

In Touch

The Cathedral Magazine - Winter Edition

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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Rising Star Takes Top Music Post

By Nigel Gibson

St John's Cathedral has appointed Felix Yeung as its first Director of Music and takes over from choirmaster Raymond Fu who retired in August.

A multi-talented and dynamic figure on the Hong Kong music scene, Felix's career began as a chorister and sub-organist at St John's before moving to London to study at the prestigious Royal Academy of Music. He graduated in 2011 as MMus with distinction. He was also awarded the Academy's much coveted premier prix, the DipRAM and obtained the LRAM diploma in choral conducting pedagogy.

Following Felix's commissioning in St John's in September, Dean Matthias Der said, "We are delighted that Felix is with us. He comes with a wide-range of experience of music at the highest level, and we look forward to him helping us build on the fine musical tradition we already have at St John's."

As well as directorship of the Cathedral Choir, 28-year old Felix will also head a new music department staffed by three other gifted musicians: assistant director of music, Alan Tsang; organist, Peter Yue; and recently appointed sub-organist, James Thomas. "The new dynamic," says Felix, "will improve coordination between groups and greatly enhance the growth of our music ministry."

Read more about Felix Yeung and his passion for music on pages 4-7.



Felix Yeung

HUGE CROWDS FLOCK TO ANNUAL FAIR

By Nigel Gibson

The 2015 Michaelmas Fair proved another hugely successful event attracting hundreds of visitors to St John's.

Celebrations kicked off with a spectacular opening ceremony that featured a medley of pipers, a brass band, and a guard of honour by St John's Scouts.

After words of thanks and praise from committee members to the army of people who organised the day, guest of honour, Alfred Li Kwok Lung, officially declared the Fair open, to the delight of the large crowd assembled around the stage.

As usual, the Fair was packed with an array of stalls selling anything from homemade produce to clothes, books, flowers and arts and crafts. The hot dog stand and beer tent enjoyed brisk trade, alongside face painters, balloon sculptors and masseurs.

Chair of this year's organising committee, Alice Luk, was delighted at just how well everything went.



Members of the Michaelmas Fair Committee at the Opening Ceremony

"I have had some lovely feedback," said Alice at the Fair's close. "I was privileged to have worked with a great team of volunteers and am proud of them all. Everyone seems happy with the results as well as the camaraderie of working together for many worthy causes. The Fair is a bit different every year, everyone seems to like that - and that's what I tried to achieve. It's been a wonderful day!"

In Touch's beautiful souvenir photos of the Fair are on pages 12-15.

In Touch

Christianity does not deal much in endings or finales. It's more about new beginnings so, though 2015 may be drawing to a close, in this Advent/Christmas winter edition we are delighted to feature a spread of fresh starts at St John's.

One of the most significant innovations to report should mark a long term improvement in the work of the Cathedral in all its aspects. The Dean and Council have introduced a system of committees, each coordinated by a full time member of the clergy, with responsibility for eight essential areas of the Cathedral's life and ministry. Each of these areas will be attended to by selected lay volunteers whose purpose will be to monitor what is happening – or not – in their field of care, give it close thought, and take initiatives and action. Led by an introduction from the Dean, the clergy coordinators explain their briefs to In Touch.

The Music Department has also taken on a new form that promises to have an exciting effect on the progress of music at St John's. Former choirmaster Raymond Fu did much to advance that, often single-handedly. Now there is a new team in place under the Director of Music, Felix Yeung, which brings together a powerful spread of talents - Alan Tsang, Peter Yue and James Thomas. In an interview with this magazine, Felix explains the opportunities which this new team faces and the challenges which St John's, a cathedral peculiar to itself, poses.

Shortly after Christmas, mechanical diggers will be appearing in the grounds to signal the start of a physical alteration. Work will begin on the new Garden Project in the northern sector of the compound in the hope of finally creating a garden which

is both beautiful and durable for the congregation and the general public. We are publishing an illustration of the final design which should be before us in reality later in 2016. Just to demonstrate what a tough job it is to create a space that keeps its identity in the middle of a city when used and passed through by hundreds daily, we are featuring an account of the Cathedral precinct's rather patchy past.

A new start too comes from our regular contributor Mark Gandolfi of the St John's Counselling Service. He is beginning a new series for us with an article on marriage which, anyone who has been in one or dealt with a troubled one, will recognise as being right on the mark in what it says.

As a balance to all this looking forward, we have a moment of reflection in an interestingly illustrated article on the special evening service held to commemorate the end of the Pacific War. Despite its somber origins, its music in particular struck a popular and optimistic note with one of the most acclaimed Chinese ballads of the period being belted out from the chancel steps.

As this is our Advent edition all of us are looking forward to celebrating the greatest new beginning of all, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we take this opportunity to wish all our readers a holy and joyful Christmas!

An early reminder that copy deadline for the spring issue is Monday 15th February, 2016.



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KEEP
CALM
AND
BECOME
A PRIEST

The Dean's Message



When you think of St John's Cathedral, what comes to your mind? The grandeur of the neo-Gothic architecture, the inspiring sacred music in our worship or that is the oldest church here in Hong Kong? Many who come to tour or worship at St John's Cathedral may not realise that behind all of these, outreach ministries to the wider community are important and integral part of our church life. For, as established in 1849, St John's has always had a heart for the disadvantaged and marginalised in our society.

Today this fine tradition continues with many well-structured outreach ministries, such as Helpers for Domestic Helpers, St John's Cathedral Counselling Service, HIV Education Centre, St John's Cathedral Bookstore and the Mission for Migrant Workers. In addition, we are blessed with many other outreach ministry programmes run by scores of volunteers, such as CLARES, Michaelmas Fair, prison ministry, radio broadcast ministry, English tutoring class with new immigrant children, parents and toddlers group, partnership with the coffee shop The Nest employing youth with disabilities and occasional visits to less fortunate communities.

More than 30,000 people are served directly through our programmes annually and the Cathedral invests more than \$2 million HKD out of the annual budget to support its outreach work. The total annual ministry cost of our structured outreach programmes amounts to \$11 million HKD. Each year, more than \$1.5 million is raised to support charities and agencies outside of the Cathedral. In 2013, I identified poverty alleviation, people suffering from mental health and striving for peace and reconciliation as some of the new challenges in Hong Kong and to which the Cathedral should pay attention. Since then, many new projects and efforts have commenced. We just celebrated October as Poverty Alleviation Month in which different agencies shared how they tackled the sad reality of more than 1 million people in this affluent city of Hong Kong living under the poverty line.

This past year, for the first time in two decades, a comprehensive review of our outreach ministries was conducted, aimed to strengthening our outreach effort. In the process, we came to the realisation that our outreach programmes are extensive and meaningful for which we should be proud of and should celebrate. To further strengthen our work in the future we strive to make our outreach vision-based, relevant to the current needs, well-run and ones in which parishioners will be able to develop a strong sense of ownership and engagement. Recommendations were made for each structured programmes and on issues of human resources, governance and funding. In particular, it was proposed that funding should be based on several sources such as the Cathedral annual budget, grants, individual donors, fundraising and that some income should be generated from the ministry itself. Many of these recommendations will take time to come to fruition but we believe the right directions have been set. I encourage parishioners to obtain a copy of the Review upon the endorsement of the Council in November to familiarise the future course of our common outreach work.

Any positive changes of our work will not come from any report, as substantial as it may be. They need to come from how we engage ourselves in the outreach itself. Only with your help and involvement, can our loving service to the community be truly strengthened. How can you help, you may ask? You can help with the following:

Get to know our outreach ministries by making a point to visit the programmes. For example, you might be surprised to see, in the microfilm contest that HIV Education Centre held, the films were done so creatively and professionally by the youngsters from Hong Kong.

