

# In Touch

The Cathedral Magazine - Autumn 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



Dedication Festival	4 - 7
Welcoming Toungoo	8 - 9
Michaelmas Fair	10 - 13
Advent - A Time for Preparation	14 - 18
Pilgrimage to Fujian	19 - 21
Discoverers - Within the Walls	22 - 23

## LINKS WITH THE WIDER WORLD

TEXT BY / MAGGIE CHAN

This autumn has seen St John's reaching out to the wider world. A group of 23 pilgrims, mostly from St John's, set out to discover the history of the Chung Hua Sheng Kung Hui in Fujian Province. Four guests, all from the Diocese of Toungoo, Myanmar, paid a return visit to St John's.

The eight-day Pilgrimage to Fujian, China's most "religious" province, was led by Dean Matthias and Dr Philip Wickeri, Advisor to the Archbishop on Theological and Historical Studies.

Along the way, packed with church visits and sharing sessions, many of the pilgrims expressed a new perspective on China, and all were heartened by the improved lives of the people and the energy and faith of churches.

## TWO GENERATIONS OF GIVING

TEXT BY / STUART WOLFENDALE

PHOTO BY / CATHERINE GRAHAM, MAGGIE CHAN

Two generations of giving were on the platform for St John's biggest home-grown annual effort in charity. Patron of the Michaelmas Fair, Mrs June Li beamed as the Guest of Honour, Ms Gigi Chao, declared the 2016 Fair open on 29th October.

Gigi Chao, 37, attends a variety of services at St John's, from the Saturday Cantonese Eucharist to Sunday Evensong. She runs the family property company with her father, operates her own charity, is an advocate of gay rights, and is an aviator. She is the founder of 'Faith in Love', which works with children's homes to provide academic help and extracurricular activities. Gigi has a dream of sending twenty kids (who would otherwise get left behind) to university every year.

June Li, 92, Patron of the Fair and member of the Cathedral Council, has for decades been a pillar of the Cathedral in her philanthropy, fund raising, inspiration and spirit. Her charitable works spread far beyond St John's. In particular, she has long been dedicated to the support and growth of the Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital at Tai Po and the Tung Wah Hospital at Sheung Wan.



Two generations of giving, Gigi Chao (left) and Mrs June Li (right)



Dean Matthias and the Michaelmas Fair committee 2016

Read the full report on P.10 - 13

Soon after the pilgrims landed in Hong Kong, St John's welcomed the visiting Myanmar delegation. The delegates spent a week full of visits, activities and meetings here. They were impressed by what they saw, and have come up with plans to invite congregation members from St John's to teach English in the Toungoo diocese.

The Pilgrimage to Fujian: Read the full report on page 19 - 21; the Myanmar delegation: Read the full report on P. 8 - 9

# In Touch

Recent weeks have shown the results of hard work and improvement at the Cathedral. The internal painting of the church was completed. The reconfigured and restocked Garden was ready for use, and four new stained-glass memorial windows were installed in the St Michael's Chapel and the transepts. This all came together in a Festival of Dedication for both garden and windows on September 18th, the day on which we also celebrated the opening of St John's in 1849. The Eucharist, the Archbishop's blessing of the windows, the opening of the Garden at the Labyrinth, and the evening celebration and party were fine opportunities to record the Cathedral at its most colourful and jubilant.

As ever, we report on the annual Michaelmas Fair, which never ceases to give many in the congregation great pleasure both in its organisation and carrying out, as well as a profound satisfaction in the money raised for charities. This year, not all the effort was home grown. There was a stall in the grounds set up by the visiting party from the Anglican Diocese of Toungoo in Myanmar. They sold handicrafts made by their own congregations and donated the income to the Michaelmas Fair charities. Considering that Toungoo probably needs every penny it can muster to maintain its churches and sustain its services to its people, this was a most generous act.

This visiting Myanmar party, led by its Bishop, was an indication that St John's can move beyond self-improvement and domestic effort into the wider church and world. In the last edition we featured the visit of the St John's party to Toungoo. We are happy to feature Myanmar again in its return visit to us, and we have tried to get some feedback from them as to what it is that this companionship with St John's can bring.

Again reaching outside, we feature the trip led by the Dean and Fr Philip Wickeri to Fujian in a fascinating article, written by Janice Wickeri, which recalls a period of once vigorous Anglicanism in that province, and tells of a present day revival of a faith which had been silent but living still. The tone is one of optimism under the conditional tolerance of the state. We reported earlier on a St John's clergy visit to Guangzhou, which came back with similar reassurances, and it would be enlightening if we could continue to have opportunities to publish pieces by informed and travelling parishioners on the quality of Christian life in the Mainland.

We enjoy the opportunity to sit back and reflect with our Cathedral members. A fine chance to do this arose with the willingness of half a dozen of the Discoverers group to talk to *In Touch*. The result was a surprising, enlightening and very encouraging conversation. Perhaps there are other groups in the congregation who would like to sit down with the magazine and discuss their views on the Cathedral and their expressions of faith.

We are happy to bring you an article on the 30th anniversary of Bethune House. It has never been an outreach ministry of St John's alone, but we have always regarded it as a close concern, and it is one of the most effective supports that we help to give to the community of migrant women.

This is an Advent issue. Advent is not a spectacular season with clear imagery or ready words to sum it up. Some of the clergy have reflected on its meaning in these pages. The message that comes out of them is that this is a time for self-searching and readying. At *In Touch*, we hope that you will be blessed in doing that this Advent, and that you have a very joyful Christmas.

“*St John's Cathedral is a place of God's grace, welcoming all, following Christ and changing lives in the heart of Hong Kong.*”

Mission Statement, St John's Cathedral

## THE DEAN'S MESSAGE

By now, you will have started the preparation for Christmas in some ways. Parties are being planned, gifts are being purchased and holidays details are being worked on. Good celebration requires much preparation. However, before we go too far, let's not forget what Christmas is really about.

*“... the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.’”*

Luke 2:10-11

Christmas is about the birth of Lord Jesus Christ, who came as the Messiah for redeeming us and giving us new and abundant life in God. Christmas is a holy day on which God's love and his very being entered the human world. If it is a holy day then it requires a spiritual response. That's why it is imperative that before Christmas arrives, we take the season of Advent seriously to prepare for His coming. With all the busyness ahead, I encourage you to pause and reflect on how the love of God has touched you. He came so that we can follow Him, in order that our lives can be transformed through his marvelous gifts.

Over the course of the year, Christmas is also the most opportune time for sharing the good news with others. Just like the angels bringing the good news of great joy to the shepherds, we are called to do the same. While the whole city is gearing up for Christmas, this is the best time to tell our friends and families what the true Christmas story is about. One way we can do that is by inviting friends and families to join us for the inspiring Advent and Christmas services at St John's Cathedral. Let them get a glimpse of the wonderful news of Christ's birth through the rich liturgical celebrations.

Sharing the Gospel with others is never an easy task. Anglicans are often very shy about it. And yet, if we are called to follow Jesus Christ and to be his disciples, sharing the good news is our life's mission. Just a few weeks ago, I returned from Fujian, China leading a cathedral pilgrimage. We traced back the paths of the 19th and 20th century missionaries and heard many heroic accounts of their lives. The Anglican missionaries reached there in the 1840's, but it took 10 years before the first Chinese came to faith. Ten years was a very long time before bearing the fruit of their labour, and yet they worked quietly and tirelessly among the people. Thanks to their dedication and faith, many decades later, Fujian had the highest concentration of Anglicans in China, running many parishes, schools and hospitals. Sharing the gospel with our loved ones may be a long journey which requires sensitivity, love and perseverance. However, Christmas is the perfect time to start! This year, besides exchanging gifts, let's also share the story of God's incarnate love.

On behalf of the family of St John's, I wish you all a spirit-filled Advent, joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year. God bless you and your family!

Dean Matthias +



聖誕節將至，相信大家已開始準備迎接佳節到來：籌備聖誕派對、買禮物、計劃放假行程……要玩得盡興，少不免提前預備一番，不過，在我們想得太遠之前，讓我們回想聖誕節真正的意義。

「…那天使對他們說，不要懼怕，我報給你們大喜的信息，是關於萬民的。因今天在大衛的城裏，為你們生了救主，就是主基督。」

聖誕節是紀念主耶穌基督出生，祂以彌賽亞的身份來到世上，救贖我們，給予我們新生命，在上帝裏面活得豐盛。聖誕節是神聖的日子，在這一天，上帝道成肉身臨到世上。既然是神聖的日子，就需要屬靈層面的回應，因此在聖誕節來臨之前，我們都需要認真看待將臨期，為救主降世做好準備。

無論未來有多忙碌，我鼓勵你們停一停，想一想，反思上帝的愛曾經如何觸動你們。祂來了，是叫人跟從祂，讓人在祂的奇妙恩典中，生命得以轉變。

全年之中，我認為聖誕節是最適合與別人分享福音的時節，正如天使為牧羊人帶來好消息，我們亦被呼召作同樣的事。當全城為預備慶祝聖誕節忙個不停，此刻正是我們與親友分享聖誕節真諦的最好時機，其中一件你我都可以做到的事，就是邀請親友參加聖約翰座堂的將臨期及聖誕崇拜，讓他們在莊嚴的禮拜儀式中，得聞基督降生的大好消息。

