

In Touch

The Cathedral Magazine Pentecost 2014

ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL HONG KONG

Diocese of HK Island Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui
香港聖公會聖約翰座堂



Archbishop Paul Launches New Cathedral Website	1
John Chynchen's Celebration Party	8
Happy 30th Anniversary of Discovery Bay Church	11
Two Years In Post: An Interview with the Dean	14
Pilgrimage to Kerala 2014	18
Clergy on Retreat	24
Upcoming Events	26

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the first issue of the St John's Cathedral magazine In Touch. Through this new publication, which will come out 3-4 times a year, you will be informed of and, I hope, become more engaged in the life of our great Cathedral.

In Touch aims at being much more than a magazine that lists the latest events in the community. In this publication we are striving to give witness to the working of Jesus Christ in our church and the world around us. Through its articles and captivating photos our hearts and minds can be opened and we can realise that God is actually inviting us to recognise his love, power and presence among us. We will be surprised when and where we discover the wonder of God!

I would like to offer my sincere thanks and congratulations to the Revd Nigel Gibson and Mr Stuart Wolfendale for creating such an excellent and much-needed publication for the Cathedral family. Without their hard work, professionalism and dedication to the project In Touch would not have come into being. Praise be to God!

Enjoy!

Dean Matthias



Archbishop Paul activates the new site with Dean Matthias, Webmaster Robin Hall, Shirley Fu and Fr Nigel Gibson.



Webmaster Robin Hall explaining the site's new features

Archbishop Paul Launches New Cathedral Website

It's finally here – a brand new website for St John's!

At a special ceremony in Li Hall on Palm Sunday, Archbishop Paul Kwong pushed a button to launch the new site.

Commending many of the site's new features - an improved homepage, accessible layout and an intuitive site-wide navigation system - Archbishop Paul said the new site is an essential tool for the Cathedral's outreach strategy to draw people into faith and fellowship.

Webmaster Robin Hall says the website will be updated regularly with news, education courses, special events and other new content and encouraged everyone to bookmark the site and make it one of their favourites.

Over one year in planning and development, the new site streamlines the visitor's experience,



The new-look St John's website Home Page

introducing users to the breadth of St John's work and ministry.

An innovative 360° virtual tour of the Cathedral will be added this summer, followed by a series of short videos, which will give a snapshot of life and worship at St John's for both insiders and outsiders.

Robin expressed his thanks to Shirley Fu and Joey Fan who led the project and to Fr Nigel Gibson who helped source much of the new material.

The new website address remains the same: www.stjohnscathedral.org.hk and from Palm Sunday it is now possible to keep in touch with St John's via Twitter. If you are a Twitter user, please follow [@StJohnsHK](https://twitter.com/StJohnsHK) for updates to the website, news and announcements.

In Touch

We are delighted that you are reading In Touch, the new quarterly magazine of St John's Cathedral. You will be reading us as hard copy, in your hand, as our predecessor the St John's Review always came to its readers. Or you will be reading this online, through the link in the Cathedral's splendidly redesigned website which was launched only a few weeks ago and features as our front page story.

Elsewhere in the magazine is an article describing the setting up of the Communications Committee, last year. That committee, the website and this magazine, coming to life so close together, tell you something about the new push at St John's to expand the scope and improve the quality of communications within our church and with the wider city.

We are a fascinating family at St John's and we are spread all over the place in culture, language, ministry and recreation. We are not so much a dysfunctional family as a disjointed one sometimes. Often, parishioners in one part of our community do not know what those in another part of it have done or are planning to do. In Touch has been founded to keep as many people as possible in the know about each other's efforts - in the spirit of our masthead.

In Touch will be reporting to you on the Cathedral's ministry and achievements, its events and functions, and its joys and sorrows. Yet we will not just be telling you what has passed. Vital to our function is to give you a heads up on what will be happening at St John's in all its sectors. Sometimes it will be whole articles telling you what is to come and how to attend or be involved. Sometimes it will be just a few lines of detail for you to pick up and go with. There will be an Upcoming Events Diary updated every issue. This will share with you practically everything the Cathedral Office knows about - special services, education courses, concerts, and anything else on the horizon.

This is also a magazine of pictures. We believe illustrations are very important not just for visual appeal but for highlighting events, helping people to know each other and warming up the sense of community. They are also great fun for the editors to deal with and place, so we do urge you to submit your pictures with any story you give to us and we will give them the best of treatment.

Which brings us to contributions. This magazine not only exists for the St John's congregations; it will exist by them. We need you to make it work by submitting articles on what you are doing at St John's and for St John's in the wider community. As editors, we may come to you and ask for copy. As members of the Cathedral, you might come to us with a topic you think we should know about and we welcome you doing that.

Now comes the moment when we play tough journalists. If this magazine is to work efficiently, economically and come out on time, we have to have contributions in by the deadlines we set. If a deadline is missed, the article will not run in that edition. **The copy deadline for our second issue is Monday 28th July.**

And who are these two tough journalists? The magazine's editor is the Revd Nigel Gibson and his deputy is Stuart Wolfendale.

Fr Nigel brings to In Touch a wide-range of journalistic and media skills. Prior to being ordained, he worked as a journalist and prime-time newsreader in Sydney and Adelaide. He has also freelanced for the ABC and is a former news director of Festival City Broadcasters in Adelaide, one of Australia's leading independent radio networks. Fr Nigel is an experienced copywriter and voice-over artist with an impressive portfolio of corporate clients. In the UK he served on the Diocese of Lincoln's Communications Staff as a media consultant and was a regular contributor to the diocesan monthly magazine.

Stuart has been a freelance writer, editor and journalist based in Hong Kong for many years. For most of twenty years, he was a widely read local newspaper columnist and features writer. In recent times, his writing and editing has been for companies, NGOs and other organisations including the Cathedral for which he wrote the history published by the HKUP in Spring last year.

We are both delighted and privileged to have been given responsibility for In Touch by the Dean. We want you to join us in this venture and enjoy it. As the Dean puts it in his Welcome note, we hope the magazine might, occasionally at least, lead you to a place through which you discover something of the glory and wonder of God.



Would you trust this lot with your soul?

Full story on Page 24



THE DEAN'S MESSAGE

We will soon be celebrating Pentecost, one of the major feasts in the life of the Church. On this day, we commemorate the Holy Spirit who descended upon the early followers of Christ 50-days after his resurrection, to inspire, equip and empower them for the mission of his church. According to the biblical account, what a glorious transformation it was. The Gospel was preached and heard through the speaking of the tongues of many lands to display the universal nature of Christ's redemption. The originally timid and frightened believers suddenly became courageous to a point that they were willing to be martyred for their faith. Most important of all, they no longer felt they were abandoned but Christ's eternal presence and love abided with them forever as promised by Jesus before his crucifixion.

Today, many in the world are still struggling with fears and aloneness. People work long hours to make ends meet yet often fail to realise that their values, integrities and family relationships have been compromised. Many experience a void in searching for fulfillment and the purpose of their lives. Pentecost reminds us that through the love and the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ is here. We are not alone. He loves us and continues to inspire, equip and empower us to face the ups and downs of life. However, that is not the end of the story. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit has resulted in moving the Church from being inward to outward looking for the mission of Christ. There are still many around us who have yet to understand the language of God's love. They are still yearning

for the peace, joy and love that God desires each of us to have. The Church, upon receiving the "gift of tongues" on the Day of Pentecost, is charged to use the new tongues to proclaim and convey the great message. How can we speak the language of the people where they are so they might understand and accept the tremendous love of Jesus? How can we convey our faith with boldness and freshness whenever opportunity arises?

St John's Cathedral is far more than an iconic institution of the Hong Kong social fabric. In fact, it is a community where the Holy Spirit has abided and worked through our devotion and faith in Jesus Christ. I find it a great joy and privilege to see how the Holy Spirit continues to inspire and empower many of our people. The outreach ministries, the worship services, the nurture courses, the care given by individual parishioners and the personal encounter with Christ on our faith journey were all the working of the Holy Spirit. Let's celebrate Christ's presence and love with an open heart and embark on his mission with joy and gladness.



