



21/22

ANNUAL REPORT

Vicar's Report

I've never been keen on long-distance running. It's the inevitable discomfort and pain that happens. Exhaustion arrives. It feels like you're running in sand, carrying a gorilla on your back. A voice keeps telling you, "Stop running. Just walk for a little while". Sure, you can get through that rough patch and experience that brief "runner's high", but then the gorilla jumps back on.

Does this sound like the last year in Hong Kong?

We welcomed that "runner's high"; those nine months when the COVID burden seemed less heavy. We got to have church and other ministries in-person. New people came to church and got connected, people got baptized, and we were able to celebrate Christmas at church together.

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God uses his people to proclaim his gospel to a city that so desperately needs to hear it.

But then the COVID gorilla jumped on our back again. Church, along with school and work, went back online. For many of us, there's also the extra weight of prolonged separation from family and friends, or saying goodbyes as they emigrate, or the loss of our loved ones; there's also the loss of income or employment, the anxiety over infection and quarantine, and the uncertainty over the city's future.

Building any community is tough when we're distanced. This is no different for Christian community. Since COVID began, we've had over 60 weeks of online church. We're thankful that we can stay connected to one another online (a big "thank you" to those who made this possible), but it's not the same. It's harder to care for one another, harder to serve, harder to have deep relationships. We're better together.

Despite the difficulties, as I reflect on the last year at St Andrew's, I can't help but feel grateful. I'm so encouraged by the perseverance of our community and the many who meet to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (*Heb. 10:24*). There have been so many examples of sacrificial care and practical love; of people striving for faithful obedience and joyful

contentment in God, despite the difficulties of their circumstances. And God continues to provide for St Andrew's through the financial generosity of his people. I'm constantly reminded that God sustains and builds his church.

I'm also reminded of the vital witness of God's people in our city. The last three years have certainly changed the social and economic well-being of Hong Kong, but a virus doesn't change the human condition. COVID has challenged our plans and shaken people's confidence, but it's also prompted many to question their assumptions about life. God uses his people to proclaim his gospel to a city that so desperately needs to hear it.

St Andrew's has been in Hong Kong for over 115 years. In good and bad times, our vision and purpose remain the same: 'We are a community devoted to Jesus Christ, who share his gospel, calling on people to follow him, and seek the flourishing of Hong Kong.' Over the coming year, we ask all those who call St Andrew's their spiritual home in Hong Kong to prayerfully and faithfully commit themselves to this vision; to use what God has given each of us for his purposes.

Running a race can be difficult, but as we're reminded, *"let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race*

marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith" (Heb. 12:1-2).

In closing, I want to thank the church staff and Council for their faithful perseverance in the last year and all of you who have worked for the cause of the gospel through St Andrew's.

Rev. Alex McCoy

Vicar



Discipleship

Being a Christian means being a part of God's family, where our faith is lived out together. Over the last year, St Andrew's has coordinated groups, programs, and events to help encourage Christ-focussed relationships and spiritual growth.

Growth groups

It's often said that Growth Groups are like the engine behind the scenes at church. Although Sundays are our most important meetings, smaller groups allow members to develop deeper friendships, enabling pastoral care and practical support for each other. For much of last year, groups have met online, but this has not stopped new members from joining and new groups being planted. We now have over forty groups in seven clusters, including Home4U and Oxygen, plus Wednesday, Family, Home, Women's and Men's groups.

Oxygen

Oxygen, our young adults and university students ministry, has 11 groups that meet on Thursday evenings. In recent years, Oxygen has evolved to have a stronger emphasis on Bible handling and leadership skills. There are monthly leaders' training meetings and regular seminars, plus a day away on Lantau to think about work and

rest. Last year, Oxygen groups did a Bible overview, studying the overarching story of the Bible by focusing on key passages. It's helped strengthen their Biblical theology and deepened their wonder at God's kindness to keep his promises despite our sinfulness.

Women's Groups

Seven groups continue to thrive and encourage each other. Plus the Women's Ministry hosted two large events last year. First, a social gathering that welcomed a variety of SAC women to fellowship and learn together. Second, a Women's Conference which successfully brought together over 170 ladies to enjoy teaching, testimonies, worship, and prayer. It was an uplifting time for many who were weary and discouraged.

Home4U

A community of migrant domestic workers, Home4U is a safe, welcoming space to enjoy friendship and spiritual support – a home away from home. They meet on Sundays to study the Bible, and on public holidays for training and social events. Many domestic workers encountered difficulties over the last year, such as not being able to go out on their days off and worrying about

their families back home. Home4U played a vital role in providing prayer, pastoral care, and practical support during this time. Highlights last year include a Christmas lunch with some asylum seekers, and an evangelistic outreach where they handed out tracts.