Exercise your Christian faith and witness by getting involved as an occasional or a long-term volunteer. Serving others will bring meaning and joy to your often stressful life. With more of our parishioners' involvement, it will lead to a much deeper spirituality in what we offer. Pray. Prayers instil God's power and love in what we do.

Support our outreach ministry financially. Though the scope of our work is extensive, the needs of our society are getting greater by the day. Just imagine how much more we can do for the community. With your help, we can.

Someone once said, God created us with two arms - one to help ourselves, and another to help others. We at St John's Cathedral should be so proud of the outreach witness we have and yet much more can be and should be done. I invite you and look forward to your participation and support in our common ministry. God bless you all.

Dean Matthias

每當提到聖約翰座堂時，你會想起甚麼？我們教堂宏偉的新哥德式建築？崇拜時振奮人心的樂章？或是我們源遠流長的歷史？或許你已經在此崇拜聚會多時，但可能仍跟其他朝聖者或遊客一樣，對座堂在社區關懷及外展服務上的角色不大了解，其實我們自1849年落成以來已經心繫社會的需要，致力為弱勢及被邊緣化的群體提供各式的服務。

今天，座堂的外展事工已發展得甚具組織及規模，由受薪之同工負責的計有家庭傭工支援中心、輔導服務、「愛之家」諮詢及教育中心、座堂書室與外勞牧民中心，還有由義工負責的包括二手貨品場、聖米迦勒賣物會、監獄事工、電台廣播事工、新來港學童英語補習事工、聖約翰親子遊戲組等，我們還跟專為傷健年青人提供工作機會的社企The Nest咖啡店合作，通過製作及售賣食品來協助該些年青人發掘潛能、融入社群。

我們座堂每年的外展事工為超過三萬人次提供不同的服務，涉及的事工開支就超過一千一百萬元。其中有兩百萬是由座堂常年經費中支付，另外亦有籌募超過一百五十萬元是支持座堂外的慈善機構與救援工作之用。2003年，我更留意到社會上的貧窮問題、精神健康問題日益嚴重，連同推動和平與復和的議題都是香港社會的當務之急，座堂因此積極回應，連串的社會關懷工作亦隨之而展開，其中包括剛過去十月份的「扶貧月」，我們邀請了不同機構的同工在平日崇拜中分享貧窮問題和他們扶貧工作的概況，鼓勵教友身體力行的幫助香港現時仍有超過一百萬的貧窮人口。

過去一年，我們亦替座堂所有外展單位及整個外展事工進行了近二十年來首次全面的綜合評估，以求檢視及促進我們的工作。過程當中，我們為座堂一直以來所提供既廣泛又有意義的外展工作而感恩，肯定她們的工作成果。而放眼未來，為着能更優化我們的服務，使能更適切回應社會的需要，並使更多的教友能參與，我們作出了一系列的建議，就資源分配、人事管理及籌募經費等不同範疇向各單位提出了具體意見，特別是針對運作經費方面，我們建議各單位除循座堂預算、政府資助及個人贊助等不同途徑募集經費外，也應盡量嘗試從提供的服務中收取部份費用，以祈達致減少赤字、甚至收支平衡之效。我們了解這些建議的諾實執行及成效或需時，但我們深信這是正確的方向。在此鼓勵教友們索取該份報告細閱，以了解這份將在11月座堂議會中將作表決的報告內容及相關事工的未來發展進程。

任何工作得以推行及諾實並不是來自報告寫得如何精彩，乃來自我們如何切實委身其中，作出改變，座堂每一份子的投入及參與，都對我們外展事工的發展有莫大的裨益。「我該如何參與？」你或許會這樣問。試試以下的方法吧！

1. 從我們所舉辦的外展活動中認識各外展單位。好像「愛之家」諮詢及教育中心曾舉辦微電影創作比賽，只要你觀看過那些參賽作品，必定讓你對年青人的創意及其專業水平留下深刻的印象。
2. 參與一項間中或持續性的義工活動來活出你的信仰及見證。你可能不察覺，服侍他人能有助我們調節緊張的生活，並使我們的生活更有意義。當我們越投入參與這些義務工作，我們的靈命便越能得着深化和造就。
3. 不住的禱告。上帝會在禱告中加增我們事奉的力量與愛心。
4. 金錢上支持我們的外展事工。雖然我們的服務範圍已相當廣泛，但仍追不上社會的需要，我們實在有賴你們的支持，請想想你可以替他們獻出什麼，坐言起行吧！

曾經有人說，上帝創造人類一雙手，一隻，用來幫助自己；一隻，用以幫助別人。作為聖約翰座堂的一份子，我們為目前外展事工所作的美好見證而感謝上帝，也求主能幫助我們做得更多、更好。深切盼望在未來各項的外展事工上得到你們的參與、與你們同工。願主祝福你們！

謝子 and

PROFILE: Early Talk with new Director of Music

Felix Yeung, a former choir member and sub-organist at St John's, and currently HKSXH Provincial Music Director and Musical Director of Die Konzertisten, was appointed as the Cathedral's first Director of Music in August. He graduated in 2011 as MMus with distinction from the Royal Academy of Music and was awarded the Academy's coveted premier prix, the DipRAM. He also obtained the LRAM diploma in choral conducting pedagogy. Felix became the first Pettman Organ Scholar at the London Oratory, working closely with the Oratory Junior Choir for all of their rehearsals and assisting in the Oratory's major Latin liturgies.

Soon after his appointment was announced, In Touch's Stuart Wolfendale talked to Felix about his new post.



I thanked Felix Yeung for talking to me in his role as St John's new Director of Music (DoM) so early in the game. 'Too early!' was his response. In practice, it is never too early to talk to Felix because his creative, quicksilver mind can always be relied on for a view. He had several of those on not so much what has happened yet but what might be to come. It was definitely not too early to detect a thoughtfulness and breadth in the approach of the new Director that will surprise those who were expecting a purist push for a more High Church musical liturgy.

His immediate team, which he heads, consists of Alan Tsang the assistant DoM, Peter Yue, Cathedral Organist and James Thomas, the Associate Organist, a new title coined to acknowledge James' considerable experience and qualifications from England.

The Director of Music now oversees all the music ministry including the choirs, brass ensemble, lunchtime recitals, 'and perhaps we may need to keep an eye on all the external concerts which come into the Cathedral,' mused Felix.

This had not been the case before. "As choirmaster Raymond Fu had been responsible for the choir", Felix explained, "Heads of each musical group 4 virtually reported to the Dean, and some just

drifted. Links between them were informal at best. The Dean's intention seems to be that the musical family should be more connected rather than relatives who live together but rarely interact." An example was immediately to hand. "Last Sunday the Filipino Choir sang at the Eucharist because Filipinos are a significant part of the 9 o'clock congregation."

Felix is coming to grips with the realities of St John's jumbled historical background. "This cathedral is a peculiar one in the sense that it has strong parish nature. It is much more communal than the larger English cathedrals. It's like a big parish church. So, on the one hand you have to take care of it being a cathedral by offering services that are big and musically expressive and yet at the same time cater for the congregation."

Nobody, he thinks would mind an orchestral mass at St Paul's Cathedral on a 'green' or ordinary Sunday. "Services like that are partly what people travel to it for. But if we were to do the same thing here at St John's on a random Sunday, there would be lots of questions from the congregation."



The Director considers the language legacy another peculiarity of St John's. "The majority of worshippers are no longer expats, yet English remains the most used language." He is looking at ways to incorporate the indigenous and other languages.

"Palm Sunday this year was bilingual for the first time, which was progress. Musically, there are so many hymns which come from Chinese composers which can be sung in English or Chinese."