Dean Matthias



Faith in Love

Reaching Out to Tin Shui Wai

A coachload of over thirty St John's members led by the Revd John Chynchen left the Cathedral on Saturday 8th March to visit elderly people living in isolation or reduced circumstances in government housing units in Tin Shui Wai. This act of outreach was arranged and escorted by the Faith in Love Foundation, directed by local businesswoman Gigi Chow who is a member of the St John's congregation.

The organisation that turned this keen but largely uninformed group into effective visitors was impressive. The group was shepherded along the Light Rail Transit to the selected estate block and sent into the building in units of three, each with a Chinese speaker and each with three addresses to visit.

The Foundation's mission is to 'support the alleviation of poverty, encouraging volunteerism, and promote art as a medium of connection and expression'. Not much art was involved that afternoon, except conversation that went well amongst the elderly our St John's people met. They encountered high spirits, stoicism, sadness, solitude and quiet despair. They met it all with a real interest in and sympathy for conditions rarely encountered, and bags of basic provisions put together by the Foundation.

The visit was part of the Cathedral's 2014 Lenten Mission. Fr John hopes there will be more visits in the future. One to subdivided flats and caged units in Shamshuipo is already in prospect.



Cathedral Choir

Congratulations to Fr Nigel Gibson and Stuart Wolfendale in producing this first edition of In Touch. The St John's Cathedral Choir is delighted to support this publication and looks forward to making regular contributions. This initial article provides a little bit of history of the choir, outlining a few recent changes and where we are now.

According to one of the choir's basses, Thomas Li, who is also our recording technician and archivist, there is evidence to suggest that the first choir was established in the 1850s and it is likely that ladies were included right from the start.

Today's choir comprises some 40 musicians, led by Raymond Fu, choirmaster since 1979, and we sing at the 9am Eucharist and monthly choral matins as well as weddings, funerals, memorials and special services. The choir is a happy mix of ages and nationalities. Fifty per cent are Hong Kong Chinese and the rest British, North Americans, a Japanese, a Singaporean and a Finn.

Hong Kong's community can be transitory and some members stay for just a few years. Others remain longer and we have 20-30 year veterans amongst us. Given the demands of business,

travel and overseas educations, the choir rarely exceeds 30 members so the planning of music schedules remains one of the biggest challenges for the choirmaster.

The choir is an integral part of Cathedral life and over the past 20 years at least four members have been ordained and now minister in Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, California and at St John's itself. The Revd Hugh Phillipson is choir chaplain.

The choir and the Cathedral music department are expanding. Peter Yue has been organist since 1991 and recently Felix Yeung has been appointed sub-organist. The standard of singing steadily improves and our repertoire is being broadened.

We are keen supporters of improved communications and the start of In Touch, as well as the new Cathedral website, are significant steps forward in this area. Posted on the website are details of all six of our choirs that contribute to the music of the Cathedral and if you would like to learn more, do take a few minutes to browse!

Debbie McGowan





A Generosity Most Touching

MFMW rallies migrant community for a Walk for Charity

In a unique display of the poor's generosity, almost 400 foreign domestic helpers, with support from some local students, joined MFMW's Walk for Charity for St John's Michaelmas Fair on 30th March.

Despite the threat of a downpour nothing dampened the spirits of the participants, who arrived at the Cathedral in time for the conclusion of the Filipino congregation's Mass.

Organised by the Mission for Migrant Workers, the Walk for Charity was staged as an offering to St John's on the occasion of the Mission's 33rd Anniversary.

In the past MFMW celebrated its anniversary with a big outdoor event for migrants. But as MFMW manager Cynthia Abdon-Tellez explained: "This year we chose to bring together the migrant community to do a big thing for a good cause and give something back to St John's".

And give back the migrants most certainly did, raising \$15,978 on the day!

'In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability'.

2 Corinthians 8: 2-3



The St John's Cathedral HIV Education Centre

"Getting to Zero" – 2014 Microfilm Contest for Hong Kong Youth, is for young people between 15-35 to produce a winning short film lasting from 3 to 10 minutes on the theme "Zero New Infections, Zero Discrimination and Zero AIDS-Related Deaths". The St John's Cathedral HIV Education Centre and the Hop Yuen Charitable Foundation Fund jointly present the contest.

Contestants can form production groups of up to 12. The video can be a story (real or fictitious), or can express feelings towards those who are infected. The deadline for submissions is 30th June. The champion team will be awarded \$5,000 and a trophy. The winning film will be played in the official Facebook and YouTube of the Centre, and will be used as the promotional video next year.

Half of new HIV infections occurred in youth who are 10 to 24 years old. There are 7,000 young people worldwide infected every day, and an average of five young people infected with HIV every minute. In Hong Kong the cumulative total of HIV infections reached 6,342 by the fourth quarter of 2013. The competition aims to make young people from a spread of backgrounds more aware of and involved in the struggle against HIV/AIDS and take another step towards a non-discriminatory society for those who are living with HIV.

More information can be found on our website: www.sjhivctr.com/film

Clergy & Council Away Day

Guest speaker, Pastor Greg Anderson of Hong Kong's Union Church (middle row fourth from left) spoke for an hour on the theme "Called to Mission". Greg's many theological gifts, pastoral insights, and oratory skill touched us all and stimulated some lively discussion. He taught us how to apply faith in everyday life, about the world, about ourselves, and about the joy of being a Christian in the fellowship of the Church.

The Away Day included a tour of St James' Settlement's impressive new facilities and an overview of its wide-range of services to the community.



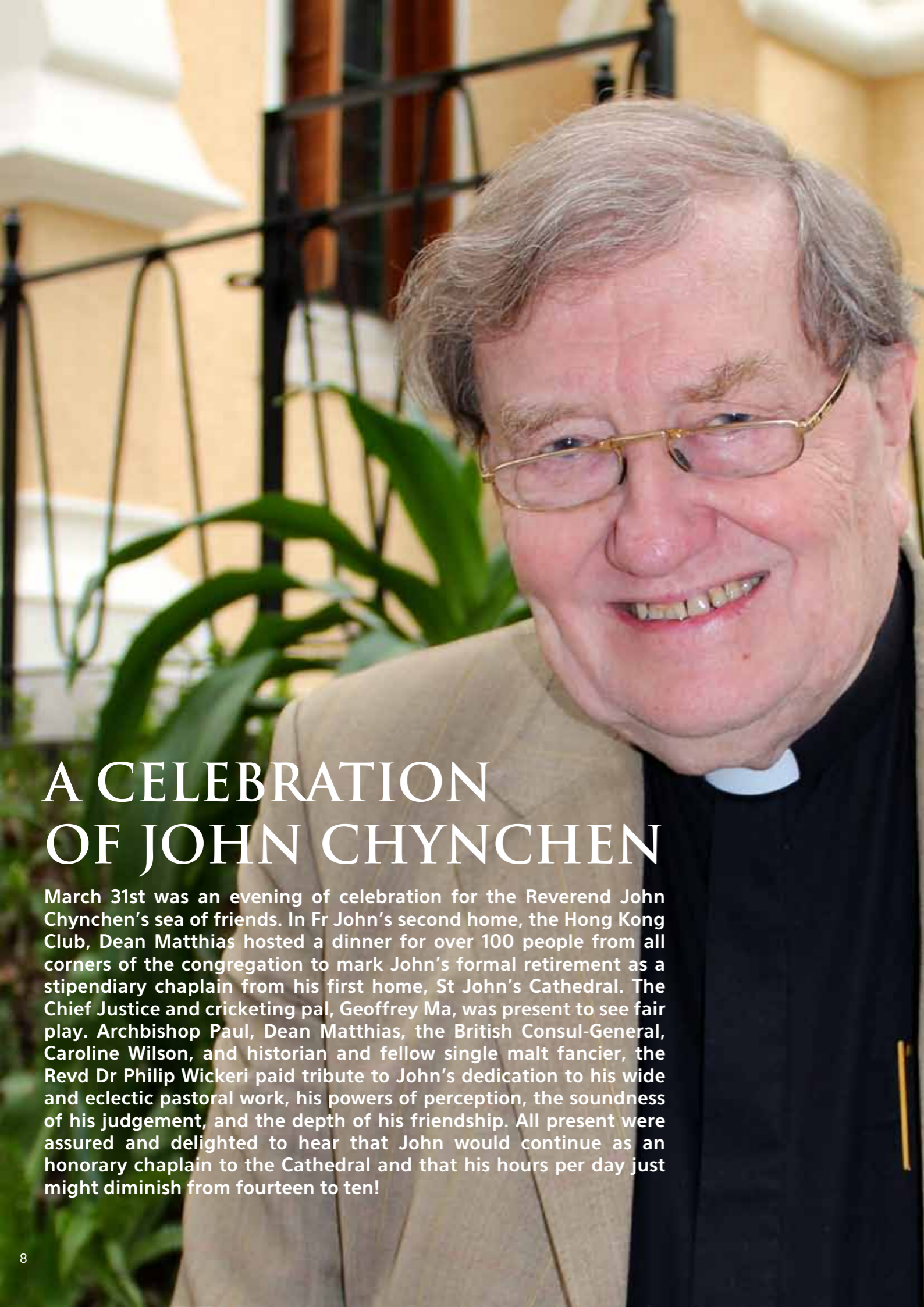
Cathedral Chaplains and Council members gathered in St James' Church, Kennedy Road for our bi-annual Away Day in February.