向人傳福音從來不易，聖公會的教友往往害怕踏出第一步。不過，如果我們被呼召跟隨主耶穌，作祂的門徒，傳福音便成為我們今生的使命。就在數星期前，我便帶隊自福建回港，完成「福臨神州建靈家 2016 座堂朝聖行」，我們尋溯早期傳教士於十九及二十世紀在當地的足跡，細聽他們傳奇性的生命。

聖公會傳教士最早於1840年抵達福建，他們花上十年，才有第一位當地的中國人成為基督徒。他們辛勤十年為主作工，才能結出第一粒果子，的確是一段長時間，但他們繼續於人群中默默耕耘，並未言倦。多得他們的無私奉獻，數十年過去，福建擁有全中國最大的聖公會群體，具聖公會背景的教堂、醫院及學校多不勝數。

向我們的親友傳福音或許是一段漫長的旅程，其中需要同理心、愛及堅持，然而，聖誕節就是最佳的起步時機！今年，讓我們在交換禮物之外，也與人分享上帝道成肉身的事跡及其中的愛。

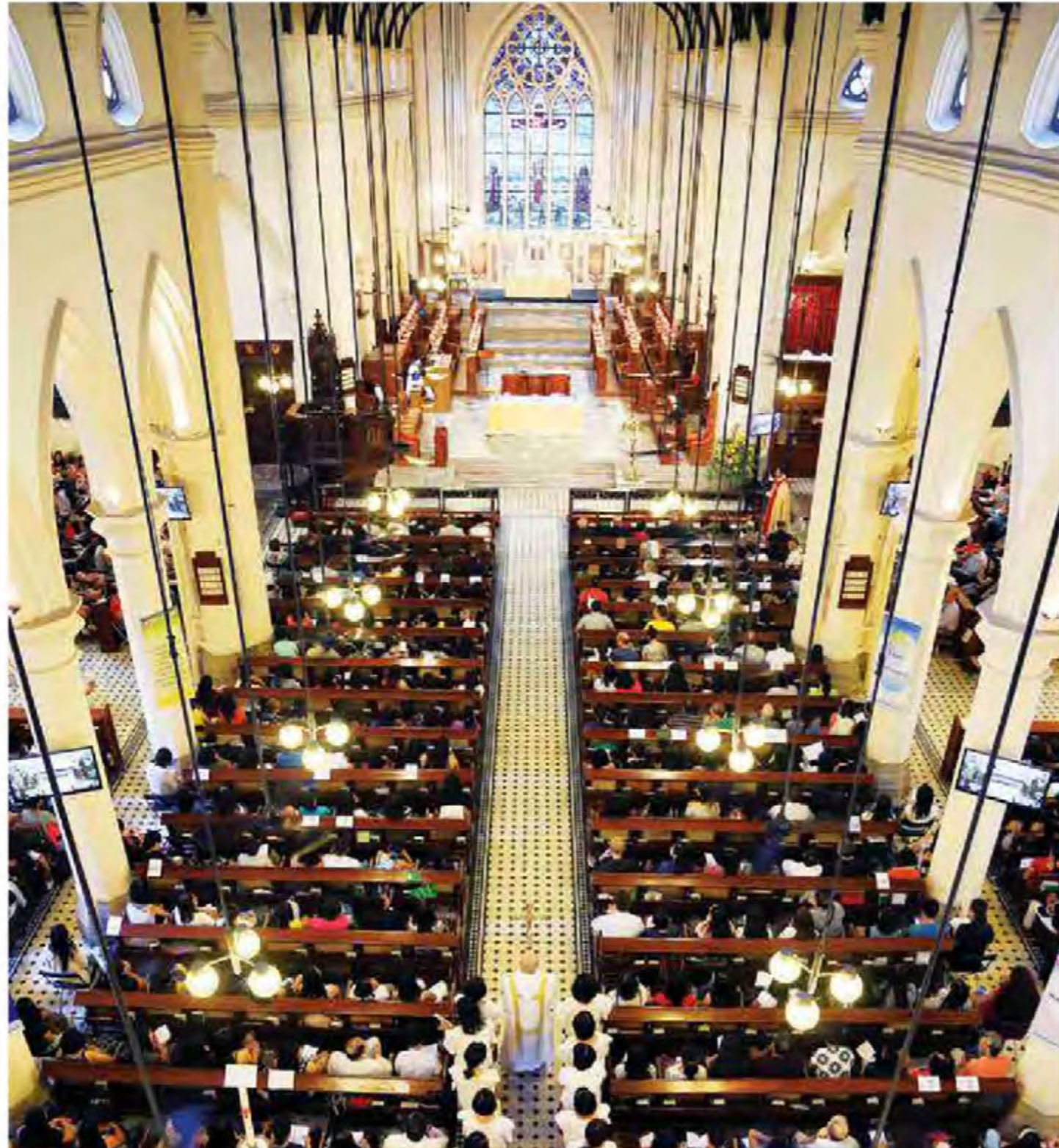
我謹代表聖約翰座堂的大家庭，祝福大家渡過被聖靈充滿的將臨期、歡樂的聖誕節及祝福滿溢的新年。願主祝福你和您一家！

座堂主任牧師  
謝子和 謹啟

# 167<sup>TH</sup>

# DEDICATION FESTIVAL

TEXT BY / MAGGIE CHAN PHOTO BY / BILLY LEUNG, ECHO, MAGGIE CHAN



**2016 marked a significant year for St John's Cathedral, with St John's very first mission statement approved, and the renovation of the Cathedral interior and the new garden completed. On 18th September, these developments were celebrated when the Cathedral held its 167th Dedication Festival, followed by a Choral Evensong service and a garden BBQ.**



A bilingual, joint Sung Eucharist was celebrated and preached by Archbishop Paul in the Dedication Festival. The Cathedral clergy and the congregation offered thanks for the renovation of the Cathedral interior. Four new stained-glass windows, donated by Canon and Mrs Li Fook Hing, were dedicated and blessed during the service ( *For more details on the windows, please see P. 7* ).

Right after the service, the congregation was invited to move towards the labyrinth for the dedication of the new garden, led by Archbishop Paul, The Revd Canon Peter Koon, Dean Matthias Der and other clergy. Holy water was sprinkled and the garden was blessed by the Archbishop in front of the people.

Over 200 parishioners and friends of St John's had a great time in the evening. Hot and delicious food was served on the north side of the Cathedral and next to the garden. The usually quiet and peaceful garden turned into a place where people enjoyed the dinner, chit-

chat and fellowship.

The Dixie Katz Band, with Fr Hugh as one of its musicians, lightened up the evening with a repertoire of wonderful jazz numbers. People couldn't help dancing as if they would never get tired!

Between August and November, St John's also conducted a Preaching Series to celebrate our Cathedral mission, and a course on the Marks of Intentional Discipleship, aiming to help parishioners understand the mission, priorities and direction of their Christian life.

The Preaching Series included five sub-themes, namely *"We are a place of God's grace"*, *"We welcome all"*, *"We change lives"*, *"We follow Christ"* and *"We are disciples"*, followed by six topics under the course *Following Christ in Everyday Life: Follow Christ, Worship in community, Pray every day, Learn continuously, Give sacrificially, and Build up each other and God's Kingdom.*

# DEDICATION FESTIVAL



# GARDEN PARTY



# THE STORY BEHIND THE NEW STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS

TEXT BY / STUART WOLFENDALE,  
ROBERT MARTIN  
PHOTO BY / ECHO, MAGGIE CHAN

Stephanie Yuen-Mun Liem Azar, the youngest grandchild of Li Fook Hing and June Li, died suddenly in 2013 in New York, aged 26, barely a month after having been married to Pablo Azar. She had completed two years of a four year course in medicine and surgery at Columbia University. She was a highly talented musician on the organ, piano and violin and an accomplished singer. She had given an organ recital at St John's. As well as being talented, Stephanie was a passionate advocate for the less fortunate. She was particularly committed to a programme which involved medical students in the health and well-being of Spanish speaking immigrants in New York and a scholarship to support this has been established in her name.

Out of this great sadness and loss has come a dedication and generosity which has added beauty and spirit to St John's. In Stephanie's memory, Fook Hing and

June Li have donated four stained glass memorial windows to the Cathedral.

Two of the windows are in the St Michael's Chapel, one is in the south transept and one in the north transept. They were blessed, one by one, by the Archbishop at the Dedication Festival Service on 18th September. The windows were designed by the Italian studio Progetto Arte Poli.

The window to the east in the St Michael's Chapel depicts the Tree of Life at the centre of the heavenly Jerusalem, as described in the Book of Revelation. The Tree was said to have leaves for the healing of the nations, and it reminds us that our vocation as a Cathedral is to be a place of God's grace and healing for all.

The second window in the Chapel presents a powerful image of the dove, the universally recognised symbol of peace and reconciliation. It is also an ancient symbol of the Holy Spirit, from

whence all true peace comes. The dove hovers over the city, calling on Christians to be peacemakers in the world.

The third window, in the south transept, is about the generous gift of God's grace, depicted by the sun shining its rays upon all of humanity, bringing light and salvation into darkness. In the lower part of the window, the bauhinia, Hong Kong's symbol, reminds us to pray for our city.

