

Growing Deeper

Jan - Feb 2023



Bishop: Rt Revd Dr Titus Chung

Vicar: Revd Ian Chew

COLLECT FOR TODAY

Almighty God, in the birth of Your Son
You have poured on us the new light of Your incarnate Word,
and shown us the fullness of Your love: help us to walk in His light and dwell in
His love that we may know the fullness of His joy;
who is alive and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

1 Jan 2023 2nd Sunday of Christmas/ Dedication Service

8am and 10:30am

Preacher: Revd Ian Chew

Sermon: "Growing Deeper"

Bible Reading: Hebrews 6:1-12;
John 3:25-36



Connect with the Ascension Family



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T(65) 6283 3988 F: (65) 6283 3220

Email: admin@ascension.org.sg
Website: www.ascension.org.sg

UPCOMING

7 Jan (Sat) 7:30am - 9am	Men's Network Monthly Prayer Meeting Ascension Hall
8 Jan (Sun) 8am & 10:30am	1st Sunday of Epiphany "Encountering Jesus in Creation" Genesis 1 and Luke 24:13-27 Revd Ian Chew
11 Jan (Wed) 8pm - 9pm	Hour of Power via Zoom
12 Jan (Thurs) 9:45am- 11:30am	Comlink - "What's A Cooking?" CNY Special LKC Hall, level 1

The Vicar and staff would like
to wish everyone a
Happy New Year
in 2023!

VICAR'S MESSAGE 1 JAN 2023

Dear COA family,

As we complete 2022 and get ready to embark on a new year, what is God's will for us in 2023?

I believe that in the past year, focusing on **"Rebuilding God's House"**, we have seen God's gracious work in our midst to form us as a community of faith in him and care for one another. We have witnessed the re-introduction of singing and participation in our services through the liturgy, the regular physical meeting together of our cell groups and our church coming together to celebrate the 70th anniversary activities as well as Christmas. These are all blessings from God for which we must be thankful for!

So where do we go from here?

As I was praying, I felt led by the Spirit that the coming year ought to be one where we grow our roots deep in Christ after a season of rebuilding. This is so that we can be strengthened to face the onslaughts of the devil and the world in the coming years.

A good analogy would be that of trees. Recently in Singapore, we have seen reports of falling trees in parks and along the roadsides. This has prompted the National Environment Agency to step up their checks on trees and actively prune them so that they are not too top-heavy. Trees falling takes place especially after heavy storms which have been happening more frequently in Singapore.

Why do they happen? It is because storms are tests which show up how strong and sturdy the trees are. And this is also tied to the depth of their roots. If their foundations are not strong enough, the trees will not be able to withstand the strong winds.

It is the same with us as God's special called-out people. We will face storms of life and we need to get our foundations strong and grow our roots deep in Christ.

Hence the direction and theme of **"Growing Deeper"** in 2023.

Growing deeper speaks about deepening our faith in Christ and this can only happen through reading and meditating on God's word. The Holy Spirit will then deepen our understanding and faith through the Scriptures so that we can live lives pleasing the Lord.

So, expect a year where we will place primacy on imbuing God's word into our lives and in everything we do.

What can you do for yourselves?

I believe that we can all start by committing to read God's word regularly and consistently. Spend about 10-15 minutes reading through the Bible (or listening to it being read). God's word, like a seed sown in our hearts, will grow and bear fruit to the blessing of ourselves and others.

Happy New Year and have a blessed 2023!

Revd Ian



WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

We warmly welcome you to worship with us at our Sunday Services.

The Church Office is open daily from Tuesday to Saturday (9am to 5.30pm), except for public holidays.
Office Phone: 62833988
Emergency contact: 81002203

Sunday Service	Time	Venue
English Traditional Holy Communion	8:00am	Sanctuary (Level 2)
English Contemporary Holy Communion 1 st & 3 rd Sun	10:30am	Sanctuary (Level 2)
Mandarin Holy Communion 1 st & 3 rd Sun	2:00pm	Sanctuary (Level 2)

NEW TO COA?

Whether you have joined our service today, onsite or online, or found us on the web, we are glad you have! Do let us know if you would like more information or prayer, or to just give us some feedback. Please contact us at admin@ascension.org.sg

COA CHILDREN MINISTRY

There will be no classes for KFC and Little Gems on 1 January 2023, it will be resumed on 8 January 2023.