Congratulations!



Stacey's 50th

Much-loved Emmanuel parishioner Stacey Usher celebrating her Big Five-O at Béthanie Chapel on Easter Sunday and cheered on by husband Eric, son Robin, and daughter Emily. Both Robin and Emily flew in from the United States especially to be with Mom on her big day. Many Congratulations, Stacey!



A CELEBRATION OF JOHN CHYNCHEN

March 31st was an evening of celebration for the Reverend John Chynchen's sea of friends. In Fr John's second home, the Hong Kong Club, Dean Matthias hosted a dinner for over 100 people from all corners of the congregation to mark John's formal retirement as a stipendiary chaplain from his first home, St John's Cathedral. The Chief Justice and cricketing pal, Geoffrey Ma, was present to see fair play. Archbishop Paul, Dean Matthias, the British Consul-General, Caroline Wilson, and historian and fellow single malt fancier, the Revd Dr Philip Wickeri paid tribute to John's dedication to his wide and eclectic pastoral work, his powers of perception, the soundness of his judgement, and the depth of his friendship. All present were assured and delighted to hear that John would continue as an honorary chaplain to the Cathedral and that his hours per day just might diminish from fourteen to ten!

A Sidelong Reminiscence

by John Chynchen

Part 1

Why Hong Kong? Keith George, a cocky farmer's son, was my best Aussie mate. We studied land surveying in Melbourne and were together on numerous field trips around Victoria in the early 1960s. We were both addicted to the television series Hong Kong, which coincided with the stage production in Melbourne of The World of Suzie Wong. Keith and I decided we would start a land surveying firm in Hong Kong; sadly he died of a congenital heart condition six weeks after congratulating me when I first set foot in the Colony in 1966 to carry out a marine study for Esso/CLP.

It was a good 14 years later when I first ventured into St John's Cathedral. The recollection is etched in my memory; a bearded cleric, Dean Stephen Sidebotham (1st Innings) baptised Crispin, son of James and Carol Dyer and his proud father delivered the St Crispin's Day speech from Shakespeare's Henry V in the Lady Chapel. In 1981, just under a year later, I returned to St John's for the Memorial service for Colonel Sir Douglas Clague, soldier and entrepreneur, one of the most colourful of taipans and remembered always with respect and affection.

story continues next page.....

A Sidelong Reminiscence

The Band of the RHKP occupied a great chunk of the transept and, memorably, played Handel's Dead March from Saul. It was profoundly moving and 'sat' well in the Cathedral. It is time we invited HK Police Band back for a concert! From 1983 to 1986 I re-located myself in Singapore to mastermind my firm's involvement in the MRT (LKY insisted on a distinctive acronym!). On Sundays, I was drawn to St Andrew's Cathedral where at long last I was confirmed...and, believe it or not, sang in the 11.00 am Choir. In 1984, while Chairman of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in Hong Kong, I had invited Bishop Peter Kwong Kong Kit (now Archbishop Emeritus) to attend the RICS Annual Dinner and give the Grace — something of an innovation that contrasted with speeches that tended to be centred in Lockhart rather than Garden Road.

When I returned to Hong Kong in the high summer of 1986, I informed Bishop Peter of my deep concern with the direction of the Diocese of Singapore and I revealed that I was wrestling in my heart and mind with an imperative sense that I should consider offering myself for the ordained ministry. He advised me to contact the Revd Roger Holloway, Honorary Chaplain at St John's and Managing Director of Jardines' Wines and Spirits (Roger was said to be full of the Holy Spirit) to seek his advice on the way forward. Meanwhile, John Hill, CEO of HSBC in Singapore and an assistant organist at St Andrew's Cathedral, also introduced me to Stephen Green (Lord Green since 2010; UK Minister of State for Trade and investment 2011/13), a rising star at HSBC in 1986, who was actively engaged in the Northwest Dioceses Ministerial Training Scheme of the Church of England. The above-named were soon joined by the Revd Dr Erik Kvan as my tutor in Bible Studies and I was launched as a prospective ordinand for study and training in Salisbury, England.

In late 1986, Dean Paul Clasper had retired and departed for the United States. The Revd David Smethurst had arrived for what was to prove to be a short and rather turbulent incumbency. Those fortunate to have read Stuart Wolfendale's excellent account in his recent history of St John's (From Imperial to International, HKUP 2013) need no regurgitation here; suffice it to say that David Smethurst was supportive and encouraging from the start of my preparation for ordination. His sermon, broadcast on RTHK, contained an exhortation in favour of cashing a large portion of St John's financial investments and donating the money to the Solomon Islands. Erik Kvan met with me by the vestry afterwards and described the sermon as a 'suicide note'. I was apprehensive on my own account having led innovatory inclusive intercessory prayers on radio using the expression 'regardless of their sexual orientation'.

Christopher (Chris) Phillips was installed as Dean, ostensibly for two or three years, but stayed for 15. He was approachable and suitably modest, a good listener and always open to ideas. He also laughed easily and often. In the clergy vestry, after my first mass and sung sursum corda (July 1990), the Dean greeted me with: "John, that was hardly Pavarotti!" In the early Nineties, I was much influenced by Salisbury Cathedral (capacity 2500) and I pushed rather too hard for changes across the board. Donald Reeves, Rector of St James's, Piccadilly, London, came, at my bidding, for two weeks and inspired a mission statement. A Cathedral Conference followed and produced exciting initiatives which hit the buffers and, eventually, the shredder. Stephen Green and I, as Honorary Chaplains, roamed across the Harbour and helped out at Christ Church, Kowloon Tong...and in Stephen's evangelical case, St Andrew's, Tsim Sha Tsui. I was never invited (different brand) but their Thursday Prayer Group prayed for me frequently as they fretted about my Masonic connection. Stephen and I, quite quickly, absented ourselves from the weekly clergy and staff meetings. He was soon promoted to Treasurer (General Manager) of HSBC and I had a professional practice to run. We advised Dean Phillips that we could not find the time to get together to discuss the relative merits of four kinds of chocolate biscuit!

