

# In Touch

The Cathedral Magazine - Autumn 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



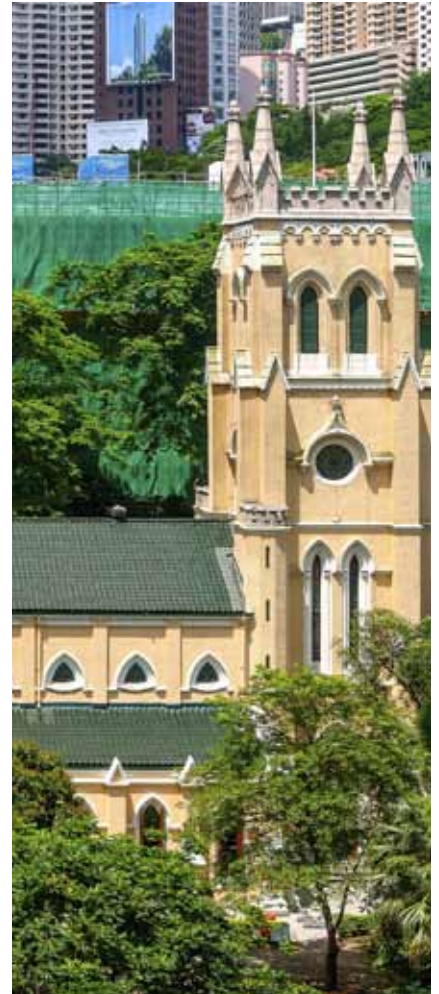
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## St John's Readies To Celebrate 165th Anniversary

This September St John's will celebrate the 165th anniversary of her first divine service in 1849. What a milestone!

To mark the occasion, on Saturday 20th September there will be a special Anniversary Concert in St John's involving all the choirs and congregations of the Cathedral family. And next day on Sunday 21st Archbishop Paul will celebrate what promises to be a magnificent Festal Sung Eucharist. See the *Dean's Message* and *Upcoming Events* pages for more details.

Ahead of the festivities, *In Touch* is proud to publish a commemorative set of new images of St John's by Wong Wing Ho. Commissioned by *In Touch* for this anniversary edition, Wing Ho's photographs capture the imposing neo-Gothic structure of the building, making it stand out not merely as a historic landmark, but also as a symbol of constancy in an ever-changing landscape.



The Tower from the Cheung Kong Centre



The South Transept looking 'cool' in its new colour scheme

When the British Government came to giving their two-thirds share of the costs of building St John's in 1849 they refused to pay anything for the tower. It was not in the original estimates, they said. A tower was not necessary. The lay trustees fought for payment all the way through 1850. Eventually

they paid £455 for it themselves. The Governor suggested to the Government they were being too harsh. Finally they gave in and paid the trustees back.

*More great photos on pages 18-21*



From the North Lawn

# In Touch

Welcome to the second edition of *In Touch*. We have been overwhelmed by the apparently unanimous support and enthusiasm with which the first issue was received. If we were actually charging for the magazine we'd describe it as a complete sell-out. We can also report that the first issue received over 7,000 hits on the Cathedral's new website. Without being over ambitious, we seem to have set ourselves a high bar to jump over.

Your response has gone to show that there is a real need for a magazine of this style and scope, and that this was one communications niche waiting to be filled. We are just part of a wider and continuing effort to keep our congregations in touch with what is happening in and around the Cathedral.

This issue has some interesting themes, one of which is youth. We feature our rapidly expanding outreach ministry for Parents and Toddlers, a report on the recently formed Cantonese Youth Fellowship, and an illustrated account of the last Baptism and Confirmation service. Of course, there is no age limit on being received into the Christian faith, and there are at least two or three mature faces in those photographs of powerful good cheer you will see in this edition.

Another theme is of England. We had a visit, lectures and two sermons from the very cordial and thought-provoking Canon Stephen Cherry of Durham Cathedral, imminently to become of Dean of King's College Cambridge. King's was one of the ancient places of worship visited by a recent St John's pilgrimage to the English Church. Some excellent photography of the great Cathedrals of England may tug at British heartstrings, as well as a profoundly readable account of the significance of these churches from pilgrimage leader, the Revd Dr John Kater.

Music will never be far from the pages of *In Touch*. There is a story from Hugh Phillipson on the invigorating and perpetually popular Jazz Vespers and a major profile interview of Music Officer, Alan Tsang, whose life and activities are symbolic of the variety and reach of music making at St John's.

In his Message, the Dean places good emphasis on the upcoming 165th anniversary celebrations, and *In Touch* brings you a commemorative set of stunning new photographs of the exterior of the Cathedral, commissioned by us to mark this milestone.

Our second issue is bigger than the first. But be ready for editions that are sometimes a bit smaller. It is the nature of magazines, particularly church magazines where life goes in liturgical and social cycles, and more happens in some seasons than in others. Yet, thick or thin, the greatest pleasure *In Touch* can do is reflect something that is truly wonderful about St John's – it is full of lovely and inspiring people. In this issue, Vanda Cole, Alan Tsang, Jenny Duyan as well as all those pictured lines of newly baptised and confirmed look so happy to have put their trust in Christ.

Whatever we have for you, the next edition will be out in early December and deadline for copy is **Friday 31st October**. Please remember what we said in our first edition. *In Touch* exists not only for you, but also by you. We need your contributions and if you have one we don't need immediately, we may need it another day. Keep them coming.



*Personalised cupcakes. You just can't get enough of a good thing!*

Full story on Pages 24-25

## THE DEAN'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

In a few weeks, we will joyfully celebrate the 165th anniversary of St John's Cathedral since her first divine service in 1849. By gathering our praises to God in a concert and by offering our thanksgiving at a special Eucharist we shall celebrate this milestone. Counting God's blessings is one of the key Christian characters we are called to possess. Besides bringing much joy in life, it also helps us to focus on the greatness and love of God. What will you be thankful for when St John's celebrates her birthday? Allow me to share with you a few of my thoughts.

1. I am thankful to God that our Cathedral is open to all. Because of this, our doors are open every day for people to find God in their own pace and space. This is a ministry of hospitality that reflects the openness and outstretched arms of Jesus Christ. God has loved this Cathedral with his open arms and with that we welcome all who are seeking in their journey.

2. I am thankful as I see the image of God in each of us. I see courage in a cancer-stricken parishioner. I see compassion in our outreach ministries. I see faithfulness when people put their hearts and souls in ministries in the past 165 years for none other than their love for God and his kingdom. I see God through our community.

3. I am thankful for the diversity of ministry, liturgical tradition, churchmanship, race and social make up of our community that display the richness of God. These diversities are not meant to divide us but humble us; humble us before each other and humble us before God. It is in humility we find our true self and discover the gifts in each other. By appreciating and celebrating our diversities we become a stronger Body of Christ.

What else would you name in your thanksgivings? Please join our celebrations on the weekend of 20-21st September as we give thanks to God for what he has done, as well as for the countless number of people who have contributed to this great Cathedral church past and present.

In the festivities, please spare a few quiet moments to count the blessings we have received both as individuals and as a community and to re-commit our faith in serving Christ.

St John's will be brighter and stronger in the next 165 years not for us but for Jesus Christ, and because of what God will do through this Cathedral and through you.

May God bless you all!

各位朋友，

不多數週，我們將會歡欣地慶祝聖約翰座堂165週年堂慶。早在1849年，本座堂舉行了首次主日崇拜，而今年本座堂將舉行堂慶音樂會以歌頌上帝之大恩大德，並在堂慶感恩聖餐崇拜獻上感謝。數算主的恩典是基督徒生命中一個重要的屬靈操練，它除了會將喜樂澆灌在我們生命中，更使我們把生命聚焦在上帝的大能和大愛。當聖約翰座堂慶祝堂慶之際，你又會為了什麼而感恩呢？容許我分享一下幾個感想：

1· 我為本堂打開門戶歡迎所有人士來到我們當中而感恩。本座堂 是每天開放供眾人在自己認為適合的空間與步伐去尋找上帝，這個接待的聖工反映出基督自己在十架上雙手打開之大愛。上帝毫無條件地愛此座堂，我們亦用此種愛去歡迎與接待每一位在尋找真理的人。

2· 我為在大家的生命見到上帝的形象而感恩。我在一位深受癌症折磨的教友身上見到勇氣。我在本座堂之社區外展服務見到憐愛。我在不少教友因愛主與他的國度盡心盡力地付出與侍奉中見到上帝的信實。藉我們共同的群體生活，我找到上帝自己。

3· 我為到本座堂在聖工、崇拜、禮儀、神學傳統、社會階層之多元化而感恩。這些多元化正好彰顯了上帝的豐盛。多元化不應把我們分隔，反而是使我們感到謙卑渺小，在各人與上帝面前去謙卑自己。當我們謙卑，我們才尋找到真的自己，並發現到其他人的恩賜。當我們為我們當中之多元化去互相欣賞及慶賀，我們才會成為更強大的基督的身子。

你又會為了什麼而感恩呢？我邀請你在九月二十日至二十一日出席我們的感恩活動，為到上帝的恩典和歷代信徒之付出而感謝上帝。但在各慶典中，請覓幾分鐘去西鄉上帝給你和本座堂之恩典，並且重申我們對基督的委身。在今後的165年，聖約翰座堂將更努力拓展上帝的國，把福音廣傳，不是為了自己，而是為了主基督，此賴上帝在聖約翰座堂與我們身上所施行的大能。

上帝祝福你們！

Dean Matthias



Archbishop Paul cuts a cake to celebrate a special day for over 60 newly baptised and confirmed parishioners in the Li Hall

## GROWING IN GOD'S GRACE

St John's was packed with family and well-wishers on the Feast of Pentecost to witness over 60 parishioners be baptised and confirmed by Archbishop Paul Kwong.

All the candidates had received instruction from Cathedral chaplains through the Genesis or I Believe preparation courses.

The candidates' sense of joy and anticipation before and during the ceremony was felt right around the church.

In his sermon, Dean Matthias said that the Christian life is not so much about gaining, but about giving; not so much about ourselves, but others and Jesus Christ. He encouraged the candidates to make time each day for prayer, to study the Bible, to worship in church regularly, and to obey God's teaching.

Following the service there was standing room only in the Li Hall as the candidates, family members and friends witnessed the Archbishop cut a large celebratory cake, specially prepared for the occasion.

*Editor's Note: Did you know that the Genesis Course is ten years old this year? Read more about the course and its history in Will Newman's article, 'Celebrating 10-Years of Genesis' on pages 32-33*

## New Dean of King's College Cambridge Jets into HK

Guest preacher at St John's on 22nd June was the Revd Dr Stephen Cherry, the next Dean of King's College Cambridge.

King's College is well known for its world-renowned choir, spectacular chapel and the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve, which has been broadcast live by the BBC since 1928.

Dr Cherry has degrees in Psychology and Theology and is active as a writer and speaker on Christian spirituality and practical theology.

