



Anglican

M E S S E N G E R

DIOCESE OF WEST MALAYSIA

DECEMBER 2021

HEAVEN
Came Down
AND
GLORY FILLED MY SOUL



FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN
ISAIAH 9:6

Diocesan Theme for 2021

“Behold, I Am Making All Things New”

Season of Preparation



*The Editorial Board wishes its readers a
Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful 2022*

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Editorial

It is nearly three years since the Covid 19 pandemic came on the scene ravaging the world and leaving a trail of destruction. In all nations the death toll kept mounting, medical facilities and personnel pushed to the brink of disaster, small businesses being wiped out, unemployment soaring and poverty becoming the new norm of the day. To make matters worse, new variants of the virus have emerged putting undue fear in people. It is a time of great uncertainty, and for many, this uncertainty is causing great anxiety and irrational fear.

Christians are no different from anyone else by what we are facing today. None of us has ever experienced anything like this before. One question that many have asked and will continue to ask is ‘Why is God allowing global suffering like this to happen?’ These are no easy answers to questions like this. However, one of the great

strengths of the Christian faith is that it teaches us of a God who knows the end from the beginning and so is surprised at nothing. His Word assures us that He is always with His people no matter what they are going through. He understands, because He Himself became a human to share our ups and downs, our human frailty, our sorrows and our mortality.

May we, in these days of trials and tribulations find the words of Psalm 46 a source of strength and comfort as we battle this pandemic and pray:

1. God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
2. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
3. though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

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The Editorial Board welcomes articles and photographs that focus on the theme. Please submit articles in Word document and relevant photographs in JPEG format of about 1 MB each by 30 March 2022 to:

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Inaugural Presidential Address

“Behold I Make All Things New”



1. INTRODUCTION

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Greetings. We would like to thank God for our laity, Clergy and Bishops; upon whose shoulders the Diocesan theme was formed in March 2020 before the Movement Control Order (MCO) was declared on 18 March 2020. The Diocesan Strategy Implementation Commission (DSIC) led by our predecessor, The Rt Revd Datuk Ng Moon Hing, further worked on this theme formulated the Mission Statement and identified three main focus areas;

- (a) Discipleship
- (b) Church Planting, and
- (c) Leadership Development.

On 2 March 2021, the day that I was installed the Diocesan Bishop, WE, The Rt Revd Dr D Steven Abbarow, Bishop of West Malaysia, launched the Diocesan 10-Year Development Plan (2021-2030) with the Theme: “BEHOLD, I AM MAKING ALL THINGS NEW” (Revelation 21:5). It became very clear that we are all called and challenged as Queen Esther was, “And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14b); to respond to the ongoing and post pandemic, economic, political and religious context.



2. DIOCESAN VISION AND STRATEGY

WE purpose to become more aware of where we are and to intentionally reach out to where God wants us to be. This is primarily done on the basis of God's word, the sense of Truth and what the Holy Spirit is saying through the people of God (Sensus Fidelium). For this to happen a vital engagement with the Word of God, the people of God, and the Holy Spirit is essential.

- 2.1 Mission Statement: We are a Church, Moving towards making Christ known through Church Planting, Mission, Social Concerns, Environmental Care, Intentional Discipleship and building up of Family units, With the Love, Grace and Fellowship of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- 2.2 Biblical and Theological Basis: The Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20), form the biblical and theological basis for the Mission Statement, Vision, and operational mode.
- 2.3 Organisational Adaptation to Align with our Diocesan Vision
 - 2.3.1 The Suffragan Bishops
 - 2.3.1.1 The Rt Revd Dr Jason Selvaraj (+JS); to Chair the Diocesan Ordination Candidates & Evangelistic Workers Committee (DOCEWC). A 15-minute slot is allocated for +JS to present a report and recommendations on this.
 - 2.3.1.2 The Rt Revd Dr Stephen Soe Chee Cheng (+SSCC); to chair the DSIC. A 15-minute slot is allocated for +SSCC to present a report and recommendations on this.
 - 2.3.2 The Diocesan Standing Committee (DSC)
 - 2.3.2.1 The formation of an ad-hoc Finance Committee to advise the DSC on how to have a Diocesan budget that will support the Diocesan Vision.
 - 2.3.2.2 The formation of an ad-hoc Personnel Committee to advise the DSC on how to intentionally develop leaders to staff and support the Diocesan Vision.
 - 2.3.3 Our Diocesan Synod and Regional gatherings

Our Diocesan Synod is now a bi-annual affair. The next one is in 2023. The Bishops and Archdeacons will organise the Regional gatherings, to meet in between (2022) to discuss, evaluate and further sharpen our goals and objectives. WE hope that our next Synod in 2023, will see more discussions based on our Vision and Mission. This WE pray, will empower and prepare for the Special Synod 2025 for the election of the new Bishop, to discuss the needs of the Diocese in their deliberation more robustly.



