

Mission Report for Annual General Meeting 2018



11am service

The mission focus for the last twelve months is the 11am service. This is one occasion that as a parish church we are able to talk about Christian faith to the baptism families and wedding couples whom mostly have no or little knowledge of Christian faith.

This service has been constantly developing the way of how to engage with people. It began as an informal family service with hymns/songs, prayers of intercession, Bible readings, activities for children, etc. The people who attend this service are families who booked baptisms and couples who fulfil the legal requirement enable them to marry in St Mary's. All are people who have no or very little knowledge of Christian faith and hardly any experience of church. The well established family service is unable to engage with those people. To enable the people to learn something about Christian faith, the 11am family service has now become a family "Sunday school" which is a time for families come to learn something about Christian faith in which their children would be baptised into. It is aimed more at adults than children, but in an informal family friendly style.

It is because the 11am service offers very basic knowledge of Christian faith, we have begun to develop the Café church (the fourth Sunday of the month at 11am). This is to provide an easy church service with which we are able to invite people back to experience church worship. Hopefully, some of them may grow in their personal faith. The first café church took place on March 25th. Big Kids is part of the Café church team.

The attendance at the regular 11am service depends on baptism bookings. In the summer season, attendance reached up to 16, and the average is about 6 – 8. While there are few baptism bookings, less people attend.

The parish monthly prayer

The parish monthly prayer (the second Tuesday of the month) offers regular opportunities for people in the parish to pray together. It has been led by a group of six people in turn. Most of the monthly prayers were taken in the style of meditation with readings, music and silence. It has been a space for those who attended to reflect on one's faith and a time set aside for God.

Seasonal studies

Seasonal studies were following the Church calendar of Advent and Lent, with an additional one in the Summer. In Advent, we studied Henry Nouwen's book *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, in which we reflected on the three characters in Jesus' parable of the prodigal son. In Lent, we explored the themes of Jesus' passion from different perspectives following the Lent Talks given by several well known people. The summer study explored the popularised meditation – Mindfulness.

Revd Norma Rao