In the north transept, the fourth window symbolises God's passionate love for each of us. This is not just a still theological love, but one that bursts out to touch us and inspire us to share it with others.

The windows have a recurring blue theme in their lower segments, representing the Water of Life which is a symbol of the grace received in the Sacrament of Baptism and Hong Kong's connection to the sea.



1/ The Tree of Life  
2/ The Dove of Peace  
3/ The Light of Grace  
4/ The Love of God



# WELCOMING TOUNGOO

TEXT BY / STUART WOLFENDALE, MAGGIE CHAN  
 PHOTO BY / CATHERINE GRAHAM, MAGGIE CHAN



“  
*I am inspired by what we have seen in Hong Kong and St John's, especially how the teams at St John's work together.*”  
 Fr Jimmy

“  
*We never have had an official link with a church from the outside world. St John's Cathedral is our very first one, our companion.*”  
 Bishop John

## Highlights of the Myanmar Delegation's visit to HK

- OCT**
- 26** Flight Arrival  
Dinner at Dean's home
- 27** Join Provincial Clergy Eucharist & Meeting  
Join St John's Clergy Staff Meeting  
Sharing of St John's Ministry  
Visit outreach ministries
- 28** Visit St James' Settlement  
Visit St John's Cathedral Counselling Service
- 29** Take part in the Michaelmas Fair
- 30** Bishop John & Fr Jimmy preach at the services
- 31** Visit GENESIS (adult baptism class)
- NOV**
- 01** Visit to Ming Hua Theological College  
Dinner with Stanley's parishioners
- 02** Departure



Guests from the companion Diocese of Toungoo in the Anglican Church in Myanmar paid a return visit to St John's from 26th October to 2nd November. Included in the group were The Rt Revd John Wilme, the Diocesan Bishop, The Revd Canon Yo Shia, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, Toungoo, the Revd Jimmy Aung Khaing Nyunt, Principal of St Peter's Bible College and Miss Elizabeth Ei Hnin Phyu, delegate of the Anglican Young People's Association.

It was seven full days of visits, activities and hospitality for the group, and included a meeting with the Archbishop, discussion with the provincial clergy as well as many meetings with members of the Cathedral clergy team. The visitors toured the St John's Outreach Ministries and the St John's Counselling Service, Ming Hua Theological College and the St James' Settlement. There were visits to the Genesis course, the Michaelmas Fair and St Stephen's Chapel, Stanley.

They were impressed by what they saw, in St John's, of how teams worked together, whereas in Toungoo, departments talked on the phone but did not usually meet face to face. They were resolved to work towards that on return to Myanmar. They were inspired by the visit to the St James' Settlement, in the way it helps people with disabilities, and also by its youth career service centre. Fr Jimmy Nyunt saw it as an example of how to help the 19 to 30 year old students at the St Peter's Bible College in Toungoo to better plan for their futures.

Bishop John Wilme explained that St John's is Toungoo's very first 'official' companion diocese. It was good for the Toungoo diocese's people and clergy to meet St John's people, who are

encouraged to go and visit them in Myanmar. It felt as though Toungoo was part of a bigger family who were joined in prayer, and that the Church in Myanmar was not alone.

In Toungoo diocese, there are 20,000 baptised members, with around 1,300 attending two churches in the city, and the rest in churches in rural areas. However, there was only one service on Sunday in the churches and the Bishop was struck by the fact that at St John's, there were six.

Bishop John said he welcomed young and old people from St John's Cathedral to come to worship and see the communities in the Toungoo diocese. He was particularly interested in welcoming youth groups and others to teach English in the diocese's learning centre, to adults who want to be teachers of English. The teachers would stay in Toungoo to do this for one or two months. He said that discussions about this and other aspects of cooperation and sharing would be talked about with the Dean in due course.



# MICHAELMAS FAIR

TEXT BY / STAFF REPORTER

PHOTO BY/ DEREK TOO, DONALD LEUNG, HERBERT TAM, SAMSON LEE, CATHERINE GRAHAM, MAGGIE CHAN

The Michaelmas Fair 2016 has come to a fruitful close. A series of exciting events under the Michaelmas Fair – Walkathon, Fellowship Fun Night, Yoga for charity, Bake Sales and Baking classes, Handicrafts Sale, Household Items Pre-sale, Michaelmas Fair Post-sale – had been happening at St John's Cathedral or off the Cathedral grounds throughout the year.

At the Michaelmas Fair you could find accessories, plants & flowers, home produce, wine and beer, stamps, books. There was something for everyone. This year, we also welcomed the Myanmar Delegation to join us with their beautiful handicrafts.

Here are some souvenir photographs of the Michaelmas Fair 2016. Enjoy!





PHOTO BY / SAMSON LEE

## “MIRACLES” ON MICHAELMAS FAIR

The first miracle on Fair Day was that the rainclouds stayed in Kowloon.

The second miracle - the Fair itself.

God uses His children in wonderful ways. I can only marvel and express gratitude at everyone around me who gave so much of their time and talents to make this miracle happen:

- Mrs Li who provided us with her legendary home produce and handicrafts, her energy and her incredible team of volunteers
- the Cathedral staff, who worked tirelessly (and often sleeplessly) on the year-long projects
- everyone who kept minutes & accounts/took photos/ hung banners/ stuffed raffle tickets/ designed posters
- site managers/ stallholders/ sponsors/donors/treasurers/schools/scouts/performers/all volunteers

• our Dean and clergy, Cathedral Trustees & Council

• Michaelmas Fair Committee, working teams (raffle/licensing/ treasury/layout/planning) & special projects teams

• our past Michaelmas Fair Chairs for their advice and guidance

It's been an eventful year - I hope our Cathedral family and friends enjoyed our Walkathon, Yoga for Charity, Fellowship Fun Night, Pre-Sale, Bake Sales and Baking classes.

It has been a joyful and humbling experience of fellowship, team spirit and God's power and grace. I have been tremendously blessed with having brothers and sisters in Christ, who needed the patience of Job to put up with me! And thank you with all my heart for your support and encouragement.

**Julianne Doe**  
CHAIR OF MICHAELMAS FAIR 2016

## EXCITING YOGA FOR CHARITY

I used to be quite active, and I participated in a few running events in Hong Kong and Macau. A knee injury in 2010 has stopped me from running, and that was my BIG excuse for not taking part in the Michaelmas Fair Run for Charity in the last two years.

When I heard that Pure Fitness agreed to support St John's Cathedral Michaelmas Fair by organising a "Yoga for Charity", I got very excited and was determined to attend the event this year.

It was very kind of the instructor to start with some simple and easy Yoga poses. We all smiled and followed her instructions and moves confidently. We were led to do the Cat Pose, the Cow Pose, the Cobra Pose, the Downward-Facing Dog pose - I lost count of how many animal poses we did! As we moved on to stretch certain muscles that have

been "neglected" for too long, some of us started to laugh with embarrassment or moan with "Alya... alya..."

We then learned a few more poses to regulate our breaths and calm our minds. All of us enjoyed the hour very much and we left the Yoga room feeling rejuvenated and more limber! Many thanks to Jeannie Chan for coordinating the event with Pure Fitness.

Every year, the Michaelmas Fair committee organises a number of

charity events. Congregation members attending different services can get together to learn something interesting (e.g. cooking/ baking/ Yoga classes) and to have fun (e.g. Walkathon and the Michaelmas Fair). The committee will start planning more attractive events for 2017 and we sincerely invite you to take part in them. Details will be announced later - stay tuned!

**Margaret Sang**  
CHAIR OF MICHAELMAS FAIR 2017



PHOTO BY / JEANNIE CHAN



# ADVENT- A TIME TO MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY!

*Four Sundays of Advent are coming. After the Fourth Sunday in Advent, come all the Christmas services. Advent is a time of waiting and preparation. Are we ready for the coming weeks?*

TEXT BY / CATHEDRAL CLERGY  
CATHERINE GRAHAM,  
MARK ROGERS  
ROBERT MARTIN  
WILLIAM WU WAI HO

PHOTO BY/ MAGGIE CHAN

EDITED BY/ MAGGIE CHAN

SPECIAL THANKS TO/  
ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL BOOKSTORE

As with everything in life, (if we want to succeed), we need to make the right preparations. If we want to run a marathon, we do not just go out and start running, but we have to gradually build up our stamina, so that we achieve our goal of crossing the line. It is the same for any kind of sport, or any kind of skill we wish to acquire. A time of preparation is essential.

It is not that different in our spiritual lives! We have to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ afresh in our lives each year, and the Church sets aside the time of Advent just for this purpose. However, instead of training like a runner, we are called to prepare ourselves by examining ourselves, our lives, our hearts, to see if we are ready to receive Christ. By ready I mean the following: Have we made straight in our hearts the way for Christ to come in? Or are we too absorbed by other things in our lives to find the time to just glimpse what difference the presence of a new start would be like in our spiritual lives.

Advent is a time when we can begin again to renew our own spiritual awakening to God, by reading the bible readings of the coming weeks and by making time to reflect on our own preparation by putting in the same energy as if we were preparing to run a marathon. We can draw closer to God by being more attentive to how God's scripture will reveal Christ afresh in each of our lives.

May we encounter God afresh this Advent as we journey towards Christmas and the birth of the Saviour of the world, 'Emmanuel: God with us.'