A trend towards treating the Cathedral Council as a rubber stamp for plans and decisions formulated by the trustees (Dean+2 laypersons) commenced during the long trusteeship of Mr Li Fook Hing, largely because he and Mrs Li were fountains of munificent generosity. The trend gathered momentum during the long trusteeship of Eric Bohm and has led to a feeling among a number of the clergy, who consider themselves as the church's professionals, that they are viewed by the well-to-do laity as 'hired hands' who flap their hands and say the Holy bits. Anglican polity and liturgy are actually highly regarded in Christian circles the world over. It has been proven over and over again that top-flight lay people in demanding, well remunerated occupations do not have the time to accumulate the depth of familiarisation and feel for the Cathedral's unique concoction of liturgical words and music, together with the sourcing of the relevant material and preparation of the documentation required to support it.

Editor's Note: Part 2 of 'A Sidelong Reminiscence' will be published in a future edition of In Touch.

Congratulations Discovery Bay Church!

Happy 30th Anniversary!



"We are very pleased to be able to announce that we shall be holding our first interdenominational service at Discovery Bay on 30th October at 10am."

So wrote Niels Kraunsoe on 29th October 1983 in a circular letter to Christ Church Kowloon Tong, St John's Cathedral, Hong Kong Union Church and various other English language churches.

Modestly Niels continued, "This small church group has been set up by a few residents (all lay people) who feel the need for some form of worship in our community and with God's help we hope to grow in size and strength."

story continues next page.....





Thirty years later Discovery Bay Church continues to be a vibrant worshipping community.

Over these three decades many things have changed both for the church and for the resort. The church has moved location two times, moving to Discovery Bay International School in 1988 and to Wei Lun School (HKSKH) in 1993 where the church continues to worship. The resort too has grown exponentially. Perhaps the most significant change came in 1990 when the church was formally adopted by St John's Cathedral as a daughter church. The Revd Rob Gillion was appointed the first Priest in Charge.

Another change has been in its membership. For many Discovery Bay is a transient home. This is reflected in the turn-over of worshippers. I only know of two people who still live in Discovery Bay from the early years of the church in the late 1980's.

But those early years established characteristics which have continued. Although it is no longer interdenominational it continues to be a diverse congregation with people from a wide spectrum of denominations. Most Sundays five continents are represented! Likewise the church continues to be rooted in ministry to young families. It has always had a strong children's ministry and has also been a place for pastoral care to families a long way from home. Also throughout its history it has sought to look beyond itself in support of local and international mission.

Last October the church celebrated its 30th anniversary in typical Discovery Bay spirit; with a big 1980's dinner dance at Siena Resident's Club. Many people came dressed in 80's costumes, including two Blues Brothers and a Ghostbuster. Members of the congregation had collaborated to make a huge mosaic of the number 30 made from over 80 different segments. This was the centrepiece for the party.

The party was followed by an anniversary Eucharist at which the Dean presided and preached.

At the service complete sets of beautiful new frontals made by Jo Steed were dedicated for the Lectern and Projector stand. Meanwhile Rebecca Roth-Biester and Joanne Bowers had spent many hours going through all the church records to compile a special 30th anniversary magazine. The magazine records many highlights from the church's ministry over the 30 years. Here are a few:

- Coming first in the Dragonboat contest in 1987.
- The founding of the drama society 'Witness Productions' in 2002.
- The hugely popular Christmas Eve Carol service that later became the Christingle service. This service continues to attract over 350 people each Christmas Eve at 6pm.
- The cooperation with other churches in Discovery Bay; the Easter sunrise service and the Nativity in the Plaza.
- The first confirmation in Discovery Bay in January 2013 at which seven young people were confirmed by Archbishop Paul Kwong.
- The installation of air conditioning in Wei Lun School Hall after enduring 16 years of very sticky worship!

For thirty years God has blessed this church abundantly. I ask your prayers that the church continues to be blessed as it witnesses to God's love to the diverse Discovery Bay community.

Mark Rogers
Priest-in-Charge





TWO YEARS IN POST AN INTERVIEW WITH THE DEAN

As Matthias Der nears the end of his second year as Dean of St John's, Stuart Wolfendale caught up with him for an exclusive interview for In Touch. During the interview, Matthias reflected on some of the joys and frustrations of being Dean, and shared his vision for the Cathedral over the next two years and beyond.

As we sat in the courtyard with our cups of Nest coffee, Dean Matthias admitted that on his installation on 13th October 2012, he had felt an understandable run of nervousness. There was such a great gathering of clergy and so many people from home and abroad, including twenty people from his former parish, St Christopher's, in Toronto. Yet stage fright did not dominate. 'It was a tremendous joy for me to become the Dean and I was, above all, humbled by the whole event,' he says. 'I was humbled by the good wishes of the people, humbled by the grand service and humbled by the fact that this is a daunting task. So, I came into it with a mix of joy and anticipation, and fear and trembling.'

I reminded the Dean that, in his installation sermon that day, he said St John's was taking a risk on him. But was he taking a risk on St John's? The sense of how big a step he had taken seems fresh with him, particularly in its effect on his family.

"In entering a ministry like this you never quite know what you are getting yourself into. We didn't know whether we would find the ministry, the setting or the living environment ones we could adjust to. My children were never brought up or attended school here or learned Chinese because we never thought we would be coming back this way. We didn't know how it would materialise."

For the then 'Canon' Matthias, the biggest adjustment was from being a local parish priest to becoming the dean of a cathedral in an international city. "I'd never served anywhere of this size and scope. In the Anglican Communion, every diocese has its own characteristics, so not knowing exactly what the Cathedral was like and how the Province worked, there was some element of risk. But in our Christian faith, when we face an opportunity with risk, it tells us we have to enter it with faith and hope."

When he was offered the post, discerning what might be God's calling for him got off to a rocky start. "It began with a time of great fear and hesitation. As I went on with it, I became quite

peaceful over it and it led me to believe that God might be calling me to this. I hope I took the risk in a sense of hope and obedience to God's calling.

The ethnic diversity he saw here was not new to him because, though his Toronto parish was predominantly Chinese, they served people from different ethnic groups. It is the comparative scale and scope of the Cathedral that is still a cause of surprise and enthusiasm. "I cannot think of anywhere in Canada that the parish's ministry shares similar size and scope, and this was way beyond what I was used to," he says.

He was surprised by the sheer numbers of people who come to events. "For example, 'Genesis' and 'I Believe' courses on average have 30 people in the classes. In the church in the West, that is unheard of. In a big church if you got 10 baptised together that would be remarkable. Since I have been here, we have been having 50-60 people at a time baptised and confirmed."

Since becoming Dean he is more conscious of the spread of people who find their way into the pews of St John's. "The scope of ministry is completely different. We often have people from outside the cathedral family coming in to participate. That's the difference between a local parish and a cathedral and this is something we have to be sensitive about. This diversity, this size of different events is something that surprised and fascinated me."

This matter of size has had an unavoidable downside. It has been impossible for him to get to know everybody. "I served in my previous parish for twenty years. I literally knew every

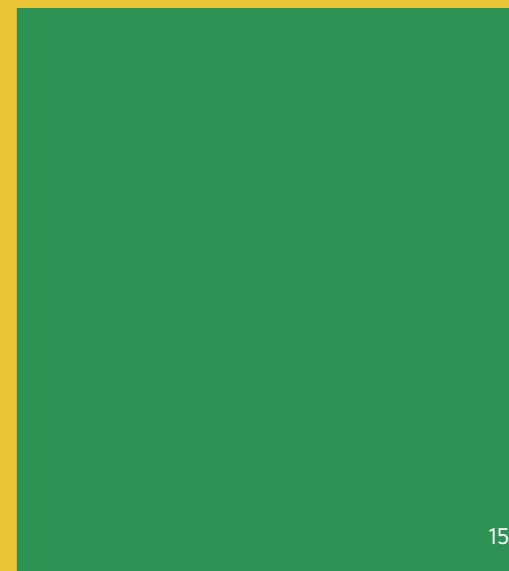
single family. I knew every person in the parish. I knew who came to church and who didn't and I was able to give them a call in the afternoon asking how everything was going."