3. WHERE WE ARE

WE have robustly and intentionally engaged our Bishops, Clergy and Laity, in various ways to share the Vision and Mission, listen to their feedback and to dialogue with all parties.

- 3.1 Through the online and onsite meetings with local church leaders, Missionary District Councils (MDCs), Parochial Church Councils (PCCs), Clergy, ministry Boards, Diocesan Officers, Senior Clergy; WE were able to discern and respond better. These in part will be reported by the Archdeacons, +JS and +SSCC in their reports.
- 3.2 The Key Performance Index (KPI) had mixed responses. The DSIC has taken the feedback from all concerned and will respond adequately. WE are glad to note that overall the intention and substance of the KPI is well received, and the DSIC will address the rest.

- 3.3 The Bishop's Circulars (BC): To date WE have sent out 6 BCs since March 2021. WE have ensured that a link with google survey is sent with each BC so that we will get feedback and immediately respond to them. WE are glad to share that this is very positive experience.
- 3.4 Financially: The Hon. Treasurer and the DLPC Chairperson will comment on these matters.
- 3.5 Theological Training: To ensure our Seminarians will be able to have the skill sets necessary for the ministry of Discipleship, Church Planting and Leadership Development, they will undergo a rigorous Programme. St. Paul's Theological College (SPTC) has presented a church planting strategy for the Diocese of West Malaysia. Seminari Theoloji Malaysia and SPTC have collaborated to offer a Church Planting course which is compulsory for all Anglican seminarians. The MICPE and SFP have done a wonderful job to adapt to a special 8-week year-end residential programme for our seminarians to develop pastoral identity and skill sets and spiritual formation. WE want to share with Synod that the faithful have stepped up to contribute towards church planting and leadership development initiatives. God bless them.
- 3.6 Pastoral Care and Church Discipline
WE are grateful that many of our churches and members are responding to the pastoral needs of our community. Some of them want to do it but do not have the means and the know-how to do so. The DWM has launched the Anglican Community Pantry initiative to help these churches. WE thank God for the donors who have stepped up to fund this initiative. The robust engagement to meet individuals and communities at their point of need, providing emotional and spiritual support, basic needs and exercising church discipline is an ongoing journey which needs much prayer and financial support.
- 3.7 Appointments of New Archdeacons
- 3.7.1 The Revd Soong Hoe Pin will be appointed Archdeacon of the Upper North Archdeaconry on 1 January 2022.
- 3.7.2 The Revd Joshua Ong will be appointed Archdeacon of the Upper Central Archdeaconry on 1st January 2022.

4. CONCLUSION

It is our priority to navigate the Church through this pandemic and post pandemic period. Pastoral Care, Church Discipline is crucial. We now have been granted a great opportunity to unite by focussing on

- (a) Discipleship,
- (b) Church Planting, and
- (c) Leadership Development.

We pray that we will be motivated through the love of God to obey the Great Commission and the Greatest Commandment. "To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy,— to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen." **AM**

Veni Sancte Spiritus,



The Rt Revd Dr D Steven Abbarow
Bishop of the Diocese of West Malaysia

Reflections On The Ordination Retreat



by Revd Abel Cheah

I had the privilege of being part of the first batch of candidates at the Ordination Retreat this year. Led by Bishop Jason Selvaraj we logged onto our Zoom link on the morning of 12 July 2021. Bishop Jason warmly welcomed us and announced the significance of the week. This was going to be the first Online Ordination Retreat for the Diocese of West Malaysia and it was also going to be a crucial point in our journey towards the ordained ministry.

Despite the novelty of the moment, there was a sense of familiarity and camaraderie among us from the beginning. We were assembled by unusual circumstances and yet united by tradition and faith. As Bishop Jason started us off on a round of introductions, he declared, "I'm a first-timer in this zoom retreat too."

The next three days were a combination of impactful lectures by Bishop Jason, informative and inspiring presentations by my fellow candidates and refreshing moments of worship and prayer. During the lectures, Bishop Jason spoke about the place of liturgy in our faith and ministry, reminding us that "liturgy is the public work of the church," and one of the fundamental calls of the ordained ministry is to lead people in worship.

As we reflected on their biblical and theological elements of the Holy Communion on Day 2, Bishop Jason's words from the previous day provided a helpful grounding: "Our liturgy must not be a disconnected liturgy. It must challenge and change us and the world around us." I was struck by the thought that there really isn't a 'start' or 'end' to any time of worship or prayer for we simply enter into eternal worship that never ends, joining in with all creation before God.

We reflected on the question, "Is our worship connected to the rest of our lives, and to the lives around us?" However, the occasional struggle to stay connected to an online Zoom call provided moments of amusement as it was difficult staying alert and focussed.