Felix let slip an exclusive. "At the Nine Lessons and Carols service this year, there will be a Chinese carol sung in Chinese. The musical style will be Western, for the moment. We should do more things like this or we are just another English cathedral."

But surely, one of the dogged insistences of his predecessor and indeed of himself had been to maintain St John's in a high and uncompromising standard of English cathedral music. Was that not enough, now?



Credit: Jason le Eyuhin

"I would say that, as we are confirming that English tradition," responded Felix, "we should also be matching culturally what we are surrounded by. Take for example the South African Church. It maintains its Englishness but to a certain extent it enculturates local practices."

Apparently, the Dean has already informally suggested the adoption of a short prayer in Cantonese or Tagalog, which everyone who is regular at the Cathedral might practice and be able to say in church as a symbol of this.

Although items in services may be broadened, Felix remains convinced that St John's must essentially cleave to the English musical tradition because no other cathedrals in the Asian region are doing what we do.

Felix gives me an unsettling fact. "St John's is the last cathedral in the region where you will find Choral Evensong. There are so many services here on Sunday which give us an option for diversity and to be more daring. We should stick with and improve on the main choral services, Eucharist, Matins and Evensong."

Where did he want to take the standard of the choir? The Director's insistence on excellence comes to the fore.

"Whilst I'm in charge, the standard has to be raised. It is not impossible to get a better sound in Hong Kong. The world has moved on. For example, I have seen Swayne's Magnificat 2, - 'the mad Magnificat'-

inspired by African music, rhythmic and hard but being sung with ten year olds! There is so much more we can try in the way of technical innovation."

Rather like his predecessor, his 'dream scenario' is the choir becoming semi-professional. "There are so many people in Hong Kong studying voice, even very competent secondary school students, who can be paid to sing in the choir. Along with the talented amateur singers we attract at the moment, this will lift the choir up. But the congregation has to know that if you want quality you have to pay for it. We could expand the Cecilia Kwok scholarship or establish another, choral fund which might be widely attractive to people at places like the APA." But then we were back to St John's, the big parish church, a reality Felix does not avoid.

"Cathedral churches in England have sung services of one sort or another every day. How can we justify people getting realistic amounts of money for singing in, at most, five or six services a month? Do we have the capability to expand our choral services when we are not a real English cathedral?"

Perhaps it is early days to be talking about a 'St Paul's of the East'. The Director seems, for the time being, to be taking a creative look at the cultural and language interests of the big parish church. Yet there is a sparkle in the Director's eye for the future. Would the people come in from the towers around if a semi-professional choir sang choral evensong every night? "If we expand our personnel and change our practices, they might."

Our Music Team



Dean Matthias Der flanked by his new Music Team after a special commissioning ceremony on 13th September 2015. From left: James Thomas, Alan Tsang, The Dean, Felix Yeung and Peter Yue

James Thomas

James Lloyd Thomas studied at Trinity College London and at London University. He studied organ with David Sanger and Margaret Phillips, piano with Christine Croshaw and conducting with James Gaddarn. After teaching in London he became Organist at Oundle School in 1991 and began a long association with the Oundle Festival and Oundle for Organists, where he has been a tutor on every summer course since then, and was appointed chorus master from 2013.

James has been Director of Music at several schools, including Kingston Grammar School, Christ College Brecon and Lingfield Notre Dame. He has served as Organist at St Mary's Bourne St, Shrewsbury Abbey and latterly as Organist and Choir Director to the University of Sussex and Director of Music at St Paul's Brighton. He has given recitals in most of the major venues in the UK as well as Germany, Austria, France, The Netherlands, USA and Canada. James has made broadcasts for BBC radio and television as an organist and a conductor.

In January 2015 James moved to Hong Kong to become Director of Music at Harrow International School where he is in charge of a large and exciting department running an ambitious musical programme.

Alan Tsang

Alan Tsang began his vocal and liturgical music training at Dean Close School in Britain, where he sang in its chapel choir and took prizes at Cheltenham Festival. Subsequently he became Choral Scholar at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square and completed his studies at the Royal College of Music in London.

An experienced baritone, he has worked with many eminent conductors in Europe and at home in Hong Kong, in concerts and operas. Also a keen recitalist, his repertory includes major works by Monteverdi, Bach, Handel, Mozart, Fauré, Brahms and modern compositions. He appears regularly with and serves as vocal coach to the choir Die Konzertisten. Alan has performed for the Government of HKSAR in both London and Singapore, and at the 1st July Flag-Raising ceremony. For three consecutive years he has also taken on singing a variety of national anthems for HKSevens at the Hong Kong Stadium.

Alan arrived at St John's in 2008, first, as Music Officer and Assistant Choirmaster. Now in the position of Assistant Director of Music, he also leads the Evensong Choir, the Chinese Choir and the Cathedral Brass. He teaches singing at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and maintains his private studio. He is also the conductor of the Choir of St James' Church, and the Combined Choir of the annual Ecumenical Prayer Week.

Peter Yue

Peter Yue graduated from the Royal Academy of Music in London where he studied the organ, piano, accompaniment and choral conducting. During his years at the Academy, he obtained the Professional Certificate (RAM), the LRAM Diploma and was awarded the Frederick Keene Prize for Organ Performance. He is also a holder of the LRSM Diploma.

Since his return to Hong Kong, he became a staff member of the Music Office of the Hong Kong Government, and had been very active as an accompanist to local and visiting instrumentalists, vocalists and choirs in concerts.

He has also given organ recitals at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre and St. John's Cathedral where he is now the Organist. He is also an organ instructor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.



Felix Yeung outside St John's with the Filipino Choir

Heroes And Romance

“As a positive psychologist I am often asked: “What really makes us happy in today’s world with all the focus on wealth and success? Is it really money?”

My response usually is in two parts - one being that money, success and wealth can bring to some people a range of positive emotions in what we call the ‘good life’, but those positive emotions in the good life are not enough for our well-being. Concurrently, we experience deeper and longer-lasting positive emotions in the happy life that can be discovered in marriage, family and deep friendships.

In this, the first in a series of new articles for In Touch, I focus on how we can attain and sustain our well-being in marriage so that happiness can be experienced with a capital H.



Mark Gandolfi

Growing up as a little boy back when the dinosaurs still roamed the earth (well not quite, but I did not have a 4K flat screen TV, the internet or a cell phone), my heroes were a short list: my father and The Beatles. Today those dinosaurs are gone, and instead I now own a 4K TV, have Wifi and somewhere in my pocket is my favourite Sony smartphone. And my heroes? That list has grown: The Beatles and my father are still there, but a few others have joined over the years. Dr Paul Zak is one of them, a noted scientist who has done work in neuroimaging at Harvard on the brain chemical oxytocin that he calls the “morale molecule” for virtuous behaviours. My favourite read from Paul is his book *The Moral Molecule: The Source of Love and Prosperity*.

Our beautiful brain actually has four chemicals that contribute to our well-being: dopamine the brain chemical that motivates us to pursue goals and gets released again when we achieve those goals (theory goes those who procrastinate may actually have low levels of dopamine), serotonin is the chemical that flows when we feel acknowledged and loved by others (belief in mental health that low levels of serotonin cause depression), endorphin brain chemicals do many things from reducing pain (seen often in marathon runners what we call the “runner’s high”) to being released when we laugh, and oxytocin is released

through physical intimacy and even in breastfeeding. Today oxytocin is being used in treating cardiovascular disease, eating disorders and depression. One interesting study among countless others was the Medical University of Vienna (2013) highlighted how hugs lower blood pressure, improve memory and increase closeness between marital partners and children with their parents.

