

**Who are the Evergreens?**

The Evergreens is a group of senior persons reaching out to others in the spirit of Christian love, based on the Parish of the Church of St Michael, Ipoh.

**Who manages the Evergreens?**

A Management Committee is elected every three years at an Annual General Meeting. It guides the Evergreens within the approved Rules and Regulations.

**Who comprises the Management Committee?**

The current Management Committee, from AGM 2011- AGM 2014, comprises:

President	Parish Priest, SMC	Rev Fr. Stephen Liew
Chairperson:	Brian Hills	014-906 1713
Vice Chairperson	Peter Cheah	012-518 7889
Secretary	Theresa Fernandes	016-457 7199
Treasurer	Francis Yew	012-515 6609
Committee Member	Francis Khoo	016-512 4599
Committee Member	Henry Hoy	016-521 2949
Committee Member	Peter Goon	012-463 7549
Committee Member	Joanne Low	017-480 9163 (March 2012)
Committee Member	Shirley Cubinar	016-540 1742 (January 2013)
Rep of Parish Priest	Sr Dorothy Khaw	016-594 5807 (February 2014)

**How did the Evergreens come to be?**

This is best answered by 'A brief history of SMC Evergreens.'

In March 2000, Rev. Fr. Dr. Paul Chin, Parish Priest of SMC, decided to establish an organization devoted to the seniors of the parish.

An informal meeting held on April 18, 2000 was attended by 11 persons. Fr Chin outlined his ideas – an organization especially for seniors where they could meet, interact and hold events tailored to senior persons. He suggested various guidelines, and a provisional name – "The Evergreen Group". The organization was to be open to parishioners aged 50 and above from any of the Catholic parishes of Ipoh. Non-Catholics could also join the group but could not be Office Bearers. Such items as subscriptions, cost of events, cost of food served (if any) was to be kept to a minimum so that all eligible persons could take part no matter what their financial standing. The ideas and guidelines received general approval. The 11 interested persons were: Lionel Chow, Albert Cheaw, Miriam Poo (Cheaw), Alice Thong, Grace Lam, Francis Lam, William Wong, Dr James Teh, Dominic Wong, Allan Cheng and Brian Hills.

A formal meeting held on May 29, 2000 was attended by 35 persons. The suggested guidelines, with some modifications and additions from the Meeting, were approved unanimously. The name became the "Evergreens" informally and "SMC Evergreens" for official purposes. A Management Committee was formed.

The 1st Committee Meeting was held on June 15, 2000 and Meetings have been held regularly ever since. The first 'get-together' was held on June 29, 2000 and the Chairperson first represented the Evergreens on the Parish Pastoral Council on October 21, 2000.

The Parish Priests of SMC have all been supportive of the Evergreens. In 2006, at the request of Fr. M. Cheah, a set of Rules and Regulations incorporating the guidelines was prepared. They were adopted in October 2006 (subsequently revised on 1st January 2012). House Rules were put in place soon after (now in the process of revision). In June 2006, Fr Cheah provided an old bungalow on the church grounds as a clubhouse. It was renovated and re-painted and is now called the "OAK" - an oak tree is part of the Evergreens' logo. Fr Cheah also put the 'Annex', a building adjacent to the OAK, under the care of the Evergreens – it is available for functions of the Evergreens and other groups of SMC. In 2010, the Parish and the Evergreens negotiated an Agreement regarding the responsibilities of each party with regard to the OAK. The Agreement is now under re-renewal.

**What do do the Evergreens do?**

The Management Committees have tried to organize at least one major activity each month. Such activities include visits to St Anne's Shrine, Bukit Mertajam, the Orang Asli villages, Market Sales, Breakfasts, Lunch get-togethers, a trip to Malacca, a trip to the Hakka Settlement at Balik Pulau Penang and various outreach programs in the Lent and Advent seasons such as donating school uniforms to needy children. Each year the Evergreens organizes an Annual Dinner (usually in November). The Evergreens have also exchanged visits with the seniors groups of the Church of St Anne (SAS-BM), Church of St Joseph (Batu Gajah) and Church of the Immaculate Conception (SuperSeniorZ-Penang). Evergreens also visited the Catholic Seniors Fellowship (Malacca) and received a visit from the Church of the Visitation, (VSPF-Seremban).