Stephen's visit to Hong Kong included a Trinity Sunday preaching at Emmanuel Church, Pokfulam and a talk on 'Barefoot Spirituality' at St John's. Stephen wrote 'Barefoot Disciple: Walking the Way of Passionate Christianity' (Continuum Publishing) which was chosen as the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book in 2011.

Formerly a residentiary canon of Durham Cathedral and Durham diocese's Director of Ministerial Studies, Stephen will take up his new appointment on 1st October.



## Kneelers in Choir Stalls

Margaret Foster made old kneelers with her group of needle workers in the 1970's, but they were considered too large for the pews.

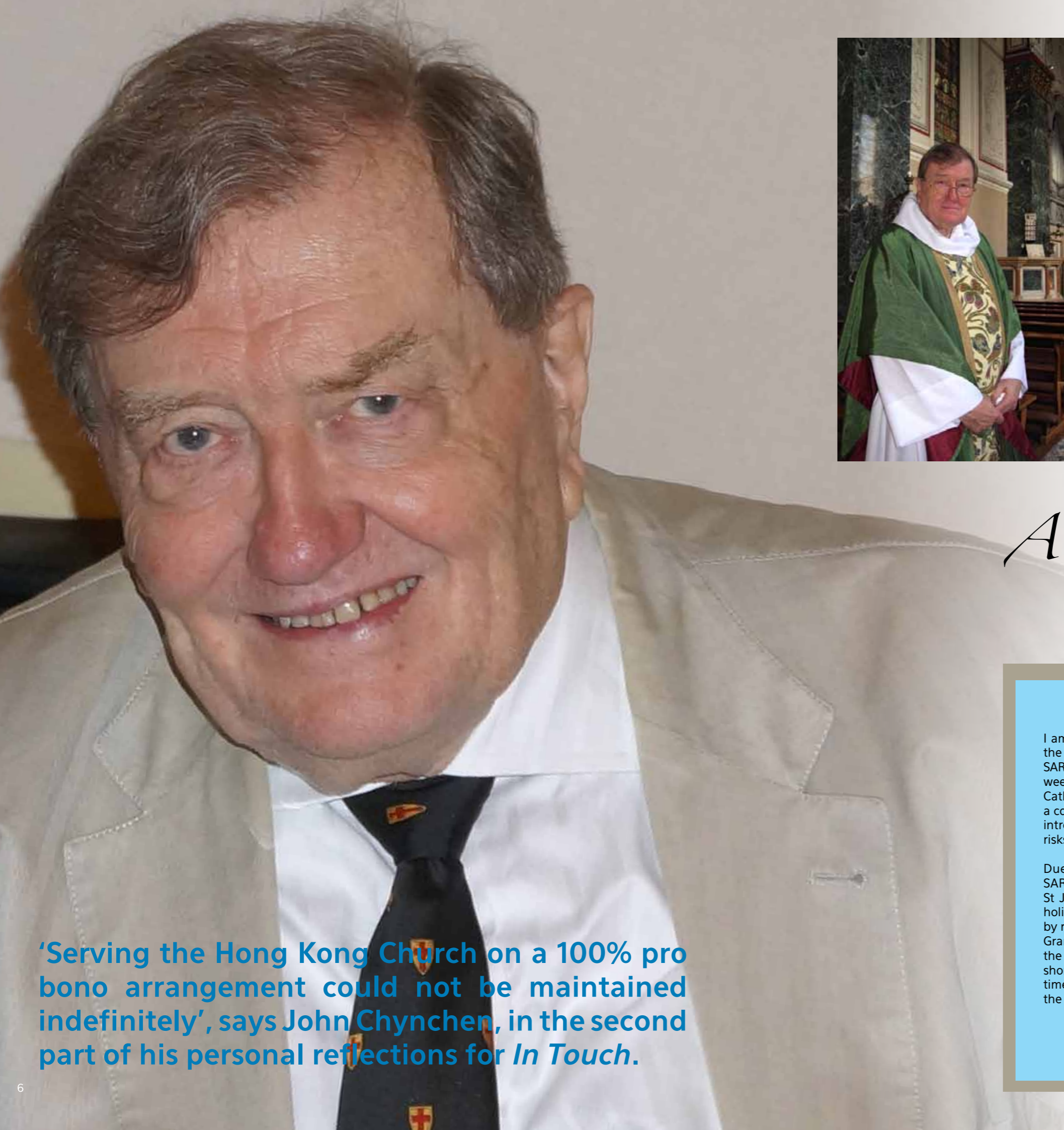
When the altar and choir stalls were re-arranged in 2012, June Li gathered a group of 22 people to embroider new kneelers in the choir stalls.

There are four main designs of the new kneelers. The first group has hymns picked by June Li, with the help of Alan Tsang and Felix Yeung regarding music notation. These kneelers show the first line of the hymns' text with their melodies. The second group has different musical instruments on them and the third has words of the Christian virtues. The fourth group has Christian symbols, for example, three overlying circles that symbolise the Holy Trinity.



The first lot of 55 kneelers were placed in the stalls on Christmas Eve 2013 and five more were finished in June this year. The total number of kneelers in the choir stalls today is 60.





The Church of the Ascension, Cadenabbia, Lake Como

## *A Sidelong Reminiscence*

### Part 2

I am picking up the thread of reminiscence in 2003, remembered in Hong Kong as the year of SARS, (severe acute respiratory syndrome) that was responsible in the SAR for the facial masking of several million people, the closure of schools for several weeks, a deep slump in the property market and 299 recorded deaths. At St John's Cathedral, intinction, the action of dipping the bread in the wine at a Eucharist so that a communicant receives both together and avoids oral contact with the chalice, was introduced despite warnings from the qualified quacks in our ranks about the greater risks from finger nails in 'the soup'.

Due to the particular and understandable concerns of the elderly in foreign parts, SARS also put paid to my 2003 annual sojourn (we would call it a pilgrimage at St John's) on the shores of Lake Como in Italy, with duty as a visiting chaplain or holiday locum. I had, figuratively, become enamoured with Lake Como when, en route by road from Rome to Zurich in 1971, I discovered my favourite hotel in the world, the Grand Hotel Villa Serbelloni, Bellagio and was captivated by the 'jewel in the crown' of the Church of England in northern Italy...the Church of the Ascension on the opposite shore of the lake at Cadenabbia, Griante. I served in Cadenabbia as 'Chaplain' seven times between 2000 and 2011. The Church has provided long-lasting friendships and the little church in Lombardy is no exception.

story continues next page.....

**'Serving the Hong Kong Church on a 100% pro bono arrangement could not be maintained indefinitely', says John Chynchen, in the second part of his personal reflections for *In Touch*.**

## A Sidelong Reminiscence

Unquestionably, for those of modest rank (...if not modest status!), the scope of one's ministry is largely defined and circumscribed by the bishops and incumbents to whom we defer. In Italy, I was more than fortunate – indeed blessed (pronounced unless indicated otherwise: bless'd, not bless-ed). Canon Gordon Reid, Archdeacon for Italy and Malta and my boss for my first three postings, can boast of one of the longest and most colourful of Crockford's entries. Fr Nigel Gibson succeeded Gordon and was Chaplain when I visited All Saints' Church, Milan for an audience and lunch in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

It was in the late summer of 2003 that I met with the Very Revd Chris Phillips, Dean of St John's Cathedral, then in England on sick leave, over Lunch in the Carlton Club – the Tory bastion. After a wide-ranging, amiable conversation recalling past times shared and reviewing the options on the table with respect to the leadership of St John's...after 15 years as incumbent of the Cathedral and given that his doctors had recommended a lengthy period of rest and relaxation, Chris signed his letter of resignation and handed it to me. We shook hands outside in St James's Street – he moved off to catch a train back to Ely. Next time I'm in London, we will meet again at the Carlton Club for a reunion and, hopefully, a celebration. Chris is working hard to return a Conservative government at the General Election on 7th May 2015.

Canon Stephen Sidebotham was installed as Dean for a second innings in September 2003 with the Revd (now Bishop) Andrew Chan as Associate Dean. Stephen has always been a broad churchman – spiced with one or two special enthusiasms; a totally professional senior Anglican cleric always conversant with the critical moral, social and faith-related issues of the day involving the Church, the nation(s) and the world. Peggy is the tireless other half of Team Sidebotham – a duo, as complimentary, when engaged in ministry, as the great double acts of show business like Morecombe and Wise or, a trifle more pertinently, Rogers and Astaire.

Andrew Chan was installed as the first Chinese Dean in 1995. He exerted a calm and gentle authority and busied himself with liturgical development and a very heavy workload with responsibility for, seemingly, many of the SKH schools. At the Cathedral, the presence of a talented trio of 'imports', namely John Roundhill, Will Newman and Matthew Vernon, enhanced the available spectrum of clerical talent, leading eventually to the inception of the Genesis course – welcomed by all of us who value St John's as one of the very few examples in

this region of the world of an inclusive, sacramentally-centred, modernist catholic, Anglican church, while extolling a range of liberal and conservative theology in the ministry of the Word. The ministry of women at St John's was enormously advanced with the arrival of the Revd Sharon Constable. Holy Mother was a boon to mothers with young and not-so-young children; she had walked the walk with her own and she could always talk the talk with anyone standing...including all conditions of men.

By mid-2006, it was becoming obvious to me that my bifurcated model of life – earning a living as a chartered surveyor and earth sciences professional while serving the Hong Kong Church on a 100% pro bono arrangement could not be maintained indefinitely. For 17 years, I had given large slices of my time and resources to the church without ever claiming the out-of-pocket expenses that would be recoverable, unless waived, in any similar situation elsewhere, such as the now extensive Non-stipendiary, ordained ministry in the C of E, without which that Church could not staff its vestries. The HKSKH licensed and always addressed me as Chaplain – the word Honorary was out of fashion. And so...and so, on the 1st January 2007, I went full-time – something I had always told anyone listening that I would never do! I look back on those first 17 years with some pride and a fair amount of satisfaction although, in the last year or so, I used up much of the time I spent in my professional practice swimming against the tide. My diary was marked with full Sunday liturgical contributions; many marriages and many, many funerals; multiple hospital visiting; evening courses; several years of producing the St John's Review; honorary chaplaincies to British and Canadian Consulates-General and to the Royal British Legion (Hong Kong & China) and the Hong Kong Ex-Servicemen's Association; and, at times, maintaining and developing close relationships with Anglican leaders in the UK, USA, and Singapore (Province of Southeast Asia).

Dear reader...a final 'salvo' from Part 2. Please reflect on two short epigrams that institutions like the Church with all its component parts, including its iconic 'flagships', should never forget:

- 1) Experience, and the perspectives it facilitates, can never be faked.
- 2) Character is an important consideration when evaluating candidates for leadership roles, but the calibre of character is the vital statistic.

John Chynchen



## 'Anthem Guy' Hits All The Right Notes

*In Touch* profiles one of the Cathedral's most engaging and versatile staff members, Alan Tsang - baritone, choir director, teacher and father-in-waiting. Some artistic careers catch fire quickly but as *In Touch* discovered, Alan's has built up slowly.

story continues next page.....