And the wonderful thing about these four brain chemicals? They actually get released in one of the most important relationships of all: marriage. Yet the marital statistics around the world are concerning; in the U.S. for example marriage rates are declining, people are getting married later in life (not always a bad thing) more people are divorced than ever before, and women who never marry are seeing their numbers increase annually in countries like Japan and the U.S. Is marriage slowly becoming like black and white TV, a thing of the past? This well-being series (this article and 3 others) will look at marriage and how we can revitalise one of the most important relationships for our species.

History books and tales of the evolution of marriage abound, from arranged marriages due to cultural and economic reasons, to romantic love marriages, celebrated in the presence of a priest and witnesses. The reader will find numerous examples of how the marriage proposal, the wedding ring, the exchange of gifts, the honeymoon and the wedding ceremony have evolved over the years. Each culture has its own history, beauty and uniqueness about the wedding ceremony, one of my favourite being the Nigerian wedding ceremony. It is one of the most colourful, dynamic and joyous ceremonies I have ever seen (YouTube has some wonderful examples!) The Nigerian wedding ceremony even has a 17-item checklist to ensure the wedding goes perfectly, and everyone can experience those four wonderful brain chemicals!

Which brings me to the central theme of this first article of how to ensure well-being for a marriage: planning. One of the most interesting quotes about marriage did not come from any of my heroes or even someone in my profession. It came from a successful salesman who did motivational talks and sold books on how to be a better (sales) person: Zig Ziglar. In short, Zig said it best: “many people spend more time in planning the wedding than they do in planning the marriage.”

My 35-years in mental health has validated Zig’s statement. Few ever sit down with their life partner and discuss a strategy, if you will, for their marriage at different stages of their life. I would agree that we have a pluri of books, courses and

theories on marriage, but few if any on how to plan a marriage in our adult stages of life. I believe we have several stages we need to have a plan to ensure our marriage is a happy, healthy, loving and lasting one. They range from post-honeymoon, work and planning for a family, having a family, work-life balance, preparing for empty nest, it’s just you and me now, and recreating and renewing the I and We. In each of these stages will be distinct experiences couples need to prepare for and work through. But in each of these stages is a common theme we actually need to better understand as we grow older with each other: how to keep the well-being chemicals at a high level so when we face change and conflict the marriage remains a positive option. My next articles for In Touch will address this theme.

Maybe it’s time Zig becomes one of my heroes.

Editor’s Note: Dr Mark Gandolfi is Executive Director of the St John’s Counselling Service. Its mission is to empower the human spirit towards greater awareness in making choices for growth and happiness. More information about the service can be found on: www.sjcskh.com



A Service of Thanksgiving commemorating the End of The Second World War

By John Chynchen



(From left)
 Front Row: Janaline Oh, Australian Deputy Consul-General; Dean Matthias Der; Archbishop Paul Kwong; Caroline Wilson, British Consul-General; Gabrielle Rush, New Zealand Consul-General; Fr Robert Martin
 Middle Row: Fr Dwight dela Torre; Fr Desmond Cox; Revd Catherine Graham
 Back Row: Revd Wu Wai Ho; Clifford A. Hart Jr. U.S. Consul General; Revd John Chynchen
 J. Ian Burchett, Canadian Consul-General; Fr Nigel Gibson; Ambassador Hitoshi Noda, Japanese Consul-General



Caroline Wilson, British Consul-General to Hong Kong and Macau: Yangqin Diplomacy



Celebrated songbird Joyce Lee evokes 1940s déjà vu with 'golden oldies' from East and West.

In May of this year, the considerable scale of the commemorations on the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe (VE Day - 7/8 May) gave rise to enquiries from the war veterans' organisations and the consular officials of one or two of the Allied nations and Territories engaged in the conflict concerning the possibility of a Service of Thanksgiving at St John's to commemorate VJ Day at the appropriate time.

I decided to reserve the Cathedral for the evening of 30th August, a Sunday being by far the most convenient day of the week for all concerned...or so I thought!

On 13th May 2015, China had announced plans for the 2015 China Victory Parade to be held on 3rd September, which was declared a public holiday in Mainland China and Hong Kong followed suit on 8th July when the Legislative Assembly voted to declare 3rd September an HKSAR Public Holiday in celebrating the 70th anniversary day of the victory of the Chinese Peoples' war of resistance against Japanese aggression. I was also faced with a musical vacuum as the Cathedral Choir was on vacation and the alternative ensembles were unavailable on the night.

O man of inadequate faith! Raymond Fu put me in touch with Brian Montgomery (baritone), erstwhile Head of Voice at the

APA, who flew back from the US five days before the service and welded a vocal Quartet together to lead the congregational hymns and perform the Anthems. Brian also volunteered to sing "On the road to Mandalay" (Rudyard Kipling) as a tribute to those who fought in the 'Forgotten Army' (14th British) in Burma. Joyce Lee turned the clocks back and stirred long western memories with the great 1940s classic "As time goes by" and the Archbishop's with the Chinese favourite of the same time frame "Ye Lai Xiang" with all its earthy, horticultural associations. Caroline Wilson, British Consul-General to Hong Kong and Macau, played "Spring in a Water Village" on the Yangqin as a tribute to the resilience of the Chinese people; Clifford A. Hart, Jr., U.S. Consul-General to Hong Kong and Macau, read from General MacArthur's speech aboard U.S.S. Missouri on 2nd September 1945 and added a poignant, personal account of his family's wartime service in the Pacific theatre. The Kohima Epitaph was suitably framed, embellished and read by J. Ian Burchett, Canadian Consul-General to Hong Kong and Macau.

The Most Reverend Dr Paul Kwong delivered a pertinent and highly thought-provoking Address to round off what was generally accepted to be a moving and refreshingly entertaining commemoration of four momentous years in this part of the world.



From left: Geoff Emerson (historian of the internment), Clifford A. Hart, Jr., U.S. Consul-General, Clive Rough, St Stephen's parishioner, and J. Ian Burchett, Canadian Consul-General

Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Stanley Internment Camp

By Will Newman

St Stephen's College, Stanley, is an historic site. This is where the final battle was fought when Hong Kong was invaded in December 1941, before the colony surrendered to the Japanese Army. For the following three years and eight months, St Stephen's became the internment camp for allied civilians, men, women and children, until the war ended in August 1945.

St Stephen's Chapel was built in the school grounds after the war, and dedicated by Bishop RO Hall to those who died in the war, and those who suffered here during the internment.