Sidesmen's regular surveys show that St John's attracts 2000 people over a weekend. "There is no way for me to get to know every one of them. That has been a big adjustment for me; not knowing where they are in their spiritual lives and family lives and how I might be able to minister to them."

The surprises St John's brought have not been entirely uplifting. Dean Matthias has experienced disappointments. "One of them is that this community has people who have tremendous talents, knowledge and experience and sometimes these very competent people also have very strong voices. How to bring those voices together, how to listen to each other and express ourselves in a gentle and respectful way are challenges that we have to face."

He seems quietly but decidedly concerned about strong words being used in criticism of people and issues and that it should be reigned in. "Certainly there is always room for improvement in ministry but people sometimes don't see how they themselves are very much part of the whole picture and instead they detach themselves from that and criticise others. I find that disappointing at times."

The Dean seeks to encourage dialogue in a respectful and gentle way. "There are a lot of things we can share with each other and a lot of common ground we can find especially when we are talking to someone we disagree with. That is a very important homework for all of us" Dean Matthias looks for





Flashback to Dean Matthias' Installation in St John's Cathedral on 13th October 2012

light and finds it "I have been seeing a lot of positive signs. I am seeing a willingness to build bridges in the community and extend the olive branch."

The Dean sees a keenness amongst many to share ideas. "One of the joys of this Lent is the Lent course that has been offered. It is being held in seven different time slots throughout the week to allow more people to come. We are seeing people who are not part of other groups coming to these sessions - an encouraging sign for me."

Another joy for him has been the Council Away Days and Clergy Away Days where people were quite willing to talk about the mission of the Cathedral and about the potential as a cathedral. He finds that encouraging. Stewardship he sees as critical to participation.

"I am pleased by the Stewardship campaign that we ran last year. We saw a 61% increase in the number of pledgers. But it's not just financial offerings but also people offering of time and talents; up to 200 people responded by putting their names down for ministries. It is encouraging to see that this is not just somewhere they come to worship occasionally but a place where they are willing to exercise their gifts and their Christian witness in the community."

Even though he has left an ordinary parish behind, a sense of community is still integral to the Dean's view of the Church. "Over the last two years, we have been laying foundations for a stronger sense of community, for talking and listening to each other. Last year we had several events like the Cathedral parish dinners and the Dedication Music Festival that gathered people and gave them a chance to know each other. How we empower our core Cathedral congregation, how we recognise

the gifts they bring and how they recognise they are God's stewards and understand that they are engaging in ministry is very important."

The Dean believes that an annual stewardship campaign at some level is important to remind people how they can offer themselves for God's kingdom. The more people get involved in ministry, he says, the more they will be willing to offer financial resources and with that the Cathedral can do a lot more.

He seemed to have listened to arguments for better communications over the last two years. "Yes, communications and publicity is an area we can do a lot more in. The new Cathedral website is exciting and so is the new In Touch quarterly magazine. I am delighted that out of the Stewardship campaign, we have formed a Communications Committee to discuss how we can improve this aspect of the Cathedral's ministry."

Inevitably, I asked the Dean what his vision was for the Cathedral in the two years to come. In fact, he has quite distinct plans for up five years ahead, endorsed by Clergy and Council and now reported to the ACM.

One objective is quite an innovatory one - to deepen worship. "From May, once a month on Sunday evenings, we will be developing 'Fresh Expression' services," he says.

"It is a different style of worship, done in a tasteful and inspiring way but not necessarily in the traditional cathedral style. It is my prayer that we will never be away from the fine Anglican worship tradition. The spirit and essence of that need to be maintained and the traditional Anglican cathedral style will always be our bread and butter." Nevertheless he is keen to

develop worship life further. "I believe in room for diverse styles because the world consists of people of different interests, personalities, likes and dislikes."

The Dean's love of community expresses itself again. "I am a supporter of small groups or home groups. We need to have venues where people can come to know smaller groups of people - groups run by laypeople trained by the clergy. They can do bible study and discuss topics related to their lives. I hope that there can be more groups in the Cathedral where people go to receive education, love and fellowship."

He saw this worked well for 65% of attenders in his previous parish, but now he has seen St John's too and recognises that not everyone may want to take part. However, a survey conducted by the Communications Committee showed that many respondents would like to see these set up. "This is an area the clergy and I want to develop."

Dean Matthias puts emphasis for the future on his well-known enthusiasm for lay ministry. "Many laypeople here are well versed in theology and biblical teaching. We can empower them so that their ministry is a way to witness and serve God. They will carry it out based on what I call Kingdom values, not only using their professional skills but combining them with biblical understanding of how we live our lives and how we should serve God."

The Dean's third objective tackles history. "I want to help make St John's an effective Cathedral of the Diocese," he says. He summarises the problem gently.

"Local Chinese Anglicans appreciate and respect this place but there is a sense of distance between them and us. This is the Cathedral of the Diocese of Hong Kong Island and often used for Provincial purposes. We have a responsibility to help people see that this is their mother church and encourage them to come for retreats, for pilgrimage and know that this is also their home and a place of their spiritual roots." We can expect to see new faces and school buses. "We are developing a programme which invites parishes and schools to visit, take half-day retreats and to know the Cathedral as both a historical and spiritual place."

Finally, I ambushed the Dean again with one of the remarks from his Installation sermon. He said that a Christian congregation should be the living body of Christ. Were we alive enough at St John's Cathedral?

"Oh, this is very much alive!" was his response between a laugh and a whoop. "Anyone who comes to this place will be just amazed at how alive we are. We should be very proud of our history; what we stand for and what we are trying to do." But to Dean Matthias standing for something does not mean standing still. He has a clear and simple vision for urban evangelisation going out of the Cathedral.

"We welcome 2000 people every weekend. Just think of the potential we have in that group of people going back out into the world. Think of how we can equip them and help them to see that the work they do every day is not just earning money for livelihood but how they serve God in the world. That is very much the meaning of the body of Christ. It's not just an institution, not just a group of people called Christians but how we live out Christ's mission."

We parted with Dean Matthias' reaffirmation of faithful enthusiasm. "We are very much alive. I am extremely thankful for that. I pray that we will continue to grow in our hope and in our faith in God."



THAT'S MY BOY!

A touching moment for Dean Matthias and his father Canon Edmund Der in the porch of St John's before worship on the Second Sunday of Lent. Dean Matthias celebrated the Sung Eucharist and Canon Edmund preached the sermon.

In over 50 years of ordained ministry, Canon Edmund has served as a parish priest, an educator and a diocesan administrator in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Toronto and New York.

Trained in the USA he was ordained deacon in 1961 in West Virginia and priest in 1962 in St John's Cathedral, Hong Kong. He has been collated Honorary Canon in three dioceses - in 1971 in Taiwan, in 1982 here at St John's and 1994 at St James' Toronto.

Since retiring in Toronto in 2002, Canon Der has served in numerous parishes as interim priest. Currently, he is an honorary assistant at St James' Cathedral, Grace Church at Markham and a chaplain at Scarborough General Hospital.

Canon Edmund and Mrs Margaret Der have three other sons and an adopted daughter.



by James Dunlap

Two dozen of us, mostly from St John's, went to Kerala in southwest India from 24th January to 1st February 2014 on a pilgrimage led by George Thomas and Susan George. We benefitted immensely from their intimate knowledge of Kerala and its churches and their hard work organising things.

Kerala is over 20% Christian. Its Christian churches by tradition were founded by St Thomas the disciple in 52 AD. That tradition

is far from fantastic. The St Thomas churches certainly go back to at least the fourth century AD, over 1000 years before European missionaries reached India. Some one third of Indian Christians belong to them.

