Tanzania, the Anglican Province in Egypt, and ministry in Burundi and Madagascar.

Actions for parishes

The Synod passed a number of resolutions that included calls to action from parishes. Here is a list of important resolutions:

- Relational distress in the ministry workplace
- Supporting victim survivors of domestic abuse
- Reflections upon the response of the Standing Committee and the Diocesan senior leadership into the Covid-19 pandemic
- A special five-year focus – Attendance, Mission and Youth

(The full text of the resolutions can be found on the Sydney Anglicans website under Diocese, or speak to our Synod reps.)

The events of the 2025 Synod were covered in the November-December 2025 issue of “Southern Cross” magazine and on the Sydney Anglicans website under the diocese tab. You are encouraged to regularly check the Sydney Anglicans website and to have a read of Southern Cross magazine if you are interested in what is happening in our diocese and our world, and how the church is responding.

Refresh Women’s Conference

Karen Moore

The conference was held on the morning of 27th September 2025. Our speaker was Rev Kate Snell, who spoke on the theme of More than Enough. Kate is the assistant Chaplain at Barker College and lectures at Mary Andrews College in Ethics and Theology.

Kate talked on John chapter 6, where Jesus both walks on water and feeds the 5,000. Jesus shows us that he can meet the smallest of needs and will walk with us through the darkest of times. Kate’s talk was engaging, thought provoking and appreciated by the attendees. Opportunities for questions after each talk and a Q&A panel, with thoughtful and wise responses from our speaker Kate, as well as Cathy, and Pat.

Attended by 59 women consisting of 45 from our parish, with nearly every congregation represented, as well as 14 from other churches around Sydney. Many opportunities to spend time with each other before the conference, at morning tea, and at the end.

The next conference will be on Sat 6/7/2026.

With thanks to the refresh committee : Cathy Gravitis, Abigail Smith, Karen Moore, Dianne Hockridge, Stella Clugston and Naomi Reichardt. Craft subcommittee: Bronwyn Lum, Linda Lung. Contributions from many others helping with music, coffee cart, bookstall. Q&A.

Property Report

David Mayes & Dave Smith

Property Development work in 2025 continued with the main focus on St Marks at Ermington as most of the work at Eastwood including the Rectory renovations were completed in 2024.

Work completed during the past year included:

St Philips Eastwood

- Minor building maintenance work continued at St Philips in 2025 to keep our various buildings and grounds in top order and planning began for a few other small projects for the future.

St Marks Ermington

- Following a lot of planning in 2024-5 we finally commenced construction of the storage shed and new toilets in July 2025. This project included a new disabled toilet and a complete refurbishment of the existing male & female toilets. The new storage shed behind the toilets provided a much needed space for the mower and garden equipment.
- The project was constructed mostly by our dedicated team of volunteers including Andrew Glover who turned up every Monday morning for many months until the job was completed.
- About 350 volunteer man hours were required to complete the project. With God's guidance and providence the work was safely completed within the limited allocated funds which were almost entirely met by generous donations from parishioners.
- Our Bishop, Chris Edwards officially opened the new toilets last October.

The Church Grounds

Parishioners and others often comment on the quality and appearance of our church grounds and landscaping. This doesn't happen by chance and is largely due to the initiative, dedication and commitment of Dave Smith and his team of volunteer assistants. We once again thank Dave for his work and God's provision of favourable weather to make the grass grow and trees and plants mature and we see the results each week in the presentation of our grounds to the community as they walk past. Dave's summary of the ground maintenance work for 2025 follows.

St Philips

The grounds at Eastwood have been maintained on a regular basis by the "Mowing Team" of 10 people during 2025. The lawns and gardens are in very good shape. There is always more work to do on our site though.

St Mark's

The Mowing Team have continued to work during 2025 on the upkeep and improvement of the grounds at St Mark's.

The trees/shrubs planted along the Western fence line have taken well and growing nicely and add to the appeal of the grounds around the children's play equipment. There is still extra work required to remove rubbish and debris from the property. The area around the BBQ, at the rear of the property, still needs to be fully cleared of unwanted debris to make it more tidy and presentable.

Overall the property has had some improvements during 2025. The main feature, for the mowing team, has been the building of a new Garden Shed. This has been a great improvement for the storage of mowers and other garden equipment. A big thank you is extended to all the volunteers who put this together, with the help and guidance of David Mayes.

Following a Development Application to Council prepared by Lynda Calder, we now have approval to remove dead or unwanted trees adjacent to the rectory at St Marks. This work should be carried out soon. The Mowing/Gardening Team will endeavour to continually improve the outlook/presentation of the St Mark's property.

What's next?

At St Philips we are about to commence construction, with our volunteer team, of an enclosing partition in the War Memorial Hall stage which will convert the stage into a much needed extra meeting space for our church.

Future Major Development

It is also worth recording that the major site development of St Philips which was given planning approval in December 2017 is yet to be completed. About 25% of this project has been completed in the past 8 years including the CMC Refurbishment, New Toilets, Carpark, rainwater detention tank for the whole development, the children's playground and site landscaping, paving and fencing. The remainder of the approved works includes a new auditorium for 350 people with large reception area, new church offices, new crèche, 5 meeting rooms, new kitchen and more toilets. We pray for God's guidance in considering how this might be achieved in the future.

Financing

The great news for which we are very thankful is that all of the work completed in 2025 was fully funded through generous donations from parishioners which leaves us in a good position to undertake further improvements.

We are so very thankful for God's provision of the many young and old energetic volunteer helpers who contributed their time and talent throughout the year at Working Bees and at other times. We encourage all volunteers to continue this vital work throughout 2026.