During the presentations by my fellow candidates, I was amazed to see their tenacity, humility, obedience and insight. It dawned on me that while we are diverse in ministry contexts and personal backgrounds, we are part of a communion of believers and now, a priesthood. In the end, we left the online retreat energized and encouraged, for while we were physically apart, we had been together in fellowship, connected by His spirit.

Abel Cheah is the Chief Operating Officer, Alpha Asia Pacific and a curate at Holy Trinity, Bukit Bintang.



By Revd Sakthe Kumar

This year the ordination retreat was unusual compared with the normal retreat. Usually, all ordinands would come together as one big family to learn, have fellowship and prepare themselves for the ordination. Unfortunately, the current situation did not permit us to gather as one big family but that did not stop us from learning, gathering or preparing ourselves for the ordination. We are very much grateful for God's mercy

and grace in allowing us to continue to meet at this ordination retreat without any challenges.

The Retreat was aimed at preparing the candidates for ordination by spending time in prayer, doing reflection together and learning in-depth about liturgy, spirituality and Anglican worship. To evaluate our understanding of Anglican worship, liturgy,



By Deaconess Marianne Kong

The three-day Ordination Retreat from 12 to 14 July 2021 was a fruitful retreat. Before participating in the Retreat, I had already heard from the clergy who had been ordained in the past two to three years that the retreat was very serious and that candidates had to present their papers, and that the atmosphere was like an examination hall because if one failed to pass the paper, he or she would not be ordained/commissioned. Indeed, this is what our instructor, Bishop Jason, explained to us on the first day of the retreat. However, this retreat was a full experience. Under Bishop Jason's guidance, not only was the entire retreat not as serious as an examination hall, but the candidates were very relaxed and open in interacting and sharing opinions.

Two of the four questions in this year's retreat were focused on the pandemic, especially the compulsory question:

Give a critical view of the ordained ministry from a Pre-Covid, Covid-19 and Post Covid-19 perspective. What are its Challenges and Implications?

Although it was the same topic, there was a wide variety of presentations from the candidates. Some discussed the topic from a theoretical perspective, some

answered it from a practical perspective, and some responded to it from a reflective perspective. Each candidate's presentation benefited each other greatly.

The theme for this year's retreat was **THE CALLING: LIVING AND CELEBRATING THE LITURGY**. I was particularly impressed by Bishop Jason's reference to *Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi* and *Lex Vivendi* which means how we worship reflects what we believe and determines how we will live. Our participation in liturgy is our participation in, and continuation of, the work that Jesus began during His earthly ministry. However, our work does not begin and end only with liturgical celebrations. Through our baptism, each of us has been called to participate in Jesus' ministries. In the role as a disciple, we are called to pray continuously and to worship God and we fulfil this largely by participating in the various liturgies celebrated by the Church. As disciples, we follow the example of Jesus by proclaiming the Good News of salvation to the world and by serving our neighbours, especially those who are in the greatest need.

Marianne Kong has been commissioned as full time Deaconess to serve in the church of Good Shepherd Johor Bahru.

theology and Church issues, every one of us was required to write two theses and do a presentation. This process may sound rigid but it helps us to have a better understanding and also to serve God and His people with in-depth faithfulness and truthfulness.

I really appreciate the work done by Bishop Jason who prepared the notes based on

our ordination retreat theme, 'The Calling: Living and Celebrating the Liturgy.' The sessions have helped me reflect on my calling to serve God as a full-time minister and enriched my understanding on the importance of worshipping God holistically. The retreat reminded me of my calling to serve God and to become someone who speaks and lives out God's love to others. A special shoutout to my fellow ordinands,

enjoy your ministry and faithfully work with our congregations in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world so that the love of God may be made visible. **AM**

Rev'd Sakthe Kumar is a full time priest serving at St Martin's Church Kota Baru.

Synod 2020: “Behold, I am Making All Things New”

by Chandran Peter



Chandran Peter, Synod 21 Organising Committee chairperson



Delegates during the Synod 21 Zoom session

The Diocesan Synod 2021 was held on the 9 November 2021 and was hosted by the Church of the Holy Spirit, Ipoh. A total of 231 delegates participated. Though it was originally scheduled to be held from 24 to 26 August 2021, the Covid 19 pandemic with the Movement Control Order restrictions and the fear of infections meant that the Synod date had to be shifted to 9 to 11 November 2021. However, based on feedback and after weighing in the risk factors, it was finally decided to conduct a half day Zoom session fixed for 9 November 2021. Synod conducted under a ZOOM platform was shortened to about five hours instead of the usual two-day meeting. With the limited time it was more of a “need to” sort of session with financial matters and others being approved in compliance with the Synod rules.