On Sunday 26th January we worshipped in St Francis Church Fort Cochin, which is the oldest European church in India. The Portuguese explorer, Vasco da Gama's body was originally buried in this church, but after fourteen years his remains were removed to Lisbon.

On Monday there was a liturgy at the Orthodox Theological



Seminary at Kottayam, in English for our benefit. We then sat down with M. P. George, who had presided at the liturgy. He had studied Russian Orthodox liturgy in Russia, and was delighted that I also knew that liturgy and spoke Russian. He discussed ecumenism. "We like it, but we won't change our liturgy or theology. I often start ecumenical meetings with Hail Mary. Most of them aren't too happy with that, but that's fine!" He discussed too the role of women, relations with other denominations and religions, the war in Syria, Marxism (it and capitalism both failed to create equality) and much else. We also met His Holiness Baselios Marthoma Paulose II, the Catholicos (primate) of the Orthodox Church of Malankara.

PILGRIMAGE TO KERALA
2014



On 28th January we met Dr Philipose Mar Chrysostom, Metropolitan emeritus of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar. He was 95, physically feeble, and spoke so softly he could only be heard up close, but had a sharp wit and dropped provocative, paradoxical pearls of wisdom:

- Anglicans and Orthodox used to excommunicate each other. Now they're good friends, but still not in communion. The church's real problem is people don't have the religion Jesus has.
- A communist politician once told me: "I don't believe in God." I said, "You are right. But God believes in you." Man with limitations has a hard time understanding God without limitations.
- A friend was asked, "Do you believe in God?" He said "No". The fact that he doesn't believe in God doesn't mean that God is not there. So I don't trust him on this. But he is my friend.
- God is somebody who is there, whether you believe in him or not.
- No one has ever seen God. The God you know is not the God that other people know.
- Please come again. If I'm not here, come to heaven. I'm an old man. But I am happy to hear that there are people in Hong Kong who want to see me.

On 31st January we met leaders of the United Christian Movement, which unites 15 Christian denominations for prayer, worship and other activities. In answer to a question, one said they don't try to cooperate with the government because that just guarantees that nothing will happen. "They want bribes even to give money to orphanages. But some government people are helpful and good."

The last two days in Chennai we visited St Thomas Mount and St George's Cathedral, Church of South India, had lunch with Sunday School teachers who'd previously visited St John's, and did some shopping before departing for Hong Kong late that night.



Will Newman reviews Martyn Percy's latest book Thirty Nine New Articles



Martyn Percy is Principal of Ripon College Cuddesdon, near Oxford, one of England's leading Anglican theological colleges. He's also no stranger to Hong Kong, but a regular visitor in recent years, where we have come to know him as a speaker with the gift of articulating a vision of Anglicanism that is wise, generous and challenging.

His latest book *Thirty Nine New Articles* does not disappoint. It pays homage to the original 39 Articles of Religion, forged in the mid-16th century at a time of religious strife and upheaval as the young Anglican Church sought to establish a firm foundation, and which can still be found at the end of the Book of Common Prayer. Martyn's 39 New Articles (many of which were originally published in UK newspapers including *The Guardian*, others delivered as sermons), together form a rich survey of Anglicanism today – hence the subtitle *An Anglican Landscape of Faith*.

Covering subjects as varied as the Resurrection (God doesn't give proof, but clues), Scriptures (inspiration, not a fax from God), and Healing Ministry, Martyn also includes seasonal sermons, reflections on Anglican unity and diversity, and a celebration of some of the saints and heroes of our faith.

These articles were written over the course of a decade, and some themes recur: openness, waiting in hope, valuing difference, holding in tension rather than rushing to closure; and a frequent word, 'miscibility' – the ability to be mixed. Martyn asks if the Anglican Church is built on rock or sand? And typically he concludes that the foundation is neither solid nor fluid, but 'flexi-rock'. This is a Church able to hold together intensely held competing convictions; open because we see ourselves as incomplete. We seek clarity and certainty, but walking with God is hesitating to come to quick conclusions.

There are some delightful illustrations along the way. I love the image of the Trinity as Jazz music; or the parish church as 'God's local orchestra', with the priest as conductor; and Woody and Buzz Lightyear from *Toy Story* – 'falling with style!' (in a sermon on St Alban). But it's not all gentle warmth: from St Columba we learn that faith is passion, and religion is about extremes: extreme love, extreme sacrifice, extreme selflessness.

Martyn doesn't avoid the current divisive issues of sexuality, but he concludes on the optimistic note that Anglicans work through conflict and difficulty; our faithfulness to God and one another sees to it that we find enrichment rather than weakness in our apparent rifts and tantrums. The truth of the Church lies not simply in its doctrines or dogma, but in its pastoral heart.

This is a book to dip into, reflect on, return to, and enjoy. It is available from the Cathedral Bookstore.

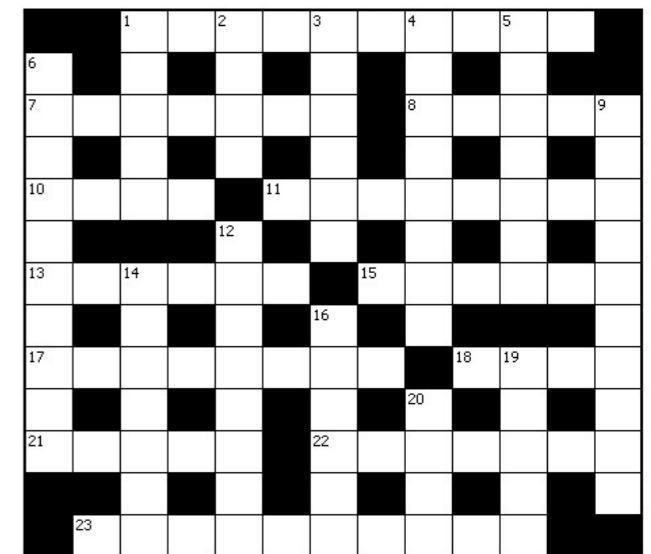
The In Touch Crossword

Across

- 1 Sense of right and wrong (1 Corinthians 8:7) (10)
- 7 Coming (John 11:17) (7)
- 8 'All I have is —, and all you have is mine' (John 17:10) (5) Smarten (Acts 9:34) (4)
- 10 Hold back (Job 9:13) (8)
- 11 Member of the Society of Friends (6)
- 13 At ague (anag.) (6)
- 17 Citizen of the Greek capital (8) So be it (Galatians 6:18) (4)
- 18 Twentieth-century poet and dramatist who wrote *Murder in the Cathedral*, T.S. — (5)
- 22 Empowers (Philippians 3:21) (7)
- 23 Imposing (1 Samuel 9:2) (10)

Down

- 1 Healed (Luke 7:21) (5)
- 2 Central space in a church (4)
- 3 Co-founder of Spring Harvest and General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance 1983–97, Clive — (6)
- 4 Moses killed one when he saw him beating a Hebrew labourer (Exodus 2:12) (8)
- 5 Bravery (Acts 4:13) (7)
- 6 It interrupted Paul and Silas singing hymns in a Philippian jail (Acts 16:26) (10)
- 9 Transgression (Psalm 36:1) (10)
- 12 Irish province in which Dublin is situated (8)
- 14 Same hit (anag.) (7)
- 16 'The Spirit of God was hovering over the —' (Genesis 1:2) (6)
- 19 Author of the immortal stories of Winnie the Pooh, A.A. — (5)
- 20 Cab (4)



Solution on Page 23 - No Cheating 😊

How to Read the Bible in Public

by Richard Bewes

Is this a necessary topic? I'm afraid so. I have heard the British actor David Suchet declare that he has been up and down churches everywhere... and that the dull and listless public reading of the Scriptures is generally a disgrace to the power of the Bible.

