

Dear Friends,

In these very difficult and challenging times, and in light of the fact that we have cared for and supported each other so well remotely, on behalf of Church Council I want to say “Well Done”!

The latest advice from Synod essentially precludes all internal meetings on our church property – so it is a little hard at this stage to forecast when we can gradually get together in a more physical sense. No doubt it will depend on when we achieve stage three of the State Government guidelines – but also upon advice from Synod which will always be more careful because of our vulnerable communities.

In the meanwhile, though our building is essentially closed, our church is very much alive. This is due to everyone taking care of each other at a distance; but there are some particular people who deserve special mention.

First, thanks to Geoff for his thoughtful homilies and pastoral letters seeking to widen our vision – and also to John Holliday Smith who has made these very artistic Youtube presentations possible. I should also mention that Geoff’s homilies and pastoral letters are available on our church web site should anyone have missed them or wish to ponder them again.

Thanks to Seng Eng who coordinates and oversees our pastoral care network and is the first port of call should any emergencies arise. Our “phone around” network initiated by Seng Eng is working well and is vitally important at the moment.

Stephen White has been extraordinarily busy managing our shrinking finances, and dealing with the ramifications of the lockdown for our tenants. Amongst other things he is also working on a plan for our next garage sale, determining when and in what shape it will occur.

Thanks also to Angela who has been a real champion whilst working under extremely difficult conditions. We can always depend upon her to carry out all necessary tasks promptly and efficiently.

There are many more of course who are working behind the scenes quietly and to them all go our heartfelt thanks.

I give thanks to God that we have such a caring, supportive and creative community, and pray that it will not be too long before we can come together again and plan together for an exciting future at St Ives Uniting.

Warm regards, Lawrence.