Regular activities currently include line-dancing, Mandarin classes, harmonica playing, and several games are available on an almost daily basis. There is also a sharing/discussion group. The current time-table of activities at the Oak is:

Monday	Sharing Life, Sharing Gospel Values	10.30 am – 12.00 pm
Tuesday	Games Room	12.00 pm – 5.00 pm
Wednesday	Line dancing (Peter Pang Hall)	10.00 am – 11.30 am
	Games Room	12.00 pm – 5.00 pm
Thursday	Mandarin Classes	11.00 am – 12.00 pm
	Games Room	12.00 pm – 5.00 pm
	Afternoon Games	2.30 pm – 4.00 pm
	Line dancing (Peter Pang Hall)	8.00 pm – 10.00 pm
Friday	Games Room	12.00 pm – 5.00 pm
Saturday	Mandarin Classes	11.00 am – 12.00 pm
	Harmonica group (occasional)	10.30 am – 12.00 pm
Sunday	Karaoke (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday only)	11.30 am – 2.00 pm

Billiards/snooker, Table-tennis, Carom, Darts and much more are available on request. These activities are generally provided without extra charge, although there are exceptions.

**How do I become a Member?**

Obtain a Membership Application Form from the Secretary, together with a copy of the Rules and Regulations, and submit to the Secretary the completed Form (with 2 passport photographs attached) signed by two Proposers together with the Annual Subscription Fee of RM12.00. The fee is renewable in January of each calendar year. The Secretary will inform you when your Application has been accepted by the Management Committee and hand you a Membership Card containing your photograph.

## NEWS FROM SMC EVERGREENS

### Recent Events:

May 7<sup>th</sup> saw a bus full of Members and friends depart SMC at 6.30 am for a day trip to Penang to visit the Khoo Kongsi and the Hakka Village at Balik Pulau where we were served a traditional lunch. Many vowed to go again when the durians are in season!

May 25<sup>th</sup>, and we had a lunch-time get-together at the Annex to celebrate Parents' Day. Some 75 Members attended the fun and games!

A Breakfast get-together was held on June 29<sup>th</sup> at the Annex with 13 Members of the VSPF seniors group of the Church of the Visitation, Seremban who were visiting Ipoh. An enjoyable exchange of ideas took place. 60 or so Members attended.

On July 30<sup>th</sup> a bus load of Members and friends joined with the SMC Legion of Mary for our traditional day pilgrimage to the Shrine of St Anne at the Church of St Anne, Bukit Mertajam. Mass was celebrated at 11.30 am by Fr Augustine Wong. The Novena and Feast Day was delayed by one week this year in an attempt to avoid the heavy traffic resulting from the overlapping schedule of the celebration of Hari Raya Eid el Fitri and the Novena.

Monday July 14<sup>th</sup> was the launching of a new activity for Members called Sharing Life, Sharing Gospel Values. Sr Dorothy Khaw, RGS, is the Moderator and guides the group in the sharing of various incidents from the life of Members, relating the experiences to the values of the Gospels. The group meets every Monday at the OAK at 10.30 am.

Board Games, another new activity, which commenced on Thursday July 3<sup>rd</sup>, are under the guidance of Jennifer Duarte and Theresa Fernandes. Scrabble, dominoes etc are played. Come, relax and enjoy the friendly competition.

### Coming Events:

Parish Event for 2014 is the Orang Asli Project. This event was suggested by our Parish Priest and approved by the Parish Council in January 2014. The Project initially is to assist one kampong to up-grade its standard of living by restoring electric light to each house, to provide simple bathrooms and toilets, to improve the water supply, to provide medical advice especially to young women, to teach simple agricultural techniques to grow cash crops, to build a small community hall for meetings, handicrafts, etc and many others. Our Chairperson, Brian Hills, is on the organizing committee and is spear-heading a drive for small personal donations to buy 'jungle shoes' for the people and also to buy school uniforms for the new school year commencing in 2015. A donation of RM20 will buy 5 pairs of shoes; a donation of RM50 will go a long way to buying a school uniform. Donations can be made through Brian, or direct to the Parish Office. Receipts will be issued. Treat this as a part of your outreach for 2014/5 to the poor and needy.

**Next Fellowship Get-together:** Moon Cake and Lantern Festival. Details under discussion.

**Next Outing:** The Management Committee is considering organizing a 2-days-1-night trip to Malacca with a break in Seremban to meet the VSPF group. Details to be announced.

The Annual General Meeting of Members will be held in the Annex on November 16<sup>th</sup> commencing at 11.30 am. The term (3 years) of the current Management Committee comes to an end at this AGM and there will be Voting for a new Management Committee. Lunch will be taken after the AGM.

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### Planned (future) Activities under consideration:

- Health talks and subjects of general interest
- Demonstrations of craftwork, art, photography, cooking etc
- Outings to events/places of interest
- Volunteer Group

### Volunteers required for the Planned (future) Activities:

1. Persons willing to give demonstrations of craftwork, art, photography, cooking etc.
2. Retired Nurses willing to give blood pressure checks, blood sugar checks etc.
3. Van drivers to bring to Church those who have difficulty with transport.

Volunteers please inform any member of the Committee.