Registration commenced from 8.00am and the Synod meeting started at 9.00am with the Roll Call. The meeting ended just before 2.00pm. All the items in the agenda for this half day Synod were followed through. A word of thanks to the Diocesan Bishop who was chairing his first Synod meeting.

A Mock Run conducted on the eve of the Synod meeting helped to prepare all those who checked in. The fact that many

churches and groups had already been familiarized conducting Zoom sessions during the pandemic period, helped everyone check in effortlessly.

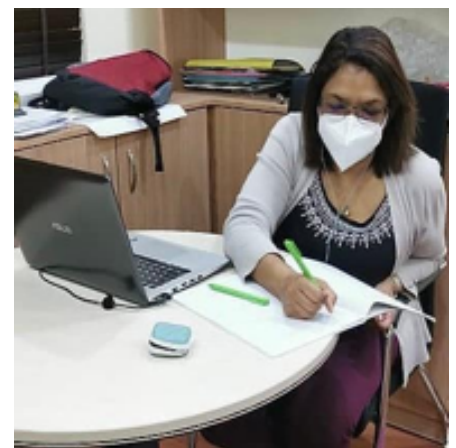
A special thanks to the Diocesan Secretary and his staff for working closely and rendering all the help to the host church.

The Church of the Holy Spirit, Ipoh thanks God for the opportunity to host the Synod 2021 as it also coincided with our 90th Anniversary celebrations and for His abundant blessings and guidance. Thanks also to all participants for your understanding, cooperation and most importantly, your prayers. A special thanks to our Vicar Revd Gerrard Emmanuel, the PCC and members of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Ipoh, the Synod Organising Committee, the Recording Secretaries and the Tech Team.

Last but definitely not least, we thank our Bishop The Rt Revd Dr D Steven Abbarow, for his words of encouragement and believing in our capability to get this done from the very beginning.

To God be the Glory. **AM**

Chandran Peter was the Organising Committee Chairperson for the 2021 Diocesan Synod



Mrs Anita Andrew, coordinator of Recording Secretaries



Members of the Zoom Tech Team

Ordination & Commissioning Service 2021

Central Archdeaconry

by Revd Paul Khoo Boo Huat

Tuesday 28 September 2021 was the Ordination Day for the Central Archdeaconry. We were in St. Mary's Cathedral KL, on the eve of Michael and all Angels. Eight brothers would be ordained as priests and deacons and one sister would be commissioned as deaconess. I had been waiting for this day for so many years. We were truly excited.

This Ordination Service was solemn, only Examining Chaplains, Diocesan Officers, Dean of the Cathedral, Archdeacon Charles Fraser, Suffragan Bishop Dr Jason Selvaraj, Diocesan Bishop Dr Steven Abbarow and close relatives were allowed to be in due to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

Before coming to this Ordination service we had tasted the goodness of God through the years. Jesus said, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in



Ordinands on either side of the isle

weakness." (2 Cor 12:9) and when we look back at how far we have come we cannot help but say, "Thank you, Lord! Thank You for Your bounteous blessings.

the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands."

Revd Dr Lim Kar Yong preached on the transformed life when there is an encounter with Christ.

All ordinands must strive towards being transformed into the likeness of Christ. The climax of the service was when Bishop Steven laid his hands on us and then handed the Bible to us. Through this action we have been given the mandate to preach the Gospel and proclaim the Word of God. It is hoped that the ordinands by preaching and teaching the Gospel of Christ and declaring the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:26-27), many more souls will hear the good news of salvation and come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.



Bishop Abarrow commissioning the ordinand with Bishop Jason assisting

This Ordination was important to us because it is God's way of appointing or setting apart spiritually qualified men to special ministry in His Church. Through the process of ordination, the ordinands are sent out to declare the gospel of Christ, to do discipleship training, church planting, leadership training and carry out social work. The concept of ordination thus implies official recognition by the leadership of the church and a public announcement of setting men aside for special ministry. Timothy was reminded of his ordination in 2 Timothy 1:6 when Paul said "For this reason I remind you to fan into flame



Revd Dr Lim Kar Yong giving the sermon

May the Lord use us all to serve Him faithfully to save more souls and advance His kingdom. **AM**

Diocesan Ordination & Commissioning Service 2021 Northern Region

by Deaconess Philomina Irien Liew



Presentation of Candidates by the Examining Chaplains

The preparation for the Candidates for Ordination and Commissioning comprised the MICPE Program, writing two mini-theses and an Ordination Retreat, all of which were completed by July this year. The Retreat was a time when we were encouraged to be firm in our calling to serve the Lord and to prepare for the implications of our ministries as Deacons, Priests and Deaconesses. This preparation was followed by the reading of the 'Si Quis' in our respective Churches as a public announcement of our intention for Ordination or Commissioning and a test of approval from our respective Church Congregations. The 'Si Quis' was read on three Sundays prior to our Ordination or Commissioning.