Alan Tsang knows about a dozen national anthems off by heart. In the last couple of hours of the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens, four competitors' anthems are on the tip of his tongue because, before the final kick-off, he must stand on the grass belting out two of them to the packed stadium. 'They call me 'The Anthem Guy', chuckles Alan. 'I specialise in opening and closing ceremonies – it's good for publicity.'

Alan, 34, is the Cathedral's Music Officer, a role to which he brings enthusiasm, a darting energy and bubbling good humour. Yet, though it is stipendiary and he seems forever about the place, the job is only part time. He likes opportunities to attract freelance work, some of it performing, some of it directing but mostly teaching and coaching in his own instrument, the voice - 'and the brain,' he adds with emphasis.

His responsibility at St John's is to help with musical administration, including the organisation of concerts, the reception of visiting music groups and general hospitality. He liaises with Provincial music committees on behalf of the Cathedral and he helps other churches in the Province with their choirs.



He is equally enthused about his honorary role as assistant choirmaster to the Cathedral Choir. He is director of music for the Chinese Choir too and choirmaster of the Evensong Choir. He works with the Cathedral Brass from time to time and acts as director of music for St James's Church Choir. "A lot of things and I like that," he says with satisfaction.

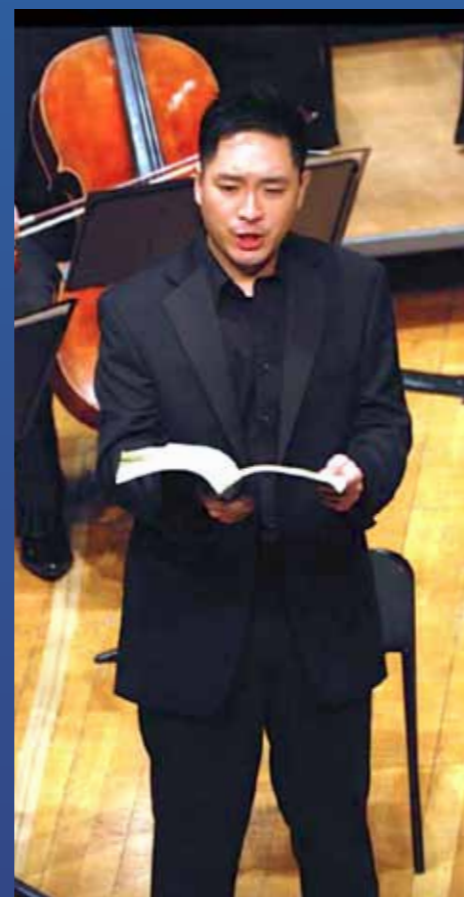
From childhood, Alan was busy but a life

of music was not a foregone conclusion. In getting him, perhaps we have to thank a professor of engineering in London for saying, 'Go away and do what you're good at!'

His father was a civil servant and he was brought up in an expatriate environment. In a strong Hong Kong tradition, he was forced to learn an instrument, the piano. 'I was more sporty, into football, swimming, and cycling. At age 8, I took the piano Grade 5 theory examination with my mother. She passed and I failed.' He went to England to join the sixth form at Dean's Close School, Cheltenham, an Anglican foundation, which he loved. He was a keen competitor in the swimming team but it was here that he sang for the first time.

'I had the option of taking up the organ but I didn't, which I regret. I joined the chapel choir. I was not a brilliant singer but I had studied piano so I could sight read. I took the seat of first bass from a boy who took up the organ loft and went on to be organ scholar at Trinity, Cambridge.'

Out of the 'crème de la crème of the choir' he helped form a touring ensemble that sang serious and light music, including 'barber's shop' and they won a prize at the Cheltenham International Music Festival. Yet we must appreciate that Alan's academic path was a scientific one. He went on to study engineering at University College, London. He came out in the top three students in maths in his first year. But the vocal bug had bitten. As with many young people discovering themselves at university, a double life began.



The college had a good opera company, which he joined and made 'many amazing friendships at this point'. Interestingly, he was now in private vocal studies at the Royal College of Music and to add to that, he was given a scholarship at St Martin-in-the-Fields to study choral liturgy, which he did in tandem with his engineering.

'I had time for the lab but not the lab reports' confesses Alan. A point of decision was not long in coming. He went to see his professor who gave him the encouragement to go.

He flew back to England and told his parents. 'My dad was furious. He came home from work, shut himself in his bedroom, came out for dinner and went back in again for a whole two months.'

Back in England, he had a whole year to wait before beginning musical training in which he sang with groups all around the country and in countless churches and chapels including St James's Palace and Hampton Court. 'When students come from overseas to study, they usually know no one but it gave me the opportunity to set up my own musical circle in which I was most fortunate.'

He auditioned for places in musical faculties and, being accepted by the Royal College of Music, he chose to formalise his earlier studies there with Jennifer Smith, a soprano and a professor of vocal studies.

'2007 was a good year,' declares Alan. 'I was going to do post graduate studies in Leipzig or Hamburg and I abandoned that. I met my wife Patty who was starting up as a solicitor here. I had been away 20 years. So, I came home for her and I have no regrets whatsoever. A musician should be flexible. Your career can develop in any way'.



Alan joined St John's in 2008, and it was then that he was baptised. Dean's Close School College had been very Anglican, and there had been no pressure in the choir for baptism. 'That attitude is very encouraging, an open door, a sort of outreach,' he believes. 'I sang in over 200 Anglican and Roman Catholic churches and nobody asked my status. It was respected. That is how I like to run choirs. Let non-Christians practice and sing. We should encourage them to explore faith and answer their questions. It's up to them.'

He was missing liturgical music so much but he had never established a sense of belonging to a particular church. At St John's he felt welcomed by Dean Andrew Chan, the Choir and staff. 'I felt at home and I sensed the dedication.'

Alan has a profound dedication to teaching. 'What I am doing as a teacher is very micro but if I had not been inspired, I would not be doing what I am doing now. Education plays a much bigger part than I imagined in the education and performance mix. It is more difficult to be a good teacher than it is to be good performer.'

And what if opportunity took him to a new level of operation? 'Circumstances might alter, I don't know. But my attitude won't change. I get much more joy out of helping students advance than even putting on a decent performance. That is truly satisfying'

Alan will have another satisfaction shortly. In November, he expects to become a father.



# THE ANDREW FELLOWSHIP AND CANTONESE YOUTH MINISTRY

Updates from Wu Wai Ho

On the day of the last Dragon Boat Festival, about 20 members of the Andrew Fellowship participated in the Tuen Ng Cheung Chau Tour. Highlights included a visit to the Sheng Kung Hui's House of Prayer at Cheung Chau and a hike along the famous Little Great Wall. Although the weather was excruciatingly hot our excitement was not diminished. We ate, drank, chatted and laughed throughout the day, and our fellowship in Christ was greatly strengthened.

Upon arrival at the HKSCH (Anglican) House of Prayer, the quietness and lush green scenery of the surroundings mesmerised us. Deep in our hearts we all hoped that we could return for another retreat in the near future, to meet God well away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Sunset at Cheung Chau rendered another memorable moment. As we ate seafood in a cozy restaurant by the harbour marveling at the breathtaking sunset, we could not help but praise God for the miracles of his creation and to thank him for the many blessings in our lives.



## 安德烈團端午長洲遊

在剛過去的端午節假期，一行廿多位安德烈團團友參加了我們所舉辦的「端午長洲遊」，當天我們除了到聖公會位於當地的靜修中心參觀外，也沿着著名的「小長城」行山遠足，舒展身心。當日雖然天氣酷熱，高溫達34度，但無損大伙兒興奮的心情。我們沿途說說笑笑，吃吃喝喝，增進了不少主內的情誼。

抵達靜修中心後，我們都被該處寧靜的環境與及四周美麗的景致所吸引，皆盼望能在不久的將來一起前來退修靜思，在這遠離繁囂的小島上與主相遇。

夕陽西下的長洲又別有一番味道，我們在碼頭旁的小酒家品嚐美味的海鮮，欣賞着醉人的晚霞，不禁讚嘆造物主創造的奇工，也為着我們能享受生命的豐盛而感謝上帝！

座堂安德烈團契：  
時間：逢週末下午四時  
地點：哈斯堂  
內容：詩歌、查經、分享、茶點  
聚會以粵語進行

# YOUTH FELLOWSHIP DAY CAMP

Fifteen teenagers from St John's visited the Tai Tam Scout Centre in April to take part in our inaugural Youth Day Camp.

We arrived in glorious weather and immediately engaged in a series of games and orienteering. To help get to know one another better, we first divided into two groups through simple games designed for that purpose. Then we ran across the camp in all directions to compete for speed and accuracy, all set to specific instructions. We also played some ball games that were a lot of fun for everyone.

After lunch we separated into groups for bible studies and sharing, which further strengthened friendships. The last and the most memorable event of the day was the 'Killer Game'. We were so caught up in the game that at the end no one wanted to leave!

This camp marked an auspicious beginning. We now meet every Saturday afternoon in St John's to nurture our faith and to share and grow together. If you are a secondary school student, or know anyone interested in joining our youth fellowship, please do not hesitate to contact us. It will be a great pleasure to welcome you into our church family.

*Editor's Note: The Andrew Fellowship and Youth Fellowship are conducted in Cantonese. To enquire about joining either group, contact the Revd Wu Wai Ho at the Cathedral on Tel: 2523 4157*

座堂週末粵語青年團契

座堂青年日營

本年4月26日週末的早上，我們座堂十多位年輕人於九時便齊集聖堂正門，準備啟程前往大潭童軍中心，參加我們首次舉辦的「座堂青年日營」。

當日天公造美，我們抵達營地後便立刻開始一系列的遊戲及定向活動，我們先分為兩組進行簡單的互相認識遊戲，然後便於營地東奔西跑，鬥快鬥準確去完成不同的指令，接着更有精彩的球類活動，大家都玩得投入又開心！

午膳後，我們分組查經及交談，彼此有更深入的認識，而當日最後一個環節亦是各人最難忘的就是玩“Killer”遊戲，大家都樂而忘返呢！

這個426青年日營只是一個開始，我們現在每個星期六下午3:30至5:00都會在David Kwok Room舉行聚會，一同認識信仰、一同分享、一同成長，如果你正就讀中學或認識有意加入我們這群體的年輕人，請盡快與我們聯絡，盼望很快便能於團契中遇到你！（團契以粵語進行）





*A Pilgrimage to our Anglican Roots*  
*Exploring our Spiritual Family Tree*  
*by John Kater*

St John's Cathedral Pilgrims outside King's College Cambridge

In May, thirty current and former members of St John's Cathedral spent a week on pilgrimage to our spiritual roots in the Church of England. It was my privilege to guide our reflections on pilgrimage.