Catherine



▲ Advent Calendar with 24 pieces of chocolates

\*Available at the Cathedral Bookstore

Advent is a curious season. First, it's almost impossible to observe. Advent prepares for Christmas like Lent prepares for Easter. Like Lent, it is a time of personal reflection, and abstaining from pleasures. Yet, in our culture, this is almost impossible to keep because December is the month of consumer spending and partying.

Second, Advent is strange because its theological focus is the return of Christ to judge the world. This is a curious teaching of the Church. It flies in the face of our modern outlook. It is difficult to conceive of how this might happen in a literalist way. The biblical imagery of Jesus returning on a cloud seems quaintly flat-world. Moreover, the teaching in its origins assumed the world (flat, with heaven above and hell below) was the entirety of the cosmos. This is not how most of us view our universe. Indeed, the traditional belief also saw the dead being raised for the last judgement, a belief that contradicts the popular belief that after we die we go immediately to the afterlife.

This means preachers have an unenviable task in Advent, and I actually dread preaching in this season. Do we play the 'ought' card and try against all odds to reduce the parishioners' consumerist habits? Conversely, if we focus on the apocalyptic (end of the world) theme how do we present this in an intelligible way without breaking orthodoxy?

Perhaps observing how we preachers try to tackle these issues is one of the delights of the season.

Fr Mark

Advent is a busy time. A time when so many of us are frantic with our preparations for the coming Christmas festivities. Sometimes in all our busyness we can find ourselves drifting away from the real meaning of the feast and focusing on other things. These days of Advent are a perfect time to ask the Lord to help us quieten our hearts and listen for his voice in all our activities. I hope this lovely prayer, by the spiritual writer Fr Henri Nouwen, may help us all to re-focus our preparations on Christ as the centre of CHRISTmas - rather than the secular X-mas.

Fr Robert



▲ Advent Candles

\*Available at the Cathedral Bookstore



▲ Advent Calendar Card

\* Available at the Cathedral Bookstore

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness,  
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.  
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces  
to hear your voice each day.  
We who are anxious over many things  
look forward to your coming among us.  
We who are blessed in so many ways  
long for the complete joy of your kingdom.  
We whose hearts are heavy  
seek the joy of your presence.  
We are your people, walking in darkness,  
yet seeking the light.  
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen



▲ Olive Wood Nativity on star, Handmade in the Holy land

\* Available at the Cathedral Bookstore



▲ Olive Wood Nativity Handmade in the Holy land

\* Available at the Cathedral Bookstore



▲ Nativity Wood Carving Handmade in the Holy land

\* Available at the Cathedral Bookstore



# CALENDAR



## ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### NOVEMBER

**27 (SUN)** | **THE 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
*(Sunday Services as Normal)*  
6.00 PM  
'The Forerunner'  
A Service for the beginning of Advent

**24 (SAT)** | **CHRISTMAS EVE**  
3.00 PM  
Short Crib Service (30 Minutes)  
5.00 PM  
Christingle Service  
11.00 PM  
Midnight Mass of the Nativity  
and Blessing of the Crib (A seat in  
the Cathedral for Midnight Mass is by  
reservation only. Further details will be  
published on the cathedral website)

### DECEMBER

**3 (SAT)** | 6.00 PM  
Confirmation Eucharist (Chinese)

**4 (SUN)** | **THE 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
*(Sunday Services as Normal)*  
6.00 PM  
Confirmation Eucharist (English)

**11 (SUN)** | **THE 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
*(Sunday Services as Normal)*  
6.00 PM  
'Blue Christmas' Eucharist  
A Service for those mourning a loss this  
Christmas season

**18 (SUN)** | **THE 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
*(Sunday Services see main rota)*  
9.00 AM  
Sung Eucharist with Sunday School  
Pageant  
6.00 PM  
Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

**25 (SUN)** | **CHRISTMAS DAY**  
8.00 AM  
Said Eucharist  
9.00 AM  
Sung Eucharist  
10.30 AM  
Sung Eucharist (Mandarin)  
11.45 AM  
Christmas All Age Worship  
2.00 PM  
Sung Eucharist (Filipino)  
**NO EVENING SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS DAY**

**31 (SAT)** | **NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
11.00 PM  
Watchnight Eucharist  
A Service to welcome the New Year

## DAUGHTER CHURCHES

### EMMANUEL CHURCH

Béthanie Chapel  
139 Pok Fu Lam Road, Pokfulam

Further information  
Tel: 2523 4157 / 6893 7715  
www.emmanuel.org.hk



DEC 4 (SUN)

#### THE 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10.15 AM  
'Joyful Noise Eucharist'  
A simple Eucharist for the young at  
heart.

DEC 11 (SUN)

#### THE 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7.00 PM  
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols  
with Die Konzertisten Choir

DEC 24 (SAT)

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

11.00 PM  
Midnight Mass of the Nativity  
and Blessing of the Crib

DEC 25 (SUN)

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

10.15 AM  
Family Eucharist with Carols

JAN 1 (SAT)

#### NEW YEAR'S DAY

The Naming of Jesus  
10.15 AM  
Sung Eucharist with Holy Baptism

### ST STEPHEN'S CHAPEL

22 Tung Tau Wan Road, Stanley  
St Stephen College

Further information  
Tel: 2813 0408  
www.ststephen.org.hk



DEC 3 (SAT)

11.00 AM - 4.00 PM  
St Stephen's Chapel Christmas  
Fete (on the School Playing Field at  
Wong Ma Kok Road)

with games, stalls, bouncy castles, food and  
drink, marching bands, Chinese lions and  
acrobats, and a field for children to run around  
all day. Santa arrives by helicopter!  
\* All proceeds to the charities we support

DEC 11 (SUN)

#### THE 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6.00 PM  
Christmas Lessons & Carols  
by Candlelight

DEC 24 (SAT)

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

5.00 PM  
Christmas Crib Service for young  
families, with Carols

11.00 PM  
Christmas Midnight Mass

DEC 25 (SUN)

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00 AM  
Christmas Eucharist with Carols

### DISCOVERY BAY CHURCH

SKH Wei Lun Primary School

Further information  
Tel: 2987 4210  
www.discoverybaychurch.org.hk



DEC 4 (SUN)

THE 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
10.00 AM  
Nine Lessons and Carols  
(at Wei Lun School Hall)

DEC 18 (SUN)

THE 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
4.00 PM  
Nativity in the Plaza  
(in Discovery Bay Plaza)

DEC 24 (SAT)

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

6.00 PM  
Christingle with Nativity Play  
(at Wei Lun School Hall)

DEC 25 (SUN)

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00 AM  
Family Eucharistic Celebration of  
the Incarnation  
(at Wei Lun School Hall)

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The Very Revd Matthias Der

### CATHEDRAL CHAPLAINS

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The Revd Dwight dela Torre  
The Revd Canon Peter Koon

The Revd Robert Martin  
(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  
The Revd Wu Wai Ho

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# 反思 將臨期

胡偉豪牧師

將臨期標誌着教會年曆的開始，是教會年曆的首個節期，究竟它有什麼特殊的意義？或許我們可以從兩方面去看。

首先，將臨期是聖誕節前的四個星期，讓我們有這段時間去準備慶祝主耶穌兩千多年前道成肉身，誕生在我們中間。將臨期的另一個重要意義，也是我們經常忽略的，就是提醒我們時刻作好準備，等候主基督的第二次降臨。

聖經清楚地告訴我們，主基督必定會再來，雖然不知道確實的時間，但我們要警醒作好準備，迎接祂的再臨。

二千年過去了，今天的信徒跟初期教會的信徒不同，我們已經很少去想耶穌再來的時候，覺得它遙不可及，慢慢地失去那份期盼。但耶穌再來和末日來臨的情景，確實是聖經很重要的主題之一。我們每一次在聖餐崇拜中所宣認的信仰與禱：基督曾經受死、基督現已復活、基督將要再臨，就是建基在耶穌必定再來這個信仰基礎之上。可能有人會問：「為什麼上帝不告訴我們祂何時再來，好讓我們作好準備呢？」或者我們可以如此的想：如果我們都可以準確知道我們什麼時候死、什麼時候離開世界、生命還餘下多少時間的話，我們會如何看待我們餘下的人生呢？相信絕大部份人都會進入一種倒數的心態，生活環繞着那最後的日子進行，可能會安排跟好朋友多見面、環遊世界、買心愛的東西、做一些很渴望去做的事情等等。這已經算是比較積極的了，因為肯定有更多人因為預先知道自己何時離開而過分憂慮，終日惶恐不安，甚至弄出病來，比原定的時間更早離開也說不定！因此，我們不知道自己在世的日子還有多久、不清楚耶穌什麼時候再來，或許是天父的美意，好讓我們可以把活着的每一天當作是跟耶穌再相遇的那一天，保持那份期待；也把每一天都看作是上帝給我

