



Oasis

CHRIST CHURCH BANGKOK

*A spiritual oasis of living water
flowing into the community and out to the nations*

Issue 5

November 2011

Seeking an Associate Minister

(By Revd Peter Cook)

The PCC of 2010 began the process of considering the appointment of an Associate Minister for the parish. We recognized how the church had grown and had hit a 'growth ceiling', and so to develop any further there would be the need to increase the number of ordained pastoral staff. This was brought to the attention of the AGM in 2011. The current PCC through its normal meetings, a special Associate Minister Appointment Group, and some special '@homeday' Saturday mornings continued with this task, and this edition of Oasis is to give you more details.

As part of the process we have produced a new Parish Profile, a document made available to prospective candidates to enable them to know more about the church and its ministry. This edition of Oasis carries edited parts of that document. It will be available in full from our website soon. We will advertise widely across the Anglican Christian Press, websites and through our missionary and other networks.

The post will be funded by Christ Church. We praise God that over the last few years we have been able to increase our financial position to the point where we can already cover approx 50% of a 3 year contract. However, our income is not in a position to sustain this without increase in regular giving. We will bring the needs to the attention of the church at another time.

Prayer will be vital in this process. We need to be praying that the Lord will be preparing the right person to come and join us, and for the complicated process of engagement with mission agencies, the Diocese and ourselves. We need to pray that we will be ready to exercise faith and play our part as a church in support and growth in ministry.

Who are we looking for?

The Person we are seeking will be:

- Firmly rooted in the Lord based upon strong biblical foundations.
- Passionate about the local church and body ministry.
- Committed to reaching people for Christ and outreach.
- A kingdom perspective and team player.
- A warm personality, able to connect with a wide range of traditions and people.
- Widely experienced in life and ministry.
- Adaptable and flexible in approach

Key Gifts and Skills

- Strong biblical preaching and teaching, relevant for today.
- Able to lead worship in formal and informal settings.
- Experience in discipling others and developing leaders.



Will you pray with us?

On Sundays 27th November and 11th December at 6pm at Christ Church, we will be meeting to pray about the search for an associate minister as well as for needs of the church and nation.

Christ Church—A Parish Profile

Christ Church Bangkok is a growing, multi-cultural church in the heart of Bangkok's central business district. We are a church of wonderful diversity, with people from many races and language groups. We often have more than 35 different nations represented on any given Sunday with social backgrounds from ambassadors to refugees and everywhere in between.

Christ Church is a member church of the Anglican Church in Thailand, part of the Diocese of Singapore, in the Deanery of Thailand. The tradition of the Diocese and the Anglican Church in Thailand is evangelical. In Christ Church there are a wide range of traditions represented in the congregations. The core tradition of Christ Church is firmly rooted in the word of God. Preaching seeks to be biblical and practical. Worship seeks to connect hearts and minds with ministry while being open to the Holy Spirit.

The church is complex! Members of our fellowship include long term expatriates (both working and retired) who have made Bangkok their home, and a number of missionaries and Christian NGO care workers who are based in Bangkok long term. Others pass through on relatively short contracts, which include business people, embassy staff and international school teachers. Many of them then eventually move on to other locations around the world. We therefore have a local and an international focus which is expressed in our vision statement:



A Gift of Land

Christ Church Bangkok was built on land gifted by King Rama V of Thailand in 1905 to 'English speaking Protestants' and has since been known as a home for all Protestants.

This important historical building seats approximately 300 people. Adjacent to the church is a more modern structure which houses the church hall, kitchen, and offices for both English and Thai speaking ministries.

There is a Thai nursery school on site, of which the building is also used for Sunday children's ministry. There are various other meeting rooms, a youth room, and the vicarage on the compound.

Christ Church Bangkok

A spiritual oasis of living water

flowing into the community

and out to the nations

A Protestant Church for all people

A Spiritual Oasis

Over the years, Christ Church has been known as an oasis within the city centre. The beautiful grounds amidst high rise blocks and chaotic streets are a testament to that.



Our Values: We seek to be a vibrant, growing, welcoming, Bible-based, prayerful community which worships the risen Jesus Christ, demonstrates his love and serves others in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are developing what it means to be an oasis of 'Living Water'. To be a place where people come to find Christ, and to be refreshed in Christ in such a spiritually demanding city and culture.