The Ordination & Commissioning Service for the Northern Region took place on Sunday, 31 October 2021, at 4.00pm. at St John's Church, Ipoh. The Service was led by our Diocesan Bishop, The Rt Revd Dr D Steven Abbarow and assisted by our new Suffragan Bishop of the Northern Region, The Rt Revd Dr Stephen Soe, and our retired Diocesan Bishop, The Rt Revd Datuk Ng Moon Hing. For me, with the reading of the 'Si Quis' and the grand Service at St John's Church, Ipoh, it almost felt like a wedding service!



Commissioning and Ordination with the three Bishops in action



Issuing the respective Licences to the Candidates



Receiving the 'Charge' as servants of God from the Diocesan Bishop

The Vicar of St John's Church, Ipoh, Revd Tom Cherian, coordinated the Service. Suffragan Bishop Dr Stephen Soe preached a good sermon on the Reformation, Revival and our commitment to serving God, based on Mark 12: 28 – 34. The Diocesan Bishop D Steven Abbarow presided over the Ordination and Commissioning. Retired Bishop Datuk Ng Moon Hing led the celebration of Holy Communion. The attendance at the Service was limited to 50 people, according to the prevailing COVID-19 'SOP' for the State of Perak.

Those who were ordained as Priests were Revd Andrew Doraisingam from Church Of The Holy Spirit, Buntong (Ipoh) and serving at Church Of The Resurrection, Kuala Kangsar / St Thomas' Church, Tambun (Ipoh), and Revd Peter Ang Joo Tat from St Paul's Church, Penang. I come from St Mary's Chapel, Tambun / St John's Church, Ipoh, and by God's grace, I was commissioned as an Honorary Deaconess.

During the Service, I could feel the burning sensation that I was starting a new and long journey to fulfil my calling to be a full-time servant of God. I have been called to win souls for Christ and to nurture them, according to the Great Commission in Matthew 28: 16 – 20. I could feel the great responsibility I have been given as I was commissioned as a Deaconess and as I have to fulfill the Great Commission!

AM



The Final Blessing by the Diocesan Bishop and the newly-ordained Priests

Consecration of The Rt Revd Dr Stephen Soe as Suffragan Bishop

by Petra B A Oon



Bishops in attendance

The Venerable Dr Stephen Soe Chee Cheng was duly consecrated a Suffragan Bishop in the Anglican Church on Tuesday, 19 October 2021 in St George's Church, Penang. The Rt Revd Dr D Steven Abbarow, the Diocesan Bishop, officiated the consecration service with assistance from The Rt Revd Datuk Ng Moon Hing, retired Diocesan Bishop, and Suffragan Bishop The Rt Revd Jason Selvaraj. There were 50 people in attendance due to the Covid-19 restrictions but nevertheless that was no deterrence as many more witnessed the service online.

The multi ethnicity of the country was showcased with the bible readings read in Tamil, Hokkien (Penang's local dialect), English and Bahasa Malaysia. Bishop Soe's eldest son, Christopher led in the responsive reading of the Psalm while his younger son, Timothy led in a time of praise and worship. His wife, Madam Ko See Lang, whom he sees as his pillar of support, sat by his side at the commencement of the service and participated in bringing the wine to the altar for the Holy Communion.

Bishop Abbarow thanked Dr Stephen Soe's family for having made great sacrifices for him, as a husband and father, called to

fulltime ministry and clarified that this day was not only to honour him but also his family. Bishop Abbarow then extended greetings on behalf of the Provincial House of Bishops who were unable to attend due to covid-19 travel restrictions, especially from The Most Revd Datuk Melter Jiki Tais. Since the consecration service coincided with the celebration of St Luke the Evangelist, Bishop took the opportunity to reflect on 2 Timothy 4:5-17 in his sermon. He said that Dr Stephen Soe and his family probably shared Timothy's feelings when they were called to serve in St George's Church, Penang. They are, however, to view this as a gift God has given to the family, and



L-R: Christopher, Bishop Soe, Madam Ko See Lang and Timothy



Bishop Soe being presented to the Diocesan Bishop

St George's Church is receiving a gift – not just a priest but a Suffragan Bishop.

In the sermon, Bishop reminded Dr Stephen Soe, and all clergy that they must do the work of an evangelist. They are to be faithful servants of God, called by God, sent by God and should be faithful to God right to the end. They are to be focussed and held accountable in discipleship, church planting

and leadership development. It does not matter where they are on the ladder, they are to serve, share and to encourage the people. They are to be prayerful, listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit. At the end, they would have to answer to what extent they used their gifts to take the people of God from where they are in discipleship, church planting and leadership development to where God wants them to be in fulfilling

the greatest commandment and the great commission. Placing emphasis, he said "Let it never be said in the Anglican Diocese of West Malaysia that we minored on the major and majored on the minor." Bishop Abbarow said there would be times when Dr Stephen would feel lonely, but assured him that he would never be alone as God was with him, and so too, his family.