們額外的禮物、都是恩典，好好的珍惜、好好的利用。

耶穌就像一位離家遠行的主人，把祂的家業授權給我們、託付給我們管理，祂期望我們都能警醒作祂忠心的僕人。我們每一位信徒都是受託的僕人，肩負了特殊的使命。我們應該感到榮幸，因為主耶穌信任我們，才放心把重任交給我們，就像父母不在家時，吩咐年長的孩子去照顧弟妹妹；或是老師離開教室之前吩咐學生去把課業完成一樣，耶穌也同樣的託付我們在祂再來之前好好完成祂的任務，這就是我們各人不同的身份與召命。我們有當父母的、有作兒女的；有作學生、也有當老師的；有作僱員的、也有當僱主的。上帝都賜予我們能力與才幹，在不同崗位上去努力發揮。我們各人在天賦才幹上可能有分別、可能不平均；但在努力的程度上，我們絕對可以是相等的，縱然我們不是最聰明、條件最好的人，但我們絕對可以是最努力、最用功的一個。上帝看重的，是我們是沒有忠心的去做，祂希望我們能在家庭中、工作與及社會上去作見證。祂願意我們能彼此關顧、激發愛心、勉勵行善，特別在有需要、身心靈疲倦缺乏的肢體中施予幫助。如此，我們不需要等基督再來，我們已經可以看見耶穌了，因為主說：「你們作在弟兄中一個最小的身上，就是作在我身上了。」

還有不足一個月就是普天同慶的聖誕節，願意在這將臨期的時候，我們都能警醒自省，將我們的心打掃乾淨，迎接基督進到我們心中；同時，我們也趁着這個佳節找機會走出去，看看身邊有沒有需要幫助的人，把基督的愛——這份最寶貴的禮物，送到他們的手中。願主在新的一年繼續祝福大家。阿們。

## A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY LOVE AND FAITH

TEXT BY / JANICE WICKERI  
PHOTO BY / JEANNIE CHAN

On Sunday evening, October 9, a group of 23 pilgrims, mostly from St John's Cathedral, set out to spend 8 days discovering sites important in the history of the Chung Hua Sheng Kung Hui (Holy Catholic Church of China, Anglican-Episcopal; CHSKH) and experiencing the growth of the post-denominational church in China and its work over the last twenty to thirty years. The itinerary included Fuzhou, the capital of the province, Quanzhou, an important port city in earlier centuries, Xiamen and its close neighbour, the island enclave of Gulangyu. As we travelled, these two foci—history and the present day—reminded us that the path to the flourishing church around us had often been difficult.

Fujian is China's most "religious" province, historically providing fertile ground for Christianity (both Protestant and Catholic), Islam, Buddhism, Taoism, numerous expressions of folk religion and Manichaeism. Fujian is home to the sole remaining Manichaeian site

in the world, now a Buddhist temple. Its long coastline and relative isolation from the rest of China, (behind a mountain corridor), turned people's attention to the sea and trade along the maritime Silk Road. This outward-looking attitude remains a hallmark of Fujianese society.

We began each day on the bus with morning prayer that included Taizé hymns and brief and thoughtful messages from Dean Matthias, Adam Mok, John Davison and Teerjd de Boer. Our guide, David, was a bit surprised at first, but he was soon handing the mic to the Dean, saying, "OK. Time for praying." As we set out, Dean Matthias proposed three watchwords for our pilgrimage, urging us to make it a journey of discovery, love and faith. These are reciprocal terms: as we discover others, they discover us; we show love to others and we receive love; as our faith challenges and enriches others, we are challenged and enriched.

A highlight of our first day was Fujian Theological Seminary (FTS), one of the oldest regional seminaries. Protestant Christians in Fujian today number about 1.5 million, cared for by only 4000 clergy! In the last 30 years FTS has produced 1400 pastors; 140 fulltime students and about 80 night class students are currently enrolled. FTS has a new campus, on land given by the government, constructed and equipped by donations from enthusiastic Christians. In response to an appeal for the music programme, churches donated 30 pianos!

That day and in the days that followed, we met with pastors, evangelists and leaders of the *lianghui* (兩會), i.e., local and provincial branches of the national Three-Self Patriotic Movement Committee (TSPM) and the China Christian Council (CCC). We heard about churches being renovated or newly built and churches in the process of registering. Christians





are also active in social work, disaster relief, and aid to education and it is this work that the provincial government sees as a positive contribution to society. Group members frequently asked about interactions with the government. Relationships with officials were described as good and helpful in all 3 cities and the seminary.

Nearly all of the churches we visited could accommodate 1000 to 2000 worshippers. City churches each had several smaller gatherings under their care. Ordained clergy included both men and women. Given the shortage of ordained persons, staff also included evangelists and numerous lay volunteers. There are fellowship groups, choirs, Sunday schools, inquirers classes and biannual baptism.

There is keen interest in preserving the Fuzhou Anglican heritage among some young pastors and researchers. On a visit to Cangxia Church, the former Christ Cathedral in Fuzhou, the largest CHSKH cathedral in China, we saw photographs of 19th century missionaries and Fujian Chinese church leaders on display in the entryway. The church, with its spacious, high-ceilinged interior and tall arched windows, is still in use today. At Fujian Foreign Language School, we saw the Pakenham-Walsh Tower, erected in 1925 that still stands within the school gates, recalling the work of Trinity College Dublin with the original schools there.

On Gulangyu Island we had what everyone agreed was our most memorable visit, with the Revd Chen Yiping, an energetic 88 years old retired senior pastor of Trinity Church which stands in the centre of the island. The Revd Chen's personal journey has mirrored the experience of the Protestant churches since the 1950s. He told with eloquence and passion of his experience of 20 years' imprisonment and the unyielding faith that enables him to see today's China without rancour, as God's choice and the choice of history, in which God is in control.

As the pilgrimage progressed, flexibility emerged to join discovery, love and faith. Many members began to refer to occasions requiring flexibility as small miracles. Our schedule changed with the availability of venues and the challenges of urban traffic in Chinese cities. However, this revealed the richness of our group. When a venue for Fr.Philip's first lecture was unavailable, Agnes Yeung offered space at the Qi Chuang Social Service Centre in

Fuzhou, where she is director, giving us the opportunity to learn about the Centre's work as well.

Sharing sessions were an important part of the group experience. Many expressed a new perspective on China and all were heartened by the improved lives of the people and the energy and faith of churches. We found in our fellow pilgrims congenial people with a sense of humour, people of faith, and a desire to learn and grow and share faith with others more boldly. But how? What is effective evangelism?

The unexpected, yet ordinary, miracle is that one of the most effective forms of witness is the faithful life. Near the end of our pilgrimage David announced that our driver was worried about his mother, who had recently had a bad fall. David told him that every morning in our prayers we also prayed for both him and David. He was both surprised and deeply touched by this, and comforted in his concern for his mother.

Arrangements for the trip were made by the Revd Wu Wai Ho, though he could not join us. Dean Matthias led with unflagging good humour and truly blessed us with his facility in 3 languages, evident not only in translation, but in prayers in the language of our hosts, responding to their circumstances and sharing our mutual hopes. Adam was invaluable as his assistant, rising to every task with enthusiasm. Fr Philip provided historical and contemporary background for our experiences. Jeannie Chan was our intrepid photographer and undisputed queen of selfies. Everyone contributed to making this trip a joy and a success.

All along the way we enjoyed wonderful seafood, local dishes like "Buddha leaps the wall" and Fujian tea. We were hosted at lunch three of our eight days by the seminary and two churches. Our cameras and cell phones were laden with scenic shots, group photos and selfies. On our final Sunday morning we worshipped in downtown Xiamen at *Xinjie tang* church, the oldest Protestant church in continuous use in China, built in 1848. That afternoon many of us bought tea and local delicacies and closed the day enjoying the soft breezes and friendly ambience in a community park as the residents celebrated Seniors Day. Late that evening, we landed in Hong Kong—a little tired, but eager to go again.

## HOW BIG IT IS!

*The one thing I have been saying when I talk to friends about our visit to the Church in China is "how big it is": The size of the church buildings, the size of congregations, the size of local church memberships, and the size of the risks.*

*We are not used to church buildings as big as office blocks, with areas set aside for worship, with seats for more than 1200 people - which are filled on Sundays to overflowing. Some church buildings have more than one such space, as well as open areas big enough to hold a ball.*

*Clearly, there's big money here, too.*

*We are not used to churches with overall memberships of 5000, which are growing all the time - or are suddenly halved when government clearances shift people to other neighbourhoods.*

*We are so unfamiliar with churches growing rapidly that we needed to be reminded that such fast growth outstrips the supply of trained pastors and lay workers and creates the sorts of problems St Paul faced - rank growth where self-taught enthusiasts distort the orthodox faith and gain a following.*

*Finally, we are not used to the risks: the Church must work in harmony with the Government and the Party - note "the Party" - and put "positive energy" into society, (shorthand for serving the people and advancing socialism in China). So we were told by the Director of the Religious Affairs Bureau in one place we visited.*

John Davison

## A FAITH THAT CONNECTS

*Fujian, the land of my forefathers, is where the Anglican roots of my family were planted. I had always been intrigued by the early missionaries who baptized my grandfather and his family in the 1890's in Foochow (now known as Fuzhou).*

*Connecting with the past, I was particularly moved when we visited Christchurch Cathedral and saw photos of Anglican clergy, including Bishop Michael Chang and Bishop Liu Yi Chang, who originated from Kutien (古田), my ancestral town. It seems incredible that such a small place would have produced so many men and women of faith. Fujian is the ancestral home to many of the Chinese diaspora, particularly in Southeast Asia, and many have sustained their faith through generations.*