People of faith have always been drawn to pilgrimages to places that are special because they are holy, or because they are associated with holy people or events. (Think of the boy Jesus and his family making their way to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.) Down through the centuries, Christians have made their way to the Holy Land in order to walk where Jesus walked. In the Middle Ages, they began going to shrines associated with outstanding people of faith. In the late 1300s, Geoffrey Chaucer wrote the Canterbury Tales about a group of pilgrims on their way from Southwark to the great shrine of Thomas à Becket in Canterbury. Our pilgrimage was both similar and different; we certainly intended to visit holy places, but with a special purpose in mind: exploring our spiritual roots, which is like nothing so much as discovering our spiritual family tree. Our family tree helps to shape us and make us who we are. We are not our grandparents, but our lives surely reflect them, their experiences and their values. As Anglicans, our spiritual ancestry lies in the Church of England. And so we went.

We discovered that those roots are remarkably complex. England's original Celtic tribes were joined two thousand years ago by Roman invaders, and then by Angles and Saxons from Germany, later by Viking marauders from Scandinavia, and finally the French invaders who conquered England in 1066. The result was a hybrid people whose religious history is inevitably hybrid as well.

Perhaps it is those earliest members of our spiritual family the Celts who gave us what turned out to be an especially helpful concept on our pilgrimage, that of "thin places" where the distance between God and us is found to be narrower than we usually realise. Many of the places we visited were "thin places" for our 21st century pilgrims; whether moved by the splendor of great Cathedrals soaring into the sky or the intimacy of private conversations about our own spiritual journey, or perhaps the English church music at Evensong, surely one of the greatest gifts our ancestors gave us, we found

that God was no stranger but our constant companion.

Our spiritual ancestors had a complicated and sometimes troubled history! At Canterbury, we reflected on the conflict between Church and State that led to the murder of Thomas à Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury nearly a thousand years ago. In Oxford, we explored the University Church, where Henry VIII's Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, who gave us the Book of Common Prayer and engineered the Reformation that created the Anglicanism we know today, gave his last testimony in 1556 before being burned at the stake by "Bloody Mary." From the same pulpit nearly three hundred years later, John Keble began the "Oxford Movement" that restored many elements of medieval Christianity that the Reformers had eliminated.

Our stop in Oxford also included a visit to Ripon College Cuddesdon, whose Principal, Martyn Percy, is well known at St John's and who welcomed us to explore the oldest of England's seminaries with a stunning new chapel, an example of how our

"spiritual cousins" today continue to express their faith with the best of contemporary architecture.

In York and Durham, we remembered our ancestors whose faith sustained them in the face of the terror of Viking raids and whose Cathedrals hold the memories of leaders from centuries past -- and also of modern Christians such as William Temple, Archbishop of York and later of Canterbury. Temple saw the suffering of the poor in England's north, supported them through devastating strikes and called the Church of England to speak and work for a society in which all people are respected and have access to a life worthy of human beings created in God's image.

Lincoln Cathedral gave us the opportunity to understand how our ancestors' faith expressed itself in the very architecture of their churches: as you enter the Cathedral through the



Interior of the Harry Bell Tower, Canterbury Cathedral

great West Doors, your eye is drawn upward and beyond itself towards the God who is always in some sense beyond us, yet at the same time forward to the altar, where God comes to meet us in the Eucharist.

The last stop on our pilgrimage was King's College in Cambridge, which has preserved the heritage of worship through music which is one of the contributions of our spiritual ancestors not only to us but to the whole world-wide church in every time.

In our reflections on the last night of the pilgrimage, we thought about the surprises we had encountered as we explored our spiritual family tree, the times and places where our ancestors had seemed far away and also the settings when we could almost feel their presence with us. And of course we thought about our own "thin places" where God had seemed to come especially close to us.



King's College Chapel



And we remembered our glimpses of the Church of England as it is today: congregations far smaller than we are used to but full of people whose warm welcomes eased our way as we shared their prayer and worship, and also their countryside, their meals and their celebrations. We were struck again by how important is hospitality to the life and witness of the Christian community.

We also thought about the many conflicts that had troubled English Christians down through the centuries: conflicts of power, between Church and State; conflicts between the original Celtic Christians and the Roman missionaries sent by the Pope to impose a Roman way of being the church; conflicts between Catholics and Reformers, and between Anglicans who emphasised their Catholic heritage and those who embraced a Protestant identity. And we were struck by how, through time, our ancestors learned to build a church that was big enough to hold differences of opinion because they came to understand that the faith we share in common is far greater than the differences of opinion or practice that divide us.

But we also thought together about what it all meant for us. We are not our grandparents, even though they helped make us who we are. Simply trying to copy them would be wrong; our task is to discover how to live the lives God wants us to live in our own place and time just as our ancestors did in theirs. Exploring our spiritual roots in the Church of England doesn't make us more English; far from it! Rather, it leads us to ask ourselves how we - who live in settings like Hong Kong in 2014 - can express and live our faith in our context as our spiritual ancestors did in theirs. Like them, whether we are from Hong Kong or Britain or the USA, we are hybrid people, with customs and values drawn from many cultures.

How do we affirm our identity as Christians in our context? We know what a faithful church looked like in Canterbury a thousand years ago; but what does a faithful Church in Hong Kong look like in 2014? How can we bring our own concerns and hopes, our fears and doubts and pains, to God in our setting as our ancestors learned to do in theirs?

That is what I thought about as I made my way around the Church of England, and it is a question I ask myself now that I am at home again. It is not a question with an easy answer; but I am confident that just as God was with those spiritual



York Minster

ancestors of ours, and was with us every step of our pilgrimage, God continues to walk with us as we seek to be people of faith in our own place and time.

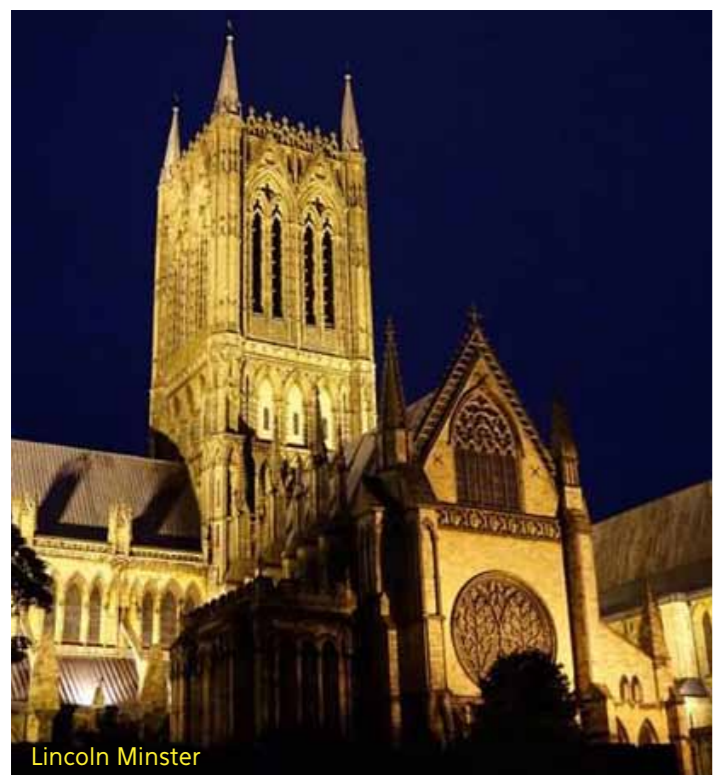
*Editor's Note: the Revd Dr John Kater is a much-loved frequent visitor to Hong Kong. A native of Virginia, he served as rector at Christ Episcopal Church, Poughkeepsie, New York, and also taught for 10 years as a visiting professor at Vassar College.*

*From 1984 to 1990, John served as education officer for the Episcopal Diocese of Panama and priest-in-charge of Iglesia San Francisco de Asís in Panama City.*

*In 1990 he joined the faculty of Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California. Since 'official' retirement in 2007, he teaches at CDSP and the School for Deacons in the autumn term, and at Ming Hua Theological College, Hong Kong in the spring.*

**Photos**

*Group Photo: Tessa Walker  
Lincoln, York and Canterbury: Louisa So  
King's College Cambridge: Nigel Gibson*



Lincoln Minster

# Pilgrim's Reflections

A visual feast and architectural marvels are what defined the Pilgrimage for me. How did they build such monuments to faith, that they still stand today for us to worship in? The beautiful glass, the soaring columns were just inspiring to see.

Tessa Walker

While the coach steered on along the winding and rugged landscapes of the Yorkshire Dales, I was mesmerised by the scenes outside the windows - vast and open green fields dotted with flocks of sheep either standing or lying in the rain, neither complaining nor fretting about the ill weather; their calm expressions and postures perhaps manifested their inner peace as well as their gratitude for the goodness that the rain had brought to the pasture they grazed upon.

David Chong

Much credit goes to Prof Kater for helping us understand the complicated crosscurrents of history that has shaped the Anglican Church to what it is today.

I feel I have gained spiritually in both heart and mind through the perspectives and insights he has shared generously with the pilgrims.

Ron Lye

For me, York Minster encapsulates what we are, a work in progress. It has seen its glory days, fought off enemies, absorbed and brought about changes, adjusting to modern times, and still stands proudly as a vibrant working church. The Dean is a woman, the Archbishop formerly from Uganda, and the Minster is throbbing with life!

Mary Szeto

John Kater's phrase, "a thin place", will remain with me always. A thin place is one where God feels incredibly and inexplicably near to us. I experienced many "thin" moments: glimpsing Canterbury Cathedral through the trees in the lingering dusk, entering solid, majestic and unadorned Durham Cathedral, and attending Choral Evensong in King's College Chapel, Cambridge where the choir transported me to the thinnest place of all with their sublime singing.

Ruth Phillipson

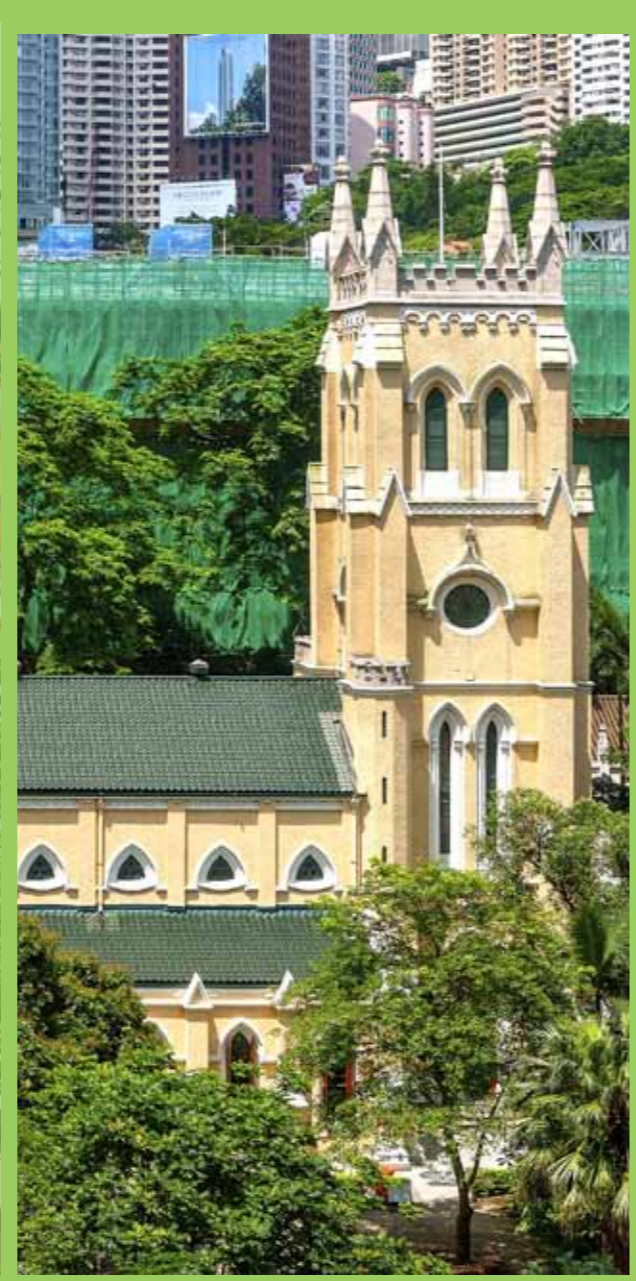
To me, Lincoln Cathedral would be called a thin place; I may not physically go there again, but I am sure I will return to it in my memory and in my imagination. I know when I am faced with small tedious details and endless tasks at work, I close my eyes and will return to Lincoln.