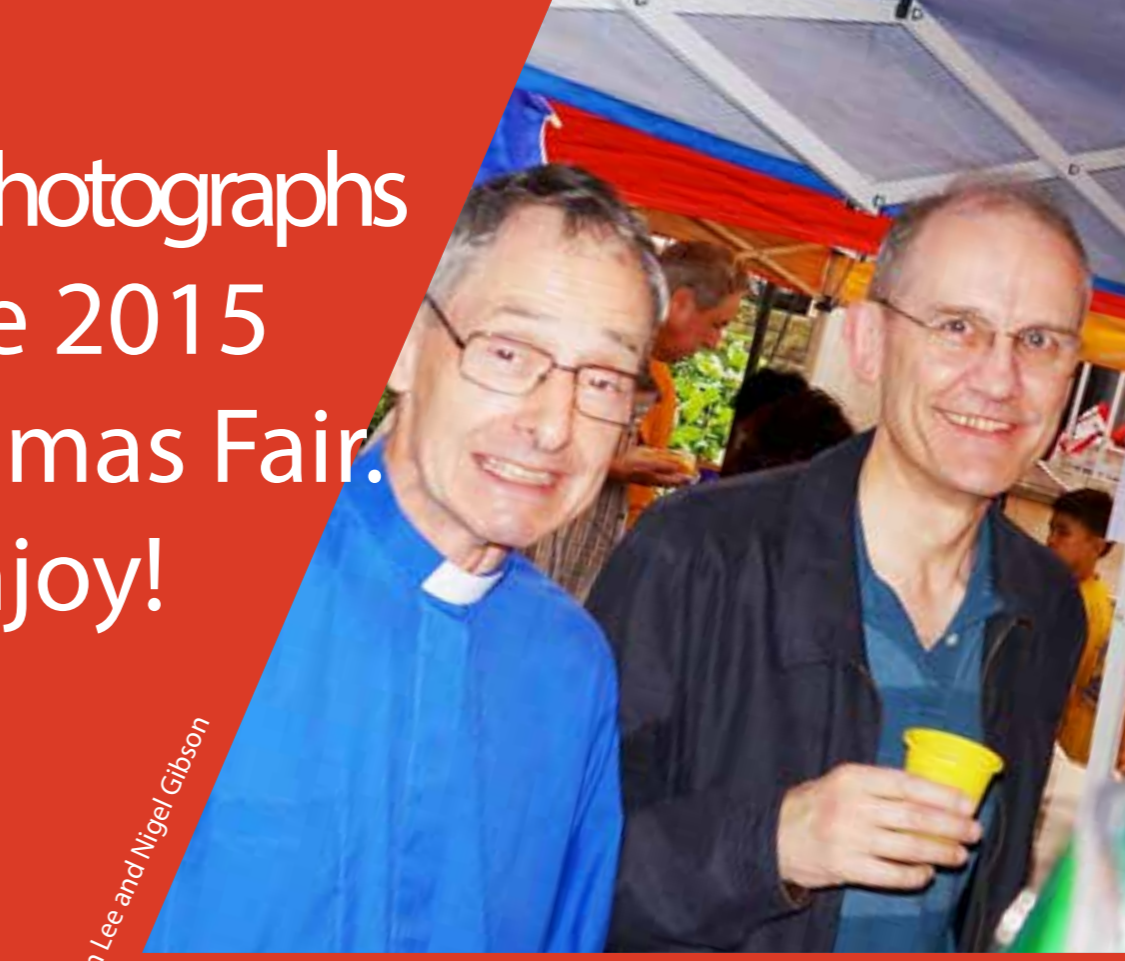
Sunday 30th August was a special day at St Stephen's Chapel, Stanley, being the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the internment camp. We were honoured to have the Consul-Generals of Canada and the United States with us that morning. We celebrated the anniversary in our morning service with special prayers, and we sang the hymn 'O God our help in ages past', as they did on that day in 1945.

After refreshments, we walked across the campus to the school's museum, which includes exhibitions of letters, photographs and items from the camp. The hardships endured by the internees were brought to life for us by Geoffrey Emerson, the local historian and author of a book on Stanley Internment Camp.



The Memorial Window, Stanley

On the day of writing we have just received a visit from a young Englishwoman whose great-grandmother died in the internment camp, aged 33, and whose gravestone is in Stanley Military Cemetery; while her grandfather is one of the young children waving and smiling in the picture from Liberation Day which makes up part of the memorial window in St Stephen's Chapel. The memories still live on.



Souvenir photographs
of the 2015
Michaelmas Fair.
Enjoy!

Photos: Stephen Lee and Nigel Gibson



MichaelmasFair2015



Architect's most recent eye level impression of the Enhanced Garden Project

The Compound Story: Not Exactly Eden

By Stuart Wolfendale and John Chynchen

Work began on the construction of St John's Cathedral, with the blessing of Queen Victoria, in 1847, only six years after the Union Flag was raised at Possession Point and the Crown Colony established. The Cathedral precinct is now the only Freehold title in Hong Kong (...and, therefore, in China). It provides a haven of tranquility in the bustling Central business district of one of the world's major financial cities, but the area adjacent to the north elevation of the main cathedral building is presently a rather dilapidated mixture of indiscriminate hedges and other plantings, surrounded by tired concrete paving and the remnants of barely recognisable lawns. Now the beginning of an Enhancement Project for the garden area on the north side is imminent.

Dilapidation is not a new experience for the Cathedral grounds. In the early days of St John's, there was persistent doubt over who had the responsibility for the compound around it, the Government or the Cathedral Trustees. Under the circumstances, the place was a mess.

William Keswick led a delegation to see Governor McDonald in 1871 for a resolution and permission to put up gates. They did not get one. The following year, Governor Kennedy said he would go down and have a look at the grounds himself. We don't know whether he did or not and still no gates appeared. However, Mr Ford, the government gardener was sent to set out

shrubs and this exercise may be viewed as the very beginning of the garden. Interestingly, in the immediate postwar years, it was another government gardener, from Government House, who would take tubs of poinsettia down to the Cathedral to decorate its grounds at Christmas.

Ambiguity on the issue of responsibility was very difficult to shake. In those days the retaining wall at the north of the compound, topped by a balustrade not more than waist high to most adults, looked down over a vertical drop onto the Murray Parade Ground. In 1879, it collapsed under two sailors. They seem to have survived the drop.

The Trustees approached the Colonial Secretary who agreed to repair the wall but at a price. The roadway through the compound must become 'a public thoroughfare as great a convenience as in any other city'. The Trustees accepted this and a right of way was conceded.

As the years went on there were frequent references to the untidy state of the compound. Beautifying it depended on whether there was someone in the Cathedral or the Government who was willing. 1894 was a good year for willingness. The Government tidied up the area and the Trustees put up gas standard lights on it. In 1898 there was a planting of Formosan ferns.

In 1918 some improvements were made from private contributions from a Mr Tutcher and Phoebe May, daughter of the Governor. One of them was to actually thin out trees around the Cathedral. Foliage was so dense in the compound, it was said, that visitors had searched for the church while being within a few yards of it. Responsibility for the compound ran through shades of grey rather than greenery until the present constitution of St John's was worked out in 1930.

The Li Hall was completed in 1921 in a corner of the grounds that had already had smaller structures on it, so the impact on the compound was not as great as the construction of the New Hall Building - the Cathedral Office and Fanny Li Hall - opened in 1958. It was built on what had been the neglected northwest corner of the compound.

This area had been the site of two banyan trees, illegal hawkers, a multitude of minor sins in the undergrowth and the Bate Memorial. This edifice was raised to the death of a gallant captain of Marines and loyal worshipper at St John's who died storming the walls of Canton in the Arrow War. It had originally stood where the memorial cross stands now and was shunted to the northwest corner in 1920. It was a pillar on a stone base topped by a globe, and photographs suggest that its ugliness was almost inspired. With no artistic merit to save it, it was disassembled when Garden Road was widened and Battery Path reconstructed into its present form in 1954. The marble inscription tablet was kept and set in the outer wall of the North transept. The Cathedral, in return for having donated small slivers of land to the Government for the widening of Garden Road, got back the public right of way through the compound.

From the late 1950s, we hear that the compound was always crowded and especially on Sundays, through the attempt to pour a quart of cars into a pint pot of parking spaces. A particular complaint was that cars could not get through to the West Porch to pick up and drop off, a complaint handed down from congregation members in the days of the sedan chair.

Much more recently, in 2013, the Nest Coffee Shop was erected and opened by a charitable foundation in co-operation with St John's. It has introduced a sizeable new group of visitors who partake of their refreshments in the north garden - when they can find a seat! It is located at the east end of the proposed Enhancement Project for the garden area.

A landscape architect has produced designs proposing extended hard-standing areas with attractive granite paving, enclosed within a desirable balance of new low-maintenance, curvilinear planting and trees while restricting the grassed areas to locations that have a minimum of pedestrian traffic.