*What is it like for Christians in Fujian today? Our seven day pilgrimage was packed with visits, briefings, and conversations with pastors and church leaders. The message was unmistakable: the church in Fujian is vibrant, thriving*

*and growing, despite constraints we may find hard to understand (e.g. patriotism is required).*

*They have built a state of the art seminary in Foochow, and throughout the province, they are rebuilding churches to cater to the growing members, including young people and families. Our hosts emphasized their amicable relations with the government, which has given them land and support in different ways.*

*We ended our pilgrimage with a visit to Trinity church at Gulanyu (in Xiamen). Here the 88 year-old Pastor Chen Yiping, who has served God since his early 20's, gave such a powerful talk on Christ's message of love and faith that many of us were moved to tears.*

*On this pilgrimage, I saw living witness of a faith that connects the past with the present and hopefully the future; it also connects people across countries. Thanks to St John's for organising this pilgrimage, and all those who made it so meaningful and successful. God Bless.*

Mary Szeto

# “ WITHIN THE WALLS

## ” THE DISCOVERERS

TEXT BY / STUART WOLFENDALE  
PHOTO BY / BILLY LEUNG

***“Everybody knows about the Discoverers as something, but they don't know what that consists of.”***

It was a simple summary of the Discoverers image, made in a Sunday morning meeting in the late summer. They were together in the Upper Room, after the gam Eucharist. Normally, they meet there in the half hour between the Gospel reading and Communion, but that day they had come back again to explain themselves to In Touch.

Discoverers is the Cathedral's most senior fellowship group of young people, open to anybody from 11 years old, following on from Sunday School and Junior Church. They are led in discussion by Will Papworth and pastoral care and frequent pizzas are provided by Father Des Cox. There can be up to fifteen or as few as three showing up. On that morning, five came along to talk; Karen who has just graduated from Oxford in Philosophy, Kylie and Victoria who are both at school in Hong Kong, Nick who is at university in UK and Gabriel who is at school there.

The Discoverers read in church and help out at the Michaelmas Fair, but their main purpose is to talk, and what this small group of teenagers talk about and how this proves them to be one of the most important and freshening cells of ministry in St John's.

They discuss the morning's scripture or current affairs or issues



of morality and humanity, and in a way that is 'really, really casual'. As Nick explained, "There is a lot of growth going on. Sunday School teaches religion as it has always been taught. In Discoverers, you talk in an environment where nothing leaves the room. You can disagree with what you learned at Sunday School. I didn't know that kind of freedom till I came into Discoverers. It definitely made me question a lot of things in religion and spirituality. I have a much more open attitude." This feeling for the group was shared by the others. "In Discoverers, we saw how the Sunday School bible stories come into reality and affect our daily lives. Because it more meaningful, you reflect about it on a deeper level," said Karen. Gabriel told of how it made him re-examine a lot of his Christian faith, such as the Creation, which he was now studying through the lens of science. "I approached these questions for the first time in Discoverers. I also found out what an atheist was, because I never really knew." There is a young confessed atheist who attends Discoverers sometimes to try and understand them.

Kylie studies Philosophy and Karen has just graduated in it. "We enjoy it and we bring it to Discoverers" she said. "You do get more doubtful. You ask why believe, or why do some Christians believe in something and I don't believe in it. I prefer having a faith that holds up. If I am able to question my faith and still believe in the end, it is better for me. I like this attitude."

For these young Christians, who have moved or are making the jarring move from childhood to early adulthood, Discoverers is a small, surprising, and special place of transition. Within its discretion and with encouragement, a handful of young people can manage the graduation in faith from the ancient, allegories of scripture and the optimism of Sunday School religion to the contradictions of science, the cynicism of the market, and the brutality of the 24 hour news cycle.

Not that many make it to Discoverers. About one in ten comes up from Junior Church. The rest stay there longer or just disappear. Will thinks it is because the transition can be a difficult one. "Sometimes we have discussions so lively, we

don't want to go home and other times we can sit in near silence. This is a stumbling block to young newcomers. Or we can be discussing relative morality, which is a bit of a jump from Noah's Ark". Nick thinks the age spread is a problem too. "11 year olds can get thrown in with 19 year olds like Karen and me and find themselves in a discussion about life after death. It's pretty scary. I was quite scared."

Did they not feel rather isolated amongst other young Christians in Hong Kong, who were from more conservative churches? Victoria said that other Christian friends outside St John's tended to keep deeper ideas to themselves. "It does tend to be a little bit hard to start conversations with them or lead a discussion on 'Why am I a Christian'. I sit back and listen and what they talk about is usually based on what we learned from bible stories."

Nick asserted that everyone in their mid-teens has doubts. "The difference is that some people don't display that doubt. It's how they have been trained."

The Discoverers don't exactly display themselves in the Cathedral. If someone wants to discuss faith and issues with them, 'that's cool' but they don't seek discussion outside. "I'm not going up to someone who has been here 50 years and declare that I support gay marriage" said one. Tackling the older generation is not on the agenda.

Everyone in the room came from families with long connections to the Cathedral. Some of them are only here on school vacations yet find coming back natural and familiar. In their absences, there is a lull in numbers and activities which has traditionally stalled thoughts of further involvement in Cathedral activities. More publicity for the Discoverers has been suggested, particularly within the Sunday School itself, and perhaps even giving assistance at the Genesis programme. Discoverers seem keenest to discover themselves, though they do not wear 'youth' on their sleeves. What more could the Cathedral do for young people? "Modernise the music" was muttered. Nick said, "Having a group like this is already a big step. We are way ahead of other churches in this."

# BE FAITHFUL TO YOUR MARRIAGE, REMAIN LOYAL TO VOWS

TEXT BY / MARK L GANDOLFI (DR MARK)

***Our previous three articles for In Touch this year have been focused on marriage and partnerships; Heroes and Romance (January), Work Smart, Not Hard, For A Healthy Marriage (May), and Forgive the Past Rough Seas to Keep Seeking Smooth Waters Today (June – August). This article, Be Faithful to Your Marriage, Remain Loyal to Your Vows, is intended to remind us of two very important values that nurture and sustain a relationship: faithfulness and loyalty.***



DR MARK

As a psychology professor and clinical supervisor at various local and overseas universities for many years, a common mantra I share with my students and staff is as follows; "be faithful to a school of science but remain loyal to the well-being of your patients." In other words, this simple sentence implies that by being faithful to positive psychology (the counselling model at our outreach ministry) one will remain mindful of the values that will keep us out of harm's way as a practitioner, whereas being loyal to your patient's well-being implies we persevere with our client regardless of the obstacles or challenges. In short, faithfulness is being guided by values, loyalty merges resilience and collaboration.

On the other hand, from a Christian perspective, St. Francis de Sales (a saint of the Roman Catholic Church and a Bishop of Geneva in the early 1600's) impressed upon his followers how faithfulness and loyalty are essential for our well-being in marriage and work:

"Through devotion, your family cares become more peaceful, mutual love between husband and wife become more sincere, the service we owe to the prince more faithful, and our work, no matter what it is, becomes more pleasant and agreeable."

We note that in both religious teachings and pastoral care "being faithful" with one's spouse can have many interpretations. The most common focus has been with regards to physical intimacy and emotional intimacy. Physical intimacy fidelity is a universal value that lays a foundation of sexual and sensual connection and celebrates a marriage that only that couple should experience. Emotional intimacy fidelity has many moving parts to it, one important part being the "emotional currency" and its limited availability one has to share their feelings/attractions/attention with others outside a marriage. Contrary to popular belief and unfortunately what is usually highlighted in the mass media, many more couples actually seek relationship counselling due to emotional infidelity than physical infidelity.

At St. John's Cathedral Counselling Service outreach ministry's pre-marital program and relationship counselling services, we explore the five basic intimacies for a happy marriage:

spiritual, emotional, intellectual, social, and physical. These five intimacies are the cornerstone of a kind, caring and lasting relationship, and our approach is to help couples remain faithful and loyal to all five intimacies in a marriage, not just emotional and physical.

A quick Google search on "how to be faithful in a marriage" will give you over 19,700,000 web sites and links to browse. Book stores, libraries, magazines and online articles have thousands of "how to" resources for couples to sustain and enhance their faithfulness and loyalty. Most of the advice we have reviewed are realistic and helpful, others actually remind us Dr. Google still did not go to medical school. For example, the most concerning theme we see are websites and resources that imply being unfaithful is the most common cause of divorce and the second being how difficult or impossible it is to recover from infidelity (which in turn influences many to simply get a divorce instead of getting into counselling). Being a positive psychologist, I have seen year after year how a couple works through their challenges and obstacles that actually increase the chances of a more authentic, happy, kind and lasting marriage. A quote I remind all my couples and patients with life's mistakes; "it's not how we make mistakes, but how we correct them that defines us." We all would agree that certain mistakes are more painful than others, especially infidelity, and no one would want to wish an infidelity mistake to make a marriage stronger, but mistakes are part of life, even married life.

The first step in the infidelity healing process would be the five languages of apology that were highlighted in my June - August article: express regret, accept responsibility, make restitution, genuine repenting, and requesting forgiveness. These five apology languages can establish the stage for a couple to embrace the healing process from an empathetic learning process instead of a chronic punishment marital life. Yes, easier said than done, but the power of healing is in repetition and practicing these five languages from empathy on a regular basis, not punishment, that will increase loyalty-faithful powers.