Enquiries: [Shirley Kwek](#)



ELECTRONIC OFFERTORY

INTERNET BANKING (BANK TRANSFER)

Account Name: Church of The Ascension
Bank Name: OCBC
Account Number: 511010332001
Reference: Tithing number (if any), and any other description e.g. month of contribution etc.

PAYNOW VIA UEN

Step 1: Log in to your internet banking account
Step 2: On the PayNow transfer screen, enter the UEN number T08CC4066A for the Church of the Ascension



VACANCIES FOR COA STAFF POSITION

We are looking for suitable candidates to fill the following positions:

- Chinese Ministry pastoral staff. Interested applicants, please click on the below URL <https://ascension.org.sg/pastoral-worker-chinese-ministry/>
- SAJS Chaplaincy worker. Interested applicants, please click on the below URL <https://ascension.org.sg/chaplaincy-staff>

If you are interested to apply for the above positions, please send your resume to admin@ascension.org.sg

COA CHILDREN'S MINISTRY RECRUITMENT

COA CHILDREN'S MINISTRY RECRUITMENT



Interested in investing in the lives of Children
and serving God?

We are looking for volunteers to serve in our Sunday School.



Contact Shirley at 97667304 or email to
shirley.kwek@ascension.org.sg

MEN'S NETWORK MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING - 7 JAN 23

Church of the Ascension
Men's Network
MONTHLY
Prayer
Meeting

Saturday 7 Jan 2023
7.30am | Ascension Hall
— All are welcome —



HOUR OF POWER ONLINE 11 JAN 2023

Date: Wed 11 Jan 2023

Time: 8 pm - 9pm

Join us as one Ascension family to pray and seek the Lord.

The online Prayer Meeting will be conducted via Zoom:

([Click here](#) for the link.)

Meeting ID: 822 3756 7980



COMLINK - WHAT'S A COOKING? CNY SPECIAL

What's A Cooking?

CNY Special

**SPECIAL CHICKEN STEW
WITH MUSHROOMS, LILY
BULBS & CHESTNUTS**



Date: 12 Jan 2023 (Thurs)

Time: 9.45 am to 11.30 am

Cost: \$5 per person

Venue: LKC Hall, Church of the
Ascension

Register by: 6 Jan 2023

**To register, please call Church of the Ascension
at 6283-3988 (office hours only, closed on
Monday).**

**The organizer reserves the right to cancel the event
should unforeseen circumstances occur.**

COA BREAKFAST CLUB

By the grace of God, we can now serve breakfast in church.

We are appealing for generous contributors and volunteers.

Please email Clare at admin@ascension.org.sg or call the Church Office if you wish to serve in this area.

Come serve with us!



CHAPLAINCY VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Dear Ascensionnaires,

We are looking for volunteers to partner us in our chaplaincy outreach to SAJS boys. We invite you prayerfully consider volunteering for one or more of the following ministries.

Saints' Haven

Saints' Haven is a recess ministry that runs across the 3 recesses in SAJS. The boys come into our drop-in room to chill out. Board and card games are available for them to unwind and socialise.

Using game-playing as a platform to build friendships, we minister to the boys by patiently hearing what they have to say and speaking into their lives. Opportunities for prayer may arise as well.

Commitment:

1-2 volunteers on any one or more days from Mon to Thu, 9.25 – 10.55 AM, in SAJS, during school term.

Please come in earlier (9.15 AM) to help set up the place with games and prayers.

SAJS Praying Parents

The SAJS Praying Parents is part of the nationwide Praying Parents Unite! group that galvanises parents to pray and intercede for their schools.

We meet onsite weekly to cover the students, staff and parents of SAJS in prayer. Additional prayer meetings are also organised during important examination periods (eg. PSLE).

If you have a heart and/or burden to pray, we encourage you to join us. You do not need to be a SAJS parent to join the group.

Commitment:

Thursdays, 7.30 – 8 AM, COA MPH, during school term. Zoom option available for those who cannot meet onsite.