Louisa So

ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL  
SERVING HONG KONG SINCE 1849

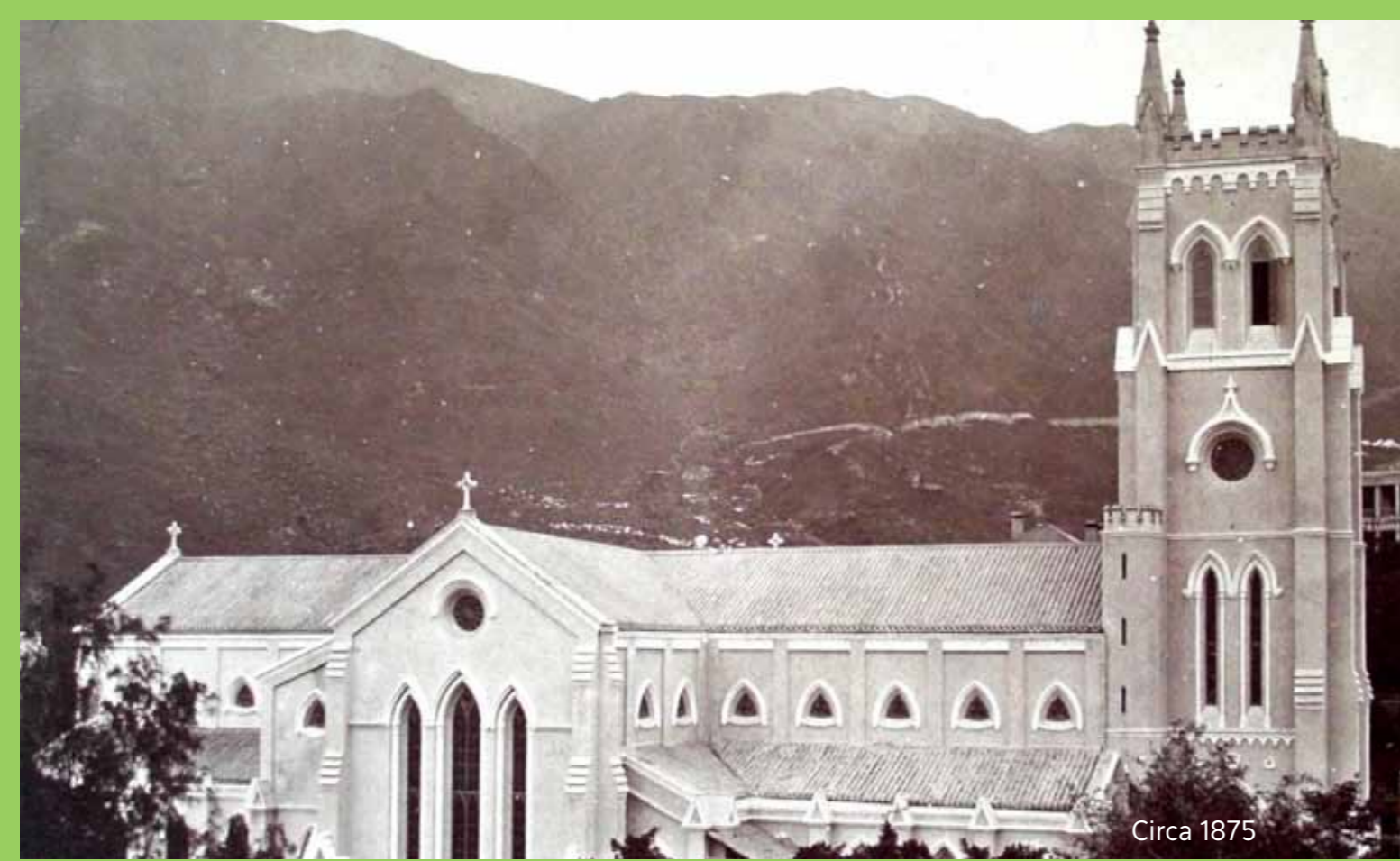
A COMMEMORATIVE SET OF  
STUNNING NEW IMAGES OF  
ST JOHN'S COMMISSIONED  
BY *IN TOUCH* TO MARK THE  
165TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE FIRST SERVICE HELD IN  
THE CATHEDRAL IN 1849.

Photos: Wong Wing Ho



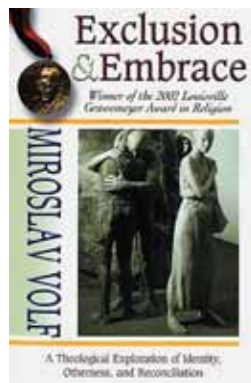
1849 - 2014

COMMISSIONED BY *IN TOUCH* FOR THIS 165TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION, PHOTOGRAPHER WING HO'S IMAGES CAPTURE THE IMPOSING NEO-GOTHIC STRUCTURE OF THE BUILDING, MAKING IT STAND OUT NOT MERELY AS A HISTORIC LANDMARK, BUT ALSO AS A SYMBOL OF CONSTANCY IN AN EVER-CHANGING LANDSCAPE.



Photos: Wong Wing Ho

# Gareth Jones reviews Miroslav Volf's book 'Exclusion and Embrace - A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation'



*Exclusion and Embrace* has become something of a classic text over the last nearly twenty years and, like all classic texts, it allows for some quite different readings on several levels.

Its immediate claim was as a book of theology published by a Croatian theologian in the immediate aftermath of the Balkan wars 1990-95, and in that respect it is still respected, reasonably enough, as a fine example of contextual theology. Volf has a genuine gift for weaving together personal and reflective narratives and this book is arguably his best example of it.

Its deeper intellectual provenance, by contrast, was more straightforwardly Protestant: as a very conventional theology of the cross one can recognise immediately Moltmann's influence and, behind that, several hundred years of Lutheran piety and devotion. On this level 'exclusion' and 'embrace' become theological motifs that govern the conventional Christian rhetoric of exchange - sin for grace - and the Son's sacrifice. At the risk of being too simplistic, *Exclusion and Embrace* is a book that Bonhoeffer might have written, had he survived 1945.

Leaving aside context and conventional theology for one moment, however, the book's real success lies in the ideas behind its subtitle, which is too often ignored in the rush to fashionable slogan. 'A theological exploration of identity, otherness, and reconciliation' certainly points towards Volf's ambition to say something about some of the grand themes of modern and postmodern discourses, therefore. But the indefinite character and provisionality of this experiment also demonstrates Volf's caution in the face of his material. He wants to open something up for discussion, not present scientific solutions.

This openness is the book's best quality and the most helpful reading level, a claim that can be illustrated by Volf's recurring journey motif and the way that, through the differing progressions of Cain and Abel, Abram/Abraham, and Saul/Paul, he brings his themes to the fore. This dynamic works particularly well in Part One, where Volf articulates the book's conceptual architecture and where the major Christological ideas become apparent. Those four chapters are very fine indeed, even if they ultimately say little more substantively than was said in Moltmann's *The Crucified God* about the character of the Cross and Its God-Man.

The remaining three chapters - 'Oppression and Justice', 'Deception and Truth', and 'Violence and Peace' respectively - are good but less successful, I think because Volf introduces an element of detachment that does not sit well with either his

contextual or his doctrinal theologies. Thus, although there is a great deal of valuable material in Part Two, and despite the fact that Volf is always a masterful synthesiser of intellectual materials and traditions, there is an analytical cast to this discussion that sits apart from the prophetic character of the same Crucified God that Volf has identified in Part One.

The most obvious example of this feature is Volf's implicit characterisation of the Balkan conflict as a civil war between three morally equivalent parties. It was no such thing. It was, rather, a concerted attempt at the genocide of a Muslim population by two very different Christian communities, after they themselves had fought each other to a standstill. And those attitudes and ambitions remain in place today, in Serbia and arguably in Croatia too, nearly twenty years later. Turning those visceral realities into cultural-political tropes was the preferred tactic of the complicit West, but it is undoubtedly Christianity's task to expose that lie rather than endorse it.

Volf might well argue that his argument is critical of the West's complicity in this 1990s barbarism, but that a theology of the Cross is also a theology of Peace and God's Peace allows no scope for any violence that is not consumed by Good Friday. Stated in that way I would probably have to agree; but I would remain convinced theologically that we are also called to discriminate between truth and hypocrisy wherever we find those same two brothers. Justice, truth and peace are indeed God's identity: but if we are also to call ourselves by these names then we must learn to utter them without compromise. The Gospel may well be a double-edged sword... but it is a sword.

Volf is no hypocrite, however, and many readers have profited from his excellent book without my need for some more definite conclusions. *Exclusion and Embrace* remains one of the finest examples of contemporary western contextual theology and, read judiciously, it retains a genuine power to illuminate and deepen our thinking about some of the most important theological questions, both doctrinal and pastoral.

*Editor's Note: Dr Gareth Jones, pictured below, is Principal of the HKSCH Ming Hua Theological College. Ming Hua has its own website where you will find details about its staff, courses, events and activities. [www.minghua.org.hk](http://www.minghua.org.hk)*



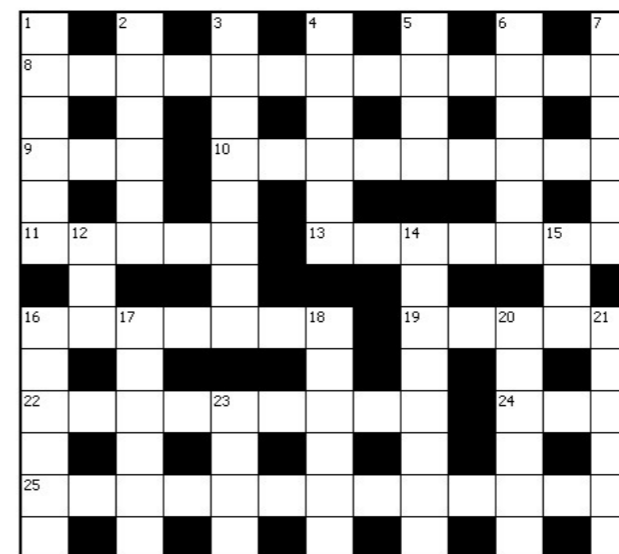
# Dean Matthias turns 50!