People of all main religions, and none, have responded generously to the Dean's appeal for donations. The renovated area will not contain any religious symbols and will be there for all the residents of Hong Kong, together with visitors from all over the world, to enjoy in a 'green lung', sheltered from the commercial world. We can be sure that Queen Victoria would have approved!

Editor's Note: Work on the Enhancement Project is scheduled to begin in early January.



St John's Cathedral Changing for the Better

No doubt, church ministry is about reaching people's hearts and souls. However, critical questions still remain. How do we proclaim the love of God in a meaningful manner? How do we utilise God's given resources to achieve positive social impacts? How do we nurture new and seasoned Christians so that they are cared for? How do we ensure our facilities are well maintained and welcoming so that people who use them feel they are valued? The key word is being "strategic" in what we do. Without a proper assessment, allocation and deployment in ministry, our witness and work in Christ's name can easily become dull, irrelevant and ineffective. Recently, the Cathedral has gone through an operational transformation aiming to improve what we offer to God and to the community.

1. I have assigned a priest, each supported by a Ministry Committee, to reflect, plan and coordinate one major aspect of ministry. I chair the newly established Joint Ministry Committee, which consists of representatives from the above ministries. It will provide an overarching direction of ministry development in the Cathedral. The respective ministries also take turn to share in the Cathedral Council the challenges and fruits of that area of ministry. Each of the coordinating priests shares with us some of their thoughts and visions in their respective areas of responsibility.

2. Traditionally, three standing committees support the Cathedral Council, namely: The Fabric and Furnishing Committee, The Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Mission and Ministry Committee. With the view that the scope for the Mission and Ministry is too enormous, from overseeing outreach work to running pilgrimages, the Council has decided to divide its' work into three committees.

Outreach Committee - to develop, support and plan the outreach effort of the Cathedral

Events Committee - to support such ministry as Lunch Time Recitals, Public Holiday Cathedral Minders, Tours Ministry, Michaelmas Fair and so on.

Joint Ministry - to coordinate and support the various ministries in the Cathedral and act as a thinktank to address deficiencies and concerns in the life of the Cathedral.

Knowing that each system has its flaws and merits, we pray that the new structure will yield meaningful fruits and further God's kingdom. Your inputs are important to us and your participation in ministry is even more appreciated. Thank you for being partners in God's work.

Matthias Der

Editor's Note: In Touch invited the ministry coordinators to submit a brief statement outlining their respective briefs. The following reports are what we received before going to press.

MINISTRIES

Communications & Publicity

Fellowship and Congregational Development Ministry

Liturgy and Worship Ministry

Mission and Evangelism Ministry

Nurture and Spirituality Ministry

Outreach Ministry

Pastoral Care

In addition, the ethnic ministries in our midst are

Chinese Ministry

Filipino Ministry

COORDINATING PRIESTS

Nigel Gibson

Desmond Cox

Robert Martin

Wu Wai Ho

Will Newman

Mark Rogers

Catherine Graham

Peter Koon

Wu Wai Ho

Dwight dela Torre

Communications & Publicity

The Communications and Publicity Committee (C&PC) has been formed to enhance the values and objectives of our diverse community and to promote the mission and vision of St John's, whatever they are!

When necessary, C&PC will recommend to the Dean strategic priorities for communications that will help to ensure that the Cathedral's communications are timely, consistent, well coordinated and responsive to the needs of a complex organisation like St John's. C&PC will also provide support, advice, and encouragement to the clergy and outreach ministries, and have oversight of the Cathedral's internal and external communications.

Our Mandate.....

1. Through existing instruments of communication (e.g., In Touch, the website, pew sheet, welcome packs, brochures, posters and banners etc.) C&PC will promote openness and transparency, so that congregants are well informed about services, special events and fundraising.
2. Ensure the above instruments of communication, including use of the Cathedral logo, adhere to the Style Guide, which was approved by Council in 2014.
3. Create a central calendar of upcoming events that is updated two or three times a year.
4. Ensure notice boards look smart and advertise only relevant, up-to-date material.
5. Explore how new media can be used to improve internal and external communications.
6. Develop an understanding of the different audiences within the various congregations and how best to meet their communication needs.



7. Assist the Dean with the preparation and dissemination of press/media releases.

8. Attempt to establish and build good relations with Hong Kong media.

9. Promote discussion on the St John's 'brand' (whatever that is) and promote it to the wider world.

C&PC has already held its first meeting and is currently redesigning the Cathedral's Saturday advertisement in the SCMP.

Nigel Gibson

Fellowship & Community

The aim of this committee is to improve the quality of friendship and fellowship within our congregations.

To this end, we hope to foster a welcoming atmosphere for people on arrival at the Cathedral and quality fellowship after the service. We will also endeavour to link new members with current members of the congregation.

We plan to enlist a team of welcomers to serve refreshments at all services with the aim of encouraging new and current parishioners to participate in study groups and fellowship activities. Other projects include.....

1. Sunday refreshments at all morning services including some special evening services.
2. Introduce a newcomer's welcome/integration lunch every 5-6 weeks with dates to be fixed in advance.
3. To work with those recently baptised and confirmed in introducing them to the cathedral community.
4. Develop a catering group and restart curry and/or pot luck suppers on a Sunday evening once a month.
5. Establish a Diner's Club for people to experience fellowship through food and wine in local restaurants around Hong Kong.

Desmond Cox





Mission & Evangelistic Ministry

We have different members from various congregations to discuss the direction of the evangelistic ministry in St John's Cathedral.

Our main focus is to look at the best way for people to explore the Christian faith in St John's. By doing so, we hope to.....

1. Arouse the mission and vocation of Christians.
2. Encourage parishioners to take part in mission and share the love of God to others.
3. Explore and utilise the gifts given to us.
4. Coordinate with other ministry committees or parishes to embody the unity of our church.

Your ideas and comments are always welcome and needed.

Wu Wai Ho

Nurture & Spirituality

What helps you to grow, and go deeper, in your faith? You come to church, you receive nourishment from the Word (the Bible, the sermon) and Sacrament (the body and blood of Christ), and from the beauty of the music, the liturgy and the building, reflecting the glory of God. You receive support and friendship from other people, and you give to them too. But are you growing in faith, or are you just keeping going?

You may have been a Christian for many years, but how well do you know the faith? And how does your faith make a difference in your daily life?

The purpose of the Nurture & Spirituality Committee is to offer short courses, retreats and other ways that can nurture you, grow your understanding and your commitment to God, and deepen your faith by coming closer to God. Ways that can equip us all to become better Christians.

Sometimes we ask 'What can I get from the church?' But instead, maybe we should ask ourselves, 'What does God want from me?' We hope that through the work of the Nurture & Spirituality Committee you can become more the person God wants you to be.

Will Newman

Outreach Ministry

The Cathedral Council established this committee in June 2015. Its mandate is to give oversight to the outreach ministries.

Each outreach organisation will have a representative on the committee. It is hoped this will lead to good communication and cooperation. One new area of cooperation will be in organising two Cathedral fundraisers each year. These two big events will replace the various Cathedral fundraisers that the different outreach groups used to run. During the recent review many people expressed a feeling that there is fundraising fatigue at the Cathedral. The proposal is that the funds raised from the two big events will be divided among the outreach services. It has not yet been decided how these funds are apportioned.

Delegates from Cathedral Council will sit on the committee alongside the representatives from each outreach organisation. The committee will meet every two months. Throughout the year each outreach committee will take turns to present a two-year plan with a budget. The committee will authorise any expansions or hiring of new staff.