"The music was wonderful today"... "That was a great talk!"... "I loved the worship!" Hardly ever do I hear gratitude expressed for a Scripture reading. Let this be the background to that occasion when you find yourself called upon to read from the Scriptures in a public gathering.

We are not simply pronouncing words when we stand at the front. Unhurried preliminary prayer is vital to the task. What is this passage all about? Why is it here in the Bible? What is its main point? I need to ask myself which words - as I read them - could do with a slight emphasis, a mental underlining, a raised or lowered inflexion?

Yet others should not be thinking, 'What a great reader,' but rather 'My goodness, that passage was speaking to me!' The voice must be naturally your own. Do normal people speak with 'holy' churchy affectation? Did Jesus, when telling his parables?

We are to keep the voice natural, yet with an underlying awareness that - without straining - we need to project. True - there may be a microphone - but be not deceived! It is only there to impart a slight 'lift' to the voice; it simply cannot do the job for you.

Across the years I have recognized various unfortunate 'Categories' of reader. Be warned! One could be named after an early English king, unfortunately known as Ethelred the Unready. Such a reader turns up, but has clearly not thought the passage through at all; the reading is an utter non-event.

By contrast we have sometimes been subjected to The Thespian. Here a well-intentioned reader is so intent on 'acting' the passage with ham-fisted phony 'accents' that it is truly cringe-worthy. Public Scripture reading can be truly supernatural in power - without it ever becoming unnatural in delivery.

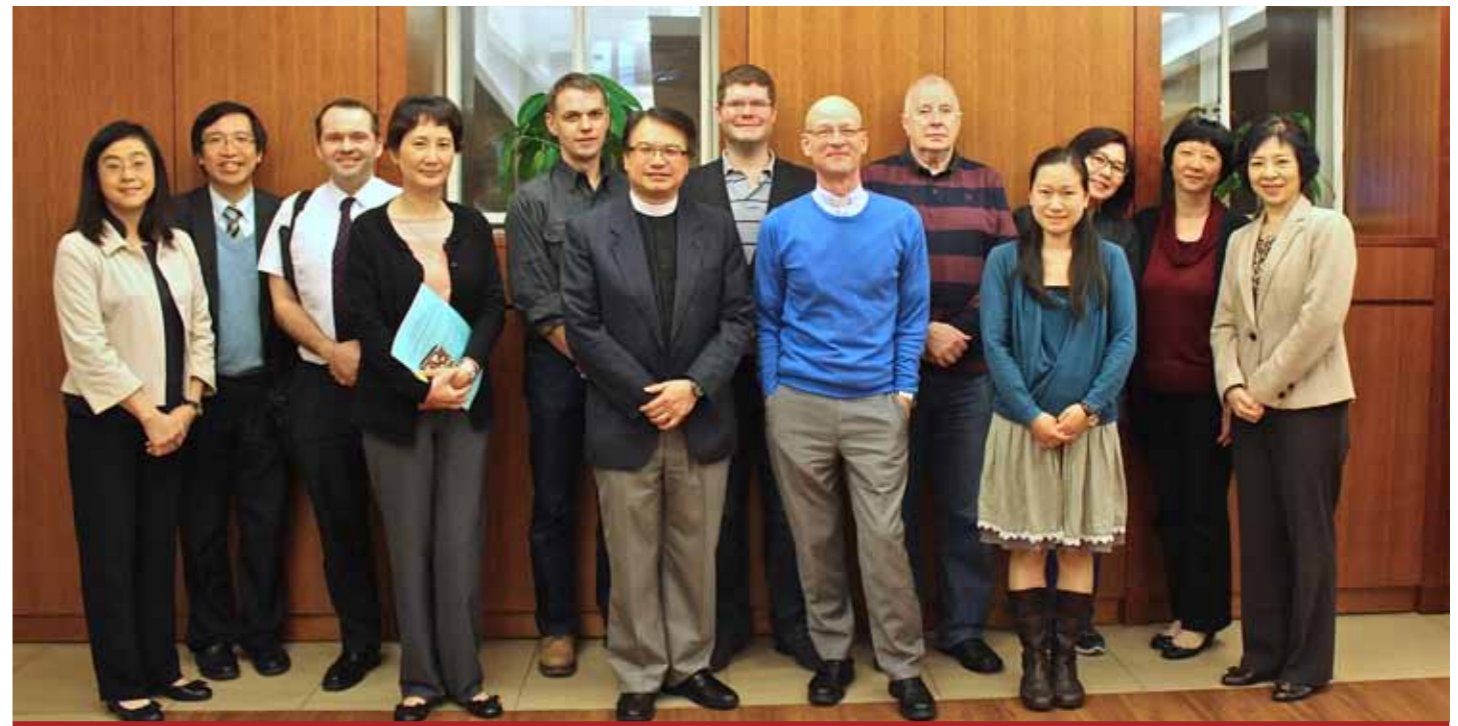
Have you sometimes heard The Dollard give the reading? It is delivered in a flat monotone throughout; it could have been a recitation of shares on the stock market.

Then there is what may be called The Queen's Speech, immaculate; beautifully spoken and with perfect diction. But somehow the reading lacked 'Soul' - was it a communication from heaven and a life of prayer, or a performance from the local dramatic society?

Give yourself some practice sessions. Try Luke 15:11-24 as an obvious 'story', and then, by contrast, Ephesians 2:1-10; then 1 Kings 18:20-39.

Treat public Bible reading as an honour. For centuries the Bible has been described in the British Coronation Service as the most precious thing that this world affords. We are to treat it like that! ©

Editor's Note: This article is adapted from a chapter from a new book by Richard Bewes, 'Equipped to Serve' (Christian Focus). In Touch sourced the work from The Parish Pump (UK) and gratefully acknowledges permission to publish it here.



Members of the St John's Communications Committee

Improving the Cathedral's Communications & Publicity

A progress report from John Leighton and Nigel Gibson

In October last year the Dean set up a new Communications and Publicity Committee with himself as chairman. The committee's mandate is to advise the Dean on matters of public communication and publicity.

It only takes a peep behind the scenes at the hive of activity at St John's to appreciate that this is a complex organisation, including the way it communicates internally and externally. From the start, discussions focussed on where to begin to look for some quick solutions to some pressing problems and how to address some longer-term improvements.

Happily, a major start has already been made on two key areas of concern: the need for a new cathedral website, as well as a frequently published cathedral magazine. You can read about these exciting developments elsewhere in this edition of In Touch.

The committee identified two other areas that needed addressing: firstly, the incompleteness of the Cathedral's database of parishioners, with their contact details and preferences. Secondly, we felt there was an urgent need to get some feedback from parishioners on the subject of public communications and publicity.

Understanding the parameters and options for a new database required a lot of creative thinking, and the input from the administrative staff, sidesmen and others has been invaluable. Thank you!

One of the committee's objectives in the very near future is to send out news and information electronically to parishioners, but this can only be done if your contact details held in the database are up-to-date.

To this end, a new-look 'Welcome Card' is now available. Filling in one of these will ensure that the email address you would like us to use is current. So, if you haven't already done so, please remember to ask a sidesman for one when next in church.

You will then be sent regular updates about upcoming events like special services, courses, lectures and concerts.

Did you know that it is now possible to receive the weekly pew bulletin by email on Saturdays? Newcomers will also now receive a personal welcome email from the Dean!

Much thought went into designing the feedback survey conducted over two weekends at all Cathedral services during February. Several people made some insightful comments, and the clergy and cathedral council have now reviewed all the feedback. We believe that some of this information can already be seen to be leading to changes for the better. Similar feedback surveys will take place annually.

The good work of the committee has begun in earnest, but there is still a lot to be done. If you who would like to help us in our work then please let us know. Be assured your thoughts and suggestions will be gratefully received and acted upon.