*Congratulations Matthias and welcome to the wonderful world of quinquagenarians!*

*Matthias celebrated his big FIVE-O on 14th August with a lunch at St John's for the entire Cathedral staff and is pictured here with his wife, Rachel.*

## The In Touch Crossword



- 24 Raincoat (abbrev.) (3)
- 25 Issue relating to sexual ethics dealt with in the controversial Papal Encyclical *Humanae Vitae* in 1968(13)

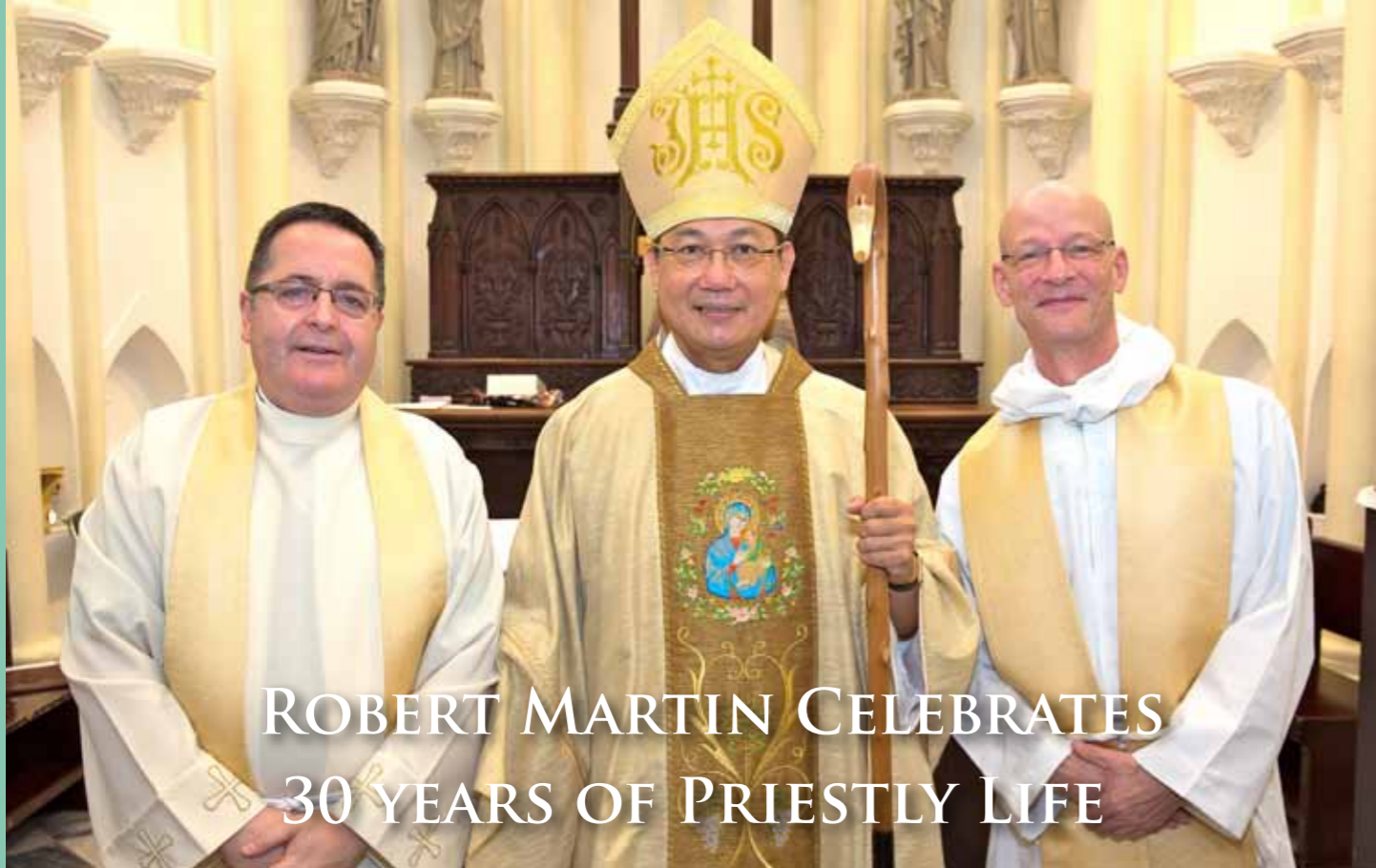
### Down

- 1 'The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a — for many' (Matthew 20:28) (6)
- 2 Upward slope (Nehemiah 3:19) (6)
- 3 'God blessed them and said to them, "Be — and increase in number"' (Genesis 1:28) (8)
- 4 'What God has — together, let man not separate' (Matthew 19:6) (6)
- 5 One of the partners which, with BEA, formed British Airways (1,1,1,1)
- 6 'This will be a — — you. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger' (Luke 2:12) (4,2)
- 7 Takers (anag.) (6)
- 12 'But the things that come — of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man "unclean"' (Matthew 15:18) (3)
- 14 'Then I set bowls — of wine and some — before the men of the Recabite family' (Jeremiah 35:5) (4,4)
- 15 Levitical eating laws were much concerned about animals 'that chew the — ' (Leviticus 11:3) (3)
- 16 Llama-like animal noted for its wool (6)
- 17 The seed which fell among these was choked by them as it grew (Luke 8:7) (6)
- 18 Launch an assault against (Genesis 14:15) (6)
- 20 'Neither can you bear fruit unless you — in me' (John 15:4) (6)
- 21 John says of the healing of the royal official's son, 'This was the — miraculous sign that Jesus performed' (John 4:54) (6)
- 23 Inflict pain on (Acts 7:26) (4)

### Across

- 8 Academic who studies history of one of Israel's perennial enemies (13)
- 9 Take to court (Matthew 5:40) (3)
- 10 Absence of guilt (1 Kings 8:32) (9)
- 11 Of Tim (anag.) (5)
- 13 Deprive priest of ecclesiastical status (7)
- 16 Where Paul and Barnabas called en route from Perga to Antioch (Acts 14:25-26) (7)
- 19 'The earth is the — , and everything in it' (Psalm 24:1) (5)
- 22 'Do not neglect your gift, which was given to you through a — message when the body of elders laid their hands on you' (1 Timothy 4:14) (9)

Solution on Page 27 - No Cheating 😊



## ROBERT MARTIN CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF PRIESTLY LIFE

The first verse of Psalm 100 instructs us to: 'Serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song'. Emmanuel Church did just that when it came together on Sunday 13th July to celebrate the three decades of priestly ministry of their associate priest, the Revd Robert Martin, CMP.

Archbishop Paul Kwong presided at the Thanksgiving Eucharist and Emmanuel's Priest-in-Charge, Fr Nigel Gibson preached the sermon.

Some of Fr Robert's closest friends attended the service along with many Emmanuel and St John's parishioners. Die Konzertisten sang the Gloria from Byrd's Mass for Four Voices and Ireland's anthem Greater love hath no man.

Fr Robert thanked everyone for their support on his special day and paid tribute to the love he has received from all the communities he has served over the past 30 years.

On behalf of the community Fr Nigel presented Fr Robert with the latest Apple iPad Air, in appreciation of his ministry at Emmanuel.

Refreshments in the hall after the service included specially prepared 'Fr Robert cupcakes', which generated a lot of fun and laughter. This was followed by a sumptuous buffet in the Foreign Correspondents' Club in honour of a gifted and much-loved priest.



### ***In Touch* invited Robert to reflect on his ministry as an Anglican priest. Priesthood, he says, is not just another job quantified in terms of 'deliverables'**

On the 1st of July 1984 I was ordained a priest. That means I've been a priest for the last thirty years or as Fr Nigel reminded me – for 15,724,800 minutes, and the clock is still ticking. I remember my ordination in Liverpool Cathedral as if it were yesterday. Ten of us were ordained that day and afterwards we were sent out to various parts of the diocese to start our ministries. I'm not sure where all of those 'new' priests are now, some I know are still in Liverpool, and two of us are now working in Hong Kong!

On my ordination day I was given a card by my spiritual director containing a quote from Austin Farrer, the Oxford theologian and preacher, it said simply 'As a priest you are called to be Walking Sacrament – an outward and visible sign of Christ's presence in the world.' These words have stuck with me all these years often as a source of inspiration and encouragement but sometimes as a reproof where I have failed to live up to this calling. The card is still in my prayer book!

They say that when you are drowning your whole life flashes before you. It's a bit like that reflecting on thirty years as a priest! As I look back over those years I give thanks to God for the



many and varied opportunities I have been given to be a sign of Christ's presence in the world. From parish ministry in some of the rougher areas of inner city Liverpool and Manchester, with a brief respite in leafy suburban Cheshire, and then on to the challenge of working in London with those affected by HIV/AIDS. And now I find myself here in the 'Pearl of the Orient' privileged to work at St John's Cathedral and Emmanuel Church and minister to perhaps the most varied congregations in my thirty years of priestly ministry.



But reflecting on my priestly ministry so far it's not particular places that I remember but faces. Special faces that represent lives that have touched my own in times of great joy and celebration but also in times of great despair and tragedy. This has been the great joy of the last thirty years as a priest, being alongside God's people in the moments when they have most needed his grace. Isn't that what sacraments are for?

My thoughts go back to the face of the first baby I baptised. She was called Kylie, who smiled and wriggled in my arms, gurgled and was sick in the font - much to the amusement of the congregation. Twenty-two years later I was asked to officiate at her wedding in the same church. She behaved herself well that time!

I give thanks for Miss Martha, a wonderful old lady from Montserrat, who at the age of 102 and receiving Holy Communion in a care home, could demolish all my sacramental theology with her simple words, 'You know, Father, having communion is just like God giving you a big hug, isn't it?' What could the priest say but, 'Amen'.

And a young man, Peter, who was lying in an AIDS ward dying, his face disfigured by a skin cancer, rejected by most of his family, except for his grandmother who held his hand. I anointed him and sat in vigil through the night with them until he died in the early hours.



These are just a few of the faces that are still with me after all these years. There are many more who remind me of those moments of grace when God reaches out and touches his people, often through the ministry of his priests.

This is the great privilege of being a priest. Austin Farrer was right when he said that we are ordained to be 'Walking Sacraments' – to be a means of grace for God's people in their times of joy and sorrow and also in the ordinariness of life.

It pains me greatly when I see the trend in the Church today that regards priesthood as just another job that can be quantified in terms of 'deliverables' because for me it is so much more than that. It is a vocation and a way of life. When priests are seen as employees, when bishops as administrators, when worship is seen as a performance and the congregation an audience to be entertained then we are in grave danger of losing our understanding of the sacramental nature of the Church - its very soul!