The second step in the healing process has each person looking at the five intimacies and defining their own values and boundaries they believe that is in the best interest of the marriage and the self. For example, with emotional intimacy, a partner might state "sharing a private thought about work should be with your wife first before a female colleague." This value statement then gives the couple a chance to define each person's expected behaviors and clear boundaries to reduce future conflict.

The third step would have each person share with their partner what did they learn from the recent mistakes made. The use of "I learned this" instead of "you didn't do that" allows the couple to become more insightful on their congruency or incongruence with marital behaviors and values. The couple practices the "listen to understand" versus listen to debate so there is a greater chance to diminish misunderstandings and disagreements.

The fourth step arises from Dr. Emerson Eggerichs book *The Language of Love and Respect: Cracking the Communication Code with Your Mate*. Dr. Eggerichs raises a good argument that with all the books, courses and resources on communication skills, communication between marital partners is a key source to marital unhappiness that increases the risk of infidelity. His comment "most spouses don't know that they speak two different languages. They are sending each other messages in 'code,' but they won't crack that code until they see that she listens to hear the language of love and he listens to hear the language of respect." A saying we often hear in life, "he needs to earn my respect," implies that respect is a conditional human act. In marriage, and borrowing from Dr. Emerson's book, our outreach ministry believes that deeply embedded in the communication style of a successful marriage is the unconditional respect a partner should exhibit to the other. That unconditional respect in turn further motivates kindness and love, which in turn motivates respect, which in turn motivates further love and kindness. As Joseph Campbell said so rightly, "find a place inside where there's joy, and the joy will burn out the pain."

This article is not intended to convey the message that working through marital infidelity is an easy four step process, it can take time, more processes and additional steps, along with patience and resilience, for the pain to diminish. We sincerely believe that when our couples explore how to reattach themselves to being loyal with their vows and remaining faithful in a marriage in good or bad times by way of apologies, values, listen to learn and unconditional respect, couples will soon experience the theme they hear in our relationship counselling services, "this pain will pass in time." In other words, be loyal and faithful to the healing process to once again find marital joy.





# HISTORY OF BETHUNE HOUSE

TEXT BY / JANICE WICKERI  
PHOTO BY/ MFMW



Last month, Ms. Eni Lestari, Chairperson of the International Migrants Alliance, addressed the UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants in New York. Ms. Xyza Cruz Bacani is a photographer with multiple awards for her work. Ms. Janet Pancho Gupta is an artist and photographer with her own studio-gallery in Hong Kong. While Xyza took Bethune House as her advocacy project, Janet and Eni have sought shelter at Bethune House, a refuge under the aegis of the Mission for Migrant Workers (MFMW).

The MFMW was founded in 1981 by the National Council of Churches of the Philippines, and was from the beginning an integral part of St. John's Cathedral. A shelter was part of the plan from the beginning. Staff of the MFMW knew that women whose contracts had been terminated were sleeping in parks, under stairways in buildings, on the beach and outside churches. Without a place to stay they could not seek redress for their situation. But MFMW faced a lack of funding—and space—for the shelter project. They made do with ASHES (Alternative Shelter Scheme), which kept lists of kind-hearted people who shared a room or provided space.

Then in 1985, the Bethune House Committee—a sub-committee of women—was formed under the MFMW Board. A fund-raising letter was sent to 500 churches and individuals. Two responses were received; one enclosed a \$500 donation and the other was a refusal. There were some early one-time commitments from overseas donors, and eventually other donor relationships and grants.

But these obstacles were overshadowed by staff reports of clients' experiences. They were locked out while employers went on holidays; made to sleep on the floor under a sink with the family pet; denied adequate food or time to rest; suffered physical abuse and all too frequent attempts to withhold salaries or hold passports. Many of these stories and others are still echoed today. The case of Indonesian worker Erwiana, who suffered eight months of physical abuse at the hands of her Hong Kong employer in 2014, drew widespread public attention here and overseas. It was a rare case in which the courts ruled in favor of a domestic helper suing her employer.

The shelter, named in loving memory of the young daughter of a founding staff member, was formally opened 21 September 1986 with around 20 clients. It quickly became a place of love and healing. But it was not until 1989 that the shelter was able to hire its own permanent staff. Until then the Board had to

ask the Asia Pacific Mission staff to step in. In those early days, there were no beds, either; the residents had to sleep on the floor, while the Committee appealed for bedsheets, pillows, furniture and electrical appliances. But the work and funding grew. Thirty years later, through many changes and challenges along the way, the shelters remain vigorous. On 17 December 2011, a second shelter, BH2, was opened. In 2015, Bethune House served almost 600 Asian women migrants from the Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India.

When people think of the shelters, they may picture adult women being offered a place to stay in emergencies. In fact, the shelter and care offered by BH1 and 2 includes displaced mothers, former domestic workers, and their children; infants and children whose parents are in prison; and women undergoing chemotherapy, who rest there a few days before returning to their employers. The shelters are open to women domestic workers in distress, regardless of nationality, culture, gender or religion.

Women in distress come to the shelters through referrals from the different migrant organizations, church networks and even government departments: Medical Social Workers from the Hospital Authority, Police, Immigration and Labour Departments. Bethune House is part of the Coalition of Service Providers for Ethnic Minorities that maintains a ShelterNet (of members and non-members of the Coalition that run shelters). It is also a recipient of food donations from Feeding Hong Kong, various churches, individuals and migrant organizations.

Eni, Xyza and Janet are women with outstanding achievements wrought from a background of hardship that forced them to leave their families and countries to find work. Erwiana Sulistyarningsih overcame physical injuries and a natural fear when facing a foreign legal system to persevere in her case, secure in the strength of the shelter staff behind her. She is now a university student and has joined an organization championing foreign domestic workers' rights.

Many other domestic workers whose stories are not well known have not only found shelter in Bethune House, but also women in situations similar to their own, who learn from and support each other. Through sharing their stories, through training and encouragement from a devoted staff, they become an empowering community. Bethune House has been, and will continue to be, their refuge.

**MFMW**

- 1981** THE MFMW WAS FOUNDED
- 1985** BETHUNE HOUSE COMMITTEE WAS FORMED
- 1986** BETHUNE HOUSE FORMALLY OPENED
- 1898** BETHUNE HOUSE HIRED ITS FIRST PERMANENT STAFF
- 2011** A SECOND SHELTER BH2 WAS OPENED
- 2015** BETHUNE HOUSE SERVED ALMOST 600 ASIAN WOMAN MIGRANTS
- 2016** 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF BETHUNE HOUSE

# JOIN FORCES WITH GLOBAL PARTNERS

TEXT & PHOTO BY/ ELIJAH FUNG

July 2016 saw the 21st International World AIDS Conference in Durban South Africa together with The Interfaith Conference – Faith on The Fast Track. More than 15,000 participants attended the Conference from 153 countries.

Faith on the Fast Track (16-17 July 2016) was organized by the World Council of Churches and the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance. We attended workshops on various topics, including the status of the AIDS pandemic, project sharing on reducing stigma and discrimination, and how to reach out to youth and young adolescents.

At the International AIDS Conference (18-22 July 2016), our main focus was to network with delegates from Mainland China. Most of their HIV cases are from 20 to 30 and men over 60. The PRC government has set up domestic funding to sponsor their AIDS programmes and a new law will be enforced concerning

agencies from overseas.

We attended reproductive health workshops for youth. For the first time, young people were given an opportunity at an international conference to speak out about their needs. A strategy to end the HIV epidemic in children and adolescents was launched, to ensure that children and adolescents do not get left behind in the 90-90-90 target; that is 90% being diagnosed, 90% taking treatment, and 90% of those achieving viral suppression with antiretroviral therapy (ART). 1.6 million children and 1.2 million adolescents need to be reached within two years.

Globally, 20 million people still have no access to AIDS treatment. We need resources, commitment and engagement from all sectors and offer knowledge, life skills, training and information to young people and encourage HIV testing.



▲ The Revd Desmond Cox and Elijah Fung with the representatives from mainland China at the Conference



▲ Prince Harry and Sir Elton John joined forces by the "Pro Test" wall (Source: World Council of Churches)

HDH's clients and staff took a trip in late October to the Lohas Organic farm in Sheung Shui, a farm totally organic (from seeds all the way to harvest), to learn about organic farming, in conjunction with Alive Not Dead.

The trip was aimed to help develop farming skills and just to be a fun outing. In the class, participants learned how to hoe a field, what sorts of plants are in season at different times, and what plants help each other grow better. They also saw the process by which the Lohas Farm makes its own organic fertiliser.

It was so successful that HDH plans on continuing these classes on a fortnightly basis. Every time there will be different things to learn about and experience, for as long as there is continued interest. Last but not least, a big shout out to Amy Cheung for translating, Alive Not Dead for organising and to everyone who came out!