CLERGY ON RETREAT

On the 1st April the cathedral clergy left St John's for a short mid-Lent retreat at the beautiful Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre. The tranquillity of the centre, high above the bustling streets of Shatin, was an ideal setting for the clergy to review our strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats, and to move on from one or two past differences of opinion.

It was also a rare opportunity for virtually the whole team to pray and worship together and to share some meals and

fellowship. The retreat was led by Mrs Linda Lui from Christian Listening Hong Kong, and the Revd Canon Dr Timothy Kwok, bishop-elect of the Diocese of Eastern Kowloon. Their thought-provoking lectures and practical team building exercises challenged us all.

Editor's Note: The centre was founded in 1930 by the Norwegian missionary Karl Ludvig Reichelt (1877-1952). Reichelt was sent to Hunan Province in China in 1904.



There he gradually developed an idea to share the gospel with Buddhists. In 1922, he established Jing Fong Shan in Nanjing. In 1930, due to the chaos of the Chinese civil war, Reichelt moved his work to Shatin and asked a Danish architect Johannes Prip-Moller to design the buildings. Reichelt died on 13th March 1952 and was buried at the Tao Fong Shan cemetery.

Tao means "the Way," or as it is used in the Chinese translation of the Bible, "the Logos," referring to Christ. Fong translates as "Wind," or the Holy Spirit. Combined with Shan and mountain,

Tao Fong Shan can be translated as "The Mountain of the Christ Wind." The centre's vision is to foster and develop contextual Christian spirituality, art, and liturgy, and encourage interfaith and cultural exchange and dialogue.

We hope this little history will encourage our readers to visit this deeply spiritual place. You can be assured of a warm welcome. Further details about the centre's history, objectives, facilities, and events can be found online: www.tfsc.org



Hard at work! Catherine, Jenny, Robert, Will and Desmond



The Revd Canon Dr Timothy Kwok



Hugh, Dwight and Wai Ho



Mark, Nigel, Catherine and Will



UPCOMING EVENTS

Below is a snapshot of known upcoming events at the time of going to press.

Unless stated otherwise, all events will be held in St John's.

Further details of these and other events will be in published in the pew sheet and on the website.

www.stjohnscathedral.org.hk

4 June, Wednesday

12:30 Special Prayer Service for 'Peace and Reconciliation'

8 June, Sunday

18:00 Pentecost Sunday: Baptism and Confirmation Service

19 June, Thursday

19:30 Sung Eucharist for the Feast of Corpus Christi

22 June, Sunday

10:30 Hong Kong St John Ambulance Annual Service of Dedication

28 June, Saturday

Michaelmas Fair Dinner
An Evening in Zetland Hall

4 July, Friday

Lunchtime Service for Independence Day of the United States of America

13 July, Sunday

The Revd Robert Martin's 30th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood

10:15 Festive Sung Eucharist at Emmanuel Church, Pokfulam.
Celebrant: The Archbishop
Preacher: The Revd Nigel Gibson

18:00 First 'Fresh Expressions' Service

3 August, Sunday

11:45 Special Remembrance Service to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War

6 August, Wednesday

19:30 Sung Eucharist for the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord

15 August, Friday

19:30 Sung Eucharist for the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary

28 August, Sunday

08:30 'Run for Charity'
A Michaelmas Fair Committee
Event sponsored by Pure Fitness,
Fairmont House, Admiralty

14 September, Sunday

09:30 Recorded Service at St Stephen's Stanley & broadcast on RTHK4 at 11:05

20 September, Saturday

19:30 St John's Cathedral 165th Anniversary Music Festival

21 September, Sunday

11:45 165th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service at St John's with the Discovery Bay, Emmanuel and St Stephen's congregations (details next issue)

25 October, Saturday

10:00 Michaelmas Fair

22 November, Saturday

18:00 Eve of Christ the King: Baptism and Confirmation Service

23 November, Sunday

Consecration of the Revd Canon Dr Timothy Kwok Chi Pei as the second Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of Eastern Kowloon

座堂主任牧師的話

不到兩週，我們便會慶祝教會另一個重要的節日——聖靈降臨日。屆時，我們會紀念耶穌基督在復活後第五十天，以聖靈的形式降臨在早期信徒身上，去啓迪、裝備和賜力量予他們去履行教會的使命。依聖經的記載，當天發生的變化實在奇妙！主耶穌的福音藉多國的方言被廣傳和得聆聽，預表着基督的救贖是普世性的；而本來膽怯的信徒亦脫胎換骨成為充滿勇氣的精兵，甚至不惜為主殉道；更重要的，是他們不再感到被遺棄，而是經歷着基督的同在與大愛，正如基督在釘死前所應許的。

今天，世上許許多多的人仍在恐懼與孤單中掙扎。多少人每天要長時間工作才得以糊口，不少人更為追逐名利而出賣自己的靈魂、斷送家庭的幸福。千千萬萬的人在追求人生意義之際，得到的卻是空虛寂寞。聖靈降臨日提醒我們，主耶穌藉聖靈與我們同在，我們不再孤單作戰。祂愛我們，並不斷地啓迪、裝備與賜力量我們去面對人生中各種高低。然而，

這還不是故事的終結。聖靈的降臨更催使教會由一個從內看的群體變為向外望的群體。今天不少人心裏所冀盼的那份平安與喜樂、心裏所渴想的那份愛，其實上帝都早已一一賜予我們。昔日教會得着「方言」的恩賜並受差遣把此重大的訊息去宣講。今天，我們又如何以別人容易接受的傳達方式來讓他們明白和接受基督的愛呢？我們又如何在適當的時候，敢於以新穎的方式去見證我們的信仰呢？

聖約翰座堂不僅是香港社會其中一個最具代表性的機構，我們更是一個有主的靈與我們同在、仰賴聖靈引導我們的群體。我們因着聖靈不斷地在人身上動工而感到欣喜、感到快慰。我們深信，座堂的各项外展服務及培育事工、每一位教友所付出的愛心與關懷、以至每位肢體在生命中與主的相遇，皆有聖靈的作工。讓我們一同懷着興奮的心情，慶祝基督的同在與大愛，聽候着聖靈的差遣，以開放歡欣的心來實踐祂的使命！



Annual Church Meeting

A dedicated core of parishioners on the St John's Electoral Roll attended the Annual Church Meeting on 27th April. As in all good Anglican gatherings, the Li Hall filled from the back!



A section of the Flower Guild's Magnificent 2014 Easter Floral display



Christ is not here; he has risen, just as he said. *Matthew 28:6*

St John's Cathedral

4-8 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong

Tel: (+852) 2523 4157

Fax: (+852) 2521 7830

E-mail: general@stjohnscathedral.org.hk

Website: www.stjohnscathedral.org.hk

Twitter: @StJohnsHK

Dean

The Very Revd Matthias Der

Cathedral Chaplains

The Revd Desmond Cox

The Revd Dwight dela Torre

The Revd Peter Koon

The Revd Robert Martin

The Revd Nigel Gibson

(Chaplain and Priest-in-Charge of Emmanuel Church—2523 4157)

The Revd Will Newman

(Chaplain and Priest-in-Charge of St Stephen's Chapel—2813 0408)

The Revd Mark Rogers

(Chaplain and Priest-in-Charge of Discovery Bay Church—2987 4210)

The Revd Catherine Graham

(Chaplain and Anglican Communion Refugee and Migrant Network Coordinator)

The Revd Wu Wai Ho

Cathedral Honorary Chaplains

The Revd John Chynchen

The Revd Hugh Phillipson

The Revd Philip Wickeri

The Revd Jenny Wong Nam

In Touch Editorial Team

The Revd Nigel Gibson - Editor

Stuart Wolfendale - Deputy Editor

Administrator

Viola Ip

Choirmaster

Raymond Fu

Organist

Peter Yue

Sub-Organist

Felix Yeung

Music Officer

Alan Tsang

Verger

Ho Tat Hoi

Head Server

James Choo

Head Sidesman

Roger Cole