Flowing into the community....

This oasis of living water is not just for those who attend Christ Church. The living water of Jesus should flow outwards and so we have a responsibility to touch those around us in the local community. Christ Church is uniquely located within a few hundred meters of a red light district, in the Central Business District of Bangkok and near a large slum area. We seek to partner with missions and missionaries working with Thai people. Local efforts and resources focus on those with HIV Aids, the homeless, the elderly and orphans. Beyond Bangkok, we concentrate on our education ministry for the displaced border Karen

and out to the Nations

With up to 30% of the congregation moving on every year the potential of reaching out to the nations is great. Evangelism and discipleship opportunities are enormous. Adult baptisms in the last year included individuals from Burma, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, UK to name just a few.

There is great potential for teaching, nurturing and equipping people so that they are better prepared to make a kingdom difference, before sending them out to the nations and the four corners of the world.



Why I love Christ Church: Marie Goode, American, Missionary

"Along with my husband, Steve, I have been attending Christ Church since 1984. The first thing that attracted us to Christ Church was it was walking distance from our apartment! But over the years, we have developed many wonderful friendships and experienced joy and sadness as they have come and gone. One of the special things about Christ Church is the international flavour brought together by this multi cultural, multi denominational community. We love "rubbing shoulders" with so many wonderful people at Christ



Our Ministries

Sunday Services

We hold to the Bible as the living, authoritative and reliable Word of God for our Christian living and church life, and seek to apply it practically.

We currently have two Sunday services conducted in English.



Small Groups – Discipleship and Courses

We have a network of small groups around the city. Groups fluctuate as people come and go, but we aim for them to be at the core of the life of the church. We produce our own study notes to go alongside and further apply the Sunday teaching. There are various experiences of small groups due to the diversity which shapes each group. However, by and large, we use the cell church '4W's and principles as a helpful pattern in seeking to be holistic in participation and growth.

Courses focusing on marriage (Alpha Marriage Course) and parenting (various) are offered as we seek to disciple and train.

Occasionally, equipping or teaching sessions on a particular topic may arise after the Sunday service. This can be an opportunity to take the sermon teaching deeper.

Men's Breakfasts and Women's Brunches are occasionally offered to foster fellowship, prayer and growth.

There is much scope for development and creative thinking in how to release more discipleship and prayer. Gathering people together is always a challenge.

Why I love Christ Church: Varee Chavipas, Thai, Bookkeeper in family business

I began attending Christ Church sometime in 2008. What attracted me to Christ Church was definitely the members and their overflowing love for God. I feel like I really belong to a loving family – the body of Christ – where you are accepted, safe and very much loved.



Children and Youth Ministry

Our children and youth ministry has grown significantly over the last few years as younger families have joined us. There is a sizeable team of leaders and helpers who teach and care for up to ninety children and youth ages 0 – 17 years. We have developed a Child Protection Policy which includes guidelines and the training of our volunteers.

Children Ministry

We have a very dynamic, energetic and fairly exhausting children's work! We run five Sunday school groups every Sunday morning from 0-11. Each group usually has from 8-15 children attending (though less in the under 2's), and there are regular teachers and helpers. The leaders work very hard to coordinate their groups and the teaching programme. One of our biggest challenges is the transient nature of the children and helpers. We have a number of children who come one Sunday a month, or irregularly; as well as many who come for short periods. We enjoy a very international group of children, which means that we learn well from each other. We are also aware that for many, English is a second language. However the children are very keen to

learn about God, to worship Him, and to get to know him better, and respond very well to what we teach and share in. We have the aim of leading the children to become disciples of Jesus, not just to teach them, and all we do is geared towards that.



Youth Ministry

Christ Church youth group, called FLASHPOINT, is an energetic lively fun and Christ loving group of teens (between 15 to 20 teens, ages 12 to 18 years). Every Sunday morning may have a game or activity, video, prayer, bible study, fun and sharing. In addition we organize regular evening or weekend activities. We

have gone on a Barge trip; a weekend out in Hua Hin, paint balling; bowling; carting. We have also visited Church sponsored projects like orphanages, elderly and other poor people living in the slums, In addition to these ad hoc events, we have monthly FLASH FRIDAYs where we get together to play sport, swim, eat and watch a movie. This is also a time when non Christian friends are invited and can hear a first Bible story and explanation.