# A FUN DAY OUT AT ORGANIC FARM

TEXT BY / ADRIENNE DAVIS, HDH PHOTO BY / ADRIENNE DAVIS



# MAGGIE'S CANCER CARING CENTRE AND THE FAYRE OF ST JOHN'S

TEXT BY/ JOHN CHYNCHEN WITH REBECCA CLAYTON  
PHOTO BY/ JOHN CHYNCHEN, MAGGIE'S CANCER CARING CENTRE

In the summer of 2014, two governors of Maggie's Cancer Caring Centre in Hong Kong, Lily Ahn Riddick and Anne Wong Liu, met with me at St John's to discuss the feasibility of holding a Christmas Carol Concert in the Cathedral. By the autumn, the global luxury lifestyle management group, Quintessentially Lifestyle, had been engaged to present the event and I participated in initial planning sessions with Emma Sherrard Matthew, CEO Asia Pacific, and Sophia Fleming, Head of Events. It soon became apparent that the carol concert in view could be better described as 'a magical Christmas spectacular, by name of Fayre of St John's, with music, poetry and dance'... not entirely within the gamut of the Cathedral's traditional Christmas fare!

By any standards, the first Fayre on 8th December 2014 was a hugely enjoyable and successful event with the Cathedral packed to the gunwales with the familiar 'who's who' of Hong Kong, together with the emerging next generation of movers and shakers, fifty per cent of whom were sitting in St John's for the first time. The varied programme included an enchanting excerpt from Swan Lake by Hong Kong Ballet's Wu Fei Fei and a rousing contemporary Christmas ballad, delivered while shimmying the length of the aisle, from canto-pop celebrity Joyce Lee, clad in a memorable, sexy, green number!

The 2014 Fayre raised some HK\$2million for Maggie's Centre and led the way to the 2015 edition on 24th November 2015, which featured readings by Hong Kong actress Michelle Reis and supermodel Lisa S. as well as an exclusive solo performance by Hollywood actress and singer Celina Jade and choral performances by the Maggie's Centre Choir and the Harrow International School Choir. At both Fayres to date, the 'testimony' of a 'user' (a cancer patient in care) was truly heart-rending...given by local people with zero public speaking experience. The 2015 Fayre raised HK\$2.5million for Maggie's Centre.

I had long wanted to arrange a personal visit to Maggie's Centre; so, earlier this year, with encouragement from Clare Keswick, I drove out to Tuen Mun Hospital and found world-renowned architect, Frank Gehry's beautiful landscaped building in Tsing Chung Koon Road. I was warmly greeted by Rebecca Clayton, who has assisted us with material for this article, and Victoria Wong. The integrated impact of Frank Gehry's building/habitat and the gathering of 'users' – each

one a unique individual engaged in whatever phase of what is often a lonely, frightening struggle – has left me with a moving collection of permanent 'images', which I will endeavour to impart to the people I minister to in the Cathedral and socialise with out in the wider community. I have particularly sharp mental pictures of Mary, the 'user' – the lady in remission who recalled visiting St John's Cathedral. She is a shining example of the tremendous contribution Maggie's is making to the well-being of the afflicted in possibly the least prosperous area of the Hong Kong SAR.

Maggie's Cancer Caring Centre in Hong Kong (singularly outside the UK) – opened in the permanent building in 2013 – was the 11th of the 17 centres completed as of 2016 and provides free practical, emotional and psychosocial support for people with cancer and their families and friends in Hong Kong, offering a programme of support that has been shown to strengthen physical and emotional wellbeing. Built in the grounds of Tuen Mun Hospital, the Centre is a warm and welcoming place with professional staff on hand to offer the support people need to live with, through and beyond cancer. Maggie's Centre is a place to find practical advice about benefits and eating well; a place where qualified experts provide emotional support; a place to meet other people or simply to sit quietly with a cup of tea. All services are offered free of charge; no appointment or referral is needed.

*Above all, what matters is not to lose the joy of living in the fear of dying.*

Maggie Keswick Jenks



FAYRE AT ST JOHN'S, THURSDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2016:

Continuing to raise funds for Maggie's Cancer Centre, with the aim of raising HK\$3million in proceeds, seats for the 2016 event start from HK\$2500, with several VIP reserved seats available at HK\$8000. Admittance to the event requires possession of a house programme, which can be obtained by donating directly to Maggie's Cancer Caring Centre – (www.maggiescentre.org.hk) with 100% of proceeds going directly to the charity.

# DISCOVERY BAY CHURCH WORKING AND PLAYING IN THE COMMUNITY

TEXT BY / NATALIA VELDMAN (WARDEN, DISCOVERY BAY CHURCH)  
PHOTO BY / DISCOVERY BAY CHURCH



The "Two by Twos" Tennis team was formed by Discovery Bay Church in 2014 to enter the DBRC Annual Charity Cup, with a firm goal of playing competitive tennis while knocking the fundraising effort out of the park!

As with the Church's participation in the annual Dragon Boat Carnival in Discovery Bay, and coordination of volunteers for local charity outdoor music extravaganza Picnic in the Park, this event on Saturday 24th September brought another opportunity for active fellowship.

This year, the event raised a staggering total of \$652,191 to be shared between the two beneficiary charities, Hong Kong Down Syndrome Association and Watchdog Early Education Centre.

The "Two by Twos" contributed \$192,300, in an effort which spanned several months of "pop-up" charity events hosted by Richard Beck and Natalia Veldman, and a stunning Bake Sale coordinated by the Hopkinson family to which many members of the congregation contributed delectable treats. This trebled the amount raised by the Two by Twos in 2015.

This effort earned the "Two by Twos" the Goodwill Cup for the highest fundraising team. The team's prowess on court also saw Two by Twos win the Division 4 tennis competition on the day.

# CRAZY ABOUT DESIGNER SALES

TEXT BY / RUTH PHILLIPSON  
PHOTO BY / HUGH PHILLIPSON

Gorgeous scarves, fabulous costume jewellery, new cashmere sweaters, beautiful dresses, handbags - all were sold at the autumn designer sale held by the Cathedral CLARES, attracting enthusiastic followers to form a queue long before the opening time of 10 am!

In spring and autumn, CLARES hold designer sales which have become something of an institution among followers with an eye for a bargain. All proceeds benefit local charities. The next sale is on 29th April 2017.

From its earliest days in 1962 CLARES have always been about outreach into the Hong Kong community. This ethos has never changed and the group gives away around \$1,000,000 each year to the Cathedral and to about 40 small Hong Kong charities. The income comes from the sale of lightly used donated clothes, shoes, bags and books, which are sold in the Castaways charity shop located near the Li Hall. Apart from the shop manager, Teresa, who is on the Cathedral payroll, all the



work is done by volunteers.

At the beginning CLARES was almost entirely made up of British expat women who came for long, long tours of duty with their husbands. Today they are a cosmopolitan group of women of many nationalities, who work, chat, and laugh together as well as support each other in the occasional crisis.

Everyone is most welcome to join CLARES members any Wednesday morning from 9.30 am in the Li Hall to sort and price the donated goods and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. After a while, you may like to help staff the shop which is open Wednesday to Sunday, except on public holidays.

# STAFF NEWS



## ADAM MOK, OUR NEW PASTORAL ASSISTANT

TEXT BY / ADAM MOK

I started working at St John's as the new Pastoral Assistant in September. I am grateful to be serving the congregation here in the days ahead.

When I was officially introduced to the congregation in the Cathedral, Fr Robert described me as 'an old friend of St John's'. I loved the description because I joined the Eucharist service here in 2012 when I began to study in Chung Chi Divinity School, Chinese University of Hong Kong, as a theological student. The beautiful and rich liturgy of the Anglican tradition has nurtured me and

strengthened the relationship between God and me.

In the summer of 2014, I did a pastoral placement at St John's. Since then I have been serving in the server group. Getting closer to the altar affirms me of my eagerness to become a priest and serve God and his people by living a sacramental and pastoral life. That's why I am working here as a Pastoral Assistant: to gain more pastoral experience and reflect theologically. This is thanks to Dean Matthias and the whole clergy team, who gave me such a valuable

opportunity after I got my master's degree from the Divinity School.

Though my ministry focuses on the youth community, prison visiting and other pastoral work, I am excited to meet new friends from different groups and backgrounds. I hope I can share the scripture and our Christian faith with you and be your spiritual friend in Christ: to know and help each other, share the joy, bear the suffering and grow in God's grace together. Am I ready for the role? I ask for God's Mercy and your prayers.



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Debbie! Debbie Lai married Jason Chan on 25th September at the Church of Christ in China Wanchai Church, with the blessings from over 300 family members, friends and colleagues who attended the wedding ceremony. The duo is still adapting to their new lives, *In Touch* was told.

Debbie is a long-time staff at St John's Cathedral HIV Education Centre, helping to promote HIV prevention and education in Hong Kong.

## LOOK FOR STORIES

We are constantly on the lookout for stories involving St John's and the daughter churches. If you think you know of events or people past, present or to come which would fit into our pages, please be in contact with the Editor on [communications@stjohnscathedral.org.hk](mailto:communications@stjohnscathedral.org.hk)



# GIVE THANKS FOR THE WONDERS OF CREATION

TEXT BY / STAFF REPORTER  
PHOTO BY / CONNIE LEE, ELISA CHEUK



Cats, dogs and even lizards... beloved pets were blessed at the St Francistide Service for the Blessing of Animals on 2nd November at St John's. Officiated by Fr Des, who also preached, the service was an ideal occasion for thanksgiving and asking God's blessing on the pets. Let's have a look at the adorable creatures!