Reconciliation, like Paul with Mark, should also be featured in Dr Stephen Soe's ministry. When he carried the staff, he was to use the crook but never to forget the other end of the staff that was to be used with love, mercy and tenderness. Bishop Abbarow said he was grateful that both Dr Stephen Soe and Bishop Jason Selvaraj were good in using the crook of the staff in that manner while he himself was good at using the other end of the staff. They were all to lift each other as they all shared the ministry together.



Reading of the Declaration of Assent of the oath of canonical obedience

The sermon was followed by the presentation of the Venerable Dr Stephen Soe Chee Cheng, by The Rt Revd Datuk Ng Moon Hing and The Rt Revd Jason Selvaraj to the Diocesan Bishop. The Mandate of the Consecration from the House of Bishops of the Province of the Anglican church in



Presentation of the crozier to Dr Stephen Soe

South East Asia was then read by Diocesan Chancellor, Lay Canon Andrew Khoo, on behalf of The Most Revd Datuk Melter Jiki Tais.

The Preface to the Declaration of Assent was read followed by the reading of the Declaration of Assent of the oath of canonical

obedience administered by the Provincial Registrar, Mr D Raja Singam. Dr Stephen Soe proceeded to sign the deed witnessed by the Provincial Registrar. Bishop Abbarow then read out the duties and responsibilities of a Suffragan, and then proceeded to pray for the Bishop Designate. Immediately after, the presenters accompanied the Bishop

Designate to the vestry where Bishop Soe was robed in his Episcopal Habit. The Veni Creator Spiritus followed by the Litany was led and sung by the Archdeacon Ven Jacob George John.

The Diocesan Bishop, with the four bishops present laid hands on the Bishop Designate who was then given the symbols of the Office – the Bible, the Ring, the Pectoral Cross and the Mitre.

A crozier was given to Dr Stephen Soe with the command that he was to receive the staff as a sign of his pastoral office and to keep watch over the whole flock which the Holy Spirit had appointed him to shepherd. The Rt Revd Dr Stephen Soe Chee Cheng was presented to the people. The congregation received and greeted the new Suffragan Bishop with a loud applause. The Greetings of the Provincial House of Bishops were then shared on screen - from The Most Revd Datuk Melter Jiki Tais, Archbishop for the Province of the Anglican Church in South East Asia, The Rt Revd Datuk Danald Jute, Bishop of the Diocese of Kuching Sarawak & Brunei Darussalam, and The Rt Revd Dr Titus Chung Khiam Boon, Bishop of the Diocese of Singapore.



Revd Dr Stephen Soe at the altar

As the service drew to a close, the Vicar's Warden, Ho Yik Tuck who was also the Chairman of the Organising Committee welcomed and thanked everyone for attending this special service. This was followed by the presentation of gifts to Bishop Abbarow and the participating Bishops by the Church Warden, Jaya Paul Moses.

AM

DYC Leadership Training Programme

by Samuel Paul and Flora Eslyn



DYC LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME 2021

24 July:
Understanding the Gospel //
Self-Evaluation &
Team-Building

21 August:
An Overview of the Bible //
How to Read the Bible

16 October:
A Forum on the
Joys and Challenges of
Christian Leadership



The Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) held a series of training events over the past few months for youth leaders in our churches. Samuel Paul of Church of the Epiphany, Kuantan and Flora Eslyn of St Katherine's Church, Kajang are two of our leader-recruits, and here is what they have to say about the events, respectively:

Being a loyal camper at the annual DEYC, this was quite literally the next step for both of us.

After nearly two years of locking ourselves away due to the ongoing pandemic, the DYC decided to take a new approach and designed a virtual training programme to train and equip young leaders from all over the country for ministry in their local churches as well as in the Diocese. Personally, I consider this method an absolute success. Meeting so many familiar

faces during the brief Meet N Greet on 3 July was such a refreshing experience. Being able to reconnect and share our individual journeys as young adults reignited the fire within each one of us further sealing the desire to continue along this path to becoming future leaders, passing down the knowledge and skills we acquired during our time as campers.

With that, we began our first training session on 24 July on the theme 'Understanding the Gospel.' As Marianne led the pack,

we dived headfirst into what the Gospel is; answering common questions young Christians or even non-believers would have when they are exposed to the Gospel. We were constantly reminded of the greatest act of love that Christ performed on the cross which sent us home with much to ruminate upon.