When we were praying with the teens for 2011, they asked for God's blessing and guidance in their hectic Bangkok lives. The teenage years is that time when young people start making the most important decisions of their life (future profession, next study, religion, relationship, self appreciation, etc), while at the same time it is probably a phase in life with the highest pressure and challenges (peer pressure, changes from child to adult, becoming independent, exposure to media, etc). So it is essential that teens find a place in the church where they can feel at home; learn about life choices; learn about God's perspective for them and learn how to deal with the pressures and deceptions of the world. The vision for Christ Church FLASHPOINT is to be that haven, that encouragement, that reality check, where teens can connect with each other and with God, so they can face the hard realities of living and schooling in Bangkok.

Parent Toddlers Group

As a means of outreach to the community, we have developed a parent and toddler group which meets weekly to provide fellowship for young parents and their children. This group is currently thriving ...and has great potential for expansion.

Outreach – Evangelism and Social Concern

Alpha Course—introducing the Christian faith

We run the Alpha Course a few times per year with small, but always fruitful, groups. Alpha also operates as our primary baptism preparation course.

When a contact is made by an individual to know more of Christianity, we also provide one on one evangelistic and mentoring opportunities.

Social and Outreach Support Group (SOS)

This is the PCC task group which oversees our financial support to a number of organisations in Thailand. We are developing networks and partnerships with missions and ministries and establishing how we can support them more with volunteers, prayer and encouragement. We are connected with several large mission organisations such as YWAM, OMF, UNOH through members of our congregation. The Anglican Church in Thailand Social Work Ministry, as well as other local ministries offer fulfilling ministry connections and places of service.

There is at times, openness in Thai organisations for involvement in visiting orphanages and prisons. However, opportunities are dependent upon the regime at the time and the organisation's policy.

Our Ministries

Outreach – Evangelism and Social Concern

Border Karen Refugee and Education Ministry

Our main outreach is to the border Karen refugees from Burma who are displaced into refugee camps in north western Thailand. This long standing responsibility requested of Christ Church in 1982 by the Anglican Consultative Committee for emergency relief, has changed and developed over the years. We are now involved with a ministry of education and care in the area of Mae La Refugee camp and the village of Noh Bo. Mae La refugee camp has approx 50,000 refugees. We support an orphanage and three nursery schools which are attached to each of the three Anglican parishes - one in each zone of the Mae La camp.



About one hour north of the camp is Noh Bo village. In Noh Bo, local Christian leaders and Christ Church have established a Christian Mission School called Noh Bo Academy, which provides secondary level education for refugees.

There are approx 100 boarders and up to another 80 day students. The ministry is coordinated at Christ Church Bangkok and at present we also have a missionary couple who are placed in Mae Sot.

Noh Bo Academy support includes: fund raising, recruiting volunteer English teachers and mission teams, training and development.

We provide encouragement to the eighteen (or more) teachers who are employed at Noh Bo.

We also seek to support and encourage the Karen Anglican clergy who minister in the area. The clergy from Bangkok make regularly scheduled(3-4day) trips to Noh Bo to offer support.

Mission Teams

At times, we host mission teams from various mission agencies. Some teams come to us through our Noh Bo volunteer ministry, others on mission exploration trips. Our main partners at present are Crosslinks UK and CMS Australia.

We provide environments for mission exposure and training. In recent years, we have hosted Crosslinks SMILE teams of ten young adults for four months. We are developing a partnership with CMS Brisbane and are currently planning two shorter term trips to enable groups of young people to come to serve and learn with us. This is another area of ministry with much potential for development.

A complete copy of the Christ Church Profile can be downloaded from our website at www.christchurchbangkok.org

Why I love Christ Church: Paul Odour, Kenyan, Teacher

I came to Thailand in late 2007. When looking for Christian churches, I came across Christ Church Bangkok. Once I attended, I decided to stay. The thing that motivates me the most in coming to Christ Church is the preaching I received each week from the preacher Rev Peter Cook and others who occasionally speak. I love the style of worship too and the various programmes on offer like the Alpha Course which I attended in 2009. It is great to be a part of this church.