Courses and Programs

One of the most important is our monthly Partnership course, designed to welcome people and integrate them into church life. Last year, 133 people attended Partnership. Afterwards, many joined a Growth Group, attended Christianity Explored or participated in Habits for Christian Growth. We also have our Ministry Apprentice Program (MAP), a training program that we run together with Ambassador Church, Shatin Church and Resurrection Church. Each Wednesday, the trainees meet for three hours to learn about teaching the Bible, doctrine and pastoral topics. It's one way we seek to raise up the next generation of Christian workers.

Revd. Al Gibbs

Associate Minister



Outreach

We want everyone in Hong Kong to know what a wonderful Saviour we have in Jesus Christ! That's why in everything we do, we seek to promote Jesus. Amidst these challenging times, we have found tremendous opportunities to share the hope and demonstrate the love of Christ. Some highlights that we give thanks for:

Evangelism

Christianity Explored continues to be the backbone of our outreach. Thankfully, we were able to run it twice in person this year, with fifty-one participants. We also launched a new course, Hope Explored, which proved very popular.

Whilst we gather as God's people on Sundays, during the week we scatter to our workplaces, homes, and networks to proclaim Jesus. All of us are called to share our faith with others. We continue to equip our people for personal evangelism, by providing training courses. At Easter and Christmas, we also had excellent opportunities for street evangelism.

We are delighted to continue our ministry at Diocesan Girls School and Diocesan Junior Girls School, through weekly talks at their assemblies and by leading a student

retreat. It's such a privilege to partner with the schools in sowing seeds for the gospel.

Mission

The Missions Committee continues to cooperate with our mission partner organisations. Recently, we welcomed International China Concern (ICC) as a new mission partner. ICC cares for special needs children in mainland China through running orphanages and supporting families.

The last two years have understandably been difficult for many of our mission partners. They've shouldered a heavier load in caring for the vulnerable, poor, homeless, and those on the margins of society. We feel privileged in using what God has given us to partner with these organisations through prayer, financial support, and volunteering. For more information on getting personally involved, please see our church website.

Rev. Darren Pollock

Associate Minister (Evangelism & Mission)



Children's Ministry

God has created children to be intrinsically curious about the world, themselves, and God. In Children's Ministry, we partner with parents to teach children about God's ways, his nature and character, and that he is their creator and loving heavenly Father who invites them to have a relationship with him.

After eighteen months of online Sunday lessons, we were delighted to run two Summer Camps. We partnered with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) to run a three-day camp for our Kidzone children, aged 9-10, and Junior Youth, 11-13 years old. They were challenged to find their identity in Christ, celebrating their gifts and talents. They also learned that God has a purpose and plan for their lives.

For children 3 to 8 years old, our fun-filled 3-day camp was themed "Knights on a Quest". With the help of an ice-breathing puppet dragon, the children learned about putting on the armour of God.

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Events like these, when the whole church community comes together, show God's heart.

In autumn, we started in-person Sunday School again and our Friendship Garden Playgroup during the week. Our regular volunteer training recommenced, and we all came to appreciate just what a privilege it is to meet in person. There was a profound sense of gratitude and deeper connections whenever we gather. We were also able to support our parents by running two seminars focused on supporting children. First, helping our children cope with grief and loss. Second, "The Five Love Languages of Children" teaches ways to show children that they are loved.

One highlight was kicking off the Christmas season by singing carols by campfires in the car park and making Christmas ornaments to decorate our outdoor Christmas trees. Young and old attended. Events like these, when the whole church community comes together, show God's heart. He has a big heart that includes all, not just adults but children too!

Carol Strydom
Director of Children's Ministry



Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry is an opportunity for secondary school-aged youth to engage with the gospel, investigate faith, and discuss important life questions in an environment of fun, friendship, and fellowship.

At ST.AND Youth, we meet almost every Friday evening and Sunday morning.

Whether we are spending time studying the Bible, praying for each other, singing in worship, or playing games together, it is all for the purpose of growing and maturing as children of God in a community of God.

The past year was spent around 50% in-person and 50% online. Despite the difficulties that brought, we have been able to have some great times together. From our super enjoyable social at Ryze (trampoline park!) to our Christmas party right before things went online, we were able to help build community within our group! We've also been able to learn a lot from God's word, making our way through a series of different books of the Bible, from Daniel to Mark to Philippians and more.

As we transitioned into online ministry over the new year, we have been super thankful for the youth who consistently attended,

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thankful to God for our amazing volunteer leaders who are constantly figuring out new ways to engage with the youth that lead and point them to Christ.

week after week, despite the amount of Zoom meetings they faced daily. It has been great to see community maintained during this time. We are looking forward to providing greater space for that sense of community to grow as we return to in-person ministry.