I want to thank you all for your love, support and patience over the last five years at St John's Cathedral. You will surely be the faces that will come to mind and whom I will give thanks for when I celebrate my 50th anniversary. The clock is still ticking!

Finally, I leave you with some words from Canon Stephen Cherry who recently preached at St John's and Emmanuel Church. Reflecting on his own twenty-five years as a priest he said:

'Ordination is not about being high-minded, or having clean hands, knowing lots of theology or about being right, talented, good or skillful. It is about being a means of grace.'

Amen to that!



# The Bookstore Loses Its Face Jenny Duyan Leaves Hong Kong for Hawaii

by Chris Everett



Many years ago when I first began shopping at the Cathedral bookstore, I (like many of the 70,000 visitors to the bookstore each year) would pop in on a hot summer afternoon and browse through the books and gifts, or I would make a special trip up the hill in the autumn to buy Advent calendars and Christmas cards.

When entering the store on those special visits, I would first be greeted by a young lady with long, black hair - Jenny. After a couple of minutes of browsing, I would peek through the office door and see Mary at her desk, hard at work ordering books. Then, turning around, I would spy Alice, up a ladder in the storage room looking for a book to put on the shelf. Jenny, Mary, and Alice: for years they were the face of the bookstore.

But times change. First, Mary returned to Glasgow four years ago. And now Alice spends a great deal of her time in Australia visiting her granddaughters. That is, when she is not off to England to watch cricket or visiting friends and family elsewhere.

But, for 14 years Jenny was always there, welcoming back returning customers and friends—her extended family if you will.

However, as I said, times change: Jenny is leaving the bookstore ... in fact, leaving Hong Kong in September for Hawaii.

Congratulations to Emmanuel Church parishioner Ivan Yuen, pictured left with churchwarden Wallace Lai, who has just graduated from Durham University with a First-Class degree in History.

During his three years at Durham, Ivan, 22, studied at Hatfield College, worshipped in the city's Cathedral and served as president of the university's Ecumenical Christian Council.

In the autumn, Ivan will return to the UK to further his studies at the University of Law in London with the aim of becoming a trainee solicitor with global law firm Clifford Chance.

Ivan enjoys returning home to Hong Kong for holidays and catching up with friends. He is especially grateful to the Emmanuel community for always welcoming him back so warmly and for showing a keen interest in his academic progress.

I recently asked Jenny what memories she will take with her.

"Well, certainly watching our student volunteers grow over the years", she mused. "I'm thinking of Katy, for example. She started almost four years ago. Very shy, but has since blossomed into a lovely, outgoing young lady. Victoria is just starting. I will miss watching her.

"Then there are the many memories of the three of us - Mary, Alice, and me - that I will take with me. And of course, there's the memories of friendship and support from Cathedral Chaplains Fr Dwight and Fr Will over the years. Oh dear, there are memories of the stock-taking parties—catching up with the once-a-year volunteers who join us in January to count the thousands of greeting cards and books. How much fun we had.

"But before stocktaking, there's 'Christmas in August'—the buildup to Christmas with thousands of cards to order, receive, and put on display, followed by the charity card fairs and the Michaelmas fairs. What great memories.

"And yet, it's the memories of Cathedral staff members, staff members in the shop, and customers who became friends—the chief justice's secretary for example—that bubble to the top.

"I have to laugh. I just remembered the time when the Chief Justice came into the bookstore. I didn't know who he was. He pulled out a \$1,000 note to pay for a purchase. I hesitated. I asked myself whether he is trying to slip me a counterfeit note. Oh dear, I didn't hear the end of that for years from him.

"The memories are crushing. A few months ago, I was so excited about moving to Hawaii, but now—only a few weeks from leaving—I'm realising all that I'm leaving behind. I certainly will miss everyone here."

Jenny, we will miss you too!

*Editor's Note: Chris Everett is Manager of the St John's Cathedral Bookstore*



# WINNING THE BATTLE AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A report from Holly Allan, Manager of Helpers for Domestic Helpers (HDH)

For years HDH has been waging what seemed to be a futile war against rogue recruitment agencies whose raison d'être is to maximise their profit at the expense of desperate migrant workers. Throngs of domestic workers have streamed through the door of HDH waving demand letters from lending companies from whom they never actually received any money but with whom their recruiters have colluded to disguise illegal placement fees they charged, as personal loans to the workers.

Letter after letter was written to challenge payment demands by agencies and cases were filed in court to recover monies for clients. But every success was quickly dashed by yet more of the same complaints against the same companies. With the gung-ho staff and volunteers of HDH beginning to feel fatigued and our fiery determination slowly turning to despair, we knew more had to be done to address the problem.

HDH embarked on a campaign to raise awareness about the issue, conducting seminars for domestic workers and communicating with employers to seek their support. While not all employers have been cooperative, some have gone to great lengths to help.

Corporate support was also forthcoming. For the last three years, Goldman Sachs has sponsored HDH workshops for domestic workers to educate them on how to deal with unscrupulous agencies and moneylenders. Each year up to 20 volunteers from Goldman Sachs who were involved in the workshop were moved by the experience as they listened to workers talk about the debt bondage situation they were in.

We have also harnessed the support of law firms and now have over 30 solicitors on our Sunday volunteer roster, led and coordinated by Linklaters, with more people seeking to be on board. To further strengthen our effort, a sub-group consisting of lawyers and academics has been formed to develop a strategic solution to the pestering problem.

Along with these endeavours, we continued to do what we do best; provide advice on individual cases and assist domestic workers gain access to justice. In one recent success story, an HDH client received compensation from a notorious lending company in addition to a refund of the monies she was forced to pay. Another client scored a victory against an agency that was prosecuted by the Labour Department as a result of her complaint.

All these actions and the concerted efforts of various NGOs in Hong Kong to combat the problem of debt bondage and human trafficking appear to be paying off. There are now fewer complaints of harassment by moneylenders and more domestic workers are aware of their rights. Though the problem has not been totally eradicated, the realisation that our efforts have not been in vain have strengthened our resolve as we continue to win battles in the raging war against human trafficking.



Holly Allan

*Editor's Note: HDH is an outreach ministry of St John's Cathedral and has been assisting and empowering members of the domestic worker community since 1989. You can read more about Holly's ministry and how you can support her team of volunteers by visiting HDH's website: [www.hdh-sjc.org](http://www.hdh-sjc.org)*





# AN EVENING AT ZETLAND HALL

BY RITA CHAN

Rejoice! Rejoice! The Michaelmas Fair committee has achieved another success in its twin goals of raising funds for the Cathedral as well as promoting fellowship in the community of St John's.

that characterises so much of the life in St John's, the event came together beautifully and everyone enjoyed a memorable evening.

'An Evening at Zetland Hall' on 28th June was the second event in this fruitful year and from the start it was a challenge. How could we convince committee members to support this event? How could we attract our numerous congregations to join in? Where to begin? Well, thanks to the teamwork and enthusiasm

On behalf of the team, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Herbert Tsoi and the Revd John Chynchen for liaising with the staff at the Hall. Special thanks also to our dear sisters and brothers in Christ for helping and supporting us so ably behind the scenes.

The charity dinner raised nearly \$170,000 – due to the generosity of our guests, and special thanks to trustees Ron Lye and Martin Matsui for sponsoring the fine wine to auction. Acknowledgements must go to Archbishop Paul, Dean Matthias, the Revd Robert Martin and John Li for their talented contribution with their singing.

Following the meal, another highlight of the evening was the charity auction. The committee would like to express our gratitude to Mrs Kwan, Judy Chua, Jeffrey Dobbing, Paul & Rozana Bishop, Die Konzertisten Charity Institute, John Breen and the Revd Desmond Cox for their offerings of auction items.

The evening ran very smoothly thanks largely to Alan Tsang's skill as MC. Last, the committee would like to extend our deepest gratitude to David Tse for his beautiful St John's souvenirs, which meant that no one left empty-handed!





## Parents and Toddlers Pack Out Church Room

The Parents & Toddlers Group has made huge strides forward in recent months and is a credit to its founder, the indefatigable and exuberant Vanda Cole. Set up by Vanda only a few years ago, the group now regularly attracts between 60-80 young families. It's a

great success story and the weekly gathering has become an established and a much-appreciated ministry at St John's. As Vanda revealed to *In Touch's* Stuart Wolfendale, those who come, whether Christian or not, feel very comfortable being here.

If you look in on the glorious cacophony of Parents and Toddlers in the Fanny Li Hall on a Thursday afternoon, you will see dozens of infants up to the heady age of 2 playing round the room at full throttle. Yet the noise and the fun divert attention from the true purpose of this rapidly expanding Cathedral ministry. In and among the kids and around the room, mothers are talking in pairs and small groups.

'The group is for parents to meet other parents,' says Vanda Cole, its founder and organiser. 'Many mothers have just arrived and live in a block of flats or they are only here for a few months. They need someone to say welcome. We're here



to help and introduce them to other mothers who can tell them things like what bus to catch, where to buy nappies, where to find a doctor or a dentist and discuss problems. The big thing is "Welcome, welcome".

Vanda was manager of the Cathedral Bookstore for 9 years. She has been Chairwoman of the Flower Guild, she has helped in a score of capacities at the Michaelmas Fair and she is currently the Librarian. In newly arrived mothers, she saw a need for care and innovation and simply ran with it. 'When I first became a grandmother, I saw how difficult it was for my daughter-in-law to meet other mothers, with her child, in

a clean, safe environment. So back in 2011 I asked the Dean for some space and we started out with four mothers and their children from the Cathedral. Now, depending on the season, we can have anywhere between thirty and eighty mothers with their children.'

These are not simply ladies from Mid-Levels slipping down the hill in a taxi. They come from all around Hong Kong, from Discovery Bay and even as far as Tuen Mun. The bottom of the external staircase is a stroller parking lot by mid-afternoon.

The expansion in Parents and Toddlers has made it a remarkable and serious development in St John's outreach ministry not least because most of the parents who go there are not practicing Christians or Christians at all. 'I never ask anyone what religion they are.' Vanda is emphatic that no qualifications of faith are necessary for showing up. 'We have many different nationalities. Last week six Japanese ladies came. I simply never ask.'

That Parents and Toddlers is not only a St John's outreach but that it takes place at the Cathedral is vital to its ministry, Vanda believes. 'If they are in the grounds of St John's they may not be Christian but they feel very comfortable here. When something goes wrong with their lives, they do feel comfortable coming here.'

She tries to welcome everyone personally and asks how his or her week has been. Sometimes, if a mother has a problem, this is a cue for it to come out. 'An awful lot of things can go wrong for a young expatriate mother and they don't have parents or aunts and uncles to turn to. We don't want to intrude on anything. We are just there if we can be of use.'