A key aim of the committee will be to increase the number of Cathedral volunteers involved with the outreach organisations. With this in mind, an Outreach Festival is being planned for Sunday 17th April 2016. Outreach will be the focus of the day, with each organisation having a booth on the ground, sharing its activities and seeking to attract new volunteers.

Mark Rogers



Filipino Ministry

Filipinos constitute the largest portion of the congregation of St John's. They worship in all the regular services of the church, including the Cantonese and Mandarin services. We hope that St John's will continue to be welcoming in its space and services to foreign domestic workers, who are often the most vulnerable members of Hong Kong society.

The two Eucharists in Filipino address the need for the community to worship in their own language. As the Spirit moves them, many offer their only day off to God by serving in the English and Filipino Services, as well as in singing in their respective choirs.

In the near future it is hoped that the two Filipino choirs will benefit from the rich resource of talent and experience in the Cathedral's music department. We also hope that the gifts and talents in the clergy team will encourage and inspire retreats and other activities.

With a team of trained lay members we hope to enhance the skills and capabilities of our foreign domestic workers through seminars, workshops and specialised training areas, such as neonatal care and pastoral care for the elderly.

In issues of national importance to the Filipino congregation, speakers from the Philippines will be invited for the enlightenment of our congregations. St John's currently has outreach ministries that work alongside them, and we hope the Cathedral will continue to support these outreach ministries. They are vital, not least because of the key role they play in seeking redress and justice in situations of discrimination, exploitation and violence.

Dwight dela Torre

Liturgy & Worship

Anglicans are often identified by their distinct style of worship and St John's Cathedral, as well as being an historic monument, is primarily a place of worship. The Liturgy and Worship Committee was set up to oversee the liturgical life of the Cathedral, and to ensure that our worship and music are offered to the highest standard.

We particularly want to maintain and develop the traditional Anglican ethos of worship at the Cathedral, which is quite unique in this part of the world. St John's is also a multi-ethnic community worshipping in four languages and there is a need to discern the liturgical needs of these different congregations and where appropriate explore new forms of worship. With the active encouragement of the Dean the Committee will be looking at the possibility of introducing a regular contemporary worship service to the Cathedral schedule.

As the major historic church on Hong Kong Island we are often called upon to respond liturgically to current issues, crises and events in Hong Kong and abroad. This is an important and sensitive part of our mission as a Cathedral and we hope to develop this in the future.

St John's is also very much a living, working parish church and we hope that we can encourage more lay participation in our worship. The Committee will try to encourage the liturgical and musical formation of both clergy and laity so that all may play an active part in our worship.

Worship, however, is the 'Work of the whole People of God' - that's actually what 'Liturgy' means - and not just the preserve of specialists. Please give us your thoughts and ideas about our worship at St John's.

Robert Martin



Roundhill Returns

John Roundhill left St John's in 2006 as sub-dean and returned to Hong Kong in September as the complete article, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, Bendigo, Australia and Vicar General of the Diocese. He had moved on from St John's to become a parish priest in Australia, then a rural dean, an archdeacon and finally Dean of a cathedral in this Victoria city which, through mismanagement and neglect, had fallen on times so hard that the building had to be closed and sealed up.

It is part of John's ministry in Bendigo to find the means of reopening the church and it was partly to this end that he was in Hong Kong to talk into sympathetic, Australian ears for help. Dean John preached at the 9am Sung Eucharist on 27th September. It was one of the marks of his vigorous ministry as sub-dean that he would preach, without notes, from the chancel steps; a tour de force that so impressed the congregation, it barely seemed to matter what he said. On this occasion, he took to the dignity of the pulpit and relative security of notes.

On the following Tuesday he gave some insight into the challenges he faces as Dean of Bendigo in a talk to Christians in Central titled "The surprising face of secularism- an account from Victoria, Australia." In rural Victoria, he said, all references to religion and its imagery have been lost, even at the major, once Christian festivals. As a result there has been a gross loss of language. 'Sin' and 'soul' have become forgotten words that we cannot do without and the loss of language with the receding tide of religion has its consequences. 'The rise of secularism in Australia is leaving a vacuum which many Australians themselves are not able to criticise or understand,' said Dean John.

He illustrated this with a disturbing account of the Bendigo Church's response to the United Patriotic Front, a far right group in opposition to mosque building in Australia, who used the shuttered Cathedral in Bendigo, with its posters encouraging support for refugees and interfaith relationships, as a backdrop to the opening minutes of a virulent video they posted on line.

John posted a still from this and a response on the Cathedral's Facebook page. This provoked a media storm. Much of the noise was supportive. Some of it was highly critical and some posts, he said, used the language of Christian theology in a way that 'guts the faith of all its gospel and is left only with hate.' Some conservative Christians and neo-Nazis were together usurping the language of the faith, 'seriously wanting to rehabilitate the Third Reich as Christians.'

An aspect of this which disturbed John was how secular regional Australian people '...have some difficulty filtering the far right from the mainstream.' He was interviewed by the regional ABC news. 'I was struck by the assumption that I as Dean of the Cathedral and Vicar General of the Diocese was in the same bucket, so to speak, as the head of the United Patriotic Front. The interviewer assumed that this was an interfaith issue; silly people of faith, as silly as each other.'

Dean Roundhill remembers his time at St John's as an important and interestingly felonious stage in his ministry. 'It was a period of consolidation.' He says, 'I arrived here with a wife and kids and a curacy and a school chaplaincy behind me. At St John's Cathedral, I proceeded to learn everything I know about ministry and took it on with me. I religiously stole everything I learned from here and used it after.'



New Priest for the HKSKH Amos Poon

Following his ordination to the priesthood in October, In Touch invited the Revd Amos Poon to share a few thoughts about the significance of his special day. Fr Amos is well known to the St John's community. He studied at Ming Hua Theological College from 2011-2014 and was on placement at St John's during the summer of 2011. He is presently serving his title at St Paul's Church, Glenealy.

By any reckoning, ordination is an anxious moment in any person's life because it propels you into the sacred order of priesthood to proclaim God's word, to celebrate the Lord's Eucharist, to be a person of prayer and a channel of peace.

The phrase 'sacred order' reminded me that a priest must have a close connection with God, as he/she is a person of sacredness. The word 'order' also helped me to remember that I am not alone in the path of ministry.

I have entered into a fraternity where brothers and sisters are always there for support and encouragement when you are down. Apart from the anxiety, the ordination was one of the most amazing moments of my life. When I need support, the Lord knows how to cheer me up.

Although I was the only ordinand, the nave was filled with people. Friends from Calvary Church (my own parish), St Paul's Church (where I am currently serving), and all the parishes where I have been involved with attended the service.

Many thanks to everyone who supported me during my training and on my special day in St John's. Your love and prayers will continue to inspire me to be a living sacrament for the rest of my life in God's service.



Archbishop Paul shepherds his newest priest Amos Poon down the nave of St John's. Credit: HKSKH ECHO



Emmanuel's 'impromptu' autumn party on Park Island proved that there's more to a day at the beach than splashing about in the sea and building sandcastles. In the best Emmanuel tradition, ours was stuffed with sumptuous homemade food, exquisite champagne, all leisurely consumed alongside much fun, laughter and hilarious ball games for the kids. A great day out for the Pokfulam community!

Clergy and staff from the Episcopal Diocese of Davao in southern Philippines packed out the Mariners' Club in Kowloon in October for their 4th Annual Diocesan Retreat. For many it was their first visit to Hong Kong and all were guests of Bishop Andrew Chan and the Diocese of Western Kowloon. St John's Chaplain, Fr Nigel Gibson, led the retreat on two closely related themes: Rekindling Ministry in the 21st century and How can churches make best use of today's social media for mission and evangelism?



