



July 2025

From the Bell Tower



News and updates for the Christ Church Bangkok community

From the Vicar's desk

'It is finished' (John 19.28)

These are the words of Jesus on the Cross before he gives up his spirit and dies. The Greek word used for finished can also be translated as completed or accomplished.

There will be few of us who when we come to the end of our lives will be able to say that we have accomplished or completed all that we wanted.

My last Sunday with you as your Vicar will be the 17th of August. Sue and I will fly back to the UK the following day and resume where we left off last December. This will conclude my time in an official role at Christ Church Bangkok. It also marks the end of my third stint as Interim Vicar - which has covered over a period of about three and a half years.

Inevitably, I will be looking back at my time with you and wondering what has been completed or achieved. There is much to celebrate as achievements - I will not list them as it's up to others to see the progress made in the various aspects of the church.

It's also true to say that there is much that has not been completed or accomplished. By nature, I am a 'starter and a finisher'. I like to have goals and achieve them or go some way to achieve them. I am sorry that some of the major issues facing the church still remain, and I have been unable to move us forward on some of these key areas. I do believe that the growth of the church has been hindered by some of these unresolved issues which I have failed to resolve.

But I am not Atlas, who carried the world on his shoulders; no Vicar can carry all the load. The Vicar is part of the 'laos', or the whole people of God (Matthew 2.6), not separate from them. It's a shared responsibility for us all to work at being 'church'.

Christ Church Bangkok will always have a special place in our hearts. Sue and I wish you all well and for whoever follows me, I will be assuring him of my continued prayers and good wishes.

Rev. Norman

My journey at Christ Church Bangkok

For the past 15 years, Christ Church Bangkok has been my spiritual home. I began as a member of the English Service and volunteered in the Children's Ministry under Rev. Peter Cook, later supporting weekday playgroups during the leadership of Rev. Tim Eady, Rev. Andy Smith, Rev. Norman Jones, and Rev. Chor Kee Tan. I also briefly assisted in the church office.

In 2021, I was invited by Rev. Matthew Fitter to join the Children's Ministry as a full-time staff member. With a background in both the private and NGO sectors, I took time to pray and seek guidance before accepting the role. It has been a tremendous blessing to serve children from diverse cultures and nationalities and to contribute to building God's Kingdom.

One highlight of this journey was helping youth from Myanmar affected by conflict to receive full scholarships to study education at UPH (Universitas Pelita Harapan) College in Jakarta. This program also offers a double degree from Corban University in the U.S. We now have five students in this life-changing opportunity.

I am deeply grateful for the support of the Vicars, PCC members, ministry team members, parents, and most importantly, the children. Above all, I thank the Lord Jesus Christ for His guidance and grace.

As our family relocates overseas, it is hard to say goodbye. I will miss the Lighthouse team and the Christ Church Bangkok family dearly. Though we are leaving, this church will always be our home.

May God bless you all.

With love and gratitude,
Patty James



A quote to note

“Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny.”

– C.S. Lewis

Encouragement from God's word in uncertain times

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, ³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.”
- Psalm 46:1-3

“The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.” - Psalm 18:2

“Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.” - Ephesians 6:13

Congregational news

- On the morning following the recent earthquake, Dr. Alex Waller, a member of our Christ Church Bangkok family, gave a presentation on the *Use of Artificial Intelligence in Government* at Chulalongkon University, Bangkok, as part of the 23rd Asian Bioethics Conference, 25-29 March 2025. Alex is a visiting professor at the American University of Sovereign Nations, with a fellowship at Yale University in the Academics Stand Against Poverty project of the Global Justice Program.
- The church will be organizing a Day of Prayer on 25 July. Please contact the church office for details at office@christchurchbangkok.org.



Volunteer opportunities

We are looking for **enthusiastic and passionate volunteers** who would like to serve in the following areas: welcoming, ushering, Bible reading, leading prayers, leading the service, teaching in Lighthouse, supporting Tiny Toys, choir – singers, musicians. If you are interested, please contact Okey Okafor at: administrator@christchurchbangkok.org or scan the QR code.



New Alpha course



A new program will run from 24 August to 9 November, at 1145 am following the 10 am service. At Alpha, you can ask anything – it's a safe space to question life, faith, and meaning. All are welcome! If you are interested, please scan the QR code.



Meet Reacheany En and Asi Ooraikul

My name is Reacheany En and my husband is Asi Ooraikul. We have been attending Christ Church Bangkok since 2019 before Covid-19 hit its peak.

Prior to the church being closed and services went online, we had the wonderful opportunity to take part in our first Alpha. In the beginning, Asi and I didn't know what Alpha was, but Reverend Norman told us that if we wanted to be baptized we should participate in the program. From that experience, we decided that we wanted to always help with Alpha, either through being helpers, participants or team leaders. We think Alpha is important for both long-term believers and for new ones.



Alpha is a 10-week course created by Anglican clergy and churches based in England. It's a wonderful course for seekers, beginners, and believers who experience a calling from God. We knew some things about Jesus and we knew that He is God but...we didn't know where to go from there. Alpha brought us to people who did know and they didn't think our questions were dumb. They were happy to guide us and show us sources we can check out and which authors to read to get more information. Through Alpha, we met people who loved the Lord and were excited and enthusiastic to share about Him. More importantly, we came to hear many testimonies and were encouraged to share with one another. It made us feel the warmth of being part of a community.