At our second session (Self-Evaluation & Team-Building) we were posed with simple questions that were designed for us to get to know ourselves on a deeper level, surprising even the best of us. For at times, being young adults in an ever changing and challenging world leads us to doubt our purpose as well as what we are truly capable of. It was truly an eye-opening experience. We were also trained to be team leaders and were taught what it meant to work as a team for you can't walk every road alone.

The following session comprised of an Overview of the Bible. We were taught to look at the Bible from different perspectives. As Christians we know that all Scripture is God-breathed, yet we sometimes fail to take into account the emotions that these messengers of God were writing with. This brought out a whole different field of view that some of us avid readers had missed before. We were also able to ask the daunting questions that not only puzzled us, but the ones we commonly face as juvenile believers in this country.

Finally, on 16 October, our final session was an intense forum where many questions were answered, opinions brought forth and experiences shared. It was truly heart-warming and encouraging to get to know the amazing individuals that were our panel and their stories given that the path they had journeyed up to this point was no walk in the park. So, I end here on the note that as a Christian the road ahead will not always be sunshine and rainbows, but God shall bless the broken road ahead. **AM**



*Hi everyone,
I'm Flora.*

Just wanted to share my experience about the DYC training programs. I would start off by thanking God for blessing me with this amazing opportunity to be able to attend the training and to be selected as a recruit. After every session I went back feeling recharged, mainly because of all that took place during the training. The sessions in the training have helped me to understand God even better, taught me to walk in His ways and serve Him faithfully.

In our first training, we learned how to understand the gospel, self-evaluate and team-build. This session really motivated us to acknowledge, share and most importantly, live out the gospel. We were also reminded to live a life that pleases God. At our second training we were exposed to an overview of the Bible and ways to read the Bible. We also learnt about the outline of the Bible and tips on how to read the Bible.

We had a wonderful time chit chatting with our leaders for our final training. They encouraged and motivated each of us to continue to serve the Lord no matter how many obstacles we face.

I am indeed very thankful for these training sessions, and I pray that we continue to work as a team and bring glory to His name in whatever we do!

Anglican Alliance Involvement In Climate Change

by Annam Arumanayagam

In his Presidential Address to the Diocesan Synod in 2017, Bishop Ng Moon Hing said:

“The annual recurrence of haze has caused great discomfort and disruption to businesses, schools and the nation. We are so casual and indifferent that most of us do not consider the haze hazard an issue at all. We only start to look for masks when necessary. There are hardly any kept at home for emergency use. This ‘take for granted’ attitude is commonly known as ‘tidak apa’ attitude.”

The haze affected Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. Malaysia blamed Indonesia for the forest fires and for not doing enough about it; Indonesia blamed Malaysian and Singaporean companies and in the end, it was all words and no action.

In September of this year, Greta Thunberg, the young climate activist mocked world leaders when she said: “Build back better, blah blah blah, green economy, blah blah blah, net zero by 2050, blah blah blah, climate neutral, blah blah blah... This is all we hear from our so-called leaders. Words.” Those of you from my generation might remember the movie, *My Fair Lady* and the famous song, “Words, words, words, I’m so sick of words... and it ends with the shout “Don’t say a word, show me.” That’s what Greta and the youths of the world are saying – they are sick of hearing only words without action!

We used to hear the words “global warming” but now we hear “climate change” and COP26.

What is COP26?

COP26 stands for the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). From the end of October till mid November 2021, delegates met in Glasgow, Scotland to discuss the climate situation.

Climate Change

In the midst of the Covid pandemic, unusual weather events have also been occurring - extreme heat, wild fires and floods which have devastated whole communities and villages. All these are the effects of climate change

Five years ago, in Paris, the COP countries agreed to make an attempt not to let the temperature rise above 2 degrees. COP26 is the first milestone (five years after Paris) when these parties come back, report on progress or lack of progress and set new milestones

For the first time, the Anglican Communion, through the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC), has become an accredited observer at the UNFCCC. As such, the Council is able to engage in different ways before, during and beyond the negotiations.

I work with the Anglican Alliance which is involved in issues of Climate Change and COP26. The Anglican Alliance exists to connect, equip and inspire the worldwide Anglican family to work for a world free of poverty and injustice and to safeguard creation. There are six Anglican Alliance Facilitators covering various regions in

the world – Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Middle East, the Pacific and I am the Facilitator for East Asia.

Why is the Anglican Church focusing on Climate Change and COP26?

The Anglican Communion has 5 Marks of Mission;

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

As Anglicans, we need to live the 5th Mark of Mission – to safeguard the integrity of Creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth. Through the years, there have been many ways in which Anglicans have been involved in Creation Care and the Environment.

Personally, Climate Change and its issues were of interest to me until I Learnt of the terrible effects of global warming, environmental problems and climate change.