We are also very thankful to God for our amazing volunteer leaders who are constantly figuring out new ways to engage with the youth, leading and pointing them to Christ. Partnering with them for the gospel has been a great joy! It has been clear the work that God has been doing in and through them.

Ian Millar

Director of Youth Ministry

Elderly Ministry

Elderly Ministry is specifically aimed at proclaiming Jesus and building faith in our elderly and non-English speaking parents. We praise the Lord for a fruitful year. Despite many challenges from the pandemic, we see God's abundant love, mercy, and grace.

Silverzone

We hosted two Alpha courses in Cantonese. We're thankful that five people were baptized last year, with one person going to be with the Lord shortly afterwards. God opened the door for us to share the gospel with a church member's elderly parent. He accepted Jesus and passed away 5 days later! The families were greatly comforted by God's grace.

Silverzone continues to grow in number and maturity. Twenty-four members attend regularly. Most of them have been baptized. In the past year, our studies included, "The Teaching of Jesus", "The Life of Jesus" and "Wisdom of Life". Highlights included two baptism services, a Father's Day lunch, an outing to Stanley, visiting Wetland & Eco parks together, packing gifts for a Christmas outreach, and a Christmas nativity play. It's wonderful to see members grow in relationship with God and each other!

Their eagerness to come on Sundays is a great encouragement to the team.

Thank God for providing volunteers to serve in this growing ministry. A special thanks to the very passionate and dedicated Silverzone leaders!

Elderly Home Visits

We continue the partnership with Lok Man Alice Kwok Integrated Service Centre to visit elderly people living in To Kwa Wan. Although home visits have been challenging, we continued these until the 5th wave of infections. Volunteers then regularly called the elderly residents by phone to extend our care, check on their needs, and pray for them.

In response to the needs of deprived elderly, 200 anti-epidemic kits were distributed through the centre. We also sponsored rice boxes to 70 elderly people, a small way to extend our love. If you're interested in reaching out to the poor and vulnerable in HK, please join our team!

Juliana Wong

Pastoral Worker (Elderly Ministry)



Volunteering

God has given us all different gifts - skills, experiences, time, and resources. It has been wonderful to see many people using their gifts to serve one another at St Andrew's and to share the good news of Jesus with the people of Hong Kong.

In 2021, we were very thankful to meet in-person for nine months. It was exciting to celebrate Christmas together and to welcome many guests to hear the gospel of Jesus! And we are so grateful for the 150 welcomeers who serve at our Sunday and special services.

Over this last year, it has been a real joy getting to know our volunteers. A few examples: A young woman, who less than a year ago was new to Hong Kong and our church, is now eagerly serving in our youth ministry. She loves investing in young people. A mother (after attending Sunday services for some time) decided to start volunteering and is now thriving in her role in Kidzone.

Wonderfully, the opportunities to serve extend beyond our doors. One couple finds much joy in serving Nepalese children at a monthly kids' club run by Inner City Ministries (ICM). Another couple is serving children and adults with disabilities at the

Home of Loving Faithfulness, using her skills in Special Education and his gardening skills in the sensory garden. There are so many encouraging examples like these.

During the pandemic, opportunities have shifted. Prison visits have paused, but our prison ministry team continues to write cards and letters to the inmates. Over the last 12 months, we have donated over HK\$13,000 worth of supermarket vouchers and 6500 face masks to people in need through our partner organisations, including ICM and Christian Action Centre for Refugees.

Now we are looking forward to the gradual lifting of restrictions. As our normal and often busy schedules resume, let's resolve to serve God and his people afresh.

Claudia Chan

Volunteers Co-Ordinator

Creative Ministry

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever." (Psalm 136)

Whilst the past year included lots of church online, we're particularly grateful that we gathered in-person for 41 consecutive weeks in 2021, including Christmas. Each time, I was encouraged by the faithfulness of church members and volunteers, despite these challenging times.

Our worship services are meant to bring glory to God and to encourage his people. We want to spur one another onwards in learning and obedience to Jesus. Therefore, our services are characterized by musical worship, confession, prayer, the Lord's Supper, and learning from the Bible. To make all this happen, we rely on many volunteers to use the gifts that God has given them. In this way, together we bring glory to God.

I am so thankful for our production crew who continued to produce high-quality music and online services when we couldn't meet in person. Thank God for bringing Leanne McCaughtry, our Media & Communications Manager, as well as our videographer, Jason Cancel, and sound mixer, Frances Liu. Through their hard work,

we produced thirteen music videos for online services.

One of my roles is to train our musicians. Recently, I was delighted to lead online music training for our Putonghua church musicians. I am reminded of our ministry vision when Paul said, *'Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ'* (Eph. 4:11-13).