CHAPLAINCY VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

7J Boys' Brigade Singapore Company

The Object of the Boys' Brigade (BB) is "the advancement of Christ's Kingdom amongst Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness".

Utilising the method of Company, uniform, awards, promotion and wholesome activities, BB volunteers play an important role as mentors, helping nurture BB Boys to be men of godly character.

A typical weekday parade starts with a time of Singspiration, where praise songs are sung. Then a devotion is shared, before the boys break into their different levels to do activities like badgework, drills, soft archery or team-building games.

Other than the weekly Friday parades, volunteers are also involved in inter-school events such as the Adventure and Character Quest competitions, and community outreach events such as BB CARES and BB Share-a-Gift. Camps and outings are also organised occasionally.

Commitment:

1-4 volunteers for weekly Friday parades from 8 – 10 AM in COA, during school term. Adhoc volunteers for annual Saturday competitions and other activities (eg. camp, community outreach) are welcome too!

SAV HOPE Boyz Club/ Up & On Programme

SAV Helping Our Pupils Excel (HOPE) Boyz Club and Up & On Programme are after-school programmes that reach out to children-at-risk (Financial Assistance Scheme, latchkey, etc) identified by the school.

The boys gather for lunch after school on Wednesdays. Then a short message for the day is shared before they go into their different levels to do homework and revision (with a short break in between). Games and sports might also be played in the last period.

Sometimes outings (local and overseas) are organised to allow them to have the experience of travelling or going overseas. Past trips include an outing to Hay Dairies in 2018 and a cultural immersion trip to Chiang Mai in 2017.

P6 boys in the Up & On Programme also meet more regularly, from once a week to daily, as the PSLE draws closer.

Volunteers need not be good in any academic subjects (advantageous as that may be) – you just need a heart to journey alongside these boys and be a significant adult mentor in their lives.

Commitment:

1-2 volunteers on Wednesdays, 2-4 PM, in SAJS, during school term, from February onwards (start date TBC)

For P6s, same timing as Hope Boyz, but volunteers can commit to one or more of the 1.5-hour days from May onwards (May, Jul – Fri; end Jul-Aug: Tue, Thu, Fri; after Sep school hols-PSLE: Mon-Fri).

CHAPLAINCY VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Extend-A-Care Programme

Mentors with time and patience to model Christ's love are needed to encourage and listen to students who require additional emotional and academic support.

Volunteers work with the school counsellors and teachers to care for students through regular meetings to look out for these needy students and celebrate their joys and successes.

Commitment:

1-2 volunteers who can commit to meeting matched students at least once a week, before school assembly starts.

Counselling skills (active listening, naming emotions, reframing) and problem-solving skills advantageous but not necessary.

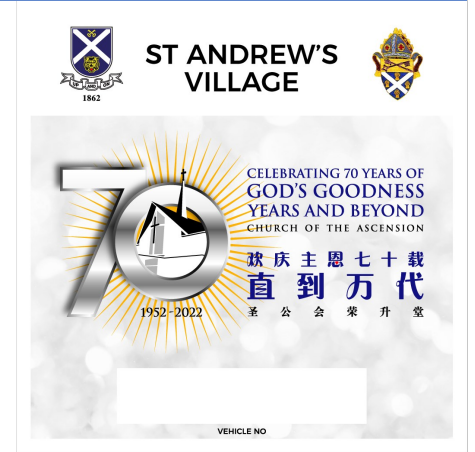
Interested? Please feel free to contact Ps Barnabas (9090 6067 or barnabas.sim@ascension.org.sg) for more details.

COA NEW CAR DECAL

In conjunction with COA's 70th Anniversary celebration, we are proud to present members with a new car decal! (See image.)

Please take note of the following:

- Register for your new car decal via this link <https://bit.ly/3omt1Y9> (Please contact the church if you cannot access the online form.)
- If you have an existing decal, please bring it to exchange for the new one on Sundays after service, at the Church office (after you have completed the registration).
- Period for registration and exchange:
Jan - Mar 2023.
- We encourage everyone to register for the new decal to enter St Andrew's Village. The SAV guards have the authority to deny entry to vehicle without proper identification.
- Parking in the school compound is allowed on Sundays **only**.



COA - TELEGRAM

We are on Telegram!