GettingtoZero: St John's Cathedral strives to make AIDS history

By Elijah Fung



To mark 20-years of ministry by the St John's Cathedral HIV Education Centre to the community, the Centre invited young people to design a logo representing the work of "Getting to Zero"- zero new infections, zero discrimination, zero AIDS-related deaths. A total of 168 entries were received from individuals and secondary schools.

In recent years, there has been a resurgence of new HIV infections. Alarmingly there has been a 67% increase in new cases over the past five years and cases among people younger than 25 more than doubled between 2010 and 2014. In light of this, the Centre is giving top priority to education efforts among young people, with a variety of programmes around sexual health, HIV, stigma and discrimination.

There were two groups for entry to the 'Getting to Zero' logo competition.

The Secondary School Group Champion was Mr Tang Man Ho with a design titled 'Ending AIDS Together' composed of a red ribbon and three hands. The hands of different colours, representing people from different strata of society, held together under a roof, giving a sense of home. The ribbon disappears into the middle, symbolising, ultimately, the end of a need for organisations to protect people living with HIV/AIDS.

The Open Group Champion was Poon Yan Ting with 'Inclusion' based on a dice representing the Red Ribbon of AIDS. The short form of the Centre's name is written on the dice and the white area, surrounded by the red, looks like "0", with the message of "Zero Death, Zero Infection and Zero Discrimination". The white represents those infected with HIV, embraced by those who are not.

When the HIV virus was identified in the 1980s, fears abounded and taboo reigned. Some regarded it as a punishment from God. Many AIDS patients died without the support of their loved ones. Children with HIV were banned from schools.

In 1995, St John's Cathedral opened its HIV education centre to raise awareness and support people living with HIV. Over the last two decades, the Centre has run countless workshops on HIV/AIDS and sex education, and advocate adequate healthcare and the lifting of travel restrictions. Antiretroviral treatment



has greatly reduced the AIDS-related deaths but people and governments are becoming complacent. Prevention efforts are lacking in many communities. Stigma remains a stumbling block to open communication.

On 10th November, the HIV Centre held its annual charity concert to thank supporters and to remember friends who died of AIDS.

The Revd Desmond Cox, Chairman of the Centre writes.....

There is still much work to be done in getting HIV/AIDS to Zero and wiping out stigma and discrimination to zero. This Logo Competition is one important step in this direction.

AIDS has been used as an excuse to preach about morality and the right way of living, and boost the self-righteousness of the so-called moral majority. In the meantime, church related mission hospitals, schools and community health programmes have often been engaged patiently and quietly, in caring for people living with HIV and AIDS and supporting them in their struggle for proper care and basic human dignity. Nevertheless, so many opt for silence and denial, rather than risk the avalanche of social stigmatisation they have seen others forced to endure.

The most powerful contribution churches can make is the eradication of stigma and discrimination through education in our schools and from our pulpits, and by following Jesus' great commandment: Love God, love your neighbour as yourself.



St John's Cathedral Hong Kong
& St Stephen's Chapel Stanley
presents

Despair and Hope: Christians in Syria and the Middle East

The Revd Nadim Nassar
Director and co-founder of the Awareness Foundation

Huda Nassar
Director of Awareness Forum

1. 'Religious Extremism and the growth of ISIS'
Christians in Central, 12:30pm Tuesday 24 November at St John's Cathedral

2. Lecture: 'Ambassadors for peace: finding hope in the midst of the Syrian conflict'

7:30pm Wednesday 25 November at St John's Cathedral

3. Speak Out!

A half-day workshop for Christians to relate their faith to others. Why should we articulate our faith, and how we can do so positively with people of other faiths and none?

Email Bookings: deanssec@stjohnscathedral.org.hk

9:30am-1pm, Saturday 28 November at St John's Cathedral

4. Organ Recital in aid of the Awareness Foundation

James Thomas, with Lizzie Peacock and Elizabeth Coupe

7:30pm Saturday 28 November at St Stephen's Chapel, Stanley

St John's Cathedral, Hong Kong
www.stjohnscathedral.org.hk

The Awareness Foundation
www.awareness-foundation.co.uk

Advent & Christmas Services at St John's & Daughter Churches



St John's Cathedral

29 November: First Sunday of Advent

(Sunday Services as normal)

18:00 A service for the beginning of Advent 'The King and his Kingdom'

6 December: Second Sunday of Advent

(Sunday Services as normal)

11:45 Jesse Tree Service

13 December: Third Sunday of Advent

(Sunday Services as normal)

18:00 'Blue Christmas Eucharist' A service for those mourning a loss this Christmas Season

19 December: Saturday

18:00 Cantonese Sung Eucharist with Carols

20 December: Fourth Sunday of Advent

09:00 Sung Eucharist with Sunday School Pageant

18:00 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

24 December: Christmas Eve

15:00 Short Crib Service

17:00 Christingle Service

23:00 Midnight Mass of the Nativity & Blessing of the Crib

Please note that a seat in the Cathedral for Midnight Mass is by ticket only.

Further details will be published on the website.

25 December: Christmas Day

08:00 Said Eucharist

09:00 Sung Eucharist

10:30 Sung Eucharist (Mandarin)

11:45 Christmas All Age Worship

14:00 Sung Eucharist (Filipino)

27 December: Patronal Festival - St John the Evangelist

(Sunday Services as normal)

18:00 Christmas Choral Evensong

31 December: New Year's Eve

23:00 Watchnight Eucharist

A service to welcome in the New Year

Emmanuel Church

Béthanie Chapel

139 Pok Fu Lam Road, Pokfulam

13 December: Third Sunday of Advent

19:00 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols with Die Konzertisten Choir

24 December: Christmas Eve

23:00 Midnight Mass

25 December: Christmas Day

10:15 Family Sung Eucharist with Carols



St Stephen's Chapel

22 Tung Tau Wan Road, Stanley

13 December: Third Sunday of Advent

18:00 Christmas Lessons & Carols by Candlelight

24 December: Christmas Eve

17:00 Crib Service

23:00 Midnight Mass

25 December: Christmas Day

10:00 Christmas Family Communion



Discovery Bay Church

Wei Lun Primary School, Discovery Bay

13 December: Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 Nine Lessons and Carols Service

20 December: Fourth Sunday of Advent

16:00 Nativity in the Plaza

24 December: Christmas Eve

18:00 Nativity Play & Christingle Service

23:00 Bilingual Midnight Mass with the Church of the Incarnation

25 December: Christmas Day

10:00 Family Eucharist



St Stephen's Chapel Christmas Fête, Stanley

Sports ground, St Stephen's College (Entrance on Wong Ma Kok Road)

Saturday 5 December from 11:00

A traditional English summer fête, with a Christmas twist and a Chinese flavour! Bouncy castles, games, stalls, coconut shy, and plenty of food and drink, plus a full programme of entertainment including marching bands, dancers, and Chinese lion dancers and acrobats. Santa arrives by helicopter at 12:30! The Fête is held on the school playing field, with space for children to run around all day to their hearts' content. Entry \$20 for adults, children free.

A detail of Hong Kong's contribution to an international exhibition of nativity scenes in the Bethlehem Peace Centre. Since opening in 2000, the Centre continues to promote peace, democracy, religious tolerance and cultural diversity in Palestine and around the world.



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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 - Tel: 2523 4157)

The Revd Will Newman

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

The Revd Mark Rogers

(Chaplain and Priest-in-Charge of Discovery Bay Church - Tel: 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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Ho Tat Hoi

Head Server

James Choo

Head Sidesman

Roger Cole



JUSTIN...

First photos of the St John's Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. A full account of the tour with many more photos will be published in our spring edition. Watch this space!