Indeed, God calls us into a lifetime of service, not only within church but also at our homes and workplaces. So, I pray that Jesus continues to mould us into his likeness, pointing people to him through the gospel we sing, the Bible we read, and the prayers we offer.

June Lee

Creative Ministries Associate Director

Putonghua Ministry

St Andrew's Putonghua Ministry has been a key part of our church for over 25 years, mainly through the 11.30 Putonghua service.

Members quickly realise that we are more like an extended family than just a group of random people who happen to live in Hong Kong and speak Putonghua. Over half of us will eat together at a restaurant after every Sunday service, and almost two thirds of us regularly attend a small group. So, we interact a lot.

Last year, the growth has been thrilling. Our small groups have blossomed from two to over ten groups. Our Cantonese outreach ministry has gone from nothing to an average of 40+ students with over 20 volunteer teachers. Our children's ministry has doubled in size. We baptised and confirmed over thirty people with Archbishop Andrew Chan in October. More people are now waiting to get baptized, and the border with the mainland hasn't even opened yet!

We pray for growth in maturity, as well in numbers. To this end, all the Growth Groups completed the newly designed discipleship course (now being recorded).

Our musicians have just learned how to serve the congregation musically through the course 'Dwell Richly'.

Our online social media presence has grown tremendously, and we continue to think about creative ways to reach out to and serve other Putonghua speakers across the city. We particularly have a burden to reach out to young adults, a significant gap in our regular demographic.

On Sundays, we follow the same preaching series as the English congregations. The story of Joseph has reminded us of God's providence. Looking back, God has been at work in and through us as we continue to teach the Bible and build community in new ways. We give thanks that many people are growing in love for Jesus and each other despite being unable to meet physically. Now we are excited to meet in person again!

Ryan Muir

Director of Putonghua Ministry

Shatin Church

Shatin Anglican Church, a daughter church of St. Andrew's, has just celebrated its 30th anniversary. It seeks to be a community that is growing in Jesus, sharing life, and reaching our city.

What a year we had in 2021! After meeting only eighteen times in the previous year, the church was able to meet physically for about nine straight months. The time together was eventful!

After nearly thirty years in Wo Che, the church moved to SKH Lam Kau Mow Secondary School in City One and held its first service there on June 13th, 2021. We immediately noticed the difference. There is a large English-speaking community in City One. We soon had something we almost never had in Wo Che: walk-ins from those who lived nearby. Moving also has made the church more accessible, being

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We gave thanks, not for our longevity, but for God's faithfulness and his marvellous work in these years.

just outside an MTR station. We are excited about the outreach opportunities in this area and look forward to becoming a bigger part of the community.

A few months after relocating, we celebrated our 30th anniversary on October 3rd, 2021. We gave thanks, not for our longevity, but for God's faithfulness and his marvelous work in these years.

One of my favourite services in City One was the Christmas Candlelight Service on a Saturday in December. With most people staying in Hong Kong for the holidays, we were able to have a full choir. Songs arranged and sung by our talented musicians made Christmas special, and we were able to welcome many guests from the community.

Although we are thirty years old and many things have changed, we will offer the same good news of Jesus that saved us and will sustain us for years to come in this new location.

Revd. Heewoo Han

Minister-in-Charge, Shatin Anglican Church

Resurrection Church

"Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the LORD, 'and work. For I am with you,' declares the LORD Almighty. 'This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.'" (Haggai 2:4b-5)

The book of Haggai records a time when life was unexpectedly difficult for God's people. They had only recently regathered from their scattered locations through a miraculous work of God, yet the return from exile was not all that they had hoped. Not all of their friends and family had returned with them. Their farms were barely producing enough to sustain them. Homes and communities were in disrepair. The Temple of the Lord lay in ruins. There was so much that needed doing and so few people to do it. The project must have seemed overwhelming.

So, the people did what seemed sensible; they focused on re-establishing their own households. Once they had recovered some of what they had lost – then they would turn their attention to the things of the Lord. This strategy displeased the Lord.

The Lord declared that if they focused their time, energy and resources on the things

of God, then their worship would be more glorious, their families more blessed, and their community more at peace than before the exile.

I hardly need to point out the parallels between Haggai's time and ours. After years of being periodically distant and scattered, Christians across our city now need to regather, rebuild, and refocus. Most churches have fewer people and resources than a few years ago. The project might seem overwhelming, but the Lord's message remains the same: *"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."*

Resurrection Church is a community of people in Sai Kung and Clearwater Bay who believe in God's covenant promises. We are therefore helping one another to rebuild our lives, our families and our communities with Jesus at the centre. We welcome you to join us.

Revd. Lucas Durant

Minister-in-Charge, Resurrection Church

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devoted to Jesus
Christ, who share his
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