But God is so gracious, and slowly He showed me the need to be aware and ACT on climate change. As I heard the issues discussed and listened to my colleagues share stories from their region, I began to pay attention to the issue of climate change. Words like carbon emission, fossil fuel and renewable energy began to make sense. I realized that climate change is a major factor driving poverty and migration – issues I am passionate about and definitely affecting the people of Asia.

We need to mobilize Churches to act because Churches are first responders of an emergency. They are an integral part of the community. They are there before the disaster, during and long after the disaster has passed. They know their community and know their vulnerability. Often, churches can reach where the government cannot. Also, many of us do not trust our government, but we trust the Church. So the Church needs to take the lead.

My learning process included role models of good practices and stories I heard from the various regions of the world and the Anglican Alliance website. The information I provide here are all from the Anglican Alliance Website under Climate.

When I was in UK for our staff retreat, I spent a week-end in the home of my colleague, Dr Elizabeth Perry. She is so passionate about Climate Change. Some of you might have heard her on video. She puts into action her beliefs and some years ago, switched to an electric car. When we travelled around, we were always on the lookout for parking spaces where the car could be re-charged. One day we had to attend a round-table Conference at Lambeth Palace. We wondered if Lambeth Palace was “environmental friendly”. To our great joy we discovered that Lambeth Palace had parking spots for electric cars to re-charge. These people walk the talk!

The Pacific

In 2017 I invited my former colleague from the Solomon Islands, Tagolyn Kabekabe, to come over and talk about Climate Change – a programme co-hosted by our Women's Fellowship and Golden Circle. She was then the Facilitator for the Pacific and she shared about the impact of the rising sea level in the Pacific. Some islands were going under water but the elderly residents refused to move away – it was heart-breaking. She said, “We in the Pacific contribute the least to the greenhouse emissions but we suffer the most.”



In Grenada, graves are being lost to the sea with rising sea-levels.

It appears that Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu (all in the Pacific) are anticipated to be under water by the end of the century. Presently, hundreds of villages are listed for relocation in Fiji.



What is left of Walanda island

Africa:

- Unpredictable weather patterns make it difficult for crops to grow to maturity.
- Many parts of the continent are experiencing drought which can lead to famine
- Pest infestation and disease prevalence are increasing; floods and cyclones are a growing threat
- Rising sea levels are causing salination of soil, leading to crop failure. This means loss of livelihood as farmers cannot grow their crops.

Latin America:

“The main impact of climate change in the Central America region has to do with drought and flooding; it has to do with farmers not being able to identify the time to harvest and when to plant.”

At COP26, the three Anglican Communion delegates were– Archbishop Juilo Murray from Panama, Nicholas Pande from Africa representing the youth and Elizabeth Perry, the Anglican Alliance Manager for Advocacy and Communication. The issues



Archbishop Juilo Murray, Elizabeth Perry and Nicholas Pande

they raised were focused on people rather than government – climate resilience and just financing.

Conclusion

We started with Greta Thunburg's blah, blah, blah - words, words, words.

We will end with the true Word – the Word of God which is living, active and eternal. Every Sunday during our Holy Communion service, we say the summary of the Law.

Mark 12: 30 -31 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Jesus tells us the most important commandments are to love God, and to love our neighbour – to have a good and right relationship with God and our neighbour.

Tackling the climate crisis is vital to loving God and loving our neighbour – honouring God by protecting His creation and loving our global neighbours because our action

in one part of the world impacts others in another part of the world.

Gus Speth, an environmentalist said, "I used to think the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystems collapse and climate change. I thought that with 30 years of good science we could address those problems. But I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy and to deal with those we need a spiritual and cultural transformation...."

I realized my problem was not greed or selfishness. It was apathy. I did not care. I had the "tidak apa" attitude. I thank God He helped me to see my problem and is moving me on.

Sometimes we can feel overwhelmed when the problem seems too great. It is at such times that we remember that we are a People of Hope. As Archbishop Justin Welby said, "Be hopeful, not in your government, but in GOD – the God who raised Jesus".

Jesus didn't come just to reconcile us with our Father in heaven, but also to reconcile and restore ALL things – in heaven and on

earth!

Colossians 1:19–20 says this: For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him [Jesus], and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Our world is broken and crying out, but God is at work reconciling and restoring and we're invited to join Him in the ministry of reconciliation:

- reconciling people to God (Jesus died on the cross to reconcile our broken relationship with God), and also,
- reconciling people to the creation we've been given to steward.

This is the fullness of the gospel. This is what we are called to do.

Our Diocesan Theme for the next 10 years is "Behold I Make all things new" – Rev 21:5. As we move into the next 10 years, may God grant us a new vision to safeguard the world He has entrusted us with. **AM**

