PASTOR'S REPORT TO THE AGM OF CHERRY GARDENS

UNITING CHURCH, 25TH JUNE 2017

Once again it is my privilege to present this report to the AGM.

In reflecting on the past year, I can see God's hand at work in so many areas in the life of His church at Cherry Gardens.

Although the congregation is small in numbers, there is a real heart to serve the Lord in many different ways, using the gifts and abilities that God has given each one of us. These are very diverse, as is evident in the number of different activities that form part of our church life as we worship together and witness to the wider community.

We have been blessed by the diversity of preaching over the past year, with many visiting preachers who freely give of their time and talents to impart God's word to us. The same happens with the music which enhances our worship each week - again, those musicians each have different styles, and we thank those who visit from other churches.

In addition to worship services most Sundays, which include the celebration of Holy Communion once a month, we have celebrated a baptism, witnessed two weddings at the church, and participated in the funeral of a local lady, which was held at the church.

The Leadership Team has initiated the idea of visiting other local churches on the fifth Sunday of some of those months with five Sundays. The first of these visits occurred on 30th April with a visit to Upper Sturt UC, when we were inspired by the witness of several refugees who participate in the International Programme at Unley Park Baptist Church. Visits to other churches are planned for July and October.

Our outreach into the community this year has included participation in the Anzac Day service and breakfast, the organising of the Community Carols, contributions to the "Cherry Chatter", the community newsletter, the ongoing and valued partnership with the Cherry Gardens Garden Club, which meets monthly in the church, and the use of the church and hall for retreats by other churches, with participants often commenting on the beautiful setting of the church and the peaceful stillness.

It is with deep gratitude to God that I give thanks for all those who serve Him in so many ways in the life of Cherry Church, and for the love and support which are shown one to another in His service.

Margaret Seyfang