Several baptisms have come out of the group. Vanda sees the weekly gatherings as back up to that. 'Mothers who have just had kids baptised find it difficult to go to church on Sunday. The child is too young to bring or to be left and there is no helper on a Sunday. So this is somewhere connected to the Church that they can come to.'



is such a different place to be. Otherwise, everyone involved is a volunteer, mostly the mums themselves. 'I usually arrange to have one coming early to help me set up and run up and down the stairs with things,' says Vanda. 'Otherwise, they come as they can.'

There is only one rule at Parents and Toddlers. Every child must be accompanied by a mother or father or grandparent. Given the principle purpose of the group, there is no point in sending the kid with a domestic worker.

Parents and Toddlers was neither established by committee nor is it run by one. Its lines of operation are wonderfully straightforward. There is a charge of \$20 for attendance. 'We are self-sufficient,' says Vanda. 'We don't need any money.' They even give it away. A donation was made to the Archbishop's Fund for clergy training because it 'seemed a nice thing to do.' The flowers in the church on Mothering Sunday were donated by them. 'We are just very grateful for the space the Dean gives us,' concludes Vanda.



Parents and Toddlers began with a handful of toys and two mats. It has now grown into a two storey operation. Downstairs in the Fanny Li Hall, the 'walkers' play with each other and with toys. Upstairs in the David Kwok room are the 'non-walkers', likely being fed in mummy's arms. At 4pm, all gather together downstairs for a sing-song. One parent from Discovery Bay has played jazz piano for the kids, a diplomat from the U.S. Consulate has popped down the road and played drums and Fr Hugh Phillipson calls by with anything from the clarinet to the penny whistle. Stay long enough in the 'sing-song' and the tunes take a week to get out of your head!

One of the Cathedral clergy usually drops in at some point in the afternoon, not least because a room full of toddlers on the rampage

Well, not quite. The previous Sunday, a woman had left the Eucharist during the sermon because her baby was crying and this concerned Vanda. 'She will have gone to lots of trouble to come with the child and I knew she would leave altogether because there was nowhere for her to go to sit it out.' So, she is wondering if we might think about having a Sunday morning crèche. 'The trouble is that very young children are often not happy in crèches without a familiar face. It would have to be a parents run crèche, organised by them, somehow. I'm not sure what the answer is to this.'

With Vanda Cole considering the question, one is very likely to be found.





Genesis and I Believe candidates with their tutors on the eve of their baptism and confirmation on 7th June 2014

# Celebrating 10 years of Genesis

by Will Newman

Quietly, almost under the radar, great things have been happening at St John's Cathedral. This year sees the 10th anniversary of Genesis, our programme to prepare adults for baptism and confirmation. Twice a year, every year since 2004 the Cathedral clergy have run Genesis.

Genesis is a 10-week course, following the same format as the popular Alpha Course, although the content is our own. We begin each Monday evening in the Li Hall sharing supper together, as a way of getting to know each other and building the bonds of friendship. After supper one of the clergy gives a 40-minute talk on a chosen subject, including such titles as God and Me, The Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, The Bible, Suffering, Prayer, Sacraments, and Christianity and Other Religions.

After the talk the participants divide into four groups for discussion. The clergy take no part in the discussion, which is guided instead by group facilitators, drawn from members of the Cathedral parish. Having the clergy not joining the groups is deliberate: when clergy are in discussion groups, people quickly look to them for answers. In Genesis we encourage people rather to explore and find a way that works for them, within a Christian, Anglican framework. The evening closes with a short service of Compline, the quiet night prayer of the Church.

Genesis is presented in English, although two of the four discussion groups use Chinese. On each course there's a large majority of Hong Kong Chinese, many of whom have lived abroad in English-speaking countries, alongside a handful

In recent years there is also a parallel Chinese language course called I Believe, run by the Dean and Chinese-speaking Cathedral clergy. The two courses are not the same, but both have the same aim – to introduce Christianity and the Anglican Church to fresh generations, and to draw them into the worshipping, believing community of the church.

I said that great things have been happening almost unnoticed. What's so great about this? The answer is that together we are now regularly bringing over 100 adults a year into the Anglican Church and into the cathedral parish community, including the daughter churches. The strapline for Genesis is 'The Christian faith explored, discussed and enjoyed!' This is a great programme, and deserves to be widely known and celebrated.

But Genesis is just a beginning – that's what Genesis means. We always tell participants that when the course ends with a wonderful Confirmation Service in the Cathedral, that's not the end - it's a beginning. Our task now, in line with the Cathedral's plan for the coming years, is to develop teaching and nurturing for our congregations.



of expatriates. Participants include some people who were baptised as children, or attended a church school, but are only now starting to take Christianity seriously, often as a result of marriage and starting a family; others may have been members of a more fundamentalist church for many years but now they are looking for a more open-hearted form of Christianity; and others again who are newcomers to faith, starting from the beginning.





## 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 activities will be published in the pew sheet and on the website.

[www.stjohnscathedral.org.hk](http://www.stjohnscathedral.org.hk)

### 14 September, Sunday

15:00 Counterpoint Music Festival 2014: The Music of Eternity

Music by Pergolesi, Fauré and Bernstein.

Choir: Die Konzertisten with soloists conducted by Felix Yeung

Venue: Grand Hall, Lee Shau Kee Lecture Centre, Centennial Campus, University of Hong Kong

Enquiries Tel: 9027 4169  
Ticketing: [www.cityline.com](http://www.cityline.com)

### 20 September, Saturday

19:30 St John's Anniversary Concert: a celebration in word and music of the life and witness of the Cathedral over the last 165 years.

### 21 September, Sunday

11:45 Festal Sung Eucharist to commemorate the first service in St John's in 1849, with the combined choirs of the Cathedral parish

Celebrant and Preacher: The Archbishop

### 28 September, Sunday

09:00 Sung Eucharist with guest preacher Bishop Dean Wolfe, Vice-Chairman of the House of Bishops, Episcopal Church USA

### 4 October, Saturday Francis of Assisi

18:00 Provincial Ordination of Priests and Deacons

### 5 October, Sunday

11:45 Blessing of Animals Service

### 5 October, Sunday

09:00 Harvest Thanksgiving followed by a Pot Luck Lunch  
St Stephen's Chapel, Stanley

### 5 October, Sunday

10:15 Back-to-Church Sunday with Harvest Thanksgiving Emmanuel Church, Pokfulam

### 12 October, Sunday

St John's Harvest Thanksgiving Celebrations  
All Services

### 25 October, Saturday

10:00 St John's Michaelmas Fair

### 26 October, Sunday

09:00 Sung Eucharist with guest preacher the Very Revd Kenneth Hall, Dean of Clogher and Rector of St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen, Northern Ireland

### 8 November, Saturday

19:00 Emmanuel Church Mid-Autumn Parish Dinner: HK Country Club

### 9 November, Sunday

18:00 A 'Fresh Expressions' Service for Remembrance Sunday

### 15 November, Saturday

14:00 Annual Interfaith Celebration of Peace: singing, dancing, praying and meditating with people from many faiths  
Venue: Li Hall

### 23 November, Sunday Christ the King

16:30 Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Consecration Service

The Consecration of the Revd Canon Dr Timothy Chi-Pei Kwok to the Holy Order of Bishop

### 29 November, Saturday

18:00 Confirmation Service

### 30 November, Advent Sunday

18:00 Advent Service of Readings and Hymns

### 6 December, Saturday

11:00 St Stephen's Chapel Christmas Fete. Entertainment for all the family



On a dark rainy and windy night in May there was light and joy inside St John's as we celebrated Jazz Vespers. These have taken place every year since 2007.

Well, what exactly are Jazz Vespers? Vesper means evening star and the service is based on an ancient form of Christian worship and prayer. It goes back to Judaism but was taken up by the Early Church as one of its seven daily services.

Jazz music used in our vespers has a much more recent history. It covers a wide-range of different styles, but in our case for the last five years this has been 'Dixie Jazz' played by the Dixie Katz, led by Mike Legge, including Father Hugh on clarinet, and with guest vocal soloists. This traditional Afro-American music gives voice to the hopes, dreams, frustrations, joys and pain of human experience.

Jazz has been thought of as the musical incense that collects and carries the prayers of the people to God. The music is played 'by ear' (no music!) and the individual players are free to play their own tunes (improvise) within the overall musical framework. In a way it is like a metaphor for God's action in the world – working within rules but improvising with love

sometimes in surprising and unpredictable ways!

In our Jazz Vespers depending on the congregation and the weather, spontaneous dancing to the driving beat of the band is not uncommon during the service. In this area Father Des gives an athletic lead. And dancing is certainly guaranteed afterwards as we follow the band to the Li Hall for refreshments to the sound of 'Oh when the saints go marching in'.

Hugh Phillipson



# World War One Centenary Commemoration

Between them, the Revd John Chynchen as officiant and sub-organist Felix Yeung arranged a beautiful Commemoration Service on the Centenary of the Outbreak of the First World War in St John's on the evening of Sunday 3rd August 2014.

There were readings and contemplations from a group of speakers, all delicately balanced by psalms and choral pieces sung by

John gave the war a Chinese focus when he reflected on the Chinese recruited through Weihaiwei who had worked and died close to the battle as part of the Chinese Labour Corps.

The music was carefully selected for its emotiveness and its origins. If Cecil Spring Rice's lyrics in the hymn 'I vow to thee my country' have been interpreted as essentially English, the other hymn sung, 'All my hope on



1914 - 2014 The Great War Centenary: Lest We Forget

Die Konzertisten. The pattern of the service followed the same sequence of prayers, music and spoken pieces as used in London's Westminster Abbey for the same purpose.

The Revd Will Newman, the Revd Robert Martin, Stuart Wolfendale, Patricia Hon, Susan George and Mary Szeto were the readers. Will read from Joel chapter 2 and gave a reflection on the power of love in conflict.

Stuart read from John chapter 12, 'The light is with you for a little longer...' and gave a reflection on the political and military origins of the war.

Robert read a famous passage from Isaiah Chapter 2, 'Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.'

Patricia read Wilfred Owen's poem '1914' and 'The Messages' by Wilfred Wilson Gibson.

Mary read 'On Receiving News of the War' by Isaac Rosenberg and Susan George read from 2 Corinthians chapter 4, 'Let light shine out of darkness.'

God is founded' is from the German by Joachim Neander.

The Kyrie Eleison was set to Josef Rheinburger's Mass in E-flat. The choir sang 'Wie Libelich Sind Deine Wohnungen' from 'Ein deutsche Requiem' by Brahms, and lest the German chorale was seen to prevail, they also sang 'Drop, Drop Slow Tears' from Bob Chilcott's 'St John's Passion.

Some asked why the beginning of the war was being commemorated and not its end. Those involved in the service felt that the outbreak of the 'Great War' was perhaps its most poignant and most tragic time which needs pondering most of all for, without it, there would have been no war, no end and nothing to mourn.

The significance of this was felt in the prayerful silence amongst the two hundred or so who attended and recognised by the presence of Nickolaus Graf Lambsdorff, the German Consul-General, Paul Tighe, the Australian Consul-General, Hitoshi Noda, the Japanese Consul-General, and the deputy heads of mission of Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

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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

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