Subscribe to Church of The Ascension to receive updates on our latest announcements, events, programmes and more. Click on the link or scan the QR code to subscribe

<https://t.me/Ascensionaires>

Follow us and stay in touch!



@ASCENSIONAIRES

Download Telegram:

Android: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.telegram.messenger&hl=en_SG&q=US

Apple/iOS: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/telegram-messenger/id686449807>

EVENT CALENDAR 2023

The COA 2023 Event calendar is available for download. Please use the below link for the event calendar: <https://ascension.org.sg/coa-calendar>

RECRUITMENT OF HOST PARENTS FOR SA HALL FOREIGN STUDENTS

Host parents are needed for a new batch of foreign scholars aged 13-16 years of age and now residing in St Andrew's Hall. If you are interested in caring for and reaching out to these students, please contact Clare Ng at clare.ng@ascension.org.sg or 62833988.

ONLINE DIOCESAN CERTIFICATE OF BIBLICAL STUDIES (DCBS) TERM 1

Online Diocesan Certificate of Biblical Studies (DCBS) - Term 1

Registration for online DCBS Term 1 is open! DCBS aims to bring Bible literacy to participants, helping them to know and apply God's Word to life. Interested participants may sign up for an OT or NT module each term. All first-time participants are recommended to attend Module 1A or 1B to receive background overview of the Bible.

Title: Module 1A - Overview of the Old Testament

Instructor: Ms Vivien Chen

Date: 5th Jan 2023

Time: 7.30pm – 9pm

Cost: Free

Title: Module 2A - The Pentateuch (1): Genesis & Exodus

Instructors: Ms Vivien Chen, Mr Kwan Fook Seng, Mr James Tan

Dates: 12th January – 16th March 2023

Time: 7.30pm – 9pm

Cost: \$10

Title: Module 1B - Overview of the New Testament

Instructor: Mr Keith Leong

Date: 5th Jan 2023

Time: 7.30pm – 9pm

Cost: Free

Title: Module 8A - The Gospels (1): Mark & Luke

Instructors: Revd Aaron Cheng, Mr Alfred Chan

Dates: 12th January – 16th March 2023

Time: 7.30pm – 9pm

Cost: \$10

All lessons will be conducted via Zoom. Registration details can be found on the Diocesan website at www.anglican.org.sg.



Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayers

PRAYER FOCUS FOR WEEK: 1 - 7 JAN 2023

1) DIOCESE OF SINGAPORE:

Church of the Ascension:

Vicar:

Revd Ian Chew (and all Staff)

English and Chinese Congregations

St Andrew's Junior School:

Ms Elsie Poey and all teachers

Ascension Kindergarten:

Ms Wong Wei Sum and all teachers

Little Seeds Preschool (Ascension): Ms Theresa Enriquez and all teachers

St Andrew's House Day Boarding Centre and St Andrew's Hall

2) SINGAPORE AND THE WORLD:

- Materially and spiritually poor in Singapore
- China's escalation of sick in hospitals and homes due to COVID
- Victims and families of winter storms in the United States and Europe

3) PARISH:

- Men's Prayer Meeting on 7 Jan
- Dedication of Sunday school teachers at 10.30 AM Service (TODAY)
- Teachers, parents and students as they prepare for the new school year

4) THE SICK AND SUFFERING:

For health and recovery

Doris Chew, Evelyn Tan, Jenny Ng, Joanne Lau,
Lily Chan, Mary Yee, Tan Teck Hin, Wong Wah Kum,
Zephan Heng

Relatives and Friends of COA members

Benjamin (Lesley Ho's nephew) - Hepatitis B
David Yeong (Margaret Onn's husband) – cancer
Sng Hock Meng - healing of the mind
Soo Ngook Khinn (Sien Yee's father) - salvation
Ong Chwee Hock (Ong Siew Chin's brother) -
physiotherapy and lymphoma

For healing

Annie Huan - strength for her legs
Conelius Loo - sleep apnea
Joseph Phua - muscular degeneration
Nancy Chan (Low) - stroke & heart
Felicia Koh - protection against stroke in
future
Yee Teck Peng - general health to
improve

“Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God”; “He must increase, but I must decrease.”

Hebrews 6:1; John 3:30